

Hall Project Update

Please continue to pray for the project over the summer months as the development team work to prepare for the next phase following the decision to progress the project.

During the week beginning 1st July the discernment group met and prayed and felt clearly led to say 'Yes!' The project does help to meet and extend the vision of the church, namely to 'experience and express the presence and love of God at the heart of the community.' We were encouraged by Matthew 14 and the feeding of the 5000. We only have to offer what we have got and stay faithful to the vision. We remembered it is a faithraising project and we were reminded of the church extension that the Lord provided like Manna in the desert; when it was needed. The group carefully considered aspects of the building design and agreed the features clearly allowed opportunities to increase church family use of the facility as well as provide facilities to reach out to the community with new ministries. There are also opportunities to witness to the many community groups who may use the new building.

In looking at the current proposed plans, the group agreed minor changes could be made to allow a coffee bar space to be incorporated in the lobby area. This would make an ideal meeting place to hold onto people and socialise; a great opportunity for church family members to meet with the community. The group were conscious there may be other ideas for the hall. We all need to take ownership of the plans and need to take time this summer to study and understand them. Anyone else with some new ideas for the building please let the development team know!

At this time Bob explained to the church family about a card left by a Christian long distance lorry driver during the previous week, sharing thoughts and scriptures to encourage us, totally unaware of the discernment process we were undertaking! This has done much to hearten us in making this decision and copies are available at the back of the church.

The group felt the church was being challenged to consider a response to the decision to progress the project. The priests had to step into the waters of the Jordan before the river stopped flowing to allow the Israelites to cross, (Joshua 1). The loaves and fishes were offered to Jesus for his use, (Matt 14). As a leadership and as a church, we must all consider what we have and then offer it to God. He can then take and multiply our offerings, meet the needs of the project, encourage our faith and bring Glory to his Name. This offering is much more than money! All sorts of activities, functions and skills will be needed to ensure the next phases of the project progress; more than the current group alone can meet. So, this summer we all need to reflect and consider what we have to offer the project. Early in September the project team hope to give you lots more information about how you can get involved, culminating in a 'Pledge Day. All in St John's Church family will have the opportunity to pledge gifts of time, talents and money! for the project and so begin the faith journey that will be the building of the new hall **and** the beginning of many new ministries and activities in the life of the fellowship.

As a faith journey much prayer will be needed. Please take time this summer to personally reflect on what God is calling you to offer. But also join us to pray corporately for the project in church on **Tuesday 31 July, 8pm and Tuesday 21 August, 7pm**. Below are some prayer pointers to guide you this summer. Further project prayer meetings will be arranged for the autumn.

May God Bless us all as we engage with this exciting vision.

John Saxon

Please pray for

- Good information literature to be prepared for the Autumn
- For the right name to be given to the new building
- For people to head up key areas, eg prayer, finance, communication etc
- For final details to be completed and smooth planning application and approval
- For clear working structures to be implemented between the PCC, Forum and project committees
- For faith to be exercised and raised and Glory to be given to God through the project