

CHINNOR METHODIST CHURCH REFURBISHMENT

We are delighted that the refurbishment of the chapel is complete.



The last item to be completed was the handrail for the new disabled access ramp. We now have level parking in front of the building, with a choice either of steps or a gradual ramp to the new automatic doors. Inside, we now have dedicated oak cupboards where the Fair Trade goods can be displayed to advantage and kept securely when necessary. There is a new toilet near the front door and double glass oak doors into the worship space.

The intention of the architects was to make an area that looked renewed and bright but kept the essentials of the historical building. This has been achieved with the transfer of the Victorian foundation stones to the north wall in the worship space, and gentle white paint on



walls and ceiling and versatile lighting so the mood can be changed as required. When the old carpet tiles were lifted, many members of the church remarked on the charm of the original floorboards beneath, and so the architects were asked to incorporate



this idea. Whilst the original boards were not everywhere in good enough condition to reuse, Tom Chamlet, the builder sourced boards from a hospital outside Oldham for the floor. However, some of our original boards are in use as backing for the coat hooks. The seating, with bright colours and flexible layout, is intended to make the worship space versatile and



available for a variety of occasions into the future. There is now an AV screen and internet connection so we are ready for hiring by users who utilise modern technology.



The rooms at the back of the church have new floorboard-look Karndean flooring and the kitchen is entirely refitted. New wiring and heating combines with greatly improved insulation to make this a warmer and more efficient space to use.

We have managed to stretch the budget far enough to replace the windows in the main worship space

and that work will be carried out shortly. Following on from this we will be installing blinds over the south wall windows to shield the congregation from direct sunlight, particularly low winter sun. The few other remaining bits of fitting out are all in hand.

The proposed gateway has been temporarily delayed pending revised planning permission as we are now looking towards a lighter design in an older style – but it will happen!

Our first service was held on Sunday 15 January and there was general approval of the new look. We would like to express our thanks to Tom Chamlet and his building team who have completed the job ahead of schedule and with unflappable good humour. It is a crowning touch that, having six foundation stones with the Croxford name, the latest generation of the family laid the screed in the porch.



Can you remember what it looked like just six months back?

Library Photos



Cathy & Jeff Whiteway