



TRANSITION TO ST BEDE'S

St Bede's is here – almost

Bishop Crispian presided over the blessing service that was held in St. Bede's on Thursday 25 May, St. Bede's feast day, where he blessed the foundation stone, the church itself, courtyard, hall and other parts of the complex. The service was well attended and was a rousing welcome to our new Parish Church, which the service effectively marked the start of our active use of St. Bede's, although the church has still to be officially handed over.

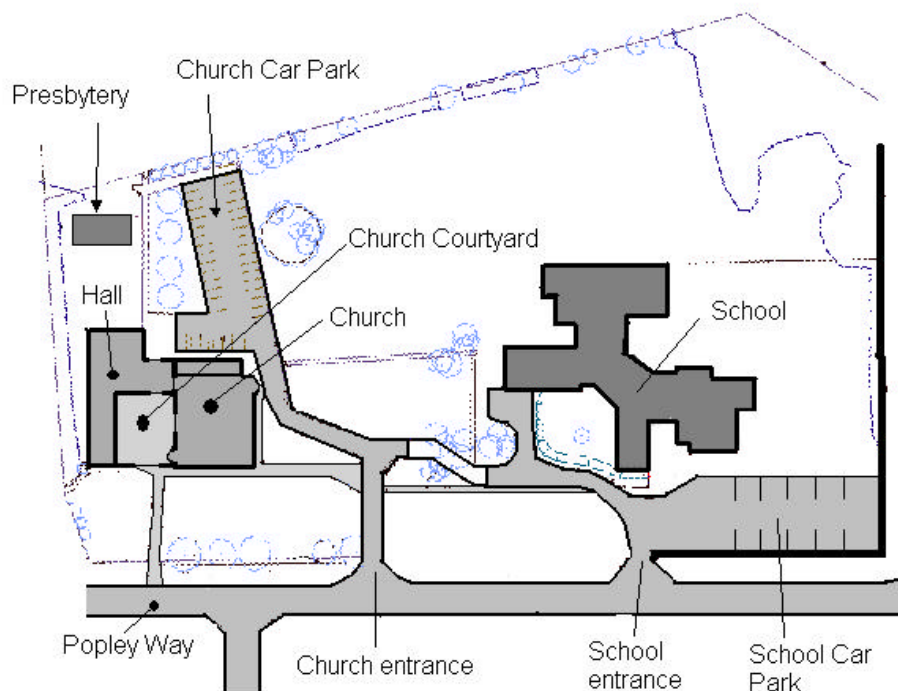
At present our best guess is that St. Bede's will be officially handed over around the end of June 2006, just before Father Paul leaves us. Following hand over the church will have to be furnished (the furniture should be ready and waiting by then) and made useable. We therefore anticipate that the Parish should be using St Bede's as our Parish Church from around the middle of July 2006. However, please watch the Parish newsletter for updates – as with all building projects delays can and do happen, we should have been in St Bede's in April 2006 according to the original schedule!!

As a safety net, you will have seen from recent newsletters, we have been allocated the services of a Polish priest to assist for the month of July. Just in case there is a delay in moving to St Bede's this will give us some flexibility – but only for a month – after that it's up to us to cope.

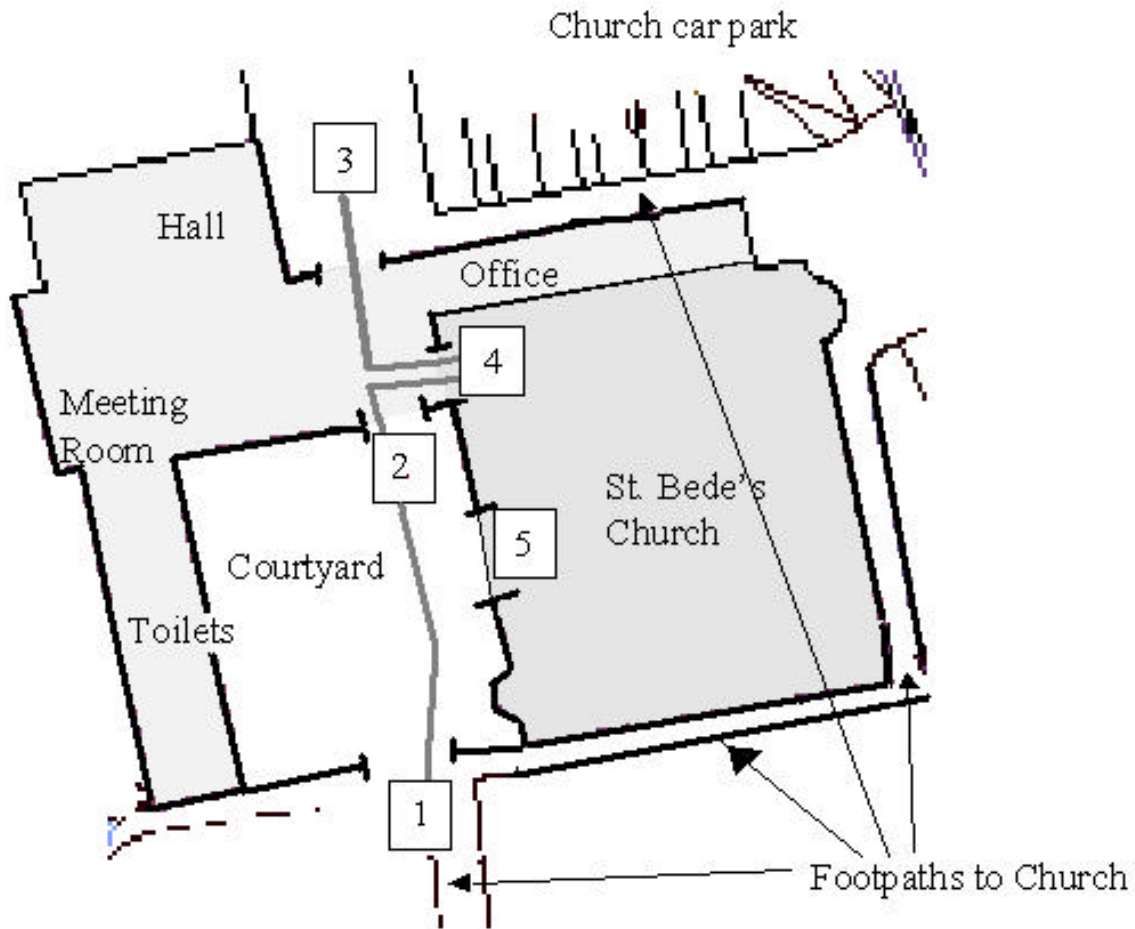
The purpose of this newsletter is to introduce St. Bede's and some of the arrangements that are being made to aid our transition from the current Mass centres to our new Parish Church.

St. Bede's Church

Below is a schematic map showing the position of St Bede's Church in relation to St. Bede's School, the road access points from Popley Way (note there is also a pedestrian access close to the church) and the main car parking areas. There is also a schematic of the main church area.



Schematic, showing the main features of the St. Bede's Church and St Bede's School site



Detail of St. Bede's Church complex, showing the main features

Access to St. Bede's Church will normally be through the internal church door, marked [4] in the diagram above. This can be done by one of two ways:

By entering the courtyard from the footpath, via the entrance at [1], and then through the access door at [2] into the church complex and turning right to enter the church via the internal door [4].

From the church car park, entering the church complex through the access door at [3] and turning left to enter the church via the internal door [4].

For ceremonial occasions the church will be accessed through the main door [5], directly from the courtyard. Access to the hall, meeting room and toilets is from within the main church complex.

When we are in St. Bede's there will be "orientation" sessions for all Parishioners, to let everyone see where everything is within the complex, and who lives where. Additionally, with the new church complex a number of volunteers have been sought to be responsible for a variety of activities, e.g. locking/unlocking the church, sacristan, heating system, lighting and amplification, baptistry, etc. Details of these volunteers, their areas of responsibility and contact details will be available at the orientation sessions, or through the parish office. It is anticipated that these orientation sessions will take place after Sunday Masses, so that Parishioners are already present, rather than making extra trips to the church.

Going forward, once we are established in our church there is an intention to invite in the local community to show them who we are and what we do.

Transport

A key issue for us to address is transport to St Bede's. Currently, local buses do not serve the area of St Bede's church well, and certainly not to suit the new Mass times. This situation will probably change over time, especially with the residential development that is occurring in the Popley region. In the meantime we are going to have to help each other, which is what a good community should do. To this end the Parish has been divided into a number of local areas, for each of which a co-ordinator has been appointed. There is also an overall co-ordinator to assist the local co-ordinators and address wider transport issues on behalf of the Parish. The local areas can utilise the strength of our current smaller communities in the effort to build and establish our new, larger, community at St. Bede's.

The aim of the local areas and co-ordinators is to bring together the people in that area of the Parish that will need assistance in getting to St Bede's with those able to provide transport. To that end two simple forms have been developed, see the examples below. These forms will be printed on two different colour papers to avoid confusion: the form requesting a lift will be pink, whilst that for offering a lift will be green.

The intent is for Parishioners to complete a form appropriate to themselves and then pass that form to the Parish office, where it will then be forwarded to the appropriate co-ordinator. The co-ordinators will then match the requirements for lifts with those able to offer lifts and contact Parishioners with details. This process is not meant to stop Parishioners organising lifts with their friend/family but to assist those that need transport, but do not know whom to turn to.

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSPORT TO MASS AT ST. BEDE'S</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIFT REQUIRED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">on a WEEKLY/FORTNIGHTLY/MONTHLY BASIS (please delete as appropriate)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOR _____ PEOPLE</p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____ _____ _____</p> <p>TELEPHONE _____</p> <p>E-MAIL _____</p> <p>TO 09:00 MASS <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> 11:00 MASS <input type="checkbox"/> Please tick as appropriate</p> <p> 18:30 MASS <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>For office use <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>AREA _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSPORT TO MASS AT ST. BEDE'S</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIFT AVAILABLE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">on a WEEKLY/FORTNIGHTLY/MONTHLY BASIS (please delete as appropriate)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOR _____ PEOPLE</p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____ _____ _____</p> <p>TELEPHONE _____</p> <p>E-MAIL _____</p> <p>TO 09:00 MASS <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> 11:00 MASS <input type="checkbox"/> Please tick as appropriate</p> <p> 18:30 MASS <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>For office use <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>AREA _____</p>
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Undoubtedly, some Parishioners will not want to take lifts from other, for whatever reason, and may well opt to take a taxi. Please bear in mind that taxis could also be shared between Parishioners to save costs. Those Parishioners that would like to consider this option could also do so through the local area co-ordinator, using them as a source to identify others in the same position.

The local areas identified are given below. A number of the co-ordinators have been identified, but a few still remain to be appointed.

Winklebury	Chineham	Sherfield / Bramley
Old Basing / Lychpit	Eastrop / Riverdene	Oakridge / South View

Other transport Options

A number of questions have been received with respect to the possibility of the Parish running a minibus service to get parishioners to Mass on a Sunday. Initial investigation shows this to be a difficult option that is not practical at present for a number of reasons: e.g. the cost of purchasing and maintaining a minibus, the requirement for volunteer drivers on a regular basis, CRB clearance for drivers, insurance appropriate licences. Additionally, there is the practical difficulty of the size of the pick-up run for any given Mass, we would probably need more than one minibus, which further increases the difficulties already identified. Whilst in the short term this is not practical solution, it may be possible to devise a practical scheme in the longer term.

Other transport options may potentially exist, e.g. dial-a-ride and community transport. The feasibility of using these schemes on a regular basis is being investigated, but nothing is certain at present. In the longer term we may be able to influence the bus company as it develops bus routes with the new residential development in Popley.

Parish Pastoral Council