



WOODSTOCK ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

198 WOODSTOCK ROAD – OXFORD

<http://wrbc.org.uk/>

Pastors: **Andrew Robinson** and **David Trebilcock**,
198 Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 7NQ, Tel: 01865 515569

Treasurer: **Lois Severn**, 51 Coniston Avenue, Headington, Oxford, OX3 0AW, Tel: 01865 767361

23/1/2013

Dear members, former members and friends,

In March 2010, at the Annual General Meeting, we agreed to commence a project to remedy problems with our current church buildings and to improve them for future generations. In line with our current vision statement, our aim was to provide facilities through which we could better bring glory to God together and through outreach to the community. Throughout our aim has been to seek God's will and to keep the ministry of the Church at the heart of what we are doing; to avoid the trap of building for the sake of the buildings themselves.

Since then, the Buildings Committee has worked with our architects (a Christian Partnership, JBKS of Aston Rowant) and in consultation with the Trustees and members of the Church to evaluate the needs and opportunities presented, to draw up plans, to apply for planning consent and seek funding for the project. Throughout we have seen God's leading, sometimes through difficulty. We are now in the position that we have a completed consultation with the Church; architects drawings based on the consultation (<http://www.wrbc.org.uk/buildings/>); agreements with neighbours; planning consent and permission to commence work from the Council. We have a total of £440,000 either received or pledged including £11,500 in grants. The total cost of the project based upon the Quantity Surveyors numbers and known professional costs is £570,000 leaving a funding gap of £130,000.

When we last updated you in writing, the Trustees had decided to commission work in two phases, trusting that the funding 'gap' would be closed to allow us to undertake the second phase. At this time two substantial funding applications (to Biffa and Wren, for around £90,000 in all) were outstanding and we were hopeful that cost reductions might be achieved. We have now been informed that neither of these funding applications has been successful.

We plan to seek new tenders at the beginning of March and want to be clear on how much money is available. Therefore we are exploring three avenues:

- We have asked JBKS to identify possible savings in the building work.
- We have contacted Stewardship Services for advice on loans available to churches for building work. The Trustees are due to discuss the findings at their February meeting when they will be able to see the full implications of a loan and the benefits of taking it against future costs of work.

- We are contacting you to see whether you whether you could consider supporting the project further – or for the first time. We stress that no one should feel obliged to give and no one should feel under any pressure.

The Buildings Committee will be pleased to answer any questions you may have about the project while Stephen Spare will be happy to take any questions about financial arrangements.

Yours sincerely
The Buildings Committee

Response slip:

Please can you send your response to Stephen Spare either at by E-mail (stephenspare@yahoo.co.uk), by hand at church or by post to:

47 Ladder Hill
Wheatley,
Oxford
OX33 1UD

Please reply by Sunday 24th February

To avoid confusion please can you only notify us of additional one off donations.
If you are willing to give a monthly amount to support a mortgage please can you let us know how much you are willing to give and for how long even if you have indicated this previously.

Name (s):

Address:

Email:

Phone:

I am/ we are prepared to support the proposed building work at Woodstock Road Baptist Church:

We are able to give a one off donation of £ _____, by _____ (please state date).

We are willing to support a mortgage or loan through regular giving of £ _____ per month for a period of _____ years.

I (we) confirm that we will be able to gift aid our donation. Please tick:

Finally if you are a higher rate tax payer and wish to maximise your contribution to the project please speak to Stephen since an element of the giving is recoverable through your tax return.