

Weston Baptist and Weston Community Project NN12 8PU

- **Outreach**
- **Walk for life**
- **Coffee stop**
- **Lunch club**
- **Tuesday church**

Offers 12 different activities through its community project – all developed in the last 2½ years in a derelict 'listed' building.

For more info see:
www.westoncp.org.uk

Wokingham Baptist Church

Work in partnership with Borough Council in community flat on council estate:

- **Coffee drop-in**
- **Parent and toddler**
- Help at **Kidz Clubs**
- Chair of new **community association**

"The project is helping the local residents find a voice and gel as a community. For example they are now planning themselves a street party in the summer. As our work continues relationships and trust between us continues to grow." Karl Relton
Outreach and Community Development

For more info, see:
www.wokinghambaptist.org.uk

Eastleigh Baptist Church

- **Street Pastors** - a Churches Together in Eastleigh initiative. EBC has six trained people out of a total of 19.
- **First Friends**
- **Girls' Brigade**
- **Boys' Club**
- **Nexus**
- **Coffee Bar** - run by the Council using our premises and a couple of our volunteers each week. It is known as Eastleigh Coffee Krew.
- We shall also be running **Alpha** course again, in the autumn.
- Luncheon club once a week for **older folk** from the church and community
- Sports teams - particularly **football** for which half the team would be 'not-yet-Christian'.

For more info, see:
www.eastleighbaptist.org.uk

Bromham Baptist Church

We entered into **HOPE** events and our **church planted** Vale Community Church, Marston Moretaine

For more info, see:
www.bromham.org

Totterdown Baptist Church, Bristol

- **God in the Park!** COPP – www.thecommunityofperrettspark.co.uk Church minister organizes local residents to care for Perretts Park.
- **God on the Pitch** – formed football team BS4 FC from young people leaving youth club. Now play in Bristol Churches' League. www.webteams.co.uk/bs4fc

For more info, see:
www.tbc.org.uk

Stanley Road Baptist Church, Morecambe

Our Sunday project meets in the **local pub** and has made contact with over 200 people beyond the church.

For more info, see:
www.stanleyroad.org.uk
or contact Minister Graham Doel on
graham@stanleyroad.org.uk

Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church, Essex

- **Pregnancy advice** centre (CARE)
- **Debt Advice** centre
- **Commuter outreach** at the station

For more info, see:
www.bhbc.org.uk

- **Nite-Lite coffee bar**, open as base for Street Pastors team 11pm – 3am every Friday

We are the only place in the Street Pastors nationwide network that runs a coffee bar concurrently with the Street Pastors. It provides them with a base on Friday nights and occasionally they refer people they meet on the street to us.

Otherwise our clients are different people – mainly people on their way home from a night out, sometimes the worse for wear, grateful for a hot drink and a loo (no public ones in the vicinity at all!) often lonely individuals, occasional rough sleeper,

Over the two years we've been operating we have got to know some people well, and have had significant conversations with several which have probably been instrumental in changing their lives in some way, or helping them in a crisis moment eg one night two very young student nurses wandered in, rather distraught because they had experienced a death on their ward that week, and not had any appropriate debrief. They had been out with friends who again had not been all that supportive and were on their way home armed with bottles of wine to drown their sorrows, when they saw our lights and came in. Two of us talked with them for over two hours and they went away grateful, the wine undrunk!

Robert Hall Memorial Baptist Church, Leicester

We haven't seen them since but we do know that one of them shared a house with a Christian who was known to our youth worker. We never know what seeds are sown...

Recently we helped a guy who couldn't read or write to write an important letter. He's a regular and likes to thrash us at cards, even when drunk!

We have gone to court with someone in trouble, called emergency services more than once, etc etc

The questions we get asked most are why do you do this? How much do you get paid? Aren't you scared someone will come in with a knife and kill you? All a way in to talking about God.



- **Happy Families** parent and toddler group has met on Wednesday mornings for many years.

It does extremely well what parent and toddler groups have always done – provides a safe happy environment for children and carers. It is self perpetuating in that we never have to advertise for 'customers' – as one generation leaves for the big wide world of school, others always come to take their place.

We offer friendship support and occasionally as opportunity arises, more specific counsel and prayer support. We have several families who are Hindu and Moslem who are happy to join us.

For more info, see:

www.rhmbc.org

or contact minister Jenny Few on:

jenny.few@ntlworld.com

crossingplaces

Robert Hall Memorial Baptist Church, Leicester

- **The Vine**, student bistro, bargain wholesome meals every Tuesday evening

This was the vision of a de Montfort University student, Matt Rowe, who has been part of the church for his student years – he said could the church open a bistro to give students a good meal cheaply and maybe introduce them to the human side of the church!!

This was last summer (2008) the church had nearly completed a £220,000 project to build a new kitchen and toilets etc and we were wondering which idea for community use to try first! The church meeting agreed with the vision and last summer volunteers refurbished the coffee bar, ready to start the Vine in October.



In its first year it has fed many people, offered a Christmas meal, gained regular groups of customers, who the 'staff' now know well. We have attempted one 'follow-up' session, asking the question Why do we do the Vine? - which was OK but scared off some customers! We are now thinking seriously about offering a café church on a different night, but this is still at the thinking and praying stage – the main aim of the Vine is to offer the food, and thereby introduce students who might be totally anti-church to 'real' Christians who are as human as they are! Some of the customers we know have had previous church connections but are not yet involved in a church in Leicester.

It's staffed mainly by church members, front of house and chefs, and will open again in Freshers week in September.



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For more info, see:

www.rhmbc.org

Or contact minister Jenny Few on:

jenny.few@ntlworld.com

Llanishen Baptist Church, Cardiff

Starbucks youth Bible study group has been running for nearly 2 years now.

We have a bible study every week, in the shop, alongside other customers, we have had Christmas celebrations in the shop and have some Christian art work on the wall. People are receptive of the group and many have asked questions.

For more info contact:

Kim Jones

kimjones75@yahoo.co.uk



We presented Starbucks with our art work made with coffee beans.



The churches in Stourport

Have worked together to set up YOrS (**Youth Outreach Stourport**) with monthly events attracting up to 200 teenagers. A weekly drop-in, and looking ahead to whatever God has planned for us.

We have been very encouraged by the way the Lord has guided in the development of the YOrS work

With the very positive support of local West Mercia Police and Community Support Officers, along with church members and community groups, YOrS has developed from a very small beginning to a locally recognised project amongst young people of the area.

For more info, see:

www.sosbc.org.uk

crossingplaces

Witnesham, Ipswich

- **'Open the Book'** – this has led us into two schools fortnightly and widened our contact with children.
- **Parish Nursing** has been a great open door in our village church

For more info, contact:

Gordon Tubbs

GLTubbs@talktalk.net

Milton Baptist Church, Weston-super-Mare

- **Coffee stop** and community meals
- **'Rock Café'** open youth club

For more info, see:

www.milton-baptist.org.uk

Hook Norton Baptist Church

'Just Desserts' – social evenings for villagers with desserts and chat time, now in its third or fourth year having begun as an idea for building bridges with the local community – particularly with people with little or no church involvement in the past. Each event includes desserts, and cakes (free of charge) and drinks, with any donations being given to charity – amounts ranging from £40 – £350 have been raised for local charities, Tearfund and Christians against Poverty. Also included in the evening are other events such as:

- 'Call my Bluff'
 - Family film evenings
 - Several light music nights
 - Desert Island Discs with local 'well-known' people to share a testimony
- The next Just Desserts season is being planned, and will be more 'explicitly Christian'. Steve Price has been booked to come in March 2010.

These events have been very successful in building relationships.

There is also a Day Centre for the elderly on Mondays, and workers from this have come to Just Desserts events. As a result of regular coffee mornings, 13 visitors came back to church on Back to Church Sunday last year.

For more info, see:

www.hook-norton-baptist-church.org.uk

Roselands Community Baptist Church, Paignton

- Palm Sunday full English **breakfast**
- Roselands **Debt Advice** – debt and benefits advice and counselling

For more info, see:

www.roselandscommunitychurch.org.uk

www.roselandsdac.org.uk

or contact:

Malc Reddaway 01803 406569

Willingham Baptist Church, Cambs

- **'Bumps and Babies'** group – meeting place for young mums in village. Several have been to dedication services for 'church' babies and have enrolled for parenting course. About 20 mums have been attending the parenting course which had to be held in two groups. We now hope that some will also sign up for an Alpha course in the autumn.
- We are also considering the idea from Hoole Baptist, Chester, to start a monthly **'Who let the dads out'** so that we can also meet up with the fathers of the toddlers and enable them to make more friends in the village.
- Another group has also been started for parents with babies using music and massage called **Babynotes**. Already about a dozen attend.

For more info, contact:

Trevor Rowe

revtrevrowe@hotmail.com

crossingplaces

Barrow upon Soar Baptist Church

Contact with a large group of church and non-church elderly through **monthly lunches** (80 served) and annual week of **Holiday at Home**.

Senior Alpha a huge blessing to good numbers.

Members from Barrow upon Soar re-opened Long Whatton Baptist Church 11 years ago and it is now working with weekly **'Baby Talk'** and monthly group for elderly in the village school.

Monthly community centre service with other churches – slow progress, but **'GOD IS FAITHFUL'**.

For more info, contact:

mark.turner@barrowbaptist.org.uk

Hoole Baptist Church, Chester

crossingplaces

- **Monthly open Sunday meal service**

On the 1st Sunday of each month we run the following:

10:30 - 11:30 PULSE - this is an all age gathering in a local community centre with specific focus on children under 11's.

11:00 -14:00 focus cafe - this is similar to a cafe church and runs in our own building, Hoole Lighthouse Centre, providing food and discussion.

- **Sonshine Counselling**

We have a accredited Christian counsellor who provides counselling into the community via referral from GP's, self referral and local C of E Diocesan referral

- **Christians against Poverty budget counseling training**

We run a Money Management Course in partnership with CAP, we have 5 Money Management Coaches trained by CAP who facilitate the 3 course ad who are available to help with budgeting issue.

Our building is called Hoole Lighthouse Centre and it is the result of Hoole Baptist Church's desire to express God's love within the community. The building, situated on Westminster Road in Hoole, plays host to many activities. It is a 'crossing place' as a building.

Here is a summary of the activities that take place each week:

D'Biz Youth Clubs

The Coffee Bar meets for ages 11 to 16 from 16:00 - 17:30 on a Friday.

D'Biz for school years 7 to 9 takes place on a Thursday evening at 20:00, while years 10 to 6th form meet on Friday at 20:00.

Hoolitots!

A parent and toddler group that runs during term time on a Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

Who Let the Dad's Out?

A parent and toddler group specifically for dads, male carers and their pre-school children. First Saturday of each month from 10:00 - 12:00.

We also help other churches set up Who Let the Dad's Out? projects across the UK and have a national team and strategy to help this happen - see

www.wholetthedadsout.org



Trackers

A junior school age club, running every Thursday at 18:00 during term time.

Crossway Colts

A football club with coaching by FA qualified coaches. It meets Hoole Primary School, school years 3 to 6 from 10:00 - 11:00 and school years 7 to 10 from 11:10 to 12:10.

Soda Club

For dads, male carers and their children (those in school years reception to year 2). It meets on the first Monday of the month.

Soul Man

Exploring spirituality.

Other Courses

Including the Alpha Marriage Course, Parenting Course, Daddy Cool Parenting Course and CAP Money Course (help with budgeting).

For more info, see:

www.hbc.org.uk/lighthouse

Nos Galan New Year's Eve 5km races

These have been going in the town for 50 years now, though over the years the route has changed somewhat. The races are now held through the town centre. There are children's races and an elite adult's race as well as a 'fun run' in which many local people raise lots of money for charity. (If anyone wants to come and run for BMS or Home Mission, I'm sure we could offer hospitality!)

When I came to the church as a student pastor in 2003 and found out about the race I asked what the church does as outreach on the night and was told "nothing". The first New Year's Eve I was at the church I put together a short flyer ('new year, new start with Jesus' type of thing) with details of church activities on the reverse and took them down to the town to give out. I was staggered by the number of people crammed into the town centre to cheer on the runners and to see who the annual 'Mystery Runner' was.

The following year I persuaded a couple of folk from the church to come down as well and handout the leaflets with me. Over the next year I was wondering and praying about how as a church we could be more involved with the event, when I was approached to consider becoming part of the newly formed organising committee who were taking over the running of the event from the local council. The next year a couple of us

Providence Baptist Church, Mountain Ash

from the church ran the hospitality stand - offering teas and coffees (Fairtrade of course) to the specially invited guests. This went well and we were asked to repeat it the following year but we felt a little uncomfortable with that being exclusively for special guests only. During the following year the committee decided to have a 'holding area' for the children who were running to meet their parents after the race, so I said that as a church we would do that instead. We were able to put the church banner on the railings by the holding area and this year coming I'm confident will be even better as I've pushed for the holding area to be advertised in the race information. Since I've been on the committee, the church have also advertised in the race programme each year.

I'm not sure that we've seen the fruit of our labours yet, but we are certainly sowing some seed, and showing the local community that Providence Baptist Church is alive! The first year I was on the committee I offered to pray for good weather for the event, and since then, they ask me to pray, so as a church now we always pray for this and other events in the town and this is just a small breakthrough in letting people know that God is interested in the whole of life.

Credit Union and Coffee

On a Wednesday morning a Credit Union Collection Point is held in the chapel in conjunction with a coffee morning, and occasionally we have bric-a-brac on sale as well.

There is a very high percentage of unemployed people living in Mountain Ash, as well as many on Incapacity Benefit, mainly as a result of the closure of coalmining in the area.

We discovered from the local Communities First Co-ordinator that there were a very large number who were getting into debt and turning to loan sharks. Some of our members were keen to start the Credit Union facility and so had training. The Credit Union has been running now for about three years and has more members than the church!

We are currently trying to look at how we can present the gospel more intentionally than just by people coming into the building and being greeted with a smiling face and a free cup of coffee!

For more info, contact:
Hilary Jardine
revhiljar2@yahoo.com

crossingplaces

North Winchester Community Church (Baptist)

- Involved in **Healing on the Streets** with other churches in Winchester
- We are launching '**Gathering**' in September, an evening service in the community Centre where we meet of a morning, but with the bar open. This will be church for those who don't like community singing, 30 minute sermons, and a lack of discussion.
- We run a **children's cinema club** on INSET days.
- Minister Neil Simpson takes **assemblies** in the local primary school once a month.
- We have been **supporting the local primary school** (which has been going through a rough time) with home made cakes every Monday morning for the last two terms.
- We run a **cinema club for retired** people.
- We run a **retirement group** at the local Secondary school.

- We run a **social event** (quiz night, skittles, music evening) about every two months, to raise money for different local charities (and to provide a nexus for Christians and non-Christians to meet).
- We **look after the flower beds** at the local shops.
- We put on a **New Year's meal** (last year 90 people turned up (church has about 30 adults) and a Passover meal at Easter, both of which provide a safe graceful place to break down barriers
- Neil Simpson and Jon Mutton (Associate Minister) have been invited onto the **management of the local community centre** to advise them how to help the community. They said: "We've looked at your church and you know how to do community".
- We are currently looking at the **LICC 'Imagine project'** to see how we can better equip the church members to be personal crossingplaces.

Bear in mind we are a church of only 30 adults (with a fair number in their 70's, 80's and 90's) so we are limited in what we can do.

For more info, contact:
Neil Simpson
neil@nwcc.eclipse.co.uk

crossingplaces

Ashby Baptist Church

Called a minister with special responsibility for older people. We love our **annual holiday at home** – having transformed the church into a cruise ship the first year, then the Savannah, then Egypt, then Scotland and this year we're off down memory lane for a traditional British summer holiday. Through this event, spin-offs and more 'usual stuff', older people feel valued, engaged and needed – and its all a a lot of fun! God is smiling!

[Diane Holmes, minister with special responsibility for older people is happy to be contacted by churches interested in putting on a Holiday at Home event, and can direct them to appropriate information and contacts.]

For more info, see:
www.ashbybaptist.co.uk
or email info@ashbybaptist.co.uk

Kilmington Baptist Church

We have done **Salsa evenings, kayaking, craft and speakers** with the ladies, **breakfasts and skittles** with the men. Just embarking on **messy church**. Also have 'create club' for more senior locals!

For more info, see:
www.kbc.org.uk

Newbold Verdon Baptist Church

- 'Grandtots' – toddler group for grandparents and grandchildren.
- Exercise classes led by retired physio
- Good contact with these
- 'Start' course commencing
- We have 12 members - only one at work

The activity which seems to make most impact on the village is the **Grandtots Toddler Group**, which seems to be meeting the needs of grandparents in the village. Unfortunately our premises are small and so we are not able to accommodate as many as we would like. Our numbers at the moment are 18 children, and that is the maximum we have room for. We never seem to have to advertise - whenever a child leaves to go to school, the place seems to be filled.

A Green Shoots grant enabled us to start, and we have been delighted with the way it has developed. Right from the start we have had a Bible Story each session, and at each Christian Festival have a Toddler Service in church which is often attended by parents as well as grandparents.

One of our ladies from the Keep Fit Class has just completed the Start Course, and is close to making a commitment.

For more info, contact:
Doreen Simpson
bob.simpson@bigfoot.com



Wisbech Baptist Church, Cambs

Having prayed for 6 months and planning, we opened '**Open Doors**' drop-in on 20 April. Margaret came in, having not intended to pass our place. She was thrown out by her partner and had slept in her car for 3 weeks. Within an hour or so she was taken to a local Christian Housing project and offered a bedsit for 6 months. She came to church - for the first time – the next Sunday said the sermon was just for her. PTL!

Since then Margaret has become an on-fire Christian, and has just asked to be baptised. A few weeks ago she asked where to start with the Bible, and was recommended to start with the Gospels. A week later I saw her and asked how she was getting on. She replied by saying she had read all the Gospels, the Acts, and was now on the Psalms. How's that for less than two weeks' reading?

For more info, see:
www.wisbechbaptistchurch.org.uk
or contact Graham Licence
graham.licence@btinternet.com

Beauchief, Sheffield

Just started '**Meating Place**' monthly lunches for those who are lonely - both young and old. We are not targeting the elderly - all are welcome and we have a good cross-section of ages at the moment.

Since starting early this year we have had on average 40 people come and share lunch and sometimes a short prayer or bible reading. The idea is to create a social environment but at festival times, such as Easter etc we offer a short liturgy which people have welcomed.

For more info, contact:
Oliver Buckley
oliver.julie58@blueyonder.co.uk

Yeovil Baptist Church

Ecumenical group of **Street Pastors**

For more info, see:
www.yeovilbaptistchurch.org.uk

Toothill Church, Swindon

Community Café

For more info, contact:
Anne Carter
annec@rter.biz

Roomfield, Todmorden

Took our **monthly 'celtic' worship to a local pub** when church was closed for building work – doubled the congregation, so our oldest active member proposed transferring the monthly service permanently to the pub! Now another pub wants to come in on it ... could this be a whole series of crossingplaces?

Roomfield is a small church of (now) just 19 members but growing as we engage in real mission to our community. There are additionally 16 'Associate' members for whom, for various reasons, full membership might not be quite appropriate but who are a part of one of our varied congregations.

These initiatives include the 'celtic' services and **FaithLIVE!** - a Post Modern response to spiritual need that has been running now for around 2 years (we are scheduling a re-launch of FaithLIVE! in the Autumn as our Mission analysis has identified new areas of need.) There's a lot more stuff beginning to develop here too outside of 'Sunday Worship'

It took Roomfield over four years to develop our Mission Statement - because we were determined that it would be one that brought the whole church actively and passionately on board and would not be just a 'box ticking' exercise, to be subsequently lost in a filing cabinet.

When we began, we had just a dozen members. We have developed our Mission Strategy borrowing the best practice for strategic thinking and development in business and commerce and applying those principles of analysis and response that are appropriate to a Faith Group seeking to impact their local community. The most powerful impact has been the willingness of our older and more established membership to break out of comfort zones and to embrace new ways of thinking about Mission, Worship and in becoming an inclusive Faith Community with a real message to speak and to act out. It has been an incredible honour and blessing to pastor this delightful and committed group of people through some exciting ... and challenging times.

It is small stuff in one respect but ... we are still a very small church and our truly 'active' membership is still around a dozen - taking account of those who are less physically active these days. Being small doesn't mean 'we can't engage' - God doesn't need armies to do His work.

For more info, see:
www.roomfield.co.uk
or contact Glenn Cannon on
minister@roomfield.co.uk

crossingplaces



Eastern Baptist Association Fresh Horizons East

Third agers in evangelism to third-agers and working to help resource poor situations

This arose out of the Fresh Horizons tour that Terry Jones (BUGB Mission Adviser) had done and David and Mari Thompson from Suffolk went on one of Terry's work group/mission weeks to Bristol. When Terry retired, David Thompson was very keen to keep Fresh Horizons going and so has operated 'Fresh Horizons East' on the same lines as the BUGB 'Fresh Horizons' under the auspices of the EBA Mission Resourcing Task Group.

So far FHE have done a week's work on a shop that Park Baptist Church, Great Yarmouth are converting to help them to reach their local community. The shop is in a parade containing a sex shop and a tattoo parlour!! The team did a lot of work but didn't manage to finish so they are hoping to gather volunteers to do a Saturday working party now and then through the summer.

For more info, contact:
David Thompson
david.thompson@xalt.co.uk

Last year we started 'Messy Church' events. It brings in families who don't come to Sunday services – that was until Easter Sunday when some of the families came. It's a slow process of building up relationship but those relationships are the crossingplaces.

We are still finding our way in this new venture. The key issues for us have been:

- 1 the venture came from the grass roots not the leadership, and there is a team of enthusiastic and creative people who WANT to do this (nearly all women) and who prepare collaboratively. From my point of view it is exciting to watch and be part of this collaborative process, and it is so refreshing as compared with normal service preparation on my own in front of the computer!
- 2 we are NOT trying to recruit people for Sunday service attendance and have explained this to the congregation. We are genuinely exploring the possibility of the 'Messy Church' experience being church for the young families who come along. They are almost exclusively people who do NOT come to our Sunday services - occasionally they may be from another church but mostly they are unchurched or use some of

Wimborne Baptist Church

our mid week children's activities like Mums and Toddlers or children's clubs. Our 'ordinary' Sunday school is down to 1-2 children, although we see about 50 children through the week in clubs. The children are mostly pre-schoolers although we say up to about 10 in our publicity.

- 3 it is totally unpredictable - one time we may be full, and have 25-30 people, another time there may be only a tiny number. The last time we did it we had only three families, but none had been before!! We think that we may have our best attendances between about September and May, with the numbers dropping off in the summer months. Some people come just because they saw a press article in the local free paper - even though they never got a personal invitation. Saturdays work and Sundays don't - we tried both. Food is an essential part of the experience!
- 4 the ethos is to create a multi-faceted worship and fellowship experience, using craft, story and song. We have not yet worked out how people might come to faith in such an environment or how we might disciple them if they do, but at the moment we are simply convinced that we have some unchurched people who are using our

building and finding out about God and Jesus and participating in worship with their young children who would not otherwise be doing so. We believe God will show us the next step when he is ready.

- 5 although it all looks very simple, the theological basis has to be very carefully thought through and understood, and preparing talks around the theme is also very theologically challenging as we take a popular Bible character or theme and look firstly for the craft ideas, then for the crossing places with their own experiences, and finally a crossing place with the good news of Jesus. So for Joseph, we focussed on the coat of many colours, used video material from YouTube about the musical and thought about sibling rivalry, and how Jesus can put things right. With Creation we MADE things!!!, listened to the song Creation Calls, set to video clips of an Attenborough TV nature series, and thought about the pride involved in making something and looking after it the way the creator meant it to be looked after.

For more info, see:

www.wimborne-baptist.org.uk/messy_church.html

or contact Robert Jones on
pastor@wimborne-baptist.org.uk

Very small, mainly elderly church (membership ~35 typical Sunday congregation about 25-30; youngest member 46, oldest 97. Meet in local primary school for worship since 2005 following closure and subsequent sale of Victorian premises (which were beyond economic repair) for redevelopment as low-cost housing. Once a month have joint services with another small Baptist church and fully involved in local ecumenical work via (non-covenanted) Churches Together. Meeting in school has allowed us to build good relationships with the school, allowing me to take some RE lessons and several of us to have meaningful chats with the caretakers. This summer we are presenting 'Your Move' books to ~60 Year 6 children)

PLUS lunch club

80 members (partnership between ourselves, Leicestershire social services, local independent restaurants and a coach company). Meets monthly. Pick up from sheltered housing complexes by coach; some travel independently. Birthday and Christmas cards for all members, also special wedding anniversaries marked (and we've had a PLUS wedding as well as a few funerals). Three outings a year including Christmas dinner. One annual coffee morning to support a local charity. Run by a team of around 7 church members, mostly retired.

Hugglescote Baptist Church, Leics

Services in sheltered housing

Twice a year we take tea (sandwiches and cakes) with us and hold a Songs of Praise service in one of the local sheltered complexes instead of holding our normal service. Residents and lunch club members choose the hymns. Once a year we book a coach and bring them to our outreach carol event (ecumenical) which is preceded by tea and followed by mince pies. Once a year we invite them to join us at school (where we usually meet) for The Big Summer Sing, another favourite hymn service followed by tea and cake.



Major festivals

Churches Together outreach at:

Christmas - senior citizen's tea and interactive carol service with parallel children's activities, followed by festive refreshments for all. Attendance 100-200 about 50/50 church folk and not.

Easter - Good Friday 'Encounter Easter' multi-sensory event in Community Centre with loads of craft for children, labyrinth and other installations for adults. Ends with short all-age act of worship. Attracts up to 50 children plus parents and carers - up to 100 at mini service, mostly non-churchgoers.

Pentecost - Saturday free community fun day (at school) with free face painting, free crafts for children, displays, free teas etc. Open Air interactive service Sunday afternoon attracts up to 50 - of whom around 10% are not churchgoers)

COMPASS

Pub-based gathering - began as an outreach initiative, now functions more as a fellowship group but breaks down boundaries. 6-8 meet monthly to share food and drink in pub lounge. The first year we had speakers on topics of 'faith and...' sport, politics, police, science etc, attracting some excellent speakers but few guests. Since we changed the format, topics discussed arise quite naturally such as Biblical reliability or suffering and a God of love.

Long-term future

Who knows? But God has brought us thus far and will lead us home!! The congregation being elderly, and finances being tight, makes the future quite precarious. Unable to afford fulltime ministry, even with maximum Home Mission Grant, so currently exploring alternatives with the support of the Association. Church began ~1749 and has maintained a faithful and courageous witness for over 200 years.

For more info, contact:
the church secretary on
john_beniston@hotmail.co.uk