

# St Pius X RC Church

## Church Hall Project

### *Parish Update*



### **Finance Committee**

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## **Pius X Parish Hall Appeal 4/5 December 2010**

Good evening. I'm here this evening (morning) on behalf of the Parish Finance Committee to bring you up to date on our plans to build a Parish Hall here at St Pius X on the left hand side of the Church. Advent is the season for looking forward so it is appropriate that we address this issue at this time of year.

Those of you who have been in the Parish for some time will know that for over 5 years now we have hoped, planned and raised money for a Parish Hall. We are in no doubt that it would be a great asset to the Parish: it would provide space for preparation for first sacraments, for children's liturgy and adult catechesis. A Parish Hall would be a place for coffee after Mass, for Parish celebrations and for smaller social occasions. It would provide indoor space to hold fund raising activities and, last but not least, it would provide adequate toilet facilities, including disabled access.

Our first application for planning permission was turned down in 2008. It also became clear that the proposals at that time were way beyond our financial capabilities. Since then the Parish Finance Committee has worked hard exploring possibilities that would be acceptable to the Planning Officers, make best use of the space available and be realistically affordable for a small Parish.

I am delighted to tell you that we submitted a second Planning Application 3 weeks Ago and the Council is currently consulting our neighbours to ensure they have no objections. We are hopeful that a decision will be reached on the application by the end of January. Details of the new plan will be handed to you in an Information Pack as you leave Church. You will see that the new plan is for a more modest building than previously envisaged. The hall will comfortably seat 50-60 people in one main room, with a small kitchen and toilets. It will be of traditional construction, designed to complement and blend with the Church using matching facing bricks to walls and matching tiles on the roof.

It has cost some money in professional fees to get to this stage but we don't want to advance any further without confirming that this project has the support of the Parish. Our best estimate is that the total cost of the new hall, including fixtures and fittings and all professional fees, will be in the region of £170,000. So far parishioners have raised £40,000 towards this figure. We obviously have a long way to go.

Unless we can find some generous benefactors to make substantial donations to the building fund we shall have to bridge the gap with a loan of at least £130,000. We have consulted the Diocesan Finance Office and are advised that it will be possible to obtain such a loan on favourable terms from one or more wealthier Parishes in the Diocese. This is a tried and tested route for such projects. It would enable us to start building works in the Spring, subject to receiving planning permission of course. Such a loan would need to be repaid in full within 10 years.

We also have to take into account the financial position of our Parish. Our accounts for the first 10 months of 2010 show a similar pattern to the previous 2 years: we expect to receive total annual income of around £46,000 and it is costing approximately £40,000 a year to run this Parish. That means it is a tight budget and that unexpected expenses like the £7,000 repairs because of the recent theft of lead from the windows are a real problem and have to be met from our reserves, where we have over £25,000. Over half of Parish income comes from your weekly offertory and a further 12% from Gift Aid. The remainder, an important 28%, comes from the fee that Kingston Hospital currently pays Fr John as Catholic Chaplain. I regret to tell you that this source of income is under threat as a result of budget cuts. It is realistic to expect it to be reduced significantly next year and it may even disappear totally.

So the question we face as a Parish is how much we want this Hall and whether we think we can realistically raise the necessary extra funds in the years ahead, while being prepared at the same time to increase our weekly offerings to cover any

shortfall in the hospital Chaplaincy fee. And we need the answer to that question before Christmas.

*As Christ said in the Gospel of St Luke, ch 14 " Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Would he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?"*

We calculate that to repay a loan for the Church Hall and make up for the shortfall in the hospital chaplaincy fee we need to raise an additional £27,000 each year for ten years. And once the loan is repaid we will still need an additional £14,000 each year to make up for the Chaplaincy fee. This is a big challenge for a small Parish and is nearly double what we give now. Each one of us needs to think carefully whether we can afford to increase our weekly offertory and give something regularly to fund a Church Hall. Perhaps as part of that decision we each need to reflect whether what we give to the Parish properly reflects its importance in our lives. How does it compare with what we spend on a daily newspaper, a packet of cigarettes or a takeaway pizza? I would also ask you to think what happens to the Parish when you are not here? We still have the same bills to pay and, if we go forward with the project, there will be loan repayments as well. So I would like you to think about committing a regular amount , which you would give even when you can't come to Mass here. A monthly standing order is the best way to provide that regularity and it would make our administration much easier as well. And why not get the Government to add 25p to every £1 you give to St Pius X? If you pay tax in the UK, all you need to do is join our Gift Aid scheme by filling in a simple form.

At the back of your information pack there is a short questionnaire that we need each family to complete and return to the Presbytery by 19 December at the latest. It asks whether you are in favour of the project and whether you can support it. When you come to fill it in, please do not worry if you are only able to make a very small contribution towards this project. Every penny will be gratefully received and will get us closer to our goal. We are acutely aware that these are difficult financial times for many and it may be that you cannot contribute at all. But please do return the form: as I have said we need to know that the project is viable before we

commit serious money. So at this stage a form saying you are not in a position to give more is just as helpful in getting us to the right decision as a form that says you can double your giving.

If we do decide to go ahead, we will need a fund raising committee to organise a programme of events. Many parishioners have already shown great energy and initiative on fund raising, even without a tangible project to support. Please let us know if you would be prepared to continue or join in that work as part of a Fund Raising Committee with a multi year plan.

Many of you will have questions and we invite you to attend a special Open House in the Church to discuss the project on Monday 13 December between 6.30 and 7.30pm. Alternatively the phone numbers for the Finance Committee are on the front page of the Information Pack and we would be happy to speak to you individually if you prefer.

Thank you for listening this evening [morning]. Please pray that as a Parish we reach the right decision on this important question about our future.

Thank you.

## Summary - St Pius X Parish Update December 2010

### Parish Hall

- Planning Application submitted week of 8 November.
- Decision expected by end January 2011.
- More modest building than previous plan: design will complement Church and include 1 main room to seat around 50, plus a small kitchen and toilets, with disabled access.
- Total cost including construction, fees, fixtures and fittings £170,000.
- £40,000 raised to date.
- Plan to seek 10 year loan of £130,000 from wealthier parishes in our diocese.

### Summary Financial Position

	First 10 months 2010 £	2009 £	2008 £
Offertory	24,550	27,524	29,355
Gift Aid	5,297	5,479	8,260
Chaplaincy Fee Agreed	14,000	12,990	12,462
Interest	TBA	302	830
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>43,847</b>	<b>46,295</b>	<b>50,907</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>37,834</b>	<b>49,765</b>

**Note:** Due to budget cuts, the Chaplaincy fee is likely to be reduced in 2011 and may disappear totally.

### Annual Funding Requirement

- £14,000 each year to make up for Chaplaincy fee.
- £13,000 each year for ten years to repay Hall loan.
- Challenge: can we double our offertory for the next 10 years?

### Information Meeting

6.30 to 7.30pm Monday 13 December in the Church

### Form

Please complete the questionnaire about the project and return to the Presbytery by **Sunday 19 December at the latest.**



## Parish of St Pius X

### The Triangle. Norbiton. Surrey KT1 3SB

#### Questionnaire

*Strictly Confidential*

<b>Title</b> .....	<b>Initials</b> .....	<b>Surname</b> .....
<b>Address</b> .....		
<b>Postcode</b> .....		
<b>Tel No</b> .....	<b>Email</b> .....	
<b><u>Question 1</u></b>		
<b>Do you think that we should go ahead with the building project to create a hall for our parish?</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
<input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b><u>Question 2</u></b>		
<b>In the event that the project goes ahead, please tell us what regular financial donation you would be able to make, in addition to your weekly offertory?</b>		
If the project goes ahead I will try to give the following (complete one only):		
£ ..... single donation		
£ ..... per month		
£ ..... per week		
<b>We know that you will do your best to keep giving this monthly or weekly amount but this is not a binding promise. So if, for example, your financial circumstances change, you can change the amount that you give or stop giving altogether.</b>		
<b><u>Question 3</u></b>		
<b>Please tell us how you would like to make your donations (tick one).</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Banker's standing order (preferred) weekly/monthly		
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly envelope		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash in the second collection		
<b><u>Question 4</u></b>		
<b>If you pay tax, would you like the Parish to reclaim the tax that you've paid on your donations with Gift Aid – adding 25p to every £1 you give at no cost to yourself?</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – I'm already in the scheme		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – I'd like to join the scheme		
<input type="checkbox"/> No		

<http://www.stpiusxchurch.org.uk/>

**Please return completed form to the Presbytery**