



WOODSTOCK ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

198 WOODSTOCK ROAD – OXFORD

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

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September 15th 2010

Dear members, former members and friends,

Many of you will be aware that for a number of years areas of the Church buildings have been in great need of refurbishment. The kitchen area is hard to clean; rain water leaks have been impossible to resolve; the toilets are accessed through the kitchen and the shell of the structure, built by Church members in the 1950s, is not suitable for refurbishment. In addition, the Church building is being used far more than previously and we have an opportunity to link the church building and the manse to integrate the meeting rooms now available in it with the main church.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Church in March 2010, outline plans were put forward to the Church by the current Buildings Committee (Brian Reid, Martin Weller, Stephen Spare and David Evans) for building work to:

- Demolish the entire kitchen, toilets and garage area as soon as we can, and replace it with enhanced facilities
- To remodel the access to the Church, probably with a new glazed corridor and entrance bridging the manse and existing Church building.

It is anticipated that the work will incorporate additional meeting space, new toilets and kitchen, storage space and enhanced and welcoming access clearly visible from Woodstock Road.

Work of this nature will require the advice of professionals including architects' detailed plans and drawings for the Church to approve at a Special Church Meeting, application for planning consent and finally the services of a building firm. At this stage we have estimated costs rising from £175,000 for replacement of the kitchen and garage area through to £300,000 in order to achieve all of the objectives mentioned above. If additional finance is raised this could be spent on other projects which have been identified by the deacons such as improving the heating, replacing the carpet etc. We would stress that our aim will be to avoid waste of money at every point while achieving attractive facilities which comply with current legislation. We hope we will be able to produce plans and gain approvals for work to take place in the summer of 2011. Should the response to this letter indicate sufficient support we also envisage establishing a wider Buildings Committee' representing the diversity of Church life and holding meetings where we discuss and consult on the buildings and pray for the project.

Before we begin involving professionals and move to the next project stage, it is important to find out the resources available for the work. We are therefore writing to establish the level of support. We do hope you will be able to join us in supporting this project; however, we also recognise that many will be limited in the extent of their support (especially financial) and we would stress that no one should feel obliged to give beyond their means or willingness to give. Indeed we have agreed that the work should not impact on our support for the other work of the Church or for individuals. Stephen Spare, a Church Member with expertise in finance, will receive and consider the response and will treat all information received confidentially; however, it will be necessary for us to have contact and other details and he may need to contact you for further information.

As you will see from the reply slip we are asking for the period in which giving will be made. We have two reasons for doing this. Firstly Gift Aid changes on the 6th April 2011 will mean that every gift aided donation will be worth 11.4% less in tax recoverable than currently. Secondly gifts given after September 2011 are after the anticipated building work and we may need to take this into account as we schedule work.

We are therefore asking that you consider whether you can support the proposed work in prayer, practically and/or financially. Please consider it carefully; the information within it will be important for the next stage of planning and will help us establish both the extent and speed of the work. We should stress that your commitment will be to support work based on plans and details approved by the Church at a Special Church Meeting and no money will be sought until such plans are approved.

Yours sincerely

Elders and Deacons
Woodstock Road Baptist Church

