

‘OPPORTUNITIES’ and ‘BARRIERS’ PRESENTED BY OUR BUILDINGS/SPACE AND THEIR LOCATION IN THE CBD

POSITIVES

Our Church Complex is in a prime location

The Heritage Church itself, with the William Davidson organ and now the grand piano, provides a wonderful space for worship services, weddings, funerals, concerts and recitals. These are also a wonderful asset to the City of Bathurst.

Our two halls are used regularly by KUCA, Youth Group, AA, AlAnon, Art Group, etc. Throughout the year the halls are also used for ‘one off’ activities e.g High Tea and Market Days etc.

We have the opportunity to use one of the halls for Sunday service in winter – thus providing our people with a greater degree of comfort, as well as being a saving on our heating bills.

The 1837 Hall is rented out regularly to the Dance School and the Activities Hall to the Bathurst Historical Society [monthly] etc., as well as ‘one off’ activities such as the recent wedding reception and the Heritage Display – the money thus obtained being an important source of income.

At the rear of the church is the playgroup area used by PALS – who also utilise the room downstairs.

In the past we have been fortunate to receive grants which have paid for carpets, blinds, air conditioning, kitchen updates, comfy chairs etc and recently for the old kitchen and Blomfield room.

Our mission to help some of the city’s homeless is about to be trialled – making use of part of the building which has been unused for years.

BARRIERS TO BE OVERCOME

The Heritage buildings – continuing maintenance required and unexpected repairs, e.g, plumbing.

The actual layout of the building complex is awkward – being on different levels.

Disabled access to all buildings is a problem

Lack of disabled toilets

Lack of exterior lighting [for safety].

Car park driveway - there is a rock that needs to be covered up or removed– we know of at least one person who tripped over it recently.

If looking to rent out further space, or even for activities in the church and/or hall, timed parking in William St could be a problem.

If looking to make further use of our facilities, or just for our own use, cleanliness – particularly of toilet areas – is of vital importance. Our volunteers do a wonderful job, but when a number of people are using the facilities, basins get messy, toilet paper runs out, and bins fill to overflowing very quickly.

Our signage in front of the church needs revision. Whole sign looking a bit tired. Still showing 'Messy Church' some years after this ministry ended.

Over the years we have looked at how our buildings/land could generate an income but there have been barriers – e.g. Some years ago a lot of work went into the possibility of using our grounds for paid parking. This came to nothing when Council advised that we had to have sufficient spaces to cater for both the church and the hall.

If our buildings can be improved community groups are more likely to rent them.

Summary

We have many willing volunteers in the church who do cleaning, lawn mowing, maintenance etc and this is much appreciated, but how long can we rely on these volunteers? Yes, we are aging.

We need to look at our buildings and possibilities. Let us think outside the square – One suggestion is the area downstairs –

Do we need the breezeway? Can that be closed in and the wall and the 'tunnel' removed? Could Disabled toilets be installed [there is a sewerage line out the back] [one access for homeless and one for PALS]? At the moment some children with disabilities cannot come to PALS as they cannot access the toilets upstairs. If we did not have the breezeway and this was a room, it could also be used at other times. Could we install a kitchenette in this room? . At present PALS have no running hot water available.

Others may have a different vision for our buildings. Let us look at all possibilities.

We have had grants before - can we look for more [general or heritage] through the Church, local Council or Government etc?

Sometimes before we can be at Mission we have to get our own 'house' in order. Yes, this will cost money – but if we do nothing, nothing happens.