



ST PETER'S  
CONGLETON



These documents have been produced and published for St Peter's Churches in Chester and Congleton, Cheshire, by St Peter's Churches Live Project 2016, School of Architecture, University of Sheffield.

Concept development, writing and graphic design by  
St Peter's Churches Live Project, as part of the Sheffield School of Architecture, University of Sheffield.

All rights reserved by the University of Sheffield.  
No part of  
this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval  
system, copied or transmitted without the prior written  
consent of the publisher except that the material  
may be  
photocopied for educational purposes without  
permission  
from the publisher.

St Peter's Churches Live Project  
Sheffield School of Architecture,  
The University of Sheffield,  
Arts Tower, Western Bank,  
Sheffield, S10 2TN, UK

[www.shef.ac.uk/architecture](http://www.shef.ac.uk/architecture)







## **ST PETER'S NAVIGATOR**

## THANKS TO...

St Peter's Live Project Team would like to thank the Emily Allen at the Diocese of Chester for allowing us to undertake this research project, and her help in communicating with other churches beyond St Peter's in Congleton and Chester.

We would like to thank the teams at St Peter's Chester and St Peter's Congleton, especially Curate Jonathan Phillips and Richard Drew who were our points of contact throughout this six weeks. We sincerely hope the work we have carried out has been of benefit and we look forward to seeing where your churches will take it.

In addition, we have developed a relationship with Empowering Design Practices throughout the process and would like to extend our thanks for their support and encouragement, and we hope this research proves useful for their future work.

We would lastly like to thank our mentor, Dr. Jo Lintenbon for her time and effort in assisting us in the production and evaluation of this Navigator and supporting documents.

BRIEFING

How we became involved?	p 09
St Peter's Church - Chester	p 10
St Peter's Church - Congleton	p 11
Client's Desires as described in the initial meeting	p 12
Project brief development	p 13
Development of methodology	p 14
Navigator outline	p 15
St Peter's Chester + Congleton process Timelines	p 16
Stakeholder Overview	p 18
Relationship with Empowering Design Practices	p 19
Stakeholder maps	p 20

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

What are the church's existing strengths?	p 26
Areas of significance	p 29
What is a church/church building?	p 30
What happens at the moment?	p 31
What are your users priorities?	p 32

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

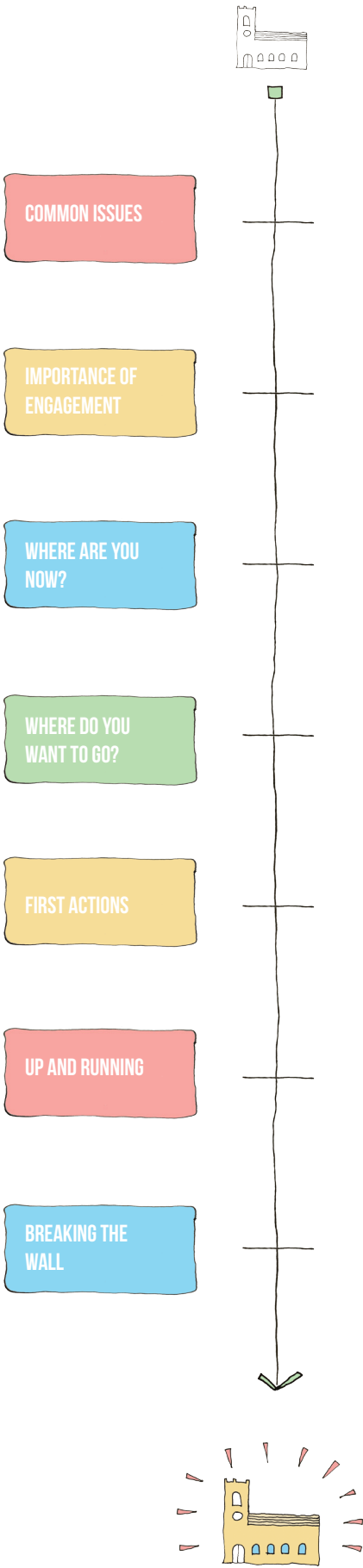
Visuals : first ideas	p 36
Visual ideas activity	p 40
What can you learn from other mixed-use places of worship?	p 42

UP AND RUNNING - WORKSHOP

A phased, long-term design approach	p 50
Low cost - Small Scale	p 52
Medium Scale	p 54
Large scale	p 56
Potential New Layout Option	p 62

BREAKING THE WALL - LEGACY WORKSHOPS

The Legacy: Participatory design	p 66
The Legacy: The ongoing cycle	p 67
Legacy Workshops	p 68
Post Card workshop	p 69
Vision for the future: Wax tablet	p 70
Coin voting workshop	p 72
Sketchup 3d model	p 74
Final thoughts	p 77



## SHEFFIELD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE LIVE PROJECTS

Now in their 17th year as of 2016, Sheffield School of Architecture's Live Projects offer students a on opportunity to work with Live clients over a six week period, working with real people on real projects, in real time.

Live Projects mix the academia of University research and theory with real world practice, allowing students to develop skills and techniques in-line with the collaborative ethos of the School.

The projects also allow for the provision of valuable tools, ideas and built designs for community clients that would otherwise be unable to obtain them. These products very often continue to have a life and be of use long after the end of the Live Project.

## ST PETER'S NAVIGATOR LIVE PROJECT TEAM

Our Live Project team was commissioned by the Diocese of Chester to work directly with St Peter's Congleton, and St Peter's Chester, to propose design solutions and ways of working to improve the overall facilities and use of theses churches. The project timeframe runs alongside a 5 year study by Empowering Design Practices and the Open University, working with places of worship across the country who have previously collaborated with both St Peter's churches, and Sheffield University School of Architecture.

Comprising 12 students from 6 countries and 2 masters courses, St Peter's Live Project Team is a collaboration between student designers with a wide range of backgrounds and experience.

We have developed these documents over a period of intense design, discussion, meetings and making with the intention of providing visions for the future for these churches, whilst providing guidance and tools for others in similar situations. We hope they demonstrate the value of collaborative and iterative design processes in the potential transformation and moernisation of Church spaces, with the aim of promoting community engagement and active participation in the 21st Century Church.

RANGI



JOSH



SIMONA



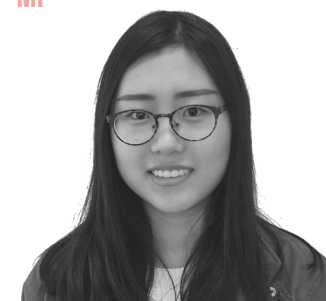
LUCY



GARY



MI



DARIA



GUY



CHRIS



BETTY



ELLEN



SIMEON



ST PETER'S CONGLETON PROCESS DOCUMENT

The University of sheffield - School of Architecture  
Live Project 2016

Introduction

This document outlines a series of work carried out as part of a six week Live Project at The University of Sheffield. The wider project was given the aim of working with two churches in the Diocese of Chester:

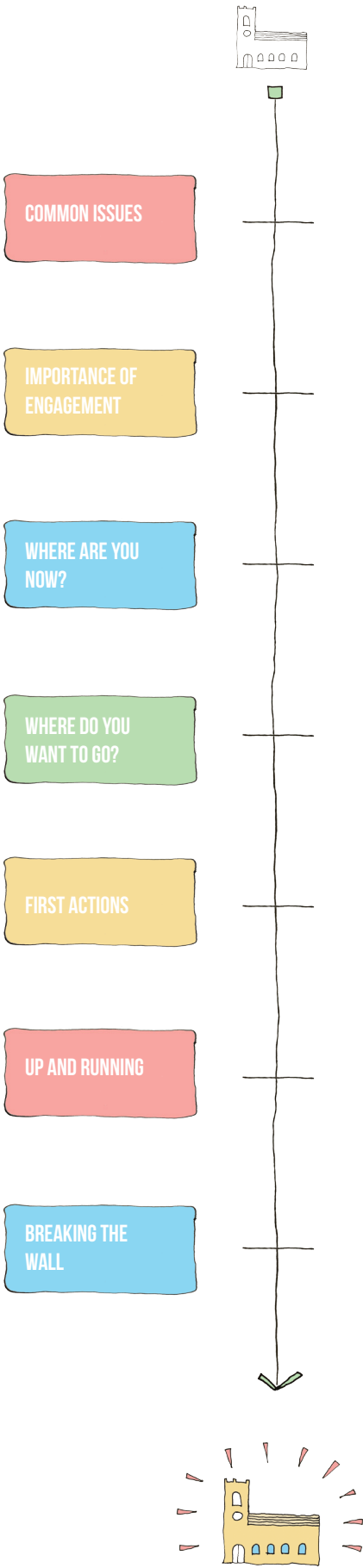
- St Peter's Chester
- St Peter's Congleton

The aim was to enable these churches to use their spaces in more communal and social ways. It quickly became clear that the two churches were in very different stages of the design process.

As a result the Live Project addressed each church's requirements seperately through design workshops. The activities that were used in these workshops and the information gathered has informed the development of a Church Design Process Navigator. St Peter's Chester was a case study for the early stages of this Design Process and St Peter's Congleton was a case study for the later stages of the Design Process.

The Design Process Navigator is outlined in a separate document and should be read in conjunction with the following pages for a complete understanding of the Live Project Team's work.

This St Peter's Chester Process Document summarises the project's work specifically with St Peter's Congleton. The following pages will explain the projects' work with the church, the suggested design options and the potential on going workshops which will enable St Peter's Chester's further development.







COMMON ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF  
ENGAGEMENT

WHERE ARE YOU  
NOW?

WHERE DO YOU  
WANT TO GO?

FIRST ACTIONS

UP AND RUNNING

BREAKING THE  
WALL







HOW WE BECAME INVOLVED

Church of England

The state church in England is the Church of England, part of the Anglican Communion. Struggling with decreasing congregation numbers and growing need to find more uses for churches across the country to preserve traditional role as community heart.

Province of York

One of two Ecclesiastical Provinces in England along with the Province of Canterbury. Broken down into 12 Diocese.

Diocese of Chester

Diocese within Province of York within which both Chester and Congleton are located. Both churches are under the central jurisdiction of the Diocese at a wider level.



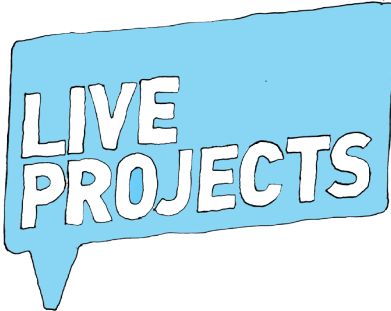
St Peter's, Chester

Low Anglican church in the heart of Chester, centrally located by "The Cross", a medieval landmark in the centre of the city, practicing a more evangelist approach of Anglican Christianity, with original construction over 1000 years ago.



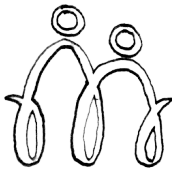
St Peter's, Congleton

Anglican church in the town of Congleton, roughly 40 miles East from Chester, influenced in layout by more Methodist practices originating in the mid-18th century.



Live Projects

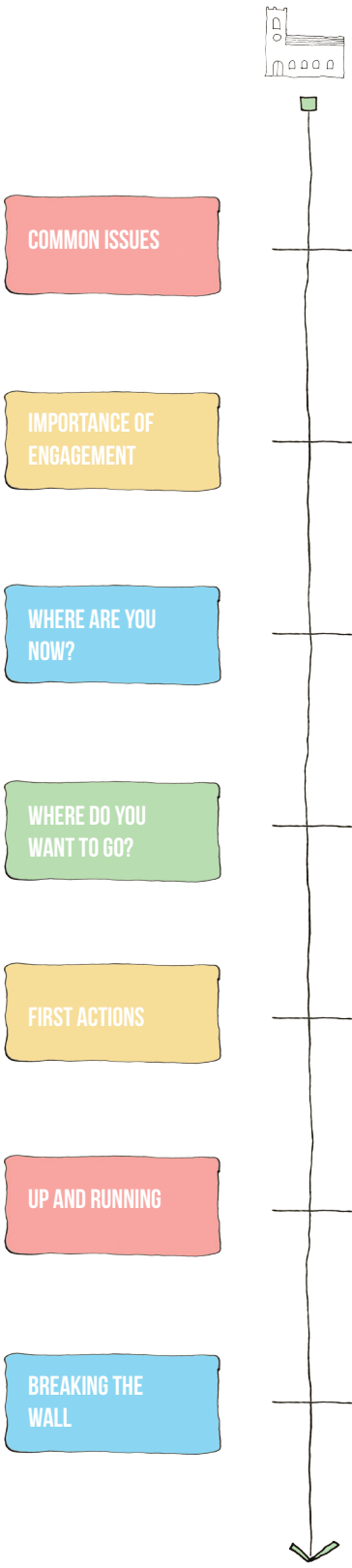
Live Projects approached as part of an on-going research by Empowering Design Practices to deliver proposals for increased community engagement and more efficient space usage within the St Peter's churches.



Empowering Design Practices

Empowering design practices is a research project that aims to explore how community-led design can help empower those who look after historic places of worship to create more open, vibrant and sustainable places that respect and enhance their heritage.

Through this research they have identified St Peter's Churches in Cheshire and Vestry Hall in Sheffield, used by the ISRAAC group, as clients for Live Projects at the University of Sheffield.



## ST. PETER'S CHURCH CHESTER



Chester population

**81000**

Grade I Listed Church

City Centre church with history dating back over 1000 years, alleged to be founded by the daughter of Alfred the Great, Æthelflæd, in the 10th Century.

Current building built between 14th and 16th centuries, with extensive renovation and internal changes since.





ST. PETER'S CHURCH  
CONGLETON



Chester population  
**26000**

Grade I Listed Church

Built on the periphery of Congleton, this church is one of 4 in its parish. Originally built as a 'Chapel of Ease' for nearby Astbury St Mary's, the current building was erected in the 18th century.

Built in a more methodist style, this church currently has one of the best preserved church interiors in the north of England.

COMMON ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF  
ENGAGEMENT

WHERE ARE YOU  
NOW?

WHERE DO YOU  
WANT TO GO?

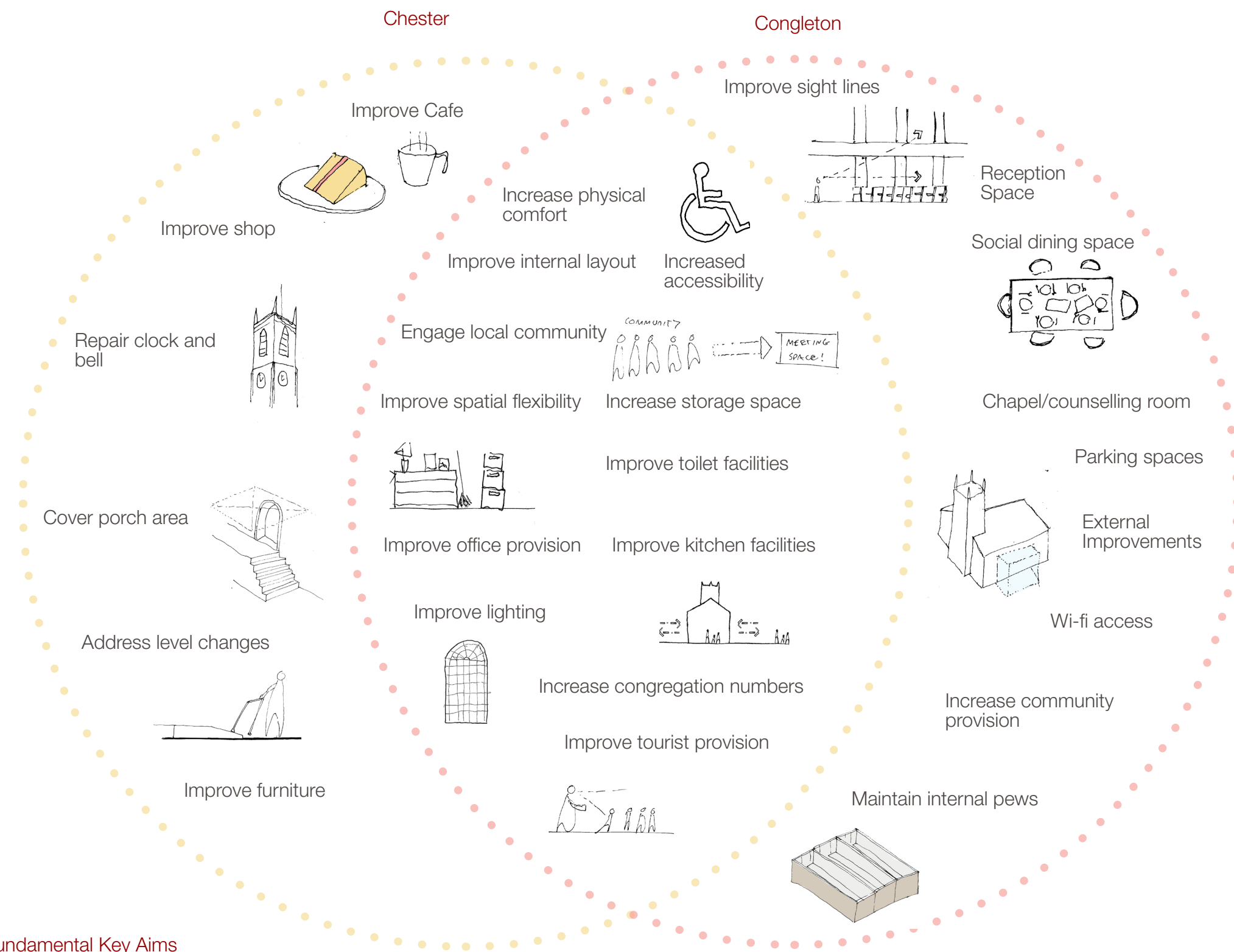
FIRST ACTIONS

UP AND RUNNING

BREAKING THE  
WALL



## CLIENT'S DESIRES AS DESCRIBED IN THE INITIAL MEETING

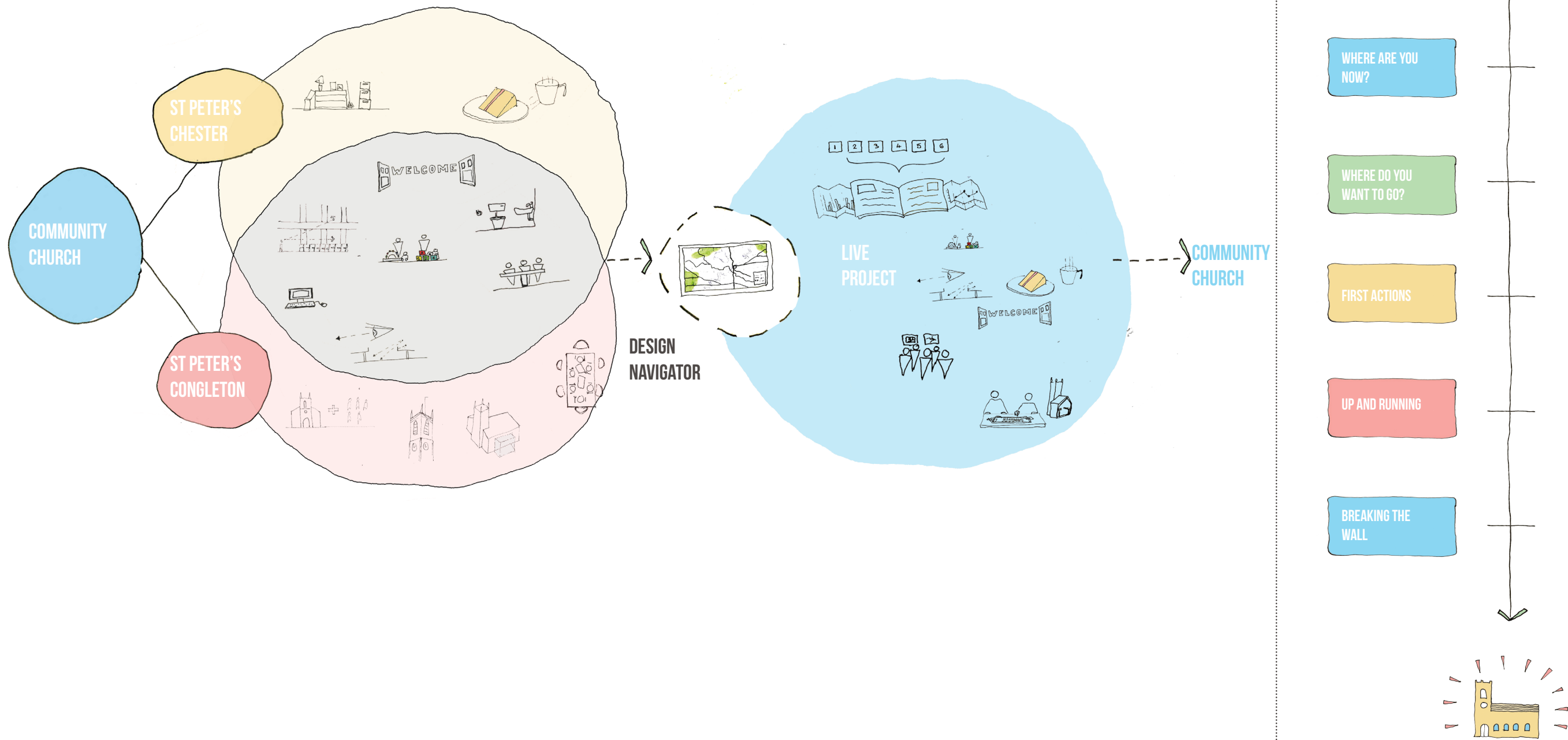


### Fundamental Key Aims

- Improve the use of the Churches through design
- Manage change in a way that is sympathetic to the heritage
- Improve the way in which the buildings can be used by the community

PROJECT BRIEF DEVELOPMENT

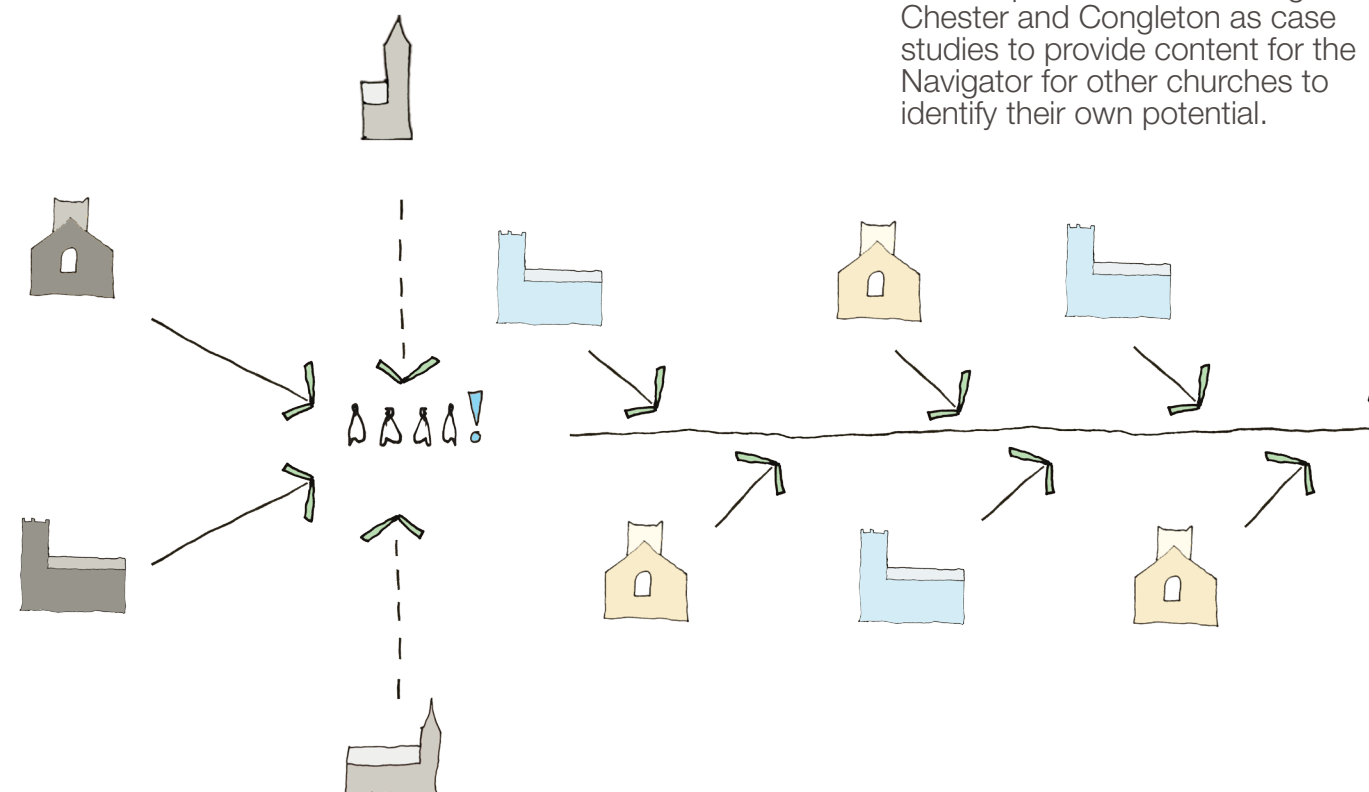
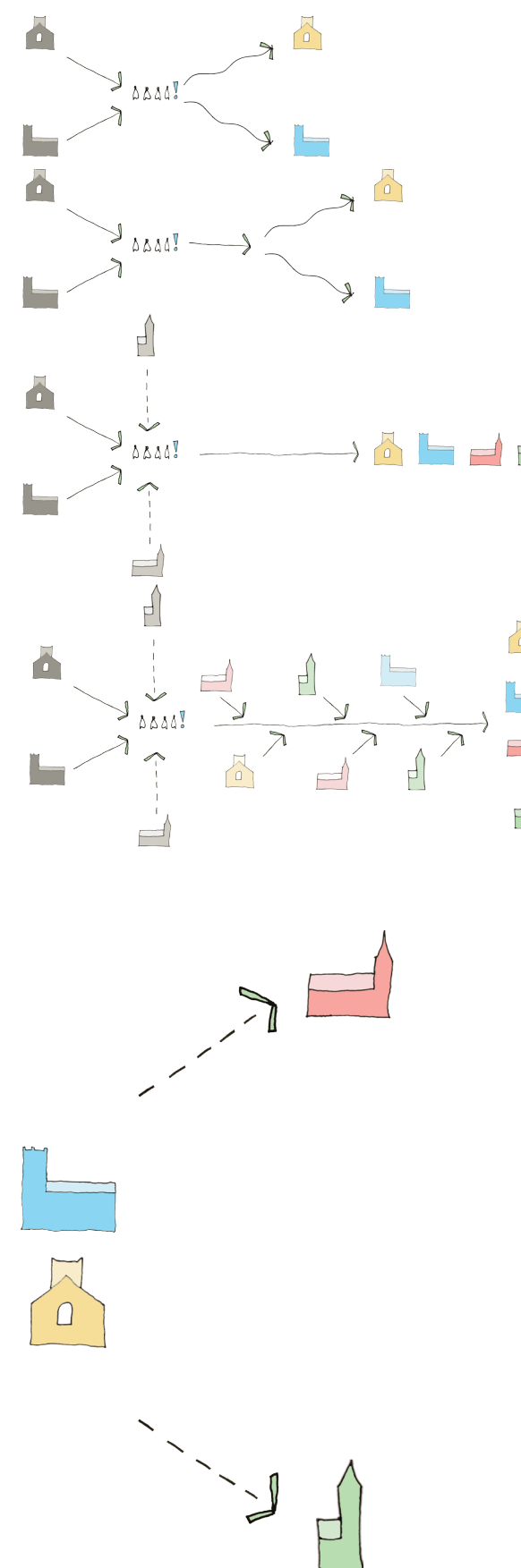
By identifying the common issues of the two churches, and issues that other churches may have, common design tools can then be established. It is these tools that form the Navigator, learnt from the community church, and informing the future of the community church.



## DEVELOPMENT OF METHODOLOGY

Due to the challenges of having to work with two separate client bodies, we feel it is important to understand how we arrived with the set of outputs produced for this project; we felt it imperative to work as closely as we could with both churches, whilst providing an output which would be beneficial to both. Therefore, a common ground needed to be identified, and in doing so opportunity arose to produce a set of documents which could be further used by churches in similar situations across Cheshire and possibly beyond.

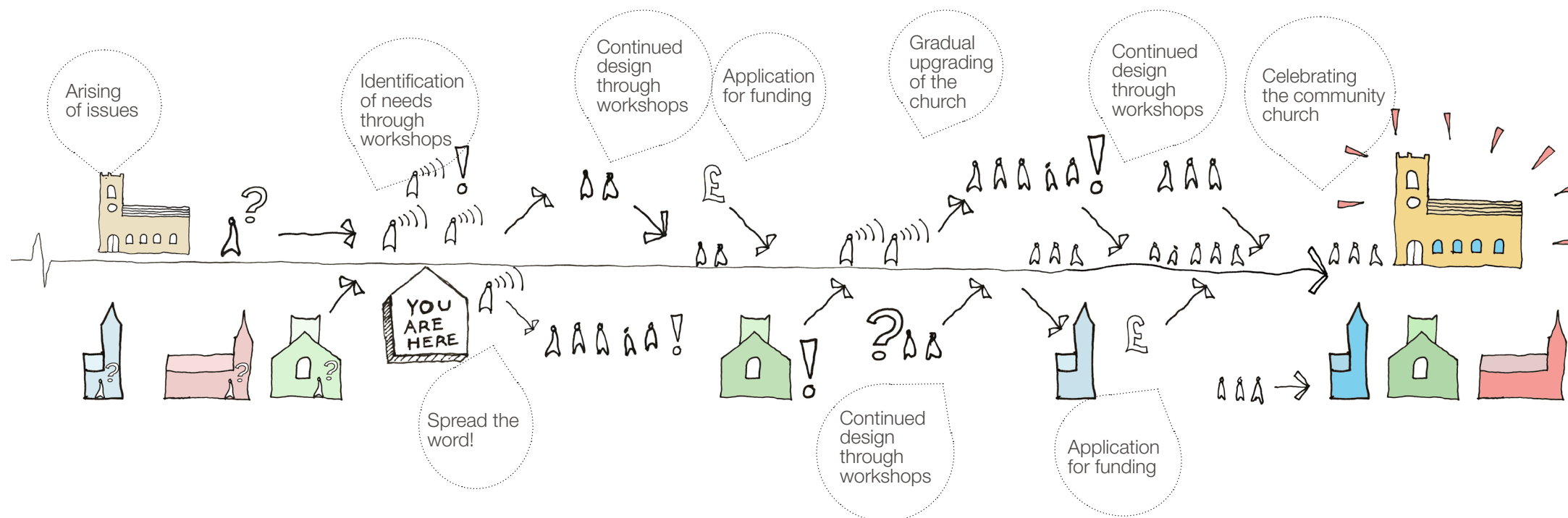
- 1 Two discrete outputs working with different client groups independently
- 2 Combined initial work-flow, splitting to produce discrete output for individual churches.
- 3 Incorporating wider issues but address no specifics of individual churches, only providing overarching framework for later work-flow.
- 4 One outcome which draws upon experiences of various churches at various stages as case studies.
- 5 One output drawn from using Chester and Congleton as case studies to provide content for the Navigator for other churches to identify their own potential.



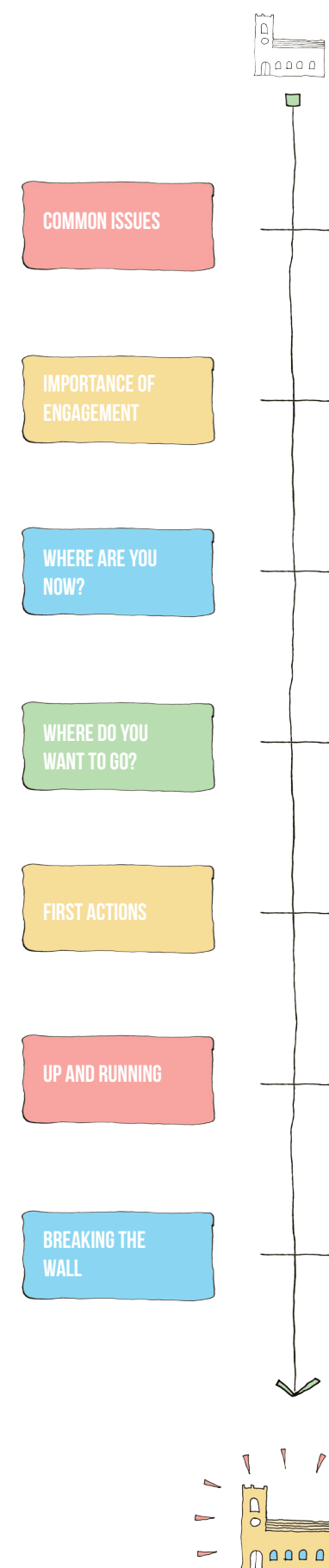
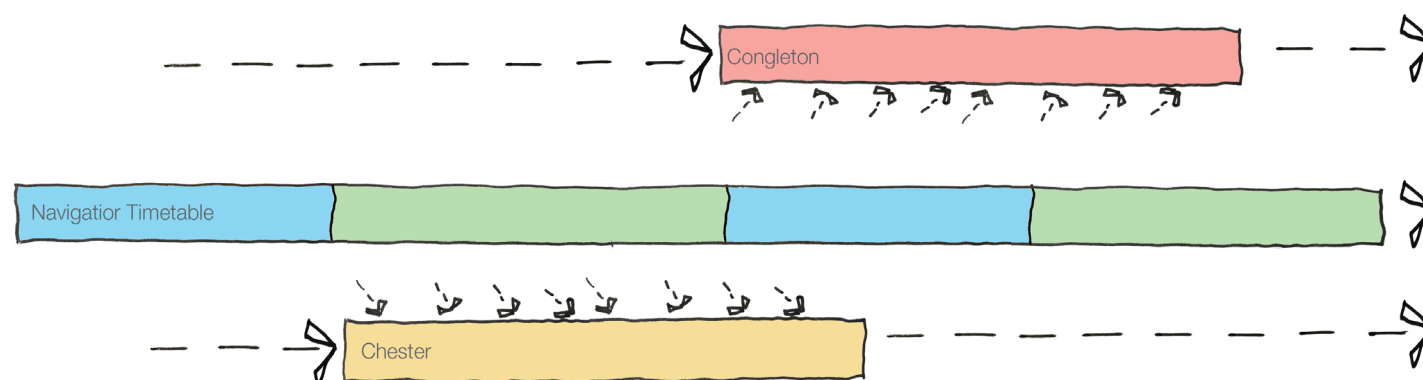


## NAVIGATOR OUTLINE

This timeline shows the process of the brief development. Both St Peter's, Chester and Congleton, along with other churches, are seen as an essential part of the overall process that creates the Navigator.

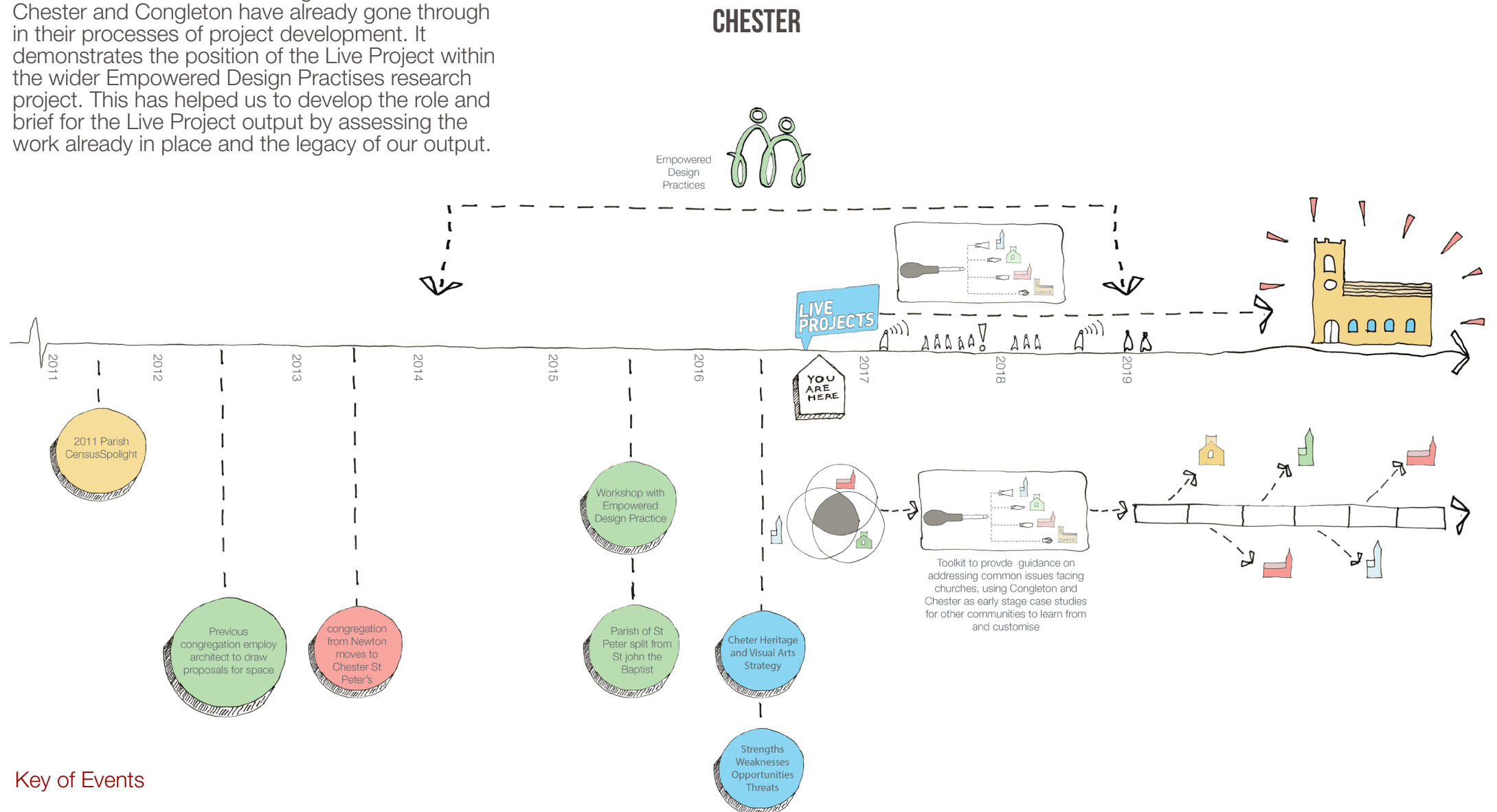


It is important to see how both St Peter's churches are situated in the brief in order to help them reach their goal for successful community church. For this Navigator we will focus on using the two projects as case studies, with output for each focusing at different stages along the timeline, relating to their individual requirements.



## ST PETER'S CHESTER + CONGLETON PROCESS TIMELINES

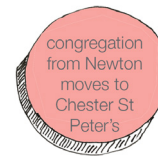
These timelines assess the stages that St Peter's Chester and Congleton have already gone through in their processes of project development. It demonstrates the position of the Live Project within the wider Empowered Design Practises research project. This has helped us to develop the role and brief for the Live Project output by assessing the work already in place and the legacy of our output.



### Key of Events



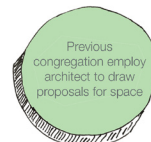
Analysis of Parish Census provides a good starting point for research into potential target groups and demographics of the Parish.



A Diocese of Chester desk based research survey of the area and possible areas of community engagement.



A strategic document prepared by Cheshire West and Chester Council visualizing the future and development of Chester's heritage and arts culture as part of Chester One City Plan 2012-2027.



Previous Congregation employed an architect to look at potential space to be renovated. Completed prior to more recent uses and new requirements of space.



Empowered Design Practices led participation event with church stakeholders held to identify potential for change in Church.



Empowered Design Practises: A five year research project working with St Peter's Congleton and St Peter's Chester to enable the congregation to design space use solutions alongside their communities.

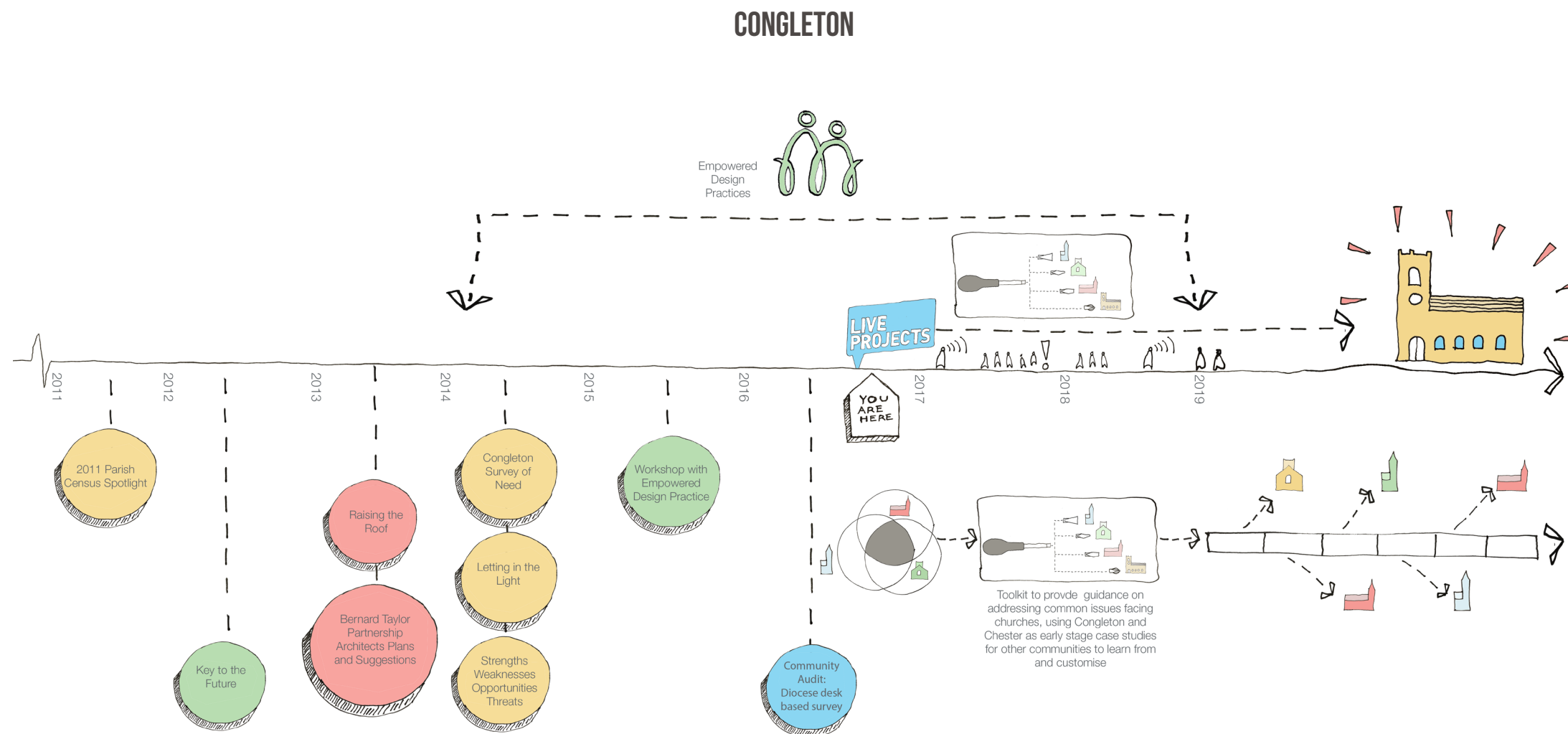


Parish splits from St John the Baptist, forming its own parish in the centre of city, reducing catchment of Parish.



Self- analytical analysis of potential opportunities for change. A good document to identify what Church views as important, July 2016.





## Key of Events

**Key to the Future**  
A three stage project aimed at protecting Congleton's heritage and creating a community building fit for purpose.

**Raising the Roof**  
Stage one of the 'Key to the Future', refitting the church roof with £136,000 support from English Heritage.

**Bernard Taylor Partnership Architects Plans and Suggestions**  
Plans drawn to investigate options for extension to south side of Church to increase usability of internal space.

**Letting in the Light**  
Restoration of window frames and glass, increasing energy efficiency of building at a cost of roughly £230,000.

**Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats**  
Self-analytical analysis of potential opportunities for change. Good document to identify what Church views as important.

**Congleton Survey of Need**  
Community Audit: A Diocese of Chester desk based research survey of the area and possible areas of community engagement.

**Workshop with Empowered Design Practice**  
Empowered Design Practices led participation event with church stakeholders held to identify potential for change in Church.

**2011 Parish Census**  
Analysis of Parish Census provides good starting point for research into potential target groups and demographics of the Parish.

**Diocese desk based survey of area**  
Community Audit: A Diocese of Chester desk based research survey of the area and possible areas of community engagement.

**Empowered Design Practises:**  
A five year research project working with St Peter's Congleton and St Peter's Chester to enable the congregation to design space use solutions alongside their communities.

COMMON ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGEMENT

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

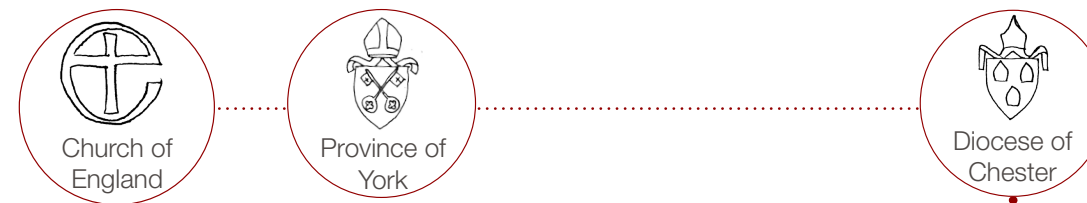
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

FIRST ACTIONS

UP AND RUNNING

BREAKING THE WALL

## CHURCH BODIES



## LOCAL GOVERNANCE



## UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD ST PETER'S LIVE PROJECT



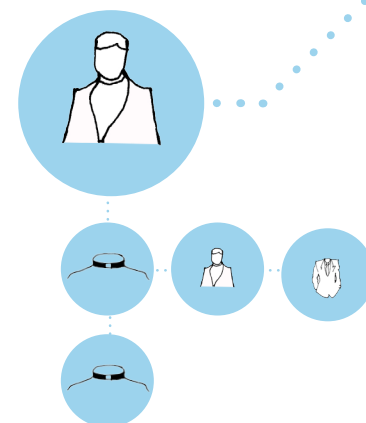
## ST PETER'S CHURCH CONGLETON



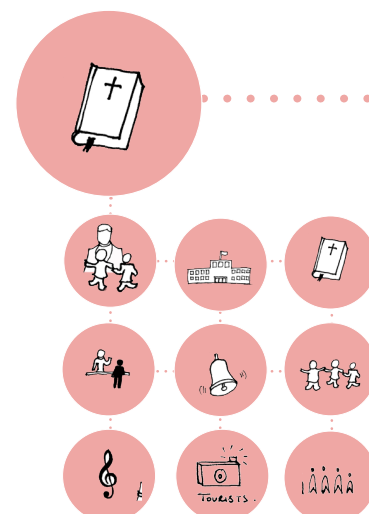
## ST PETER'S CHURCH CHESTER



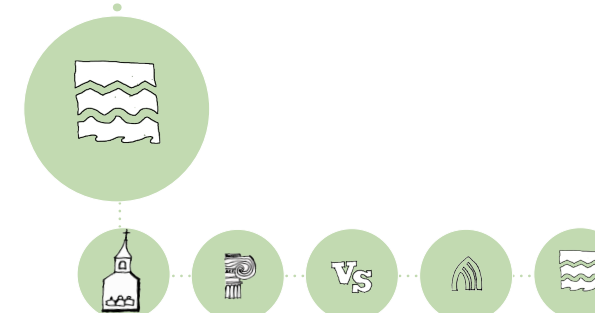
## CONTACT AND CORE TEAM



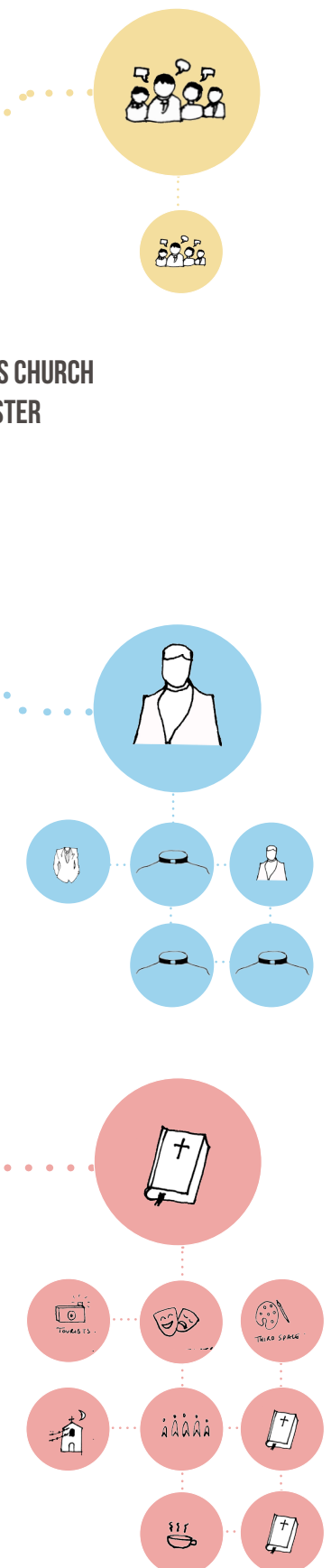
## COMMUNITY USES



## STATUTORY CONSULTEEES



## STAKEHOLDER OVERVIEW



## LINKS

<http://empoweringdesignpractices.weebly.com/>

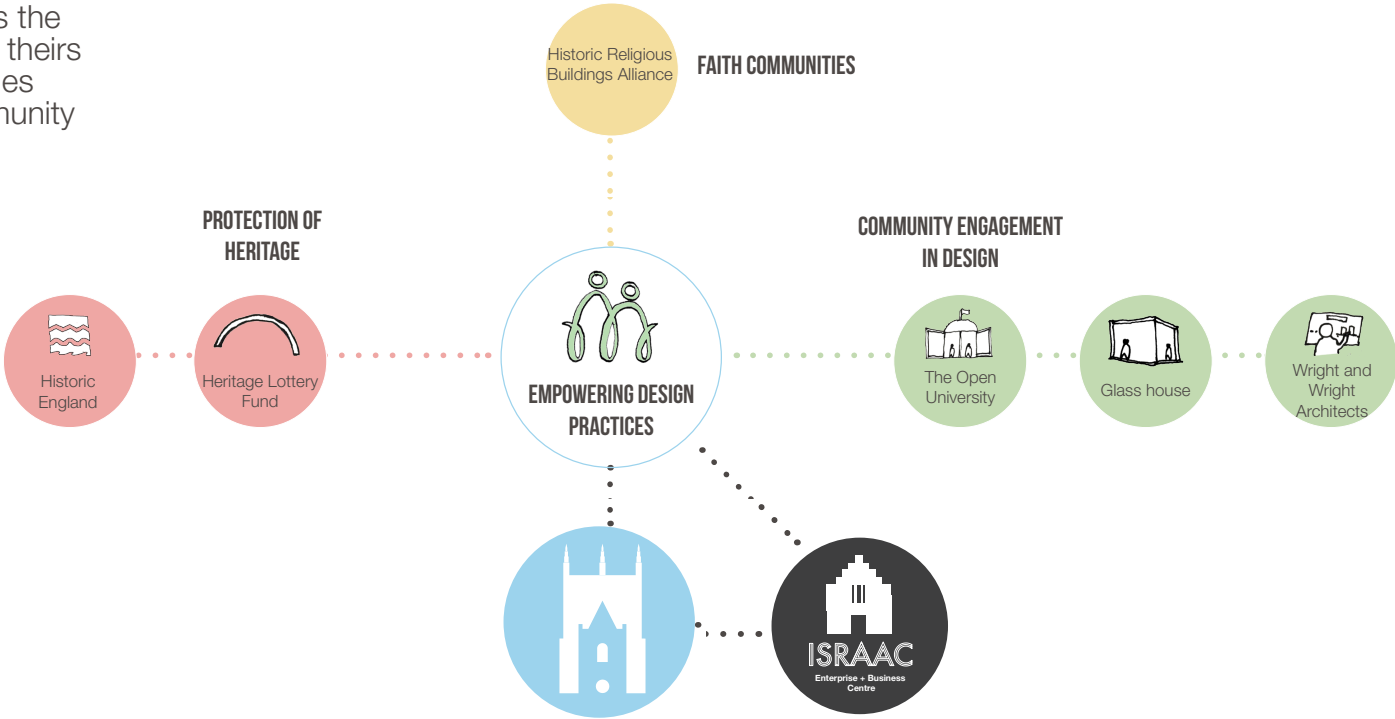
<http://www.theglasshouse.org.uk/>

RELATIONSHIP WITH EMPOWERING DESIGN PRACTICES

Empowering Design Practices (EDP) are engaged in a 5 year long research project from October 2014 - October 2019.

“Empowering Design Practices is a research project that aims to explore how community-led design can help empower those who look after historic places of worship to create more open, vibrant and sustainable places that respect and enhance their heritage.”

EDP are engaged with both St Peter’s Churches, and other Live Project groups and have been extremely helpful throughout the process. It is the intention that our research will feed back into theirs to provide a lasting legacy for the two churches with the long-term intention of creating community led design outcomes



Previous EDP collaboration with Congleton and Chester has enabled the churches to develop more nuanced and articulated Statements of Need and Significance, with the communities already having identified key issues to address.

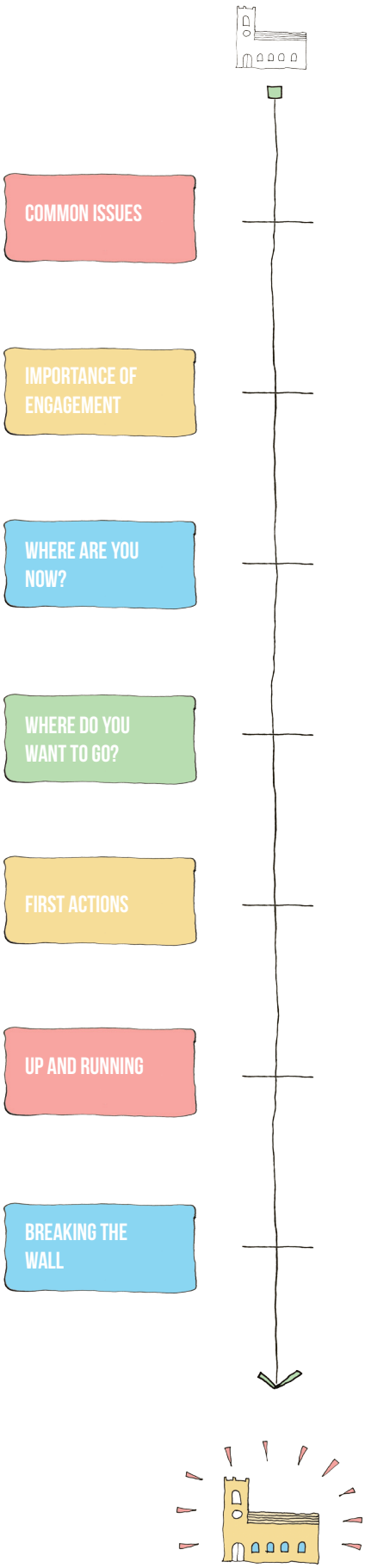
EDP Workshop- St Peter’s Church, Chester



EDP Workshop -St Peter’s Church, Congleton

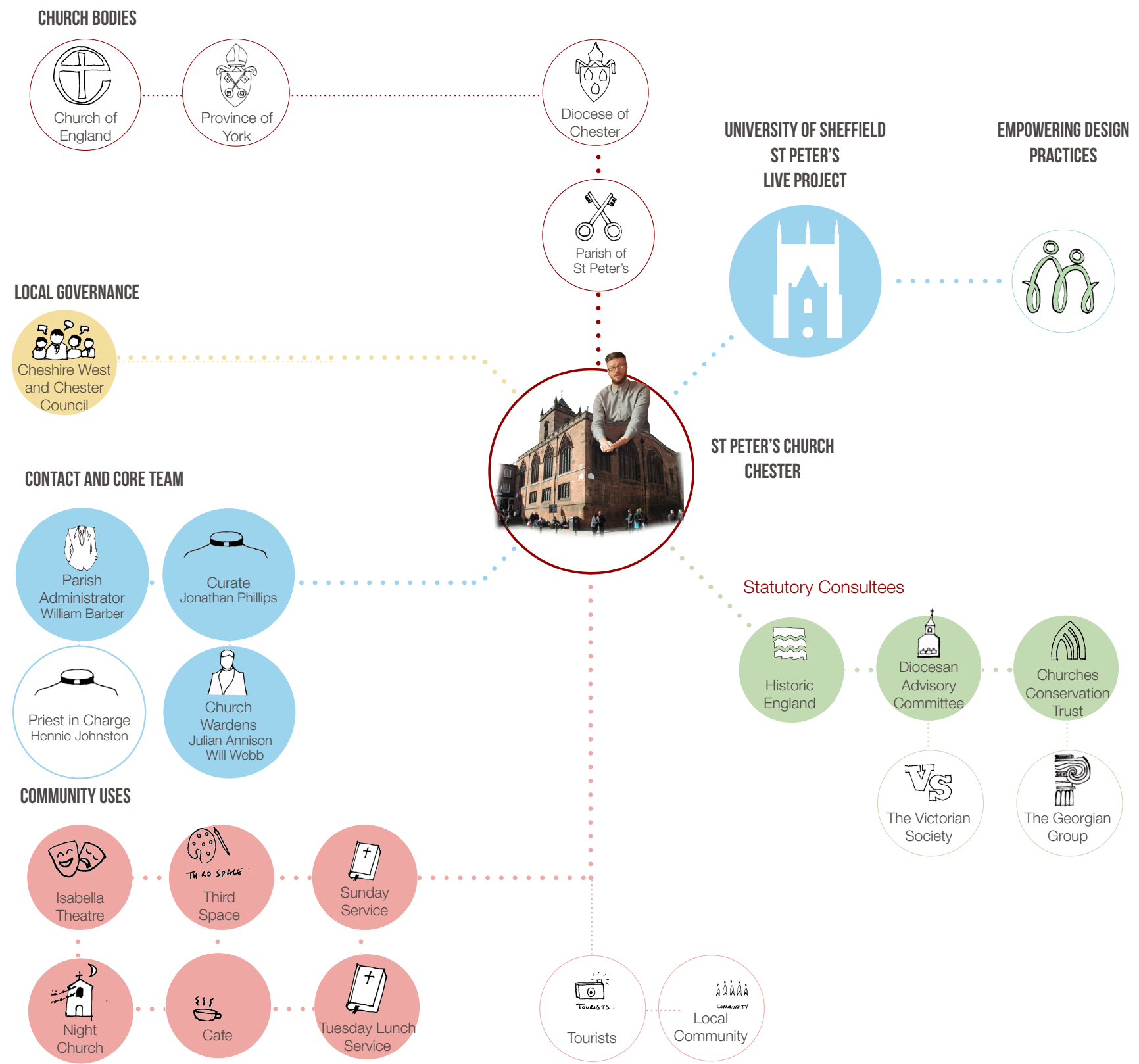


EDP Workshop - Vestry Hall, Sheffield (Live Project 2016)

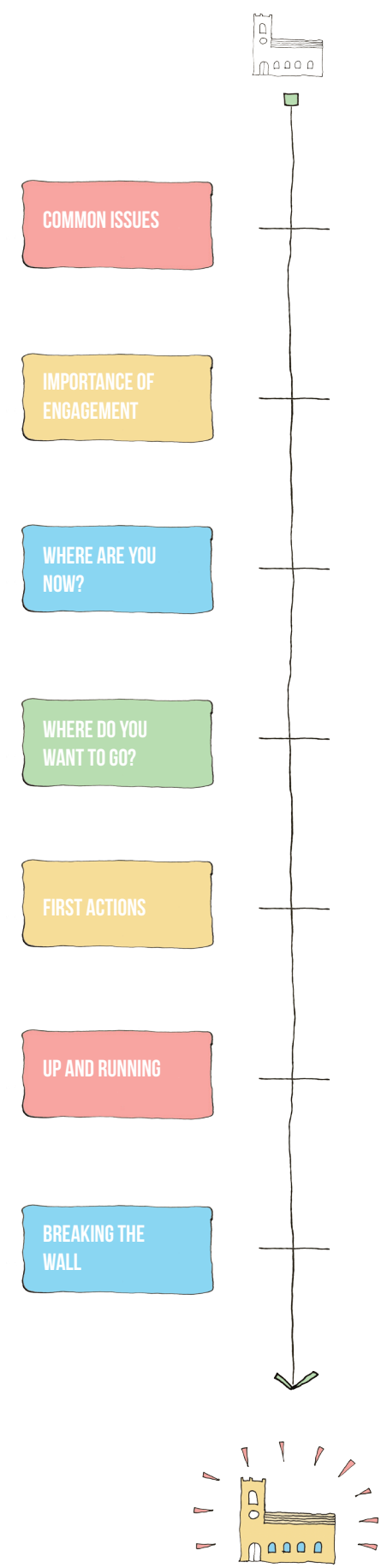
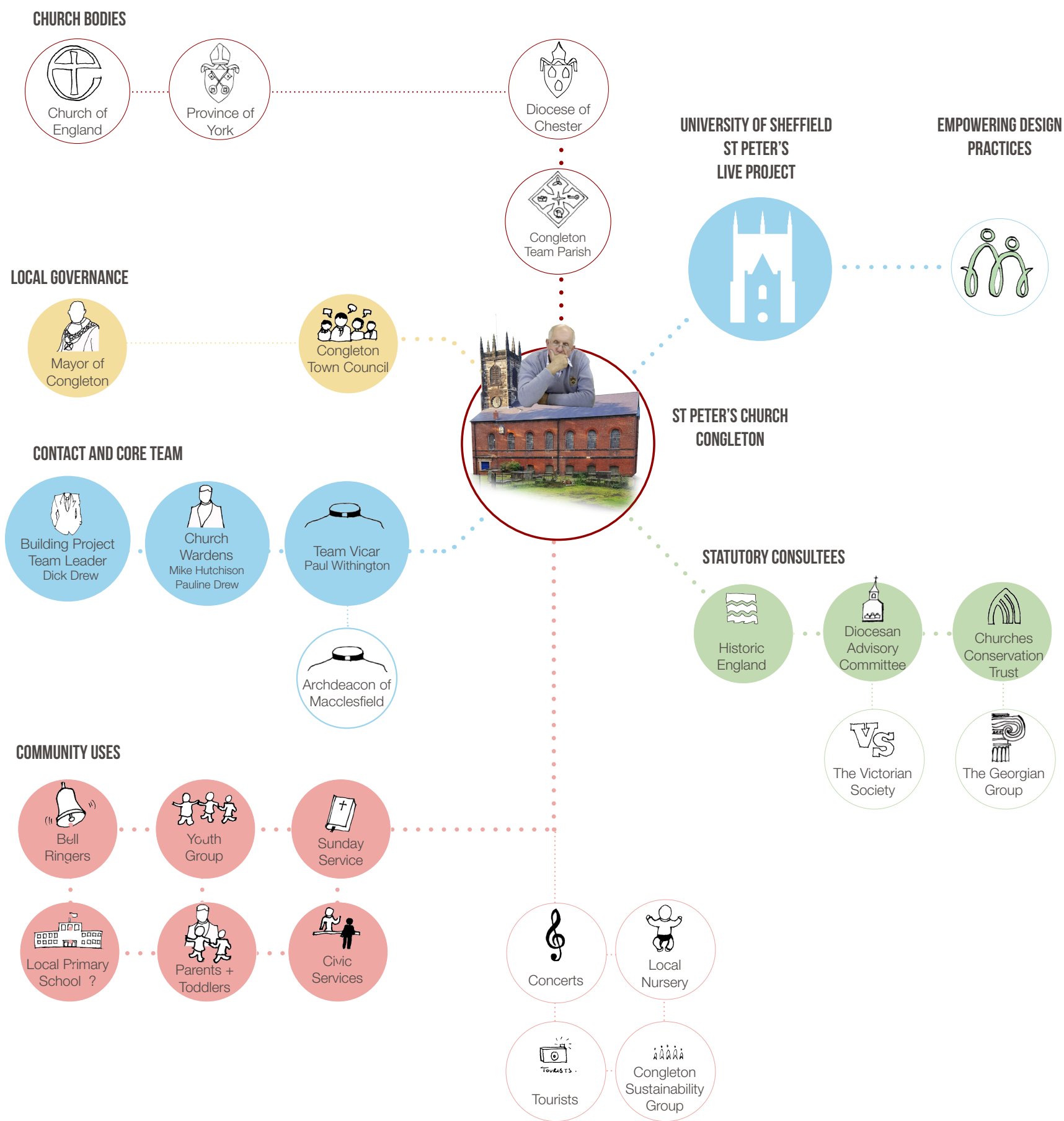




STAKEHOLDER MAP  
ST PETER'S CHESTER



STAKEHOLDER MAP  
ST PETER'S CONGLETON





**ST PETER'S CHURCH,  
CONGLETON**

Congleton Parish is currently undergoing a re-structure of it's church system. There are four churches in the town but there are currently plans to combine the four communities into one. As a result a new "base" or central church is required. The St Peter's team believes that, with significant investment, the location and strengths of the building make it a clear choice for the new key church.

It is understood that the work required would be expensive but the client believes that the heritage of the building and the dramatic architecture make this a beneficial investment for future generations.





## St John's Church



It is situated off the Old Buxton Road in Buglawton. The building dates from 1840, and encompasses a single main room without pillars, with a screened off narthex under the organ loft.

### St John's Hall



Redevelopment to provide a flexible accessible and comfortable community centre. (2016)

### Activities

- 'Messy Easter' (Friday)
- Buglawton Community Group
- Community Carols
- House Group

Future:

- Dementia Support Sessions (Dementia Patients and Cares)
- Call in for Coffee (Young Families and Support Agencies)
- 'Redeeming Our Communities' Youth Cafe (Younger Generations)
- 'Skype' Club (Non-digital Residents)

## St Stephen's



It is situated where Willow Street becomes Brook Street (later Buxton Road), near Congleton park and leisure centre. The building was completed in 1860, and has a picturesque interior with main nave and side aisles.

### The Pillar Room



Used as a flexible space inside the church from 2004.

### Activities

- Coffee Morning (Support of Charities)
- Christmas and Summer Fair
- Private Activities (ex: Birthday Party)
- Pray Time

## St Peter's



It is situated in Chapel Street just above the town centre. It was rebuilt between 1740 and 1742, with the stone tower being completed in 1786 and the gallery extensions either side of it in around 1840.

### Parish Hall Rooms and Grounds



Unchanged since 1979. More spaces for activities.

### Activities

- Organ Recitals (Children)
- Other Concerts
- Sleepover (Young People)
- Open Day
- Bible Study Group
- Baby and Toddler Group
- Wedding and Funeral
- Sunday School
- Worship

## Holy Trinity



It is situated at the traffic lights on the Biddulph Road and Leek Road / Reades Lane junction. The building dates from 1846, and encompasses a narrow nave without pillars, plus a balcony.

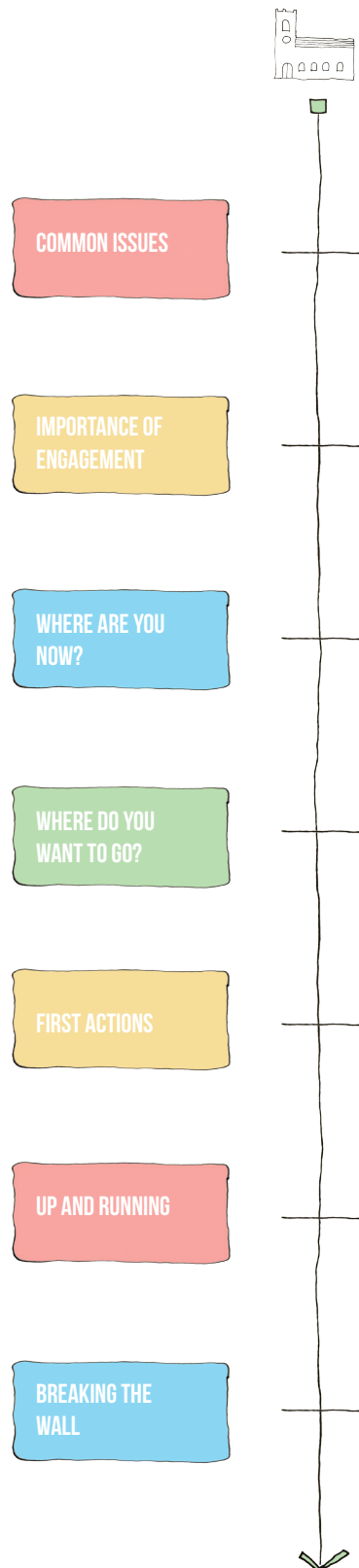
### The Chapel



Community Centre opened in 2013.

### Activities

- Team Service
- Party
- Holy Communion
- Cell Group Social
- Worship









COMMON ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF  
ENGAGEMENT

WHERE ARE YOU  
NOW?

WHERE DO YOU  
WANT TO GO?

FIRST ACTIONS

UP AND RUNNING

BREAKING THE  
WALL





## WHAT ARE THE CHURCH'S EXISTING STRENGTHS?

### Georgian Pews:

Whilst the Georgian box pews bring a certain restriction to the future use of the space they are a dramatic, unusual feature and demonstrate fantastic craftsmanship. Whilst there should be some consolidation of the pew layout this project aims to celebrate the pews and encourage the community to engage with their unique design. Rather than being a negative factor we would like to the design to celebrate their unique design.

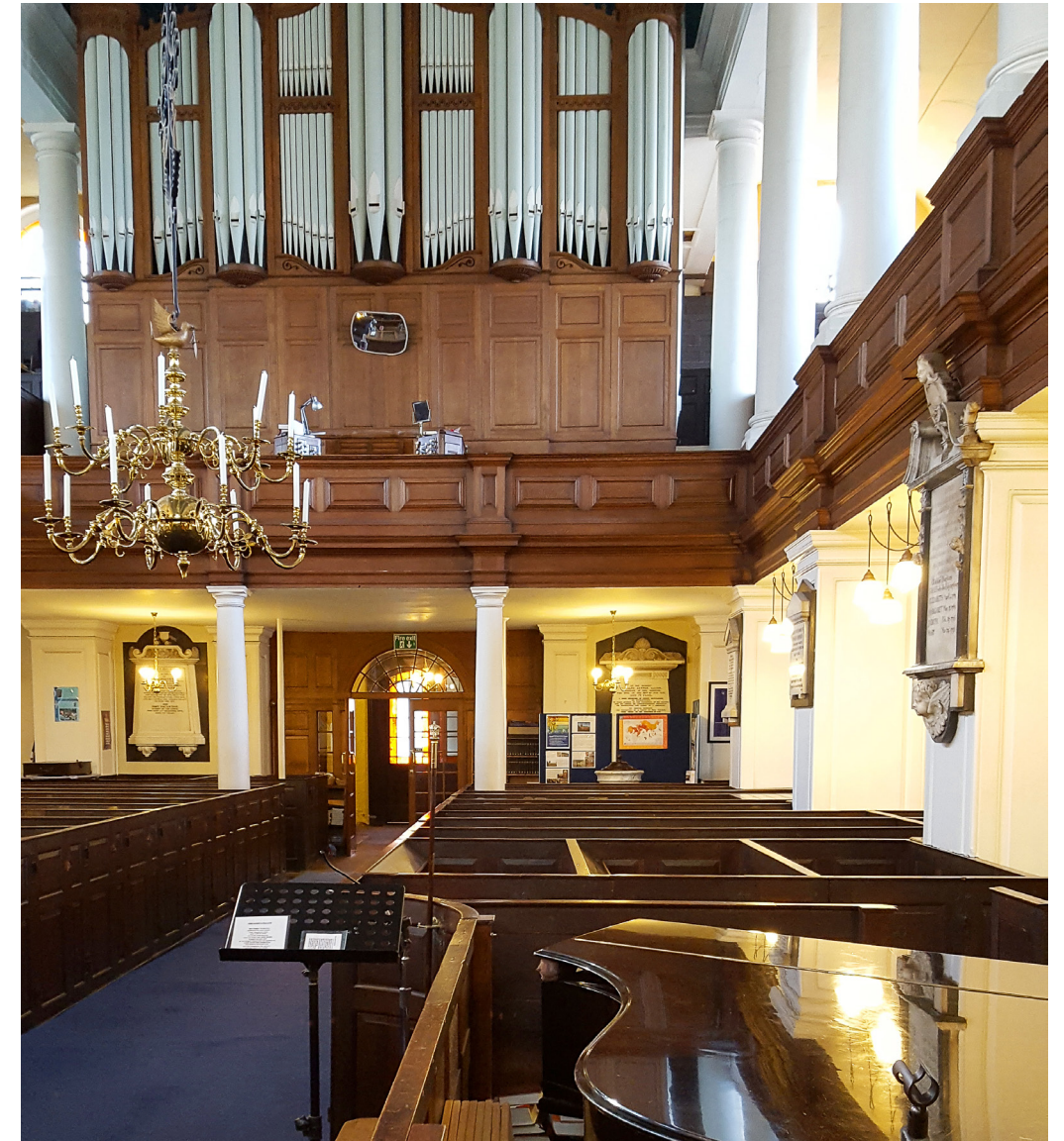
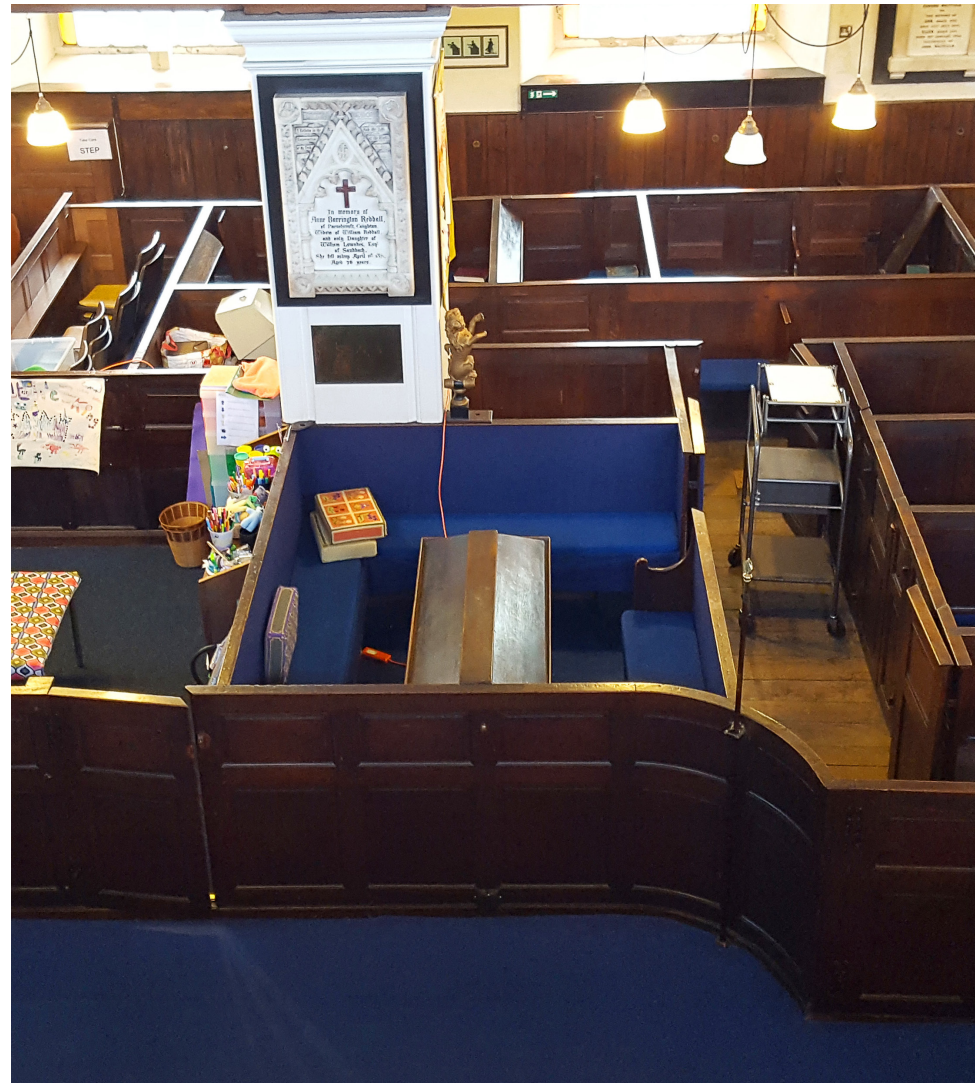
Precedent: St Michael the Belfry in York have also maintained their box pews but have used these as a positive feature in their community engagement. They have both the craftsmanship of the pews and flexible, social activities.

<http://www.belfrey.org/>

### Music and Acoustics:

The church was built with fantastic acoustics because of the importance of preaching to the original congregation. As a result it has become well known as a great music venue with regular recitals and choir performances.

The organ and grand piano have also attracted many musicians to the church as a performance space. Supporting this continued use through better seating and more hospitality should be a key aim.





WHAT ARE THE CHURCH'S EXISTING STRENGTHS?

**We are working with the support and advice of English Heritage, Chester Diocese, The Church Buildings Council and our experienced conservation architects from the Bernard Taylor Partnership.**

We would also like to work with local organisations so that a key heritage building in the town will serve the community of the future.

If you would like more information, would like to be involved or can help us in any way with the Key to the Future Project please contact, Rev. Paul Withington, Vicar 01260 278288, or Dick Drew, Project Manager, 01260 272315, padidrew@btinternet.com

**Donations** towards The Key to the Future Project can be made via <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/congletonteamparishstpeters>, or via the Church Treasurer, c/o The Parish Office, 14 Chapel Street, Congleton CW12 4AB (cheques should be made payable to CTP, St. Peter's Church).

Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode (must be given for gift aid) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift aid declaration**  
I want St. Peter's Church to treat my donation as a Gift Aid Donation. I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax for the tax year at least equal to the amount that all the charities I give to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand the church will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 I give.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Donations over £10 will be listed in a Book of Thanks. If you would like to be included please fill out the details below:

Please Print: Title, Name and Town as you would like it to appear:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**KEY TO THE FUTURE**

**Be part of Key to the Future:** a three stage project to help preserve part of the town's heritage and create a community building fit for Congleton's future generations.

Existing Documentation:

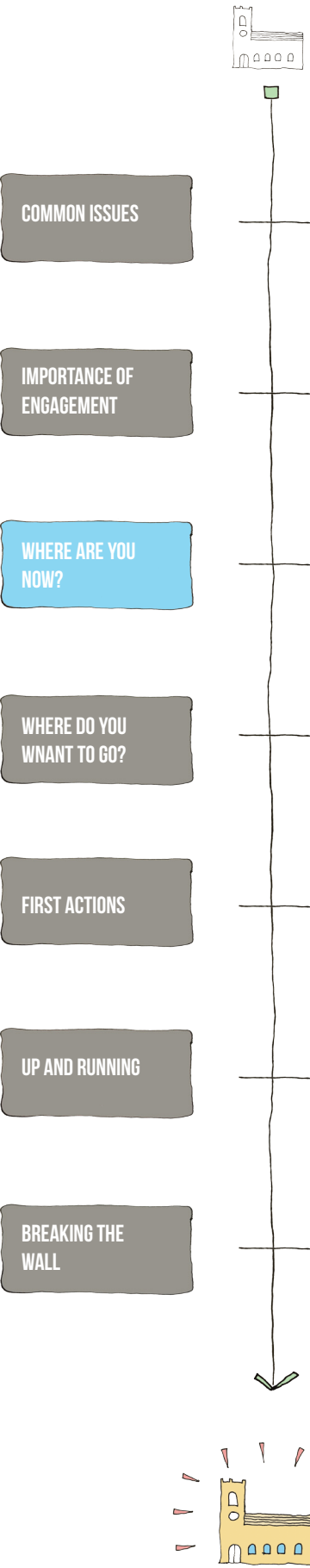
One of St Peter's Congleton's key strengths is the documents they have already prepared outlining their long term strategy and approach. These include:

- The 'Key to the Future' Project
- The 'Our Chapel' document

These existing documents will provide the ground work for future funding applications, particularly the development of a Statement of Significance and Conservation Management Plan.

Historic and Significant Art:

The church has a remarkable collection of significant art. This includes work by Augustin Edouart, one of the most famous silhouette artists of the 19th century. The east wall features a large mural of St Peter and St Paul painted by Edward Penny, one of the founding members of the Royal Academy. An ancient crest of William and Mary is another key feature. This connection with art culture and history is a significant factor in the church's future development and should be utilised to engage with the non-church community and to support future planning permission applications.





## WHAT ARE THE CHURCH'S EXISTING STRENGTHS?

### Grand Street Front:

St Peter's has a grand portico on the north west corner of the church. This was built as a carriage entrance for the Mayor on civic occasions and for upper-class members arriving by carriage. It's classical style with doric columns is in contrast to the rest of the exterior and is at a dramatic angle to the building line.

As a result the church has a significant street presence and yet the portico is very rarely used. Making better use of this street front connection and celebrating the dramatic architecture further should be another key aspect moving forward.

### External Space:

Unlike St Peter's Chester, the church at Congleton is in a town centre location but also has a large amount of land surrounding the building. Much of this land is a Grade 1 listed Georgian graveyard however there are spaces within this that are open or expansion. The area surrounding the Parish Hall provides a great space for summer events - a factor which many of the other churches in the parish do not have. Again this is an opportunity to further celebrate the churches current features.

These existing strengths can be the foundation of the church's Statement of Significance. This document is essential for funding and planning applications.





AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historic and Significant Art



Georgian Pews  
-Grade Listed Feature



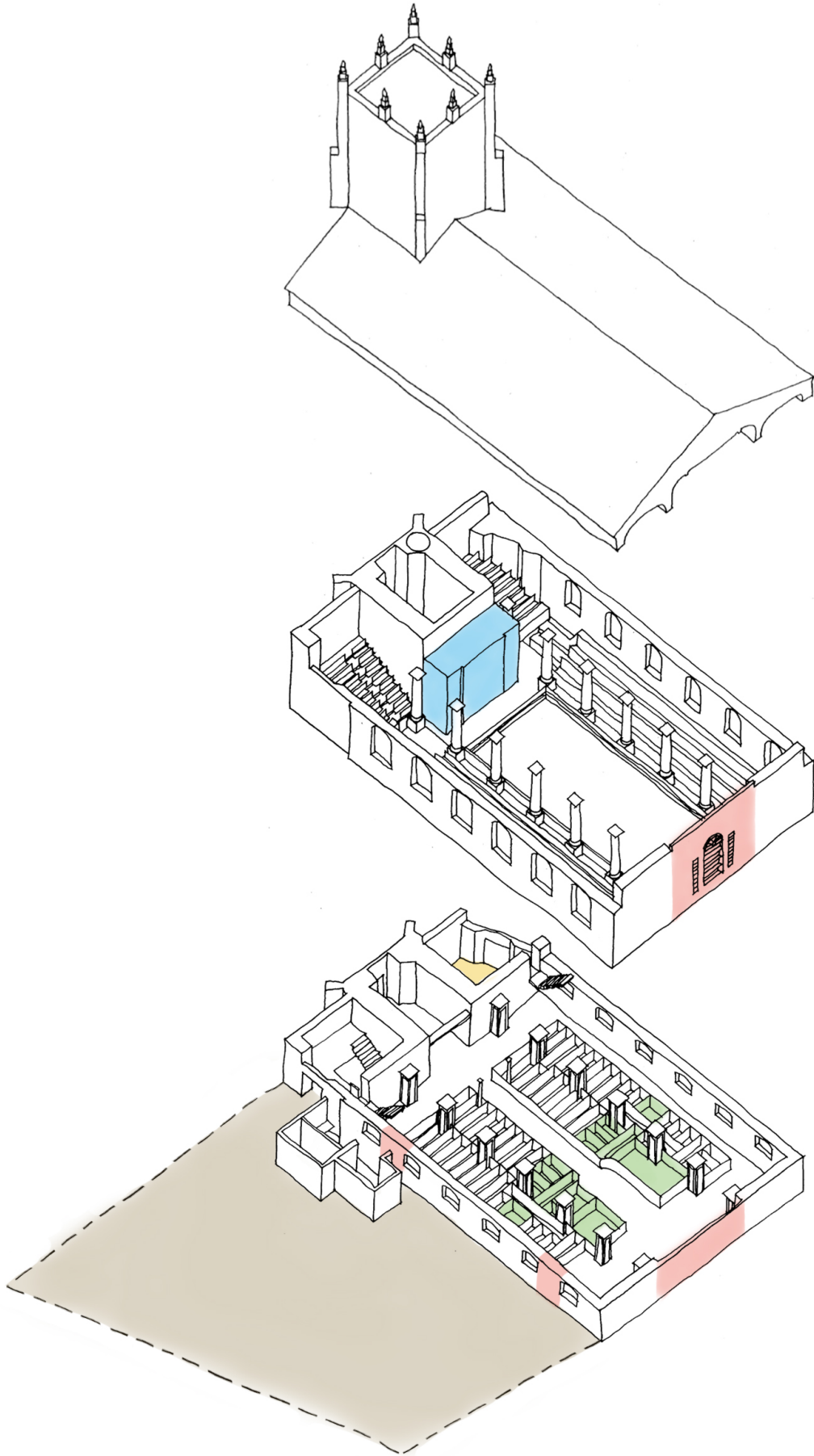
Music and Acoustics



Grand Street Front



External Space  
Georgian Graveyard  
-Grade Listed Feature



COMMON ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF  
ENGAGEMENT

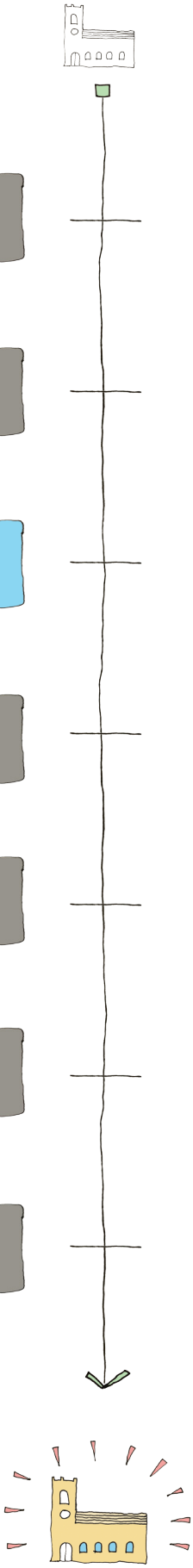
WHERE ARE YOU  
NOW?

WHERE DO YOU  
WANT TO GO?

FIRST ACTIONS

UP AND RUNNING

BREAKING THE  
WALL



## WHAT IS A CHURCH/CHURCH BUILDING?



## Activity

Two questions were asked:

- What is a church?
- What is a church building?

This activity can be completed in a variety of ways. Simply by writing down individual thoughts on paper and sharing them, or the activity can be carried out a little more creatively by giving each participant a church window shaped piece of card to write down the thoughts.

Individual thoughts can then be shared and create discussion about the two topics.

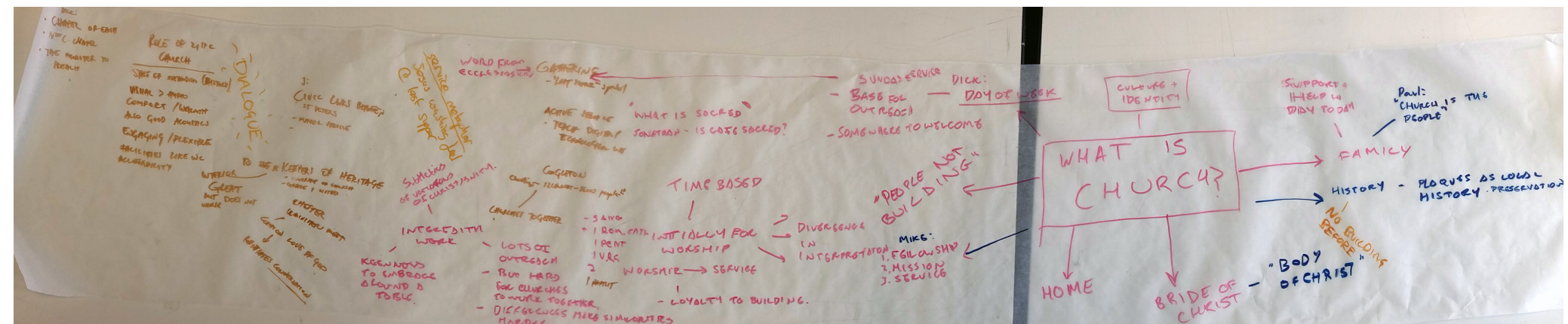
As documented in the Design Navigator, before you set out on your design process it is essential to understand “Where You Are?”.

The following pages demonstrate the workshops that the Live Project team went through with the client. These workshops helped us to establish the church's current stage in the design process and how they envisioned their role in their community.

## Aim

The task allows both the participants and the designer to gain a greater understanding of how people view the idea of church. It helped our group from different backgrounds understand the core aims of the church and how this can be better expressed.

By splitting the workshop into two different questions it allows you to gain two different sets of information. The question “What is a church?” targets the church at a community level and the ethos of the church. The slightly different question “What is a church building?” targets the fabric of the church, and questions the communities current ‘home’.





WHAT HAPPENS AT THE MOMENT?  
WORKSHOP: SPACE USE CALENDER

Activity

The client was asked to identify the key spaces within their buildings.

Each space was assigned a colour. The client then filled in the chart to show when these spaces are occupied.

Aim

To understand the ways in which the church is currently used and identify any areas that are significantly underused.

This was intended to demonstrate which ministry and community groups are the regular users and key stakeholders in the project.

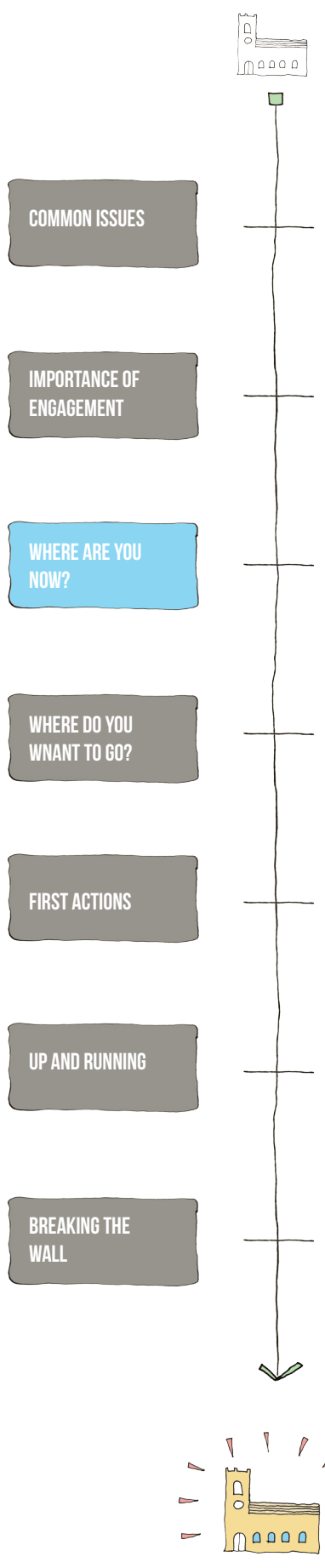
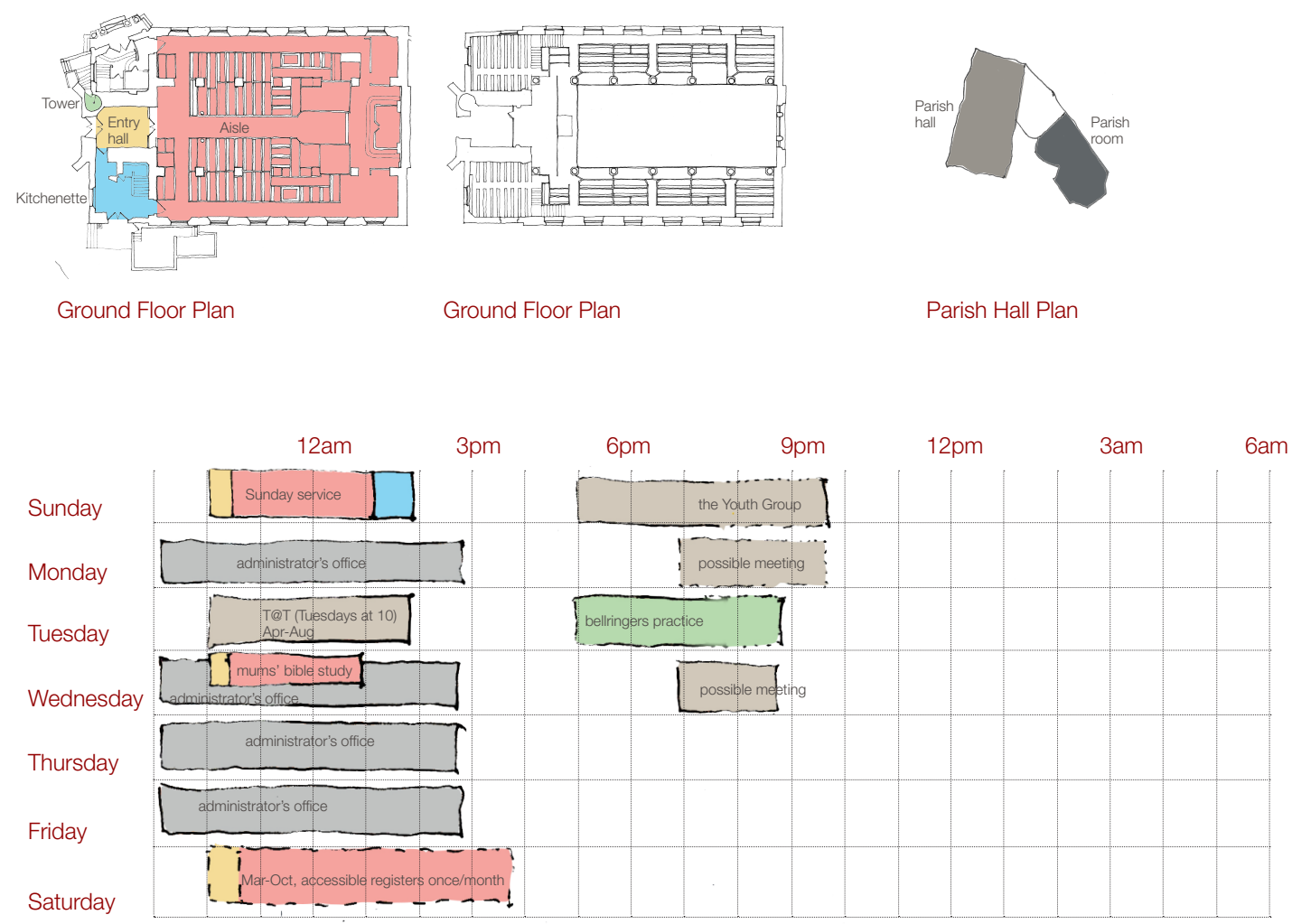
Outcome

The calender activity demonstrated that there is significant activity at the church across the weekend, though some of the Saturday activities could become more regular. There is also room for increased use on Thursdays and Fridays.

The majority of weekly activity is happening in the Parish Hall where accessibility is poor. Furthermore the gallery/ first floor spaces are currently significantly underused.

The future development should look to increase the use of the main building and improve the access and environment of the route to the Parish Hall.

Future questions:  
- What activities would the church like to offer in the future? Where might these happen?  
- What groups in the town could the church share their space with? What future activities might occur?





## WHAT ARE YOUR USERS PRIORITIES?

### Activity

Following the initial client meeting the Live Project team drew up a list of aims which the client had expressed.

The team then asked the client to rank these aims in order of priority to the community.

### Aim

This enabled the Live Project team to further analyse and develop the brief.

It was also intended to help the client consider which aims or outcomes were most crucial to the life of the church. This would enable the aims to be ordered in terms of which should be addressed first in a long term strategy.

### Outcome

The task demonstrated that the current priority for the client is to create a more welcoming environment and improve the comfort of the seating and internal spaces.

Space for children and flexible space was also a high priority.

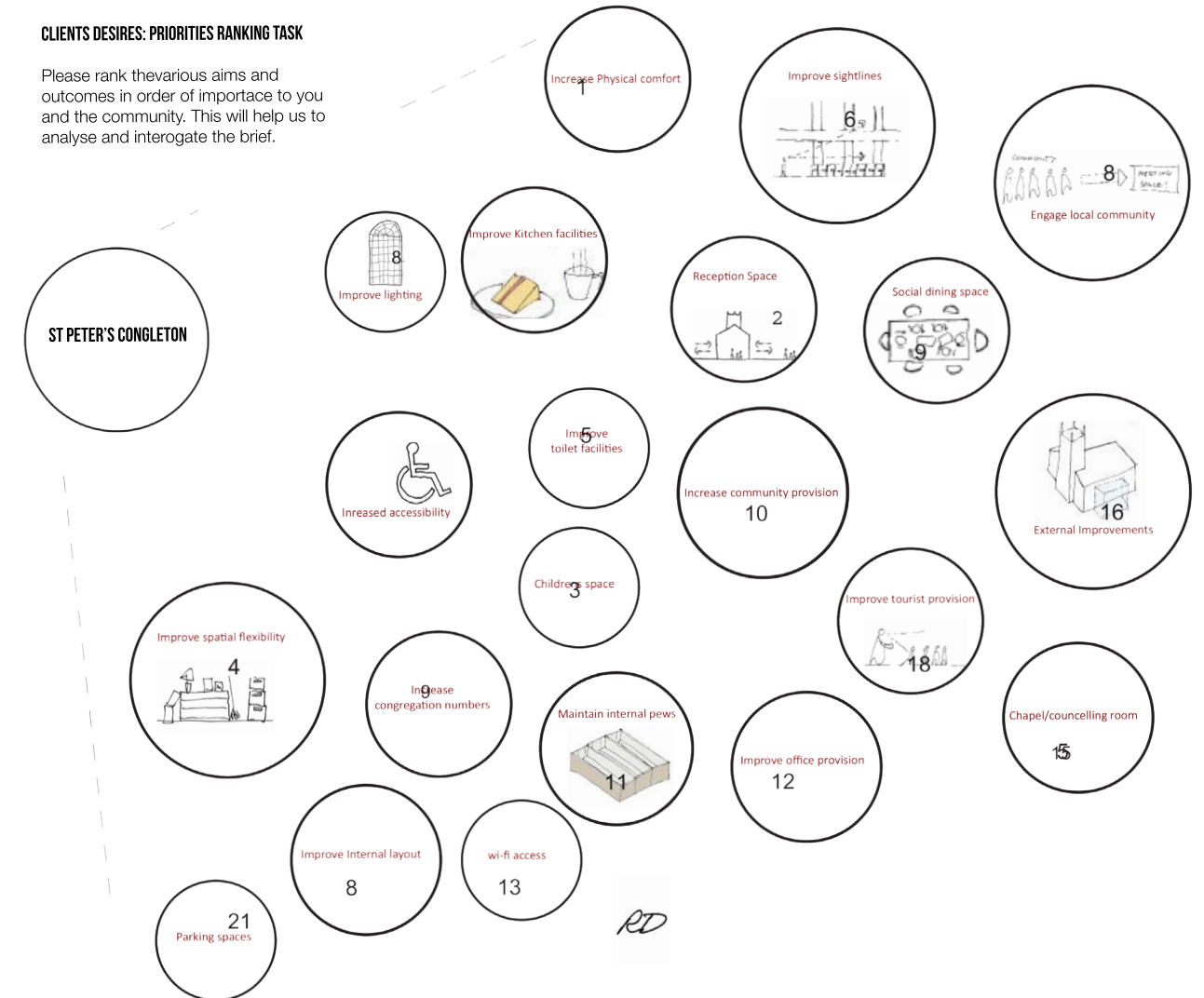
Parking and external work was considered less urgent.

This confirmed the team's understanding and helped to generate a chronological approach to the project aims.

The design approach will be to holistically

### CLIENTS DESIRES: PRIORITIES RANKING TASK

Please rank the various aims and outcomes in order of importance to you and the community. This will help us to analyse and interrogate the brief.







COMMON ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF  
ENGAGEMENT

WHERE ARE YOU  
NOW?

WHERE DO YOU  
WANT TO GO?

FIRST ACTIONS

UP AND RUNNING

BREAKING THE  
WALL





WHERE DO YOU  
WANT TO GO?



COMMON ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF  
ENGAGEMENT

WHERE ARE YOU  
NOW?

WHERE DO YOU  
WANT TO GO?

FIRST ACTIONS

UP AND RUNNING

BREAKING THE  
WALL



## VISUALS : FIRST IDEAS



### FEEDBACK OF IDEAS FROM INITIAL CLIENT BRIEFING AND SITE VISITS

### IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND MAIN

ARCHITECT  
REQUIRED!



#### Activity

At the second meeting a few rough visual representations of possible spatial solutions were presented to the client. The visuals represented three different stages of the design process. The stages represented Low cost solutions, Medium Cost solution and High cost solutions. Then the client's thoughts on each ideas was discussed in order to understand what they want and what they ultimately would like to achieve.

The low cost solutions presented were Interventions that could be done within a short time frame by effective use of the existing space and elements without much disruption. This is an effective exercise to test how different spaces can be used for various purposes by introducing elements that celebrate the current space. (Image 01)

The medium cost solutions can be temporary changes inside or outside the church building. These interventions were designed separate from the existing building in order to reduce cost and as flexible spaces for community use.

High cost solutions are more permanent spatial options that can be done within the existing church building or as an extension which can incur structural changes. The exploring of the previous stages will be helpful in arriving at the most effective and suitable permanent solution for the client's church.

#### Aim

The primary aim of the activity was to communicate our ideas of how the spaces can be effectively utilised through all three stages to the client and in return get their feedback. This enabled us to establish the client's preferences and a suitable approach in order to proceed with the design process.

#### Outcomes

The idea to use the existing pews in a different way, as shown in image 01, was received very well and was an option they were willing to explore further. However it wasn't clear for the client how the temporary pods (Image 2) would work, it's

aesthetics and practicality which was an area we had to develop showing a bit more detail for the next meeting.

This exercise help us to establish that the church is looking for a more permanent design solution that will house various community activity. However they were interested in exploring short term options in order to achieve their long term goals.

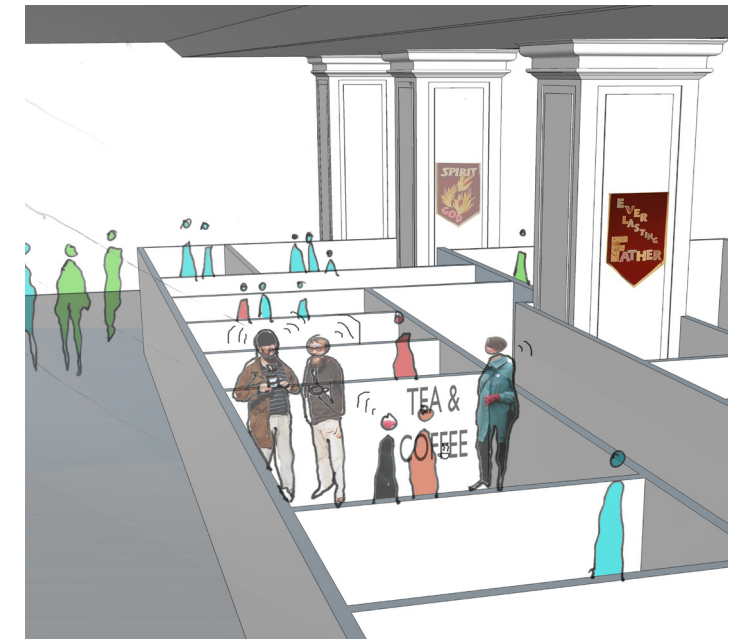


Image 01 : Coffee in Pews is a low cost idea of how to use fixed church pews

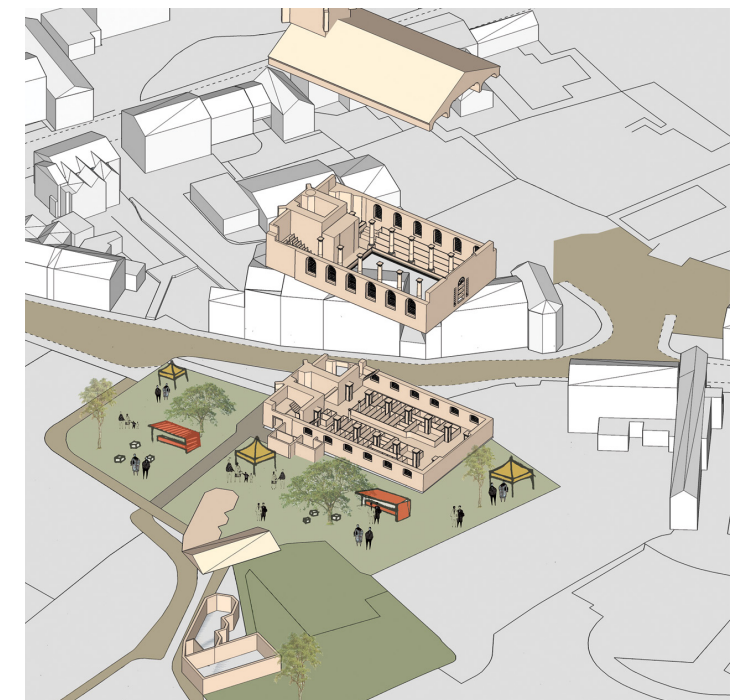


Image 02 : A medium cost idea of how the exterior space can be used with temporary structures.





**ENGAGE AND LEARN FROM USERS REQUIREMENTS AND DESIRES**  
**GAIN INSIGHT INTO PERSONAL APPRECIATION OF CHURCH SPACE**

**Activity**

To begin this workshop acquiring some plans and sections of the space is recommended. If the plans look complicated, it could be useful to trace over the plans and create a simplified version, perhaps removing rooms and furniture you might not want to keep.

Once you have a series of plans and sections you can work with, you can then print multiple copies out and hand them to the participants. The participants can then sketch over the plans and sections, visualising their ideas.

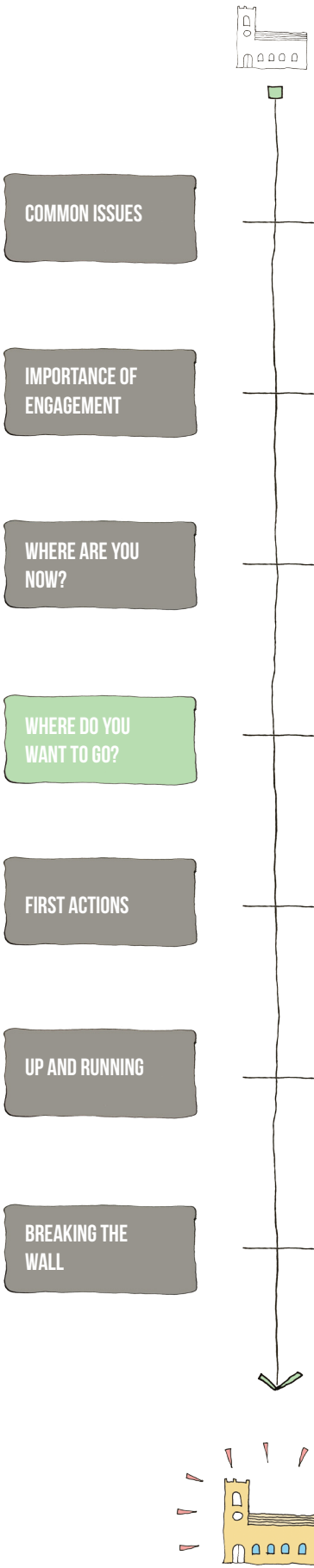
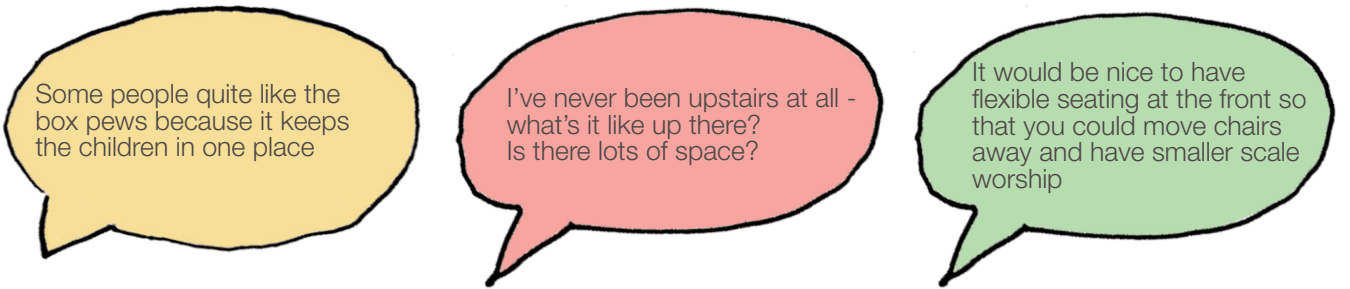
Additional activity: If you have access to a designer that has created a 3D model of your church, you could ask them to take some

**Aim**

By printing plans and sections of the space you can begin the design process. The idea is that you don't have to produce beautiful drawings, but quick and rough sketches to get ideas out of your head. By creating quick sketches you don't become too attached to an idea and create lots of various ideas before focusing in on a specific idea too early in the design process.

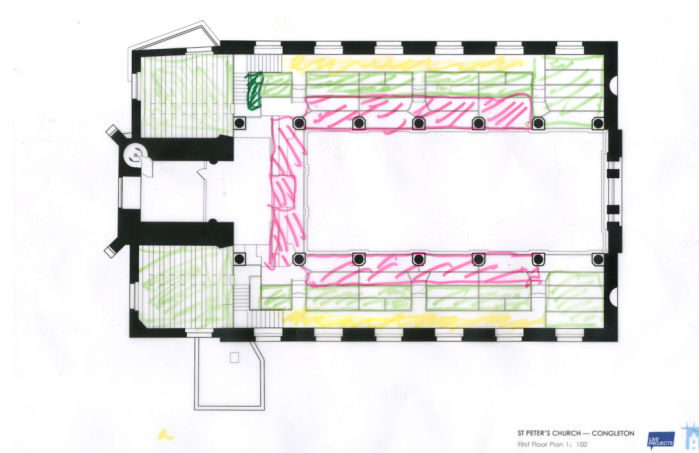
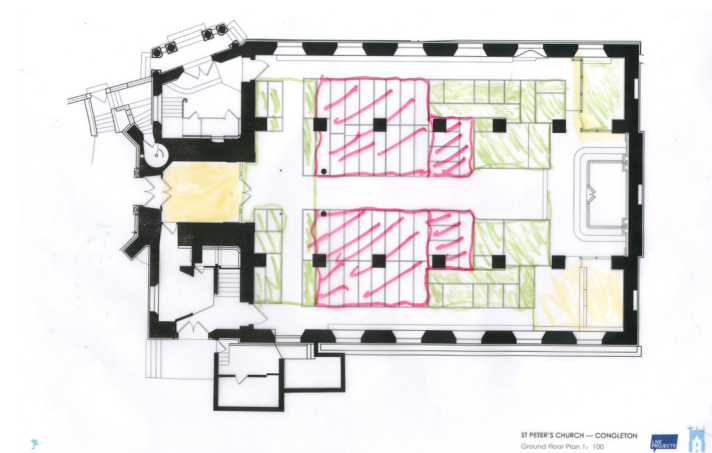
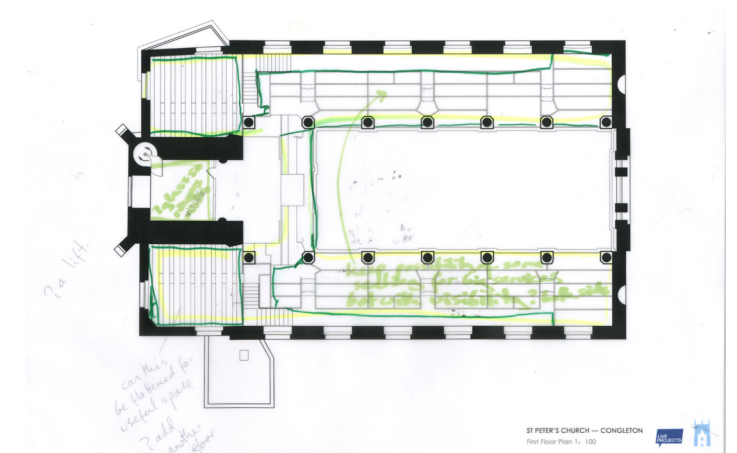
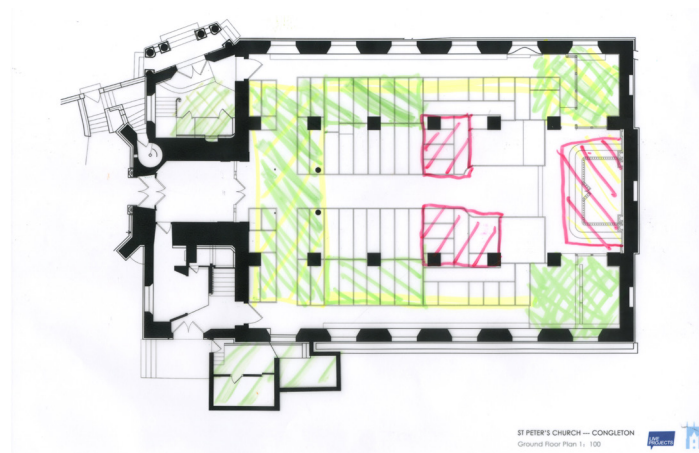
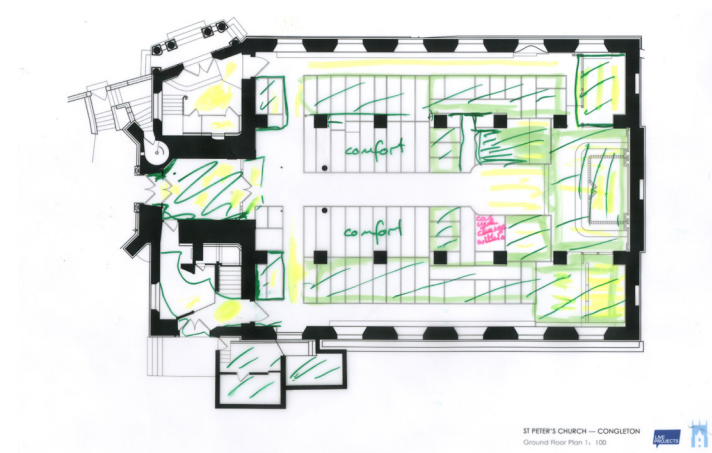
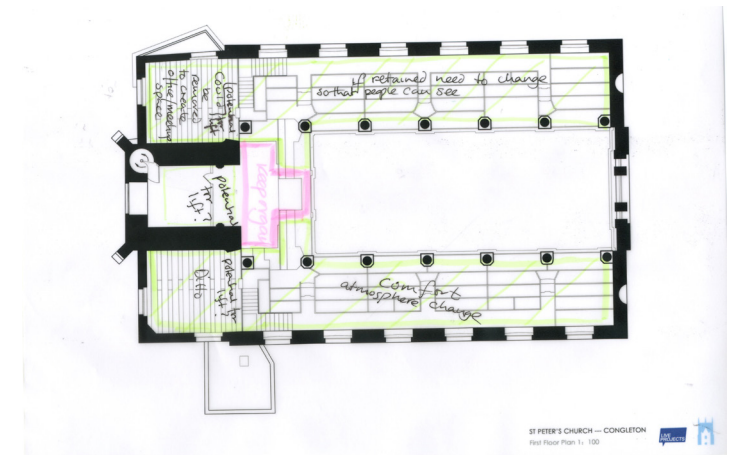
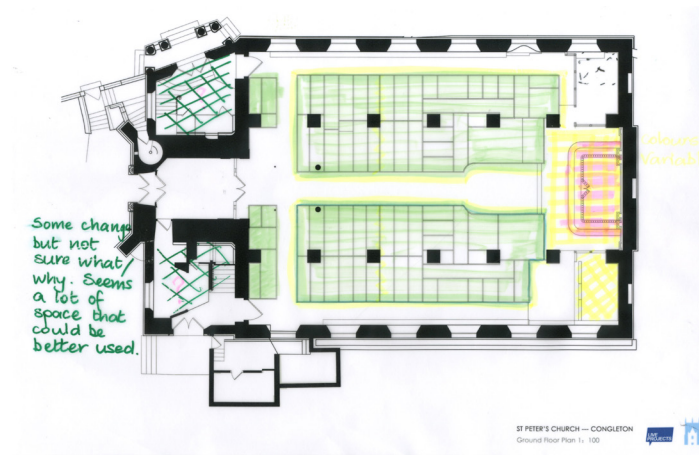
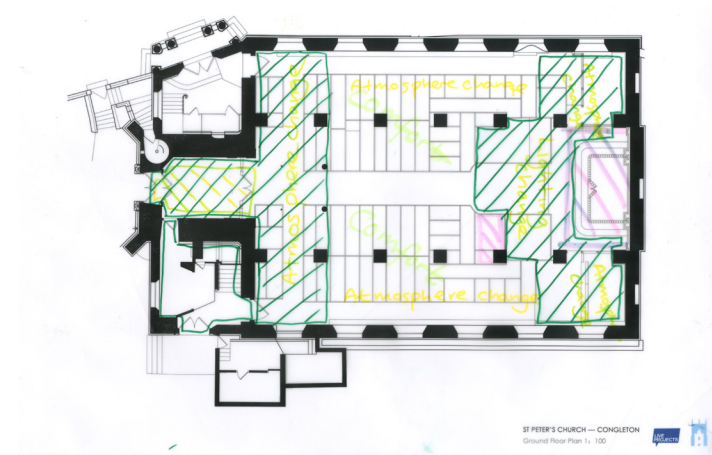
**Outcome**

Interaction and engagement with community and user groups promoted understanding for necessity of interventions, and allowed design team to gain insight into what areas were valued by the user groups, and what spaces could be improved upon and had the most impact currently.





## TEST YOUR DESIGN! WORKSHOP: TRACE PLAN “VOTING”



Overall the activity highlighted a number of areas of agreement:

- Removing the back rows of pews on the Ground Floor
- Opening up and re-using the front “vestry” spaces
- Improving the comfort of the pew seats on both floors
- Removing the Victorian “paupers” pews at the far back on the first floor



MODEL ACTIVITY

Activity

A 1:50 scale rough model of the church with movable pews and a removable gallery floor level was presented to the participants.

They were asked to move and rearrange the pews to form their ideas of an effective church space.

The idea behind the movable pews was to give them the opportunity experiment and test their ideas which would not be possible in the actual church space with fixed pews.

Aim

The model activity was introduced as the next step of the Trace Plan activity to make a collective decision as a community. The ideas were tested by moving, removing and rearranging the pews around at the same time giving the opportunity to combine ideas and critically look at the space as a group to help them progress to the next stage in the design process.

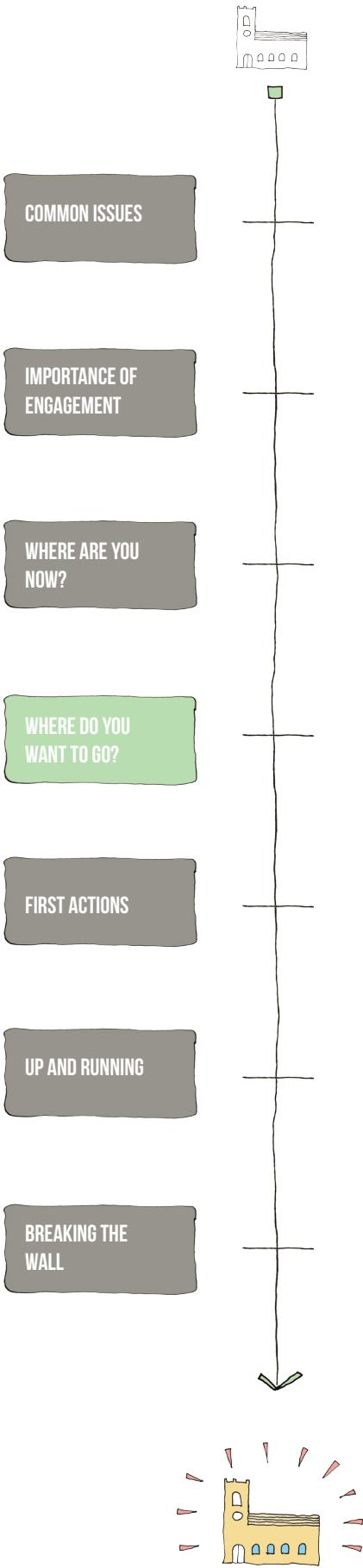
The rough nature of the model allowed the participants to engage and freely pull the pews and spaces apart.

Outcome

The majority of the participants agreed that removing of the latter portion of the pews would allow more flexible space to accommodate community activity space. Some areas were agreed as untouchable areas due to the historic value also.

It was suggested that the last row of pews on the gallery floor can be considered as movable.

It was also proposed that the organ could be converted into an electrical operation system in order to create more space around the first floor area.







CONSULT ARCHITECT TO HELP PHASE VISION EFFECTIVELY

WORK WITH EXISTING CHURCH STRENGTHS TO MAXIMISE SUPPORT AND POTENTIAL

USER GROUP CONSENT AND SUPPORT IS PRIORITY FOR CREATING COMMUNITY CHURCH

ENSURE FUNDING IS SUITABLE FOR SHORT TERM GOALS, AND CONSIDER LARGER GRANTS FOR LONG TERM AIMS

## VISUAL IDEAS ACTIVITY

### Activity

This was the final task in which options were developed in further detail by the Live Project team and presented to the various members at the meeting. The visuals were developed from a short, medium and large budget standpoint, in which all options lead to a longer term (bigger picture) solution for the church.

The Live Project team developed ideas and proposals founded by suggestions from the client, already in the process of employing an architect for discussion on long term developments. This was to come up with an agreement with the church community on the various ideas presented, with any additional ideas discussed as part of the larger reflective design process.

### Aim

This activity built upon the discussion formed previously in the Trace Plan activity and Model activity. The aim of this activity was to reflect upon early comments made by the members at the meeting, and to consolidate understanding between the church members of the various options discussed. This also allowed any further options to be discussed and explored that were not previously thought of.

### Outcome

This activity allowed the various members of the meeting to voice their opinions on draft proposals before they are developed in further detail. The church members were engaged in the activity and were happy to draw and come up with suggestions of improvement to the various designs. This may have been encouraged by the Trace Task in the first activity in which the members drew and wrote on the trace plans.



Minor Intervention



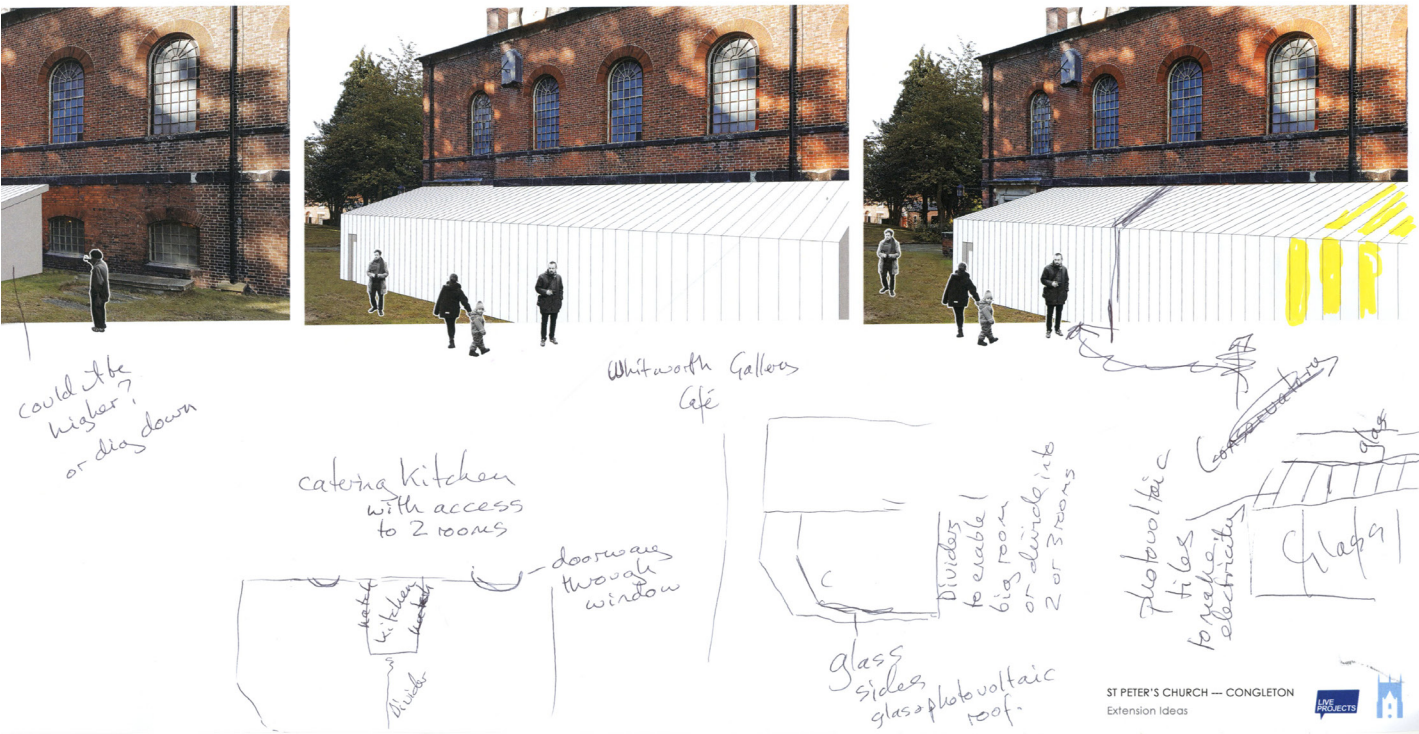
Medium Intervention



Major Intervention

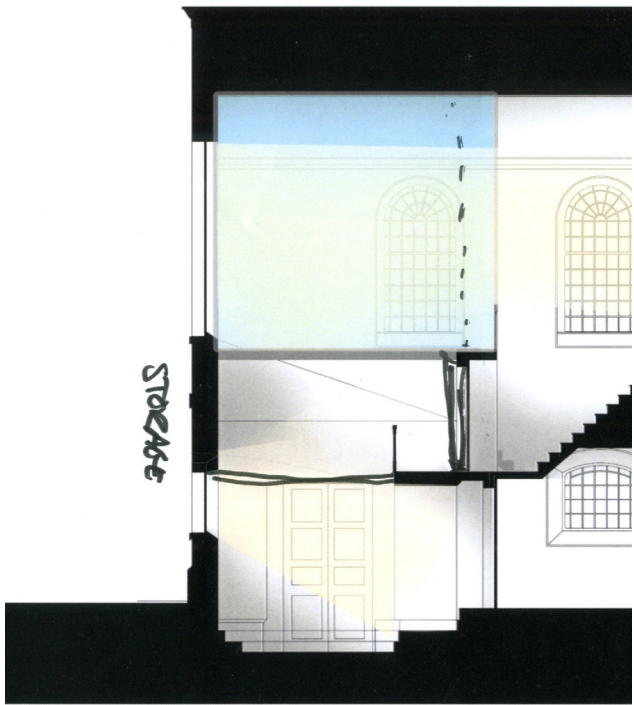






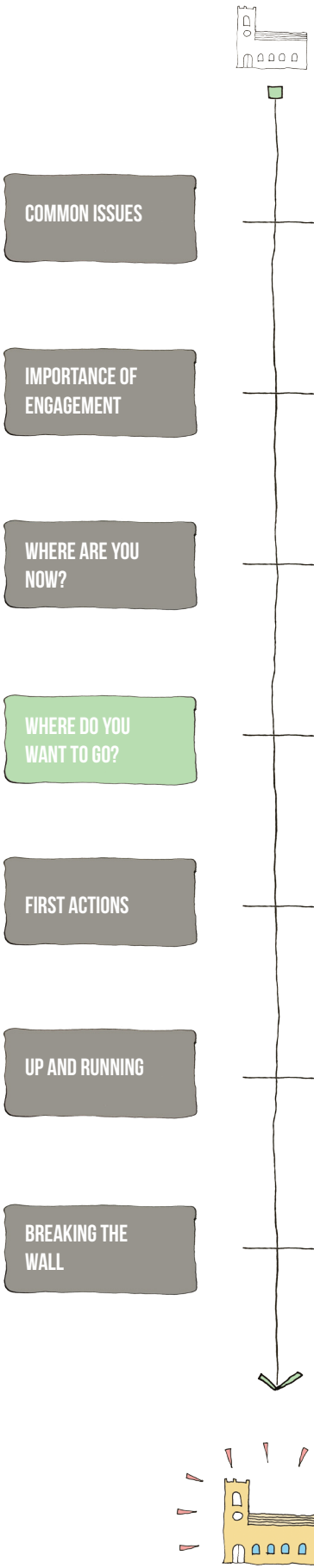
Extension Options

One member of the church drew and annotated the drawing depicting proposed extension options on the south facing side of St Peter's Congleton Church. Suggestions include material construction of the extension cladding and proposed use of photovoltaic panels for the extension roof. The free space around the drawing encouraged the participant to suggest ideas much like in the Trace Plan activity.



North Porch Options

This drawing shows potential alterations to the stair-core and sketching in black by a member of the meeting, potential new location for proposed floor slab.





WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM OTHER MIXED-USE  
PLACES OF WORSHIP?

Precedents

It is important to look towards existing solutions in other church and/or listed buildings as any possible solution may already be used elsewhere in other churches with similar problems.

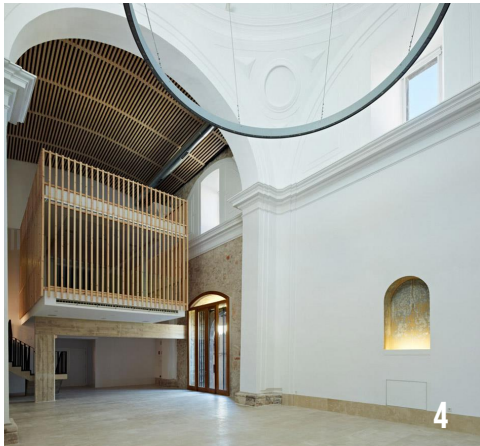
1 All Souls Church, Bolton, The Churches Conservation Trust

2-3 Refurbishment Interior Church Zierikzee by GROUP A

4 Restoration and Adaptation of a 16th century Chapel in Brihuega, Guadalajara, Spain by Adam Bresnick

5-7 St James, West Hampstead - Post Office

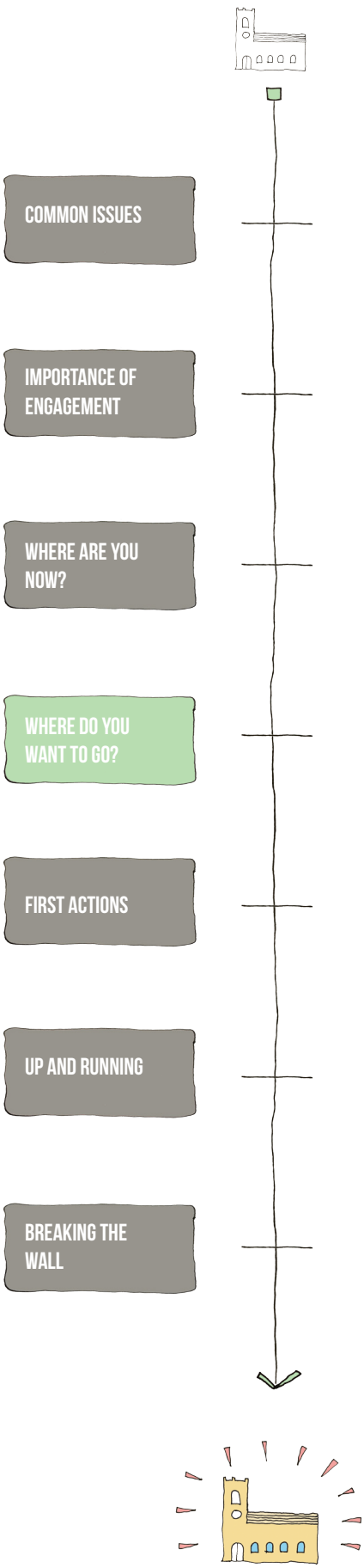
8-9 Chapelle Corneille by Atelier d'architecture King Kong





All Souls Church, Bolton  
The Churches Conservation Trust

- Grade 1 Listed - particular sensitivity to the pews
- Use of 'pods' with a demountable system to avoid damaging the structure and to provide room for change in the future.
- Provides a cafe, meeting rooms and community spaces
- Lead by members of the community. Non-worshipping but it is still consecrated for future use.
- Funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund
- OMI Architects, Manchester





St James, West Hampstead  
Church, Cafe and Post Office

St James West Hampstead is an active church which has shared its main church space with the local Post Office which was previously in danger of closure. This is a dramatic space re-use and they did not have the restrictions of the pews.

However the re-development began with opening the Post Office. Later there was demand for a children's play space and this then encouraged the opening of cafe as well. It was only through testing and trialling the Post Office idea that the other uses became possible.

This precedent of trialling out space use could be a tactic used at to help more locals to connect with the building. By "trailing" out some initial events possible future uses may be discovered.



Active Church with worshipping congregation

Local Post Office was at risk but the Vicar invited them to open an office at the back of the church.

This initial relationship developed into other enterprises including a cafe and children's soft play area.





The Canny Space - Sunderland, Holy Trinity Church  
The Churches Conservation Trust

The Canny Space is again not an active worship space, however they have a historic organ that is highly valued by a few local historical societies.

The plan is to restore the building as a historical centre, also catering for performances. However in order for the building to be regenerated as useful space for future generations a controversial decision has been taken to remove the organ to provide more usable space.

Whilst this has been a controversial decision for the local community it was fundamental to certain areas of the church remaining usable. As a result it was a key feature of their funding applications.

St Peter's can learn from this example as they discuss whether or not it is appropriate to convert the organ mechanics or move the organ to provide more usable space on the first floor.

The Canny Space demonstrates that it is possible to take this decision and still respect the music and performance character of the space.



Grade 1 Listed - on Historic England's 'Buildings at Risk Register'.

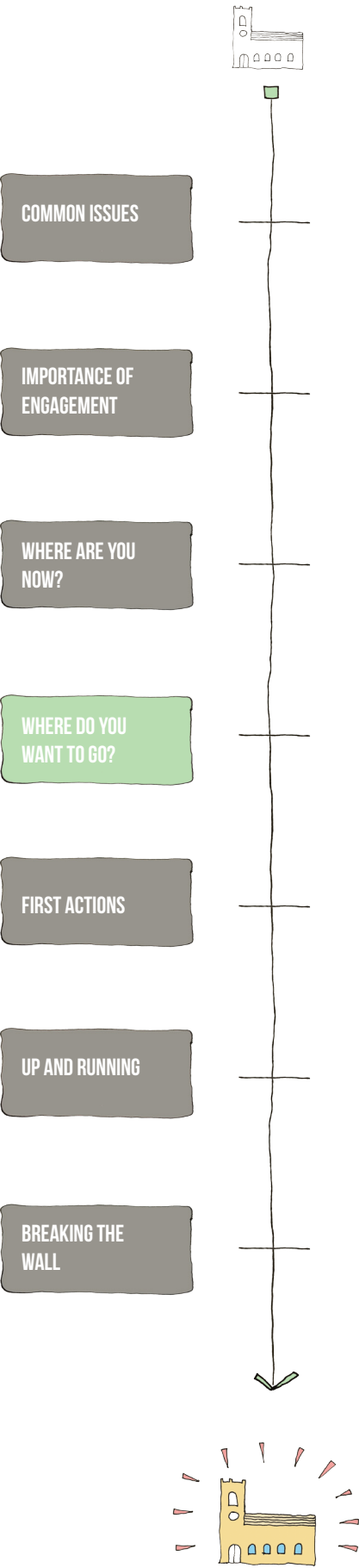
Project still in progress and waiting for funding for larger building works.

Building has been used for heritage events with locals and school children.

It has hosted many theatre events and they aim to continue building a specialism in this area.

Events and activities are continuing to be trialled despite the slow development of the building work.

Historical organ - this is being removed to allow better use of the space.





**The Whitworth Gallery, Manchester**  
**Material Precedent**

This is a very modern extension which contrasts with the traditional building fabric. The design of the glazing and structure creates a blurred boundary with the outside landscape, allowing the light and greenery to impact the building.

St Peter's have considered a extension and this approach of lightweight materials could be one way in which the new structure could create a 'link' between inside and outside space.



Two new glass, steel and brick gallery wings following extensive renovation

Extension to the rear of an existing 19th Century Building

Used to provide additional learning, gallery and storage areas.

Good example of a modern extension to an historical building.

Funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund and a variety of other funders.

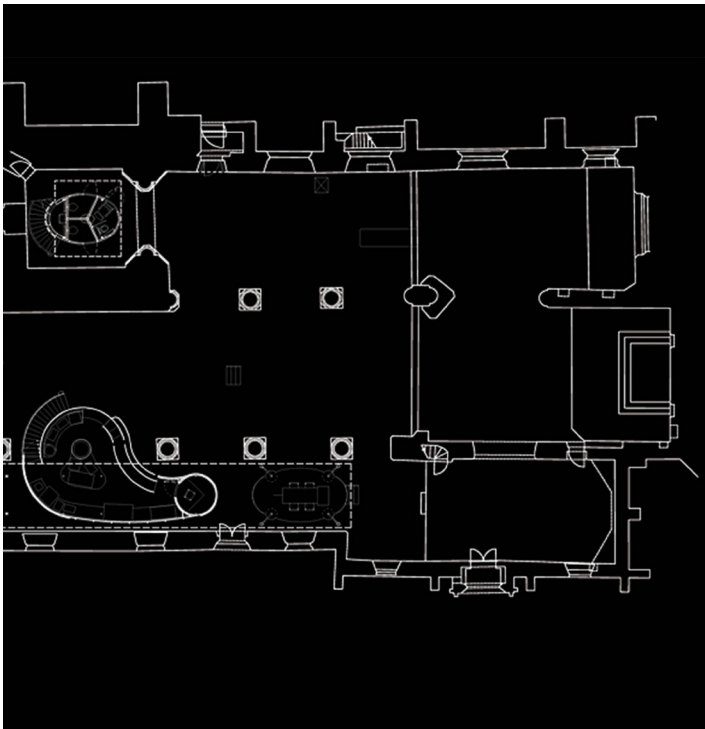
MUMA Architects, London





All Saints' Church, Hereford  
Material and Form Precedent

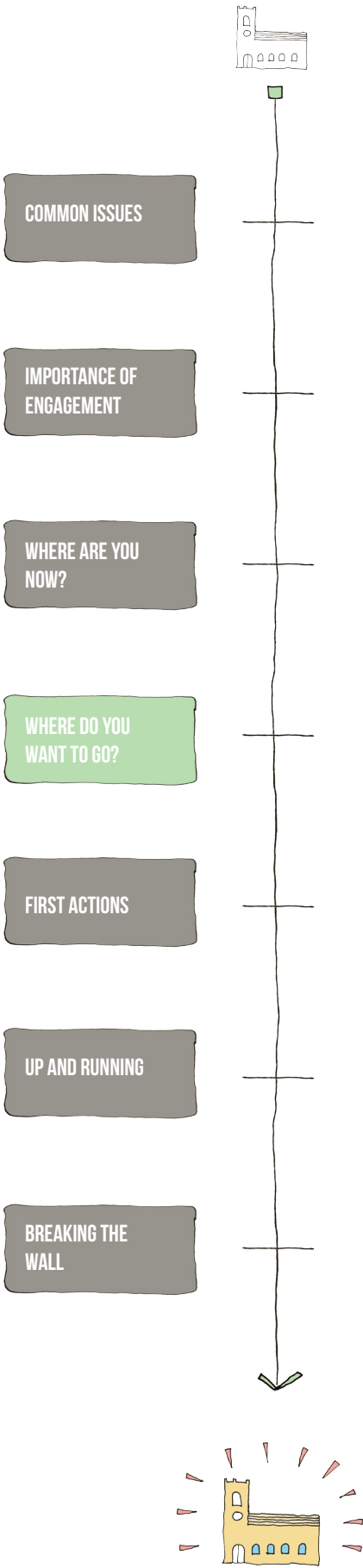
- Was close to being closed and deconsecrated in 1991
- Extensive repairs and church reordering scheme to create mixed use space.
- The result is a cafe, a toilet, a vestry, parish office and other facilities inside the historic fabric.
- Attendance numbers have approximately quadrupled since.
- Funding in collaboration with Historic England and the PCC
- RRA Architects, London



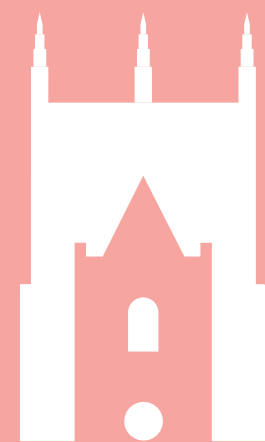
Significance in relation to St Peter's

This large scale renovation has created a flexible interior - something that would be very difficult at St Peter's. However it does demonstrate the use of inserted "pod" elements. The large scale renovation was ambitious but well supported and has enabled the church to remain open and welcoming to their community.

Such a dramatic change would not be advisable at St Peter's but the materials, "pod" structure and ambitious scale could all be areas for St Peter to learn from.







**UP AND RUNNING:**



COMMON ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF  
ENGAGEMENT

WHERE ARE YOU  
NOW?

WHERE DO YOU  
WANT TO GO?

FIRST ACTIONS

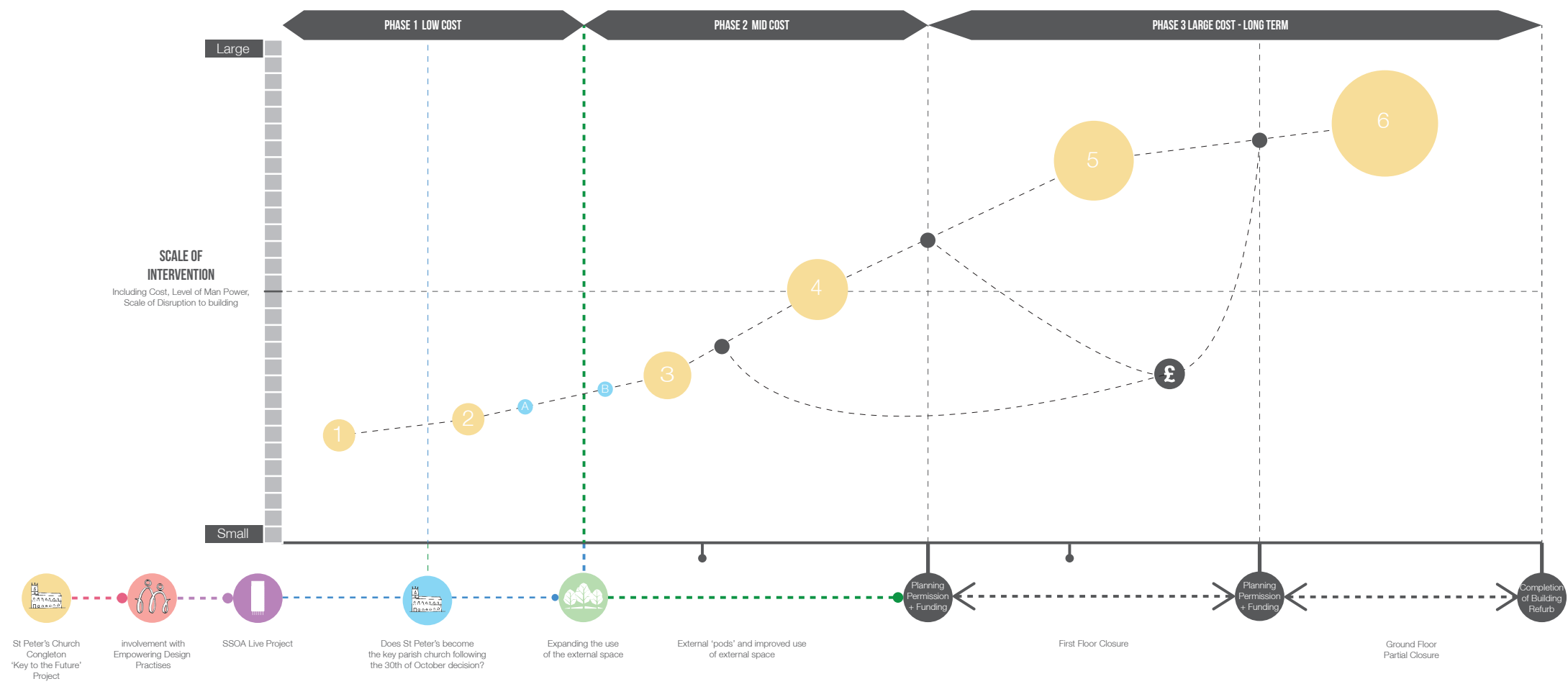
UP AND RUNNING

BREAKING THE  
WALL



A PHASED, LONG-TERM DESIGN APPROACH

Phased Approach Graph



Low Scale - Small Scale

- 1 The Cafe in the Pews
- 2 The Cafe in the Mayor's Entrance

- A Statement of Significance
- B Conservation Management Plan

Medium Scale

- 3 External Landscaping
- 4 External "pod" spaces

Large Scale

- 5 North Porch Meeting Space
- 6 Extension to the Ground Floor





A PHASED, LONG-TERM DESIGN APPROACH

The following spatial suggestions are built upon the outcomes of the workshops outlined in the previous chapter.

It must be understood that they are suggested approaches and are not representations of what the new spaces would actually look like.

The designs here should be “tested” through repeating the previous chapter’s design workshops with the wider congregation and then the local non-church community. We have also suggested some further workshops to be undertaken in the Legacy chapter.

The approach of the design has been to provide a long term phased strategy, building from small scale events to major building work.

Low Cost - Small Scale:

These small scale cafe events are designed to celebrate the church’s existing strengths of the pews, music and acoustics and grand architecture. New relationships with the non-church community may be formed and locals will have the opportunity to engage with St Peter’s architecture and history.

The Statement of Significance and the Conservation Management Plan will be necessary for a church to develop at this stage in order to support their future funding and planning applications. St Peter’s is already well prepared for this with their Key to the Future Project and “Our Chapel” historical report.

For further information on the specifics of the Statement of Significance and Conservation Management Plan please refer to the Historic England website:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/writing-statements-of-significance-for-historic-places-of-worship/>

and the Government website ‘How to write a Heritage Management Plan’:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/350304/NE63-preparing-a-heritage-management-plan.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/350304/NE63-preparing-a-heritage-management-plan.pdf)



Medium Scale:

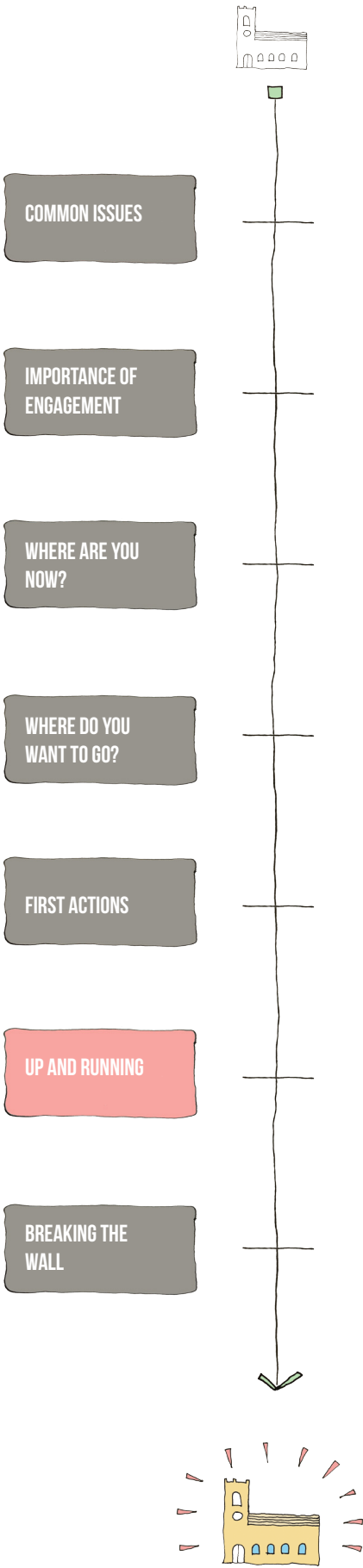
These suggestions will build on the increased building and site use of the Low Cost Options, in order to enable further development of the church’s aim to be a welcoming community centre.

Large Scale:

These suggestions will ensure the long term provision of the church, enabling it to have a full role as the welcoming ‘home’ and community centre that the client has expressed as their aspiration. These will involve major building work but are necessary if the building is to be social and communal.

The intention is to continually strengthen St Peter’s role as a community church. The major building work proposals will take a long period of planning and a large scale funding strategy. However there are things that St Peter’s Church can begin to implement in the short term in order to build their community engagement and to support the argument for further development.

The following pages expand the significance of the steps outline in the Phase Approach Graph.





## LOW COST - SMALL SCALE

### Cafe in Pews

The pews are a beautiful and historic feature of the church. By opening up the church regularly for people to have a coffee in the pews the existing strengths of the building will be celebrated. This will enable the church to make new relationships. It will also help them build a picture of how they can share their future development with the people in their community.

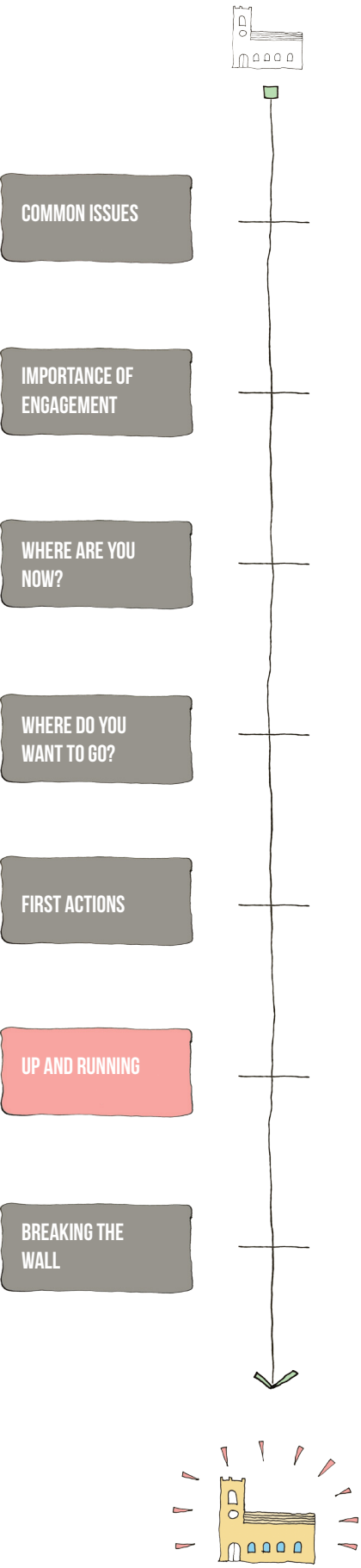
These events will also enable the further development of St Peter's strong connection with the music community. This is a major strength of the church and has enabled a wide appreciation of the building beyond Congleton. The acoustics and organ are regularly commented upon. Local musicians often come to play the grand piano at lunch times. By opening up the church in this way, the two major strengths of the building - the pews and the acoustics - can be celebrated at the same time.





Cafe in Mayor Entrance

The Mayor's entrance is a large classical portico which faces onto the street. It is not often used because of the danger of traffic from the road and the lack of accessibility. However it could be opened on special occasions for events. If it was used as a 'pop up cafe' event or Macmillan coffee morning it could help to increase the church's presence on the street. This more direct connection could increase the community's relationship with the building.





## MEDIUM SCALE

### Exterior Pods

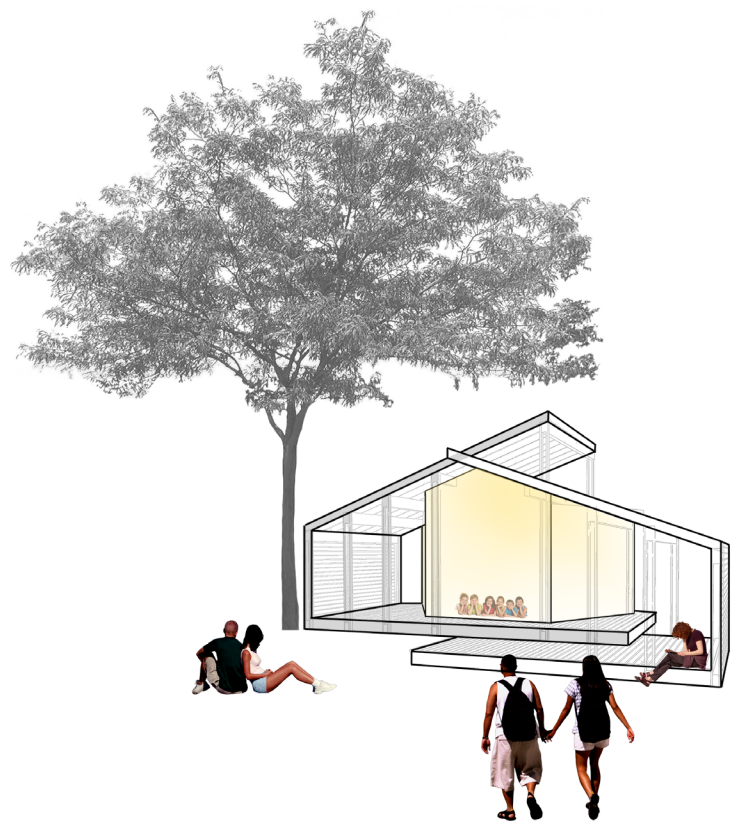
Another key asset of the church is the external space. Following on from the initial 'low cost' options the church should now have increased the building usage. The initial steps will have helped to create new relationships with the community and strengthen existing connections. As a result there will be increased activity round the site. If the landscaping in the Georgian graveyard was designed with lighting and greater accessibility this would enable the existing activities in the Parish Hall to happen more smoothly and to be more welcoming to locals outside the church community.

Following on from the landscaping work and the increased church use the external space could be further utilised by the design of small scale self contained 'pod' spaces. These would be secure and heated spaces which could be used for the youth group, children's group or as counselling spaces. They could be hire-able for community meetings or used as temporary event spaces. These would help to continue the church's connection with local groups and charities. This increased activity would strengthen the argument that St Peter's is a key asset and community church which requires long term extensive development.

Funding: It will be necessary to look for a funding grant for this work. However the application should stress that this is one step along a longer process - therefore funding this step is actually a funding of the long term development of the church. The church should continue their work towards a Statement of Significance and a Conservation Management Document in order to develop their long term strategy for funding and planning.







COMMON ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF  
ENGAGEMENT

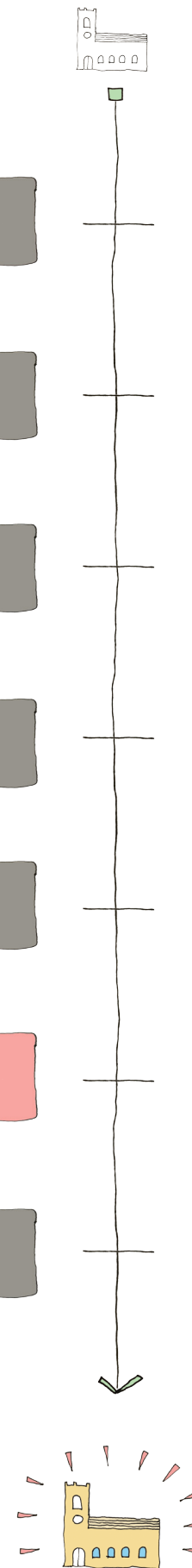
WHERE ARE YOU  
NOW?

WHERE DO YOU  
WANT TO GO?

FIRST ACTIONS

UP AND RUNNING

BREAKING THE  
WALL

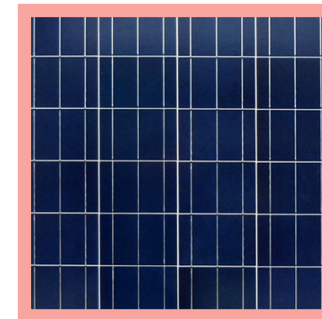




## LARGE SCALE

### Extension

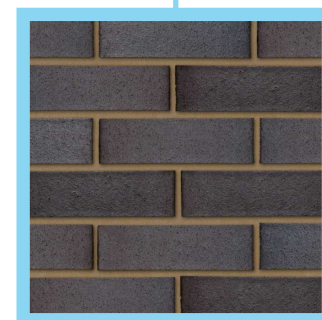
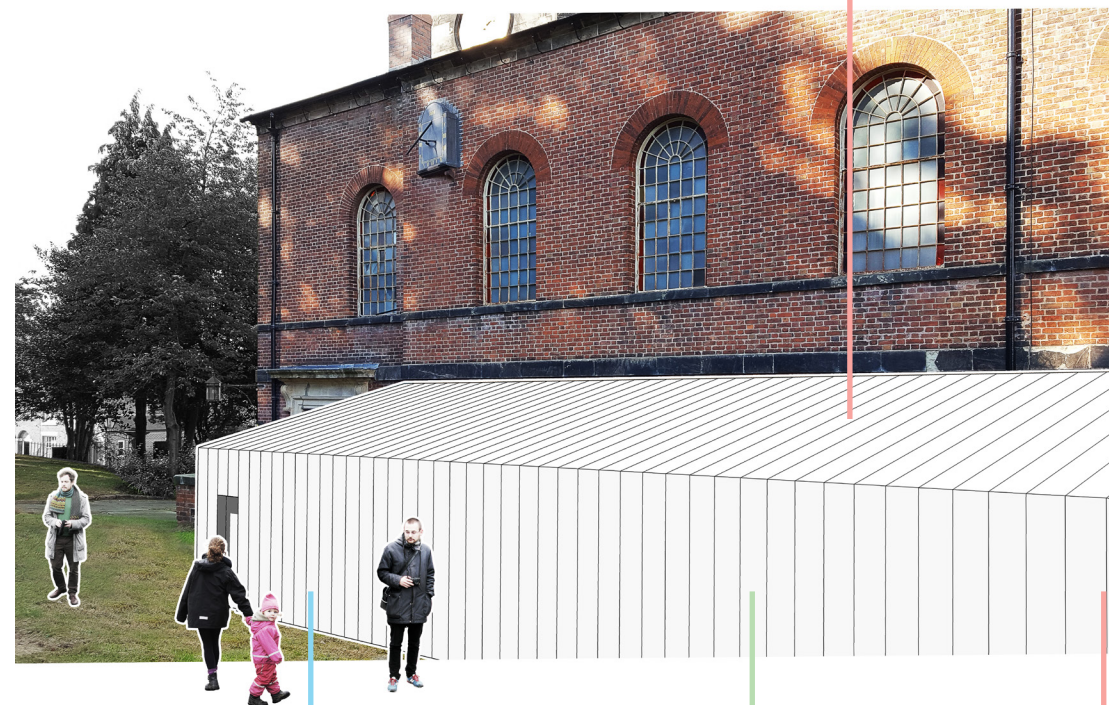
The final step of this phased, holistic approach is the large scale extension of the ground floor. This will provide a long term solution to the church's desire to be an open and communal church. It will include meeting rooms, counselling rooms, social and hospitality space on a long term basis. It will secure the use of the building as an active place of worship for future generations.



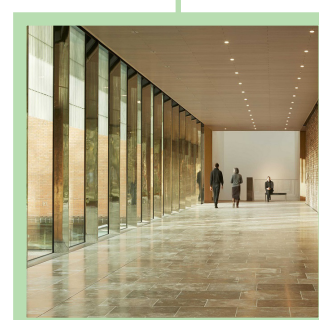
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

Suggested cladding options to the external facade of extension include timber, brick or fully glazed.

Potential new entryways from the church interior through enlarged existing windows into proposed extension to accommodate new flexible rooms.

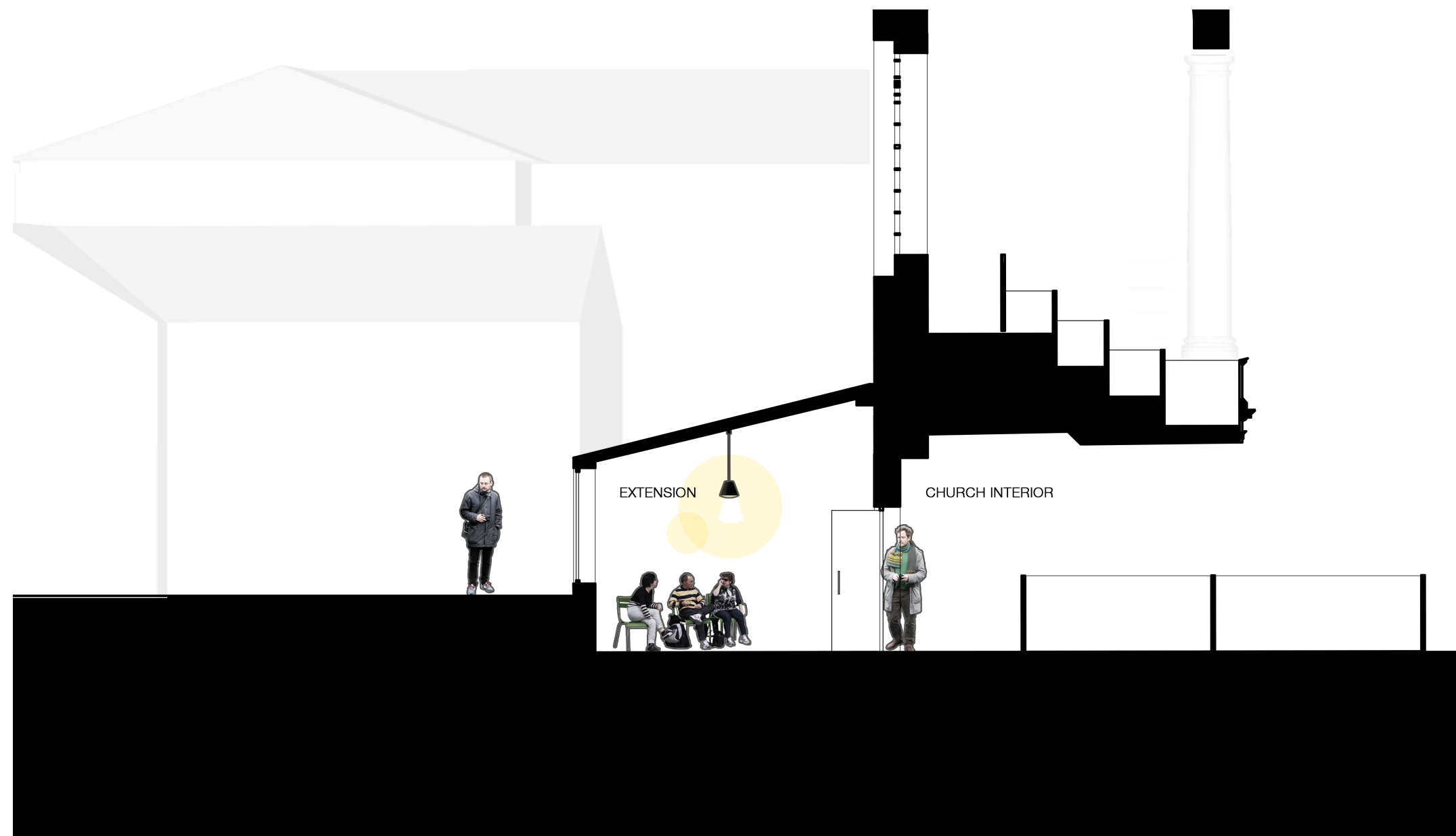
New rooms in the extension could potential house new kitchen, flexible meeting space, new toilet provisions and storage space.

#### KEY

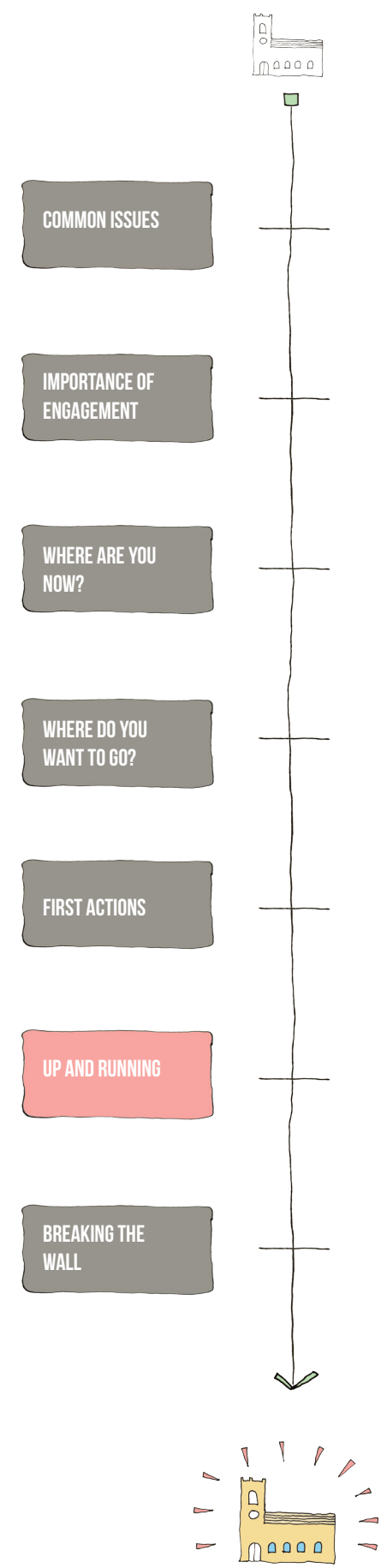
- 1. Photovoltaic Panels
- 2. Extension Precedent
- 3. Brunel Smooth Blue brick texture
- 4. Glazing Precedent
- 5. Glazing Precedent
- 6. Glazing Precedent





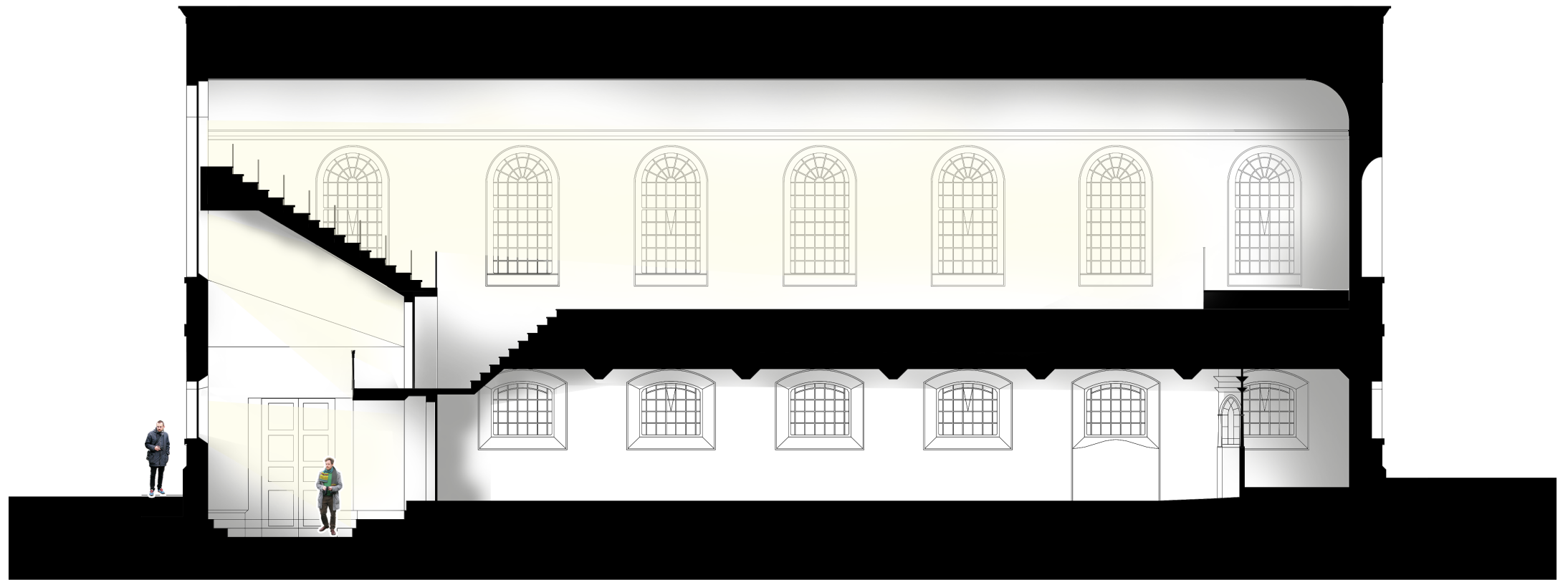


1:200 Proposed Extension Section



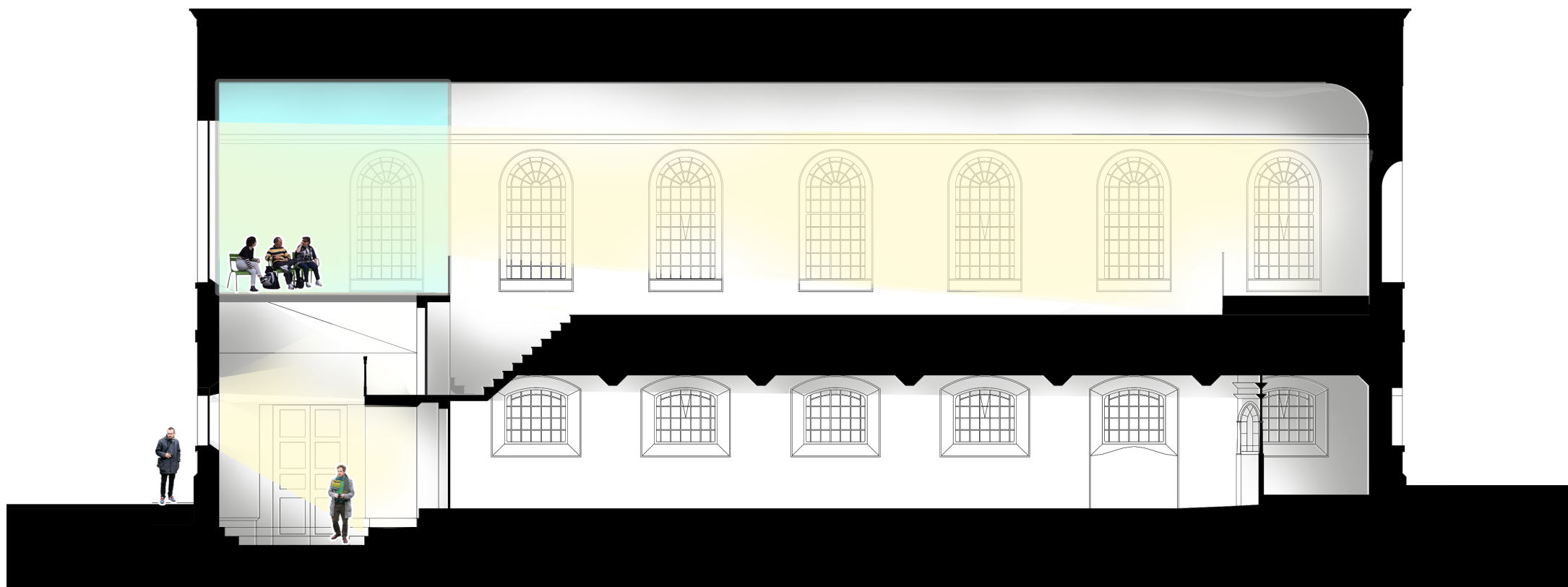
### First Floor Meeting Space

Following the increased activity in the external pods there would be a strong argument for a large scale redevelopment of the internal spaces of the church. The Victorian pews on the upper gallery are less historically significant than the Georgian pews and so could be removed providing meeting spaces, prayer spaces or storage provision. Planning permission and funding: this step will require funding and a planning application. These should both stress the on going process building from the funding applications for the external pods.

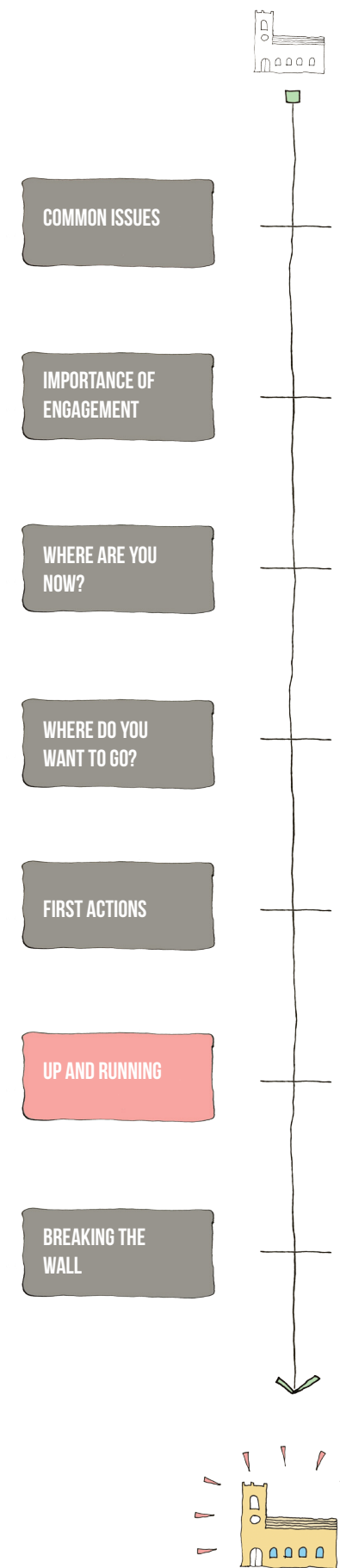


Existing Section





North Porch - Stall Removed





There are two ways of providing space through removing the Victorian stalls:

- Remove the stalls completely and install a new floor in line with the lowest level of the old stalls - as shown in the options on this page

OR

- Remove the stalls but keep the stall floor to maintain a roof to the stair core

The latter would be a cheaper, less intensive option as it would mean less disruption to the building fabric by removing the stall floor which currently breaks the large rear window in two.

If the first option is taken, the new space created in the main church could be used to house a self contained “pod”, (with its own heating system), which could provide meeting or counselling spaces.

Alternatively the same space could be left open as a comfortable “break out space” for bible studies or other groups to use out of service hours. It could also be carefully glazed to the ceiling if greater privacy was required. It could also be an exhibition area for art or a display of the history of the building.

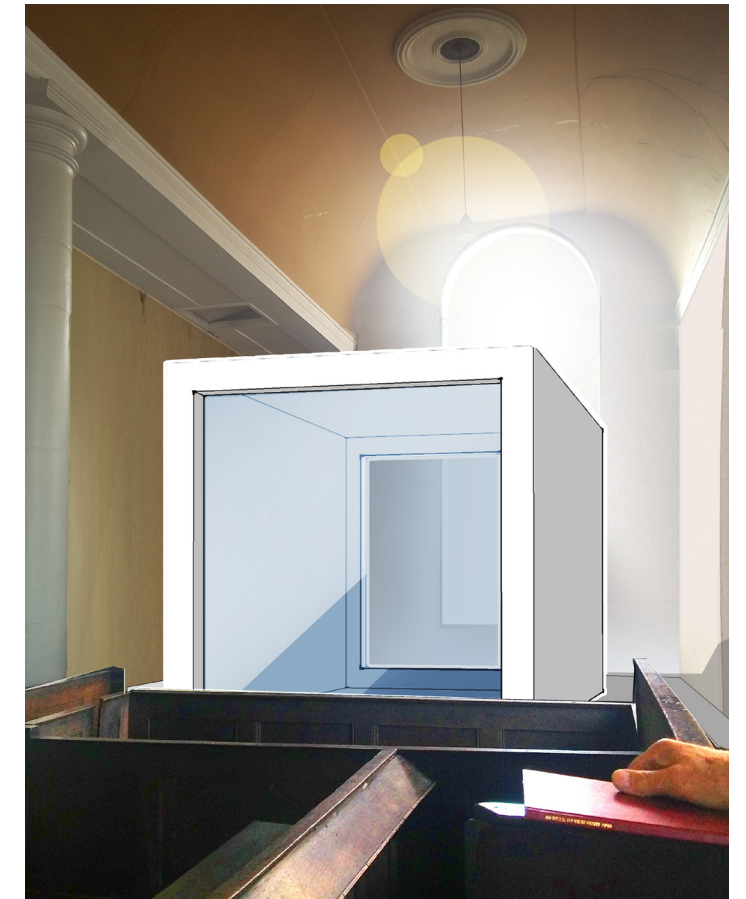
If the second option of maintaining the floor of the stalls was taken then the self contained “pod” could be accommodated on a new floor level extended from the landing at the top of the stairs. Again this area could either be its own “pod” structure or could be a space made through inserting a wall to meet the ceiling.

This less intensive option could also provide meeting spaces for the church and community but could be a way of providing much needed storage as well.

North Porch - Break-out Space



North Porch - Glazed Pod





North Porch - Mezzanine



Option 1

The key aspect to note here is that whilst removing the stalls would be a way of gaining valuable space, each of the options mentioned here would have a significant impact on the building which the church must consider carefully in their future discussions.

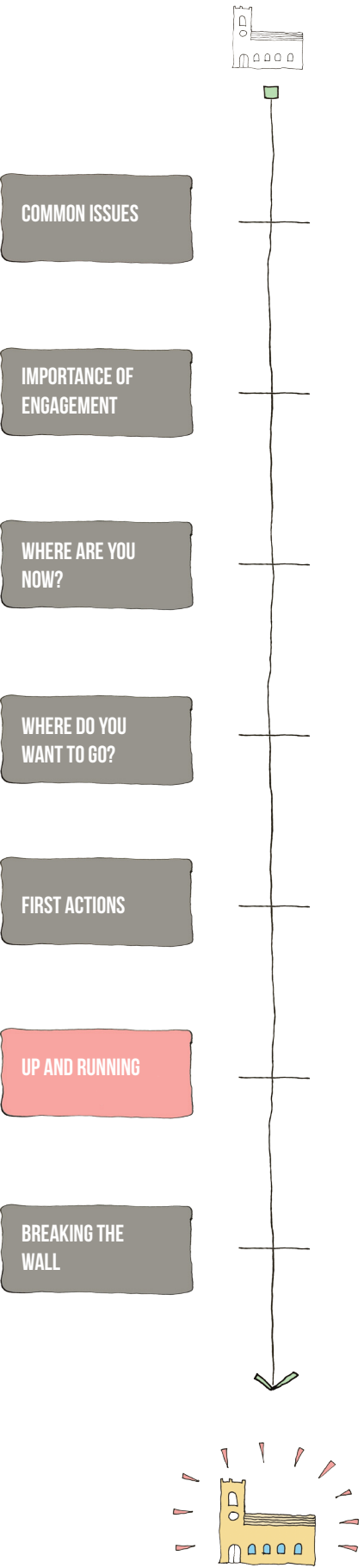
For example both options would reduce the light to the lower ground floor of the stair well which could be used for exhibitions and events with the current high level of light.



Option 2



Option 3



## POTENTIAL NEW LAYOUT OPTION

### Ground Floor

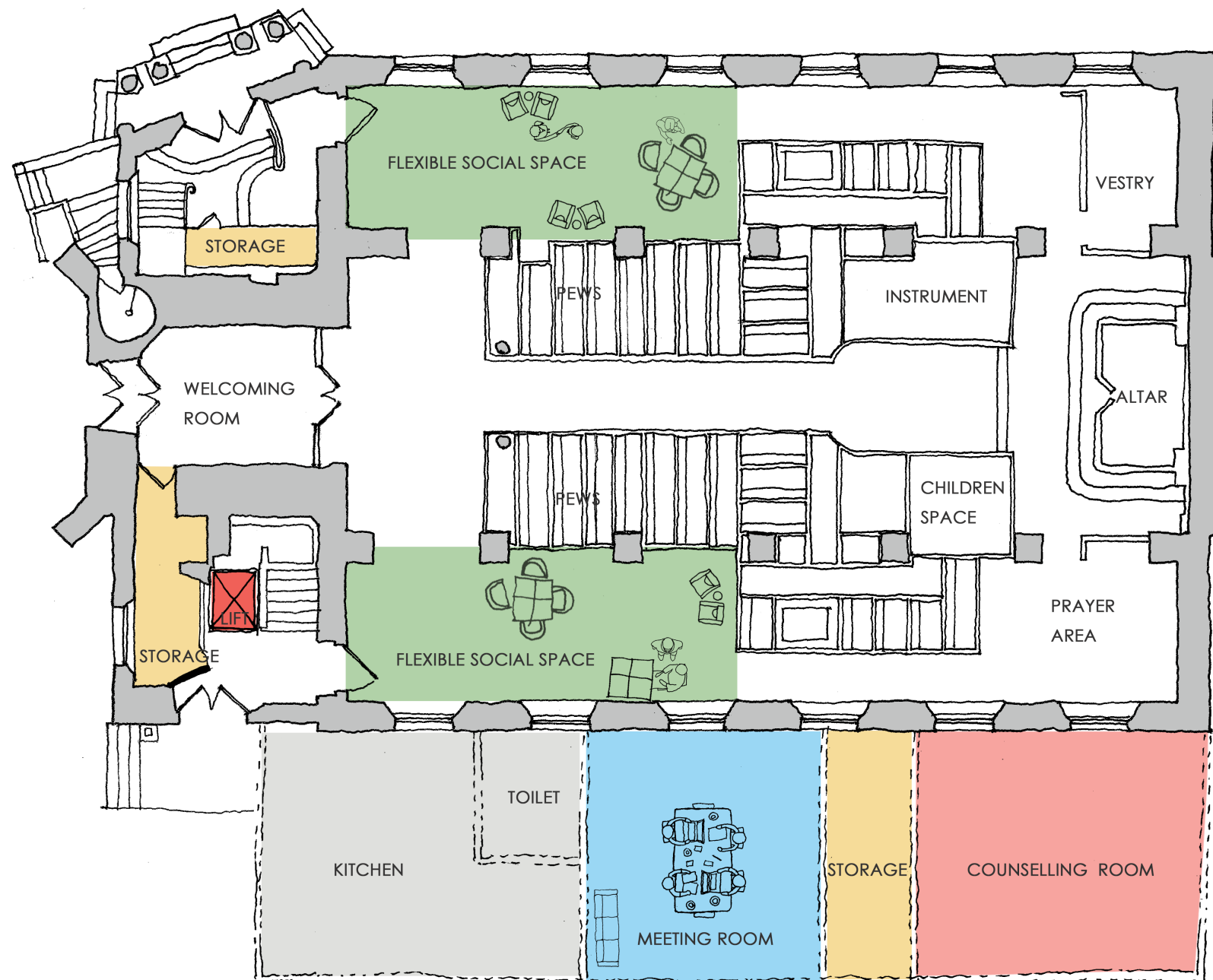
These plans indicate a suggested future design which combines design solutions resulting from the earlier workshops.

The pew layout suggested is a result of the model activity and trace plan activity in which many participants demonstrated an ambition to remove a large number of pews to create more flexible worship and social space. The side pews were commonly seen as the easiest to remove.

The participants were also generally in favour of a long term extension running the full length of the building. This large scale extension would complement the more flexible pew layout with further counselling, meeting rooms, storage and hospitality spaces.

As a result of greater toilet and kitchen provision in the extension spaces the storage in the stair cores could be more extensive. This would help to clear clutter currently stored in the main church - leaving this more available to the church and wider local community.

Furthermore the increased flexibility on the ground floor would enable the church's strong links with the music community to continue with better hospitality and comfort provision.



This strategy is just one suggestion of many possible routes. In order to be further developed it should be "tested" through further workshops with the church congregation and with the local non-church community.

In the next chapter we will consider some methods and workshops for further design "testing".



First Floor

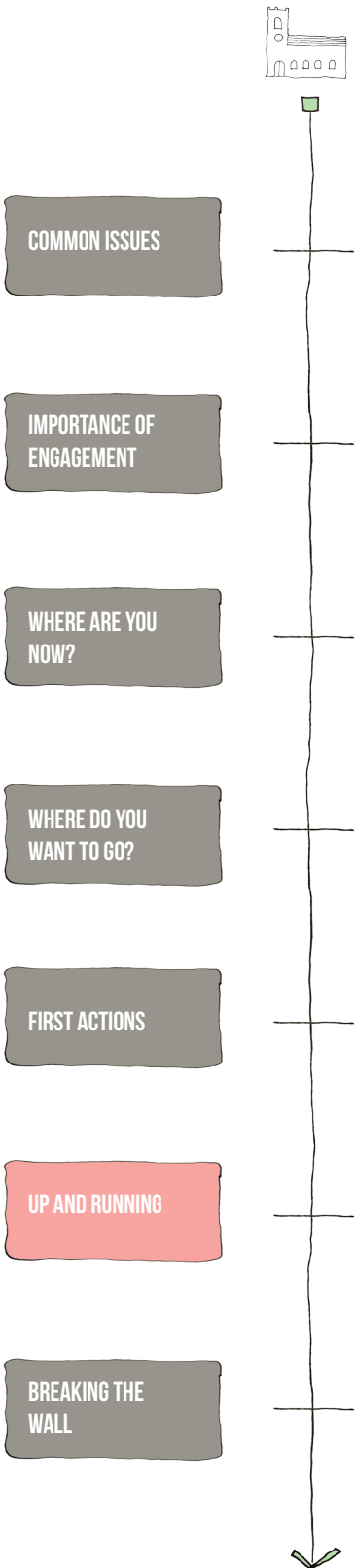
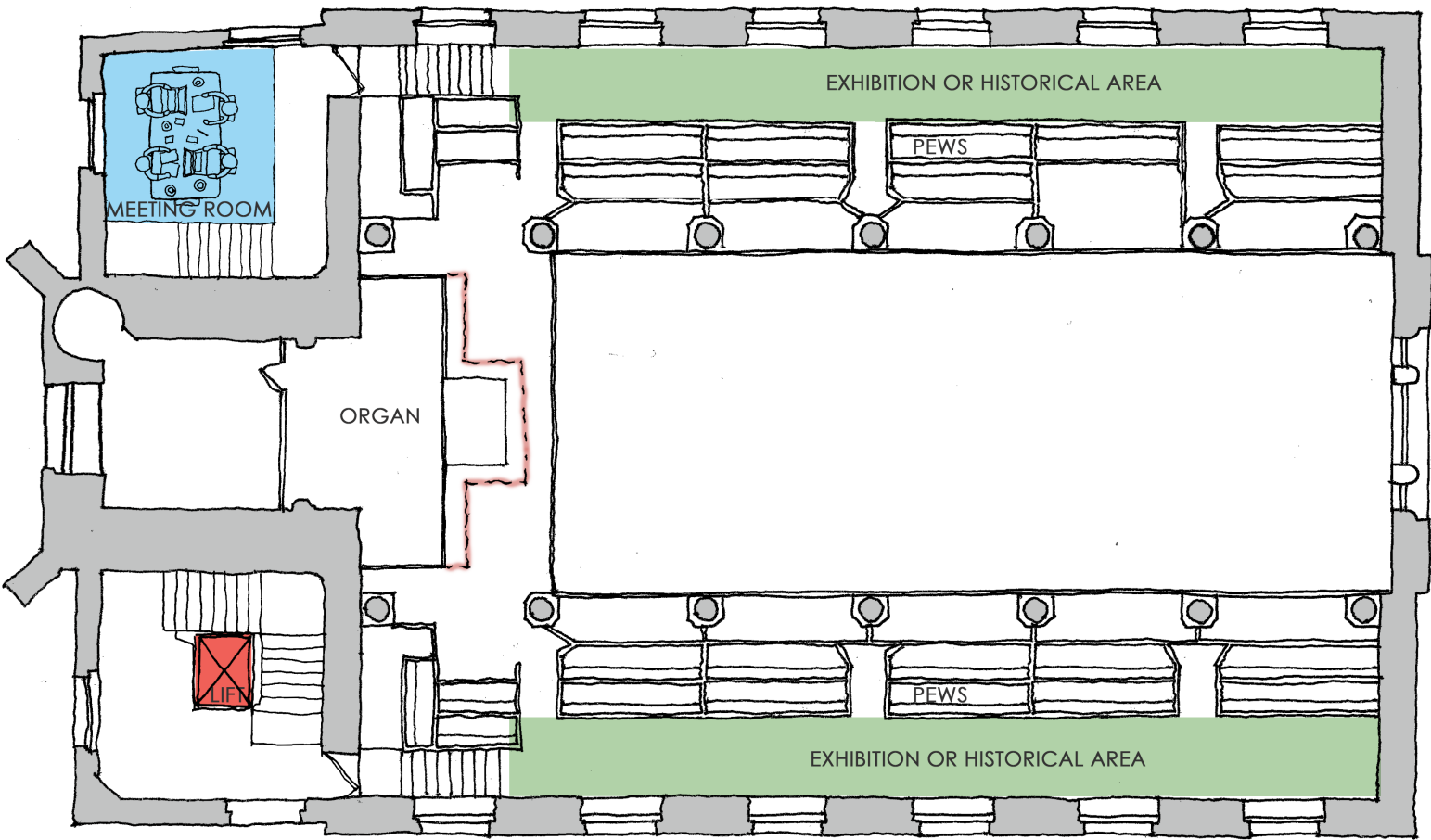
The earlier space use workshop highlighted that the upper first floor gallery, whilst a spectacular space, is significantly underused at present.

In order to enable this space to serve the church better two major projects will be required:

- The provision of a lift in the south stair core - without this the first floor will remain inaccessible and unwelcoming to large numbers of the community
- The moving of the organ - the organs current position blocks access across the floor. If the first floor is to be usable by the community then it will

be necessary for the current mechanical system to be electricified - providing more circulation space to either side of the gallery.

If these steps are taken then the back line of pews could be removed providing linear exhibition space, drawing in more interaction with the local community. Furthermore increased space and accesbilty would support the provision of a meeting room space in the north porch area.





**BREAKING THE WALL  
LEGACY WORKSHOPS**





COMMON ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF  
ENGAGEMENT

WHERE ARE YOU  
NOW?

WHERE DO YOU  
WANT TO GO?

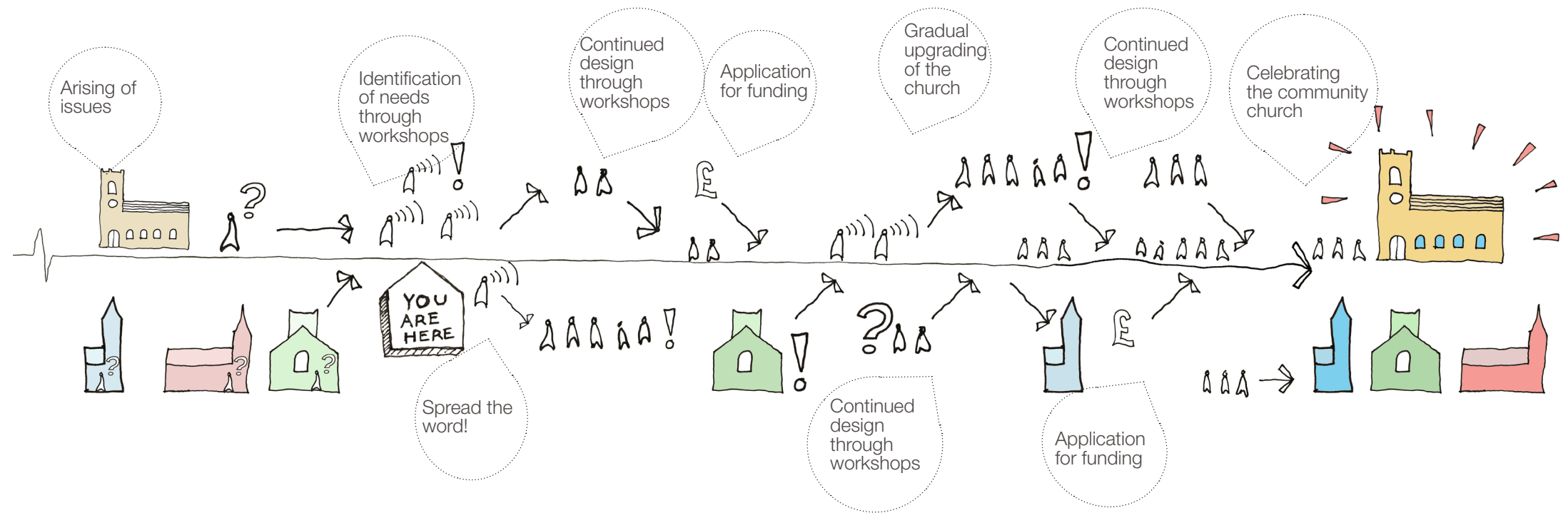
FIRST ACTIONS

UP AND RUNNING

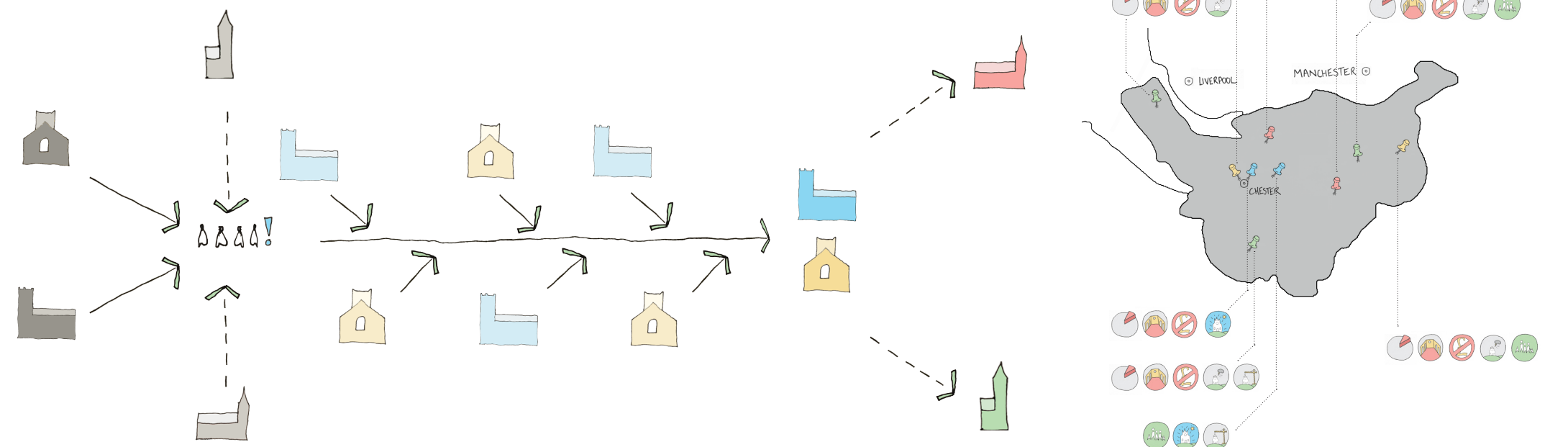
BREAKING THE  
WALL



## THE LEGACY: PARTICIPATORY DESIGN



The time line shows the process of the brief development where St Peters in Chester and Congleton are used as case studies. Key issues identified for other churches across Cheshire were also identified and focused on to create a body of work which should be as widely applicable as possible for the greatest overall benefit







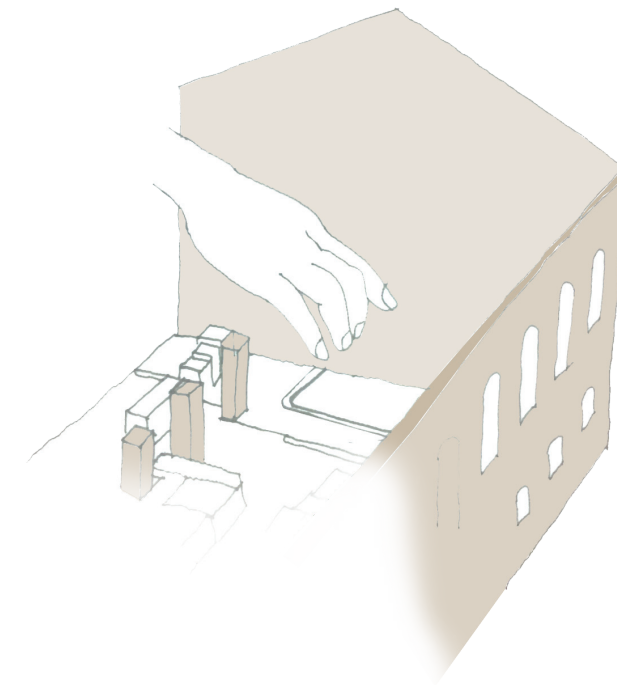
## LEGACY WORKSHOPS

Legacy workshops are exercises that can be carried out in your church in order to continue the design process that we have started. These workshops are a great way to keep the community updated interested and involved, at the same time an effective tool to keep generating ideas and testing them as you proceed with the design.

Previous workshops such as the Trace plan activity and Model activity can be repeated to further refine, to arrive at conclusions and to test out various design questions



Trace Activity



Model Activity





Activity

Post cards showing the plans, sections or drawings of the church can be kept at the pews or kept next to the entrance.

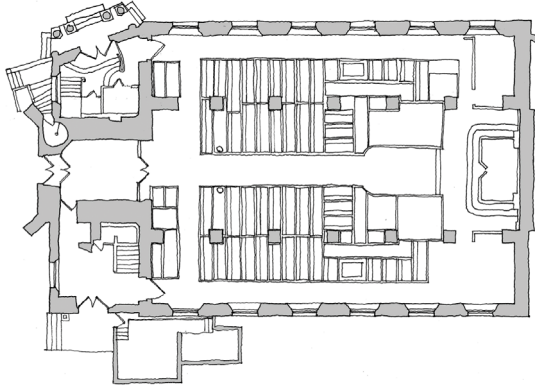
Members of the church community can then draw their ideas or write their suggestions for the church on them and send it back to the church.

Aim

The aim of the task is to get as many people in the community as possible involved in the design process. This will help the church to build a data base of ideas for the design.

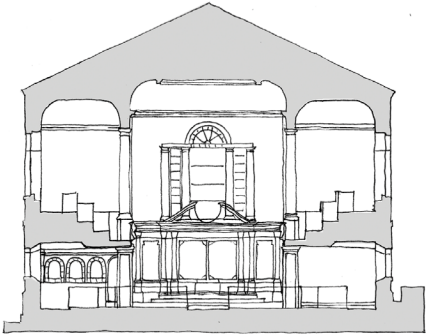
It also generates an attitude of “My church” and how they can contribute to improve it.

The post card activity can be redesigned and adopted in many ways to gather feedback and keep the community involed.



My Church is...

Congleton Parish Team  
14 Chapel Street  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 4AB




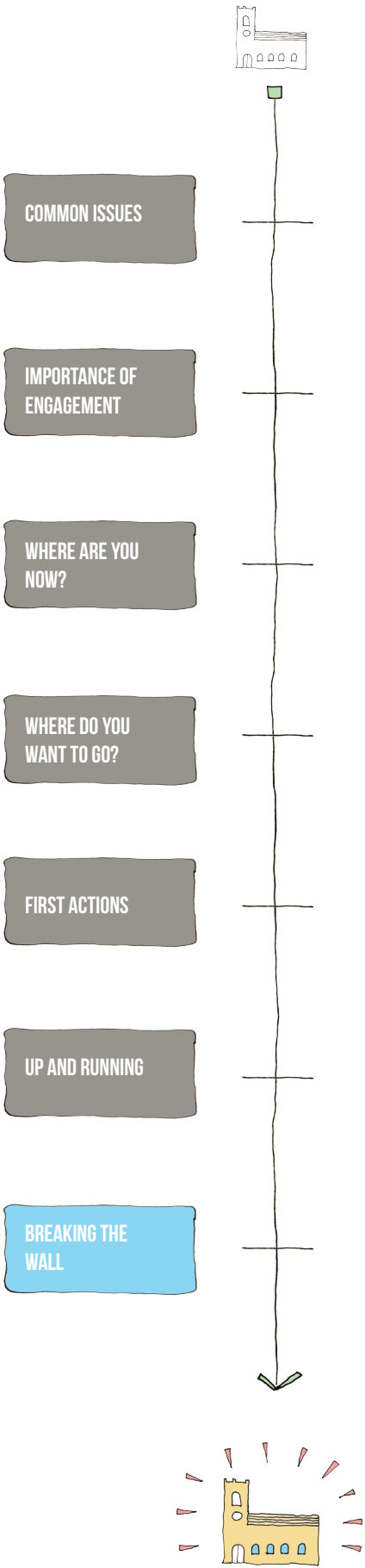
My Church is...

Congleton Parish Team  
14 Chapel Street  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 4AB

My Church is..

Congleton Parish Team  
14 Chapel Street  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 4AB





## VISION FOR THE FUTURE: WAX TABLET



### Activity

Based on the concept of taking rubbings from plaques and surfaces throughout the church, as done in school days, the wax tablet allows the participant to create their own plaque dedication and rubbing.

Following the creation of the wax tablet, the participant can then inscribe their vision for the future into the wax tablet. Once the inscription has been complete a rubbing can then be taken from the tablet.

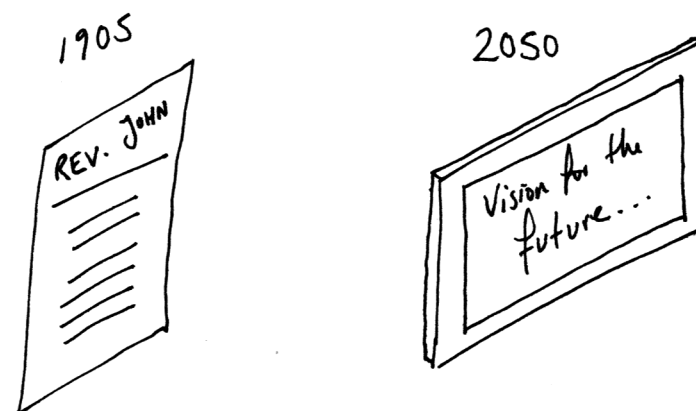
The rubbing can then be placed in a timeline of events, from the dedication to past figures and events throughout the church, to more recent events, and then looking forward to visions for the future.

### Aim

By getting the participants to take a rubbing of their vision for the future the stakeholders and designer can then gain a greater understanding of the ideas, visions and concepts of the church.

The creation of your own plaque and the consequent rubbing gives the participant a sense of ownership and engagement within the project, setting themselves within the timeline of the church.

By placing yourself in a moment of the church's timeline it gives a sense of longevity and feeling of direction for the project.

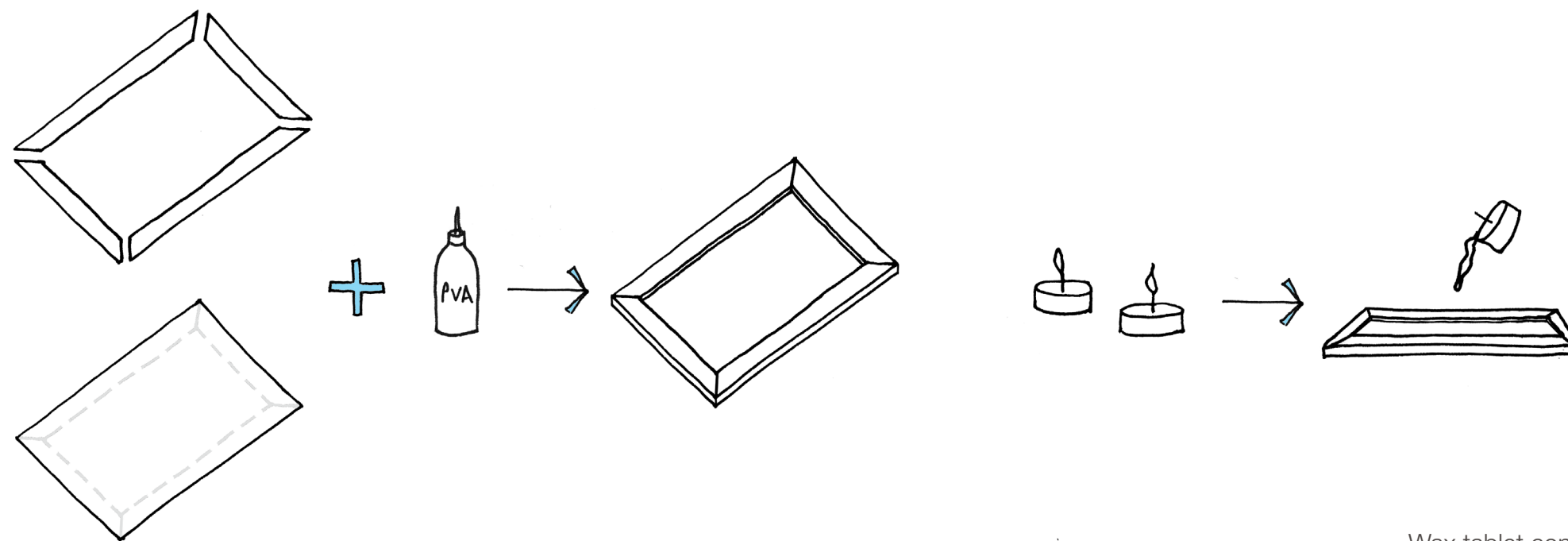


Chester workshop - 12/10/2016

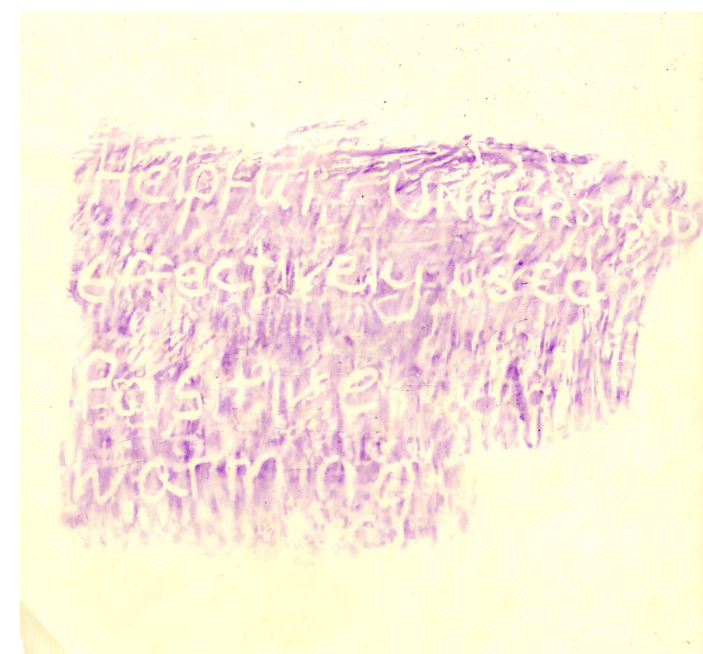
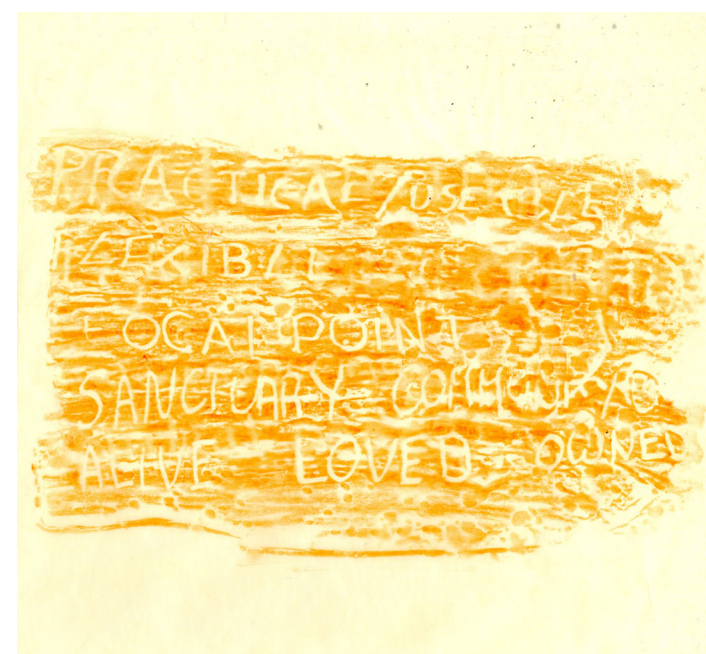
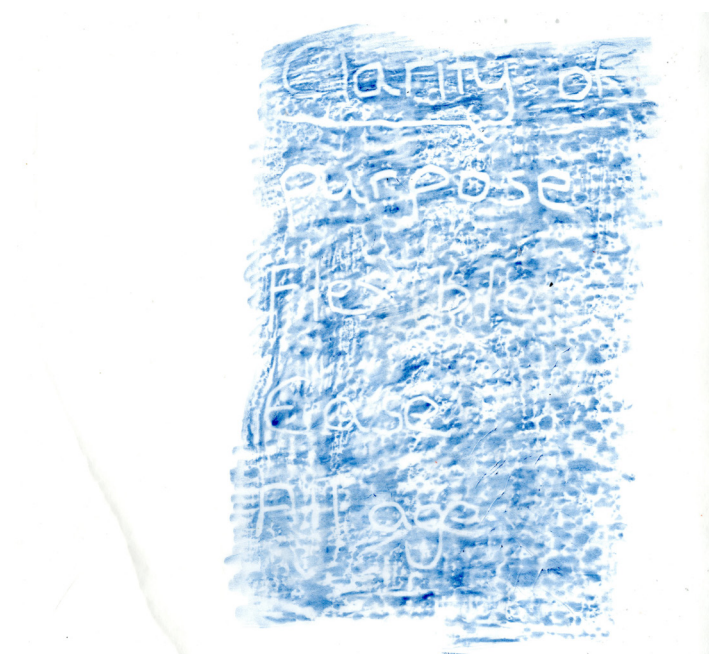


Chester workshop - 12/10/2016

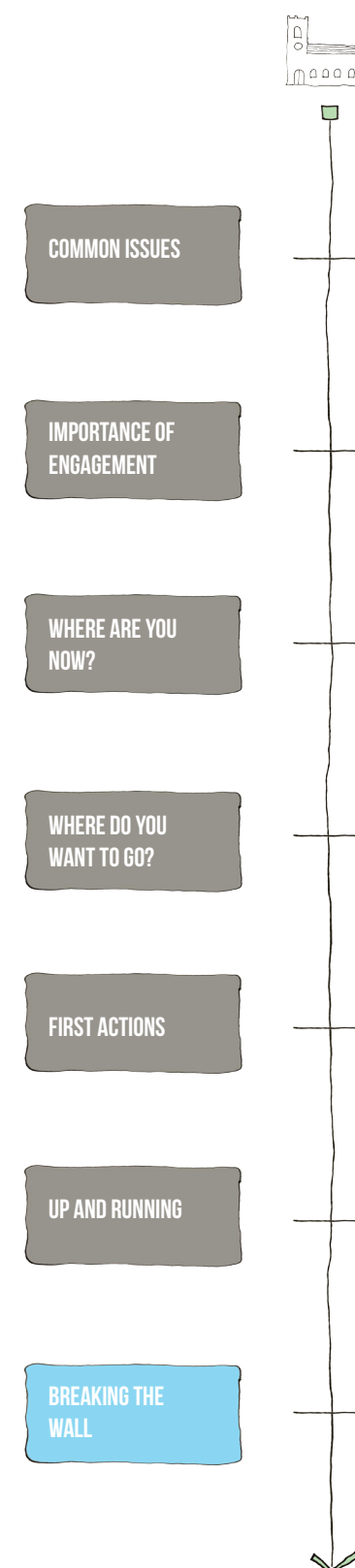




Wax tablet construction



Chester workshop - 12/10/2016



## COIN VOTING WORKSHOP



### Activity

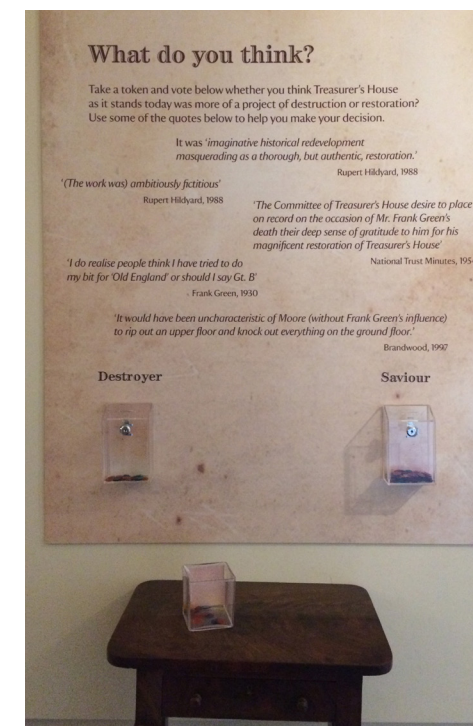
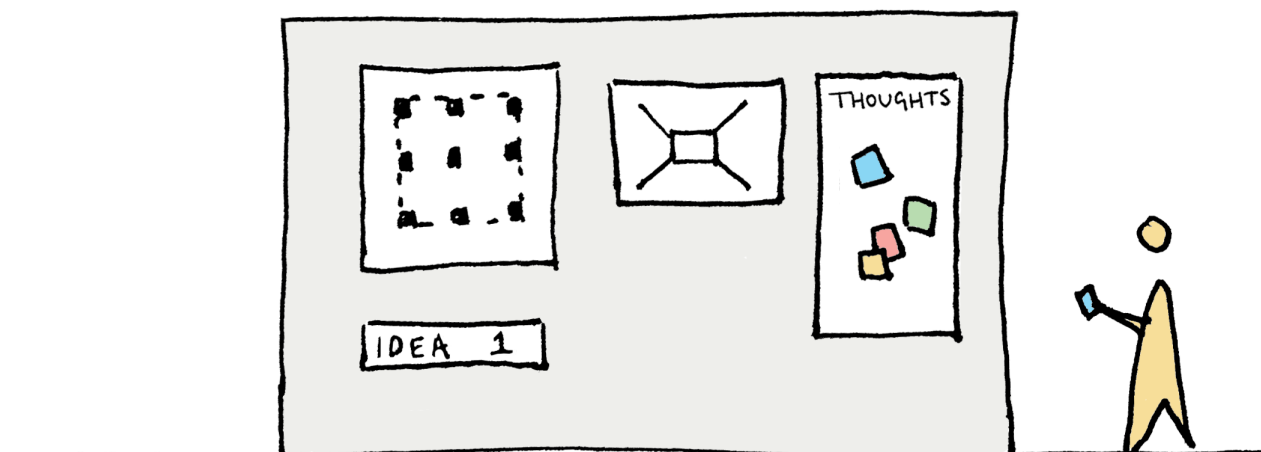
Exhibiting proposals and visions for the project in the church, or in the local community. This could include architectural drawings, imagery or just big ideas for the project.

The work could be exhibited as a stand alone workshop allowing participants to view and discuss at their own will, or the exhibition could work as a coin voting task. A box could be placed underneath each design option allowing the participant to vote on their favourite option. Voting could be completed either in a translucent box, or anonymously in an opaque box.

### Aim

By hosting an exhibition the project is then opened up into the public eye creating awareness of the project. It allows people to view the work at their own leisure and can engage as and when suits.

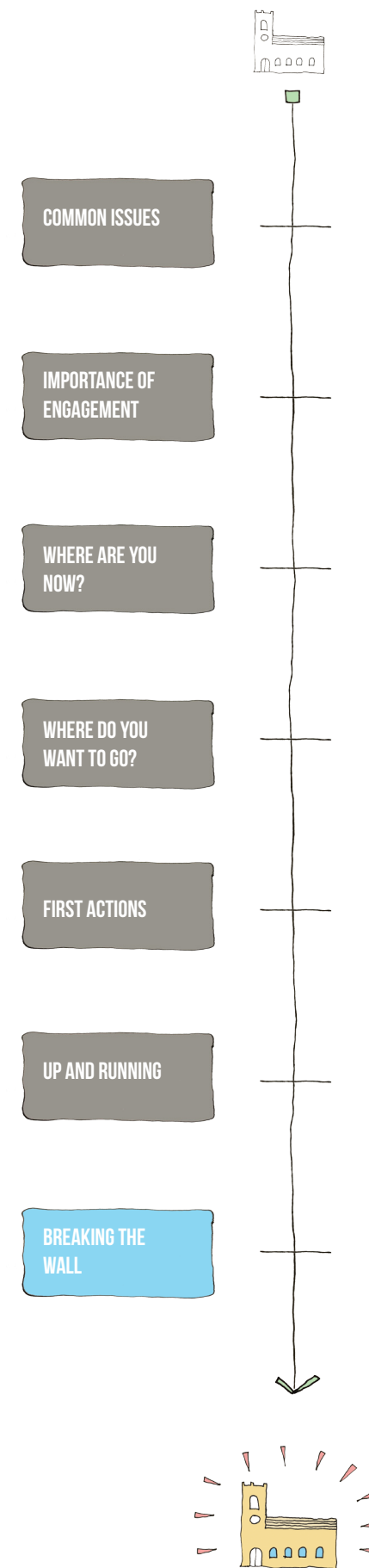
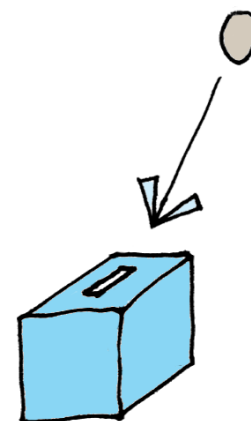
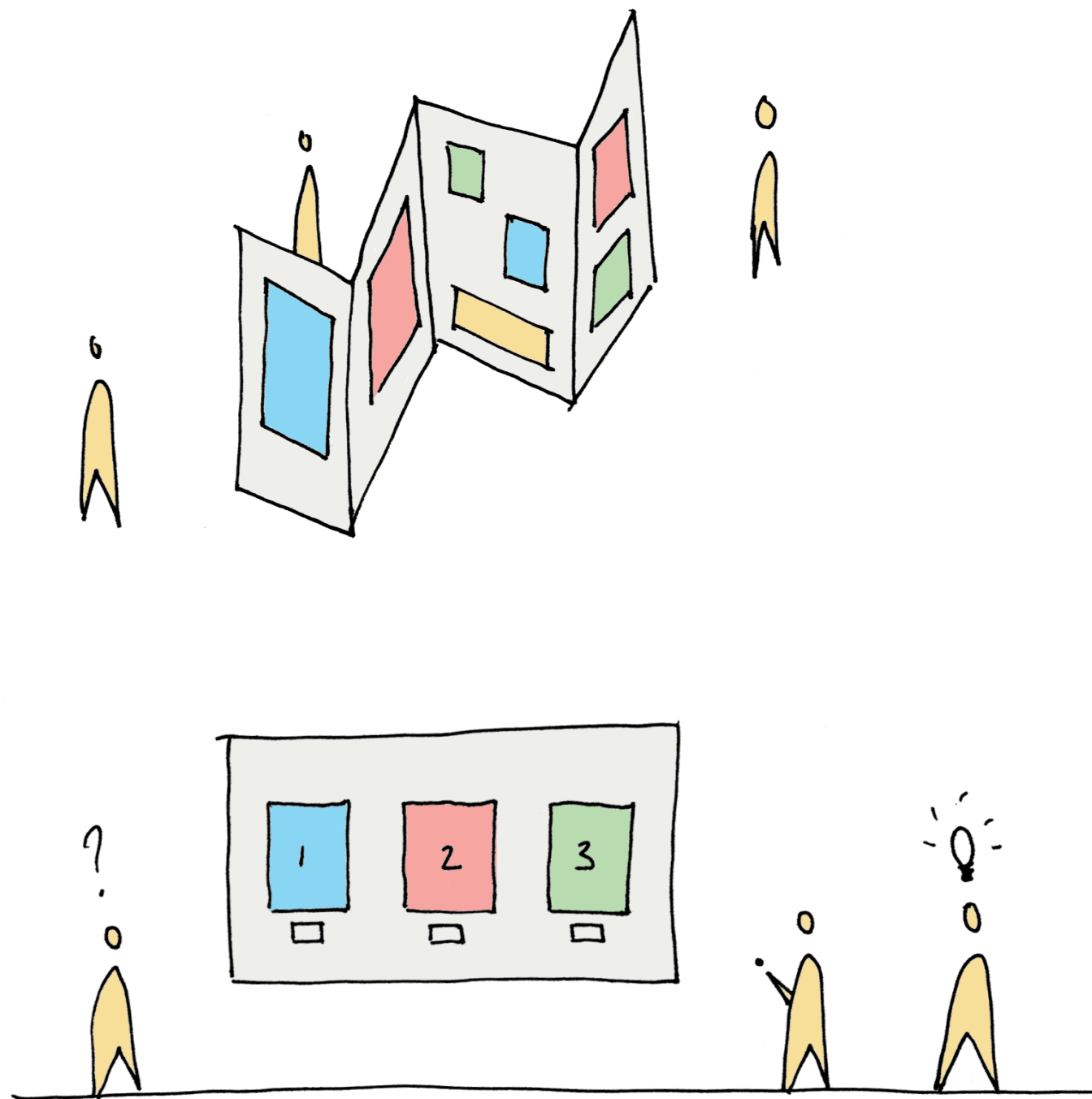
Having a voting system allows people to express their views in a slightly more private manner, where some people might not be as confident to voice their opinions.



Above  
Treasurer's House, North Yorkshire  
(National Trust)  
Example of coin voting -  
24/10/2016

Below  
Waitrose charity voting system -  
Nationwide





## SKETCHUP 3D MODEL



### Draw over the Model

A 3D Sketchup computer model will be provided for the client for future workshop use.

Print or photocopy these pages and provide tracing paper. Ask your group a question such as :

“What is the most important feature of the church?”

or

“Where are the best/worst sightlines?”

or

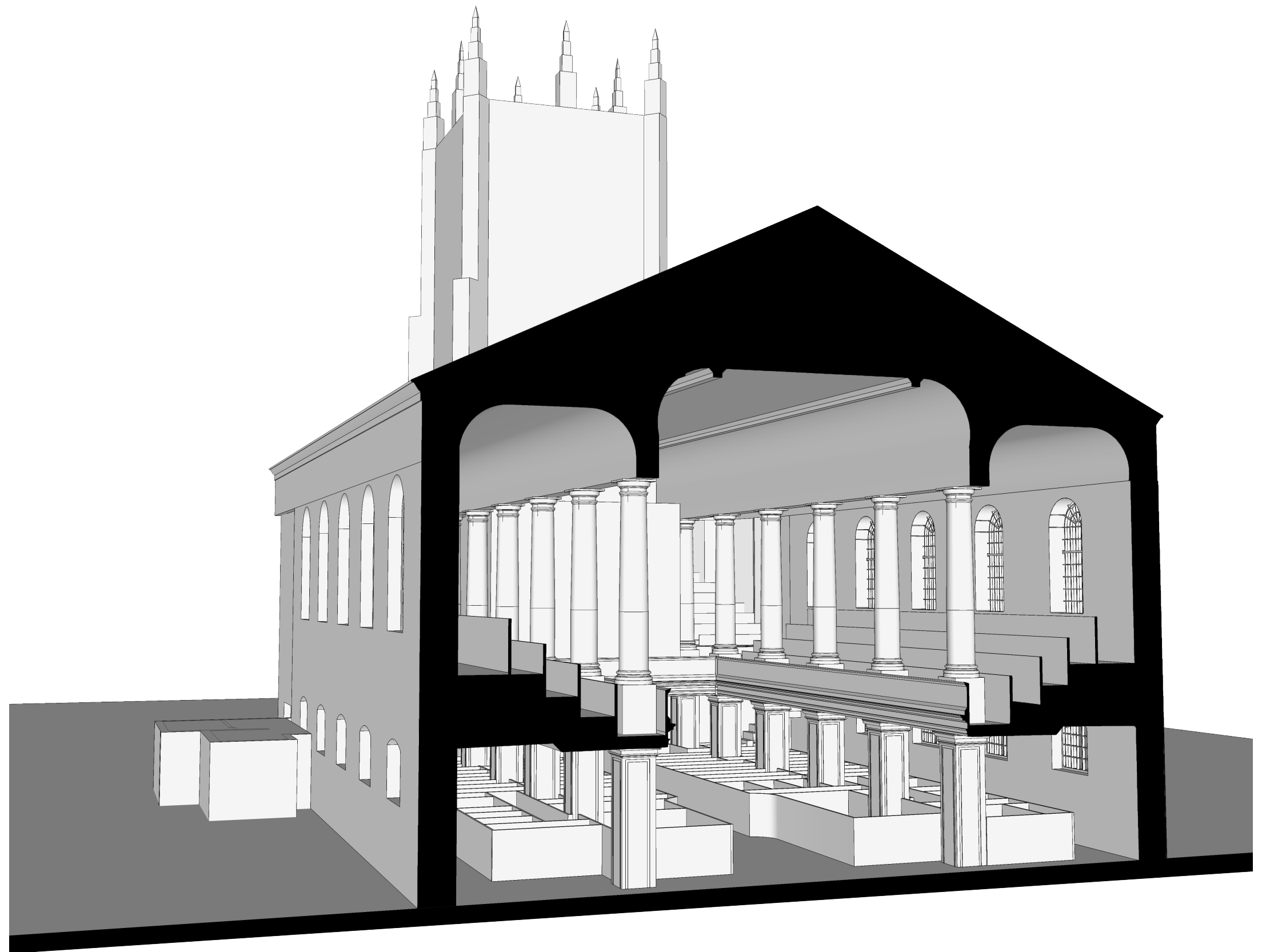
“What would happen if we ...

- ... removed this pew?
- ... held an art exhibition?
- ... built a new meeting pod?”

Allow the group to sketch and draw their ideas or responses over these images.

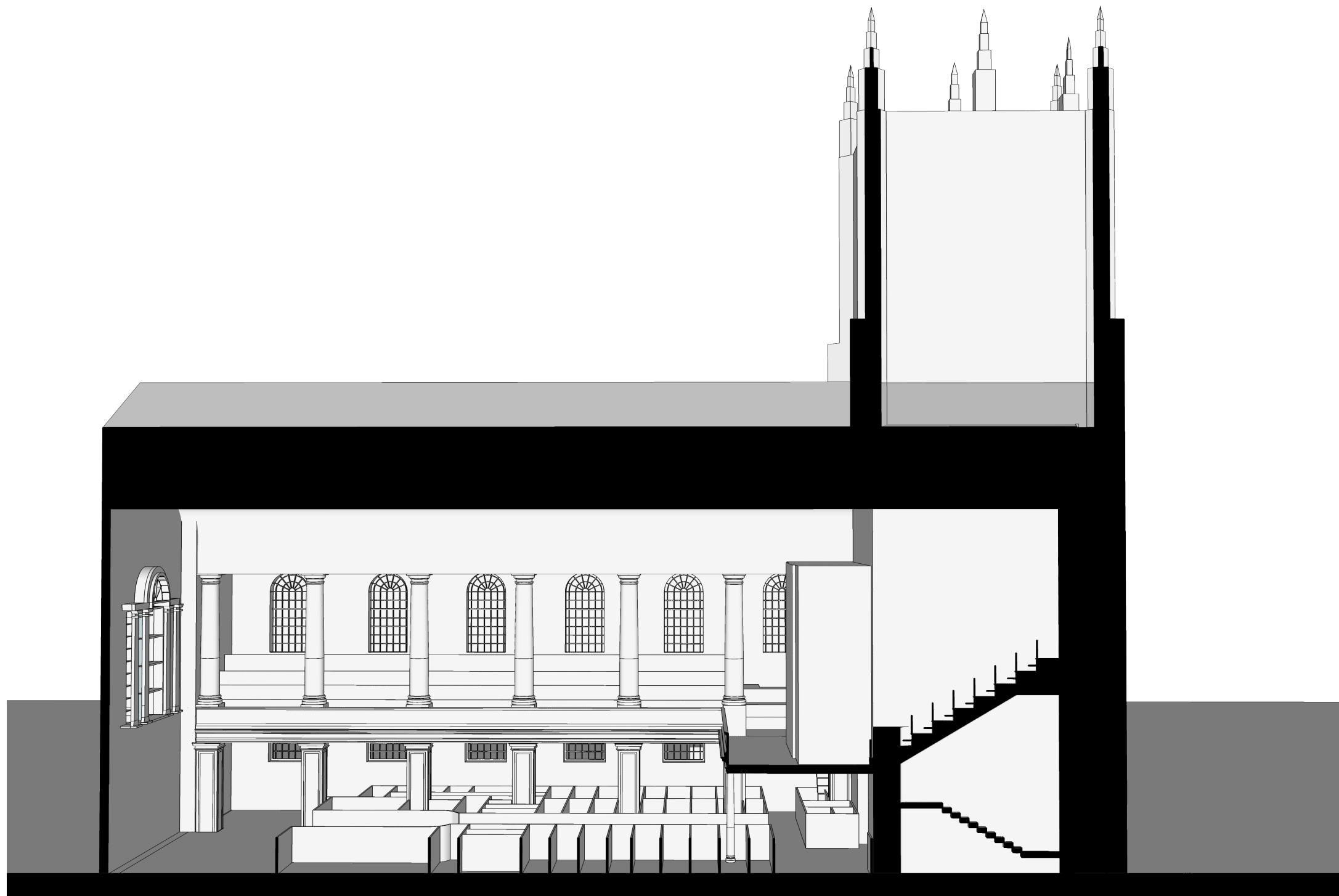
Reflect on the results as a group and then repeat the activity. What results do you get?

The images are produced from a highly detailed 3D model by the Live Project team, which can provide viewpoints of the building in section for further analysis.

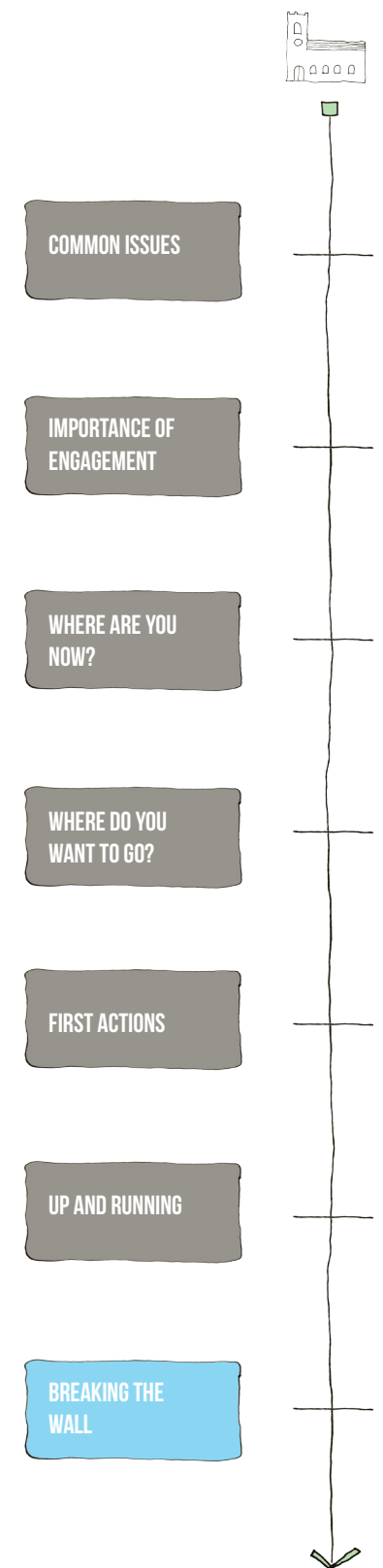


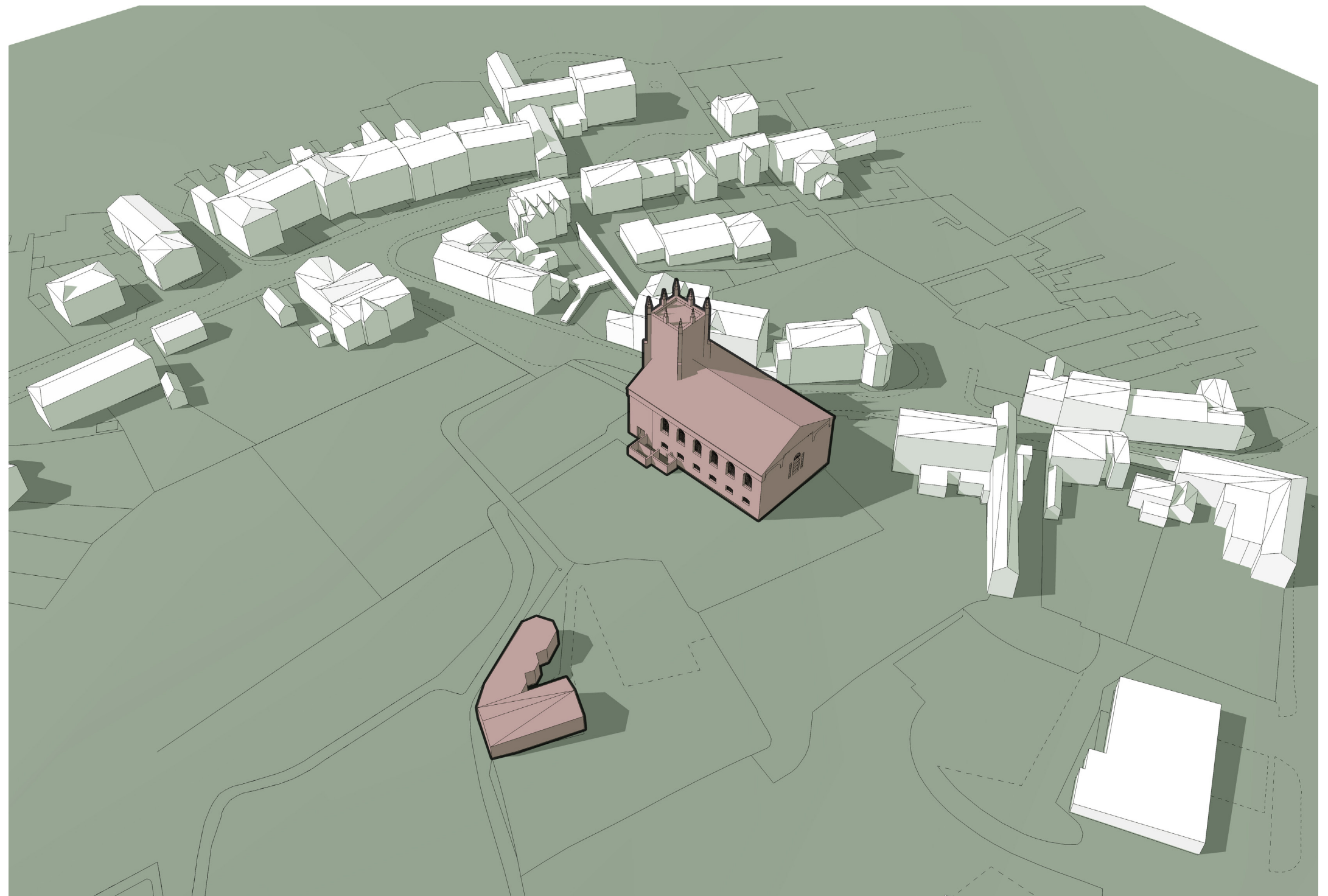
SECTION NORTH - SOUTH  
Base image for tracing





SECTION EAST - WEST  
Base image for tracing





Site Model  
Base image for tracing



FINAL THOUGHTS

Conclusion

St Peter’s Congleton is a beautiful and historic church. It has a fascinating heritage with claims such as John Wesley regularly coming to preach, art work by a founding member of the Royal Academy, an unrivaled Georgian interior and a reputation with in the town as “Our Chapel”.

The building is unusual and is rightly Grade Listed to protect the unique interior. However in our “What is Church?” discussion it became clear that the St Peter’s Church in 2016 has a much more social and communal view then the original designers of the building about what a church building should be.

In order for St Peter’s to become Congleton’s central church, open to the community and accessible for all members to engage in modern worship, there will need to be a large scale redevelopment. However in order for this long term strategy to occur the church needs to begin to trial some of the activities and work with local groups which it would like to see happening long term.

As outlined in the Phased Approach Graph there needs to be space use trials in order to reach the long term end result.

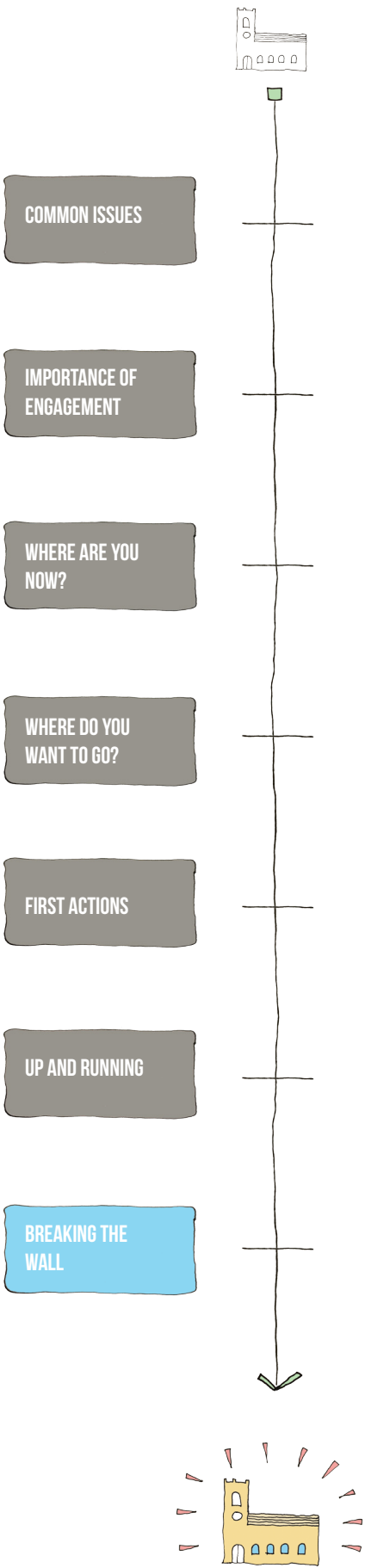
The Live Project ran alongside the wider Parish decision about which building should become the central church. As a result the work focussed on engaging with St Peter’s, in order to allow the wider decisions to continue. However moving forward there is space for the church to use the “Low Cost Events” as networking opportunities to see what local groups would like to share in the future re-development. There are many ways in which St Peter’s can serve the local community - being creative and experimental with who and how they can help will strengthen the church’s long term vision.

The Live Project has provided workshop ideas and tools for how this interaction could happen in the future.

In terms of the building the project identified some key opportunities:

- The Pews - although restrictive in space use terms they are a great feature to celebrate with the local community
- The North Porch - opportunity to remove the Victorian stalls and create an new meeting space
- The Mayor’s Entrance - a dramatic feature on the street to encourage people to interact with
- The External Grounds - valuable landscaping in the town centre but also opportunities for small scale interventions to expand the church’s youth and social provision short term

Testing the ideas from this document’s Design Strategy will help to develop these areas. Engagment with the wider Congleton community will enable the congregation to re-affirm St Peter’s within Congleton as “Our Chapel”.



## IMAGES REFERENCES

Churches Conservation Trust Images:

All Souls Bolton pg35:  
The Churches' Conservation Trust, 'Our Churches - All Souls' Church, Bolton, Lancashire - Image Gallery', The Churches' Conservation Trust  
<<http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/Ourchurches/Completestofchurches/All-Souls-Church-Bolton-Lancashire/>>

The Canny Space pg37:

The Regeneration Taskforce, 'Projects - examples of our regeneration work - The Canny Space, Sunderland', The Churches' Conservation Trust <<http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/Aboutus/Regeneratingcommunities/Projectsexamplesofourregenerationwork/ThecannyspaceSunderland/>>

St James West Hampstead pg36:

London Diocese, 'London Churches in Photographs- St James, West Hampstead', London Diocese  
<<https://londonchurchbuildings.wordpress.com/2013/01/31/st-james-west-hampstead/>>

Whitworth Gallery p48:

<http://www.dezeen.com/2015/02/03/muma-whitworth-gallery-manchester-extensions-renovation-brick-glass-steel/>

<http://www.e-architect.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/the-whitworth-m121015-a-3.jpg>

All saints church hereford p49:

<http://www.rra-arch.com/portfolio/all-saints-church>

Precedents Sample Board p44:

<http://www.archdaily.com/791226/chapelle-corneille-atelier-darchitecture-king-kong>

<http://www.archello.com/en/project/nieuwe-kerk-zierikzee>

<http://www.dezeen.com/2014/03/27/brihuega-chapel-spain-renovated-adam-bresnick-architects/>







COMMON ISSUES

IMPORTANCE OF  
ENGAGEMENT

WHERE ARE YOU  
NOW?

WHERE DO YOU  
WANT TO GO?

FIRST ACTIONS

UP AND RUNNING

BREAKING THE  
WALL

