

A JOURNEY OF FAITH



Our tale concerns a small tribe called Warlingham Methodist Church, who are located on the edge of the Big City. They set off on a journey of faith in 2006, with a vision of being a blessing to their community by making their church more welcoming and useful to the surrounding peoples and their own fellowship. No longer could their leader work in a tiny box and their children meet in the kitchen. All they had to pack was this vision and faith in their God, but the challenge to their resources was mighty.

Their first stopping place was a Gift day and flurry of grant applications, from which part of the work could be funded: new offices and junior church room. Gathering in prayer, they decided to embark on the full journey and trust that the rest would come.

Permission was granted for the endeavour from local officials and the great and good at Methodist Property in Manchester and so the building began to rise. Along the way, the tribe set about finding more resource, organising a concert and a 'Hire a Hand' to share their talents. The youngest members undertook shoe cleaning; busking and cake sales. All the way, members found ways to give sacrificially, so that the work never faltered.

The builders were assailed by appalling wet weather, but continued nevertheless, and soon the Glass experts were able to complete the conservatory, an amazing enhancement to the Church structure. By the boundless grace of God the tribe had arrived at their destination with their finances in good health and all bills paid. The building was completed as 'Summer' 2008 arrived, and the tribe prepared to celebrate and invite all around to see what had been achieved.



The big day arrived, craft tables; games; food and drink; presentations; Fair trade stall and all were ready for the doors to open. The whole church turned out to welcome the community in. The place was soon packed and buzzing, everyone was delighted and thoroughly enjoyed the morning, very impressed with the transformation. In the afternoon, Revd. Jenny Impey (Co-chair, South of Thames) took part in a service of thanksgiving to which all were invited, including the Chairman of Tandridge District Council and the Local Police. Everyone then shared tea, and went home, exhausted but exhilarated by what God had done for us.