

The Baptist Union Loan Fund and Cirencester Baptist Church

In March 2015 the BUC Directors agreed a record loan of £1.5m for Cirencester Baptist Church to assist with the provision of new premises for the church.

This church began life in 1651 meeting in someone's home. As the congregation grew they built their first chapel in the 18th century and then a much larger chapel in 1853. 20 years ago the church hall was extended and refurbished - but still the church kept growing! In 2011 they moved their largest Sunday service to a local secondary school to accommodate the numbers. Whilst hiring a school hall has been a good short-term solution, it can't provide them with the permanent home they need to sustain their vision of glorifying God through continued growth and offering increased services and help to the wider community.

In September 2014 they purchased an old sports and social club and work has now begun in earnest to plan the refurbishment and development of the building to meet their needs.

The new building is in a much more visible, prominent and accessible position than the old one and is in an area of high deprivation making it more accessible to people from that area. The old building has no parking, whereas this building will offer free parking, making their activities much more inclusive. It will be much larger and have more extensive and more modern facilities making it a more pleasant and welcoming environment but also providing a sustainable facility that they need for future growth.



In their own words...

To be in the position where our church is needing to move out of a Victorian chapel and build a new building with an auditorium for 500 people is exciting and a little daunting. This needs to be God's doing – or we are in trouble! The members of our church have been very generous in committing to give to fund the construction of a new church and community facility for Cirencester and the Cotswolds. It is at this point that the Baptist Union Loan Fund have joined us to make this project possible. Their offer of the largest loan in their history is making this possible. The church are very grateful to the team at BULF for their confidence in the project and we are looking forward to construction beginning in September 2015. (Matt Frost, Senior Pastor)

To find out more visit the church's own website: <http://www.cirencester-baptist.org/newbuilding>

For more information about the Baptist Union Loan Fund go to www.baptist.org.uk/loans

or contact the BU Loan Fund Officer at Baptist House