



*Experiencing and expressing the presence
and love of God at the heart of the community.*

Costing the Vision

*God can do anything, you know - far more than you
could ever imagine or guess or request in your
wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around
but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently
within us.*

Ephesians 3 v20

November 2007

Church Development Project

Financing the Future

It is exciting that the project is moving on to the next stage of preparing detailed plans for the new hall building. Although it is another part in the process that is behind the scenes, as it were, and not much 'visible' progress is noticeable, it is vital to get this part right. The detailed plans and other compiled information is what contractors will use to tender against to give the construction costs of the project. Careful design and forethought here will avoid problems later in the project with associated hidden costs. It is also a time where we can research suitable construction firms to tender for the build; reliable, competitively priced and reputable companies only will be approached!

Although included in the overall estimated project costs, Chris Betts and Tracey Skovronek from Purcell Miller and Tritton Architects will be working to draw up these detailed plans and so the next part of the design team costs will fall due; up to £50,000. Details of the current fees paid so far and this next part of the project can be seen in the figures and charts. Although there is some £15,000 in the project fund, in the first half of 2008 a further £35,000 will have to be raised. Hence the planned gift day this autumn.

However, it would be very short sighted to fix in our minds only the next part of the project costs. The construction costs are by far the biggest proportion of the total project! Having received Planning Permission from the local authority, a concerted effort to approach charitable trusts will be made for funds to support the project. To encourage such trusts to support us, who often give on a matched funding basis, it would be wonderful to have a significant proportion of the project costs either given or pledged already. It is not only showing our commitment to the new building but demonstrating our ability to undertake such a project.



As a church family we need only look back to the church extension to appreciate the faithfulness of God and His abundant provision for his people at St John's. "God did it then and He can do it now!" we may well echo but now is the time to begin our new personal faith journey! We need to step out in trust and obedience as He calls each one of us to commit ourselves and our time, talents and money to his kingdom work. We can't leave it

to others and we can't leave it until later. God will challenge each one of us and it is up to us to respond positively to see His kingdom come.

So, the immediate need may be £35,000 and the gift day may be this autumn, but the challenge and the calling are for a far greater amount and for a longer reaching goal than just the here and now. In a practical sense the response of the gift day may help to release funds from other sources, yet in a spiritual sense much faith, praise and thankfulness are also set to be released that will spur us on to further good deeds! Let us earnestly consider in prayer then, what God is calling each one of us to give and to give it cheerfully! After all, God is able to give us immeasurably more than all we ask for or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us! (Ephesians 3 v20). Oh God, let your power work within us all!

Ways to Give

Each of us is at a different life stage and in a different situation and so a range of responses to giving are legitimate for our Gift Day on 25th November. Please prayerfully consider your response and whether a gift or pledge, do please indicate by returning a gift day form. A combination of responses may also be given, if that is what you feel is right for you, as indeed are other ways of giving you may be aware of. Do please speak in confidence to George Pilgrim, Church Treasurer, or Martyn Pryke, Church Gift Aid Secretary, about any concerns or queries you may have. Please remember this needs to be sacrificial giving. The life and work of the ministry of St John's church will continue during the life of the building project. Funds cannot be diverted from general giving otherwise we may very well be robbing Peter to pay Paul! For some this may be the first time you have considered giving in a significant regular or planned way. It is, though, what we are called to do, (Malachi 3 v6-12) and can be the source of so much blessing. We may be materially wealthy, or feel we are not so well off. However we are all called to offer what we have in the service of God.

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this”.

Malachi 3 v10

Direct Giving and Gift Aid

As a one off gift or as regular donations, direct giving releases funds immediately to the project and will enable the next phase of the project to be financed. If you pay tax you can increase your gift by up to 28p for every pound donated through Gift Aid. This is at no extra cost to you, courtesy of the Inland Revenue! You must complete a Gift Aid Form to allow the church to claim the tax element back, but provided you indicate your gifts are to be treated in this way, the church can make claims for any future gifts you make also. So for tax payers, this really is the best way to give to the church for any reason. Martyn Pryke, Church Gift Aid Secretary will be able to provide more details.

If you would like to make regular donations, direct debit mandates can be set up to make payments automatically, whether gift aided or not. You may not have large amounts to give, but smaller amounts given over a period of time will perhaps be a significant portion of giving to the project. For example if say 200 people in the church decided to give just £5 a week, then over £50,000 a year will be raised! (Gift Aid would obviously make this significantly more, although not all will be tax payers). Giving in this way during and subsequently after the building work has been completed will provide sustained income for the project. Importantly, it will provide a guarantee and the means to payback loans raised for the project. These loans may be from sources such as the Diocese with favourable interest rates or perhaps interest free from individuals supporting the project. Raising loans with regular giving support will perhaps avoid lengthy delays waiting for funds to accumulate during the construction phase of the project. Smaller regular donations are therefore important and should be considered prayerfully.

Interest Free Loans

These simply are 'interest free loans!' If you have capital that you can release for specified periods of time, then this form of giving can greatly help the church project. Many people will give smaller amounts regularly over the time period of the project and

beyond; so interest free loans given now can therefore be repaid at a later date. For some this repayment date could be a long way off; for others a planned or unexpected change in circumstances may require earlier repayment. Inevitably, details would have to be agreed on an individual basis and of course in strictest confidence. This may be a new option never considered before, but it did provide the release of significant funds for the church extension project.

Pledges and Legacies

The gift day is planned for the 25th November and it would be great if the overwhelming majority of church members could indicate their giving support for the project. However, for some of us this may not be a good time to release funds. Nevertheless, you would still be able to pledge support for the project and indicate your prayerful

response about future commitments you may be able to make. Those commitments can of course be made in any of the ways suggested in this leaflet and at any time. It would be useful, though, if you could indicate your likely support for the project that would be given by the end of 2008. For example you may decide to begin a regular donation at some time in the New Year, perhaps when other financial commitments end, and so will only make some monthly payments later next year. Others may have other 'bonus' incomes scheduled for next year and may wish to divert some or even all to the project. Still others, bearing in mind the call to sacrificial giving, may postpone or economise their holiday plans to enable giving to the project. Please prayerfully consider any pledges made and diligently see them fulfilled where possible.

In a similar vein, people may well be considering legacies. Just as planning bequests to family and friends may be a comfort in knowing the difference such gifts can make to those you love and care for, so too could a bequest made to the church family. In the past gifts have been made in this way for specific items, such as the piano. Bequests for the development project, (or perhaps specific elements of it) would be gratefully received.

Expressing our Worship

The development project is a challenge, let's face it £1.2 million is a lot of money! But it is also an opportunity to express our worship and desire to see his kingdom grow in the community of St John's and beyond. Through the giving of our money as well as our time and talents, the mission of the church can be extended by funding the facilities of a new hall building. And the faith journey in getting there will be an important blessing for the people of God too. However, people should not give out of compulsion or guilt or without carefully considering the matter with God and each other. Each of us should give what we decide in our hearts to give ... Cheerfully!

As with all the gifts of God, we will each have been blessed with different portions at different times. So, some among us will have been blessed with the gift of giving - God has poured out money to us (or perhaps will pour out money in the months to come) to use in His service. Or, this might be the time for some of us to sell stuff or cash in shares or whatever else God prompts us to do. Others may be really creative or energetic and organise perhaps some amazing ways to raise money and we can all join in the fun getting involved with it. Equally, some others will only be able to come ridiculously cheerfully like the widow with a few pennies and throw them gleefully into the offering plate.

However we contribute, we must all play our part and pray and ask God to do the impossible. Dare we ask God to do this through us? Do we really believe that he can and that he will if we ask? The time leading up to the gift day on 25th November is the time when we need to start asking those questions and seeking the answers.

With man this is impossible, but not with God, all things are possible.

Mark 10 v27