

STRETTON & STOCKEN NEWS

Newsletter for the residents of Stretton, Stretton Woods, Stocken Hall and Stocken Mews: January 2021

CHURCH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME TO START IN JANUARY

The transformation of St Nicholas Church into a joint church and community centre is set to start on January 11th. Essential work to repair the roofs started in October and the award of additional grants means that work on the interior of the church can now start in earnest.



Church and Community Centre Fund Tops £221,000

By Greg Harker

In September, we heard the fantastic news that the village had been granted £100,000 towards our church community centre by FCC Communities Foundation. This grant, together with 13 other grants, brings our total fund to £221,000 – about 90% of the requirement and enables us to get started on the project.

Following the clearance from the Bat Conservation Trust, work started on roof repairs on 12th October. We are expecting that work to be complete towards the end of January.

Just prior to Christmas the Parochial Church Council (PCC) gave the go-ahead to set up the contract for the main interior or 're-ordering' works. The work will involve replacing the Victorian pews and pew platforms with a level oak floor right across the church. The new floor will be levelled from the porch entrance to the chancel, making it wheel-chair friendly. The Jacobean pews in the north transept will be temporarily removed while the floor is done and then replaced. We will have stackable (but high quality) seating which can be set out as we wish and suitable for a wide range of events, from Parish

Council meetings to private hire, to concerts, coffee mornings, hobbies and jumble sales. To this we will add a much needed loo, a heating system and a kitchenette for snacks and hot drinks. I should add that all of the works are being done with the greatest of respect for this wonderful building which is well over 900 years old so that it, once again, becomes a cornerstone of village life. With a fair wind, the work should be complete by Easter.

One of the main aims of the project is to increase the sense of community. If you would be able to help and would like to become involved, please let me or anyone on the Friends of St Nicholas committee know.

FCC Communities Foundation is a part of FCC Environment, who run the Colsterworth landfill site and who's business is to collect landfill tax. They are permitted to use some of the tax for worthwhile projects within a 10 mile radius of the site. To release the grant we had to raise 10% (£10,000) of it locally and this was done in short order thanks to the generosity of many local residents, the Friends of St Nicholas and Hooby Lane Quarry.

You can follow our progress on our fantastic web site, put together by Penny Isaacs at:

www.stnicholasproject.co.uk

STOP PRESS!!

Despite the new Covid lockdown, the Jackson Stops will be able to provide a take-away service on Fridays and Saturdays from 4 – 7pm. Menu is on the village website at www.strettonvillage.co.uk

The impromptu carol singing at the bus stop raised a magnificent sum of £141 for the Friends of St Nicholas. Many thanks to Johnny Graham-Hall for leading the singing and to musicians Cassie Pattison on violin and Helen Hall on Clarinet.

Just prior to Christmas, RCC approved plans to redevelop the Ram Jam site. Importantly, a move to prevent access from the B668 to the petrol filling station was blocked.

If you are shielding or self-isolating and are unable to get to the shops, post office or collect a prescription, contact Gill on 01780 410117. She is in touch with a team of volunteers able to help.

Community Centre Support

There are many ways in which you can support the church and community centre. In law, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) have the responsibility for the upkeep of the church and pay the bills! Within the village the PCC is helped by the Friends of St Nicholas (FOSN). FOSN is a non-religious organisation who, for many years, has raised funds to help out the church with repairs, insurance and churchyard maintenance. Indeed, FOSN has already donated £14,000 towards the cost of repairs and the modernisation. With the advent of the joint Church and Community Centre, there are still big roles for both organisations, but importantly, they will need to work even more closely together in order to make the joint facility sustainable. Whether you are a regular member of the congregation or not, I hope you would agree that the new facility provides an opportunity to do much more within the village to bring our community together and improve well being. On the front page is a request for you to join in to help make the project a success. Just as important, however, is to raise the funds to make the facility sustainable. Some in the village make regular monthly donations to the PCC via the Parish Giving Scheme (for details, contact Mr John Leefe on 410321). This is a fantastic help and, directly, helps the community centre. Some have made large donations to get us over the line and without their help (particularly at this time) we would not be in this position today. Another way if, like me, you are not a regular church goer is to consider joining the Friends of St Nicholas and help us support the church and community centre. For details how to join, contact the Treasurer (Mr Richard Foster on 411020). Whether you support via the PCC or via The Friends, the money all goes to a common cause. Please support us if you are able.



Raise FREE funds for us every time you shop online

Since May 2020, a small group has raised funds for the Community Centre through the easyfundraising app. Every time one of us shops online a percentage (typically ranges from 1-4%) is donated to our cause. There are over 4,000 shops and sites which will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself. Online retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Argos, M&S and eBay, as well as travel bookings, insurance, BT, Sky and even oil delivery are ready to give a free donation every time you shop online. Businesses can also claim donations.

The village group has now grown to 16 members and, as of the end of December, we have raised nearly £170. The money is transferred to a community bank account and will be used exclusively to help the community centre.

These donations really mount up and will make a big difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely free and only takes a moment. The easiest way to join is to go onto the village website www.strettonvillage.co.uk or our project site www.stnicholasproject.co.uk and follow the link to the sign up page.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.



As part of the church upgrade we shall be removing the Victorian pews in the nave (the Elizabethan pews in North and South Transepts will remain in the church). There are still 7 pews left for sale dating from 1881. They are structurally in good order, but some have surface scratches, stains and old worm holes.

The pews will be available for collection in January and prices range from £100 to £150 (on condition); proceeds will go towards new chairs for the church.

The pews vary in size and there are 2 types: those with a prayer book shelf on the back and those without. This affects the Depth (Blue line) dimension. The other dimension which varies is the length (Green Line). The height dimension (Black Line) is fairly consistent.

Length 79 – 85 ins / 200 – 216 cms

Height 34 ins / 87 cms

Depth 19 or 22 ins / 49 or 56 cms

If you would like to view or purchase, please contact Penny Isaacs on 410676.

Should you have any comments or contributions for future newsletters, please contact the editor, Greg Harker on 410117 or grillandegg@hotmail.com