

## Web site development

Last year I agreed to look at alternative ways of maintaining a web site. This was prompted by the acquisition of the domain name *oxfordplacecentre.org.uk* in addition to *oxfordplace.org.uk*, dispensing with the latter in favour of the former, and basing the organisation of the web site on the building rather than having effectively two web sites: one for the Mission and one for the Oxford Place Church under the 'old' domain name.

Alongside this I had hoped to find a way of directly involving more people so that keeping the web site up to date did not fall to a single person. Having experimented with one commercial system which fulfils some of the my criteria I have concluded that the limitations that have to be accepted in order to allow less expert people to contribute would force us to fit our information into a specific template. It could be done, but I am not enthusiastic about this approach.

In view of this thinking, I propose the following:

1. I continue (for the present) to be responsible for our web site.
2. That a new web site linked to *oxfordplacecentre.org.uk* be developed and this be the only web site covering all that happens in the building and our work beyond.
3. However, rather than dispense with the 'old' domain (*oxfordplace.org.uk*) retain this but only use it for email. This would allow the Conference and Property Manager to continue to be the exclusive recipient of all emails sent to this address. The 'new' domain (*oxfordplacecentre.org.uk*) could be used both for extra email addresses as well as the web site.
4. The costs of having email and web sites are not great, but at the moment we have two of each and there would be some saving if one of them was restricted to emails only.
5. I have yet to discuss with our ISP (Internet Service Provider) how the transition to the new situation can be achieved. However, this does not prevent me working on the new web site.

The only practical alternative, given our limited resources, is to hand the whole business over to a commercial web site builder. The costs involved would generally be higher and the process of updating would have to be negotiated. In the end, this will probably be a necessary step, but I think that engaging a commercial organisation, given our present situation and as we discuss the possibilities for the future, would be wise.

*Ken Tait, June 2016*