

30th October 2007

Dear

King's Arms Church Building Fund

Several years ago as a church we began the journey to find a permanent building for the King's Arms. We felt God speak to us that even though we had no particular building in mind we should start to 'invest' as a church into this project. November 2005 was a landmark in that journey. Before our gift day we had a prophetic word that we would see £146,000 given in a single day. It seemed impossible but when the final count was done towards the end of November 2005 we had raised £146,343 in cash. It was nothing short of miraculous – not only that we could raise that amount of money but that God had predicted it in advance.

God had already surprised us with another prophecy that we would need 'far more money than you think – but I am going to provide it from surprising places'. It's turning out to be true - a building of the size that we need as a church is likely to cost in excess of £2 million. But in faith we raised more money in November 2006 and more again in November 2007 which means that far we have raised just over £540,000 – an incredible amount for a church of our size. Many leaders from other churches have commented that they have never known a church give so freely when there wasn't a specific building to give to!

So where do we go from here? We've taken a huge step forward but we're still some distance from our goal. What's the next step? We expect that we will need in excess of £2 million to complete this project so we invite you to be part of this venture of faith by giving in one of the following ways;

- a one-off gift towards the total
- regular giving into the building fund

As we raise the money we do not want to reduce our ongoing commitment to extending God's Kingdom here in our own Church, in Bedford, the UK, or overseas and so this gift day is for you to indicate how much you feel led to give on top of your regular monthly gift to the church.

(By the way, if you consider that you are part of the King's Arms and you believe in what we're doing but you are not currently giving regularly, now would be a good time to start! Details are available in the booklet 'The Essential Guide to the King's Arms' which can be ordered from the Welcome Desk on any Sunday, downloaded from the website at www.kingsarms.org/gettinginvolved or requested from the offices by email at info@kingsarms.org)

The biblical precedent for giving to this kind of thing is quite clear. Each one is free to decide to give (2 Cor 9:7) in response to what Christ has done for us (2 Cor 8:9), freely (Exodus 36) and generously (2 Cor 9:6), in keeping with our income (1 Cor 16:1) and not under compulsion (2 Cor 9:7) because God loves a cheerful giver. As we do this God in turn promises to provide for our needs (2 Cor 9:10 & 11).

It has been incredible year on year to hear story after story of joyful, generous giving and God's faithful response as we gave according to this model. Something powerful has been happening in us as a church and we need to ask God for more of the same this year!

We do realise that for many, God will ask us to give sacrificially. This may require decisions on priorities and careful budgeting to allow our pledges to be honoured. **For some this is the first time you will have given** – can we urge you to invest in what we are doing even if you've only started coming to KA in the last few months. **For others you've given on numerous times before** – it's starting to hurt! Can we urge you to take time to pray and seek God – don't just write it off with a 'well I've given before'. Remember God's faithfulness from previous years and give again!

Finally, we have committed to give away 10% of everything we received – a total of close to £40,000 so far. We have given around £23,000 of that money away to various projects and are currently thinking and praying about the possibility of investing the rest into a building project for a church in the developing world. We aren't yet sure which church or which country and so would appreciate your prayers for wisdom on this one. We'll add the 10% everything we receive and give it away as soon as we feel sure where the Lord wants it to go. It's exciting to not only be investing in what God is doing here in the UK but also to realise we are part of a global mission.

What an adventure! We feel especially privileged to be part of God's work here and look forward to seeing all that God will do. We thank you in advance for being part of it.

On behalf of the leadership team at the King's Arms

Simon Holley and Roydon Loveley

Questions and Answers

Question: Do we have a particular building in mind? If not, why are we raising this money now?

Answer: The building team are continually on the search for a building and our experience is that when suitable premises come on to the market they do not hang around for very long. We have seriously looked at 8 buildings and made offers on three in the last three years but nothing has yet been right for us. Although disappointing, it's seemed as if each one has been a 'dry run' that God has used to get us more prepared for the building he has for us. We are currently investigating three possible options. Of course it's quite possible that none of these will come to fruition. However we feel that it is important to continue the preparations by raising funds so that when the right building does eventually come up we'll be prepared.

Question: Why go for a building at all – what's wrong with renting a school hall?

Answer: Although renting Dame Alice works well for us at the moment, it does have some serious limitations that we believe are not helping us in our mission to reach this town for Christ. Lack of profile in the town, difficulty with mid-week meeting space and the huge overhead of setup and clear-down on a Sunday are just a few of them. We have a passion to build a church of 500 adults and by the time we get to that size even Dame Alice will be a squeeze.

Question: What happens if I cannot keep my pledge?

Answer: We don't believe that it's biblical to give under compulsion so everyone is free to stop giving at any time.

Question: I can't give a lump sum but I can give by making regular gifts. How long will this be needed?

Answer: Until we get a building! However, of course you are free to stop giving at any time!

Question: Will the money get 'mixed up' with the ongoing costs of running the church?

Answer: We have organised separate bank accounts for the building fund money so that it doesn't get confused with the church reserves or the current account.

Question: Who are the Building Team?

Answer: This team is led by Roydon Loveley and consists of Matt Cook, Mel Fletcher, Don Henson, Zeb Massey, Angie Simco, Peter White & Theo Willcocks. If you have any thoughts, prayers or suggestions for the team you can email them on roydon@loveley.plus.com

King's Arms Building Fund Gift & Pledge Day Form

I/We would like to pledge the following amounts to the King's Arms church for the building fund.

ONE OFF gift of

£..... on Date:.....(Your choice)

AND/OR regular gifts of

£..... per: Week/Month/Quarter
by: Standing Order/Cheque/Other.....
timeperiod: until Date:...../ indefinitely
(cross out all above which does not apply)

Name: (please print)

Signed: Date:.....

Please send to the King's Arms offices or pass it on to Roydon Loveley on any Sunday in a sealed envelope.

If you have committed to give by Standing Order please also fill in the form below if you wish us to set up the standing order for you. If you want to set it up yourself then contact your bank for the relevant form or use your internet banking using the following details

**Account name: King's Arms Church Building Fund Bank: Co-operative Bank
Account No 65231267. Sort Code 08-02-28**

Standing Order Form

To the manager of :.....

Address:.....

Please pay the **Co-operative Bank** for the credit of the **King's Arms Church Building Fund
Account No 65231267. Sort Code 08-02-28**

Amount in figures £.....

Amount in words.....

Commencing (date of first payment).....

And thereafter until further notice/until..... (delete as appropriate)

Name of account to be debited..... **Account No**.....

Sort Code.....

Signed..... **Dated**.....