



Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 4

May 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

WELCOME to the 4th edition of our occasional newsletter. Its purpose is to provide up-to-date information about a whole host of matters concerning life at Christ Church, particularly those things which won't fit onto the weekly notice sheet, though there may be some repetition. It is certainly NOT replacing the wonderful quarterly Christ Church Parish News but more to complement it. The last newsletter was published in October 2018 – and a great deal seems to have happened since then!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE – our new Parish Vision – was launched in February and we hope that this is becoming embedded into the lives of all associated with Christ Church. The Bishop and Archdeacon were certainly very impressed. The PCC are constantly referring to the MAP – our Mission Action Plan – as we plan ahead. **STEWARDSHIP** has been the focus during May and we hope that there will be a good response – if you haven't returned your response form there is still plenty of time to do so. Two presentations were made during the 10am services – so if you missed them, both are on the website – just follow the link to "Michael Burns' sermons" – and there are copies available in church.

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING was well attended and it was good to be able to thank Pat Spencer for her membership of the PCC and to thank Julie Grainger for her six years' service as Churchwarden. In the words of one member of the congregation 'Hers will go down as one of the great wardenships'. We are very grateful to David Simpson for being willing to stand again for election – but we are disappointed that we have not been able to recruit a second Churchwarden. This situation cannot continue indefinitely and we are carrying on the search.

HALL REFURBISHMENT STAGE ONE has been completed on budget and on time and everyone has been pleased with the results. It is hoped that the office will be re-located and in operation by the end of May - though there will be a delay in installing a phone line and broadband. We are enormously grateful to the PCC and congregation of St Saviour's Church, Raynes Park who have rented us some of their office space over the past 3 years. **STAGE TWO** of the Hall refurbishment has just been unanimously approved by the PCC and will be carried out from mid-July to mid-September – the Hall will be completely closed during this time though there will be access to the parish office and the toilets at the back of the building via the side door. This second stage will see total redecoration of all parts of the building, the renewing of the electrics and heating, the renovation of the gents toilet, the installation of secondary glazing as well as a new hall ceiling and renovation of the floor. The stage itself will remain and will be better organised for hirers to use for storage. We will also be creating a new and expanded car park at the front of the building. Additionally we will need to replace the sound system and to install new window blinds – these will be costed separately. One other task that will have to wait for a later date depending upon funding is the replacement of the kitchen units.

The total expenditure of **ALL** the works (both stage 1 and stage 2) is likely to cost us in the region of **£200,000**. The PCC has taken the view that this is money well spent in the long term but we have had to take this from our reserves – which means we will have to work hard to build these up again. We are very grateful to all those who are working hard to achieve this project – amongst them Mair R, David S and especially Stefan B – not to mention Angelina S and all who help to keep the Hall running.

SOCIAL EVENTS continue to be an important feature in the life of Christ Church and we warmly thank our hard working and dedicated Social Committee for organising the events – amongst them a very successful Advent Fair, a very energetic Barn Dance and a very enjoyable Open Gardens event!

GARDENS: We have one more trip from King's pupils to help in the church gardens on **MONDAY 24 JUNE** after their exams finish. They send 12 to 16 of the younger pupils for a whole day, 9:30 am to 3 pm, with 2 teachers to supervise. We normally provide biscuits for their morning juice break and tea and cake when they finish in the afternoon. The June event at Christ Church is always popular with the pupils because of our hospitality and the tours of the bell tower. They try out activities before deciding what community service activities to do in the next school year. The gardens always look lovely after their June visit. More Christ Church help is needed than our usual team overseeing King's because it is a full day. We aim for at least 2 Christ Church people at any time, or 3 if possible. Is anyone able to help with overseeing King's garden jobs, or provide tea, biscuits and cake, for any of the morning, afternoon, all day, or whatever hours you are able to on 24 June? If you can help please could you let me know what time you are able to help from 9:30 am to 3 pm? Thank you to all. Please contact Hazel Bate.

THE BACK GARDEN is something of a jungle and we are keen to tame it! We have been offered two generous donations towards this work – but there will still be a shortfall. We are waiting for the detailed quote and will then decide what steps to take.

THE SYRIAN REFUGEE PROJECT – planning continues in the background and Chris Larkman writes: "The Steering Group continues to work towards welcoming a Syrian family whom we will support as they settle into our country. We have submitted our formal application to the Home Office and we are working with them to meet their requirements. However, we still have not been able to identify a property for them to live in. Again we appeal to anyone in the parish who may have a property available or know someone who has – it must be in the London Borough of Merton. We are still following up on possible options. Once we identify somewhere, we anticipate our application will be confirmed and things will move fast. We will then be coming to you for help in many ways! So watch this space..."

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION will be offered in the autumn of 2019. It is a step which can be taken by adults of any age – so if you have not been confirmed please do think seriously about this possibility. Young people will also be welcome – so any in Year 6 or above could be prepared for confirmation. If you would be interested in joining a preparation group, please speak to Michael as soon as possible.

THE RECENT DEATHS of Colin Holloway, Coira Smith, Anna Harris and Sue Rocksborough Smith have hit us all hard – particularly the loss of Colin and Sue as they were relatively unexpected. We give thanks for all that they gave to Christ Church over many years and pray for those who mourn.

FINALLY, THANK YOU to everyone who contributes so much to the life and work of Christ Church. Please do try to make your regular Church attendance a priority in your life so that our worship can continue strongly as the whole Church family gathers together Sunday by Sunday.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Michael J Burns