



January 2014

Growing our buildings as our congregation grows, so we can serve our community better

Dear

Thank you for being part of our growing congregation at St. Mary's, Eversley.

Part of our growth has been new families joining us, which is wonderful. Our Sunday school now regularly has over 30 children attending, ranging in age from 3 – 12 years, and this means that we need to extend our hall to provide enough space for children's groups. Currently we are taking one group off site each week, as there simply isn't space. This is short term and far from ideal, so we need to work on our long term solution as soon as possible.

Our PCC, along with our Church architect, have spent many months and worked hard reviewing options for increasing space within our grade 1 listed site. We have now settled on this way forward: **We have gained permission and produced plans for a hall extension, which will provide 4 separate spaces.** This will enable a crèche, Searchers (3 -7yrs), Rooted (8 -11yrs) and Youth (11 + yrs) all to be accommodated at St Marys on a Sunday morning. The extra space will also allow the choir to robe and meet.

This extension will enable us to serve our community better. We plan to improve the kitchen, so we can offer a lunch club. We will be able to offer different spaces for the variety of activities held in the hall, such as toddler group, art class, Little Lights, cafe before/after services, training sessions, children's parties, funeral receptions etc. These events could also then be held concurrently. It is a good time to review our space, as the existing hall (20 years old) now requires significant upgrading, likely to cost in the region of £100,000.

The estimated cost for the building work is £300,000, and the need for space is now, so we are starting a major fundraising campaign straight away. We will be applying for grants, and running fundraising events, but for these projects the majority of funds are almost always raised by donations from local people.

Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute and invest in growing our buildings to meet the needs of our growing congregation. Please be creative, we appreciate times are economically tough, but do consider; monthly giving, swapping your charitable donations to the building fund for a fixed time period, a one off donation, employers or friends' employers who match funds etc.

For more detail on this project, there will be the opportunity for you to discuss this further over the next month. Home group leaders/fundraising team members will follow up with you, or please do contact our clergy or Church wardens if you have immediate questions.

Thank you so much for your support.

On behalf of PCC, St Mary's Eversley

"Each one should give, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty, for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause." *2 Corinthians 9:7*