

A few words from the Vicar

We are in a time of waiting. The contractor should begin work at the end of this month, but this depends upon our obtaining Building Regulations consent by then. If not, there will be a slight delay.

I am relaxed about this because, once the work is complete, our church building will be structurally sound, and its future will be secure. And, thanks be to God, we have the money to fund the project.

Most of our mid-week services take place outside the contractor's normal working hours so, barring unknown unknowns (to borrow a phrase from Donald Rumsfeld), disruption to church life should be minimal. As a precaution, the organ will gain a temporary covering to protect against dust, but internal work is a minimal part of the project. Most of the work will be outside, and there will be the scaffolding to prove it!

We can begin work because God has answered our prayers, but it won't do any harm to pray that the project will run smoothly.

Neatly segueing from talking about *the* church building, to *building the church*, Mid-Week Praise (Wednesdays 6.15pm) continues to grow. Attendance varies but, recently reached the high fifties. It is good family worship, in a relaxed atmosphere, with sound Bible teaching. Come along and find out for yourself.

Guess what? We won't be taking a break over the Summer holiday period. Mid-Week praise will continue as normal. It is one of the highlights of my week. Mid-Week Praise is good fun, so there is no way I will allow it to take a break!

Not that I do not appreciate our other services. I am a traditionalist by temperament (a member of the Prayer Book Society no less!), so our Sunday services suit me down to the

ground. As a parish priest, I enjoy the variety that comes my way, ranging from the Book of Common Prayer to Mid-Week Praise.

Although Mid-Week Praise only began last October, its foundations are a lot older. Its launch was underpinned by lots of prayer over many months; by applying the lessons learnt from Messy Church (which did not work for us); and by stepping out in faith (Debra and I had no idea whether it would be successful or not).

Just as we need to rectify some dodgy foundations to secure the long-term future of our church building, if we wish to build this Church, we must do so by laying down a firm foundation of prayer.

Every Blessing

Dave