

St James' Methodist & United Reformed Church Woolton, Liverpool 25



www.stjameswoolton.org

Building for the Future

St James' Church is a strong, vibrant and all-age Christian family with a 200-year history of worship and service in Woolton Village and the wider world.

The church building itself is nearly 150 years old and has undergone many developments and additions since it was first opened in order to meet the changing needs of the local community.

Across the road from the church, the Church Hall is a similar age and has also been extended and refurbished many times over the years to fulfil its role as a hub of village life. A wide range of youth, fellowship and community groups meet there each week and the timetable and space available is currently almost completely full.

During 2012, while plans for a major redevelopment of the interior of the church were progressing, it became apparent that the structural framework of both the church and church hall was in need of urgent remedial work first, simply to ensure their continued availability for use.

In the immediate future, therefore, and as early as Spring 2013, the church hall must be re-roofed externally, and some electrical safety improvements made internally, while the church itself must be re-roofed and partially re-pointed externally, and an outbreak of dry rot eradicated internally. It will then be possible to proceed with the main plans, the internal redevelopment of the church, so that this sacred space remains spiritually uplifting and becomes flexibly useful in the years ahead for the community we serve.

All this represents a huge and important piece of work to significant buildings at the heart of Woolton - both geographically and communally - so we are seeking to enlist the financial and practical support of many individuals and organisations to help us

- **complete the programme to a fixed timescale,**
- **guarantee the future of St James' Church and the buildings for general use, and**
- **ensure that the buildings are welcoming and accessible to as wide a range of people as possible.**

The family and friends of St James' have raised many thousands of pounds over the years to extend and develop the whole Church property while continuing to provide high levels of practical and financial support to many local, national and international charitable causes. However, as we serve many in our community, we realise that our new vision can be realised more quickly and effectively with the help of others and so we now lay this exciting, ambitious and essential project prayerfully before you.

Please turn to the last page to see how you can help

What do we plan to do? And Why?

1. REPAIR THE FABRIC OF THE BUILDINGS

There is no doubt that St James' Church buildings - both the Church and the Church Hall - are already much-loved and well-used. The urgent requirement is to deal with the structural weaknesses in the two buildings, and then the redevelopment of the Church building can proceed as the second phase of the project.

2. REDEVELOP THE CHURCH

There is a growing awareness that the spiritual and secular life of any community is more closely linked now than ever before, and that St James' Church building has unexplored potential as a space for both traditional purposes and exciting new ventures. Once the structure is secure we plan to make other changes so that it will continue to be a place of worship, but also (for example):

- a comfortable place where village business people can take lunch and enjoy a time of quiet reflection
- a child-friendly place where pre-school and school age children can hold special events when their usual venues have limited capacity
- an inspiring spiritual space for our uniformed organisations to carry out appropriate parts of their programmes
- a flexible space for initiatives in our Mission Priorities (e.g. Messy Church and Café Church).

Currently, the style and layout of our Church building does not make these things practicable and attractive and so modifications are planned, including:

Exterior: Replace a section of the boundary wall with a gate, to improve street level access for people with limited mobility, wheelchairs, prams etc.

Interior: Improve the entrance area to the Church to increase access and visibility

Create a common floor level throughout the building

Replace the pews with more flexible and comfortable seating

Install environmentally-friendly heating and lighting

Upgrade the audio-visual resources

Provide a space to prepare refreshments

Provide additional toilet facilities and improve the existing ones

Redevelop and redecorate the building throughout.

We believe this work is vital if we are to make the very best use of this special space in the heart of Woolton Village. But is it really necessary?

YES!

The church hall hosts events for more than 400 young people each week. These include Junior Church, Youth Groups, Uniformed Organisations, Pre-School and Parent and Toddler Groups, as well a wide range of fellowship and community groups.

Already, 100–150 people come together each week to worship in the Church and throughout the year the building hosts:

- **many special services** which reflect the seasons of the church calendar, e.g. Easter, Christmas and Harvest celebrations
- **cherished family events** such as weddings, funerals and baptisms

- **significant community occasions** such as the memorial services for Hillsborough and services with the local Marie Curie Hospice for those who are recently bereaved
- **evening concerts** which serve a double purpose as popular social gatherings for as many as 250 people, (some of whom are regular church-goers, but many who are not), and successful fund-raising events for local, national and international charities as well as church funds
- **school visits, lectures**, etc.

**But there is so much more we could do,
if the buildings are assured
and the space available is more flexible and easily accessible**

From the time our Church community began in 1811 as a small Methodist fellowship in a small room in Quarry Street, through the formation of a Local Ecumenical Partnership with the neighbouring United Reformed Church in 1986, until the present day, we have striven to support and care for each other and our neighbours, both local and worldwide, by living out and sharing our faith through all-age worship, bible study, prayer, discussion and action in the community.

People of every background are warmly welcomed into the Church buildings on all occasions to celebrate the good news of God's love shown in his son, Jesus Christ. Together, we work to eradicate all forms of discrimination on the grounds of race, culture, gender, sexuality or ability.

Some of the causes we have been delighted to support over the last 10 years have included:

Appeals for the Asian Tsunami, & The Haiti Disaster; The Cardiothoracic Centre & Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialist Service at Broadgreen Hospital; a Cerebral Function Monitor for the Children's Ward at The Walton Centre; Mersey Kidney Research (MKR); Leukaemia Research Fund; Alzheimer's Society Dementia Care & Research; Breast Cancer Research; Diabetes UK; Macmillan Nurses; Reach Christian Counselling; Women & Children's Aid at Centre 56 Ltd; Home Start (Speke/Garston Area); Young Person's Advisory

Service (Liverpool City Centre); The Basement City Centre Drop In Centre; Liverpool Street Pastors; Christian Aid, the Methodist Relief and Development Fund and MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged).

Each year we work as part of Woolton in Bloom to provide floral displays for the enjoyment of those who live in, or visit, our village. As part of our external improvements in 2009 we provided a herb garden and activity play area for our Pre-School. At the 2011 RHS Awards Ceremony we won a further improvement award, whilst Woolton Village gained a Gold Award and was classed as the Best N.W. Large Village. These outcomes were maintained in 2012.

Our vision for St James' next 100 years of witness to the love of Jesus in our community is a bold one, and is underpinned by a church building which is cleaner, brighter, warmer, more accessible, comfortable and flexible. If we aspire to pass on to the next generation a building that is as loved, cared for and fit-for-purpose as the one we ourselves inherited, the time has come to make many things new,

and we hope you will want to help us.

The Total Cost of the whole building and redevelopment programme is estimated at £425,000 and our plan for achieving this incorporates:

Funds already raised/pledged

- by church members: £176,000
 - from Methodist, URC and other denominations: £ 66,000
- £242,000

Other Grant applications already under consideration: £ 85,000

Additional Proposed funding:

- Further fundraising/pledges from members: £ 30,000
 - Other Grants: £ 60,000
 - Other Donations: £ 8,000
- £425,000

If you would like to become an active partner in the project by offering financial or practical support, or to obtain more information, please call:

Steve Skyner (Project Chairman) on 0151 428 2438

Or

E-mail your interest or queries to:

treasurer@st jameswoolton.org

Or

Complete the tear-off slip below and forward it to

Simon Draper (Church Treasurer)

18 Okehampton Road, Liverpool, L16 6AZ

We shall be delighted to hear from you and grateful for your help.

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I enclose a cheque / donation to the project in the sum of

£.....

(please make cheques payable to St James' Methodist & URC Church)

Please send me a standing order form for a regular donation while the work is in progress

I would like to receive more information about St James' Church and its activities. Please send me a complimentary copy of the next quarterly newsletter 'Salt and Light '

Please keep me informed of the progress of the building project

I would like to help in a practical way.

(Please supply more information on the back of this sheet.)

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:.....

Email: Tel: