ST PAUL'S
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

at the Heart of London: Two Churches, One Transforming Vision

St Paul's is embarking on a new chapter: growing, developing and expanding. And we would like you to be part of our journey.











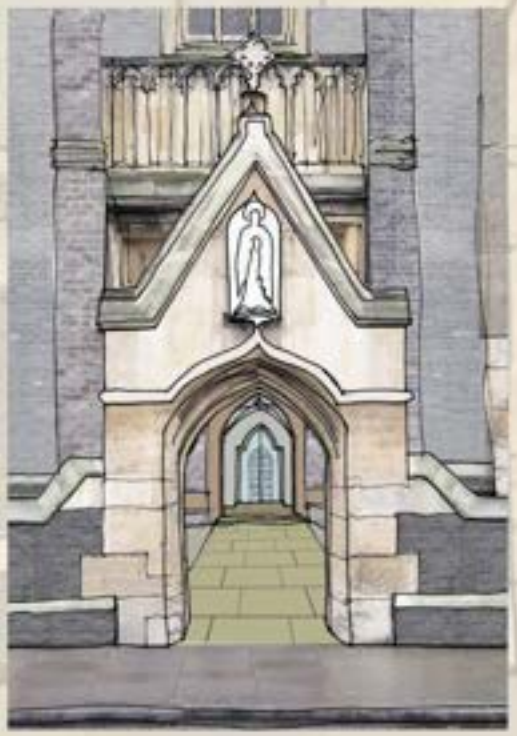


BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

At the Heart of London: Two Churches, One Transforming Vision

Set back quietly from the hustle and bustle of Hyde Park Corner and Knightsbridge, amidst the elegant stucco villas and town houses of Belgravia, St Paul's Church in Wilton Place has, for almost two centuries, been one of London's most trusted and distinguished churches, a place of prayer and sanctuary for Londoners, offering wise teaching, glorious worship and music, and excellent pastoral care, a place that is always calling people back to the deeper things of life in a fast-paced and sometimes confusing world. Such places matter.

Now, in 2027, St Paul's is embarking on a new chapter: growing, developing and expanding.



AN EXPANDED PARISH

At a time when so many fear that the church is in decline, and that it is not speaking confidently enough into the modern world, we are creating a new parish, with a new voice: the Parish of Knightsbridge, that will take the best of what we are known for and enrich it.

St Paul's in Wilton Place will be joined with another glorious Bodley Church, Holy Trinity in Prince Consort Road, one mile to the West, the church of 'The Albertopolis'. Created in the wake of the Great Exhibition of 1851, The Albertopolis is of the world's most remarkable campuses comprising world-leading museums and galleries, universities and colleges, and The Albert Hall itself. It is a part of London that brings students and scholars from around the world and that annually attracts millions of people from across the globe.

Now, for the first time, these two churches will come together, within one parish in one complementary ministry, led by one team of excellent clergy and laity, ministering to this enlarged area and exploring imaginatively what a 21st century Christian presence is at the intersection of artistic creativity, culture, science, medicine and music. Just four years from now, we will have, to the East, one of London's finest Parish Churches, and to the West an exciting new Campus Church.

A RENEWED BUILDING

At the heart of this vision for a new parish, is a renewed Parish Church. St Paul's is poised to undergo a significant programme of investment, restoration and development to provide new space for the community it serves.



EXTERNAL RESTORATION

After almost two centuries of erosion and the impact of pollution, its slightly tired external brick and stonework will be restored and high-level drainage improved to deal with our more turbulent climate. Stone masons will replace degraded stonework, the clock faces will be restored, and attention will be given to the paving and the forecourt. The result will be a fresh and reinvigorated exterior that will complement this most distingukshed neighbourhood.





OPERATION JEWEL BOX

Inside, its beautiful Victorian interior will be restored to its former glory, with a magnificent new marble floor and a reimagined decorative scheme that will recreate the 'jewel box' interior originally envisaged by Bodley as a setting for the church's solemn and uplifting services. And we will take the opportunity to ensure that fabrics, vestments and vessels are restored and renewed.





NEW FACILITIES

In the South Garden, a new range of buildings will house a welcome space, lavatories, and new rooms and meeting spaces, all linked to the main building by a light contemporary cloister with a new Chapter House/Garden Room. Careful landscaping outside and sensitive reshaping inside with ramps and - where necessary - lift access, will ensure equality of access to the building, so that nobody in the 21st century is impeded or excluded.



BETTER GREEN-ROOM & OFFICE SPACE

And in the current Parish Office/Vestry space, new facilities will enable the church to serve those who visit and those who work there, and will provide better 'green room' facilities for the many professional and amateur groups of musicians who use the church. And this development will allows us to begin to migrate our heating (currently gas) to something more sustainable, with the inclusion of heat pumps.



NEW PUBLIC REALM

Excitingly, in an imaginative plan in partnership with the Berkeley Hotel next door and the City of Westminster, the church will be set more openly amidst new landscaping as part of a bold public realm scheme that will turn the Wilton Place cut-de-sac from being a rather dreary road-to-nowhere into a miniature public square - linking to the renewed Old Barrack Yard area beyond.



A RELIT CHURCH

And to enhance the view of the building from the street, and to increase safety and security in the new area, external lighting of the church will be undertaken to ensure that the building not only looks attractive and welcoming, but that its environs are safe and secure for all visitors, 24 hours a day.



RESETTING OUR MUSIC

And because music and beauty are is one of the key ways in which we encounter God, the project will be crowned by the installation of a new pipe organ in the West Gallery, and by the rebuilding of the magnificent Willis Organ in the Chanel. And the instigation of a new arts and worship programme and an extension of our successful scholarship scheme for younger singers, performers and composers will ensure that this church continues to champion the very best church music which for centuries has drawn people to the place.



MEANWHILE, AT THE OTHER END OF THE NEW PARISH

You know the frustration of trying to visit a church that is closed! Holy Trinity, Bodley's last and most complete church, completed in 1901 and one of London's most beautiful worship spaces, has – for the best part of the last half century – open only for a few hours per week. Under our plans that is set to change. Holy Trinity will be repurposed as a Campus Church, with the installation of a café and a changing arts programme being the mainstays of a resource-led programme there that will see the place open seven days a week. The new campus church, will have a different tone – more edgy, more exploratory – but the same progressive, thoughtful, inclusive Christian voice, a voice that speaks, directly about the call of God on human lives to the 5M visitors a year who visit from all over the world, pointing back to the nation's Christian roots, and forward into its future: a fresh expression of traditional Christianity within the one Parish of Knightsbridge.

MAKING ALL OF THIS HAPPEN

Our plans for St Paul's are phased, costing and eminently deliverable: a £14 million, six-phase capital appeal that will restore and renew St Paul's. There is no State funding. Just as in the 1840s, the work of investing in the spiritual health of the city will fall to people who care; in the 1840s, St Paul's Knightsbridge was funded by public subscription, by people of means and vision, some of who lived locally — many of whom didn't but who grasped the vision of its Founders that healthy cities need outstanding churches, and who wanted to be part of something bold and exciting. The legacy of those original Founders is what we enjoy today; our task is to allow our children and theirs and all who will come after to be confident that the Parish of Knightsbridge will be there for them as it has been for us in the centuries ahead.

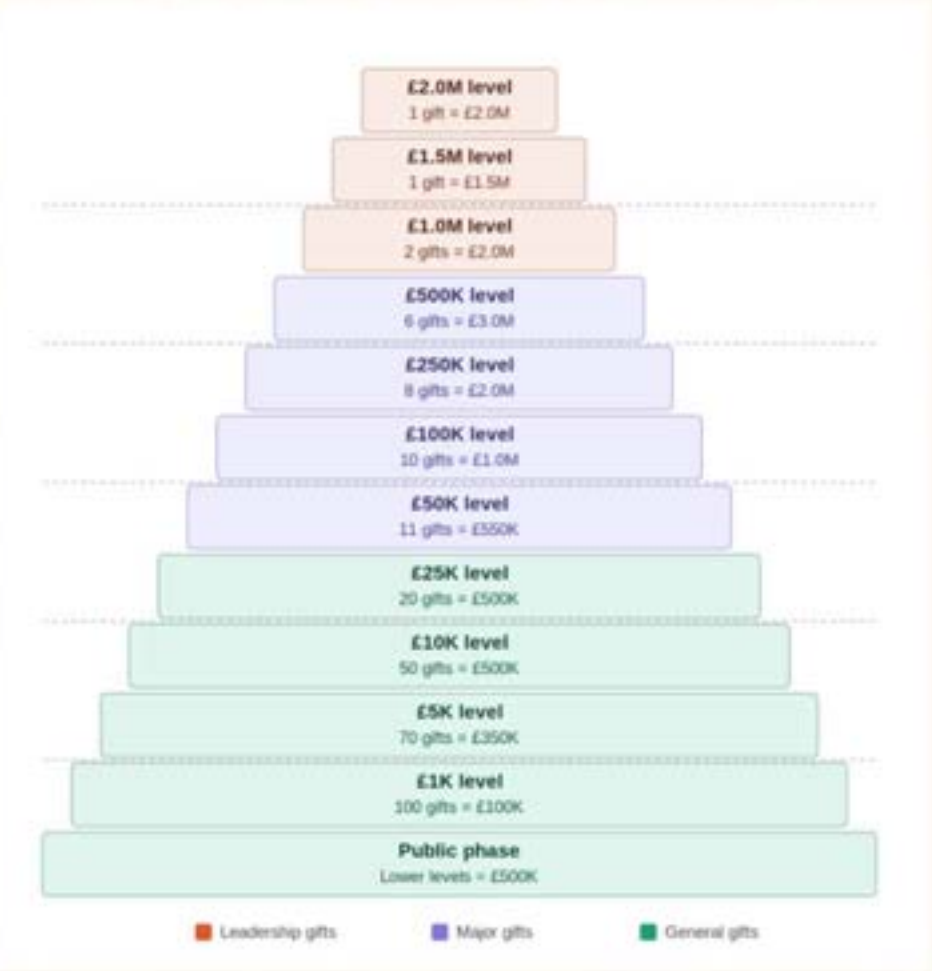
We are seeking to identify partners and friends, as well as trusts and other grant-making bodies, who will join us, to get behind our vision and to support us financially. We hope that you may be the 21st century descendants of our original Founders, and that we can count on your support.

If my colleagues and I can give you any more detail, we will be glad to do so.

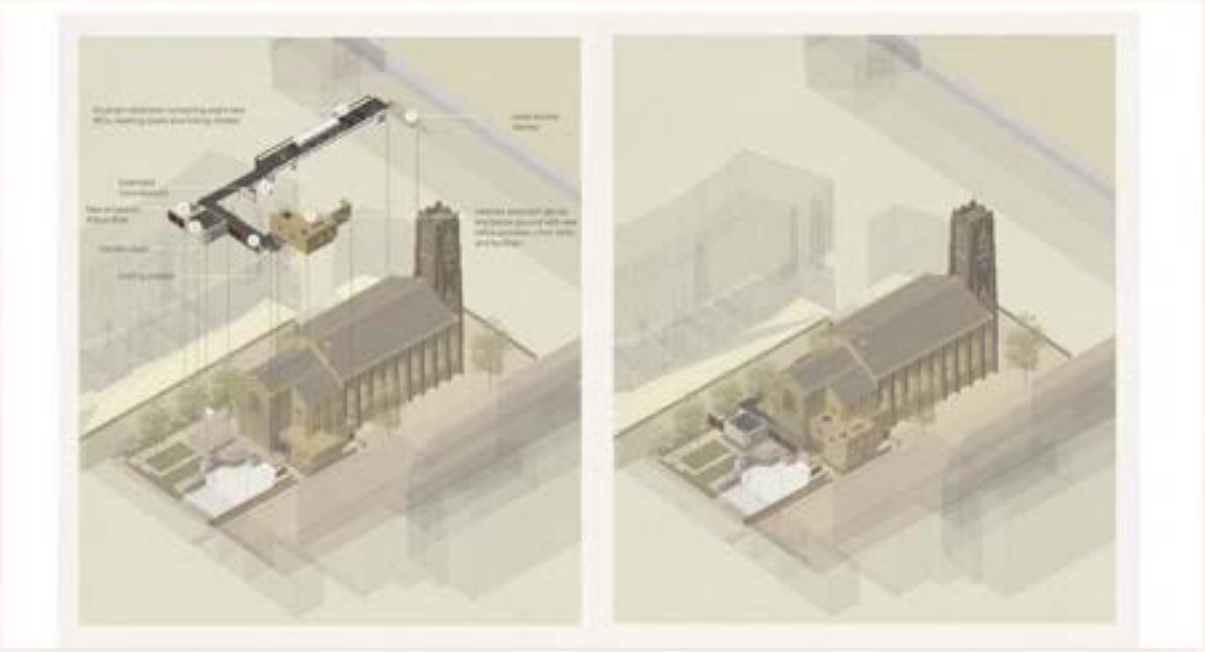


OH, AND WE ARE POISED TO GET STARTED...

We have, since January 2026, been working long hours to put in place our plans both for the building, the expansion of the parish, an enriched and enlarged staff team and the future programme of the place - and for fundraising. Supported by the amazing team at Scenius, and with a small dedicated team in place in the parish to carry us to the next stage, we are now looking for our first 'apex donors' - those who have the means and the vision to get the ball rolling. We are looking to raise £2M of the total £14M to get our building works underway in 2027.



Everything is in readiness. We just need you!



St Paul's Knightsbridge Capital Campaign

Naming Opportunities

As with many significant building programmes, we will hope to honour named individuals or families here at the church in thanksgiving for their visionary support of our development plans. .

There will be a number of new spaces within the restored and redeveloped church where we will be able to acknowledge donations including:

• Forecourt & West Front	£2m
• South Garden Building	£1.5m
• Cloister	£1m
• Garden Room	£1m
• New Parish Room within the South Garden	£500,000