

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain” Psalm 127:1

FINANCE AND FAITH

- The financial plan indicates that we have a huge amount of money to raise – pray this doesn't overawe us and that we do not become “money focussed”. Pray too that we will be seen as acting responsibly and being good stewards of what God has given us.
- Pray specifically for the Financial Planning process that will need to be undertaken and the preparation of a “business plan” to present to trusts and other financial institutions. Pray that such documents will be professionally prepared, God honouring and be in and of themselves a powerful witness of what God is doing (and we trust going to do) amongst us at Welton.
- The Funding Team will need to approach Charitable Trusts – this is a complex and complicated task. Pray for their wisdom and ability to carry this out diligently and well. Pray for our gifting in areas of administration to enable this task to be carried out in an “anointed” manner.
- Despite the obvious financial needs which the building project may place upon us, pray that we will maintain our evangelistic zeal, making sure we remember that our activity is about “paradise not pounds”, “eternity not euros”, “destinies not dollars”!
- We have a BIG God who is able to do more than we can ask or imagine – do we trust Him or do we rely on our own understanding? Pray that we will have real faith! Read Hebrews 11 and consider the men and women of faith listed in as an encouragement to do this. Pray that our own intelligence and logic does not become a barrier to our faith in our Almighty, all-powerful, supernatural Lord.
- Consider the incredible things God has done for his people throughout history – use this as an encouragement to have and increased faith in God. Think about people such as George Muller and other churches that have seen the Lord create “something from nothing”. Pray for encouragement for those with specific responsibilities for the building project that they will not become “wearied” progressing the practical aspects of the project required.

GIVING AND GROWTH

- The building project is required because of growth in numbers to date. Pray that God will continue to bless us with new believers and that we will continue to be outward facing, continuing to realise the saying that “the church primarily exists for the benefit of its non-members”
- Pray for wisdom in developing the infra-structure of the church to cope with larger numbers. Pray specifically about the staff “resource” that a larger church will require both in terms of timing of appointments and ensuring we seek God in this critical aspect of our development. Pray for those people whom we will appoint to work for us in the future that they will be God's men and women who capture the vision.
- In the outline financial projections that have computed it is clear that giving from church members and attendees will need to increase significantly. Pray that God will release within each of us a generous heart.
- Pray also for the mission work we support as a church, in the face of raising significant sums for the building project we may face “dilemmas” in terms of the level of support we give to mission. Pray for God's wisdom, integrity and discernment in these matters.
- Read 2 Cor. 9:6-15 and pray that we will be challenged to give “hilariously” (NIV “Cheerful givers”). But also pray that our giving will be motivated and guided by prayer, be planned, considered and God honouring. Recall the parable Christ told of the widows' mite (Mark 12) realising that God looks not at amounts given but heart attitude.
- Our giving is significantly dependent upon the “success” of our businesses and/or the businesses/organisations for whom we work – pray for those running their own businesses and those in employment, give thanks for our workplaces and pray that we will see God's blessing through our work in this very practical way! Specifically pray that we might see that our employment is an integral part of our Christian witness and recognise afresh that we are “to work as to the Lord”.

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PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Pray that we will “keep our eyes fixed on Jesus”, and that the building project will not blind us from the fact that church is people, not buildings.
- Pray that God will not allow the project to become the main thing, pray that our faith in Christ remains strong and is not distracted. *Read Ephesians 6* and recognise once again that we are in a spiritual battle and need to wear the Armour of God daily.
- Acknowledge our need of The Lord in all things, recognising that our wisdom, planning and organising is worthless unless it is within God’s will for us as a church. Give thanks that he is the Alpha and Omega and that he sees the beginning from the end.
- Pray that for each of us God will be our vision, and continue to be so. Ask the Lord to help us corporately to overcome any doubts we might have and to give us perseverance to follow in the direction God calls us to go.
- Give thanks to God for all that he has done for us as a church, give thanks for those men and women of faith who in the past kept this church going through extremely tough times with very small numbers through faith;
- Also consider our recent church history, praise Him for the memories we have, the growth we have seen, the new believers and for what we see of Gods Kingdom expanding in the town of Midsomer Norton and the local area. Give thanks for past “successes” of Big Top, Passion8 and Alpha. Pray for ongoing and future outreach and evangelistic activities.
- Praise God that ultimately all we have is down to Him and Him alone. Praise and give thanks to Him that we can be a part of all that He is doing and is going to do at Welton Baptist church, whether in a new building or not!

FELLOWSHIP AND UNITY

- We have seen that Church growth brings with it attacks on the many relationships within the Church. If the people within the fellowship are undermined then the building might become a monument rather than a tool, “the builders will labour in vain”.
- There is potential scope for disharmony and disagreement as we consider the plans for the new building. Undoubtedly Satan will use this as an opportunity to create division and dissension amongst us. Pray that we will not slip on the spiritual “banana skins” that the evil one will strew across our path as we seek to follow the Lords leading. *Read 1 Kings 5* for an encouraging view of Biblical building work!
- In husband wife relationships, pray that God “leads us not into temptation” whereby we don’t compromise the trust we have with our marriages. Specifically pray for personal wisdom in ensuring that time is spent protecting and developing our closest relationships and that the leadership is sensitive to ensuring that this happens by making sure the caring mechanism via Housegroups is maintained.
- Our children and our young people are vulnerable to attack, pray that we our wise in our care, teaching, council and disciplining of them, also that we are positive role models for them, so that they grow strong in faith and character. Pray that God will raise them up to take on the prospective new building and “thoroughly” use it to God’s glory.
- Within the Fellowship pray for unity, that we move forward together. Pray for a unity of vision, openness to Gods leading (even if it is outside of our comfort zone) and a gracious heart that accepts change. Ask the Lord to give you His grace and pray against matters related to the building project becoming too “personal” recognising that we need to allow “God’s will to be done”.
- Pray for our personal walk, that we keep close to God and obedient to his leading that we grow and shine bright. Pray that we are a truly overflowing people so unity and fellowship runs through our veins, that we really are one in Christ. This will ensure our witness is strong and that others will see the difference God makes to our lives.