

CHRIST THE KING PARISH HALL

The Story so far

1933 – 1964 Originally built in 1933 as the Parish Church of Christ the King to serve the parishioners of the Bromborough/Eastham area. The building served as a church until 1964 when the new church was built due to the increasing numbers coming to the area to live and work.

1964 – 1974 The building was mainly used as storage for school / parish.

1974 A group of parishioners approached Fr. George Evans (the Parish Priest at the time) and requested permission to survey the building with a view to using it as a parish hall, as the school was used for social activities. This initiative was successful and thus Christ the King Parish Hall was born. A committee was formed and a group set about making the building fit for purpose. The toilet block was built, new flooring was laid where dry rot had been found and eradicated, a stage erected over the original altar steps and a false ceiling was erected in the main hall. Chairs and tables were purchased from Lever Brothers. The tables are still in use today proving that things were built to last then!! Groups using the hall included Ladies group, Over 55's, Cubs and Scout, Brownies and Guides. The Men's Group met at the Pub, as that's where the Beer was kept!! Fundraising / Social events took place, all of which helped make the parish the vibrant active parish it still is today. In September 1978 the Mums and Tots group began and offered to clean the hall in lieu of paying £1 rent!!

1984 Fr. Evans set up a new committee to manage the Hall on a self-funding basis as the Parish had other diocesan commitments which would stretch Parish finances. So, to self-finance, the committee decided to charge Parish groups an hourly rent and to charge various hire fees for function hire/parties. Rent revenue to finance general expenses e.g. heating, lighting, cleaning and caretaking. Fundraising activities/Function hire would finance repair and development. This policy is still operable to date.

1986 In November 1986 an application was made to the local authority for a number of alcohol licences for the following year. This triggered an inspection by local authority Building and Fire Officers who determined that the facilities were unsafe for public use. It was usual to have a Parish New Year celebration so volunteers decided to address the issues in order to be able to have a New Year celebration and get the Entertainment licence required. So for the few weeks prior to Christmas they worked tirelessly to install new wiring and emergency lighting, fire doors and also removed the old stage and altar steps in order to concrete and level the area which is now the lounge area. The New Year party took place! Well done, team!!

1988 Plans were put forward to Local Authority for an extension and passed. Work started on a rear extension to include a new entrance, Scouts, and Mums and Tots storage, and a

new kitchen with further storage. The volunteer workforce being gluttons for punishment gave of their time and energies which enabled the extension to be built and it still lasts to this day! Proof they knew what they were doing!! The work was financed by Parish Hall fundraisers, a Charity Bike Ride from London to Christ the King and a generous donation from Scout and Guide Council. The bike ride took place when the bricklayers were on site, as the volunteers had nothing else to do at the time!!

1993 This year saw the renewal of all the suspended ceilings in the building and completion of electrical wiring. The bar was built from a redundant Midland Bank counter! Thus the building became the structure as you see it today.

Since then a number of improvements have been carried out. Notably; refurbishment of the Ladies and Gents toilets; replaced all flat rooves; renewed flooring in entrance, bar, and lounge areas and redecorated on a number of occasions. The stage was donated by one of our parishioners and new round tables and plastic chairs have been purchased. New padded chairs were purchased through Mission Together funds.

Additions to original groups include; Children's Liturgy, After mass refreshments, Mondanians, Sewing group, Young at Heart, Youth and Lourdes groups.

The Future

All this work over 44 years was done mainly on voluntary basis by parishioners who through their efforts have formed the ethos of this Parish and OUR Hall. This doesn't in any way demean the efforts of the leaders of the various adult and children's groups who have helped to make the parish community we have today.

Unfortunately time and tide wait for no-one and age makes us less active. No major work is expected in the near future so we need a new generation of helpers willing to come forward and volunteer to help with repairs e.g. plumbing/electrical and carry on the good work started all those years ago. Please let any committee member know if you can help by joining the new generation going forward.