



In 1731 disaster on an unprecedented scale struck Blandford in the form of a devastating fire which destroyed the whole town, apart from one or two isolated buildings. However, the ill wind which fanned the flames was not without its compensation in causing an entirely new Georgian town, perhaps the finest in Britain, to emerge from the ruins over the ensuing thirty years. This was due almost entirely to a local firm of architects and builders, John and William Bastard, who designed and built in an uncompromisingly contemporary way. The largest structure is the church - on a mound dominating the market square: it is considered one of the best provincial examples of a Georgian church in the country.

From "The Statement of Significance"

The church building is a sacred space which has, in its present form, been used for prayers and encounters with Christ for nearly 300 years; and hopefully it will continue to do so for the next 300 years.

From "The Statement of Need"



## The Friends Of Blandford Forum Parish Church



## The Cupola Project...

The Cupola Project is a £3 million project to revive and regenerate the Church building of St Peter and St Paul, Blandford Forum in Dorset, working towards a Vision *“To revive the building*

*of St Peter and St Paul’s, Blandford Forum in such a way as to reflect the aims of its builders and the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century community it seeks to serve, all to the Glory of God.”*

£3 Million is an enormous amount of money to find for any project, especially in times of financial constraint and the leadership of the Church (the PCC) believes that the building of St Peter and St Paul’s is one that the town community love and want to see restored, as it is used almost weekly by schools and community groups, for Civic Services and concerts and much, much more. The Church leadership believes, therefore that this project will only be brought to completion by a strong partnership between the Church and the Community it seeks to serve.

There are essentially four parts to the anticipated funding...

- Fundraising by the Church Community.
- Fundraising by the Town Community.
- Seeking support from Trust Funds set up for such purposes.
- Seeking grants from bodies such as English Heritage.

The reality is that some of these are likely to achieve a greater financial return than others, but there is a recognition that the project will not be completed without a committed partnership between Church and Town communities, in both fundraising and actively working through the many issues such a project will raise.

The PCC believe that there are many in the Church and Town Communities who would like to be involved in this and so has set up a “Friends of BFPC” group ...

## The Friends of Blandford Forum Parish Church...

... are a group, reporting to the Parochial Parish Council (PCC), formed to raise money for the maintenance of the fabric of the Church of SS Peter and Paul, Blandford Forum.

Your involvement can be at whatever level you like ...

- Become a Friend of BFPC - you can make a difference!
- Come to the concerts and other fundraising events.
- Organise fundraising events.
- Assist with the Friends administration needs.
- Help with the search for Trust and Grants funds.

## The Three Levels of Friendship ...

**“Friend”** (£25 per year)

Friend received discounted entrance tickets to fundraising events and three newsletters about the project each year.

**“Pal”** (£50 per year)

Pals are invited to an annual reception in addition to all the benefits of being a Friend.

**“Best Buddy”** (£100 per year)

Best Buddies receive invitations to after show parties in addition to all the benefits of being a Pal.

## For More Details

If you would like to know more about the Cupola Project or being a Friend of BFPC, please email [friends@bfpc.org.uk](mailto:friends@bfpc.org.uk) or telephone 01258 456260.