

MIRACLE ON PLEDGE DAY

Remember, remember the fifth of November? We are not likely to forget it now after witnessing another amazing pledge day result, with £2.1 million promised by church members. This was in addition to the £2.2 already given from our first pledge day. Everyone was overwhelmed by the sacrificial giving; it was an amazing response and a sign of God's grace at work in our midst.

Over the last few weeks a further £80,000 of pledges have come in, so that the current total of brand new or renewed pledges is £2,220,576.

BUILDING PROGRESS

Work proceeds apace at York Place where the foundations for the new hall are almost complete. The crane is due on site early in the New Year, when the major construction work will begin.

Good news is that we have finally received all the oversailing agreements from our neighbours (to allow the crane to pass over their air space) and we've received Stage B of the building warrant. This had been delayed because of necessary changes to the design for fire safety reasons. Both of these hurdles could have caused construction delays if they had not been secured in time.

The issue of the foundations in the north-east corner of the church (– there weren't any!) has been resolved by changing the specification for the lift. We had intended to have a traditional lift with shaft, but the lack of foundations meant we would have to underpin the building. This would have been a major engineering task, costing a lot of time and money, which the Design Team recommended we did not attempt. Vestry have now agreed to install a mobility platform lift, which is a simpler design and does not require a deep shaft, but still provides disabled access between floors.

Discussions continue with the congregation teams who are advising on keys areas of the building. The AV team are currently reviewing the final specification for the sound and vision equipment we will need to ensure everyone can see and hear everything. The possibility of solar panels is also being investigated after changes in the planning process for micro renewables (i.e. wind and solar power) were highlighted by the environment team.

INCOME

Project 21 income to date stands at £2,439,103, which includes new pledges which have started to be fulfilled.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS & GIVING

BUY.AT/PROJECT21

If you haven't yet finished your Christmas shopping, help raise funds for Project 21 by shopping online at buy.at/project21. From here you can shop with major retailers who will donate a percentage of what you spend to your nominated charity. Plus, between now and the end of January, every purchase will raise an additional 25p towards Project 21. Shops supporting the scheme include Marks & Spencers, John Lewis, Amazon and the Early Learning Centre. All you have to do is visit <http://buy.at/project21>, or the Project 21 website and click on the link to buy.at – then start shopping!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Packs of Christmas cards, showing a detail from a stained glass window at St Paul's and St George's, are available from the welcome desk priced £3 for a pack of 10.

FUNDRAISING TOTALS

A big thank you to those who have supported recent fundraising events. Here's how much they raised:

- Wesley Owen shopping night: £202.
- Nearly New Sale: £609. Thanks to Joy Nicholson and Di Hollow for organising this event.
- Clothes Swap evening: £115. Thanks to Cathy Richards for organising and hosting.

