

St Mildred's Church, Lee

See, I am doing a new thing

**Prayer Week
26th June to 3rd July 2022**

**Gift Day
Sunday 3rd July 2022**



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See, I am doing a new thing

WHAT IS THE PRAYER WEEK ALL ABOUT?

The replacement of the old St Mildred's church hall with a new building is vital for the continuation and development of God's work at St Mildred's in the years to come. A costly building project is a very big undertaking for us as a church, but it is necessary. We have seen the Lord do amazing things over the years so far. We trust in his faithfulness, proceeding carefully and with much prayer.

"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you - majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?" (Exodus 15:11)

Having received planning permission for the project in 2021, we are at a critical point. Over £2 million has been provided so far, but we need significantly more funding in order to finish the project. Celebrating how far God has brought us already, we seek him to enable us to complete the task.

As we go forward, we need everyone to continue supporting the building project, both financially, with the gift of time and skills, and in prayer.

The Prayer Week will provide different ways in which the whole church family can get involved. The timetable for the week (see below) is intended to provide something for everybody. The point is that through all of the different activities in the week, we pray together with a common purpose. The Gift Day at the end of the Prayer Week will then provide an opportunity for each of us, as families and individuals, to make our own commitment to support the project.

The building project has been a long journey for us but we are beginning to see our destination! We are encouraged to pray around three themes:

1 – Giving thanks to God:

- For his ever-present guidance and encouragement to this point in the project
- For his faithfulness and provision of generous funds from unexpected sources

2 – Praying about the "journey":

- For the Lord's continuing guidance, and for wisdom in all of our decisions
- For the funds required to complete the building, and for all the other resources required

3 – Looking towards the "destination":

- That our faithful God will provide a new building as a means of blessing the local community
- That God will use the new building to equip St Mildred's for a new season of outreach and service; for teaching God's word and for showing love to our neighbours.

Prayers can simply follow these three headings – but if you would like more detail, you will find on the following pages daily prayer points plus a suggested Bible text for each day. This booklet also sets out some background on the building project and on the resources that we need as we move forward.

	GIVING THANKS	PRAYING ABOUT THE “JOURNEY”
Sunday 26th June	Praise God for success in the planning appeal. Give thanks for our good working relationship with Lewisham Council planning officers.	Pray for the successful discharge of planning conditions as we go forward with demolition and plan the construction of the new building.
Monday 27th June	Give thanks for positive feedback and ongoing assistance from Diocesan representatives. Give thanks for support and encouragement from our Bishops and our Archdeacon.	Pray for satisfactory conclusion of the “faculty” process (to get Diocese consent). Pray for Bishop Christopher, Bishop Karwei and our Archdeacon, Alastair Cutting, in their respective ministries.
Tuesday 28th June	Give thanks for good relationships with our MP, Janet Daby, and with the Grove Park ward councillors: Hilary Moore, Susannah Clarke and (newly elected) Mark Jackson.	Pray for continuation of our good working relationship with the Lewisham Council planning department. Pray for ongoing local support for the building project.
Wednesday 29th June	Praise God for the consultant team engaged on the project and for their professional skills. Give thanks for their commitment to the project and for their willingness to go “above and beyond” to assist us.	Pray for wisdom and integrity in all design work, costing and project management. Pray for guidance in selecting the building contractor of God’s choice and for a fair price to be agreed for the work.
Thursday 30th June	Praise God for answering prayer and for providing necessary resources and solutions to problems. Give thanks for the Greater London Authority grant of £5,000 to fund an energy options study.	Pray for wisdom in decisions to be made concerning energy use in the new building. Pray that, through God’s grace, there will be no unpleasant surprises or unexpected obstacles to the building project.
Friday 1st July	Praise God for providing the buses and for the improvement work recently carried out. Give thanks for those who have worked faithfully to enable the buses and gazebos to be used safely.	Pray for protection from any kind of harm: for safety in construction work and for disruption to neighbours to be minimised. Pray for patience when things don’t go according to plan, and for good solutions.
Saturday 2nd July	Give thanks for the PCC, the Development Group and the many people in the church family who have been praying and providing help on the project and encouragement in different ways	Pray for wisdom for the PCC and the Development Group in all the decisions they make. Pray for unity in the church family and for continuing willingness to give time and skills to help with the project
Sunday 3rd July	Give thanks for the amazing sum of money contributed to the building project so far, much of it from sources that we could not possibly have anticipated.	Pray for the remaining money required. Pray that our generous God will provide funds from unexpected sources. Pray for wisdom in the use of the 10% Development Fund tithe.

	LOOKING TO THE “DESTINATION”	BIBLE TEXT FOR THE DAY
Sunday 26th June	Pray that the word of God will continue to be taught faithfully at St Mildred’s. Pray that we will be obedient witnesses to Jesus, using the new building to make the word of God known.	“Pray...that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ. Pray that we may proclaim it clearly, as we should.” Colossians 4:3-4
Monday 27th June	Pray for the ministry of St Mildred’s among children of all ages and their parents and carers. Pray also that teenagers and young adults will be guided in the Christian faith and encouraged to be wise in all that they do.	“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done... so the next generation would know them... and they in turn would tell their children.” Psalms 78: 4-6
Tuesday 28th June	Pray for our MP and ward councillors. Pray for uniformed organisations and other community groups who might wish to use the new building. Pray that the completed building will enable us to develop new links in the neighbourhood.	“I urge then... that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2
Wednesday 29th June	Pray that the new building will be suitable for whatever work our heavenly Father wants us to do. Pray that we will be obedient to God in the ways in which the new building is used.	“Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; ... I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark... Noah did everything just as God commanded him.” Genesis 6:14-22
Thursday 30th June	Pray for the sick and housebound locally. Pray for appropriate and respectful ways to connect with people who are lonely or needing support. Pray that refugees settling locally will find friendship and feel “at home”.	“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things.” Mark 6: 34
Friday 1st July	Pray that the completed building will be long-lasting and free from defects. Pray against damage or interference of any kind. In particular, pray for protection for the building, for activities within it and for all those using it.	“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” Proverbs 18:10 “For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.” Psalms 61:3
Saturday 2nd Jul	Pray that the new building will open up new opportunities for loving our neighbour. Pray for church members to feel encouraged and equipped to serve the Lord in practical ways.	“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.” John 15:5
Sunday 3rd July	Pray for the church family to show love and generosity to by using the new building for acts of service the local community. Pray that our heavenly Father will use the new building to grow His kingdom on earth.	“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” 1 Chronicles 29:14

PRAYER WEEK TIMETABLE – SUNDAY 26th JUNE to SUNDAY 3rd JULY 2022

Day	AM	PM/evening
Sunday 26 th June	10.00am - Morning Worship in Church Prayer Week “launch”	3.30pm to 5.00pm - Afternoon tea in church Delicious cakes and tea served, with space set aside for quiet prayer and reflective craft activities. Opportunities to pray in small groups while walking around the construction site.
Monday 27 th June	9.30am - Prayer meeting in Church and online	
Tuesday 28 th June	Pray wherever and however you like!	
Wednesday 29 th June	8.00pm - Prayer meeting in Church and online	
Thursday 30 th June	Pray wherever and however you like!	
Friday 1 st July	8.30am – Prayer followed by breakfast at 21 Winn Road	7.00pm - Worship in Church
Saturday 2 nd July	<p align="center">Church open for prayer all day.</p> <p align="center">7.00am to 8.30am – quiet private prayer</p> <p align="center">8.30am to 9.00am – morning worship</p> <p align="center">9.00am to 10.00am – breakfast</p> <p align="center">11.00am – 12.30pm – prayer walk led by Henry starting at the Church</p> <p align="center">2.00pm to 4.00pm – child-friendly family prayer activities in Church</p> <p align="center">2.00pm to 4.00pm – prayer activity outside Church or on the buses</p> <p align="center">4.30pm to 6.00pm - prayer activity in Church with tea</p> <p align="center">6.30pm to 7.00pm – service to conclude the day</p>	
Sunday 3 rd July	10.00am - Holy Communion and Gift Day service in Church	

WHY DO WE NEED A NEW BUILDING?

The old church hall was decommissioned in 2019. We have two double decker buses as interim accommodation but we really need a proper new building with plenty of space for multiple activities. The purpose of the new building will be:

- to provide a safe place in which to carry forward the activities that currently happen on the buses and those which had to cease after the closure of the old hall;
- to help us to develop existing ministries further, for example, by accommodating a larger number of children and young people for Sunday morning activities; and
- to provide opportunities for additional ministries beyond the expansion of existing activities.

The new building will also be a resource for local community groups and activities.

Good news!

Our mission statement is “to know Jesus and make him known”. We are called to share the good news of Jesus and to be of service to others. An attractive, welcoming, new building will make a significant difference to the way in which we are able to demonstrate God’s love to those around us. It will provide a vital practical resource both for the church and for the local community.

A place for young and old

Working without a church hall building is impeding our work with children and young people and holding back its development. The parent and toddler group is oversubscribed and needs more suitable space. We also need appropriate space for outreach to children and teenagers, whether as a continuation of the “Xtreme” and “Grid” groups or as something new.

“Their descendants will serve him; the next generation will be told about the Lord. They will come and declare his righteousness; to a people yet to be born they will declare what he has done.” **Psalm 22:30-31**

The old church hall used to house Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, catering for local children and young people between the ages of 5 and 16. Since the closure of the hall, many of these groups have had to find alternative accommodation.

A new building will provide more suitable space for ministry to those who are lonely and needing support and (with willing and able manpower) the potential for a lunch club for elderly people who might otherwise be alone.

Addressing community needs

An appropriately designed new building will help the church family at St Mildred’s to respond both to short term “crisis” issues and to longer term community needs. The open foyer of the new building could be used for “coffee shop” type uses such as job clubs for the unemployed, home-work clubs and other support. Flexible, welcoming space will also provide opportunities for ministry to refugees. There will be a small room designed to be suitable for counselling.

The aim is to make the building flexible enough in its layout to allow for future church and community uses that we cannot yet foresee.

Making connections

A new, well-designed building will serve as a tool to help us to make connections with the community, be it through church activities, uniformed groups associated with the church, church outreach or external activities. We should see the new building as being a multi-purpose meeting place for the Church, for the parish and for the wider locality.

We wish to provide a place in which relationships are created and developed and in which those who feel isolated will find a welcome.

Lee is an area without an obvious community “hub”. A new building attached to St Mildred’s will create something of this sort, if it provides (by way of external hire) a facility in which people can meet, learn and celebrate. A building in which local people can mark significant events and celebrate the good things of life will help us to build bridges into the community. We want to make lasting connections that will enable us to stand alongside people: to weep with those who weep and to rejoice with those who rejoice.

Working effectively

The new building is designed to include a church office, enabling church and teams within in to work more effectively.

Investing in the future

A new church hall building will be an investment in the future of our church and our community.

We should consider it both a privilege and a necessity to be of service to the people in our local area. It is an important part of our “message” that we seek to give to the community and do not expect the community to support the church in return. In that spirit of giving, we need to invest creatively and sacrificially in a new building to replace the existing church hall to assist us to serve our community effectively in the name of Christ for the years to come.

“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” **Matthew 28:20**

HOW MUCH WILL THE NEW BUILDING COST?

After receiving planning permission in 2021, the designs were reviewed in details and adjustments were considered in order to make the building as cost-effective as possible. We have now made some modest minor design changes which enable the building work to more efficiently on a slightly reduced floor area.

The cost plan prepared prior to our planning application projected the total cost of the project in the region of **£3.7 million**, but with the effect of inflation it would be more realistic to anticipate a project cost of **£4 million**.

The sum required – particularly in a context of rising inflation – presents a significant challenge. However, we believe that God will provide the necessary funding as we seek him and follow his will.

WHERE WILL THE MONEY COME FROM?

A large proportion of the cost of the new building will need to be provided by gifts from church family members. Sacrificial giving will be essential, and this will need to be in addition to church members' regular giving to St Mildred's. Without a commitment of this sort the project will not go ahead. Page 8 of this booklet provides details of the different ways in which money can be given. Please consider carefully and prayerfully how much you can offer to support God's work at St Mildred's in the future by contributing to the building project.

As an encouragement to us: the same anonymous charitable trust who offered to support us financially in 2015 has approached us again with a similar offer of support. They will match, pound for pound, any donations pledged or made to the Development Fund between 3rd July and 30th September 2022 up to a maximum of £500,000. The matching funds will be provided at the point at which the money is actually paid into the Development Fund. With the addition of Gift Aid tax relief, this will help significantly.

So, for example: if somebody pledges on Gift Day to give £50.00 per month for 5 years then when each monthly payment is made the charitable trust will pay an additional £50.00 per month. If the donor is a UK tax payer, the government will add another £12.50 by way of Gift Aid. This means that a monthly commitment of £50.00 becomes a monthly contribution of £112.50. Over five years this will grow to a total sum of £6,750.00.

This offer of matched funding could make a very significant impact on our ability to proceed with the building project, so we thank the Lord (and the charitable trust!) for this generous offer.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” **Ephesians 3:20-21**

While asking church members to give, we will at the same time be pursuing other possible sources of funding including fund-raising activities and grants from trusts and other charitable bodies. The fund-raising policy settled by the PCC allows us to apply to charities and other grant-making bodies for funds, provided that:

- (a) funds are not generated from sources that we would not be comfortable with;
- (b) no inappropriate conditions are attached, e.g. as to how our building should be used; and
- (c) no ostentatious or inappropriate acknowledgement of the funds received should be required.

The PCC has decided that these conditions will prevent us from applying for National Lottery funding.

We cannot start building until all of the money required has been provided or promised. Before we select a contractor we need to be sure that we have enough funds to pay for the project.

The PCC may consider a loan when we are ready to start building. However, it will only do so with extreme care, because a loan does not actually provide funds, it simply postpones to a later date the need to find the sums which have been borrowed. At the point at which we are otherwise ready to start building but have insufficient funds, the PCC might seek a loan from a suitable bank or institution or might welcome interest-free loans from members of the church family. However, we are unlikely to borrow an amount in excess of sums pledged to be given over the next few years. To borrow in excess of sums pledged could impose an excessive burden on St Mildred's in the future.

HOW WILL THE MONEY BE USED?

All gifts of money – large and small – will be received gratefully and used with care.

All money given for the purposes of the building project will be allocated to the St Mildred's Development Fund. This is set aside for the replacement of our church hall. If we are unable to raise enough money to construct a new building broadly as set out in the current design proposals we will be required to use the Development Fund either to construct a more modest replacement building or to make significant additions or modifications to our church buildings.

Money in the Development Fund can only be spent for the purposes of a new building or building alteration project. This will include fees for preliminary activities such as preparing designs and producing a planning application as well as the cost of construction works, the payment of rent on alternative space while works are being carried out and the purchase of furniture and equipment. The Development Fund may not be diverted to address any shortfall in the regular income of the church.

A tithe of 10% is set aside annually on all gifts paid into the Development Fund (including any interest accrued and any tax relief payments). Distribution of this tithe will be at the PCC's discretion but with the expectation that the money might be applied towards a suitable mission project requiring capital funding.

“Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.”
1 Chronicles 29:12

WHAT CAN I DO?

It's not just about money!

As part of our Gift Day, we are asking all church members to complete the form on the back of this booklet to indicate how they can commit to supporting the building project.

First, please pray for the progress of the building project – and commit to continuing to pray. Without prayer, we will not be able to continue.

Much of the information within this booklet concerns financial giving but we also need church members to give their time and skills to help with the project. There will always be jobs to do, both for progressing the building project and in raising funds. There is a jobs board at the back of the church, but if none of those tasks feel right for you please ask and we can give you some other ideas. All practical assistance is greatly appreciated!

Please also consider whether you can give financially. We understand that living costs are rising and that all of our circumstances are different, but every gift is important, however small.

If you can contribute in any way at all... a very grateful THANK YOU!

GIVING FINANCIALLY

There is (as at June 2022) about £2 million in the Development Fund, for which we give God our very grateful thanks. Assuming the total cost of the building project to be in the region of £4 million we need to raise a further £400,000 each year for the next 5 years.

Regular gifts

A promise to give a specific sum to the Development Fund regularly for a stated period will assist the PCC in forward planning. It would be particularly helpful if you could make a commitment to contribute financially for a specific period, ideally 5 years.

Regular gifts can be made by bank standing order. A standing order can be cancelled at any time if circumstances change. Standing order forms are available from the Giving Secretary, Chris Coutts.

One-off gifts

Gifts of money can be made immediately or pledged to be made on a particular date or on the occurrence of a specific event.

How to donate

Gifts can be made by cheque payable to "St Mildred's Church Development Fund" or by direct bank transfer to account number 71835475 at HSBC Bank, 85 Lewisham High Street, London SE13 6BE, sort code 40-04-15. For gifts of loose change, small plastic cash boxes will continue to be available. Gifts can alternatively be made in cash in the collection plate in an envelope clearly marked "Development Fund".

Whether you are 21 years old or 101, it is important to write a will. This provides an opportunity to consider a legacy to St Mildred's. Further details will be provided soon to explain more about this.

Gift Aid

If you pay tax and sign a Gift Aid declaration, St Mildred's can reclaim 25p from the government's "Gift Aid" scheme for every £1 that you give, turning your gift into £1.25 at no extra cost to you. The only requirement is that in the relevant financial year you have paid at least 25p in UK income or capital gains tax for every £1 that you give through Gift Aid.

If you pay tax at the higher rate of 40% or 45%, St Mildred's can still claim Gift Aid tax relief at the basic rate, but you will be entitled to reclaim the difference between basic and higher rate tax on the sums given. If you are taxed in the 40% band and you wish to give £100, the best way to do so is to donate £133.33. You will then be able to claim £33.33 back through your tax return and St Mildred's will be able to claim an additional £33.33 by way of Gift Aid. This makes a total gift to the Development Fund of £166.66.

Commitment

When you have decided what kind of commitment you can make to the building project, please complete the form on page 9, put it in a sealed envelope and bring it to church with you on Gift Day. Alternatively you can give your form to Chris Coutts at any time. All completed forms will be kept completely confidential. If you are unable to make or promise a gift of money at this time, please consider using the form to indicate your commitment to praying regularly for the building project.

MY/OUR COMMITMENT TO THE ST MILDRED'S CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT

Name(s):

Address:

PRAYER

I/we commit to praying for the building project.

TIME AND SKILLS

I/we wish to offer my/our time and skills to the project.

REGULAR GIFTS TO ST MILDRED'S CHURCH DEVELOPMENT FUND

I promise to give the sum of £..... monthly, commencing on(date) and continuing until further notice/until(date of last payment). [NB: it will be extremely helpful if you can commit to give regularly for a period of 5 years, to the middle of 2027. If this is not possible please specify a different period.]

I have already set up a standing order for this regular payment.
OR:

Please provide me with the form that I need to set up a standing order.

ONE-OFF GIFT(S) TO ST MILDRED'S CHURCH DEVELOPMENT FUND

I enclose a cheque in the sum of £..... made payable to "St Mildred's Church Development Fund"

OR:

I have made/will make a direct bank transfer in the sum of £.....

OR:

I promise to give a sum(s) as follows:

£..... on (date/event)

£..... on (date/event)

£..... on(date/event)

GIFT AID

If you are a UK tax payer and would like your donation to be Gift Aided, please tick the box below.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made to St Mildred's Church, Lee (including all payments made into the St Mildred's Church Development Fund) in the past 4 years and in the future unless I notify you otherwise. I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of tax that all charities that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year.

Signature:.....

The Parish Church of St Mildred, Lee in the Diocese of Southwark
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Registered Charity No. 1128995