



e-Bulletin December 2011

Steve Midgley writes....

In amongst the barrage of Christmas e-cards and the confirmation that your Amazon order isn't going to arrive for Christmas after all....comes a few bits of news from Christ Church.

PLEASE NOTE!! NEW MORNING SERVICE TIMES FROM JANUARY 8TH – 9.30 am and 11.15 am

We've decided on a slightly later start (9.30 am) for the first of our morning services. The two services will be a roughly similar size, but both will feel a lot smaller than we have been used to. While it will be a shame to lose the 'full church feel', it will be worth it if visitors find it easier to come along and be welcomed. Do pray about this change. I suspect it will make more of an impact than we might think; that will certainly be true for our musicians and Sunday Club leaders (of whom there will soon be an extra 8-10 to serve in the new children's groups). The services will also be shorter to make sure we have enough time between services to meet and talk.

PHASE 2

As you may have seen the Phase 2 appeal reached its target within just 4 weeks. It is very wonderful that God has moved members of the church to pray and give so richly. If you (or your children) still want to give, then please do so. As indicated in the original appeal information, if we end up with more than the appeal target then we will simply reduce the amount we move across from general funds. That means you can feel a part of the front extensions project and together we can work toward our target of giving more externally.

Richard adds the following:.

We have delayed submitting the planning application due to issues arising from the copper beach tree at the front. We are confident that we will get planning approval but we're working hard on important details which are critical to the finished design. With this in mind, I would be grateful if you would pray for the following...

- 1. Foundation design. Please pray for a 'root-friendly' solution to the foundation design which will allow us to keep the same floor level in the new entrance as at present.*
- 2. Railings. Please pray that our plans to re-align the railings will be approved, we see this as fundamental to the project as a whole.*
- 3. Timescale. The professionals we are using (architect, engineer etc) are small practitioners, appropriate to this size of project. However, that can mean pushing our job on isn't always easy, so please pray for our working relations with those we employ as well as the City Council. We are keen to start building in the early autumn but this will require good progress in the New Year to secure the necessary permissions.*

CHRISTMAS

We've had some great Christmas services and events. The Family Carols had lots of families visiting from First Steps; the Jazz Carols was a resounding success and looks all set for a repeat next year; the candlelit carols this past weekend was probably our biggest ever. Many, many thanks to all those who helped these to happen (by decorating the church, singing, playing, serving mulled wine, making headbands, the list goes on and on).

We're looking forward to Saturday's **Christingle** (4pm on Christmas Eve) and then a family service on Christmas Day at 10.30 am (which will, as usual, be followed by a brief communion service)

All of us on the staff team are very appreciative of the many kind messages and cards we have been sent. I hope you will understand if we don't respond to them all individually!

DISCIPLESHIP EXPLORED

We're starting a new series of meetings to follow on from Christianity Explored. They may suit others who are new to the Christian faith or who would like a refresher on what being a Christian looks like day to day. There will be a chance to discuss both the beliefs and the practices that make up the Christian life. Scott Newling is leading and it starts at 8 pm on Tuesday 10th January at Christ Church. There will also be a meal available from 7 pm for those who'd like it. You can book a place by emailing or phoning the office (office@christchurchcambridge.org.uk / 362574)

NEW DOOR CODE

The access code for the side door is changing. From Christmas Day the old code will no longer work.

These past few weeks have once again reminded me of the many reasons I have to thank God for allowing me to be a part of Christ Church. It is a joy to serve in such a warm, gifted and servant hearted church.

Have a great Christmas as we join in praising God for the gift of his Son.

Love,
Steve

Steve Midgley
Christ Church Cambridge