

Background

Designed in the 18th Century, built at the beginning of the 20th Century and still serving God and the Community in the 21st Century. Unfortunately, Victorian designs tended to be 'solid structures' allowing little visibility inside. Although that may have been fine then, today's community has different values. Such buildings are seen as intimidating, as emphasised in a recent survey of local residents who considered our church a 'closed community'. Bearing in mind the Church's values of working both for and with the local community, the design of the building hampers our work and prevents us achieving our potential.

A building from the past

Although the premises are used seven days a week, the internal layout leaves much to be desired. We have no reception/meeting area which gives us a security/meeting and greeting problem. Once inside, a number of rooms have to be walked through to get to others; not good for child or vulnerable adult protection and hampers full usage.

The main hall has solid walls, floor and ceiling, giving a three second echo, making it difficult for the average person to hear clearly and almost impossible for those with hearing difficulties. We have addressed 'disability' issues in recent years but ambulant or wheelchair disabled persons are still disadvantaged. One major source of embarrassment for all is the lack of a toilet accessible from the Milton Road front foyer.

Oasis Counselling Services is based at our church and counselling is taking place throughout six days and evenings each week. The layout and lack of specific accommodation constrains what they can achieve and can lead to restrictions on all users.

Gravesend Methodist Church

Building for the future

We want a building which the local community are happy to use without concern and where disabled persons are not disadvantaged. We also want to be able to provide better counselling opportunities to needy people and be open to community use.

Changes proposed are:

- A new 'open' Milton Road front entrance with associated all-ability toilet, multi-purpose meeting area, small kitchen and new counselling room
- A new 'open and secure' entrance/reception area for the halls
- Layout changes allowing direct access to all rooms
- Noise attenuation improvements to the main hall
- Obstacles for ambulant and wheelchair disabled persons removed.



Front Foyer impression



Rear Lobby impression

It's more than bricks and mortar



We work with people of all ages, all abilities, different social backgrounds and diverse origins.



Some of our meetings and groups for all ages providing friendship and support:-

- A variety of Children's and Youth groups
- Support for the elderly
- Oasis Counselling Administrative Centre with intensively used counselling facilities
- Street Pastors night time support base with personnel from the church working with local council and police
- Assistance to refugees and asylum seekers
- Providing resources to organisations working with Homeless people
- A meeting place and support for Care in the Community Groups including MIND groups.



Our aim is to continue to develop our work at the heart of the town centre community for the 21st Century.



www.gravesendmethodistchurch.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1132238

**Gravesend Methodist Church
Redevelopment Plans
2010 Onwards**



The Town Centre Church bringing God's love to the heart of the Community.

21st Project Building for the future