

## David Richards, project treasurer, writes

Firstly we need to give thanks! Since the launch gift day in mid-2006 God has provided us with almost a fifth of a million pounds in less than three years! Praise the Lord!

Paying all the professional fees and planning costs from this sum leaves £50,000 in the kitty. The £170,000 promised from the Sunday School Fund and a notional target figure of £30,000 in grant money move the total to a quarter of a million pounds.

Let's assume that with contingencies, furniture and a first instalment to a mission project we will need to find significantly more than a million in the next 18 months. **How on earth do we do that?**

The answer is **we** don't! **We pray** that God will enable us to do it.

Recently we have been offered a significant interest-free loan/gift which will take us back towards the £1 million target, so our gap looks like £750,000. However, the maximum bank loan we can contemplate is £500,000 – assuming we can get one! Thus our immediate target questions are these:

**(1) Can we raise £100,000 in gifts and £150,000 in congregational interest-free loans in the next year to reach the £1 million?**

**(2) Can we achieve £30,000 each year for 5 years as a 'gift day' lump sum AND £33,000 in regular giving to repay the loans?**

The current thinking is that initially we would pay interest only on the bank loan facility and would repay the congregational loans over five years with the annual gift day sums. As the large promised loan is converted to a series of gifts over five years, the gift aid tax recovery would lead to an annual surplus, even after building up the mission project fund at 10% of total giving. At the end of the five years we could then convert the original £500,000 loan into a £450,000

mortgage over 25 years. Annual repayments at 5.5% on this would be £33,000. Hence the target figures above!

That's our thinking which shows that it is possible - if our hearts are right.

***However, God Almighty will do it his way! Let's pray on for his provision and perfect timing.***

*David Richards, Project Treasurer*



## Exciting Times – Testing Times

I wonder how you feel about our building project. Excited? I hope so – that will mean you care about seeing the gospel grow in this place, for which our new hall will be a superb and vital resource. But perhaps nervous too? I think we all are. It's a huge project. Much is yet required of us – and we are all conscious of the economic pain in our community.

So, as we come to our gift day in June, there is all to pray for! Remember God's promise: "my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Paul wrote that in the context of Christians generously giving to support gospel work.

So how will we build this hall? By trusting God to meet our needs. But *how* will God meet our needs? In any way he chooses – for he is God! Most likely, though, he will cause us to respond to this project with generous hearts, humble spirits and open wallets. Pray for his will to be done!

*Mike Smith, Vicar*



## David Walker, our project chairman, writes

Let us give thanks that after four years of thinking about, planning, and designing our new Church Hall, we are now almost ready to start the rebuilding works.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May the Project Design Team will be sending a very detailed pack of information to six builders and will be asking them to submit their best price for constructing the new building. By the end of June we will be able to choose one of those builders and thereafter we will be working with that firm during July and August to see if we can find ways of reducing their tender price, but without compromising on the quality of the materials. **The price will then be fixed for a six month period.**

Whilst this work is progressing, we anticipate that the PCC will be able to complete the purchase of the Church Hall site from the Chester Diocese. Again there have been lengthy negotiations over the last two years but the legal documents have now been drafted and should be exchanged during the summer.

**Therefore, subject to us having the necessary finance, the redevelopment could start in September.**

The physical state of the existing Hall is deteriorating rapidly and it is quite possible that, after another winter, part of that building will be unfit to use. It is therefore essential that we do everything we can to start the works during the six month open tender period.

The raising of the finance might appear as a huge challenge in uncertain economic times but God is in control of all things and He knows our needs even before we ask. Our Heavenly Father has already heard our prayers regarding our desire to continue and expand His Gospel Work and He alone has brought us to the point where we can almost begin the new building. **He will continue to lead us if we ask Him and it would be wonderful to see the whole Church Family gathering together to do so at the start of our half night of Prayer and Praise on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Our Lord is faithful and we can trust Him.**

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Now we just need to build it with bricks, not balsa-wood!

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character, Rita, submits an essay of just 5 words, “Do it on the radio!” A short essay indeed, all ideas encapsulated into one sentence. So, here’s my piece, why do we need a new hall for our youth and children’s ministry? **The old one is falling down!**

I think, unlike Rita, I can manage more than a sentence on this because youth and children’s work is something I feel very strongly about. One of the many reasons I am a Leader for Crossover (our 14s-18s group) is that when I was 14, I was fortunate enough to attend a

Christian youth group and Sunday school. That’s where my questions were answered; I came to faith as a young person, met life-long friends and in fact my husband! The church hall there wasn’t great but at least it was fit for purpose.

Our youth work is so important for proclaiming Jesus to the young people of this parish, preaching the gospel and nurturing young faith. The problem we have at the moment is a big one, where is all this work going to happen? In a tent on the car park? Soon we won’t be allowed to use the old hall; it is falling down, another winter with the rain that pours in and the spreading, stinking mould will mean we will be forced out. Ah, it looks like I am heading for 350 words after all ...

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## Emily Dean, Crossover leader, writes

My email from Mike was worded something like, Emily, please could you write an article of 300-350 words to be included in the building project newsletter entitled, “Why do we need a new hall for our youth and children’s ministry?” 350 words!

Whilst having a think about this the 1983 film *Educating Rita* came to mind. Do you remember the bit where Michael Caine’s character Dr Bryant has set the essay: “Suggest how you would resolve the staging difficulties inherent in a production of Ibsen’s *Peer Gynt*”? Julie Walters’

character, Rita, submits an essay of just 5 words, “Do it on the radio!” A short essay indeed, all ideas encapsulated into one sentence.

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