



Making it Possible!

The Baptist Union Loan Fund and Horley Baptist Church

In February 2014 the BUC Directors agreed a loan of £750,000 for Horley Baptist Church in Surrey to enable the church to build new premises. The church has known since the 1990s that the building they had occupied since 1879 was too small and unsuitable for their needs!

Here is their story

The journey started in earnest with the arrival of Rob May as Pastor in 1998. His leadership, to provide accommodation to match the clear vision of a large church that served the community, was the catalyst that ultimately brought about the construction of Phase 1 of our church building.

Having made the decision to move, the hunt was on for suitable land or premises. There were numerous false starts and discussions about a number of sites. However it wasn't until 2003 with the news that the site of the then Court Lodge Infants School may become available, that the possibility of a new home for the church started to take on a new reality.

What may have appeared at first sight to be a relatively easy acquisition process, developed into an extremely protracted and circuitous journey that tested both the church's faith and perseverance. The lesson appeared to be that when the timing was right, everything falls into place. This was evidenced by getting planning permission in 2011 with no changes and enthusiastic support from the town council, a final purchase of a cleared site from a supportive and accommodating developer in 2013, the sale of our old site achieving more than the cost of the much larger new site and a tender from a contractor within our limited budget.

To bring the project in line with a realistic budget, construction was divided into two phases. Construction work on the first phase started in May 2014 and the church started using the building in July 2015. The building was officially opening by Jonathan Edwards in September, when a weekend of activities attracted many of the local residents to come and see what had been built and learn about the activities provided by the church. We are already seeing many new faces and a range of new activities based at the church.



Key to funding of the new building was the assistance of the BU Loan Fund. Although church members were able to commit to regular giving, few were able to offer large lump sum donations. Without the help from the Loan Fund and other local churches, raising the funds would have been much more challenging.

The second phase of our project is to provide a meeting space big enough for the whole church and provide room for further growth. Fundraising for this phase is underway, with the church keen to finish what it has started. As the church considers the second phase of the building, it will again be talking to the BU Loan Fund!

To find out more about Horley Baptist Church visit their website <http://www.horleybaptist.org.uk/>

For more information about the Baptist Union Loan Fund go to www.baptist.org.uk/loans

or contact the BU Loan Fund Officer at Baptist House.

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