Using Churches Creatively

Tips and Case studies

“One who moves too hurriedly misses the way”

– Proverbs 19: 2
• Consider what makes your church special/unique
• Consult your local community to ask
  • Unmet needs- worship and outreach?
  • What does the building do well? What needs improvement?
  • Which user groups would use the church?
  • Added value: Can people offer time/skills?
• How to consult? Paper surveys, online, or in person
• Engage folk wearing several hats
• People first, then facilities: not “build it and they will come”
• Focus on what’s possible now- experiment with TROs, signage, access ramps, makeshift tea points and portaloos
• Future-proof, not fantasy
• Consider phasing into manageable projects
Holistic Thinking

- Practical needs
- Repairs/maintenance
- Your church and the environment-net zero
- Accessibility and welcome
- Finances and funding potential
- Sensitive/significant fabric/features
Aston Clinton - St Michael & All Angels - Buckingham
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Existing facilities: small kitchen in tower, external non disabled-friendly
Repair Café: Aston Clinton - St Michael & All Angels
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Repair Café frequently asked questions:

**What's a repair café?**
We are a group of volunteers of many differing skills who want to fix your stuff.

**What repairs can you do?**
We have needleworkers, carpenters, electronic & mechanical engineers & handy folk. We can sew, solder, glue, sharpen, patch, weld, disassemble, diagnose, rebuild & more.

**Do I have to book?**
No! Just turn up. Items are repaired in order of arrival and it’s always best to come early!

**Can I bring more than one item?**
Yes! But if we’re busy, subsequent items have to queue again.

**Do I have to pay for a repair?**
There is no charge for our services, but any parts have to be provided or paid for. Voluntary donations are invited to cover running costs of the café and church.

**When and where is the café?**
The second Saturday of the month at St Michael’s church, Aston Clinton. Next café: Saturday 9th April 9am till noon.
Repair Café: Aston Clinton - St Michael & All Angels
Baulking St Nicholas (Dorchester)- west end facilities
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• Proper planning - statements of need/significance - guidance is available

• Source an architect familiar with churches and conservation to produce an options appraisal and plans

• Early engagement with the Church Buildings Team - we’re here to help!