

## With thanks to all who have helped us fulfil our dreams so far:

**In Kind Donors:** Berni Atherton (flooring), Four Architects (Plans), Gap Windows UK (Toilet and lounge windows, exit doors), Celplas PVC Ltd (toilets and sinks), Party Swan (advertising banners), Creative Marketing (media), Munro Print (advertising). Grant Applications (G Sellars). Kier Construction (Garden project 2022) Home Maintenance (labour for kitchens).

**Business Financial Support:** Baxter Homes, Willow Farm Meats, MD Landmark Property Consultants, Almond and Jenkinson Financial Consultants, Coop Thornton, Morrisons & Burnside Garden Centre.

**Grants Received:** Garfield Weston, Bernard Sunley, National Lottery, Duchy of Lancaster, All Churches Trust, Baines Endowed, Lancashire County Council.

**Volunteers:** There were many, many people who supported us through: delivering flyers and leaflets, cleaning up, emptying and moving items in storage etc.

**Fund Raisers:** Despite the inability to have social gatherings, Schools and the community raised funds through whatever means including: Sponsored Silence, organ recital, non uniform day. However, many just donated their cash willingly.

**A HUGE thank you K. Davies and his construction team who worked tirelessly for 3 months, giving 'over and above' in every aspect of our big build. We tested their patience to the full as we continued to 'add' to their building specifications on a daily basis!**



# Community Hub Project update SPRING 2022

St John's  
Little Thornton

## CAN YOU HELP, WILL YOU JOIN US?

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**In 2021, our Diamond Jubilee year, in the middle of a pandemic we set our hearts on converting the church hall of St. John's Church into a HUB FOR THE EXPANDING COMMUNITY OF LITTLE THORNTON.**

In 2020 we at St John's decided we needed to give more to support our community and so we consulted with over 500 local school children, existing church hall users and the community. They gave us some hard hitting answers.

At the time there was no running hot water, no fire alarm system, inadequate toilet / kitchen facilities and a lounge area that could accommodate only 12 people.

The challenge was set to create more space, provide more availability for the community, bring the facilities up to modern day standards, improve effectiveness and energy efficiency .... to make the building the best it can be.

**Our initial challenge is now complete** – in 12 months we have a new lounge (accommodating over 40 people), brand new toilets and 2 new kitchens.

But we didn't stop there, in addition we installed; a new central heating system throughout, disabled access and ramp, an integrated fire system, a staircase to create an upper storage area and new energy efficient hall lighting.

**The Challenge continues** – By raising a further £50,000 we can solve our ENERGY EFFICIENCY. We need to lower the hall ceiling and insulate the roof, install an energy efficient and secure entrance door with improved disabled access, replace old single glazed fire exit doors and replace ineffective glazing in 9 windows.

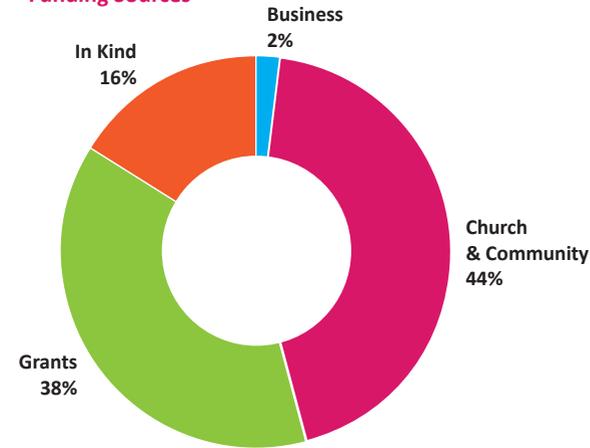
The overall costs for all work will be in excess of £175,000 and, after a year of active fundraising we have generated over £100,000 with support from the community, local businesses, schools, charities, Lancashire County Council and grant providers.



**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES AND CREATE BETTER MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, NOT JUST FOR VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS BUT FOR EVERYONE. 80% OF RESPONDENTS KNEW SOMEONE WHOSE LIVES HAVE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER AS A RESULT OF JOINING ACTIVITIES AT THEIR LOCAL HALL. THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THESE UNIQUE SPACES IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER.**

(National Village Halls Survey 2020)

**Little Thornton Community Hub: Funding Sources**



BEFORE



AFTER

**Positive outcomes and growing shoots for the community:**

**In 2020 we had more than 20 groups using the hall, but there was a demand for more and no opportunity to provide it.**

Since January 2022 and the availability of our new improved facilities, we still have our original 20 groups plus many new groups and activities; family pilates, gentle light dance exercise, Slimming World, Grave Talk & Bereavement support, Hangout youth club, chair based exercise, pop up cafe, Saturday activities, children's dance, community social events, family activity days, film activities, table tennis .... and the list will go on.

We have also increased our private party bookings. Our first birthday parties in over 4 years gave us the following feedback: 'we had the best party, everyone was very impressed, we will definitely return'.



BEFORE



AFTER