



St John's Church, Hartford
Christ Church, Greenbank

www.stjohnshartford.org
www.christchurchgreenbank.org

From the Vicar, the Revd Mike Smith

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May 2009 AD

To all on the electoral roll at St John's and Christ Church

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Imagine having a church hall of which we could rightly be proud – somewhere fit for 21st century ministry in Christ's name.

Imagine a facility where the lasting impression was not of damp and decay, but of security, welcome and excellence – somewhere that spoke of our commitment to invest in our children and young people for Christ's sake.

Imagine at the centre of our village a building that spoke of Christ's transforming power amongst his people, and his desire to welcome all.

For nearly four years we have been working towards making this dream a reality. There is so much for which we are thankful to God already. We have seen obstacles overcome, people giving generously and enormous work put in by a number of people. Your church council is right behind the project. The planners and our local community are supportive.

Do read the latest newsletter with updates on the project as a whole and the finances in particular – together with an encouraging article by Emily Dean, one of our Crossover leaders.

Now, the time has come to actually build the hall.

We will be in a position to start the work as early as September – if the financial foundation is secure. Certainly, we hope to start building between then and March next year.

For some of us, now is the time to move from positive thoughts to practical action – committing to give regularly and sacrificially to the project. If you held off before, wondering if it was ever going to happen, now is your moment! By God's grace, it will happen – and happen soon.

For others who are already giving to the project or who have given previously, can I ask you to consider making a further one-off gift and committing to continued, or even increased, giving towards this project?

Some of you have limited incomes or limited access to family income. Please don't let this be a reason to give nothing – remember the widow's mite (Luke 21.1-4). Her giving may not have vastly impressed the temple authorities, but it did impress the Lord. Some of you have much more – and as Jesus said, "from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12.48). I believe that the Lord is calling us to do this work – and calling *all* of us to play our part.

Can I ask you to consider carefully and prayerfully how you will respond? If we miss this moment, it will not come again quickly. Now is the time to act.

There are two practical ways to do this.

First, please come and pray from 6pm on Wednesday 3 June in the St John's Church Centre. We will start with an hour of all age "pizza, prayer and praise for the project" – *children* are very welcome in pyjamas! We will then pray for the rest of the evening – do join us when you can.

Second, please fill in and return the Pledge Form, ideally on the Gift Day, Sunday 7 June, and certainly as soon as possible afterwards.

with all good wishes in Christ,
Mike