



Hankelow Methodist Church and Community Hall Newsletter – March 2018

Hankelow Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan

The Church Council has welcomed the approach by the Parish Council to explore how we can work in closer partnership to further develop the church building as a community centre. The church building is already registered as a community asset.

It is important to stress at this point that the Chapel is **NOT CLOSING, NOR IS IT UP FOR SALE!** We are an active small church with fully refurbished premises with low maintenance and running costs. We will continue as a Church for years to come!

The two options we have looked with the Parish Council are described in the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire which is now out for consultation in the village.

The first option is that, without any need for further building work, the whole of the church building can be further utilised, in partnership with the village, by increasing the available space and the range of activities undertaken. Plans are already in hand to adapt the worship area so that the whole building will become a flexible secular space. It will then be available for larger non-religious village events such as the autumn supper, large community group meetings, fitness classes, youth groups and large private functions. In the future, the Parish Council could also book the building in the afternoons for tourist information, teas and perhaps provide a small shop.

The second option, suggested by the Methodist Circuit and supported by the Church Council, is that we could explore with the Parish Council the feasibility of whether they could purchase the church building and have a lease with the Church for Sunday morning services and other occasional church events. This option would very much depend on financial viability for both the Church and the Parish Council and would require formal agreements from within the Methodist Church. It is important to stress that this purchase option would only be available to the Parish Council as the building is not for sale to anyone else! The Methodist Church has provided the Parish Council with an 'indicative' current valuation of the building if it were purchased by the Parish Council at some future date. Under this option, a licence for alcohol becomes possible and would also enable the Parish Council to further extend/modify the building to suit its own requirements including, possibly, a shop or bar area.

We hope that this newsletter helpfully informs the village about the options for increased partnership the Chapel and the Parish Council are hoping to develop.

Roger Millns – Property Steward for Church Council

**Chapel Anniversary Service – Sunday, 22nd April 2018
at 10.30pm
with Rev'd Rob Hilton
New Superintendent Minister of the Circuit**

**Wednesday Groups run by ADCA
All Ages Welcome to Drop in for Any Session!**
10am - Gentle Exercise/Indoor Curling/Bowls
11am - Coffee Morning
12.30pm - Light Lunch [2 courses for a suggested £5 donation]
1.30pm - Activities/Speakers/ IT Training/Music/Walks

**The Laughing Yoga Class and the Art Class continue to meet each fortnight
[see village website for details]
Hankelow, Buerton and Hatherton and Walgherton Parish Council hold
their regular meeting in the Community Hall as do Hankelow Amenities
Group**

**North Shropshire Methodist Youth Choir – Worship Concert
Saturday, 30th June at 7.30pm
Tickets are £5 available from Val Morrey or Roger Millns
Proceeds to Motor Neurone Association and the Chapel in memory of Joan Park**

**The Community Hall is available for more bookings at £10 per hour
by ringing Val Morrey on 01270 811930 or email Roger Millns on
millnsr@talktalk.net – so book in your group or arrange a party!**