

Buildings rejected or unsuitable for Reading Family Church

These are just some of the (approx. 25) other buildings we have considered in recent years but rejected. We have been looking for over 6 years and 448a Basingstoke Road is the only building we have seen that meets our requirements for a family centre and church building in between Whitley and Kennet Island.

Other Options that were not suitable for Reading Family Church

Brethren Hall, 40 Redlands Road

Small existing church building with D1 use on 1 acre site, close to university students. Sold to developer pre auction for over £3million, well over expected price.

Central Club, London Street

Community building in poor state of repair, rejected due to iconic mural on out wall that had to be maintained, very sensitive issues with black community, no parking, and very few options to extend the building. In addition to the cost of repairs and complex refurbishment, it made this site unsuitable for us,

Former DHL Building, 160 Old Basingstoke Road

Old warehouse with some car parking, in a great location in Whitley. However, there is limited space for community activities and insufficient land to extend.

Former International Copiers, 4 Acre Road.

On three levels with low ceilings, difficult building to convert into a Family Centre. Dangerous access to car park due to heavy lorries, using shared drive. Not as close to the community as we would like.

Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Old School / University building with D1 use, on significant plot of land but very small accommodation unsuitable for church meetings. Complicated covenant with the University making it difficult to redevelop the site. Not in the right location, too far away from the Whitley community, that we want to support.

Clean Building, Darwin Close.

Former laundry factory units. Rejected due to small accommodation, on small plot, limited options to extend with very limited parking

Zoar Baptist Church, South Street.

Small building with D1 with no parking. Insufficient land to expand to make this work for us

Hartman House, Danehill, Earley

Great office space but not suitable for church meetings, low ceilings, and limited parking spaces. Not in Whitley/Kennet Island community we want to serve and where many of the church live.

Unit 1 + 5 + 6b Preston Rd,

Several warehouses for sale here not too far from Whitley but all have insufficient parking to even run mother and toddler groups, plus dangerous access for families on this industrial estate.

Ian Anderson

Facilities Manager, Reading Family Church