

# ASM COMMUNICATES

## APRIL 2021

Dear Church Family,

Since we last communicated back in October life has moved on in so many ways. We have encountered another lockdown and many of our church family have had difficulties with ill health, loss of loved ones and isolation which have caused many anxieties and emotions. However, we have an amazing God who understands us and we give Him praise for all he is doing within each of us.

I'm sure we are all praying in our individual quiet times with God. We also join together (via Zoom at present) on a Saturday morning week by week to pray for the needs of Mattishall, community, church life and basically anything that needs prayer! We'd love you to join us on Zoom, Saturdays at 9.00 am. God hears us when we pray in faith and he comes alongside us in all we go through. We have that assurance.

### OPENING UP AGAIN!!

We hope in the next few months to be opening up our churches in the Benefice to welcome familiar and new faces into our midst. At ASM we are hoping to start up Little Angels and Who Let The Dads Out in June assuming restrictions allow us. Physical services are being proposed, although some changes may well happen as we adapt to a new way of life after lockdown, and all the last year has brought about. Mark will be in touch with more details in the days ahead. We will keep you informed about happenings as they occur.

Planned physical services in ASM at present are:

**2<sup>nd</sup> May – Traditional service – 9.00 am**

**16<sup>th</sup> May – Informal service – 10.30 am**

As you probably all have read or heard by now that our dear Jackie is needing to step back for a while and be released from her role as Assistant Minister. We all fully support her and honour her decision and it will be great to have her among us again as a member of our church family when she feels ready. We have all missed seeing her so much. Please continue to pray for Jackie, Steve and the family

## RESTORATION AND REFRESHMENT PROJECT

One of the many things that has been happening over the last year behind the scenes is our Restoration and Refreshment project. This project encompasses a great deal of repair works that are required on ASM to keep it 'wind and watertight' and hopefully improve the appearance. Alongside this we are proposing to make changes to the inside of the building to enable us to engage in outreach events, accommodate the equipment required and have the facilities to offer hospitality at services and events. Also some additional items that will enhance the building for use.

To give you an overview we are proposing:-

**A new servery area**, built in with sink, worktops, hob, dishwasher, fridge, freezer and warming cabinet. This will be in the same position as our present mobile servery. We are in process at the moment of moving the sound desk across into the south nave of the church to give more room for people to be served at in this new area

**A second toilet**, and this will adjoin the servery area near where the existing disabled toilet is.

**Refurbish the Tower Room** and remove all equipment sorted therein to alternative storage areas. A partition wall is proposed across the back of the room with double access doors in the middle, which will hopefully achieve making the room warmer and also close off electric and meter cupboards.

**Storage areas to accommodate all equipment presently store in the Tower Room.** This will take the following form:

**Storage 1.** A small area behind the new partition wall in the Tower Room which will accommodate all the electrical cupboards. There will be additional space here, but it is not envisaged having anything else stored here at present.

**Storage 2a and 2b)** This will take the form of two tall cupboards either side of the radiator at the west end of the north aisle of the church and will house the safe and shelving for storage boxes for Little Angels equipment.

**Storage 3** This will be in the place of the old sink area and will contain a tall cupboard to store all equipment connected with flower arranging.

**Storage 4** This will be adjoining the front of the new toilet and will be used to store cleaning equipment.

**Storage 5a & 5 b)** This will be a large cupboard subdivided into two sections, adjoining the east end of the servery and will accommodate large play equipment for Little Angels.

**Storage 6** This will be our final large storage area which will run the entire width in the Lady Chapel, under the east window up to the height of the base of the window. This will be subdivided into three sections to hold tables, additional Little Angels equipment together with music equipment which is currently stored in the tower room.

This may be a little difficult to envisage at the moment, but we will be displaying plans and some drawings in church to give you a better idea of how it will all look.

In addition, the following items are also proposed to be included in the overall project.

**Remove the pews base in the Lady Chapel.**

**Install ramps at the main entrance doorways.**

**Install low level lighting on the paved and shingle pathways**

**Remove the remainder of the pews.**

The above is all dependant on what funds we can find ourselves and via grants, which I am sure you will all realise will not be a quick process! We are presently at the stage of having presented our initial plans to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (the body which grants permission for us to proceed) and they have given a provisional OK. The next step is for them to have a site visit and agree in more detail so that we can submit a plan formally for acceptance.

If you have any comments or questions on this please do let me know.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

We have been exploring ways to provide this vital element of care both for our own church family and also to eventually develop it to give caring friendship and Christian support to those in our community. We recognise there is a real need for this, but with limited resources we need to build something that is sustainable. There will be more details surrounding this in the weeks ahead.

Finally....

As Paul said to the Philippian Christians, let us follow suit 'Rejoice in the Lord always, do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippian 4 v 4-7.

*Love and blessings to you  
all, Sue*