

FUND A HOUSE



Dear gospel partner,

We're writing to ask whether you could partner with us in the exciting work God has given us to do in south-west London, by helping us to purchase a house in Putney for our Senior Pastor and his family so that we're better able to reach our local area for Christ. Details of the need and how you can get involved are further down but first let us tell you a little bit about ourselves...

WHO ARE WE?

The Boathouse Church is a multigenerational church for Putney, Roehampton and beyond. We celebrated the 10th anniversary of our first Sunday service last November and in God's kindness have come a long way from when three people first gathered to pray about the possibility of a church plant in Putney. God is steadily growing us, with about 70 adults and 20 children now calling us their church. He's particularly blessing our ministry to families: alongside our regular Sunday activities we have a thriving midweek toddler group and funding in place to recruit a part-time youth & children's worker from

September. But it's not just here that we're growing: we baptised two adults earlier in the year and are looking to make the most of being close to Roehampton University through its UCCF Staff Worker, who's a member of our church.



WHY PUTNEY?

With a population of approximately 60,000, there is considerable need for vibrant gospel churches in Putney. It's also a transient community, which presents many opportunities to share the good news about Jesus with those who might not have heard it before and to invest in people before they go and serve God in other places.

The school we meet in on Sundays is on the western edge of Putney which means we draw people from the surrounding area – we have members from Roehampton, Barnes, Kew and East Sheen. These communities have some but not significant gospel witness so in the future we would love to play our part in planting new churches into these areas – a stable base in Putney from which to do this would be a real blessing.



WHY NOW?

Purchasing a property to house our pastor has been part of our plan to secure a long-term ministry in Putney but this search has been given extra impetus by a recent 25% increase in rent on the property we currently house our pastor and his family in. We would love any growth in giving God gives



us in the years ahead to not just cover ever-increasing rent but to expand the ministry we can do. We also appreciate a long-term housing solution would give stability to our pastor and his family.

Excitingly, we've found a house that's currently on the market which would work for ministry and could house our current pastor and his family. For a variety of reasons, it's on the market for £900,000, which is significantly less than similar-sized properties in Putney usually go for (£1.3m+) and so we're doing all we can to purchase it. We anticipate fees being £25,000 and so the total costs are £925,000. Our current funds for the project are:

Expected Mortgage	£630,000
Bridging Loan	£125,000
Church reserves and pledges	£50,000
Current Shortfall	£120,000

Although we are financially self-sufficient as a church family, our demographics mean it's unlikely that we will be able to close the shortfall (which is roughly equivalent to our annual budget) by ourselves and so we are seeking the financial support of gospel friends to help with this.

Alongside asking for financial support, we're also exploring ways of reducing the capital we need to raise up-front and our costs going forward so the situation as described above may change. If we could raise more than £120,000 we would also reduce our need for the higher interest bridging loan, which would reduce future repayment costs.

HOW COULD YOU HELP?

We would love you to pray for us in this endeavour and prayerfully ask yourself...

Do you have cash you could give?

Gifts of any size are very welcome and can be tax efficient for you: if you are a UK tax payer the government will add an additional 25% to your gift and if you are a higher rate tax payer they will refund you 20-25% on top of that. That means for some people, a gift of £10,000 could cost them as little as £5,500. You could find that giving is the shrewdest investment you could make!

This is obviously the most straightforward way to raise funds to meet the mortgage requirements but there are various other options that we're open to discussing with you, such as:

Do you have an investment you could sell?

If you have shares or property that have made a significant return, there are ways the government allows for the profit to be given very tax efficiently.

Do you have money you could lend?

You may not have much you could give outright, but you might have money you could lend interest free as long as you knew it would be repaid.

Given this property is on the market now we are prayerfully hopeful of collating pledges (not the cash!) so that we can make an offer by Wednesday 21 June.

James Archer, a member of our church family, is coordinating this project and would love to hear from you if you are interested in partnering with us. His email address is jgbarcher@gmail.com.

Thank you!