

Fundraising passes £2 million

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to your generosity, the Campaign total has reached £2,045,749.47, which means that we are almost halfway to our £5 million target!

We are very pleased with how much all of our supporters have given us, despite the tough economic times. In fact, most of the money so far has come from individuals and not big trusts, so thank you!

Almost half of this total has already been put to good use, and you can see some of the results: the restoration of the Lady Chapel, the Relic Chapel and Sanctuary of the Church. But a lot of the spending hasn't been so noticeable. Most of our expenditure over the past few months has been on preliminaries to the building work — all the surveys, plans and fees that have to be paid for before you can start work on a four-storey building. So that leaves us with about £750,000 to spend at the moment.

Building work to start this February

After the many months of behind the scenes preparation, work on the new accommodation block and Parish rooms will begin before the end of this month. The work is being carried out by Stepnell Ltd — they come highly recommended by several of the Oxford Colleges. Their most recent work in the city has been for Merton College.

Our £750,000 isn't quite enough to get this phase of the building work completely finished. What we would like to have by the end of this stage are:

- 5 new study-bedrooms to house future members of the community and students for the Priesthood
- A new, larger Parish Office
- A completely refurbished Parish Hall, complete with a full kitchen and bar, that will be properly heated and insulated
- A new library to house our book collection, a large chunk of which we have just finished putting into storage



Side view of the new building with the existing Parish centre on the right

For the amount we have, we can build the shell of the accommodation block. The building will be sealed and weatherproof, with all windows and doors in place, but it won't be ready for its new inhabitants just yet. The Parish rooms will be left in their current condition until we can afford to finish the work. So how much will it cost to finish it all off?

- Around another £270,000 will be enough to finish the work inside the bedrooms, as well as completing all of the work on the Parish rooms: the Office, kitchen, Hall — the lot.
- The library will take about £400,000 on top of that. We expect to do this last, unless someone gives us a donation specifically for the library.

If we get the extra cash before Stepnell leave the site later this year, then they are more than happy to carry straight on and get it all finished. It will cost more in the long run if they have to leave and come back again so

we want to raise the extra funds before they finish the shell of the new building. We hope that the buzz of activity onsite will encourage more donors, once they see that something really is happening.

The new accommodation block is urgently needed. The house is completely full at the moment, so we can't accommodate visitors, let alone accept any new members into the Oratorian community or students for the Priesthood. We must be able to do this if the Oratory is to survive to serve future generations.

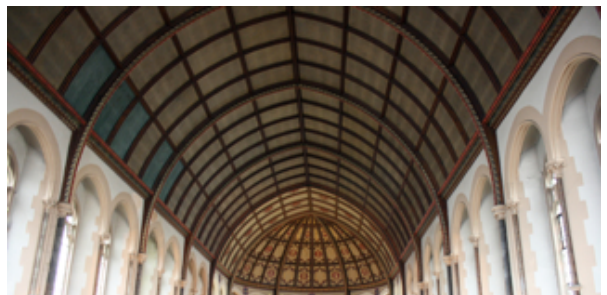
More Restoration in Church



While the builders are busy getting on with the new building, we want to press on with restoration in the Church. We have had a very generous donation that is to be used specifically for restoring the area around the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes (left). The ceiling will be painted to continue the pattern of the Lady Chapel ceiling (right), the walls painted, and the railing gilded.



Fundraising for the restoration of the ceiling of the nave (right) is just about to begin too. We are waiting for the new ceiling panel samples to arrive from the designer. Then we will sell the 192 panels off tile by tile, so that in years to come you can gaze up at your panel and see the physical results of your support.



To find out more about our fundraising and building projects, come to an Information Function, which includes a short presentation and some time for questions. Contact Fr Nicholas Edmonds-Smith on 01865 315 816 or campaign@oxfordoratory.org.uk to book a place at one of the following times:

Saturday 25th February at 3pm

Friday 9th March at 8pm

Saturday 24th March at 11am

For all the latest news on the Campaign, or to make a donation online, visit our blog at

campaign.oxfordoratory.org.uk

If you have not received this newsletter through our mailing list, but would like to be more involved in the Campaign, please fill in and return the form below, to the Campaign Office, Oxford Oratory, 25 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HA.

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Conversely, if you would like to be deleted from our mailing list, please indicate here:

I would like to be removed from the Oxford Oratory Campaign mailing list: YES / NO.

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