

NOVEMBER 2023



ST MARY'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first monthly newsletter, designed to keep you informed of our headline news & events. For full details please visit us online www.hookchurch.org.uk

St Mary's Hook Restoration

As you know we are deep into fundraising for the restoration of our church in time for our 800th anniversary in 2025. A huge thank you to everyone who has donated so far. We realise not everyone has the Parish Magazine and not everyone is online so you may not see our updates, this new monthly newsletter seeks to correct this.

So far the funds have been raised to obtain detailed plans and specifications, planning permissions and all necessary applications to enable our ambitious restoration to proceed have been completed. So whilst it may have appeared that not much has been happening, it's all been going on behind the scenes.

We are now ready to implement Phase 1, Stage 1 of our plans – which includes moving the oil tank, removing our pews, levelling the floor and installing new chairs, which will enable our beautiful building to be used as a flexible place where the whole community can thrive.

Oil Tank update

The work to replace/move the current oil tank is due to begin on 27th November, weather permitting. It will be necessary to tape off certain areas of the church yard while this is done for safety, but this will be kept to a minimum. Please bear with us, we apologise for any disruption caused, the work is vital to prevent damage to the building or ground contamination if there is a leak.

Removal of Pews

At our Cheese and Wine evening earlier this year we successfully secured purchasers for all of our church pews and a waiting list is in place. Some people feel removing pews is breaking with tradition, which we do understand, however our medieval building would not have had pews until relatively recently, probably when the church was last reordered in 1844. By replacing the pews with high quality, stackable chairs, which similar, but cheaper, than Westminster Abbey, will enable us to use our beautiful space in a more flexible and inclusive way, thereby ensuring the future of our church.

Sponsor a Chair

We are therefore seeking Sponsors for the new chairs which will be £125 each, for more information on this please ask for a sponsorship form by calling Peter Jessop on 07725 075699. More information will follow shortly. Once we have sponsored all 140 chairs we will be able to remove the pews.

Our Services

Philip, our Vicar, is still recovering from an operation so will not be in circulation until mid November. This will mean our 11am, 5th November service will not be a communion, but Morning Prayer. Our remembrance service will begin at 10.45 to ensure we are ready for the 2 minutes silence at 11am. Services later in the month should be as usual.

All are welcome to any service or event we hold, more information online:
www.hookchurch.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thanks to Rob Moffat for donating his artwork of our beautiful church, Christmas cards are now available at local outlets, priced at £5 in packs of 10 cards.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Sunday 26 November

We will be hosting a fundraising stall at The Stables (Heppy's) Christmas Fayre from 12noon to 4pm do join us at an event for all the family to enjoy.

HOOK GARDENING CLUB

Saturday 2 December

Annual fundraising stall at Rosemary Cottage, 163 High Street from 10am to 12noon with the cake stall proceeds being generously donated to the Church restoration.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Wednesday 6 December

We are hosting a Christmas Tree Festival prior to the village lights switch on, do contact us if you would like more information and do join us from 4.30pm for hot chocolate and more.