

When Evesham Baptist Church was given a site on Offenham Rd it was on the edge of 40+ year old homes. 10 years later it is adjacent to over 1000 new homes and within a mile of 10,000 of Evesham's 28,000 residents (*Source: ONS 2019 Est*). We accepted the challenge of that gift to serve those communities and move our base. We have raised over £2m partly from that original gift and partly from the church community and now we are ready to give, as we have received, in time, effort and use of the Centre which we are building for community and church use.

Around 16% of our neighbours will have activity limiting disabilities (*Source: Nomis*) and, of these, about 1 in 40 will have profound disabilities. We seek to be as inclusive as possible, welcoming all to enjoy our centre. So we need more than a disabled WC (which many able people find useful at times), more than a shower, more than a baby change or care room. We aim to provide a...

Changing place... to change the lives and those residents and others amongst the 13000 visitors to Evesham each year. *Changing Places.org describe these facilities as follows:*

“Sometimes you just need to change one thing to open up a world of possibility... Over a 1/4 million people NEED Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted, and many others benefit.



This includes people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, as well as older people. A Changing Place offers more space and the right equipment, including a height adjustable changing bench and a hoist.”

Our plan is to supply, maintain and facilitate provision of a fully rated Changing Place as a service to the area and to Evesham. It will serve local people and visitors to the town, easily entered with disabled parking and EV

connections just 20 metres of level route away. Accessed through remotely controlled means and with emergency alarms, it can be used (by prior arrangement at least) 24/7 and we will work with the local authorities and user groups to ensure it is publicised, secure and safe.

As Evesham looks to build its reputation as a great place to visit and live, first rate provision for the increasing number of disabled people seeking to live full active lives will be a real plus. It will appear on national maps alongside less than 1600 other locations in the UK (as at February 2021) and only about a dozen in Worcestershire.

The scheme is scheduled to cost £15,000 to equip and the space for it within the building is estimated at £40,000. **This application is for**

that £40,000 contribution to the build cost from the New Homes Bonus fund. We will fund the equipment by other means as part of the overall scheme. However without the space provision it is unlikely that we would be able to make that standard of disabled facility available to all.



Baptist Christians in Evesham, having served our neighbours for over 300 years, are now developing a new Church & Community Centre on land bequeathed to us on Offenham Road. Previously on the edge of town it is now adjacent to over 1000 new homes and well over a third of Evesham's population already live within a mile of it.

Around 1 in 6 of our neighbours will have activity limiting disabilities and, of them, about 1 in 40 will have profound disabilities. Our aim is to be inclusive, welcoming all to enjoy our new centre... so we need more than a disabled WC, more than a shower, more than a baby change. We aim to provide a Changing Place for residents and visitors, more space and the right equipment, including a height adjustable changing bench and a hoist... because changing one thing opens up a world of possibility. We will equip, manage and service the facility (£15,000 plus running costs). We are asking Evesham to support this request for £40,000 to build the space into the new Centre.

The overall scheme is set to cost close to £3m almost all of which is being raised or has been given by people in and around Evesham over the last 12 years.



View of the Entrance



Bird's eye view