

Welcome to

re:news

issue 4

Involving the church family in transforming our building for a new season of growth

In this issue of re:news

- Creating a café at Christ Church
- Open for coffee in Nailsea
- Work continues
- Café Q&As
- Making a difference to me
- Ideas wanted



Creating a café at Christ Church

It was announced in April that the PCC wanted to go ahead with some early interim work to create a café at Christ Church. Longer term decisions about RENEWCHRISTCHURCH need further work and cannot be made immediately but the PCC wishes to be able to open the church to the community as soon as possible. A café in the north aisle could be opened as early as the Autumn.

The café project will be led by John Barratt, a volunteer from the church family. Many more people have also offered their services to help. "I would like to thank everyone who has engaged with the coffee shop initiative", said John. "It is really encouraging when people take an interest in something that is important to them. So far I have offers of help from about 35 people."

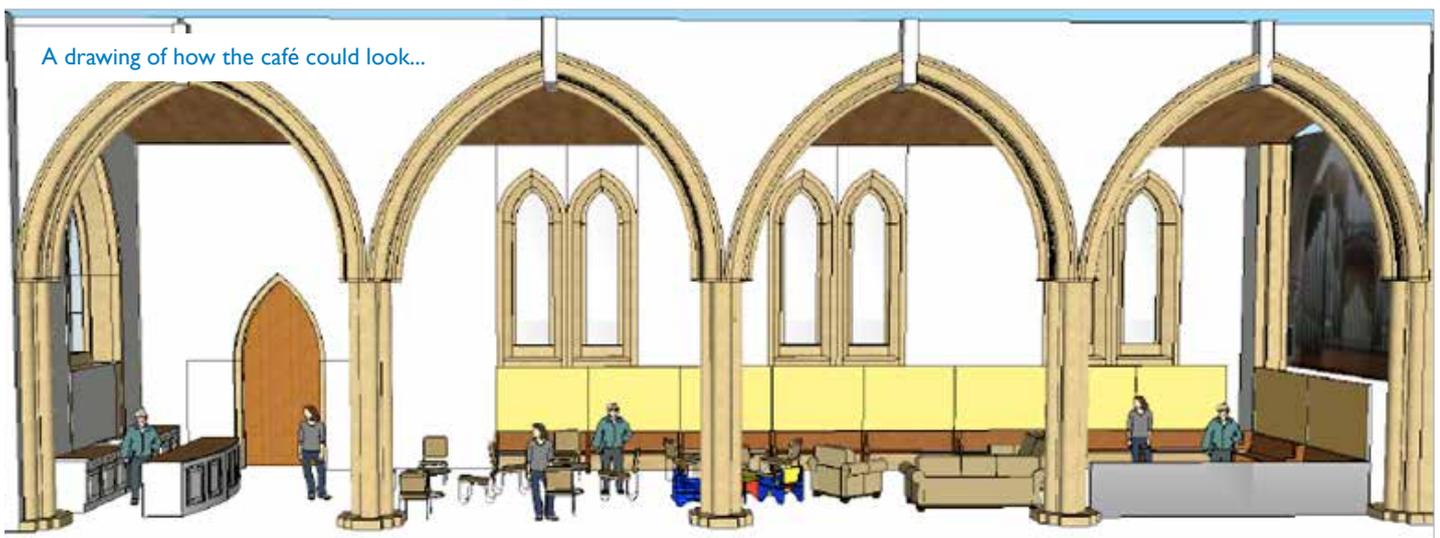
"I have had some very enthusiastic engagement from the Pre-school & Toddler parents, some other potential users and of course the staff team. I would also love to hear from others who have talents to offer in using, operating, designing, decorating, installing and making the coffee shop. If you have any talents to offer in the area of serving those who have followed the aroma of coffee into the church, then Tim Meathrel or Roberto Elvira would love to hear from you", said John.

Information is currently being gathered on coffee suppliers and equipment. Encouraging discussions have been held with Lavazza coffee who are part of the Rainforest Alliance of coffee suppliers whose standards are intended to protect the environment and the rights of workers. "As a current server on the coffee rota, the modern equipment on offer looks really exciting as it will save many hours of preparation time over the current equipment that we use," said John.

John is in the process of contacting all those who have expressed an interest in helping. If you haven't yet heard from John, please get back in touch with him.

An opening event will be held in the church coffee shop in September. If you have any ideas that would assist in this area, or would like to lead the opening celebrations, then please contact John - jdb.barratt@gmail.com or 07564 004544.

A drawing of how the café could look...



Open for coffee in Nailsea

Holy Trinity, Nailsea opened a small café connected to the main church building in November 2015. The café is contemporary in design and blends pleasingly with the ancient grey stone of the church alongside.



The original stone church dates back to the 15th Century and is Grade I Listed, but in spite of its heritage, in 2003/4, the church overcame any conservation concerns and obtained permission for alterations to make the church more modern, flexible and useable. The design included removing pews, laying a new wooden floor with underfloor heating, removing the balcony, installing new lighting and converting the Rectory next door into church offices. The offices are now linked to the main church via a glass construction with new doors opening directly into the chancel.

The café was installed in the linking glass building. It has its own entrance via a spacious reception area. It is light, modern and welcoming and provides a meeting place for people to use who have no church connections. The attractive, peaceful main church building is open and visible to those who come to the café through the glass doors that lead straight into the chancel. There is a sense of unity in time and space between old and new.

'The Coffee Lounge is all about building relationships', says Sue Phillips, the volunteer who manages the café. 'We don't actively evangelise, that's not what we are about, but if we get to know people and they trust us, conversations can happen. There is an existing relationship in place for when people need us.'

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Holy Trinity is not positioned in a location where there is any sizeable footfall. It is used by the immediate local community according to their needs. For example, local Mums have started to gather there on a Friday, a walking group finishes their weekly walk at the café, and individual locals have discovered it as a very pleasant place for good coffee, toast, homemade soup and cake.

The Coffee Lounge is open during the morning, three days a week and the space can also be booked and used by anyone at other times either from within the church community or outside it. Currently the café is run entirely by volunteers but Sue considers it possible that if opening hours are increased then a paid manager post might be needed.

Although small, the Coffee Lounge packs a lot into its flexible facilities; there are café-style tables and chairs, a small area with arm chairs, high chairs, a children's play area, an attractive and tidy visual display system for posters, a TV screen on the wall and a full audio/visual system.

The Coffee Lounge is a small operation in keeping with its location but it is managing to cover its costs and is already finding its role in the community.



Work continues

To the casual observer it might seem as though little has happened with **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** over the last few months. In fact much has been carrying on in the background.

Over the last three months:

- Paul Langham and Mark Parsons have met with members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee to seek their views on the current proposals
- The PCC has approved interim work to set up a café
- John Barratt, a member of the church family, has volunteered to develop the work on the café in the north aisle with a view to opening it in the early Autumn. See more about the proposals below.
- A faculty application has been submitted to remove the remaining pews in the church to give us additional flexibility and create space for the café.
- Paul and Mark have met with the church architects to look at the issues surrounding the location of the administrative hub (church offices) within the current scheme, so the PCC can consider this in more detail in October.

We will continue to keep you informed of developments through re:news. Please keep praying for every aspect of **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH**, especially for those who will be making decisions.

Cafe Q&A

John Barratt answers some of the questions that have arisen about the café so far.

What is the target market?

The first stage is to engage with those people where we believe God is working already and where a need has been identified as part of ongoing relationships and discussions. This includes parents and guardians of school and preschool age children.

Will café sessions be targeted at specific groups? Toddlers? Teenagers? Older people?

Information to date suggests that we will target several; the morning openings are intended to be open sessions, but in the afternoon there is the possibility that we can target specific groups, as indicated. The first stage is intended to just get the facilities open in the mornings.

How will this café be a blessing to the other local café's in Clifton?

Some consultation has been undertaken as part of the **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** programme, but another engagement will be required for this interim arrangement until the **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** consultations are completed. Initial indications are that there is a complementary role that CCC (Christ Church Coffee) can provide alongside the commercial operations.

What will be the opening hours?

First stage is proposed to open 5 days per week (not Wednesday, but Saturday) 4 hours per day (9am-1pm) and full time, not term time only.

What will the church look like from the outside?

As it does today, but perhaps with some advertising on the rails outside to indicate that there is a coffee shop inside.

Will the space occupied by the café be usable for other things? Will furniture be shiftable? Will we lose seating capacity in the church?

The plan is that the area will be demountable so that the seating can be re-instated for church (or other) purposes. This will be seating that is consistent with the current seats in the main part of the church.

Will there be a paid manager/worker? Will there be volunteers? Or both?

Experience from other similar facilities indicate that both paid and voluntary staff will be required.

How many workers/volunteers will be needed?

Likely to be a paid worker and 2-4 volunteers each day depending on demand. The demand will only be known once the café is operational so we will probably have to overstaff at the outset.

How will we ensure volunteers are well managed?

This will be the responsibility of the café manager.

Is there a business plan?

Yes, sent to the PCC 11 June 2016 and approved.



Making a difference to me

Ginny O'Connor



At the moment we have about 70 families coming into the church for Pre-school and two Toddler groups every week. However, they enter through the side entrance and very rarely come in to the main body of the church. Those who meet friends for coffee in Clifton Village say that it's often very difficult to find a place that has enough space for their children, toddlers and buggies.

Putting a café in Christ Church will help to solve this problem as we will be able to offer a more child friendly space, but more importantly it will be an opportunity to offer them a warm welcome as well as good coffee.

Those of us who are working with these families at the moment are excited about the opportunities the café will bring for making relationships with more people in our community.

Ideas please!

A name for the café

What do you think would draw people to the café in Christ Church? How should it be identified? Do we want a name with symbolism and meaning that makes people think? Do we want an 'un-churchy' name that does not discourage people who aren't Christians?

Please send your thoughts and ideas to: jan.tyrrell@btinternet.com

Deadline: end of July.

Decorating the screens

As the current café plans are designed to be constructed as quickly as possible and will not be permanent, we will be using simple screens along the side of the café. These could look very plain and dull. Do you have ideas for how we could decorate and use them? Could we run photographic and art exhibitions? Could we ask different sections of the church to decorate them for a month at a time - the Pre-school have already offered? Could we ask different organisations in the community to decorate them in a similar way?

What ideas do you have? Please email them to: jan.tyrrell@btinternet.com

Deadline: end of August.

www.renewchristchurch.org



RENEWCHRISTCHURCH
www.renewchristchurch.org



Get in touch...

If you would like to find out more or if you'd like to get involved please get in touch with the church office on **0117 973 6524** or email **office@ccweb.org.uk** or **renew@ccweb.org.uk**