

# How Can I Help?

£90,000 Appeal

*giftaid it*



**DIRECT GIVING** If we wish to avoid depleting our church reserves and if we don't want to incur significant debt for the future then direct giving is vitally needed at this stage of the project. New resources now would enable us to not only complete this project but also free us to plan for future mission. Please give what you can.



**THE WEDDING LIST** is an imaginative way of helping people connect with and give to the Parish Centre project through the 'purchase' of fixtures and fittings. It's a wonderful way for everyone (even children) to feel they can support this project in a very practical and tangible way creating a strong sense of ownership. The up-to-date wedding list can be found at the back of church or on our website. To date the wedding list has generated £9,000 towards our £90,000 total.



**PLEDGE SUPPORT** is a very helpful way to enable us to manage our cash flow. Not everyone can give a large lump sum but new pledges offered now could be offset against our interest free loans, as can an extension of existing pledges. Please consider regular monthly giving to this work, everything you give is desperately needed and much appreciated.



**OTHER WAYS** members of St Thomas' have been incredibly imaginative when it comes to raising funds for this project. From entertainment evenings to endurance events - we've done it all! If you're not in a position to give financially at this time but you can think of an event you'd like to organise that may raise funds then please speak to one of the Church Wardens.



# It's time for .....



# THANKS .....



# ..... GIVING

PARISH CENTRE DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECT APPEAL 2011

## A Letter from the Rector

Dear Friend,

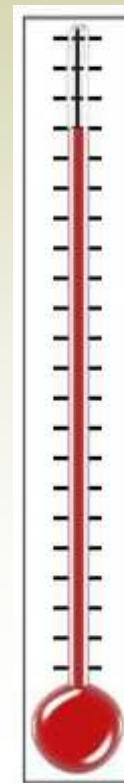
What an adventure! We have come a long way in the last three years as a church—we've seen God's hand of blessing on so many aspects of our shared life. I hope you feel what I feel as I walk around St Thomas', a great air of excitement, a growing confidence in the future a real desire to make a big difference for God in our neighbourhood. I'm sure much of this excitement comes from watching the construction of our parish centre over the last few months. We've transformed an overgrown and forgotten wasteland into a truly wonderful resource— The most common reaction I get when people first see what we've done is "Wow!", just the other week the local planner commented "it's an amazing building". Thank you for all your contributions so far whether it be in terms of time, money or prayer or all three! Someone said to me recently "Christians shouldn't be proud but you can have a Godly satisfaction in what you've done" - I trust we have lots of Godly satisfaction!!!

For as wonderful as it is and for all that we can be thankful for there is still much work to be done— I hope you have all had opportunity to meet Sally-Anne Beecham who we have appointed for six-months to lead us in taking hold of this wonderful facility and making it (and us) work to the glory of God and the service of his people. We stand on the brink of exciting times, the ministry of St Thomas' is about to enter a new and challenging realm that will give life and hope to many people for many years to come. This new chapter will demand the very best of all of us—but I'm confident in you, the good people of our church family, who have not failed to rise to the many challenges that God has laid before us.

So, the first challenge that is laid before us is a financial one. As I've said, we have built a truly iconic building that will stand as a testimony to our love of God for many years, but it's not been without problems along the way. Problems in building terms normally mean 'more money!' I've outlined in this update a short financial summary of our project to-date. I have highlighted the main unforeseen costs that none of us could have anticipated at the inception of the scheme. We have added other works along the way because although it meant extra expenditure it made good financial sense to do them whilst builders were on-site—also, to not have done them would have significantly detracted from the overall project. You will see that **we need to find an additional £90,000 [new money]**. Ideally we need this in cash gifts (*with Gift Aid if possible*) very soon, preferably before the end of the summer. As it stands we need to transfer £20,000 from church reserves and draw down £70,000 in loans to cover the shortfall. It would be a very difficult and distracting thing to have few reserves and be forced to focus on loan repayment plans at just the time we want to throw all our resources into mission and ministry. On behalf of the finance team can I humbly ask you to prayerfully consider your response to this need. If you know and value the love of God and His church in your life, if you believe in what we are trying to achieve can you please help us now. I know that many people have already given sacrificially to this project but I am emboldened to ask again trusting in the spirit of generosity that exists in our church. **Can I especially reach out to those who have not yet supported this project**—maybe you've recently joined us or maybe you've just been waiting to see how things will turn out—we desperately need your help—now is the time to be a part of this magnificent work.

Thank you for all you do to make our church what it is and your commitment to making it all that it could be.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev'd Matthew Barnes  
Rector



| Project Costs                            |   |
|--|---|
| Builders fees (original contract cost)   | £896,000  |
| Net Additional Works to contract sum     | £89,000 <i>from last commercial tracking</i><br>(£77k+£12k) |
| Extra works/costs relating to project    | £21,000 <i>all other bits on cash flow</i>                  |
| Fixtures & Fittings & Audio Visual costs | £47,000   |
| Other fees/disbursements                 | £19,000   |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>£1,072,000</b>   |

| Project Income                               |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Cash in Development Fund<br>(at end of June) | £929,000        |
| Pledges not yet realised                     | £44,000         |
| Grants                                       | £9,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>£982,000</b> |
| <b>Shortfall</b>                             | <b>£90,000</b>  |

| Some areas of overspend   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Additional Preliminary Costs to us ( <i>bad weather, etc</i> )                    | £8,000        |
| Earthworks, other external etc. ( <i>inc. L.A. planning changes to car park</i> ) | £42,000       |
| Grouting ( <i>ground stabilisation</i> )  | £6,000        |
| Eon ( <i>connection to electric supply</i> )                                      | £21,000       |
| Knotweed barrier  | £14,000       |
| Additional roofing costs  | £5,000        |
| Additional stone paving around the building                                       | £3,000        |
| Other legal costs   | £1,000        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>90,000</b> |

*Figures prepared by Angela Wright, Project Treasurer.  
Any detail queries please speak to Angela*

£90,000 left to raise seems a very large sum of money, yet let's not overlook the amazing generosity already shown to this project—if you have given to this appeal in the past then **THANK YOU!** Your gift has turned a dream into a reality (*almost!*). Through your



generosity we will soon be able to ... open a community coffee shop, have vital space for our young people, our more senior people, in-fact .. all people! We can discover new forms of church to help people connect with faith, have better office and administration space, show the world that we care for God's creation through our 'eco' building. In fact, the possibilities for us are endless thanks to your faithful stewardship .....

If you are not able to give on this occasion but you've given in the past then let me take this opportunity to say once more—THANK YOU.