

ST. THOMAS CHURCH LANCASTER

HEART OF THE CITY PROJECT

DECEMBER 2018 UPDATE

Our amazing progress so far with the Heart of the City project...

Pledging: around 200 households are now pledging money towards the project. Following our second pledge Sunday in early November, over £400,000 was additionally pledged, over and above monies already committed by the congregation. This brings the total pledged to £1.78 million, including Gift Aid. That's **around half of the total expected cost** for all three phases of the project.

Fundraising in the community: more and more members of the congregation have committed to fundraising. Some of the recent efforts include:

- Jane and Megan raised funds by selling baby and toddler equipment at an NCT sale. They raised over £70.
- Jarrod raised over £150 from a sponsored silence.
- Rosemary ran a coffee morning and sold leftover cakes after the 9 a.m. Sunday service, raising over £200.
- The amazing Auction of Promises evening, organised by Jess and the team, raised around £6,000 – a fantastic fundraising initiative, as well as being a lot of fun.
- Other members of the congregation have pledged to raise a further £2,900 through fundraising in the community over the coming months.
- Our invitation to former students to donate to the project led to one person donating £2,000. They said “St. Thomas's holds a very special place in our hearts, it is where we first became involved in a church as adults. It is a wonderful church that believes in the gifts of the spirit and I hope will continue to be a wonderful blessing to many others.”
- **In addition to the above**, we have already raised over £6,300 through other fundraising efforts.

Our fundraising is continuing to grow - future dates for your diary:

14th December 2018 at 7.30 p.m. St. T's community cinema – It's a Wonderful Life

15th December 2018 at 1.30 p.m. St. T's community cinema – Arthur Christmas

2nd March 2019 - Taskmaster challenge evening

16th March 2019 at 7.30 p.m. - Jonathan Viera concert.

18th May 2019 – St. Thomas Lancaster to St. Thomas Garstang sponsored walk along the Lancaster canal.

More information on these exciting events in the coming months!

BUT...

Despite our tremendous progress to date, we still have a substantial amount of funds to raise if we want to continue with our current vision for the Heart of the City project. With that in mind we have two ways in which we would like you to be involved.

Prayer Day: Sunday 2nd December is a church-wide prayer day for our Heart of the City project. We suggest the following prayer points to shape your prayer throughout the day:

- Take some time to give thanks for the wonderful response of the church so far, and the progress that has already been made, including unanimous approval of our planning application in July.
- Please pray for God's guidance for us as a church, and for unity of spirit.
- Pray that God will meet with us during this period of pausing and reflection – that our faith and reliance on God would grow.
- Please pray for God to bring surprising breakthroughs to provide for all that he has called us to, and that he would make a way where there is no way.
- Pray for guidance for those tasked with decision-making (the Project Executive Committee and PCC), asking that God make it abundantly clear what is the right way forward.
- Pray for what part you might be able to play in the project.
- Is there anything that you think God is saying to you about this project: a verse, an image, or a sense of a way forward? If so, could you write it down, and hand it in to the church office, or e-mail it to hotc@st.tees.org.uk? Thank you!

Open forum Tuesday 11th December at 7.30 p.m. Following on from our prayer day, you are invited to attend an open forum in church. This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions about the project, but it will also allow the Project Executive Committee and PCC to make an informed decision on the best way forward, from here-on, taking into account the views of the congregation. We will be asking your views on a few key questions relating to the project's next steps, as well as spending time in prayer together.