

**Are you ready for take off?**

**You must be!**

There has been plenty of speculation and lots of people have been wondering when we would get started. That time is here! It is the moment we have all been waiting for - we are almost ready to launch the fundraising for the proposed development of the church.

I have agreed to lead the fundraising effort, and at the APCM four very willing volunteers kindly agreed to give their support. There will always be room for anyone else who would like to get involved, they will be really welcome.

Whilst our main aim is to raise funds through events and grants, we will also be grateful to receive gifts 'in kind' for any aspect of the building development, and, of course, we will be extremely delighted to accept any financial donations towards the work to be done.

A few people have already approached me with their own fundraising ideas, please let me know if you are considering your own fundraising as we need to make sure that we plan and co-ordinate our efforts.

We will be fund raising in different ways so that we can involve as many people as possible. We want to be inclusive, so that means involving not just members of the congregation and all the various groups and activities associated with the church, but also those in the wider community.

The Building Development Group will only move each stage of the planned building work on when we have the funds to achieve it, and we will be working together to do this.

I am liaising with Richard Hutchins, so that we are moving both the stewardship and the fundraising forward in a co-ordinated way.

If you would like to help in any way, have a great fundraising idea to share big or small, or would like any more information then please speak to me or email me [fundraising@christchurchportsdown.org](mailto:fundraising@christchurchportsdown.org)

Our first event will be advertised shortly - so watch this space

We can do it together, so lets get started!

**Vicky Stephen**