

Norton Community Trust

Newsletter No2

November 2019

Dear Trust Member

Welcome to our second newsletter which contains information about forthcoming Community Trust events, and asks for your ideas and support in some of the planning involved to begin the adaption of the church building in 2020.

First, a big thank you to everyone who supported the Harvest Coffee morning on 12th October. We raised almost £300 for Trust funds

Forthcoming Events:

- There will be a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 23rd. November in St Andrews from 10 am – 4 pm. Entry is free, so please come along and enjoy a variety of craft stalls and displays and take the opportunity to complete some early Xmas shopping.

If you would like to have a stall, or just want more information about the Fair, contact **Chris Price** (chrisprice.48@gmail.com)

- A Community Carol Service will be held on Sunday 8th December in St Andrews at 3.00 pm, followed by festive mulled wine and a finger buffet including, of course, mince pies.

Decorating of the church building for the festive season will be on Friday 6th December from 10.30 am

Festive food contributions will be appreciated for both events, as well as help with festive decorations.

If you are able to help with food or church decoration, or just want more information about the event, please contact **Catherine O'Rourke** (orourkebailey@aol.com)

Looking Ahead.....

It's good to know that we can look forward to 2020 with renewed optimism about the creation of a community facility for the benefit of Norton residents. The preferred name for the adapted building is **St Andrews Community Hub** we hope you approve.

Work on renovating the building is unlikely get under way for several months and will require major grant funding. More details on the planning of the project will be available early in 2020

Before then, the Trust will need to secure the financial resources to maintain the church building, pay a range of advisory and professional fees, and purchase new chairs and tables to replace the redundant (and not very comfortable) pews.

So please let us have your ideas on how to raise funds to cover these costs over the next twelve months. Suggested events/ activities should be able to generate an income of at least £500 and can't be dependent on the use of the church building (which will be closed at the end of the year).

Ideas received so far for consideration include a 100 Club scheme, a sponsored equestrian ride around the local countryside, a photographic competition leading to a Norton 2021 calendar, an evening of Spanish history, food, wine and music.

You will have your own ideas about fund-raising events and activities.

Please pass your suggestions to **Chris Refaussé** (crefausse@live.co.uk)

You are particularly welcome to take the lead on organising any fund-raising event based on your own interests and experience.

And if you have had any previous direct experience of fundraising, including preparing grant applications, please get in touch.

Still on the subject of funding, the Trust acknowledges with thanks the generous grant of £5000 from Presteigne and Norton Town Council to help cover start-up costs.

Here are some other issues on which your input and support will be appreciated:

- The future maintenance of the churchyard will remain the responsibility of the Church authorities supported by the God's Acre charity. However, we all have a vested interest in keeping the churchyard in good shape. This requires a group of volunteers to offer a few hours of their time particularly in the

summer months. If you can help with this work, please contact **Helen Gooderham** (hgooderham29@gmail.com)

We want to ensure that, where appropriate, we take account of our responsibilities for the environment in the adaption of the church building. If you have any thoughts on this, or are aware of any advisory bodies who can offer advice, please contact **Tony Morgan** (tiraderyn@gmail.com)

(Please note that the installation of a new oil-fired boiler has been planned for some time and we will need to rely on this form of heating for the foreseeable future).

- In due course we need to have a Trust website and a plan to use social media to best advantage. If you have any experience of setting up a website and/or ideas about the beneficial use of social media, please contact **Maggie James** (maggiejames476@gmail.com)

Other important developments during the next few months will include:

- Formal announcement of the church redundancy
- Confirmation of the Trust's charitable status
- A considered response from Powys County Council on the Trust's application for secular planning consent for the Adaption project.

..... **and then we can sign the lease for the church building!**

If you have any questions on the contents of the Newsletter, or about the Community Trust's plans, please contact Brian Price (castlebank84@gmail.com) or John Refausse (jrefausse@yahoo.com)

You are receiving this e-mail as a result of becoming a member of the Norton Community Trust. If at any time you decide you do not wish to receive further NCT e-mails, please contact the Trust at maggiejames476@gmail.com with REMOVE in the subject line and your name will be taken off the mailing list.