

THE PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS SNODLAND
WITH CHRIST CHURCH LOWER BIRLING
www.allsaintswithchristchurch.org

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Dear Friends,

HLF Urgent Repair Project Nearing Completion

The urgent repair work at All Saints Snodland is nearing completion and the contractors are due to be clear of the site by the beginning of December. Internal scaffolding around the chancel arch has begun to be removed. A cleaning party, armed with brooms, dust pans, j-cloths, buckets, polish, hoovers etc. will gather in the church on **Saturday 2nd December at 10.00am** to clean the building as best they can in preparation for its reopening. If you would like to come along to help, please let me or Sue Brooks know.

The regular 8.00am and 5.00pm services will resume at All Saints Church on **Sunday 3rd December** with some of the main Christmas services and events there being:

Sunday 10th December, 5.00pm Christingle Service
Sunday 17th December, 5.00pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight
Monday 18th December, 7.30pm Christmas Concert with festive music and carols
Sunday 24th December, 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Monday 25th December, 8.00am Christmas Day 1662 Holy Communion

In addition to the above, the Invicta Primary School, Snodland C of E Primary School and the WI will all be holding carol services in the church. We will have a formal rededication service in the New Year.

As you may remember, the original estimate in 2015 for the repair work needed for All Saints Church was £500,000, but we were advised by our architect to split this into two parts – the urgent repair work (which in the event caused us to close the church last December) and the slightly-less-urgent-but-still-needed repair work. The HLF grant for the most urgent repairs identified for phase one was £222,600 with a total expenditure of over £300,000 being spent so far. We will hold a public meeting in the New Year so that everyone interested can learn about what has been achieved so far in phase one and what we will still need to do in the second phase.

The Activity Plan which has accompanied our repair project is progressing well. Amongst its many constituent parts, there is a new adult guide book already published and available at Home & Hobby, in Malling Road, Christ Church and the museum in Waghorn Road. There is an almost completed guide book for younger people (though I strongly suspect that adults will be wanting to purchase copies for themselves as well). The beautiful illustrations in the book have been drawn by the professional artist, John Cook, who grew up in Snodland and has kindly offered to do the work at a very much reduced price. There is an almost finished map of local walks incorporating All Saints Church, which we have been developing in conjunction with the Kent Wildlife Trust; and there are two presentation stands which will hopefully be constructed (subject to DAC approval) for the poor box and old medieval door at the back of the church.

News about the welcomer/guide scheme, the educational project and planned concerts and exhibitions in the church will have to wait.

Thank you for all your practical help and ongoing financial support. We could not do this without you.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Hugh P.C. Broadbent (Revd.)