

ST. THOMAS CHURCH LANCASTER

HEART OF THE CITY PROJECT

APRIL 2019 UPDATE

We continue to make amazing progress with the Heart of the City project...

Plans: after our time of pausing and praying, we have asked Dan Brown, our architect, to redesign the plans for our new centre, setting a budget of £2 million (rather than the £3 million centre that was approved at planning). We felt this was a more achievable financial goal given the generous pledges from our two pledge days, the fundraising being undertaken and the likelihood of successful grant and trust fund applications. Dan has made good progress with the revised designs and the PCC have been very pleased with the first impressions. The new plans include 5 mid/large meeting rooms and four smaller meeting rooms across two floors, with greater flexibility and adaptability throughout. The revised plans will be shared at the APCM (7.45pm, Monday 29th April) before being submitted to planning. We are still aiming to begin construction work in late-autumn of this year.

Pledges and giving: over 200 households have now pledged money towards the project. Following our second pledge Sunday in November 2018, the total amount pledged stands at £1.85 million, including Gift Aid. At the end of February, over £1.2 million (including Gift Aid reclaims) of this had already been paid across. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Expenditure: we have already seen work completed on some of the early phases of the Heart of the City project. These have included:

- Repairs to the spire
- Repairs to the West end of church
- Work on the pre-school centre

To the end of February, expenditure on the above, and on preparatory expenses for the new centre, totalled just under £270,000.

Fundraising in the community: what a busy year 2019 has already been for fundraising activities! Some of these include:

- The Master of Tasks evening raised approximately £1,300.
- The Curry Night raised £881.
- The Jonathan Veira concert raised £300 each for Heart of the City and 1Step2Step.
- Ivy raised £250 from ten, two-mile sponsored walks (and became our fundraiser of the month for March).
- Hannah raised £63 from selling home-made jam.



In total, we have already raised over £15,000 through our fundraising efforts. Please do let us know if you have had a fundraising event of your own for this project, or if you are planning one and would like us to help you advertise it.

Forthcoming fundraising:



Lent – Toby is going vegetarian for Lent to raise money for Heart of the City.

27th April – a group of mums are taking their little ones on a 3 mile “Onesie Walk” in the Lake District.

18th May – St. Thomas Lancaster to St. Thomas Garstang 13-mile sponsored walk along the Lancaster canal – sign up is now open for this event via the church website. A shorter, 5-mile walk, to Ellel is also possible.

26th June – Helen and some of the staff team are going to walk the Yorkshire three peaks.

Prayer: please continue to pray for the project, in particular...

- Give thanks for the wonderful response of the church so far, and the progress that has already been made.
- Pray for guidance for those tasked with decision-making (the Project Team and PCC).
- Pray for God to supply all of the resources needed to enable this project to reach completion.
- Pray for what part you might be able to play in the project.