

Atworth Independent Church

“It is time to seek the Lord” Hosea 10 v.12

Affiliated to the

Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches

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Much can happen in twelve months!

The most exciting thing to happen in the Chapel since my last report is the appointment of a Pastor. Having been without one since the very early days of the Chapel this is somewhat a remarkable historic event. Rev John Schofield was appointed Pastor on 4th June 2008 and inducted into the position on 16th August 2008. John continues to Pastor his existing Chapel at Kington Langley as well as Atworth. We now have the benefit of his teaching and pastoral care in addition to visiting speakers leading our Sunday services.

Three other events stand out - an evening with Christian Farmer, poet and songster John Osborne, a slide show by David Webb of Atworth then and now and a walk in aid of Samaritans Purse Turn on the Tap Appeal. Each saw members of the wider community in attendance as the chapel seeks to make a bigger impact in the village. Another walk is being planned in the summer, again to raise money for water aided projects by Samaritans Purse.



We are grateful that the Pastor and his wife are able to lead occasional assemblies at both Churchfields school sites. John also has a monthly surgery at the Chapel.

We were pleased to be approached by the Parish Council for the Chapel to be used for our community police surgery. In fact on two occasions a uniformed officer came to chapel during service times - on one occasion checking up on one of our vulnerable members, and the other was not because of excessive noise from within the building!

One concern of many ‘religious’ charities is how to show its ‘public benefit’, as required by charity law. We are not in an area where it is necessary to instigate soup runs for the homeless or distribute blankets and sleeping bags to those who sleep in doorways (although we did send harvest gifts to “Alabere” in Trowbridge last year). We recognise the greatest social benefit of a church is to open its meetings to everyone to be able to hear of the transforming work of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and now with a Pastor to be available when needed. The scriptures themselves say ‘seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these (other) things shall be added to you’.

Thus we continue our regular meetings to which anyone is welcome.