



Postal address:
32 Fairview Rise
Brighton
BN1 5GL

01273 503926

www.ascensionbrighton.org

Dear friend

Finance Review and Gift Day 28th February 2010

Firstly, as ever, may we thank you on behalf of the Ascension Church for your regular giving over the past year. Your giving enables the work of the gospel to continue and to grow in Westdene and the surrounding area.

2009 has seen further improvements in our understanding of our financial position so that at our Vision night in May we will be able to share the details with you. In the meantime we can give a brief overview of the financial headlines.

Indicative Financial Results 2009

As you may be aware the Ascension is running at a deficit which for a church of our present size is not unusual. Our anticipated Income for 2009 is £29k, our Expenditure £57k and the Deficit therefore will be £28k.

It is worth noting that £40k of the Expenditure represents the full annual cost of having a Minister. We are currently in discussions with All Saints to see whether we may gradually phase in these costs over a number of years. If agreed this will give us more achievable annual targets.

In the meantime we are setting a budget with a 10% increase in income which will result in a 2010 shortfall of about £22k. However if the proposal above were to be agreed the shortfall would be significantly less.

Building for the Future

Of course this talk about money is a means to an end. Our real aim as a church is to bring good news to our neighbourhood. Having recently celebrated 50 years of Christian witness in Westdene we are looking now to provide for the future. Over the last few months we have identified two key projects to help us grow.

a) We would like to employ a children and families worker.

As you are aware we are struggling provide a consistent ministry to local families, and our limited resources have prevented us from capitalising on the good things we have done such as the Holiday Club. We believe it is time to recruit someone to lead this work.

=>To provide a full time worker for three years will cost us approximately £90k.

b) We would like to refurbish and improve our building.

It has been 17 years since we have made any significant investment in our building. With the right vision and resources our church can grow and become a valued centre for the community. We are talking with architects about what might be possible. In the long term this could include extending our building on all levels, thus adding new rooms, better access, and allowing greater flexibility of use. In the short term we seek to improve our lighting, and make the church more welcoming, including a redesign of the entrance foyer.

=>To make a start towards our short term aims will cost us approximately £30k.

In summary we are looking to invest £120k into these projects over three years, of which we have £80k already from Legacy gifts. Therefore we are looking to raise an additional £40k from other sources over this period.

To demonstrate their commitment to this vision the Focus Group have made an advance pledge of £8k (including Gift Aid).

The Present Challenge

We would ask you to pray and consider your response to the financial challenges outlined above. Through the wonderful legacy of others we have a tremendous platform on which we can build, and by God's grace contribute to the growing of his kingdom locally.

On Sunday 28th February we will be reflecting further on the task ahead of us. It would be great to see you then as we celebrate our church Anniversary. And following this we would be delighted to receive your response by way of filling in the enclosed Pledge Form and returning it to church by 14th March.

Again, we would say thank you for all you already do in the church. Together we look to what God will do through us in the future.

Yours in Christ,

Andy Bousfield Minister
Edward Blanden Giving Officer