

BEYOND THE LYCHGATE PROJECT

**REACHING, RESOURCING &
SUPPORTING THE COGGES
COMMUNITY**



How you can help

We see this project as a vital means to renew our commitment to serving the people of Cogges. Please will you pray with us for the success of the project and for those leading the project development.

We are inviting you as a church member to consider making a gift to support the project. This will give the project the means to launch our fundraising publicly beyond our church family in the Autumn. Your generosity as a church member will demonstrate to our wider community and to grant-making trusts the measure of our church community's commitment to the successful completion of this project.

Please would you consider supporting the project financially in one of the following ways:

- ◆ Making a financial gift to the project.
- ◆ Pledging a financial gift to be paid at some stage in the next three years with the expected date of payment.
- ◆ Committing to pay a monthly amount towards the project over the course of the next 3 years.

Making a gift

You can make your gift or pledge your support by using the project's Giving and Gift Aid form, or by visiting our website where you can download a Giving Form. By setting up a Standing Order you can spread your giving across the year by regular instalments: this will help us budget for the project.

Using Gift Aid

If you have already signed up for Gift Aid, then you do not need to fill out another Gift Aid Declaration. If you are a UK taxpayer, and haven't yet signed up to Gift Aiding your support to our church, please do sign up for Gift Aid. This will mean that for every £10 you give, we can claim back £2.50 from the government. Gift Aid is easy: you only need to tick the box and fill in your contact details so that HMRC can identify who you are. If you pay Higher Rate tax, you can claim back at least 20% yourself.

How to get involved

Fundraising events: Do you have ideas for what we might do? Can you help us run an event? Can you support these events?

Online shopping: If you shop online, you will be able to use www.easyfundraising.com and 'Beyond the Lychgate Project' will get a percentage of what you spend. More details will be available on the website.

Why Beyond the Lychgate Project?

The building and its new frontage lie next to our church's Lych Gate. It will serve as our gateway through which to reach out with our support ministries into the wider community. It will also provide a gateway through which young and old will be invited to join in with the new activities that the centre will allow us to host. In this way more will come to experience the Good News that our Christian faith brings to this world. Our architect has focused on improving the way in which the view past the new frontage draws the eye past the new centre through the Lychgate towards St Mary's church.

We now face a timely opportunity to create a legacy that will transform the kind of service we offer to local people now and for many years to come.

The Old School House

For many years we have been extremely fortunate in having access to the Old School House, next to St Mary's, as our Parish Office. Many church members believe that our church owns the building. In fact, the building has been held in trust by the Blake Education Trust (BET) since 1874.

Realising an asset

Recent changes in charity law have necessitated the BET trustees to make more effective use of their assets: they now charge St Mary's rent for our office space and have had to take the decision to sell off the Old School House.

Seizing this opportunity

This is a rare chance to enhance significantly how we serve the people of Cogges in the 21st century.

The Opportunity of a lifetime is only in the lifetime of the Opportunity

The Building Project Outline

STEP 1 > Buy the Old School House.

STEP 2 > Replace current 1980s extension with new frontage. Refurbish the building to provide office space, an extra meeting room and the pre-school to stay, and new loos & kitchen. Create a new gated carpark on the site of the old playground.

STEP 3 > Invest in ministry that will help to develop the use of the Centre as a resource for our community

Expanding our mission footprint

These new facilities will enable us to develop how we serve the needs of local families and their children, through a number of possible activities including the pre-school group, an after-school club, a youth club and new facilities for Messy Church. On Sundays the larger spaces possible in the new building will provide our Junior Church with the space they need to flourish. Through our church's mission planning we have identified possible opportunities: to serve young people, including those who 'hang out' in the churchyard, to provide a drop-in centre for young people and adults with special needs, to offer activities and support for the lonely and elderly of the parish.

Costs

PHASE 1

To purchase the Old School House

£300,000

PHASE 2

To build the extension to create the new car park

£320,000

PHASE 3

To part-fund a Family/School/Parish Link Worker

£30,000