

## Baptist Church report 2023

Our aim as a church is to share the good news of Jesus, to see people come into a relationship with him and then to grow to be like him.

To facilitate this we continue to arrange a wide program for all ages. We meet every Sunday morning, often with 100 gathering, and most Sunday evenings, with 50+ attending. The vast majority who attend continue to come from Fressingfield or one of the neighbouring villages.

In November we were delighted to open 'The Coffee Shop,' serving barista coffee and scrumptious cakes, bacon rolls, pasties and sausage rolls from 8:45am to 1:30pm, Monday – Friday. This has quickly become a popular meeting place for people in the village and further afield.

Our midweek events for children continue to be well attended – up to 40 primary age children meet for 'EPIC' every Friday evening during term time for games, snacks, crafts and Bible stories. We have a group of about 8 high school youngsters that meet every fortnight for games and a look at what the Christian message has to say about issues that affect them.

Our regular 'set piece' events took place as usual. June saw the annual clay pigeon shoot and BBQ enjoyed by 50 men; in August we hosted the children's Holiday Club & Men's 5 a-side football competition. These were enjoyed by 55 children and 75 men and families respectively (both concluding with massive BBQ's!). In September we made full use of our new kitchen as we hosted a Harvest Supper where over 100 people enjoyed a cooked meal followed by coffee and chocolates in the chapel. Christmas and Easter services saw the chapel full to overflowing. Finally the ever popular Easter Hunt around the village was again enjoyed by well over 200 people (and especially the 120 children who got free easter eggs!)

We've been pleased to host the Primary School for special Harvest and Easter services and to join with the Parish Church for a number of services over the year.

Sadly, in February Paul Buss (one of our ministers) had to move back to Kent for family reasons. We, and many others in the village, miss him, Jane and the family immensely.

We are pleased to say that rooms and halls in the chapel are now available for hire and look forward to sharing our facilities with others in the village. Details of charges, etc, will soon be on the church website. We plan to continue to develop 'The Coffee Shop' for the benefit of all; we're also investigating the feasibility of running some 'fun for all the family' events next winter.

In all this our main aim is to introduce people to Jesus and the message of hope in the Bible. Our Sunday services and midweek events are open to all, and everyone is invited to join us. For those for whom this is a step too far, all our services are uploaded to our YouTube channel for people to watch in the privacy of their own home. Feel free to check these out!