

Dear Friends,

“The next stretch of the river is in our reach”

Phase 2 venue project – September 2015 update

These are exciting times for us as a church, in many different ways – here’s just a few:

- We’re continuing to hear regular stories of people “being Jesus in the world” – please let us know if you have a story that we don’t yet know about! We’re also continuing to hear stories of people coming to faith which is so exciting
- Over 30 of our youth and a dozen or so young adults have come back after fantastic weeks at Soul Survivor & Momentum respectively
- Storehouse has been very busy. It remained opened to clients on Saturday mornings throughout the summer. Many new clients were served, including with fresh vegetables from the church allotment which is producing prolifically!
- Several of the Young Vineyard rooms have been refurbished and upgraded (some work is still on-going, please bear with us!)

On top of these & many other things, the phase 2 venue project continues to progress, about which we wanted to update you.

Before we do, I’m aware that some may not be familiar with this project. If that’s you, please pick up a project brochure from the display at the back of the auditorium. You can also find more details by going to riversidevineyard.com/venue-project

The giving on Commitment Sunday in May was an expression of incredible generosity and wholehearted commitment to serve our communities. About £300k was given or pledged in the year to May 2016, and a further ~£50k already pledged for the 2 years after that.

Since then, here’s a summary of what’s been going on:

- An enlarged project team has been assembled, bringing together the skills required for this stage of the project. The team is:
 - Andy Gill (team chairperson)
 - Gareth Gerner (architect)
 - Andy Chapman (senior pastor)
 - Ash Blewett (assistant pastor)
 - Amanda Iweanya (trustee, H&S)
 - Simon Newton (trustee, finance)

- Stuart Finn (quantity surveyor & contracts, not part of RVC but previously involved in the auditorium building project)

If you have any thoughts or questions at any stage, this team along with the trustees and the pastoral staff team would love to hear from you

- A more detailed “client design brief” detailing critical design features is in preparation
- The next step will be to initiate a tendering process which we aim to do this term
- Design conversations have been held with suppliers of key build components
- Positive discussion held with M&E (mechanical & electrical) engineers
- A more detailed hard & soft landscaping plan is in process, including detailed research related to the vehicle access point from AirPark Way
- Positive discussions continue with our mortgage lender. Whilst the giving to this project over the last 3 years has been amazing, we still have a gap in the budget that will need to be addressed by some additional borrowing
- Our hope is to begin building in Spring 2016 – to be confirmed!!

You might, we hope, be asking, “is there anything I can be doing now?” Here’s some ideas:

- Pray, and pray some more. Those involved in the project need wisdom, strength & favour on lots of fronts. Please also pray for the right builders!
- Please pray for the project budget, that gift pledges will be honoured. [If you’ve not yet got involved in this way, please pick up a project brochure for details]
- If you have thoughts, ideas or questions, please do chat to one of the project team, a trustee, or one of the pastoral staff

As we said at the start, these are exciting times. We continue to be very encouraged by what we see the Lord doing as we reach for the next stretch of the river.

With every blessing,

Andy + Bethan

Andy & Bethan Chapman, Senior Pastors