

News from the Church Council

On 11th April we held an extraordinary Church council meeting. There were two key items for discussion and decision.

Opening up our Church

We discussed opening up our church for services. Since Easter, churches have been allowed to open under Covid-19 rules. We have talked to as many of our congregation as possible and most are looking forward to being able to meet again but feel that we should wait until the majority of us have had our second vaccine.

Bearing that in mind, Church Council decided that we should aim to hold our first service on 23rd May, with Rev Roz as the minister on that day subject to Covid regulations. Prior to that day, a leaflet will be distributed which will provide information on what we can do, what we can't do, and what to expect at the service. Hopefully this will make everyone feel at ease and safe to return.

Outreach on The Trees Estate

We also discussed the work that is continuing at the Tree's Estate. We agreed to continue our work with Primetime through two SLAs (Service Level Agreements – similar to contracts).

The first is to create a Business Plan to help us to see our way forward with our outreach work. We can then also use our Business Plan to seek grants and other funding to continue to pay for the work being undertaken on the estate, and also possibly to raise funds for the church too.

The second is to undertake the work with young people on the estate including restarting the 'Parkwood Childrens' Club', also continuing the street work which has been going on throughout the pandemic (and was reported on in the last Herald), recruiting a youth worker, and training youth leaders with the hope that these young people will then help with the various projects moving forwards.

We will also include continuing with the activity bags and look to restart the community breakfasts as part of this work.

In March we received a £10,000 grant from the lottery which will help to pay for the work being undertaken over the next 12 months.

We agreed to set up a committee which will be used to monitor and manage these SLAs, and to ensure the outreach work on the estate continues as planned. This committee will meet for the first time towards the end of April and is accountable to the Church Council.

Updates will be shared frequently as work progresses.