



ABC OASIS Challenge – The Brief

“Making A Difference For God & With God”

Vision & Values

Reaching: Capacity 4 Growth = whatever God wants for us (capacity of 750-800).

Resourcing: A key aspect of this vision is for us to be an 'Antioch' church, a 'resourcing centre' that is at the heart of community life in Andover, and equips other churches in the surrounding area and beyond (through training material, conferences, high-quality video and recorded material).

Renewing: We are also passionately committed to creation care as part of our mission, so environmental considerations will be of prime importance. In all things, we want to develop excellence, giving God our utmost capability, and believe that our physical facilities are integral to us building that 'Capacity 4 Growth', and achieving the God-given potential we have been blessed with.

So the key values which will help guide our choices are:

- **Capacity 4 Growth:** we will not make choices that limit our capacity for growing
- **Flexibility:** we will not make choices that overly limit the options and services we can offer
- **Stewardship:** we will not make choices that compromise our commitment to stewarding God's creation and the world around us.
- **Accessibility:** we will not make choices that compromise our ability to welcome people of all ages, backgrounds, especially those with disabilities or special needs.

Accommodation (key areas)

1. Outside space

- Light, stunning, welcoming place of worship,
- Part of that would be an external sign of our belonging as God's people, and the incorporating of the stained glass window from our original building, providing a link to the past.
- The outside grounds: landscaped, low-maintenance visually attractive gardens, with attractive notice boards and signage (including a name for the building: '.....[Name].....: home of Andover Baptist Church', emphasising that WE are the church, not the building! We would need an area that it accessible to van for loading/unloading equipment.

2. Worship Space/Sanctuary

Our key requirement however, is to provide a space for gathering for worship that is *light, inspirational, comfortable* and *flexible*. We would like the capacity to seat 750 people, with, if possible, flexibility to accommodate future growth.

Other requirements would be:

- Baptistry, with good access to changing-room space, and visibility
- Flexible & comfortable seating
- Good all-round visibility and acoustics from all areas of sanctuary, including PA loop.
- AV, lighting and recording capability
- Flexible staging, including area in sanctuary for those taking place in service
- Discreet areas for people to be prayed for (side chapel, or corridor space)
- Full access for disabled (including catering for the visual-and-hearing-impaired)
- Easy access to storage/vestry – Black-out capacity
- Soundproof Crèche area that has visibility of service, and sound incorporated

3. Chapel/Reflection area

A 'spiritual-engine' of the whole community. A smaller size room that would ideally be, comfortable, warm and inviting, with low lighting and a place of creativity and reflection.

4. Entrance point

Single, main entrance point with a threshold that is easy to cross, light and inviting. This would be the key to making good first impressions, with the following requirements:

- A welcoming desk/reception area, sofas, seating area, and chairs with arms
- Neat and tidy display area, including screens for evolving information
- Contemporary, with artwork (but minimal)
- Accessible to wheelchairs & prams (with 'pram-parking' clearly sign-posted or available)
- Ability to cater for large numbers of people coming in and out, particularly for Sunday services, funerals and weddings.

5. Mingling area, foyer

Key to the informal, social life of the church, allowing the different groups to come together and to allow single point of access to the different parts of the building (may determine the shape of the building), with drinks and informational areas.

6. Resource Centre

Provision of a small recording/editing studio

7. Office Space

Caters for a staff of around 12, all relevant furnishings (internet, etc..), reserved meeting spaces, signposted and near to reception.

8. Meeting Space

A combination of rooms, including facilities catering for:

- For 3-4 rooms, pull-down screens and visual-projector capacity (built-in computers/video projection?)
- Flexible desk and chairs
- Adequate but "non-glare" lighting.
- A counselling room with comfortable seats, and a more "intimate" feel
- A sports hall/youth facility (including possibly in-built climbing wall?), with appropriate storage
- An area dedicated to children's work (see below)
- Space to serve meals (accessible from the kitchen) for 50-60 people (Seniors 'Platinum Fellowship', Alpha, etc...), maybe in a hall that is 2/3rd size of sanctuary.

9. Children / Pre-School

Dedicated children's work/Pre-School area, that contains flexible seating for children (30), messy space, outdoor play area, etc.. with storage, access to outdoor area (with water outside/tap) pram 'parking' and throughfare, especially for pre-school and mothers & toddlers groups, as well as adequate nappy-changing/baby facilities, and one if not two children's toilets (mini-size!).

10. Kitchen

Several access points, modern & up-to-date, able to cater for 60+ people.

11. Environmental & Accessibility Considerations

We would look to achieve outstanding BREEAM certification, satisfy all current DDA regulations, adequate transport planning, minibus parking, push bike facilities, and car-parking will be a significant dimension of a new building, minimising impact on neighbours.

13. Maintainability

Minimise maintenance where possible. Make all aspects of lighting and fitting accessible without external mechanical requirements (high bulbs, etc...)