

ST GEORGE'S FATFIELD

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To our whole local community



Dear friends

Over the last 18 months, it has been heartening to see so many people do so much to serve our community. I want to publicly thank those in our church family who through the cold of winter lockdown were outside in wind, rain, snow and hail, preparing lunches for young people or delivering hot meals to elderly and vulnerable.

Many of you are now enjoying our pop-up community café outdoors on Monday and Friday mornings and we have now restarted our community lunch club twice a month on Wednesdays, along with a bereavement support group. In the autumn we aim to have our toddler group, youth & kids work and all our work with local schools fully up and running again.

You are all welcome to all we do. We are here to serve the whole community, not just the few.

This pandemic has laid bare so many of the needs in our community. We have seen first-hand the consequences of hunger, loneliness and isolation and we want to do more as a church.

Several years ago, we began a project to build a community annexe onto the church to help us to do this. Last year we submitted architectural plans and after many months we have finally been granted planning permission.

Detailed plans can be found in the church and at www.stgeorghistoryandfuture.co.uk/future.

The plan is that it will contain a community café, an accessible multi-purpose room, a proper catering kitchen, facilities and meeting rooms.

Church members and supporters have been amazingly generous and already invested £25,000 in the planning process and pledged or given a further £258,000 towards getting it built. We need to raise a further £429,000 to reach our goal. We are now writing to you, our community, to ask you to support us and give/pledge funds to help make these plans a reality.

It may sound a lot, but we have already received some amazingly generous gifts and are also applying for grants from big funders. Whether it's the cost of a cup of coffee each week or a large upfront donation, every gift will make a difference. We know there are many charities seeking funds, but this is a project where the money will stay local and make a difference for people right here and we hope and pray you will generously support it.

The church is a fully registered charity (1190509) and there is a separate bank account for this project. As a restricted fund, every penny given must be spent on this project and nothing else.

If you wish to support this project with your area at its heart, please fill in and return the attached form with either a cheque or a pledge to tell us you have made a bank transfer or set up a regular donation. If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

If you wish to give by card, we have a card reader in the church office and if you wish to give online, this can be done at www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/stgeorgesfatfieldfacility, which is a crowdfunding site. Giving in that way can also be anonymous if you prefer not to be known.

Many of you know just how much we do for others already, but the opportunities this annexe will give are endless. Our work with the food bank can expand, youth work, parent and toddlers, a safe space for young people after school, a place for elderly and isolated people to meet others, rooms for hire for meetings, groups, etc. 'home' working space, a community garden, cooking skills; the ideas are endless.

Once the annexe is built, we plan to create a book of thanksgiving, in which supporters giving over £50 may sign their name, or sign in remembrance of someone they wish to give thanks for. You can also 'sponsor a brick'. So long as we get permission, those giving over £150 will be invited to have a name inscribed on a stone/brick that will go into the landscaping/project.

We hope and pray you will catch the vision we have to bless this community more and that you will support this project generously.

Thank you for your support as we serve this community in Jesus' name.

Your servant



Rev. Nick Barr-Hamilton (Vicar and chair of trustees)