

# North Bushey Free Church (Baptist)

## **Brief Profile - January 2008**

North Bushey Free Church (Baptist) was started in the 1950's and joined the Baptist Union in the 1960's. The Church was served by Lay Preachers and shared a Pastor with West Watford Free Church until Rev'd. Callum Jones became the full time Minister in 1991. Since September 2002 we were pleased to have had Rev'd. Dianne Tidball as its full time Minister.

She has now moved on and we are in the position of looking for a new minister.

### Location and Community

The Church is situated within a well-defined area. North Bushey is a residential area on the outskirts of Watford (Hertfordshire). There are approximately 1,500 homes and a population between 4,000 and 4,500 in the area. The community is served by several small shops, a funeral directors, public house, food store, Highwood Primary School, Holy Trinity Church, ourselves North Bushey Free Church, a scout hall, fish and chip cafe, post office and chemist, newsagents, plumbers and an Indian take-away.

The area has a wide age range. A lot of residents have been in North Bushey for over fifty years. More recent residents have moved into the area because it is one of the most popular residential areas in Watford. It is secluded and quiet and has a large number of semi-professional people owning their own homes.

### Our Church Membership

Our Church Membership is largely made up of families approximately aged 50 years and younger as well as senior citizens. We have 16 children in our Church which range from 2yrs to 16yrs and area lively bunch who are much appreciated by us all.

Although there are only 12 full-time wage earners in the congregation people do have a vision for giving.

Our actual Church Membership this January 2008 stands at 38 but we usually have a Sunday morning congregation of around 50.

What we lack in numbers we make up for in companionship, commitment, enthusiasm and devotion to God along with a strong sense of community spirit.

Dianne was with us for 5 years as our full time Minister, she was definitely an answer to our prayers when Callum left.

Our outreach / social events attract a good number of people which is very encouraging. When we have special services such as Dedications, Baptisms and Christmas we often accommodate up to 150 people. We have a small number of people who come to our services occasionally along with fringe contacts and visitors.

Since Dianne has been with us we have had 10 new members and seen our congregation grow in numbers and in faith.

Everybody does a lot within the Church and energy levels have to be maintained along with enthusiasm.

## Our Vision

We have a growing desire to make an impact on our community.

We are God's Community reaching our Local Community. (Our Vision Statement).

Whatever we do it is because Christ's love controls us.

Since we believe that Christ died for everyone.

## Church Activities

### *Weekly*

Monday Housegroup

Tuesday Housegroup

Mums and toddlers group

Youth Group

### *Fortnightly*

Wednesday/Thursday Housegroups

### *Monthly*

Coffee Mornings for senior citizens

### *Other*

Prayer / Testimony / Communion evenings

Deacon and Church Meetings (*Bimonthly*)

Ecumenical Services

We also have outreach services, Bible studies, quiz evenings, children clubs and events and run courses during the year.

## Worship

Our Sunday Morning Services start at 10.30 a.m. and last between an hour to an hour and a half.

The first Sunday in the month is usually an "All Age Service" which literally caters for the 2 year old to the 92 yr old and on that Sunday Cafe Church remains popular. We have traditional family services and celebrate Communion together once a month. During the services which are not "All Age" the children will normally leave about a third or half way through to attend their Sunday Clubs classes .

The Church has a Worship Group which comprises of a pianist, keyboardist and vocalist and it is occasionally joined by a saxophonist, flutist, violinist and guitarist (church going) musicians sometimes join the group for special occasions.

For the majority of our services we use Data Projection and Song Pro.

### Finance

Our membership at present stands at 38. Although under Budget last year our giving is very high for the number of members and full time workers we have. We make a point of using the Gift Aid scheme and the majority of our income comes through this. We give 68 % of our Church tythe away to Home Mission and B.M.S, the final 32 % is given to a family who are serving in Malawi.

### Ecumenical

As well as meeting with our local Anglican Church, Holy Trinity, we occasionally meet with other local Churches who belong to Bushey and Oxhey Churches Together (B.O.C.T.). Our Church is also a part of the (Central) Baptist Association and very occasionally we meet and worship with other Churches in the Association.

### Deacons

There are five Deacons, Wendy Jones (Church Secretary), Ann Halliday (Church Treasurer), Esther Boughton (Worship Leader), Pat Dawes (Pastoral Leader) and Owen Harvey (Junior Church Leader).

### Building

Unfortunately our building is prefabricated which presents us some issues but also great flexibility. We do try hard to maintain it (and the gardens) when we can, we have just installed a new Kitchen to comply with Health and Safety rules. The land on which the building stands is leased and there is approximately 895 yrs to run. Renovations are taking place but every thing that is done usually comes out of our budget.

W.L.Jones  
Church Secretary.