

Regular Activities

Sunday	Morning Worship	10:30am
Monday	Craft Club (alternate weeks, see diary for dates)	2pm to 4pm
Wednesday	Community Coffee Shop	9am to 5pm
Thursday	Thursday Group (1st Thursday in month)	2:45pm to 4pm
Saturday	Community Coffee Shop	10:30am to 11:30am

Development Report

(editor's note: Simon is on paternity leave this month, so rather than a Minister's Message, we have an extended update from the development committee)

Last month we agreed to appoint T Butler & Son as our contractors, subject to price savings. Butlers have said they are happy to do the work, and with some other modifications the figure comes in just a few thousand pounds more than what we estimated.

However, we have received a further £20,000 since the last report in grants and donations. Michael is also continuing to work very hard to firm up possible grants which will go towards Phase 3, which is suspended at present.

The big disappointment at the moment is that we cannot afford secondary double glazing in the church, although this could be added later, or the windows gradually replaced with double-glazed units.

The other change is that the ceiling wood cannot be lightened by sanding and staining and will be painted. The trusses will be cleaned but stay the current colour. Also the wooden panels round the

church will be cleaned and stained, but stay the same colour.

The last service in the church as it is at present will be on Sunday 26 February, and the pews will be removed after that. Some pews are reserved, but please let Christine know if you know of anyone who would like to buy a pew. We have started on clearing out the vestry.

The contract with Butlers is currently being drawn up, and we hope work will start mid-March.

Phase 1 is expected to take about 6 weeks, and we expect access to the hall, kitchen, and toilets to be available during this time, maybe with the occasional day out, trying to avoid Wednesdays and Fridays.

Please note there will be **no parking** during the building work, only pedestrian access.

Details of fund-raising are given elsewhere in the newsletter, a Beetle Drive on 17th March, and blessings bags during March. Judy has been inspired to write a poem (page 3). We thank you for your encouragement; please continue to support us in whatever ways you can.

The Development Committee

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Diary dates for March

Wed 1 Mar	Service at Bramley Court	2:45pm
Thu 2 Mar	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
Thu 2 Mar	Thursday Group: A Trip to Uganda– Marion Cleaver	2:45pm
Fri 3rd	Women's World day of Prayer (Histon Baptist Church)	2:30pm
Sun 5 Mar	Preacher: Revd Jean Simmonds (First in Lent)	10:30am
Mon 6 Mar	Craft Group	2:00pm
Thu 9 Mar	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
Thu 9 Mar	House Group	2:30pm
Thu 9 Mar	Big Issues: The future of Jewish-Christian Relations Revd Colin A Smith (Superintendent minister)	7:30-9pm
Sun 12 Mar	Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver (Holy Communion)	10:30am
Wed 15 Mar	Service at Etheldred House	11:00am
Thu 16 Mar	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
Fri 17 Mar	Beetle Drive (see notice elsewhere)	7:00pm
Sun 19 Mar	Preacher: Mrs Judy Wynn	10:30am
Mon 20 Mar	Craft Group	2:00pm
Thu 23 Mar	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
Thu 23 Mar	House Group	2:30pm
Sun 26 Mar	Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver (Mothering Sunday)	10:30am

Fundraising Events

Blessings Bags

We invite you to **'Count your Blessings' during the month of March**. Blessings Bags are now available in the church and coffee shop.

The bags contain 31 slips of paper, one for each day of the month, each one naming a 'Blessing'.

The idea is to take out one 'Blessing' each day and put a small donation of money back in. We have suggested an amount, but please feel free to donate whatever you feel able to.

All money donated will be for our Development Fund, but we hope that as well as raising money, it

will make us all realise just how much we have to be thankful for.

Filled bags can be handed in at the coffee shop or brought to morning service on Sunday 9th April.

Please join us to help to make this a success.

Beetle Drive

There will also be a **Beetle Drive on Friday 17th March at 7pm**. Tickets are priced at £6 which includes delicious homemade desserts and coffee, and are available from Rosemary Watson or one of the stewards.

There will be a sign up sheet available if you are able to provide a dessert. Please do join us for what promises to be a fun evening.

Prayer

Grant, O Lord, that throughout this season of Lent, we may enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ, and draw upon its power, all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

© Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours.

Chairs for sale!

*As we say farewell to our much loved pews
Discomfort and backache we're not sad to lose!
We look forward to worshipping in new comfy chairs,
Lightweight and stylish – they'll invite admiring stares.
However the building costs are so very high,
Will you consider a chance to buy?*

The selling of the old pews will bring in much needed help with the finances, but help from members and friends with purchasing the 100 or so chairs needed in the church would be much appreciated.

Each chair will cost approximately £50. The architect has obtained samples, as requested, of chairs which are comfortable, and easy to stack when not in use. These samples are available to view.

Do consider a gift towards a chair, or part of a chair, as we look forward to our modern, comfortable and multi-purpose church, which will be pleasant as a worship space but will also be suitable for community use.

More details can be obtained from the stewards – do contact us if you are willing to contribute in this way.

Judy Wynn, Steward HMC

Old clothes wanted!

As many of you know I am a keen sewer. I would like to make some quilts for a possible exhibition after the building work is finished.

I need your help: I am looking for any old or no-longer needed cotton or cotton-mix shirts, blouses and dresses. They can be any colour, plain, checked, stripey or flowery—but please, no nylon

or silks. Hopefully, all the quilts will be made from these old garments.

When I have made and exhibited the quilts I hope to sell them for Church funds.

I will place a box under the table in the kitchen for any old garments, and will collect them at least one a week.

Thank you!

Mary Easy

Please email items for the April 2017 newsletter to
newsletter@histonmethodist.org
or hand them to Chris Whitworth by Sunday
March 26th