



St Lawrence Church
LECHLADE-ON-THAMES

Parish Office
Church Cottage
Market Place
Lechlade
GL7 3AB

t. 01367 358653
e. info@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk

Urgent Funding Need for Project Inspire

Dear friends,

This is a hugely important time for our church family of St. Lawrence. In 2025 we hope to start building works for our ambitious and much-needed 'Project Inspire' restoration and re-ordering programme. We are immensely grateful for all those who have already pledged towards the project and who have supported the various fundraising events we have already held. We are also very grateful for the £340k raised from various trust funds.

We estimate the overall project will cost £1.25 million which now has to include VAT, although costs may rise further from the increases in building materials and the government's increase in National Insurance contributions. We are also disappointed by the announcement last week that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will only now allow churches to claim back a maximum of £25k, compared to £140k under previous arrangements. *This unexpected challenge means we are now facing a significant shortfall of £115k.*

We don't feel that taking out a loan is wise, as it would saddle the church family with an unsustainable financial burden with no easy way of making repayments when we are already just about balancing expenditure and income. Loan repayments would also mean we would have to cut our giving to world mission and other outreach projects.

We are now asking the wider church family to consider

- (a) Increasing the size of your existing pledge
- (b) Making a pledge if you haven't already done so
- (c) Sponsoring a specific item e.g. the kitchen, or chairs (full list to be published shortly)

'Project Inspire' is a once in a generation opportunity to realise our vision of a warm, bright, flexible church building for use by the whole community as well as for public worship. If we want to make this happen, now is the time to give prayerfully and sacrificially. If we do not remedy the shortfall of £115k the whole project is at risk. *Would you please consider joining in the vision for 'Project Inspire' and let us know by the end of February if you are making a pledge for the first time, increasing an existing pledge or sponsoring an item?*

You can send a cheque for Project Inspire, make a direct bank transfer (Sort Code 20-84-61, Account 63394069, Name Parochial Church Council Lechlade) or use the Pledge Form in the blue brochures at the back of church. If you would like to discuss pledges and fundraising further, please do contact us via the Parish Office, details above.

Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar, on behalf of the PCC (Parochial Church Council) and Churchwardens of St. Lawrence Church