

Info on CMI as at 1 Dec 2011

- Owners are St John's College Cambridge
- Lease taken over by HTS, 6 years ago, at a peppercorn rent (£2pa), expired end of Sept.
- We have tried to negotiate with the College to buy/ to continue to rent.
- The College is unwilling to sell.
- The lowest rental figure they have suggested is £23,120 pa.
- We have said this is too much for a non-permanent solution.
- PCC has made a counter offer which the College has turned down.
- I was invited to write a paper about a "creative partnership" to present to the College Council on 20 Oct.
- This was considered and rejected – although they were impressed by our work, they said that our aims were "too remote" and the arrangement between us should be on a "commercial basis".
- PCC met on 20 Nov to decide what to do – unanimous decision to think differently, subject to legal advice.
- Legal advice yesterday 30 .11 to write to the College setting out our intention to vacate as of 31 March 2012.

Next steps:

- Reminder that our work at CMI has never been about the building. It's been about building relationships and serving the local community.
- We believe that we can do those things anywhere.
- We will continue business as usual for next term.
- We have been touch with other providers of accommodation within the old village, and will be in touch further with planners and with the DAC to secure temporary solutions for all hirers for the summer term.
- We will also explore with these parties and others a more permanent solution which will likely involve the reordering of the interior of HTS and the construction of a new community building within the churchyard.
- Initial indications from the planners and from the DAC are that this is relatively straightforward.

Temporary solutions:

- For hirers and staff members we want to be able to continue wherever we can – making use of the church building, the church school and other local facilities.

- We have found 100% alternative accommodation already.
- We will continue to deal with all bookings and with the marketing and advertising of the activities of groups through our regular contacts, newsletters and websites.
- We will look to provide space for groups plus a modified refreshments facility in each location. We see this combination as one of our USPs.

Fly in the ointment:

- We could find ourselves required to move out in 24 hrs
- There could be problems with planning/DAC etc.
- There will be money to raise – up to £500K.

The Vision:

- This would provide the church and community with a fantastic new facility which would be secured for the long-term and which would meet needs now and into the future.
- It feels like the church is on the move, able to extend beyond the bounds of a building to continue to bless and benefit the community we seek to serve. How exciting is that?