

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

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Dear friends & neighbours of Atworth,

It is a pleasure to share with you all some of the events and services that have been carried out at Atworth Independent Church. During the past year, we have continued to host our Coffee Stop mornings and Soup Lunches on the second Friday of each month. These events have been regularly attended by villagers and also by some from outside the village. At each event we have a guest speaker/s who shares with everyone a testimony of how God has worked in their lives. These testimonies are extremely helpful, encouraging & informative and if you have not attended one of these events, then please make an effort to join us and be encouraged. Some of the speakers also play various instruments for our enjoyment.

Of course our main function at the church is to bring the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ and we continue to do this each Sunday morning at 11:00am. Although I preach at most of the services we do have guest preachers each month from the surrounding areas to also bring this Good News, so again if you have not heard this news or would like to hear more about it then please join us on any Sunday morning. We also have an afternoon service on the 3rd Sunday of each month beginning at 15:15 followed by a time of fellowship, tea/coffee & finger buffet.

In September at our Harvest service we celebrated the abundant provision that Our Lord has blessed us with during the past year. This blessing enabled us to give food hampers of fresh and tinned food to Alabere Help Centre, Devizes, a food and clothing center for those in need. We would like to give much more and more often so if you would like to donate food to us now or in September at our annual the Harvest service then please contact myself or Rodney Price. Also from our Harvest collection we used some of the funds to pay for two toilets to be built in India & Africa for communities that do not have these basic amenities. This was done through the charity Toilet Twinning which supplies the materials for the villagers to build these structures that we take for granted.

We also collect on an ongoing basis tinned or packet (not fresh) foods for the needy who live on the canals of our county. This food is then given to Canal Ministries, a gospel work of 10 boats, who distribute tracts, Bibles & food to those who are in most need on our canals. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause then please just bring them to the church or contact Rodney or myself.

With help from the Parish Council we have purchased two Books of Condolences for the village and these are now available at the chapel and will be used as and when required. People will be able to come into the chapel, sign the book & stay for a short period of reflection and prayer if they so desire. Once completed the book will be passed on to the relevant family or organization for them to display and or keep with appreciation from Atworth Village.

With regards to other services, each year in November we hold a joint Memorial Service with St. Michael's beginning at the Queen Victoria Memorial Clock and then

continuing the service at either Atworth Independent Church or at St. Michael's. This year the service will be held on Sunday 12 November beginning at 10:50 at the memorial and then proceeding to St. Michael's for a service. Please come along as we celebrate and remember those who have given their lives for Atworth and our country.

On New Year's Eve, we held a Midnight celebration service which was open to the village and also shared with other churches in the surrounding areas. Many people attended this wonderful event and we were all blessed by the singing, fellowship and Word of God. This service will be held again this year on Sunday 31 December at 23:15; please come along and see in 2018 with fellow villagers and friends.

Another service, which we have introduced this past year, was a Good Friday morning service. This is being conducted in joint association with Ebenezer Baptist Church, Melksham and this year was held at Ebenezer. This is an ongoing event and next year Lord willing it will be held at our Chapel.

Finally, every Thursday afternoon we have a Bible Study meeting beginning at 14:00. We meet at the home of a member of the congregation (please contact us for more details). Everyone is most welcome, even if you don't know much about Christianity; come along and enjoy a look at the Bible and fellowship with other like minded villagers.

In line with this we have and are continuing to invite people to hold a Bible Study in their own homes at a time and day to suit them. The course is for six weeks and looks at subjects like the truth of the Bible, when it was written & by whom; brief overview of the Old & New Testaments, Salvation etc.

In closing I would like to thank God for His wonderful mercies and blessing which He has bestowed on us at the Chapel during this past year. We thank Him for leading people into our church and for the friendship, fellowship and love shown from people in the village.

May the Lord be with all of us this year as we endeavor to do His work, live according to His commandments and help each other.

In His Name

Rev. Steve Whitaker

Pastor, Atworth Independent Church