

THE BUILDING

A Journey of Faith

Reaching our Goal

The Task

The task is awesome, yet exciting! We need to raise an estimated 2 million pounds. Most of it will come from us, the members of Reading Vineyard, possibly through most of us entering on the greatest financial adventure of our lives. However, we know this for sure – God who has called us to give is also trustworthy to provide

Step	Monthly	Yearly	3 Years
1	£69.44	£833.33	£2,500
2	£138.88	£1,666.66	£5,000
3	£208.33	£2,500	£7,500
4	£277.77	£3,333.33	£10,000
5	£347.22	£4,166.66	£12,500

Matthew 6:31-33 (ANIV)

³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

In terms of our giving, if we are able to get a significant amount of money immediately or in the next couple of months that will enable us to move quickly on the purchase of any available building or plot. However, many people do not have large amounts of money available to give, and so another way of giving is by making a three year pledge to give each month an amount **on top of your regular giving**. While we're encouraging 3 year pledges, it's absolutely fine if you would prefer to pledge for a shorter or longer period than that. It is also fine if you can give part upfront money and pledge the rest or any combination in between!

Up front money will enable us to make progress sooner than pledged money, and so where it is possible we would encourage that

Compassion

As we invest in our overall mission 24/7 we will be setting aside 10% of everything raised for the building as a fund for our **Compassion ministries**. Our desire is to be able to do something significant in tackling some of the problems we see around us. Raising £2 million would therefore give us a fund of **£200,000**.

Equal Sacrifice not Equal Gifts

We want people to give sacrificially but also freely. Some have the means to give a few pounds, some £100, or £1,000, or £10,000, or £100,000. What giving sacrificially means to each person is a relative thing and we are approaching this on the basis of **"equal sacrifice not equal gifts"**.

As human beings, we tend to be inspired by concrete targets and goals. We also need to make this huge figure of £2 million more manageable. If only 200 people gave £10,000 each over three years we will have made our goal! And of course the government helps us through **Gift Aid**. If we gift aid our pledges, it will make reaching our target easier.

Given that we have a bell curve of differing incomes in the church, if 20% of the 200 (40 people) give £2,500 each over three years, if 40 people give £5000 each, if 40 people give £7,500 each, if 40 people give £10,000 each, and if 40 people give £12,500 each all over a three year period, the church will have raised £1.5 million in one offering! We will be well on the way to securing the building!!!!

The Challenge!

I would like to challenge you all to stretch your faith to get onto one of the financial steps of the financial ladder shown on the first page. I know it is a stretch for us all but there are a number of things that make it easier:-

- 1) **Stage:** The first is that it is over **three years**. It may be that you already have the money and can give it immediately which is wonderful for the church as it allows us to proceed more quickly, but otherwise we can reach this target in stages. That makes it more manageable.
- 2) **Save:** There are numerous ways we can save on current spending that will give you £100's if not £1000's back in income that is currently being spent needlessly elsewhere. Martin Lewis www.moneysavingexpert.com says this: "**Give yourself a Money Makeover: How to completely overhaul your finances and save £1,000s. By shifting to the best products for everything you can easily give yourself as much extra cash as a 25% payrise. Better still you can do it all yourself, without paying anyone and it only takes a day.**"
 - a. Believe you me, he is not joking. I have personally done this and have been staggered at how much I have been throwing away needlessly by not checking whether I am getting the best deal on car & home insurance, phone, TV, broadband... Try it and see.
 - a. But we will also need to consider sacrifices. It is unlikely that we can do this simply by giving out of our excess. We may have to think of simplifying our lives; doing an audit on what is really necessary in our lives over the next three years can be transforming; in fact simply living a simpler life over the next three years for the sake of the kingdom of God can be transforming!
- 3) **Raise:** We don't need to just save money, we can **raise** money. Most of us have loads of stuff in garages, sheds, lofts that can be sold on eBay or at car boot sales or at car boot sales in the church which can raise £100's. We have talents and service that we can sell to others which if we do it over a three year period again means we can raise significantly more money than we can imagine!
- 4) **Lastly, believe! By staging, saving, raising we can do this!**

What if we don't get enough money? That would cause a delay and perhaps a revision of the scale of our plans. We have lots of building needs ranging from offices to a range of midweek meeting venues, but we would prefer to have it all! We would continue to take active steps to raise money both within and outside the church to reach our target and/or choose a stepping stone on the way to our preferred solution.



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