

Dear Friend of Aston Tirrold URC Centre for Reflection

I am writing to you because of your connection with Aston Tirrold United Reformed Church and/or the Centre for Reflection, to let you know about an exciting project which we are undertaking in connection with the Centre.

The Centre for Reflection has been active as an ecumenical spiritual resource since the mid 1990s during which time it has been the church's principal vehicle for mission and outreach. It has been less active since the Covid-19 pandemic but a steady level of regular use for meetings, activities, retreats and workshops by both internal and external groups has been maintained. As many of you will know, its rural location provides a special place for quietness, spirituality and prayer.

The church is keen to relaunch the Centre's work in time for the 300th anniversary of the church building in 2028 but we are aware that it is now in need of significant physical refreshment and modernisation if it is to continue and develop its work in a sustainable form. Accordingly we have launched a project to be completed over the coming summer period which will include:

- refitting and redecorating throughout
- new kitchen and toilets which meet contemporary hygiene standards
- new floor surfaces throughout
- redesigned and remodelled Quiet Garden and toddlers' play area
- new triple glazed doors and windows and new insulation
- new audio visual equipment
- ... and, if we can afford it, installation of solar battery scheme with roof panels

Needless to say this will involve us in considerable financial investment, in the region of £110-140,000 (depending on whether we include the solar battery scheme) but we are confident in applying for a range of grants which will help us to achieve these exciting objectives and provide a

springboard for the next thirty years and beyond. Our funding models do however require us to raise a significant amount of this cost (around £15-18,000) via donations and gifts from friends and wellwishers. *This is where you come in!*

If you feel inspired and able to make a donation to this project, however small, we would be extremely grateful. Donations can be made **directly into the church's bank account** (details below); please use the reference 'C4R REFRESH' to help us identify your gift. Additionally, if you are a UK taxpayer and are able to **gift aid your donation** this would be much appreciated - please get in touch with our treasurer Peg Shearer (jamesandpegshearer@gmail.com) to do this. Peg is also happy to answer any other questions you may have about donations including how to donate by other means eg. via cheque.

Barclays Bank

Account name: Aston Tirrold United Reformed Church

Sort code: 20-01-09

Account number: 70120189

Additionally we are also looking for **volunteers to take part in working groups** to consider the interior design, exterior design, and future mission / marketing of the Centre. We think it's important that these involve as wide a range of users of the Centre as possible. If you are interested in joining one of these groups please let me know.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and if you have any questions at all about any of the above, please don't hesitate to get in touch (you can reply directly to this email).

Best wishes

Andrew

on behalf of Aston Tirrold URC / Centre for Reflection

andrew.mcbirnie@hotmail.co.uk