

ST. THOMAS CHURCH LANCASTER

HEART OF THE CITY PROJECT

SEPTEMBER 2019 UPDATE

Revised Plans: At the APCM earlier in the year we shared how the plans for the new church centre have been revised in order to reduce the cost to a more manageable budget. These changes to the designs required new planning approval so an application was submitted to the council in May this year. If you haven't seen the new designs yet, do have a look at them on the church website: www.st.tees.org.uk.



GOOD NEWS!!

We are pleased to report that Lancaster City Council's Planning committee gave us unanimous approval for the new designs on Monday 16th September! Thank you for your prayers about this important step in our project.

Detailed Design: This means that we have now been able to begin the next phase of design which includes detailed structural design as well as a much greater level of detail of all the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. Our aim is that this will be complete by the end of the year so that we can go out to tender early in 2020 with a view to a contractor starting work in the Spring (probably just after Easter). This inevitably means that we will need to vacate the current centre, but we will be sharing more information about that once we have a better idea of exactly when the work is likely to begin.

Pledges and giving: over 200 households have now pledged money towards the project. As at end August, 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 August, expenditure on the spire, annexe and the West end of church, and on preparatory expenses for the new centre, totalled just under £320,000.

Grant applications: Summer was a busy time for grant applications, but now our requests to all six major funders have been submitted and we are awaiting responses during the Autumn. Please pray that we might be successful in sourcing extra funding in this way.

Fundraising in the community:

- A big thank you to the Holiday at Home team who raised over £330 for the Heart of the City Project with a sponsored hymn-sing-a-thon.
- David and Mary-Jayne Carter raised over £2,200 from their afternoon tea, thank you to them and to the team of amazing helpers.
- Hannah raised another £55 from jam-making.
- The staff team raised over £1,200 from their Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge.
- Finally, Ivy completed her “Big Adventure” – ten two-mile sponsored walks and raised £345. You can watch her being interviewed by her mum on our Facebook page. Well done, Ivy!



In total, we have now raised over £25,000 through our fundraising efforts – thank you so much to all who have fundraised so far!

Shortfall: These amazing initiatives mean that we have now approximately raised 70% of the project costs through grants, pledges and fundraising. Thank you for your generosity and prayers. We still have around £700,000 to raise for the new building, so please do continue to pray over coming months, as grant applications and further fundraising initiatives in the community get underway, and please consider prayerfully whether or not you might be able to extend your pledges for a little longer in order to make up the shortfall over time, or make a pledge if you have not yet made one. Details on how to do this can be found on the church website, www.st.tees.org.uk on the Building Project page.

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.
- Give thanks that our plans have been approved by the Council.
- 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.