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## **Settling in to the whole ground floor at The Spire**

We as Poole Methodists are getting used to our new home at The Spire. As more of our partners, church groups and other local groups start to use the building, it is awakening into a life of its own. There is now a buzz in The Spire, and not just in the café. We have now welcomed our Wesley Guild, Computer Group, Slimming World, Diverse Abilities and most recently COAST to The Spire. The Men's Breakfast has also made use of the new kitchen facilities.

### **Building**

With the removal of the temporary ramp we are now close to ticking off all the remaining items from the ground floor list. It is a shame that we couldn't fit a permanent ramp at the front of The Spire but our small piece of land out there is just not large enough. If you do have a buggy or trolley or have trouble with steps do please use the new annex side entrance which is open whenever the building is in use.

Many people have mentioned that the building and cafe are still lacking name signs. Very soon, these will finally go up! The "Spire" logo will be mounted in 3 places round the outside of the building and "Wesley's" will be displayed on the front window arches and glass panels. This has been a bit of saga with the planning department who had a very particular idea about the type of materials they would like to see on the front of the building. This led to several revisions and a lot of research into materials to avoid the costs increasing too much.

We will aim to agree the phase 2 final bill with the contractors before Christmas. This will then give us a clearer idea of exactly how much money we still need to raise to complete the upstairs.

### **Money**

We continue to wait patiently for the outcome of our recent application to the Methodist Connexion for a further grant to enable us to start on the completion of the upstairs building work. A donation from one of our fellow churches within the circuit has been received, for which we are most grateful. Further work on other applications continues, but this involves long and detailed work to tailor each application to fit the grant bodies requirements.

If any of our partners are able to help through relevant grant applications or fundraising we would be delighted to hear from you.

### **People**

Settling in to the new part of the building has been enhanced by the removal the ramp. Gradually people are beginning to explore the sliding doors, and the wonder of the Atrium, which also houses an accessible toilet. This area has doors to the Wesley's café, to toilets, the Chapel, hall, community rooms and kitchen. At the far end the doors have a stay open option enabling wheelchair and buggy access - already much appreciated by both. The cafe and Atrium are now enhanced with pictures by Artist Jason Miller. The Poole 'Exploring Spirituality through Art Project' had many schools/drama dance/craft/art groups, interfaith or no-faith holding workshops to explore this subject and Jason was commissioned to create a response to their understanding. Jason's three pictures are in the Spire until January. The 'InSpire' art wall is showing pictures from Canford Heath Art Group and the small wall has work from the Celtic Colours group. Our worship on Sunday Mornings is going well, though if anyone would like to help on a Saturday to put furniture in place, do let us know!

**If you want to use a room, be sure to book in advance!**

#### **Contact Details:**

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