



WOODSTOCK ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

198 WOODSTOCK ROAD – OXFORD

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

Pastors: **Mr Andrew Robinson and Mr David Trebilcock**
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From the Buildings Committee 3/5/2011

Dear members and friends

We are writing to you to give an update on our plans for our church buildings and to ask you to consider prayerfully your response to financial needs related to them. We are delighted to say that in terms of amounts pledged and given to date, about £250,000 will be available. A number of members have also pledged on going giving to the project in addition to this.

Since we last contacted you, the Buildings Committee has been working with a Christian architect, Kelvin Sampson of JBKS, who was appointed by the trustees after a selection process to undertake a feasibility study. Kelvin explored the church's requirements using a questionnaire and meetings and has drawn up a concept which includes (with other features) linking church and manse with a new entrance and kitchen; an additional meeting room; reconstructed toilet area, new heating and lighting and moving the baptistery to the front of church. The concept drawings are available in church and on line (<http://wrbc.org.uk/buildings/>). We should stress these are concepts and not final plans, which would be produced after further consultation and consideration of a number of issues.

However, the estimated costs associated with the concept drawings raise questions which the Buildings Committee and trustees are inviting you to respond to. The estimated cost of the work is greater than the resource pledged. The estimates are somewhere between £320,000 and £370,000. Reduced work to a level affordable with current resources would result in compromises but would be possible with a small amount of extra giving. We are exploring other sources of funds, including trusts and asking other churches to support us, but our information to date suggests this will not meet the bulk of the extra. The Trustees have not yet decided whether it will be right for the Church to take out a mortgage or accept a loan, but this would be another possibility; this decision will be based on a variety of aspects, including our ability to afford repayments.

In order to help the Buildings Committee and Trustees respond to this, we need to establish whether individuals would consider it right- and be able- to pledge more to the work; or consider making the Church an interest free or low interest short- term loan. We are also interested to know if others would support repayment of a mortgage. As before, we do not believe anyone should pledge if they cannot afford to do so or if giving would affect their ability to support other ongoing ministries to which they are committed. Any decision should be carefully and prayerfully made and we would not want anyone to feel under any pressure.

In order to help us, we would be pleased if you could respond to this request by returning the attached sheet or emailing it to Stephen Spare (stephenspare@yahoo.co.uk).

The Buildings Committee

Please return to (stephenspare@yahoo.co.uk) by May 18th.

Name

Contact address.....

Email

After prayerfully consideration, I am able and willing to:

Give a one off amount of £ (in addition to that I have already pledged or given) to be received by the Church **before** the commencement of work in January 2012.

Give a one off amount of £ (in addition to that I have already pledged or given) to be received by the Church **after** the commencement of work in January 2012. Please indicate the likely timescale for this giving.

Give a monthly amount of £..... (in addition to that I have already pledged or given) in order to support a loan or mortgage **after** the commencement of work in January 2012. I am willing to give this amount for a period of months/years.

I confirm that all the amounts mentioned above can be gift aided Yes/No

Please note that the Church will only enter into a loan or mortgage arrangement with the full agreement of the managing trustees (Elders and Deacons)

Discuss with the Church the possibility of making a loan of £ available (in addition to that I have already pledged or given) to be received by the Church **before** the commencement of work in January 2012.

I have other comments/ suggestions about the project. (Please note they may also be placed anonymously in the yellow box at church or emailed to buildings@wrbc.org.uk.) by Wed May 18th at the latest.