



CHRIST CHURCH, WALSHAW

HARVEST MAGAZINE, October 2019

In the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament the writer, inspired by God, tells us that “There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens ...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

As we approach autumn and the time when we celebrate Harvest, we often hear these words along with some other words from Ecclesiastes, “... a time to plant and a time to uproot” (Ecclesiastes 3:2b). We will be reflecting on Harvest and God’s creation on Sunday 6th October when we have an All-Age Service, not in church but in the school hall of our school, Christ Church CofE Primary School. At this service we will be collecting packets and tins, as well as monetary gifts, to support the continuing work of our local food bank ‘Porch Boxes’. As usual, all are invited to join us for this very special service.

Also in Ecclesiastes we are told there is a “time to tear down and a time to build” (Ecclesiastes 3:3b), and this year we have found, through God’s guidance and provision, that the current church family of Christ Church Walshaw is the generation to build upon the ministry and mission of those who have gone before us, by significantly re-ordering our church building to benefit the wider community of Walshaw.

While we haven’t been tearing down the church, we *are* making major changes which will enable our church building to become a community resource for the 21st century and beyond, as well as a building which is comfortable to be in and which enriches our worship. Last year we installed a new heating system which is proving to be brilliant. This year we are replacing the pews with chairs, building a kitchen and new toilets, and enhancing our sound system. All of this has been done while taking nothing at all away from our fantastic Neo-Gothic building. Rather, it will ensure our building is alive with people coming and going throughout the week, for years to come. If you would like to follow our progress with the work please have a look at the ‘News’ section of our website: www.christchurch-walshaw.co.uk/news

Whilst we anticipate many members of our community will be joining us for various special services coming up (including Remembrance Sunday on 10th November, our Carol Service on 15th December, our Christingle Service on 24th December, and on Christmas Day, plus the Walshaw Community Choir Concert on 11th December), we will be celebrating the official opening of the newly re-ordered building in January with a special weekend for our community to ‘Come and see!’ For more information on this please see page 2 below, follow us on Face Book and Twitter, or keep an eye on our website: www.christchurch-walshaw.co.uk

In the meantime, please join us in prayer as we thank God for his guidance and provision this Harvest time, and for the continuing safety of all those engaged on building work in the church.

Yours in His service

Steve Openshaw

Do not hold back offerings from your granaries and vats. Exodus 22, 29



Providing crisis packs for those in need

"The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them." Isaiah 41:17

HARVEST SERVICE will be on Sun 6th October.

Food banks in various places are low on stocks, and this year we want to aim to collect a huge amount for our local Porch Boxes food bank.

Cash donations, either single or by standing order are appreciated by Porch because this allows them to buy products when stocks are especially low.

There will be an opportunity to make a cash donation to Porch at the Harvest service.

Types of items required

Tins

- Meats
- Fish
- Vegetables
- Beans
- Stews
- Soup
- Fruit

Packets

- Pasta
- Rice pudding
- Custard
- Puddings
- Biscuits
- Soup
- Cereals
- Noodles
- Rice

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10 November 2019



Assemble at the War Memorial at 10.40 hrs
Church Service will follow

Update ...

Recent months have been dominated by building work going on in church to re-model the interior as you may have seen on our home page and as you can read later. The works necessitated Sunday worship taking place at Christ Church School over the summer. The fellowship is extremely grateful to Sarah Howard, the Head Teacher, for making this possible.

Over the summer, a pretty full programme of services and events has been fulfilled. This included Gemma and Dean's wedding in August for which the contractors made special provision. CCW-ers undertook a deep clean and chairs were hired in for the event and, as you will see further on this gave some idea of how the re-ordered interior will look when the works are completed in early December. It is hoped too that construction work will be sufficiently advanced to allow services to resume in church in November, the west end – w here the building work is focussed – being cordoned off for reasons of Health & Safety.

In addition to regular worship, Christ Church has hosted two its quarterly special services, one for Tearfund (just before the exodus to the school) and one for the Bible Society. The fellowship was delighted to welcome Hannah Dobbins who was making her final appearance before taking up a new post abroad.

Outreach activities have resumed after their summer break with the Baby & Toddler Group operating at the school and the Community Choir building up to a major concert scheduled for December.

Readers may – or may not – know that our priest-in-charge, Steve Openshaw, is recovering after being hospitalised in the summer. He is now part-way through a properly phased return to work. Steve and Steph have been buoyed by the all the prayers and messages of goodwill they have received from the fellowship and from the wider community.

Steve is well and truly on the mend and made his debut at the school's Dedication Service on 15 September. As our picture shows, he has lost none of his ability to engage with all and sundry!



Phase 1 Works: progress report

Work is now well advanced to transform the interior.

The project, costing over a quarter of a million pounds, began with the removal of the Victorian pews to create an open space. The removal of at the crossing revealed the chancel steps for the first time in over half a century; so the seven steps up to the altar are there, just as in Lawrence Booth's original plan.

The re-ordering involves the installation of a new kitchen and WCs, the re-location of the font and the purchase of chairs to make use of the building much more flexible, both for members of the fellowship and for those community groups which may wish to use the new facilities.

Work is being overseen by church architect Ian Lucas of Byrom Clark Roberts. Construction is by Paul Smith & Co of Rochdale. The project was made possible by a significant legacy, supplemented by generous grants by a number of trusts. These include Allchurches Trust, the Duchy of Lancaster, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Lee Bakirgian Family Trust and Viridor Credits' Landfill Communities Fund.



Steve Openshaw says, “Whilst some regretted the departure of the pews, this was essential if the building was to be made fit for a twenty-first century uses. Whilst a few pews were taken by members of the fellowship, the bulk found a new home with the Radcliffe Market Hall Community Benefit Society (RMCBS), a social enterprise which is doing sterling work in re-vitalising the market as a centre for the community.”



As our photographs show, work at Christ Church is progressing very rapidly. The old and uneven parquet floor has been replaced and a new carpet has been laid. Construction of the kitchen and WCs is well advanced.



The contractors worked round the wedding on 23 August for which chairs were hired in. The photograph gives some idea of what the interior will look like once the re-ordering is completed



Since then, Smith & Co's team has worked flat out. The most recent work has involved excavation to provide for fresh and waste water services. At the same time, work on fitting out the kitchen has gone forward with cupboard units being installed and a range cooker awaiting connection.

The contractors have every expectation that – barring unforeseen issues - work will be completed towards the end of November, allowing the fellowship to move back into the newly re-ordered building towards the year-end.

Steve adds, “We are incredibly excited about this development of our church building. While the building is already a base for our Baby & Toddler Group, Drop In cafe, and Walshaw Community Choir, our vision is that our building will once again be an important place for folk of all ages living in Walshaw and Lowercroft to come together, and as even more community activities take place here, in the coming months and years.”



During work on the new kitchen and WCs, the carpet has temporarily disappeared under protective matting, shown above.

Photos taken very recently – below - show excavating the north-west corner, adjacent to the Garden of Remembrance, to supply water services and the first units being installed in the kitchen.



A QUIZ FOR HARVEST

1. Who said "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few"?
2. How many Fruits of the Spirit does Paul list in Galatians?
3. On which day of creation did God create fruit-bearing trees?
4. Why were the Israelites told not to gather the gleanings of the harvest?
5. In the parable of the tares in the field, the harvest is the end of the world, but who are the reapers?
6. Under the law, what was to be done with the first fruits of the harvest?
7. What was Jesus talking about when he said, "they neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns"?
8. For how many successive years did the crops fail during the time when Joseph reigned in Egypt?
9. Where was Jesus when he said "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest"?
10. In Revelation, how many harvests of fruit does the tree of life produce each year?

ANSWERS

- 1 - Jesus
- 2 - 12
- 3 - 3;
- 4 - "When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands..." Deuteronomy 24:19-21
- 5 - The angels
- 6 - "They shall be holy to the Lord for the priest." Exodus 23:19a: "The best of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God."
- 7 - The birds of the air
- 8 - 7
- 9 - Sychar in Samaria
- 10 - 12.