



# Atworth Independent Church

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

Affiliated to the

Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches

[www.atworthindependentchurch.org.uk](http://www.atworthindependentchurch.org.uk)

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## Report to the Atworth Parish Assembly 2015

What a difference a year makes or to be more exact what difference in a year the Lord makes. We as a church have much to be grateful and thankful for, not least the Lord's answer to prayer. Although it has been three years since Pastor John Schofield had to resign from his position at the church due to ill health, the Lord has not forgotten His faithful people and in His time He has brought to us a new pastor. Pastor Steve Whitaker and his wife, Mary took over the pastoral duties on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and his induction was held at the church on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and was attended by over eighty people. The service was led by Stephen West of the FIEC and the main message was brought by Rev. Irving Stegges; refreshments were eagerly devoured at the Atworth Institute Hall.

Although the congregation of the church remains small in comparison to the size of the village we are blessed to have seen some growth during this period. During the past year we have been involved in outreach within the village; these have included card drops inviting people to various services. We have also had open invitations for people to join us at a Pasty Evening and a message for Easter film by Dr. Billy Graham.

In November we remembered in a joint service with St. Michael's, all those who had given their lives in service for Atworth and their country. The service was well attended, especially as it was also the centenary of the Great War.

At Christmas, we had our normal Christmas morning service but for the first time we also had a New Year's Eve Midnight Service which went well, & this year we hope to advertise this more and grow this event.

The church continues to open its doors for the Soup lunches and Coffee Stop every month. In addition to our normal Sunday services beginning at 11:00 am we also have a third Sunday service at 3:15 pm and if there is a fifth Sunday in the month we have a Song's of Praise Café Style service also at 3:15 pm.

Of course we could do nothing if Our Lord was not with us through the year and so we give Him all the praise and glory due to His Name.

Thank you

Steve Whitaker – Pastor AIC