

Dear

As one of our regular users of Knock Christian Centre, I am writing to you on behalf of the Trust (Dun Fell Christian Trust - DFCT, who own and operate the Centre and employ our Wardens Phil and Beth Reed) to let you know more about where our plans for the future of the Centre have got to, and how we see the developments of the next few months and years working out. We so much value our relationship with you in the gospel and, though you may not see us around the Centre too often, can I assure you that we pray constantly with you and for you; that young people and old would come nearer to Christ as you use our facility to make Him known. You can be sure that as a Trust we do understand the demands of leading your groups at KCC - three of us regularly bring teenagers on camps and weekends to KCC ourselves.

Many of you will know that for the last 2-3 years we have been exploring the possibility of providing a significant upgrade to the Centre so that it better meets your needs without us having to greatly increase the tariff we charge. Meeting both those objectives is not straight-forward, as you can imagine! However, we are now persuaded after much prayer, research and planning, that a complete rebuild of KCC is the correct way to proceed. We have taken advice, held a neighbourhood meeting, employed architects and surveyors, drawn up plans and, in September 2024, we had them approved by Eden District Council. We now have a completed set of plans and have constructed a 3D model to better appreciate the layout of a new build centre. At the moment we are working on several fronts to move the project forward, namely a full website upgrade to include e-booking, donations, group leader paperwork and admin, KCC policies, and an area to keep supporters updated on progress with the plan to rebuild.

Our legal and banking arrangements are being upgraded, and project managers and bid writers are being engaged. Lists of possible grant-making bodies are constantly being added to, and new publicity is being produced to help us all get the exciting message of a new Centre out to those who need to know. Fantastic backing and support in prayer has been received from our local MP Tim Farron. I have had the joy of a tremendous discussion with him, he has been to visit the Centre to meet our wardens, neighbours and trustees, and he is happy to assist and advise where he can. Tim is a fine Christian brother working hard for the Kingdom in government, and we are so pleased to have his support.

I am so privileged to serve a Trust where God has brought together a team whose abilities and gifts, and especially their love for Christ, constantly amaze me. I assure you they are already working hard to bring about what we believe God is asking us to do. We are so blessed to have a local businessman from a Cumbrian farming family, a youth outreach coordinator working with the Carlisle Diocese, a lawyer working as a family court judge, and a civil engineer well versed in planning applications and project management. My own background in education, health and safety, and leadership development completes the team. Of course we are aware that we do not have all the answers, and, since 4 out of 5 of us are still in full time paid employment, we are going to need professional advice, and suggestions from you, our group leaders.

So what, specifically, is there that you might be able to do to help at this point?

- Please pray for wisdom and clarity of thought for all on the Trust, for continuing good relationships with local communities, and that funds will be made available to complete this task.
- Please get involved in whatever way you can to spread the news of our plans as widely as possible. You might arrange a spot in a church service, pass on a leaflet on paper or online to others, send a link to your contacts about the plans or directing people to the website, host a funding roadshow in your area (we will supply the people and the materials), or tell us about a grant body we may not have uncovered. All of these are very helpful.
- You may have a suggestion for the Centre plan to pass on to us. Whilst we cannot deviate from the accepted building plan, minor internal changes to materials or suggestions of things you may have seen working really well in other similar places are very welcome. We may not be able to incorporate all your ideas of course, but we would still value your input.
- Please consider if you are able to partner with us in giving, or if you know others who may be in a position to do so. The cost estimates we have from builders suggest we need to raise between **£4-6m** to complete the project. Advice taken so far suggests that many grant making bodies will be keen to operate on a "match funding" basis, meaning we will need to be able to demonstrate a sum already raised before they are likely to agree a grant. Many are keen to give a sum that means a project will be completed, which means we will need to get near to any projected total using gifts.

We would be so grateful if you feel able to contribute any amount to our fundraising total. We understand that all giving is sacrificial, and we can assure you that every penny will be put to the best possible use. For those paying income tax, the Gift Aid reclaim system makes a very significant increase to the value of your gift, so we urge you, where possible, to allow us to claim back the extra income from HMRC. The generous heart is the main issue for us, not the amount of finance you can contribute. However, there are some sensible practicalities we have put in place to maximise the value of gifts small and larger, and to reduce the burden on our treasurer.

The majority of donations we expect to come in via our Stewardship account www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/DunFellChristianTrust. However, we would ask that any gifts that someone may consider making of £10,000 or greater should please come direct to the Trust by contacting our treasurer on the following email address: treasurer@DFCT.org This would enable us to retain a greater proportion of your gift within the Trust. We are asking for donations to the overall work of the Trust, which means that we aim to use these funds to demolish and rebuild the Knock Christian Centre. **Thank you.**

Whilst this is an exciting project, it is also a bit intimidating when I look at it in our own strength!

As a Trust we are keenly aware of our need to rely on God's Holy Spirit to guide, strengthen and inspire us. We regularly pray a similar thing for all our group leaders at our Trust meetings. Our goal ultimately is to help your work as you seek to know Christ and make Him known. If we are able to provide you with a new Centre, we will have done it together and the glory will be God's alone.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel, your support of what we are attempting, and for all the practical ways I am sure you will be helping us in the future.



Phil Wildsmith

On behalf of Dun Fell Christian Trust.