

FROM THE VICARAGE

Big projects seldom run smoothly...

Last month I trumpeted the start of our great building project: as planned, on Monday 2nd September our organ builders started dismantling the organ case at the back of church. But on Tuesday 3rd they rang me from the church: "We think we've found asbestos in the organ." They had – cue a rapid phone call to an asbestos removal firm recommended by the diocese, which soon confirmed that it was indeed asbestos, though of low-to-medium risk. The lab test cost us a few hundred pounds, but the full removal bill is £5,095.00 plus VAT!

This was more than a little setback, being a fair chunk of our carefully raised project funds. However, thanks to the great generosity of some very committed (but determinedly anonymous) parishioners, we now have the full amount covered. I need to stress that the asbestos poses no danger: it is all kept safely in a large solid wooden box called the wind-chest (which contains the bellows for the pipes) and is completely covered with sheeting. It will be all removed on or after 10th October.

Now all the pipe casing and the organ pipes (all 1006 of them!) have gone, the west end of the church is quite transformed, even in its current rough and unfinished state. There is a considerable amount of light coming through the west tower window, which was completely obscured from the nave for the last 60 years - much more light than I expected. It's already made a big difference to the light levels in the church, which is especially noticeable on these autumn afternoons and evenings. The space that has been freed up by the organ's removal feels bigger than we expected too.

The three specialist building firms we've contacted should send us their quotes by the first week of October. Once we have made our choice, the next phase begins: removing the five small pews at the rear of the nave for the new organ casings and fitting out the servery. The most complicated (and so most expensive) part will be extending the first floor to connect it with the two new organ casings either side, cutting a new bell-hatch in that floor plus any necessary reconstruction. Please continue to pray for our project's success, especially for more funds – and please consider supporting it yourself – our Treasurer's details are elsewhere in this very magazine!

This leads me neatly to our latest church event, ***Music for an Autumn Evening with the Kelvedon Singers on Sunday 20th October at 6.30 pm.*** It promises to be a very entertaining concert with a wide and varied mix of music for all tastes, with properly autumnal subjects - flowers, trees and the countryside. The music will range from 16th Century madrigals to swing and jazz via Victorian ballads, local composers and recent film music. All proceeds go to our building fund, so do come and support us, and tell your friends and neighbours too! You'll find more details elsewhere in this issue.

I was pleased to make my first visit to Feering Primary School a couple weeks ago, and was glad to see that the three new teachers are settling in well: Deputy Headteacher Mrs Ship (teaching the top year, 'Pythons', years 5/6); Miss Stanhope ('Lions', Year 1); and Miss Tyler ('Rabbits', Early Years). We welcome them all and wish them well – it's great to hear that they are all enjoying their classes. I'm delighted too that the **School Harvest Service is returning to All Saints'**, after a couple of years of being held in school rather than church. It's on **Wednesday 9th October at 2.00 pm**, and of course parents and grandparents are warmly invited to come.

An advanced notice for your diaries – **Saturday 30th November at 3.00 pm** sees our **Christmas Messy Church**. While I hate to mention the 'C' word in early October, I know how busy people's diaries can get as the festivities ominously approach. We've gone for a Saturday as the December calendar is

already so crowded: Sunday 1st December sees the Christmas Fayre in the Community Centre; the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Kelvedon is on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th; then our own Christingle Service is on 15th December. Messy Church offers fun Christmas-themed crafts and some lovely home-made refreshments, and will end with a short closing service with candlelight around 4.00 pm. Children of all ages - i.e. all who are children at heart - are warmly invited.

One final plug – for our next **Family Service on Sunday 13th October at 10.00 am**: a short, informal and accessible service, followed some delicious home-made refreshments. A group of families form the 'core' of this service, but we'd be delighted to welcome more. We see our family services as one of the key ways to begin building a younger church congregation, so we warmly encourage people to try it out. As I said last month: essentially our project isn't about toilets, pipes and pews - it is about the church being open to and serving the local community, and about enabling the congregation of the future to grow and flourish.

With every blessing,

Simon

Tel. 01376 573701 Email: simongarwood@simonliz62.plus.com

The Vicarage, Church Street, Kelvedon, CO5 9AL

From the Parish Registers, September 2019

Renewal of Marriage Vows *We send our warmest congratulations to:*

21 September – Kay and David Hunt

Memorial and Thanksgiving Service *We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of:*

27 September – Geoffrey Metzger (All Saints' Feering)

Following a private family funeral for Geoff at Three Counties Crematorium on Wednesday 25th September.

There were no weddings or baptisms at All Saints' in September.

SERVICES for OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER – Trinity 16

9.30 am Sung Holy Communion

SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER – Trinity 17

***10.00 am Family Service**

A short, lively and informal service without Communion, followed by home-made refreshments.

**Please note the later time.*

SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER – Trinity 18

9.30 am Sung Holy Communion

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER – *Last Sunday after Trinity*

9.30 am Sung Holy Communion

SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER – *ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY: Our Patronal Festival*

9.30 am Sung Holy Communion