

Upper Sapey Church, its Rescue, & Olly's Friendship Room – Newsletter #6 (November 2016)

Remembrance Sunday 13th November

By popular request, we will observe an Act of Remembrance again this year. Last year's was the first for many years at Upper Sapey, and was very well received. Unfortunately, the church repairs will NOT be completed by then, and so some other venue is needed.



The churchwardens have generously offered the use of their home – Church Cottage – for the service, gathering there at around 10:45am. Weather permitting, we will move to a war grave in the church yard at 10:55 for the first part of the service including the Last Post, Silence, and Reveille. We can then return to Church Cottage for the rest of the short service, including two hymns and prayers. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

We have a new Priest!

As it says in the November issue of the Parish Magazine, “Rev Dawn Hyett has ... agreed, to serve as Interim Minister in the Parish of Greater Whitbourne, working closely with Rev Doiran Williams. This is not permanent, and the usual legal arrangements for a vacancy will continue. However, the bishop hopes that for most day to day purposes the Interim Minister will be received as the incumbent, leading the parish while the future pattern of ministry in the Greater Parish is being considered. The Bishop of Hereford commissioned Rev Hyett at 10am on Sunday, November 6th, at Whitbourne Church.” Dawn has already met many of those involved in the day-to-day running of the greater parish, and hopes to meet as many of you as possible over the coming weeks and months.

Building works update

Here's another extract from the November parish magazine:

The Friendship Room is now fitted out with all the kitchen fittings and cupboards in place, and the toilet complete and operational. It now needs the heating to be commissioned, once the three phase supply is connected and final decorating and second fix electrical work and light fittings etc. completed. The oak floor will be one of the last jobs to be done. The screen is complete and glazed, apart from the doors and just needs the final finish. The structural work to the arch and the East wall is now complete and was carried out with the minimum of disturbance to the existing structure. It is a huge relief to have this work behind us, as it was the state of the arch that was putting the whole future of the church at risk, but the work involved was far more extensive than originally proposed and this has put the cost of this work well over the original allowances. The church is currently full of scaffolding to enable the ceiling and walls to be decorated. Once this is complete the repairs to the floor and panelling in the Chancel can be carried out and the heaters and light fittings installed. The porch doors are still to be fixed and the fourth Medieval pew installed in the porch (the other three are accommodated in the church), but these jobs need to be done last. The access path is the final item on my agenda, but I am a little concerned about the cost and also concerned about the safety aspects if we do nothing!!! Completion dates have inevitably slipped, and although I have no definitive date, it is highly unlikely to be completed before the end of November. *David Roberts, Project Manager*

Christmas at Upper Sapey Church

We will have a Holy Communion service at 9:30am on Christmas Day as usual – perhaps the first service in our repaired church, led by Rev Doiran Williams, our Assistant Priest. *There will also be Christmas Eve*

services at Whitbourne (6pm Crib Service, 11.30pm Midnight Mass), Tedstone Delamere (6pm Carol Service), and Edwin Loach (7.30pm Holy Communion), and on Christmas Day at Tedstone Delamere (11am Holy Communion).

Before that, we hope to organise some sort of Christmas Event at the church – so please keep Saturday 17th December clear in your diary if you can, and look out for publicity. The proper Local Celebration of the completion of the works will be held early in 2017.

Olly's Friendship Room – how will we use it?

We already have quite a list of *potential* uses of this fantastic new community resource, such as: Support groups for people with anxiety and depression, and the lonely; Coffee mornings; Toddler groups; Astronomy Club; Lectures; Study groups; Hobby groups; Knitting circle; Book clubs; Music appreciation; Keep Fit/Zumba; Aerobics; Committee meetings; Parish Nurse; MP's surgery; Art clubs; Table-top sales; PCSO (Police) drop-in; Cheese & Wine....

The possibilities are endless. But we would love YOU to tell us how YOU could use it.

Other matters...

Many thanks to those who helped with the recent **Churchyard Clear-up**, clearing trees, shrubs generally and grass from around the graves, removing and spreading wood chippings around the churchyard to fill depressions and burning rubbish. It's great to see the local community working together to look after what is such a valuable community facility. There are some pictures at the bottom of the page – thanks to David R.

Coffee Mornings have continued on Saturdays 11am 'til noon, almost without a break. They are held somewhere near the church – look out for signs – and are for YOU to meet and chat over coffee and biscuits. As soon as we are able, we will move these into the new Friendship Room, of course. But not just yet...

The **Parish Magazine** of Greater Whitbourne is already delivered every month to about 30 homes in Upper Sapey. The cost is just £7 for the whole year, (the cover price is 60p) and is delivered to your door. If you would like to subscribe, please contact the author of this Newsletter – details below. The Greater Whitbourne **Parish website** at www.whitbourne.org.uk is your portal to all the information and goings-on in this Anglican parish. Why not bookmark it and visit it regularly to keep in touch?

And finally...

All of us involved with the major project that is the Upper Sapey Church Rescue, thank you for support and forbearance over the months since work started in February. The end is truly in sight now, although more funds still need to be raised. Let's all look forward to an exciting 2017, with a repaired church, a fantastic WARM Friendship Room hosting new activities, new parish priest...

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Some Working-Party pictures: (↓ Rev'd Dawn Hyett)

