

Somersham Baptist Church Parish Council Report 2022,23

Our Sunday congregation averages 23 people, half from the village, half from outside. Sadly there are no primary school children attending, we have two teenagers, we could do with more in their twenties and thirties.

In 2022 giving was a healthy £35000, some of which was designated for the refurbishment project, nearly £4000 was passed on to other Christian Ministries.

Like many other Churches we use courses produced by the director of Evangelism at All Souls, Langham Place, London. 'Christianity Explored' introduces Jesus, who he is, why he came and what he asks for. 'Life Explored' examines the character of God from Genesis to Revelation and shows in giving us Himself it is the best gift we can ever receive. We have hosted these course both in the Duke of Marlborough and at the Chapel. Last year we were able to baptise two mature people from the village who have come to believe and joined us in membership.

It has been like living out of a suitcase this year, yet thanks to the Village Hall, Church life has not been interrupted, but it is nice to back now. We have a nice shiny new exterior to our buildings and the more environmentally friendly interior that should make it more pleasant in winter (and quieter for our neighbours). The total cost should be in the region of £55 000. We have been able to make use of grants and an interest free loan and people have been most generous in their giving.

Friends and Neighbours has suffered most from the refurbishment, now we have settled back we hope numbers will pick up.

Lunch and Listen has been unaffected by the building work, we regularly get 11 guests who do not attend church or chapel.

We continue to look for mature Christians to start a new children's ministry, and also for mature and gifted Christian workers to join our four church officers in leading the Church.

Mark Newcombe (Pastor)