

Little St. Mary's, Cambridge

June, 2009.

Dear Friend

At High Mass on Whitsunday, we gave thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit, and we asked for God's blessing and guidance in our planning and fund-raising for the new Parish Centre. If you were at the service, you will have received the brochure which we have produced to promote the project, and which endeavours to set out our vision for the Parish Centre, and what we hope to achieve. We are enclosing a copy of that brochure with this letter: if you have already received one, please pass the spare to someone you think may be interested, or return it to the Church.

The official launch of fund-raising for the project will be on 20th September when the Bishop of Huntingdon will be with us. We need to make a start now, however, at least in preparing the ground, so that we are up and running by the launch date. The current estimate of the cost is £300,000. That is a daunting figure, but we believe it is achievable. It will, however, entail a lot of hard work, and for that we would welcome your help and support.

Can you help? What we need is the following:

1. **Your prayers:** Please continue to pray for the project, and for the encouragement, guidance, and sustenance of the Holy Spirit in our undertaking.
2. **Your time:** We shall need a lot of voluntary effort, most of it doing fairly mundane tasks such as photocopying and stuffing envelopes, making telephone calls, writing routine letters, and other administrative tasks. Also, after the launch, we shall need to run a series of fund-raising events, not just to raise money, but to keep the project in the forefront of everybody's mind.
3. **Your ideas and contacts:** We welcome any ideas you may have to help us raise funds. Also, when approaching potential benefactors (whether individuals or charitable trusts) personal contact is invaluable. If you think that you know anyone who may be useful in this, please let us know.
4. **Your financial contribution:** While we are not only looking to the congregation for funding, it is right that we should start with our own people, and we have been told that we stand a far better chance of success with outside sources of funding, such as charitable trusts, if we are able to show that we have already raised a significant amount when we apply to them. So, if you are able to contribute, please offer to do so now. If you can only give a small amount we shall be grateful for it, as every bit helps bring us closer to our target. Single lump sum gifts, or regular payments pledged over a period of five years (or a lesser period, if desired), will be most welcome.

If you are prepared to help in any way, please speak to one of the Churchwardens (Paul Huskinson or Christine Tipple).

Over the past months, a lot of preliminary work has been done to have the designs approved, and we have had discussions with English Heritage, members of the DAC, Peterhouse, the Kempe Society, and City Council officers. Those discussions have been encouraging and the plans have been slightly modified to take account of the views of those we have consulted. We have now applied for planning permission and provided that is granted, we shall apply for a Faculty. That will complete the formal requirements. We then need to raise sufficient funds to enable us to go ahead. We would like to start building work next summer.

Julia Wheatcroft is establishing a Fund in the accounts which will be known as the "Little St Mary's Development Fund". While the primary purpose of the Fund will be to pay for the proposed Parish Centre, in the unexpected event of the project failing for any reason, the Fund will be retained and used for the maintenance, development or equipment of the church buildings.

We do look forward to your support over the coming months. This is an exciting project, and while we anticipate a lot of hard work, we hope that it will be a joyful undertaking, and that we shall all share the satisfaction of reaching our goal. We look forward to the official opening of the new Little St Mary's Parish Centre!

Yours sincerely

Fr Andrew
Fr Mark
Christine Tipple
Paul Huskinson
Bob de Wolf
Clive Brown

On behalf of the PCC and the Parish Centre Working Group