

Building Update June 2025

As you may know we have been deliberating for years now about how to improve our land and buildings to better serve our ministry. Offices at the front, a wonderful kids ministry and youth ministry space, a friendly and open entrance, are some of the many items on the wish list. In 2022-23, encouraged by the presbytery who deemed our buildings to not be fit for purpose, we got a bulk and location report for all that we wanted on the property. This came out to a total cost of 13 million including redeveloping the manse section into housing to use and to rent. Obviously that was far too expensive to work with so we parked that big dream. But we don't want to give up on providing better spaces to improve our worship and service to the community.

Since then the PC have debated several ideas and we have engaged with the congregation on one, but none of these ideas were without their opposition. As we shared with you at the last church chat on property, the presbytery had told us that the best option for us is to sell the back section to developers to be able to realise our goals for the redevelopment of front of the church.

This idea of selling land is always one which churches should approach warily. However one of the ideas that came out of that last congregational engagement on the buildings was that if we sold off the back section to redevelop the front of the church, it would be great if St Andrews might want to buy and develop it as we know and have a relationship with them.

So since then we have approached St Andrews. It turns out that St Andrews is very interested as they are redeveloping the area just behind our section. So we are currently discussing possibilities for working together with them to come up with a plan where we can benefit from their available cheaper labour to get more out of the money we have, or will have available, and they can achieve their goals of onsite housing for their staff. They have said they want to help us achieve our goals as they achieve theirs.

So we ask you to pray for wisdom of the Parish Council as explore this option and work with them to consider whether there is an agreement can be made so that we can achieve what we need for our ministry to thrive here at GPC.