

March 2017

Dear _____,

As we pray for a new Baptist Minister, we find ourselves in exciting times in the life of our Partnership. One of the ways we need to prepare is to improve the house which is the home for our future minister. I am writing to invite you to contribute to fund the work to transform the house.

Not fit for purpose

Walton Churches Partnership was generously gifted 38 Twinflower, a 3-bedroom house in Walnut Tree, about 10 years ago. Known as Twinflower, the house is in a good location and reasonably good condition – however it falls well short of guidelines for a minister's house: for example the study was squeezed into the family conservatory. All denominations agree that ideally a minister's house should have:

- 4 bedrooms
- 2 downstairs living rooms reserved exclusively for the family
- A separate study downstairs, ideally with separate access for meetings and pastoral visits

Twinflower is currently without a study, separate access, enough bedrooms, or sufficient family space.

Twinflower must be both an office and a home. Most ministers understand and welcome this, but it does require a house of sufficient space and function to fulfil this dual role. The quality of the house will reflect the quality of the care and support the 'calling church' will provide for its minister, and possibly how long they choose to stay.

A significant upgrade is needed

Bringing the house 'up to scratch' represents an investment for the future in every way, providing a practical, affordable, long-term solution for the current limitations and challenges.

- It will encourage potential ministers considering a call to serve in WCP, providing a lovely family home and reassuring them of our commitment to them (and their family). It will significantly improve their quality of life, which can positively affect the fruitfulness of their ministry
- The improvements will increase the value of the house – in time, this value may be released to support God's work in new, future opportunities.
- It is the most cost-effective solution: the alternative of selling Twinflower and buying a larger property would cost approximately double the solution we are proposing

A two-storey extension on the garage side of the house.

This extension will resolve all the current shortfalls, providing a practical, comfortable study (accessed via a separate door from the hallway), more storage space, and a fourth bedroom upstairs. With the conservatory now available there will be three rooms downstairs, space for family time, and separate from the study.

Details of all plans are on show at Christ the King and also available to view on our Partnership website: <http://www.wcpmk.co.uk/twinflower-project-2017/>. Or you can join us at our Project Launch Event on Sunday 12th March 2017 at 4pm at Christ the King, Kent's Hill. Large-scale version of the plans will be on show, refreshments will be provided and further information given.

The planning application process is under way. We hope to complete building by the end of this summer i.e. Sept/Oct 2017. This would mean it is finished just before a new minister *might* arrive, minimising disruption for their family and preventing any delay to us welcoming and commissioning our new minister.

We need to raise £40,000

We have secured a significant grant from a local charity. Money being saved from not having a minister currently in post is also being ring-fenced for the project. Nevertheless, we estimate that we may require a further £40,000 to cover the cost of this extension and refurbishment of Twinflower.

We are therefore asking you to prayerfully consider as individuals, couples and families whether you could support this exciting project financially. Since the Baptist Minister serves the whole Partnership, this is a fantastic chance for all of us who worship within the Partnership to show our support. We are encouraging one-off gifts, but also a monthly commitment for a 2-year period.

A pledge form accompanies this letter.

Joining together – Gift Day

On Sunday 9th April, all churches in the Partnership will host a Gift Day for the Twinflower Project. If you would like to contribute to help transform the home of the new minister, this will be the day to make your pledge (though of course you are welcome to do that beforehand too!).

We'd welcome any questions you have. Peter Laws is Project Chair, and I am supporting him, along with Tim Gray (member of Christ the King), who is overseeing our fundraising and publicity. Patsy Young (CtK) is our book-keeper, so will be handling all pledges and donations in confidence.

Once again, thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration. It is a privilege to be walking together on this exciting journey!

Every blessing,

On behalf of Walton Churches Partnership:

Matt Trendall, Rector of Walton Churches Partnership / 01908 582839 / trendalls.mk@btinternet.com

P.S. Let us join together in prayer for an amazing Gift Day. Please give as the Lord leads you.

