

ST. THOMAS CHURCH LANCASTER

HEART OF THE CITY PROJECT

BUILDING FOR MISSION – MARCH 2018 UPDATE

Finance update: thank you to those of you who are continuing to support the Heart of the City project. By 31st January, the amount given had grown to £559,992. We also received Gift Aid payments on top of this, which brought the total raised to £645,034. Our fund-raising efforts are now beginning to flow in, on top of the pledges, so we hope to see this grow ahead of expectations this year! Details of how to donate are at the back of church.



Spire: scaffolding will be erected from 12th March onwards and the building work will commence afterwards, with this first phase of our building project expected to be completed by 8th June. The work involves taking down and re-fixing the top of the spire, installing a new finial at the top, re-pointing most of the tower and spire, and installing pigeon-proof barriers on the windows. We are hoping to share photos of progress, as well!

Building Project Open Evening - Wednesday 14th March from

7.30pm: Over the past year, the building plans for our Heart of the City Project have developed further and are looking exciting. Our planning application is due to be submitted by the end of March. If you would like find out more about the latest plans, and ask

questions, then come along to our Open Evening, to be held in the church building, 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th March.

Fundraising in the community: our 2018 schedule of fundraising activities has already begun. Seven-year-old Joshua was the first fundraiser to get going - he asked people to sponsor him to go screen-free for a week and raised over £140. Well done to Joshua!

Terry realised he hadn't been getting much use from his swimming pool membership, so he decided to let it lapse this year and is giving the money to our Heart of the City project instead. A big thank you to Terry!

One of our asylum seekers managed to save a few pennies from her meagre weekly allowance and put them into this jam jar which she gave to us one Sunday for our Heart of the City project. This was such a humbling act of generosity, we decided to run a public fundraising campaign, on Facebook, to ask members of the public to donate money so that she could “turn her pennies into pounds”. She ended up raising nearly £60 including gift aid. Really well done!



Please keep thinking of new ways that you might be able to raise some money in the community, for Heart of the City... and do share your stories with us so that we can inspire others in the congregation to do the same.



Future fundraising events: following Jess Walmsley’s fundraising ideas evening, we have two events for you to enjoy with family, friends and neighbours. The first is offered by “**St. T’s Community Cinema**”. Join us for a family cinema afternoon to watch **Paddington 2** on March 17th at 2.30 p.m. in church.

Tickets will be sold on the door, but it would be helpful if you are able to express interest on the Heart of the City Facebook page, where the event is being advertised, so we can get an idea of numbers.

A second date for your diary is **Saturday 28th April**, when we are organising a **Vintage Tea Party** in church. More details about this in our next newsletter, or you can check our web page on www.st.tees.org.uk or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StTeesHeartOfTheCity/.



Help please: Karen Shackleton, our communications adviser, would very much like some help keeping our Facebook page and Twitter page active with regular new posts. Would you be interested in working with Karen? Are you able to offer a bit of time during the week to share posts, so that we can make our Facebook page and Twitter account engaging? Are you able to think up eye-catching and creative posts? If you are interested, please e-mail BFM@st.tees.org.uk or speak to Karen.

Grant applications: Lorraine Wheeler, whose child goes to St. Thomas pre-school, will be working one day a week for the Heart of the City project, to help us with applications to trust funds and grants. Lorraine has valuable prior experience in fundraising.

Planning ahead: we are now starting to plan for the relocation of church activities during the building works, which are due to start early in 2019. We intend to keep access open to the main church building and the pre-school throughout most of the building work. If you would like to be involved in helping to plan the necessary transition arrangements, please speak to Tim Parsons or e-mail BFM@st.tees.org.uk.