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throughout our neighbourhood with the gospel. The new building will help us to do this better, and to do more of it. The first term of the new hall will feature – among many other things – *Hartford's Got Talent*, a new After School Club and an art exhibition. Our passion is to reach out in Christ's name.

**Jesus taught us to "love one another"** – that is, our fellow Christians. The new hall will provide a flexible and well equipped venue for so much that we do to deepen our love for God and for each other. From Sunday Schools to socials; from discipleship to dancing – it will all be here.

**Jesus also taught us, "love your neighbour as yourself"**. Our new hall will be open for any group in our community whose ethos and purpose is consistent with the Christian faith. We want to welcome back many who have had to find temporary homes elsewhere – like the Brownies – and to offer a welcome to those who may never have used the old hall.

To love God, to love the lost, to love each other and to love our neighbours. This is why we build. Don't lose heart: keep praying, keep giving, keep planning ways to use our new hall. And in it all, remember Psalm 115.1: "Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."



*Mike Smith*

## Project Finances

Our financial planning for the project encourages us all to give regularly to it and to contribute towards annual Easter gift days. If you are on the Electoral Roll, you will receive a letter and pledge form to enable you to do this. If you are not, and you would like to give, please pick up a pack from the welcome desk or speak to David Richards or one of the Ministry Team.



The leaflet "Building for the Future: Paying for the Project", published last September, remains an accurate explanation of how the project is being financed and how you can play your part. Please ask for a copy.



## Talk of the township ...

It's the talk of Hartford: the new church hall is going up. True, some are displeased at its size. So let's pray that all of Hartford will come to value this marvellous new resource for our church and community. Certainly for us who have been planning, praying and giving towards the new hall for several years now, this is an exciting time. Completion of our fantastic new hall is just four months away!

Let's remind ourselves why we're doing it.

**Jesus taught us to love God above all else.** This is the first and greatest commandment. This is why we are doing this great project. We want to see *God's* name honoured. We want to see *God's* church well served. We want to see *God's* good news about his Son Jesus go further and wider. We are building for *God's* glory – because we love him and long for others to know him too.

**Jesus "came to seek and to save what was lost"**. He would have us love the lost and reach them in his name. This new building will be a splendid resource for reaching out with the gospel into our community. You know the multiform work that already happens as we seek to engage men and women, young and old

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## Project Update

In a little more than four months time our new Church Hall will be completed! How amazing it is to say this after almost five years of praying and planning for it. We are currently **On Time**, despite the hard winter, and **On Budget** and practical completion of the building is scheduled for the end of July. If you would like to

follow the progress of the building work, and what is due to happen next, then please have a look at the Building Programme Chart which is on display in the Church Centre and on the opposite page.

If you then have a look over the hedge, as you walk down Chester Road or School Lane, you should be able to confirm that the work is progressing as planned.



At the beginning of each month Building Committee

members meet with the Contractor and the Professional Team to discuss the work and to deal with any issues that have arisen and upon which decisions are required. These are very friendly meetings which usually take place in the Church Centre and always begin with prayer. At the end of each meeting we chat together informally and have the opportunity of sharing the life of the Church as we munch our way through delicious bacon

butties! We also invite those working on site to join us.

As the construction reaches the half way point, we are now having to make the more minor decisions in respect of such things as carpet colours, what shelving we need, where we should position the post box and how and where we hang the cross on the outside of the building.



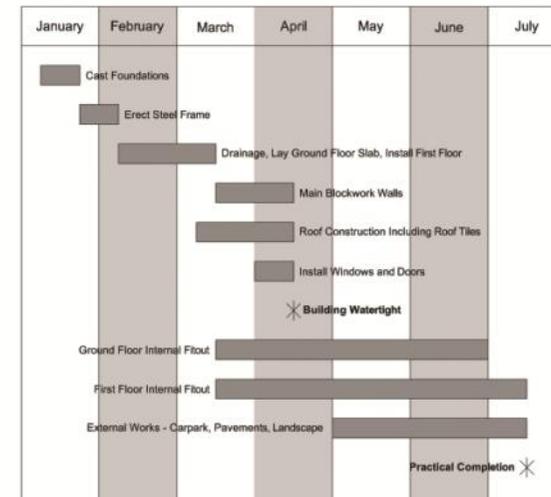
This latter exercise took two site meetings, with about ten of us watching a man on a crane putting a mock up of a cross into various positions. There are just so many such similar decisions to make as the building finally comes together. However I hope that you, like me, are getting really excited about this wonderful new resource that St. John's and Christ Church will have from the end of July. I have no doubt that all of us are praying about how God wants us to use it in reaching out for Christ to the local community.



Can I also encourage you to pray for safety for the workforce and that the work will continue to be completed on time and on budget and, yes, also for those of us who are still wrestling with those carpet colour type decisions!

Finally, whilst we all know that it is St. John's **new** Church Hall, what about giving it a **Name**?

*David Walker*



CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST | HARTFORD

NEW CHURCH HALL DEVELOPMENT

STARTING TO BUILD - 2018

