Pam Morley & Christine Craggs talk about the changes being made at the Chapel in 2018. This is the full transcript.

“Well, there’s been a Methodist church in Hambleton for over 200 years. It’s been a witness to Christianity there, and it’s had a church and a Sunday Club. And over the last few years the building has gone into a bit of disrepair, so we thought that we needed to look at different ways of improving the building. So, it was probably about four years ago that we decided we would do something about this, and we had plans drawn up. We felt we needed a kitchen and we felt we needed improving our disabled facilities. So, we had plans drawn up, and with it being a church building these plans had to be approved by the powers that be and it took quite a while to go through to make sure that it was – this was done correctly. And then, we had to start with our fundraising efforts, so …Yeah, so there’s various parts of the Methodist church that you can apply for funding from, and we managed to obtain £15,000 from them, and a very kind donation from the Weston Foundation of £7,500, a donation of £1,000 from All Churches Trust, and the remainder were individual donations, approximately £17,000, and a tiny bit of fundraising ourselves, which is really, really excellent for such a small church. People were extremely generous. And on top of that, the wood company, Howden’s, agreed that they would donate a kitchen for us, including all the appliances and all the fittings, which is absolutely amazing. So we’ve now – we’re going to have a much better access, disabled access round the back of chapel and at the front of chapel.

We’re going to have a lovely new kitchen, and we’re also – at the back of the chapel, there were some very old rooms that were probably originally a boiler room and maybe a coal house or a coke house, and an outside toilet, we’ve had all of those knocked into one and it’s made a fabulous new storage area at the back of chapel that we’ll be able to use for storing chairs and other things that we need to do. So, as well as that, we have improved our disabled toilet facilities, which weren’t great and are now going to be just superb. So, that’s the stuff that’s been done. And also, we’ve had some work done in chapel of the heating, because the back of the chapel was very cold. So, we’ve had some more heating put in there, and we’ve had some more sockets put in there, and we’ve had all the premises connected for smoke. So, it’s all up to date, all the Health and Safety Regulations are there in place. And the facilities, we’re hoping, we’ve just got a new group – well, a relatively new group running that is a tea and toast, which is – you explain, Pam.

So on a Thursday morning there’s mums come after school that might have just wanted to have a chat and a bit of company and so they come into the group. We’ve got toys, and we do tea and toast, we do a little bit of singing, and just a friendship group really for them. And as mums go and move on there seems to be more mums that come in and enjoy the company and the things. Christine also runs a Sunday Club, well, you tell her about that. We have a Sunday Club on a Sunday morning where children come in. We do services in the chapel where the children come over, it’s called Messy Church, where the children go into chapel and we do activities, and we have great fun at that. We’re hoping to be able to increase the use of the chapel. We’ll be able to use the back of the chapel for our own coffee mornings, which we use for fundraising and anybody – it’ll be use – anybody can use it in the community if they would like to use. So, it’s all – and we’re hoping ourselves that we might possibly be able to encourage other groups. We might – we were thinking of maybe some sort of friendship group. We have a prayer group; just generally more use of the chapel. So, as I said – mentioned previous, we’ve been a presence for 200 years in the village. We felt that this would allow and help us to fill our mission and also for the benefit of the whole community so the buildings will also be offered out to the community use as Christine’s just mentioned.”