

Dear

My name is Phil Wildsmith and I have the privilege of serving on the Dun Fell Christian Trust which owns Knock Christian Centre (KCC). I have also been involved as a leader on LinkUp holidays since 1986, taking a group of teenagers to KCC for a week each Summer since then. This has meant we have seen a lot of great things happening in the lives of hundreds of young people over the years, with many of our current leaders having been guests at our holiday themselves! I know many of our regular, loyal user groups can recount the same blessings too.

Since the 1970s when the Centre was acquired from the Youth Hostel Association, we have witnessed the gradual decline of the basic structure of the building. Many kind Christian people have given so generously to maintain and upgrade the facilities over the years. The Centre has been able to function at a very low tariff because of this amazing giving, which has meant we have been able to offer it to groups who would find more commercial tariffs impossible to fund. In a number of cases we offer the facilities to groups who are unable to meet even this low tariff, welcoming all irrespective of finance because we know that is what Jesus would do.

However, the current situation is not really sustainable, as more significant structural work will need to be completed very soon. For these and many other good reasons, we began a process to evaluate and plan a new build some 3 years ago. We now have finalised plans which were passed by Eden District Council in September 2024. Our best current estimate to complete a rebuild is between **£4-6m**.

Fantastic backing and support in prayer has been received from our local MP Tim Farron. I have had 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.

### Is there something that you might be able to do to help at this point?

- Please pray for wisdom and clarity of thought the Trust, for good relationships with local communities, and that funds will be made available for completion.
- Please spread the news of our plans. Whether a spot in a church service, distributing leaflets on paper or electronically, host a funding roadshow in your area (we will supply the people and the materials), or telling us about a grant body we may not have uncovered.
- You may have a suggestion for the Centre plan to pass on to us. We may not be able to incorporate all your ideas but we would still value your input.
- Please consider if you partnering with us in giving. Estimates we have from builders suggest we need to raise between **£4-6m** to complete the project.

We would be so grateful if you feel able to contribute any amount to our fundraising total. 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 majority of donations we expect to come in via our Stewardship account [www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/DunFellChristianTrust](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/DunFellChristianTrust). Any gifts of £10,000 or greater should please come direct to the Trust by contacting our treasurer on the following email address: [treasurer@DFCT.org](mailto: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, meaning that we aim to use these funds to demolish and rebuild the Knock Christian Centre. **Thank you.**

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 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.