

Fund-Raising at St Andrew's

Setting the Scene: This note aims to bring everyone up to date with the New Parish Centre and its current financial position. It will also introduce the work of the Parish's Fund-Raising Committee. The Committee is asking for your support through donations or bequests and for longer-term giving through monthly standing orders. Finally, we are trailing the launch of a "100 Club" lottery that we hope will be an attractive new way of supporting the Centre.

The Parish Centre: We built the new Parish Centre to provide a facility to allow parishioners to meet socially, and to be a hub for the wider-parish to get together, as well as to increase the capacity of the church. Importantly, it also provides a vehicle to spread the gospel within the local community and gives us a real and lasting legacy for future generations. As you know, it was opened on 4th December last year and is already in use. Bookings are coming in and everyone who sees it is truly impressed by the smart building with its excellent facilities. Of course, a building of this quality is expensive; the overall cost is in the region of £500,000. We have paid over £318,000 already and now need to raise £174,000 to pay off loans from the Diocese and local parishes before 2021. It's going to be a tough challenge.

The Fund-Raising Committee: The Fund-Raising Committee is committed to repaying these loans over the next 10 years, and therefore we are asking you to help us achieve this goal. We know that this is not a good time to ask for money. So we are examining where we might legitimately apply for grants from government bodies and charitable trusts to spread the burden. We have already received three grants from trusts, totalling £40,000, the last one only this week. However, it is difficult to track down the right trusts, so please let us know if you know of any likely local bodies or trusts which might look on us favourably. Naturally, we will also be sponsoring events within the Parish – the next one is the Mid-Winter Fair on 11th February. Please look at our programme for other events during this year and support all those that you can.

Donations: As well as supporting events, we hope you will be able to make a donation, which will directly contribute to paying for the Centre. A cash sum as a donation, however small, from each one of us would soon deal with the challenge we face. If you are a tax-payer, we are able to claim Gift Aid in the order of an additional 28 - 22% from the Government because St Andrew's is a charity, and if you are a higher rate tax-payer, you will be able to claim additional relief yourself, too. If you can give support in this way, please speak to Monsignor Ted.

If a lump sum donation is not feasible, you might consider spreading your donation through a monthly standing order. Twenty-nine people already contribute this way and importantly this currently raises about £6,000 pa. We hope to double that number this year and increase it year on year in the future. If 10 of you each gave £10 every month, over 10 years we would raise £12,000, plus a Gift Aid contribution. Obviously, £20 per month from the same 10 people would deliver £24,000; even £5 from 10 people realises £6,000 over the 10-year period. But if 50 parishioners each gave £10 per month, we would be well on our way, with £60,000 in the bank. Again, Gift Aid can help increase that total significantly. Standing order forms for those who wish to do this are attached and available in the porch or on line. Please send you contributions to Monsignor Ted, me or Michael Payne, our Treasurer.

Other Ways of Contributing: Although a standing order can be varied or stopped if circumstances change, it might not be possible for everyone to support us in this way. We shall continue to have second collections at masses where possible, and we will continue to use St Andrew's Pence as a means for you to collect and contribute your small change. Every penny helps. These donations can be a real lifeline and have raised almost £6,000 already. Of course, we need to recover Gift Aid, where we can, for these welcome regular contributions, too. There is a Gift Aid form attached and can also be found in the porch or on our website. We hope to put envelopes in the porch so that such one-off donations can be registered, too. Another option is for you to donate some money for the St Andrew's Development Fund as a bequest, perhaps as part of a will, or for any other form of managed giving. I am sure Monsignor Ted or Michael Payne would be delighted to discuss options with you.

The 100 Club: For those of you who like a bit of a flutter, but also want to contribute to a good cause, we are planning to launch the St Andrew's Parish 100 Club soon. This is a local lottery, which shares the income between the Church Development Fund and prize money returned to winning stakeholders. After we have canvassed interest more fully, we expect to launch in February. Michael Coles is our resident expert, so please contact him if you have views or wish to discuss this scheme in more detail.

Conclusions: We have a great Parish Centre, the envy of most communities and we can be very proud of it and of what we have achieved so far. Not only will it provide an excellent facility for the Parish as a whole, but it will be a telling legacy for future generations. We have received a lot of support across the Parish and from the Diocese, and other parishes, to get this far, but now we all have an opportunity – or rather, a duty – to help turn this into a lasting legacy of which we can all be proud. We each need to claim our own stake in its future.

The Parish Centre will be a great place for our own fund-raising events and its use by local community groups will also help it make a contribution to pay off its debts. For yourself, please help however you can. Donations are needed but remember, the pain of giving can be mitigated by the current low interest rates and the maximum use of Gift Aid opportunities if you are a tax-payer. If you are not able to support us in that way, please make full use of St Andrew's Pence and our regular second collections at masses. They really help.

In addition to such contributions, we would like you to see you at our parish fund-raising events throughout the coming year. If you have good ideas for raising money or wish to offer practical support, please get in touch with me or with any of the committee members. And remember, all this and all the details are on the parish website and in the periodic fund-raising newsletter through Brian Lawrence.

Thank you very much for your support,



Roger Styles Chairman, St Andrew's Parish Fund Raising Committee

01233 861445 raj@styles.myzen.co.uk

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