

June Update - Building and Mission project on track!

Our building redevelopment project is on track to start work on site in September. Architectural and technical drawings have been finalised, Local Authority planning conditions satisfied, and the tender document is nearly complete. By mid-July, we expect to have reviewed everything and given the green light for the tender to be issued.

We have a continuing dialogue with the Methodist Connexion: on 31 May we secured final approval to go ahead, and as a result will shortly draw down the funds from their grant and London District's, as well as the very substantial financial support provided by the Bromley Methodist Circuit of which we are part. We are in touch with a Connexional media officer to support our local public relations as well as 'internal' Methodist communications.

We also recently invited Wendy Beard, the London Region Learning and Development officer, who specialises in helping churches to develop, focus and energise their mission activities. She will be working with us over the next 2-3 months to help us identify our strengths and become enthusiastic and effective in mobilising them. As part of this, on Sunday 1 July she will lead an 'Angels' exercise after the morning service.

On the funding front, we have effectively raised 85% of today's total estimated cost of the project, including contingency. Grant applications still outstanding could potentially raise a further 5%. We continue to work resolutely on the remaining 10%, which is really down to us and definitely within our capacity to raise. We must not slacken, because experience shows that the final cost can easily be higher than the estimate at this stage. Clearly we hope for continuing generous donations, gifts and loan pledges from our own members. We were absolutely delighted with the huge response to our annual Gift Day letter, around the church's anniversary in May.

In terms of fund-raising social and other events, much has been done, and much more is planned. We held a very successful Book and Jigsaw Sale in April, and an equally exciting Quiz Night on 9 June, which together brought in £1,500. Meanwhile, members raise funds at home by baking or holding coffee-mornings. Further events over the summer will include a second workshop to share developments and involve our user groups. We are considering another Tea Concert in September.

Everyone is encouraged to support these initiatives as energetically as possible. The idea is to extend the perimeter of their impact, so to speak, beyond the immediate church membership by involving as many as possible of our friends, neighbours and others. On the basis of what we have managed so far, we are confident of achieving the target which we have set ourselves to reach by the end of 2019.

Any queries on the project should be directed to Mark Cheesman, Chair of the Redevelopment Committee, on mark.cheesman1@ntlworld.com MGC 22.6.2018