

60 Minute Makeover ? – Not Quite

60 Minute Makeover – eat your heart out ! You are nothing compared to the dedication and enthusiasm of the Christ Church congregation who have been dragging their hall, church and grounds kicking and screaming for a good bath, hair cut and tidy up.

Thanks to Richard Staples, we have a new signboard on the Church, which will not date, and new noticeboards on the outside to make the general public aware of our activities. Jan Frost has put enormous effort into the flower beds, ably assisted by Dave and Diane and their grandson. Jean and David Woodruff and Dave and Kathy Upton have kept on top of giving the grass a short back and sides and trimming the trees.

However the biggest change has been the complete refurbishment of the small hall, which had previously been let out to the East to West Crib, who had decorated it to their own taste. The youth club has now left, and, without its young people, the hall was looking very sorry for itself, and so a team set about skipping all the furniture and rubbish, unearthing the little kitchen at the side of the hall and attacking it all with paintbrush and roller.

Graham Brierley (nice man!) came along with his decorating expertise and food mixer to amalgamate all the donated pots of paint into one overall colour. It's funny, isn't it, whatever you mix together it always turns out magnolia!

Over a number of sessions Alan Dinsdale, Caroline Grieveson, Jean and David Woodruff, Richard Staples, Dave and Kathy Upton, Aisan Baird, Rikki and Gerry Rance, Andy Parsons, Debbie and Rachma all wielded paintbrushes and rollers to cover the dark colours and graffiti on the walls.

Of recent weeks, a smaller team have been convening in the evening to paint the floor and try not to paint themselves, or each other, into a corner.

The kitchen was stripped out to uncover a sink (with no hot water) and a couple of cupboards. The rest was not worth keeping, and so was consigned to the skip along with the furniture.

Pauline Newman has already spent several mornings in the main kitchen sorting out sets of plates, cups, saucers and cutlery which can be moved in to the new cupboards as soon as the kitchen is finished.

The driving force for all this activity has been Chrissie Parsons, who has provided unbounded enthusiasm and comestible support in the form of bacon butties, soup, rolls and coffee, ably assisted by Jean, Comfort and Andy.

The vision for the hall (if you are writing an article, you always have to have a vision statement!) is to refurbish the kitchen and install hot water, and make the small hall viable to let out either as a separate unit from the main hall, or as an addition.

Well done, everyone- we may not have done it in 60 minutes – but we have done it “hour” way !