



Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 5

October 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

WELCOME to the 5th edition of our occasional parish newsletter. Its purpose is to provide up-to-date information about a 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 HALL – we are both delighted and relieved that, after many years of discussion and deliberation as well as upset and controversy, the Hall has now been fully refurbished and made fit for use by both the Church and Community in the 21st century. It has been a long and difficult road that Christ Church has had to travel. Many people have been involved and we particularly remember those who spent 6 years working on the initial scheme that collapsed in 2016. Tribute must also be paid to the Church Council for their dedicated work over the years. We hope that you will be pleased and proud with what has now been achieved. Our thanks go to David Simpson and Mair Rabagliati who have put in a great deal of work since the start of 2019 in conjunction with Paul Deen Builders. Above all we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Stefan Bown who has coordinated the whole project this year – and who, along with Angelina Skelton and those who look after the Hall, will continue to manage its effective day to day running. Thank you very much indeed Stefan from us all at Christ Church.

THE COST has largely come from our own resources – though we are grateful to those who have contributed financially to the project. We await the final bills but we anticipate we will have spent:

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| 1) <u>Work in Spring 2019</u> : including front flat roof, disabled toilet, back ladies & gents toilets, passageway, new parish office | £62,640 |
| 2) Replace and refurbish all the doors | £16,442 |
| 3) <u>Work in Summer 2019</u> : Main Hall including lighting and heating and air conditioning, gents toilet, car park + pavement crossover, kitchen, electric kitchen roller shutter, sound system, hall and stage floor, floors in lobbies and front toilets | £140,328 (£10,000 funded) |
| 4) Blackout blinds | £4,320 (£2,000 funded) |
| 5) Hob, oven, fridge/freezer, dishwasher | (£1750 fully funded) |
| Contingency | £4,000 |
| TOTAL | £227,730 |

Offset from this total are donations: £2,000 towards blinds and £10,000 towards kitchen.

Overall expenditure on the Hall by the Church will have been approximately £215,730

It goes without saying that this major expenditure has made a deep dent in our Church finances and so we will be continuing to retrospectively fundraise – come along to the Quiz on 19 October! – and of course donations will continue to be welcomed. But the Church Council – together with many of you at Christ Church – have taken the unanimous view that this expenditure was vital to ensure that the Hall, much loved by many over the years, remains an asset for the use of the Church and the local Community for many more years to come. We hope that you will agree.

THE BACK GARDEN – we know this needs some major work to tame the present jungle and a small working party is currently working to look at various ideas and quotes – please watch this space!

IN OTHER NEWS:

SPONSORING A REFUGEE FAMILY: The Working Party continues to move forward on this project – but it is slow progress because we have been unable to identify suitable accommodation. There is an updated letter available, requesting pledges from the congregation towards our need for increased funding to rent accommodation on the open market. If you wish to be associated with this, please complete your pledge form now. We are also planning some fundraising events. Additionally there is a day long training session planned for November 20 which all who wish to support a family in a myriad of practical ways are asked to attend. Further booking details from Chris Larkman.

ECO-CHURCH: The PCC has unanimously agreed for Christ Church to work towards achieving the Bronze Award Eco Church status. Many churches in the Diocese have been working towards this award, part of the national Eco-Church scheme run by the charity A Rocha. Ian and Lucy Christie are the people to speak to in order to find out more or to offer your help.

OUR CHOIR, under the direction of Tom Theakston, continues to sing every Sunday morning and we are very grateful for the lead they give to our music at Christ Church. To ensure the continued success of the Choir they have decided to replace their Friday evening practices with an earlier practice start each Sunday morning – so they will meet at 8.45am every Sunday for an hour's practice. Occasionally they may hold additional practices on a weeknight before a big festival. It might be that YOU would like to join the choir when you are able to attend on Sundays? Do speak to Tom if you are interested.

ALL SOULS' SERVICE takes place on **SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER at 6.30pm** to which all will be welcome. We will be remembering the names of our loved ones during this much appreciated annual service.

ADVENT 2019 – Michael is planning to lead a short three week reflective course during the **Mondays** of Advent, held from 2pm to 3.15pm and 8pm to 9.15pm on 2, 9 and 16 December in the Truman Room. You can opt to come to **either** the afternoon **or** the evening session – there will be the same content at both times. More details to come but do try to keep a bit of space in your diary now!

CHRISTMAS 2019 IS COMING – *here is the list of planned special services in December for your diaries:*

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| SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER: | 10am Toy Sunday Celebrate Together followed by the Advent Fair |
| SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER: | 4pm Christingle Service (<i>very suitable for young children</i>) |
| SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER: | 10am Junior Church Nativity Play |
| SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER: | 6.30pm Carol Service with brass band players, mulled wine and mince pies |
| TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER: | 4pm Family Crib Service (<i>very suitable for young children</i>) |
| (Christmas Eve) | 11.30pm Midnight Mass |
| WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER: | 8am Holy Communion (BCP) |
| (Christmas Day) | 10am Parish Eucharist (<i>children can bring a gift they've received to show us</i>) |

2019 is proving to be a very busy year. We have celebrated 160 years of Christ Church and it has been good to welcome our visiting preachers starting with the Dean and ending with the Archdeacon! Earlier in 2019 we launched our Mission Action Plan and held a Stewardship Campaign. The work on the Hall is now complete and finally off the PCC agenda! Today we celebrate the 20 years of Ministry of our Reader Farhad Hedayati – thank you Farhad! Above everything we are **SHARING GOD'S LOVE**.

So a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributes so much to the life and work of Christ Church. Please do try to continue to make regular Church attendance a priority so that our worship can continue strongly as the whole Church family of Christ Church gathers together Sunday by Sunday.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Michael J Burns