

OUR CHURCH IS HOPING TO RAISE £250,000 IN FIVE YEARS. WHY DOES OUR CHURCH NEED TO RAISE THIS MONEY?

How is the Church using the Robin Hood Farm legacy?

We carried out repairs to the bell framework in the church tower, in memory of the late Jim Corbett of Robin Hood Farm

We have used some of his very generous gift to transform the interior of the west end of the church to make suitable for a range of services and activities in the future, and in particular to make it easily accessible to all. (We have also used other legacies and donations from people in the parish specifically for this transformation project for which we are most grateful.)

It is anticipated that this once in a lifetime project will be completed by around the end of May at which time the church will re-open and people will be able to see the wonderful transformation for themselves. It is hoped that this will coincide with the Jubilee weekend celebrations in the village on 4th June when the church will be open to all.

The interest earned on the capital invested from the Robin Hood Farm legacy helps to fund the employment of the Children and Young Families Coordinator and to expand the communications work of our Administrator.

Why are we fundraising now?

The transformation project, planned in 2016, is costing more than originally estimated. We added some additional features in response to our public consultation, and to requirements of the Birmingham Diocese. During the covid crisis, the cost of raw materials rose significantly.

We also anticipate a steep rise in our heating and electric bills as a result of the energy crisis.

Have we received any funding from the Government or the Diocese?

Our church does not receive any funding from the Government or any other public organisation, other than some reimbursement of VAT paid on building projects. Although the Diocese owns the church, and fully supports the transformation project, it has not given us any funding towards it.

So the main purpose of our fundraising is to replenish our investment over the next five years, so that we can use the interest earned to meet our existing and anticipated overheads as well as our contributions to the Common Fund for as long as we possibly can.

What is Common Fund?

Our church is expected to pay about £55,000 per year to the Diocese Common Fund from daily donations and any legacies it receives. This is more than a £1,000 a week, every week. Our church must also meet all its running expenses.

The Diocese Common Fund pays for the salaries of all its head office staff, its parish priests and their living expenses. The Diocese expects us to pay this amount, despite our expenditure on improving the church building, and the fact that we have no vicar at the moment. The Diocese also receives all the net income from letting the vicarage.

Unfortunately for us, our vacancy for a vicar has coincided with a new plan which the Birmingham Diocese is implementing for the deployment of vicars. Together with our Church Patron, Robert Muntz, we are in negotiation with the Diocese about how this new plan can be implemented so that the needs of our Parish can be properly met.

For information about how to help our church, please do contact the Church Wardens.
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