

Wellington Chapel, Herefordshire

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Who are we?

We are a small evangelical church in the village of Wellington, about 5 miles north of Hereford. We are striving to exercise a Christ centred Gospel ministry through the consistent and faithful teaching of the Bible. Like many other parts of rural Britain, this area is very beautiful but spiritually needy and we want our ministry to reach out to the surrounding area as well as to our own village.

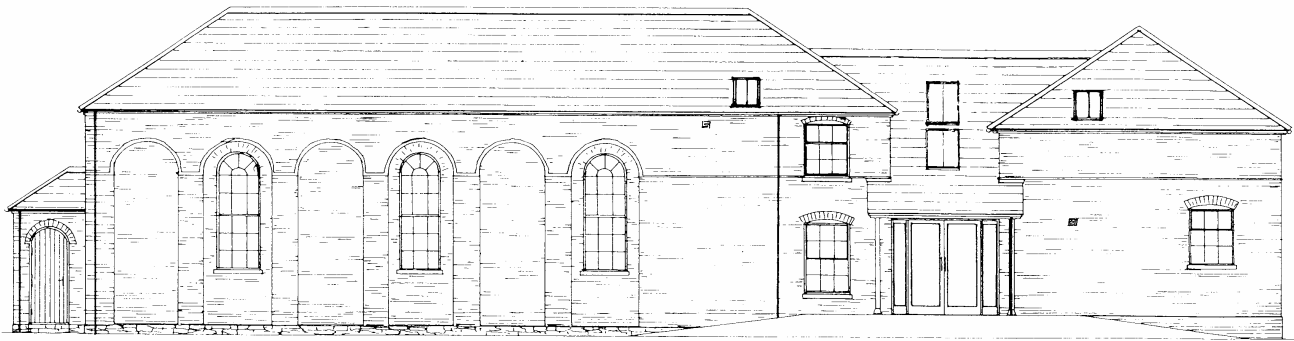
Recent history

The church was started and the chapel built in the early 19th century. But by the early years of this millennium, the congregation was reduced to eight or so faithful but elderly people. They met in a portacabin, the chapel having become unusable due to dry rot. But four years ago they were joined by a couple with a young family. A children's work was started and another young family and a further couple soon became involved in the church. A young pastor was called who preached the Gospel faithfully. The congregation began to grow and, with the help of generous gifts and interest free loans, the chapel was renovated and brought back into use. Morning congregations now number around thirty to forty, including children, and the children's meetings on Friday evenings are attended by 30 or so in two different age groups.

The need for an extension

The portacabin which is used for the Sunday school during the morning service is well past its sell-by date and the planning authority will not allow us to use it beyond the summer of 2009. Moreover the Sunday school covers a wide age range and needs to be split into at least two groups. The kitchen is tiny and the present toilets are, as they say, not fit for purpose and often only accessible through a sea of mud. Car parking is inadequate. If the church is to continue to grow and our ministry to be more effective, better facilities are urgently needed

In the sketch below the existing chapel is on the left hand side and the proposed extension on the right from the point where there is a first storey window.



Our Resources

We have 2 acres of land but most of it is now designated as flood plain. Currently we have planning permission for the building of 2 houses but the value of these plots has fallen very significantly over the past year. The planning permission will lapse in 18 months time unless a substantial beginning has been made on the proposed development. We are told it would not be renewable after that time. So we are seeking to sell the building plots and if we are able to do so it is now likely that the proceeds will leave a short fall of about £80,000 to £100,000 on the expected cost of the extension, including a new access road, a car park (we are on the narrow main road through the village) and the repayment of existing interest free loans.

We look to God, whose resources are never limited, to supply what is needed but we believe it is right to share our needs and hopes for the future growth of the church here with interested friends.

Derek Backhouse
Elder

Mark Roberts
Elder and Treasurer

Peter Seccombe
Pastor.