

**KING'S ARMS**

A building for the future

A black and white photograph of a lighthouse on a rocky island. The lighthouse is a white tower with a dark lantern room on top. Large, white-capped waves are crashing against the rocks in the foreground and middle ground, creating a dramatic and powerful scene. The sky is dark and overcast.

It's time to  
**IMPACT**

## Dream: What's the big picture?

As a church we have a dream of impact. Gathering each week we have come to expect God to impact our lives and in turn the lives of those around us. But the dream is bigger than this. We believe that impacted individuals will impact a town which will impact a region, a nation and beyond. What began with just a few individuals 15 years ago is now affecting over 450 adults, teenagers and children in Bedford alone.

But even this isn't enough for God. Several years ago 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 the vision of having a permanent building in the town. The impact that we were having in rented accommodation was going to be scaled up as we establish a base that can impact not just hundreds but thousands of people. So far we've raised nearly £600,000 towards this vision of having a permanent base.

We believe this building is a key part in the next phase for King's Arms. It'll be the home for hundreds gathering at our Sunday meetings. It'll help influence thousands through training and conferences. It'll house outreach events and youth gatherings and be available to the local community to serve and support all that God wants us to do to impact this town.

Is this dream too big? Over 300 years ago another Bedfordian, John Bunyan, wrote a book that began with the words 'I dreamed a dream'. That book, the Pilgrim's Progress, has since been translated into several hundred different languages influencing nations across the world. God has spoken to us time and time again that great influence will again come from this town. Are you ready to dream?

## Listen: What's God saying?

November 2005 was a landmark in our journey. Before this first 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 we had raised £146,343. It was nothing short of miraculous – not only that we could raise that amount of money but that God had told us in advance. This gave us great confidence to press on and there are other words that have assured us that God is moving and working with us. Another prophecy that 'you will need far more money than you think – but I am going to provide it from surprising places' has also come true.

On a recent Sunday a visitor had a picture of a cloud and out of the cloud dropped a gold coin – she brought us a word that we will always know God's provision and felt it specifically applied to the building. On the same day in the evening meeting, someone who had not been present in the morning service said that he saw a purse and out of it dropped a gold coin which again indicated God's provision.

There have been many other words that God has spoken but one stands out as a foundational word for the future of King's Arms.

*But God says "Men and women are going to come from all over the place, from many different parts of the world and they are going to come and receive something of God and they are going to take it away from here... It's not going to stay with you. It will begin to spill over and there are going to be random acts of kindness, random acts of blessings being poured out all over Bedford and you are going to soak the community with oil so when I set it alight it will go up quickly. And you can begin to pour yourself out into the hearts of many people. Freely you have received, so freely give. I want you to give away what you have received."*

**Julian Adams May 2007**

## Journey: Where are we heading?

In the last 5 years we've actively pursued seven different buildings but one facility kept coming back to us again and again. Some individuals couldn't let this one go even when we thought it had been sold and we had started looking elsewhere. It's the ex Crayola site on Amphill Road.

The site is now back on the market and the current plan is to split the site into three. We would purchase the front offices and around half of the warehouse. It also means that we will have around 1.5 acres of beautiful grassed area which will be superb for all kinds of outdoor activities.

Our dream is to have a place large enough to cater for all the different activities that will be going on in and around the building. This isn't going to be a place open once a week and locked up for the rest of the time. We envision a centre open throughout the week with a buzz of activity for people from every age, nationality and stage of life, rich and poor, young and old!

## Clock: What's the plan?

Once the final details of the sale of the building have been agreed we have one final step before completion - planning permission. Because the site is currently allocated as industrial land we need to apply for an exception to the local plan to allow for community (ie church) use. This process will begin shortly and we should have the results just after Christmas. Assuming this goes through (please pray!!) then we'll probably complete the sale and move into the offices in April 2009. The work on the auditorium and other facilities will then begin and we're hopeful that we can start using it by September 2009!



Provisional Timescales

**Planning**  
(January 09)

**Sale Completion**  
(March 09)

**Office Move in**  
(April 09)

**Start using on Sunday**  
(Autumn 09)

## Vision: What will it look like?

We're currently working with an architect to develop the final plans but we know that we'll be able to achieve the following as part of the design:

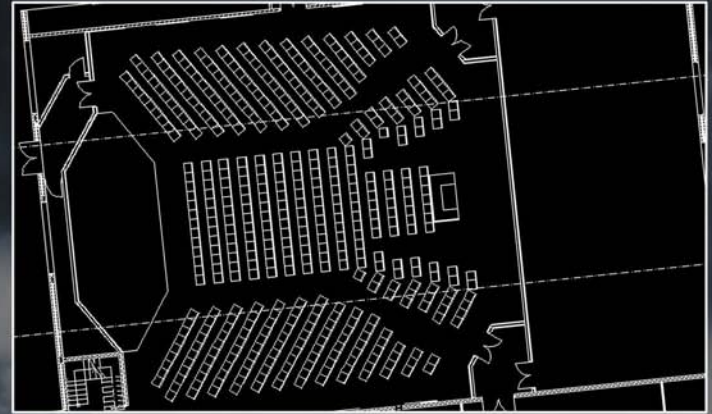
An auditorium that will seat at least 500 people for Sunday meetings, conferences, concerts, weddings etc

Large multi use foyer with 'Starbucks' style coffee & lunch area. This will be great for alpha, emerge and gig nights, along with a great welcome and gathering place on Sundays.

Large multi use sports hall for our own sports stuff plus youth, kids and community use

Spacious kids & youth facilities

Office space for church & project staff and space to rent out offices



Illustrative photo from St Albans Vineyard warehouse conversion showing cafe area and foyer

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*The challenge of raising  
£1,000,000 is a massive one...  
but God has spoken  
and promised!*

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## Invest: What's it going to cost?

All figures are approximate right now as the final sale has yet to be agreed. The purchase price of the building is around £1.5 million. Adding in purchase costs and refurbishment costs brings the total cost to £2.6 million.

This will be financed by:

Current funds from previous gifts	£600,000
Mortgage	£1,000,000
2008-2012 Giving Campaign	£1,000,000

This challenge of raising £1,000,000 over the next four years is a massive one especially given the current economic climate! However, we believe that God has spoken and promised to provide for this project as we step out in faith. We also know that we don't need all of the money upfront as we can begin using the building almost immediately and expand our use of it as funds come in.

The largest chunk of this we believe will be raised from giving by friends and members of King's Arms. 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 for this next challenge.

It's such a huge privilege to be part of this project and we look forward to seeing all that God will do. Thank you in advance for being part of it.

**Simon Holley, Roydon Loveley & Paul Johnson**  
King's Arms Eldership Team

## Me: How can I play my part?

It is our hope that everyone will join with us in this challenge and that all who are able to give to the work of the Church will respond by indicating the amount(s) they are committing. 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 King's Arms in the last few months. For others you have given many 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!

**Give creatively:** You might not have a lump sum to give but 100 people giving £35 per month over the next 4 years will raise around £200,000! (including gift aid).

**Give strategically:** To increase giving we need to either increase income or decrease expenditure. In previous years many have sold items, cut budgets or taken on extra work to help fund their giving. When done prayerfully, wisely and not under compulsion these are all biblical ways to give.

**Give proportionately:** Some can give lump sums of £500 or £5000. Some even £50,000. Don't discount your gift. Every little will count in this adventure. Remember as Christians we're called to equal sacrifice not equal gifts.

**Give faithfully:** As we raise this money we do not want to reduce our ongoing commitment to extending God's Kingdom 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.

# Questions: And other stuff

## **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 significant 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 we don't get the Crayola site?**

Answer: We still need a building so we'll keep pursuing other options as they become available.

## **Question: What if we don't raise the £1,000,000 – can we not use the building at all?**

Answer: We don't need all the the £1m to start using the building. Essential work is likely to cost £250,000 but after that we can progress the building work at the rate at which we can raise funds. Some parts of the building are quite useable as they are and will be refurbished as we can afford it. Other parts can be 'sealed off' until the time we have the money available.

## **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: 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: I've heard that we're giving away some of the money – why is that and where is it going?**

Answer: Right from the start we felt God call us to be committed to give away 10% of everything we received. 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 keep adding to these funds 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.

## **Question: Who are the Building Team?**

Answer: This team is led by Roydon Loveley and consists of Mel Fletcher, Julian Adams, Matt Cook, Ernie Davis, 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](mailto:roydon@loveley.plus.com)

## **Question: Aren't there ongoing costs to having a building? How much are they and can we afford them?**

Answer: There will be ongoing costs such as mortgage repayment, maintenance, staff to manage the facilities etc. There will also be ongoing income which will slightly offset these costs (rental of offices, sports hall & other rooms etc). Taking this into account we estimate that the net ongoing cost will be around £8,000 per month. To avoid confusion we have added these costs into the whole redevelopment for this initial 4 year period so that everything is covered by the £1 million we are asking God for. If you'd like a further breakdown of the figures please contact Roydon Loveley.

# Form: OK Sign me up

## King's Arms Building Fund Gift & Pledge Form

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

ONE OFF gift of £  enclosed with this form or on date:

AND/OR regular gifts of £  per: Week / Month / Quarter

by: Standing Order / Cheque / Other

timeperiod: until end December 2012 or / until Date:

(cross out all above which does not apply)

I am a UK taxpayer and I wish to give through Gift Aid (Tick Box)  This allows us to reclaim 28p for every £1 given at no extra cost to you.

Name: (please print)

Signed:  Date:

Email:  Address (Optional):

Telephone:

If you wish to give by Standing Order and you are able to set it up yourself then contact your bank for the relevant form or use your internet banking using the details below. If you would like us to set up the Standing Order for you then please tick here  and we will send you the relevant form.

Account name: King's Arms Church Building Fund

Bank: Co-operative Bank      Account No: 65231267      Sort Code: 08-02-28

Please return this form to the King's Arms information desk on any Sunday or pass it to Roydon Loveley in a sealed envelope. Alternatively post it back to the King's Arms offices (address overleaf).

# The King's Arms Church

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The King's Arms Church Bedford is a Christian Church in association with Newfrontiers and a member of the Evangelical Alliance. The King's Arms Trust (Bedford) is a Registered Charity (Number: 1116359 previously 1044098) and Company (Number: 5899019).