

Press Release

4 October 2021

NEW COMMUNITY TEXTILE WALL HANGING CELEBRATES CHRIST CHURCH CROWTON'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY (1871 – 2021)

A stunning new textile wall hanging, created to mark the 150th anniversary of Christ Church Crowton, was blessed by the Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Mark Tanner, at a special Harvest Festival service on Sunday 3 October.



Created by more than 100 local adults and children, in a project led by Chester textile artist Sandra Christie, the patchwork masterpiece replaces a former banner, and hangs next to the altar in the grade-II listed church as a decorative legacy from the special year.

Around 150 patchwork squares feature British flora and fauna, illustrating the well-known hymn '*All things bright and beautiful*'. Badgers and kingfishers sit side by side with poppies and rainbows brought to life by a range of crafting techniques from embroidery and felting to batik and cross stitch.

All 70 children and staff at Crowton Christ Church Primary School contributed a square, along with 44 enthusiastic adults and experienced sewers and crafters from groups including Norley Knit and Natter, Cheshire Artists Network, Crowton Creatives, Crowton Crafters and Crowton Patchwork.

Measuring 3.3 metres by 2.5 metres, the collage wall hanging took nearly a year to produce. Sandra was able to guide all the sewers, experts and beginners, to create individual textile designs. These were exhibited one Saturday in mid-August in Crowton village hall, and were then assembled with meticulous care by expert needlewomen Kira Fayle, Mary Roberts and Wendy Sinfield into one complete textile masterpiece.

Surrounding the picture squares are lyrics from Cecil Frances Alexander's 1848 hymn, and at the top of the textile is the final line of the hymn, a statement of faith and hope: "How great is God Almighty who has made all things well".

Dr Anne Davidson Lund, Licensed Reader and chair of the Crowton 150 working party, said: "We are delighted Bishop Mark has been able to share this special anniversary Harvest Festival with us – only a month short of 150 years from the very first service here, when the then Bishop of Chester, William Jacobson, consecrated Crowton's very own parish church.

"The textile wall hanging is a wonderful collaborative community creation and we are indebted to Sandra Christie for leading the whole project. It was Sandra's idea to use one of the country's best-loved hymns as inspiration for the textile collage and it has worked a treat. As well as being familiar to all, the lyrics speak to contemporary themes of environmental conservation and care for all living things. The hymn reminds us that we are all part of God's great creation, and that we are called to treasure and nurture each other and the whole natural world."

Everyone is invited to view the new textile wall hanging at two special church open days on Saturday 16 October (10am- 2pm) and Thursday 21 October (9am-5pm).

Other special anniversary initiatives include the redecoration of the church, new pew cushions and an upgraded sound system. Celebrations continue with a Harvest Supper at the village hall on Friday 8 October, a performance of the popular TV comedy *Allo Allo* by award-winning Kingsley Players on Friday 19 November and a final anniversary thanksgiving service on the festival of Christ the King on Sunday 21 November.

For more details and to book event tickets, please go to the Crowton 150 website:

<http://www.crowton150.org>.

Note to Editors

Issued by Pegler Communications on behalf of Christ Church Crowton PCC.

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