



## CMC Community Garden Project



Those of you who pass the Church may have recently spotted a raised planter near the main door and wondered about its sudden appearance.

The vision to create a Community Garden in front of the Church along Ellesmere Road began about 18 months ago but was delayed by building works, a wet winter and, most recently, lockdown restrictions, (although some of you will have enjoyed the tomatoes donated by Heather Boley last summer!) Furthermore, in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic and reduced Church income, the Church Council have inevitably needed to reallocate funding originally intended for the garden to cover other expenditure.

However, the dream has persisted and, with Church Council blessing, we were allowed to continue on a much smaller self financing scale, using donations from individuals, for which we are very grateful. Hence, the relatively humble planter was independently purchased and duly erected (with thanks to Barry Marriott for his assembly skills). We wanted it to be symbolic of hope for future growth and it is intended that, as the herbs within it mature, (aided by the Rev Katharine's watering!) they will be available for anyone to 'help themselves'.

Since then, our fundraising superstar Daphne has miraculously obtained a grant for £3,000 to develop the Community Garden - a massive boost to our ability to expand the potential for our Church outreach and future community involvement, with increased opportunities for social interaction and for improving mental health.

It has been agreed that we should start with a seating area next to the Church, with estimates for flagging currently being undertaken. Two benches have been promised for this area, along with a raised sensory bed. Once this and some small ground level flower beds have been completed, we can incorporate a children's area and eventually extend other plots to grow vegetables and provide healthy edibles with and for our wider community.

Some of you may have lovingly nurtured seeds you received at Alex's service on '**Growth**' earlier in the year and have been disappointed that they could not be planted out at Church as originally intended. However, more seeds will be in need of a loving home in the months to come and, although Julie has already planted some bulbs, there will be more to plant in the next few weeks.

We are keen that this should be as inclusive as possible and are **very willing** to have volunteers, suggestions, offers of help or donations of plants. Obviously we are currently restricted by the need to keep safe and must ensure we adhere to Covid 19 guidelines as they develop, with a Risk Assessment in the pipeline. We have started a Whatsapp group to enable us to communicate about plans and developments. If you are interested in any way and would like to know more, **we would love to hear from you**. Please speak to Julie Marriott (07790667396), Heather Boley, Daphne Eastburn or myself, Janette Hutchinson (Tel:766819/07729313466) **Thank you.**