

**CHRIST CHURCH with ST PHILIP
Worcester Park**



“FUTURE LINKS”

**THE
REDEDICATION
OF THE
MODERNISED AND EXTENDED
PREMISES**

Saturday 10th May 2008 4.00 pm

CHRIST CHURCH with ST. PHILIP

A Tale of Two Churches, who became one.

“Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.” (I Peter 2:5)

How did it all begin?

In 1872, Anglicans in Worcester Park were feeling the need to have a church in their own community, rather than walk to Cheam or Old Malden, and began to make plans for a new building. Also in 1872, a group of Methodists started to meet in Longfellow Road under the leadership of the village constable, James Amos.

By 1874 – another coincidence – both Anglicans and Methodists had raised enough money to build a church and a chapel, the latter costing £425!

Christ Church Methodist Church

This dates from 8th September 1928, when the lecture hall was opened, Revd. William Pickering being appointed as the first minister in November of that year. It was not until 16 May 1931 that the present (church) building was opened and dedicated.

The Parish Church of St Philip



The church – shown in the painting on the left – was opened in 1876. Only the churchyard remains today, since shortly after the centenary celebrations serious structural problems were discovered: the church was starting to collapse due to subsidence.

The Partnership begins

In 1978, the Anglican members began to worship in the parish hall in Lindsay Road as a temporary measure. Within a year, the Methodist Minister, Revd. Colin Rowe, approached his Anglican counterpart, Revd. Henry Burgin to offer the use of the Methodist premises to the members of St Philip.

On **17th October 1979**, the Methodist Church Council agreed unanimously to support the setting-up of a joint Sharing Scheme. A service of thanksgiving and dedication was held on **3rd June 1980**, attended by the Chairman of the London South-West District of the Methodist Church and the Bishop of Woolwich – the actual agreement being signed on **13th November 1981**.

The two congregations remained separate for the time being, however, until – following the remodelling of the church entrance, removal of the pews and other improvements in 1989, it seemed logical to the members of both denominations to form a united church. On **5th April 1991**, the constitution of the Local Ecumenical Partnership of Christ Church with St Philip, Worcester Park, was signed.

The ‘Future Links’ Project

Not long after Revd. Barrie Tabraham and Revd. Charlotte Elvey (the present Methodist Minister and Anglican Vicar) were appointed in September 1998, the idea of taking Christ Church with St Philip forward in a new way was developed.

Both the church and the halls needed modernising, made more ‘user-friendly’, and brought together as a single entity. Three examples of the improvements are shown below:



The new Lady Chapel. The door on the right leads to the vestries.



The new entrance to the welcome area, the pulpit is on the left.



Looking from the welcome area back to the church.

We will shortly have a new cross, which will hang from the arch above the Communion rail, that separates the nave from the chancel. This will truly symbolise our oneness in Christ, and our oneness as a Church.

‘Future Links’ is far more than a building project. It is, rather, about the way in which we believe God is helping our church to evolve and be reshaped to meet the challenges of this century. In the near future we hope to see the appointment of a Centre Manager who will work with ministers and members to help Christ Church with St Philip to become a true ‘Community Church’ – symbolised by our logo (right).



In 1876 James Amos told his people: “Be united, do all things in order, and from your love of God.” We pray that God will help us to do just this in the years to come.

B.W.T.