

ST · BARNABAS KENSINGTON

Revd Andy Buckler, vicar

“Your gifts are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”
(Phil 4:18-19)



16th April 2024

Dear friends,

Last February over 130 members of STBK committed to support the “Opening Doors” building project, with many making a gift as a sign of their spiritual buy-in. A huge thank you! Opening Doors really is a project that must involve the whole church family. We are *all* called through this building project to step out in faith as we ask God in prayer to meet our needs so that our building can better embrace God’s plans in the future.

This is of course what the whole project is about. Through step-free access, energy efficient heating and restoration of the organ, we want not only to be able to open the doors of our building to all, but also the doors of opportunity to reach out to those around with the love of Jesus.

We are excited that after many months of waiting and behind the scenes planning, the visible work has now begun! The organ restoration is well underway (in fact, slightly ahead of time), and the first stage of our new heating could come as early as this summer. In addition, the tender process for the Access for all (disabled access ramp/internal lifts) has now been completed and will be ready to begin... as soon as we have the funds!

And so, on Sunday 21st April, we are formally launching the fundraising stage of our “Opening Doors” project.

We have a wonderful starting point here because already £750,000 has been given or promised! We are so grateful for this. But there is more to do. The revised (and now more accurate) total budget for the project has now been set at £1.75 million. This is a challenge that calls for prayer and faith-filled action.

Many of us signalled our spiritual readiness in February by making or promising an initial gift. We believe that now is the time to take this further. Today, we invite you to commit financially toward the Opening Doors Giving Campaign. We are asking you, in addition to your regular giving to the church, to give generously towards this project over the next three years.

Given the enormity of the challenge, it is possible for us to get easily discouraged and feel that our contribution does not count for much. But it is much better to think the other way round. God is going to provide for our needs, he promises this (see the verse at the top of the letter!) and today he invites us to be a part of his provision! So whatever we are able to give, remember that it will be “a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God” and that what we give in faith, he will multiply!

Building on the generosity we have already experienced, the **Opening Doors Giving Campaign** is a key opportunity for us to support this important moment in the life of our church. Over the next months, there will be many fundraising opportunities to imagine and seize, and we will also be calling for people to make gifts of time and expertise. We are also hoping to get significant grants from foundations and trusts. But today we are asking you, members of our church, to prayerfully consider how much you might yourselves give.

With this letter you will find an updated “Opening Doors” brochure, together with a commitment form. Please read them and pray how much you should give. On Sunday 21st April, at each of our services, we will then have a special offering and will also take time to give the whole project back to God in prayer.

Thank you in advance.

With love in Christ,

Rev Andy Buckler
Vicar, St Barnabas Kensington