

# ST. THOMAS CHURCH LANCASTER

## HEART OF THE CITY PROJECT

### APRIL 2021 UPDATE

**It's been a while...** Can you believe it? Our last newsletter for the Heart of the City Project was way back in January 2020. What a lot has happened since then, around the world! Equally, a lot has happened on the Heart of the City project, and we thought it was time to bring everyone up to date on the latest developments.

**Building works:** huge progress has been made during the pandemic by Piningtons Ltd, our building contractor. Below are a few photos of the concrete floors being poured, but you can see more on our web page and on our social media accounts. It is so exciting to see the building taking shape. Thanks to Terry for keeping a photo record of this project.



**Grant applications:** we have made considerable progress with our grant applications; thank you for your prayers. Around £190,000 of grant money has now been approved for our project. This represents overwhelming generosity from our donors and support for the project. The most recent grant was £25,000 from the Bernard Sunley Foundation who commented that the new Family Life Centre was “a well researched initiative that will meet real need in the city centre”. We thank God for all our grant donors.

#### **Fundraising in the community:**

The pandemic has prevented fundraising in the community from progressing, but we are pleased to announce that there will be a Cross-Bay Walk on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 2.30 p.m.

to raise funds for our project. More information on this will be coming soon. There are 200 spaces available, so bring family, friends and dogs!

**In total**, we have now received over £31,000 through your fundraising efforts – thank you so much to all who have fundraised so far! As the pandemic restrictions ease, perhaps you could think of some new ways to organise COVID-safe fundraisers that also allow you to meet up with friends you haven't seen for a while? Please let us know if you decide to run a fundraising event so that we can support you on our social media accounts, by emailing [hotc@st.tees.org.uk](mailto:hotc@st.tees.org.uk).

**Pledges and giving:** over 200 households have now pledged money towards the project. As at end February 2021, the total amount donated stood at £2.1 million, including Gift Aid. We have raised over 90% of the funds needed, but still require just over £200,000 to open the centre debt-free. We will be talking to the church during May about raising the final amounts needed to complete the project.

**Stained glass window:** we have been working with a local designer, Sarah Galloway, on a beautiful stained glass window which has just been approved by PCC. We are pleased to share a drawing of this with you below. The window illustrates some key images in the life and mission of St T's – a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hidden (Matthew 5.13-16) and the river of life flowing from the place of worship flanked with trees whose leaves are for the healing of the nations (Ezekiel 47.1-12, Revelation 22.1-5). This will be visible in the upper floor windows, opposite the police station, lighting the double height entrance.



**Sharing God's Love from the Heart of the City**