

Christ Church, Woodford

Seeking to know Christ better and to make Christ better known



Our Parishioners, many of the residents of Woodford and readers of our Parish Magazine will already know that we have suffered from the theft of capstones from our recently renovated churchyard wall.

The work of repairing this damage has left us with an unbudgeted cost of some £4,000. This is because our insurance cover will only cover the loss and damage caused and not the secure fixing of both the untouched stones and the replacement ones to prevent any further losses.

Furthermore, our Bell Tower has had to have urgent repairs after a structural survey identified several areas needing immediate attention. For obvious reasons, the work was started immediately and has now been completed. These additional expenses have had to be met out of our reserves. However, you may not know that as a Parish we are responsible for the upkeep of the Church through our own management of our finances.



We are not eligible for any grants and we have to organise and control our own funds. Our Parochial Church Council have to manage our assets as wisely as they can, keeping costs to a minimum and protecting our savings wherever possible.

It is on such occasions as these recent events, that our financial plans have needed to be adjusted. We have recently been covering an annual cash deficit of some £20,000 from our reserves, all this being brought about by ever increasing costs, most of which are beyond our control.

The remedial works simply added to this burden and made a large impact on our plans. It is for this reason that we are taking the unusual steps of asking for your assistance in covering the costs of both these repairs. The combined sum is approximately £19,000.

We had an amazing response to last year's "Parish Giving Initiative", and we are more than conscious of the close timing of this additional request. On behalf of the Parochial Church Council we thank you for taking the time to consider this matter and for any financial support you feel you may be able to give.

Rev. David Russell

Vicar

Paul Rodman

Strategic Treasurer

Graham Meare

Assistant Treasurer

A Brief Background

As a place of worship, Christ Church is quite unusual in several respects. Notice has been drawn to the fact that the church gives a general impression of being of a 17th Century design rather than 19th Century. It has a Jacobean flavour which could be due to the influence of the architect Edward Blore, who, at that time was remodelling Capesthorpe Hall in a similar style.



In 1841 the church was completed. It was known locally as the “Buttermilk Church” because the labourers were given only buttermilk to drink to assist their labours instead of beer. Seating for the congregation was on simple wooden forms on the stone-flagged floor. There was no gallery or organ loft. There was no decorative timber work or any stained glass. Altogether the church had a very spartan interior. A very slender tower, not capable of housing a conventional belfry is situated on the west gable

The church underwent renovations in 1869/72, and it was at that time that our 18th century Box Pews were installed. It is believed they possibly came from the old Poynton Chapel. The church was enriched by seven stained glass windows and a wealth of carved woodwork and texts.

During the 175 years of its existence many changes have been made to beautify the interior and more recently improvements and extensions have been added to meet the needs of new generations of worshippers. Until 1877, the worshippers were summoned to church by a single bell, which was afterwards transferred to the Day School to perform, no doubt, a similar duty. In June of that year a peal of six bells were installed, but the tower had to be strengthened by the addition of buttresses before they could be placed in position.

At the same time, a chiming clock was fitted to the tower. This was wound up manually twice a week until 2010, when an electric auto-wind system was installed. In 2005 the two clock faces were re-gilded. In 1930 the old bells were taken down, re-cast and two other bells were added. In total, the bells now weigh about 30cwt (1524kg). They are not rung in the traditional way, but struck by hammers operated by steel wires from a keyboard of levers in the base of the tower. Such a set of stationary bells hung in a tower are known as a Carillon.

The effect of weathering of the tower over the past 175 years has seen the locally produced brick deteriorate to the point where it needed a great deal of attention. It is for this reason that our surveyors highlighted this remedial work as a priority.

With this work having been carried out, we are now confident that our landmark carillon bells will be summoning worshippers to church for many years to come.

With acknowledgement to Heather Braddock and her excellent “Short History & Guide to Christ Church Woodford”.

How you can help us

We are already in the early stages of organising fund-raising events which we hope you will be able to attend. We will be using the next couple of months to plan everything, so that we are ready to start after the school summer holidays. We will be extending a very warm welcome to everyone from within our Woodford community and beyond, as well as the members of our own congregation.

Clearly we have a lot of planning ahead of us and we could well be looking for expertise in some areas. We will also be asking for volunteers to help us with the running of each event, so please, if you would like to volunteer your services, let Paul Rodman or Graham Meare know as soon as possible.

We are currently considering several options, including a Hot Pot Supper & Quiz Night, a late Summer Afternoon Tea Party with live music, and a Barbecue. To enable us to make these or any other events viable we will be using venues larger than our own Church Hall.

At the same time, if you would like to organise your own Coffee Morning or any other event to help us to raise funds, please let us know, and we will happily help to advertise the details.

If you would like to make a one-off donation to our fund we would be extremely grateful.

Our Bank details are as follows:

Christ Church Woodford PCC
Sort Code: 20-82-14 Account No: 03470938 Ref: Church Tower Fund

Alternatively you might like to send a donation to:

Mr Paul Rodman. The Church Treasurer.
521 Chester Rd. Woodford. Stockport. SK7 1PR

If you would prefer to place a donation in the collection plate in Church and wish to use our standard Yellow Gift Aid Envelopes from the pews please mark them as being for the Church Tower Fund. There will also be new Blue envelopes available in the Church specifically for our Church Tower Fund donations. These again can be left in the collection plate

There is a Gift Aid Declaration Form overleaf for if you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donations. Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax, currently 20% which allows charities to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated.

We ask that all donations be identified as being for the **Church Tower Fund** so that they are classified as being for Restricted Use and will be held separately for the sole purpose of going towards covering the cost of these renovations.

Our weekly service sheet will be used to report on the total amounts as we raise them towards our target. We will also be showing the total amount raised on a fortnightly basis on our Parish Notice Board and on our website. We will also be reporting on the events in our Parish Magazine.

Gift Aid Declaration for Giving to Christ Church Woodford

If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donations
please complete the form below and return it to:

**Mr Paul Rodman. The Church Treasurer.
521 Chester Rd. Woodford. Stockport. SK7 1PR**

Please treat as Gift Aid Donations all qualifying gifts of money made by me from the date of this Declaration and in the past four years.

I am a UK Taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title: **Full Name:**.....

Address:

..... **Post Code:**.....

Signature: **Date:**

Notes:

Please notify the Church Treasurer if you:

- a. Wish to cancel this Declaration
- b. Change your name or home address
- c. No longer pay sufficient tax. And/or capital gains.

Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax, currently 20% which allows charities to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated.

If you pay income tax at the higher rate or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid Donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue & Customs to adjust your tax code.

If we already have a Gift Aid Declaration from you please indicate this at the time of any donation you are able to make.