

ST. THOMAS CHURCH LANCASTER

HEART OF THE CITY PROJECT

JANUARY 2020 UPDATE

Progress, progress, progress: we have made fantastic progress since our last update in September 2019. Following on from the council's approval of our new designs, we have been busy preparing the tender documents inviting firms to submit their proposals for the works being planned. See the timeline on the next page, for when we will hope to go live with this.

Grant applications: we have also made considerable progress with our grant applications; thank you for your prayers. At the time of writing, £112,700 of grant money had been approved, some of which has already been paid across, with the remainder being funded as we reach certain milestones during the building works. We thank God for all our donors, including All Churches Trust, Lancashire Environmental Fund, Garfield Weston Foundation and The Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust.

Fundraising in the community:

It's been a fun few months with all the fundraising events, which have included:

- The bonfire party at the Sayers' farm, which raised £606
- Linda's slimming challenge, which raised £945
- A pop-up Christmas craft café which raised £631
- Iona who raised £50 selling decorated pots
- Lancaster City Brass who performed a Christmas Concert (photo) raising over £700
- Jeannette and Paul who raised £1,400 climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



In total, we have now received over £28,000 through your fundraising efforts – thank you so much to all who have fundraised so far! Don't forget our next fundraising event, the Burns Night Ceilidh on 25th January. You can buy tickets via the website, or from Jeanette Main.

Pledges and giving: over 200 households have now pledged money towards the project. As at end December 2019, the total amount pledged stood at £1.86 million, including Gift Aid. Over £1.5 million of this has already been donated, and the total giving is around £30,000 ahead of where we expected to be. Thank you for your continued, amazing generosity!

Expenditure: To the end of December, expenditure on the spire, annexe and the West end of church, and on preparatory expenses for the new centre, totalled just over £340,000.

Prayer: as part of the 24/7 prayer week, we have put together the following prayer guide for our Heart of the City project:

- Give thanks for the pledges and fundraising by our wonderful congregation, and for the generous grants which we have received.
- Pray for God to now supply us with all of the remaining resources needed to enable this project to reach completion. On Thursday 23rd a major potential grant funder will be making their decision so please pray for a favourable outcome.
- Pray for the tender which is soon to go live. Pray that we will get competitive tenders from firms who are aligned with our vision and values. Pray that the costs being quoted are in line with our forecasts.
- Pray for the transition to go smoothly, that alternative arrangements can be found for all those currently using the centre; and pray that we get many volunteers to help with emptying the centre.

Heart of the City Vision Night: please join us for a discussion and prayer evening on 22nd January at 7.30 p.m. in church. All welcome. We will be sharing more information about the next few months and how it might impact you.

Timeline for the next few months: please bear in mind that this is an estimate only.

19-26 Jan	24x7 Week of Prayer – pray for the Heart of the City project/Family Life Centre
22 Jan	7.30 p.m. Vision Night, Update and Information Evening in church
31 Jan	Procurement - we go out to tender for the building works
15 March	Pledge 3 Sunday – launch
29 March	Day of Celebration and Prayer (return of Pledge 3 forms)
30 March	PCC meeting to consider the tenders received
31 March	Appoint Contractor
21-30 April	Begin to move out of Centre after Holiday Club
3 May	Celebration of life and work of the existing Church Centre
11 May	Hand site over to contractor

Sharing God's Love from the Heart of the City