

A new era for Thornton Methodist Church Exciting renewal project to commence April 2010

2010 will see great change for Thornton, as the town's Methodist Church undertakes a major building project to transform the beautiful, historical building into a stunning, flexible venue for the benefit of the whole community.

The renovation plans include:

- Replacement of pews with comfortable, portable seating
- Creation of a prayer chapel
- Building of a stage area for a range of performances and activities
- Addition of a mezzanine floor as part of a welcoming reception area
- Adaptation to create better wheelchair access throughout
- Installation of a digital organ and audio-visual equipment
- Replacement of underfloor heating and re-wiring throughout
- Redecoration throughout the redeveloped building

Work will commence at the former Wignall Memorial Chapel on Victoria Road East from April 12th. Sunday worship will be held at Baines' Endowed School, whilst other regular activities will take place in the Church hall, during the development.

Rev Mark Hammond sees this as a great step forward for Thornton: "For many years, we've played a very active role in the community, working with young people, families and older residents. Our Church holds a great deal of history, and it's now time to look to the future. The plans for redevelopment will allow us to cater for a range of groups and activities, which will greatly improve the way we can carry out our ministry in Thornton. Exciting times are ahead!"

"Whilst we have secured sufficient funding to start the main building work and ensure that a workable Chapel will be available, additional funds are still needed to see the project through to its full potential. We're encouraging members of the community and local businesses to join our congregation in supporting our renewal project with donations of money, gifts or expertise."

The Church is holding a project launch day on Saturday 27th March, from 10am to 4pm, where local residents and businesses can find out more about the Church's development plans.

For further details on the renewal project, please contact David Chard on 01253 858951 or email renewal.tmc@googlemail.com. To make a donation to the renewal project, please contact Brian Watkins on 01253 851301.