

ST. THOMAS CHURCH LANCASTER

HEART OF THE CITY PROJECT

JUNE 2019 UPDATE

Our Heart of the City project continues to progress...



Plans: Dan Brown, our architect, redesigned the plans for our new centre, and the PCC has now approved these. The total expected cost is £2.3 million, which is a more achievable financial goal given the amount pledged by the congregation, our ongoing fundraising activities and our grant applications, which are now underway. The

new plans include 5 mid/large meeting rooms and 3 smaller meeting rooms across two floors, with greater flexibility and adaptability throughout. These plans have been submitted to Lancaster City Council and we are hoping that they will be approved by the end of September. Please pray for a successful outcome.

You can see more visuals and plans of the proposed centre on the St. Thomas web site.

Pledges and giving: over 200 households have now pledged money towards the project. As at end May, the total amount pledged stood at £1.86 million, including Gift Aid. Over £1 million of this has already been donated. Thank you for your continued, amazing generosity!

Expenditure: To the end of May, expenditure on the spire, annexe and the West end of church, and on preparatory expenses for the new centre, totalled just under £300,000.

Grant applications: The Queen is supporting our project! The Duchy of Lancaster has agreed to make a grant of £5,000 towards our Heart of the City Project. We are applying for a number of other grants in June and July and have also received a second pledged grant of £1,000.

Fundraising in the community:

there have been some excellent fundraising events with April and May being particularly busy. Some of the highlights includes:

- Toby, who went meat-free for Lent, raising over £200.
- The Onesie walkers who raised over £900.
- STY:LE! Rock Solid who raised £175 at their video games night.
- The Canamble walk along the Lancaster Canal, where more than 100 walkers raised over £4,200.



In total, we have already raised over £18,000 through our fundraising efforts.

Forthcoming fundraising:

26th June – Some of the staff team, including Helen, Craig, Emma, Katharine, and Nic, are going to walk the Yorkshire three peaks (24 miles, 3 peaks, 12 hours!)

13th July – Mary-Jayne is hosting an afternoon tea for friends and family.

July/August – Jess is organising a Summer Box Challenge for families to enjoy during the school summer holidays. Lots of fun ideas including tent-making, random acts of kindness, sweet challenges and more. Listen out for more details from Jess over coming weeks.

Shortfall: These amazing initiatives mean that we have now raised 70% of the project costs through grants, pledges and fundraising. This is a phenomenal effort – please give thanks in your prayers for all that we have achieved to date. We still have another £700,000 to raise for the project, so please do continue to pray over coming months, especially as grant applications and further fundraising initiatives in the community get underway.

Timetable: We hope to go out to tender for the project work in the autumn. The aim is to appoint the main contractor before the end of the year, with work starting early in 2020.

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 our grant applications to be successful.
- Pray for God to supply all of the resources needed to enable this project to reach completion.