

Madeley Baptist Church

Church Life Report for 2009

Mission - Introduction.

Madeley Baptist Church (Aenon Chapel) was first opened on Good Friday in 1858 and has been a strong witness in the High Street ever since. After a number of months of holding Sunday morning services at the premises of John Randall School in Queen Street, Madeley, the church returned to Aenon Chapel in January 2009; but there was no sense of going back – more a sense of a mission work with its main objectives accomplished. Space was created in the vestry, used mainly for storage, to enable a group of children to be accommodated as well as in the Church Hall. However during 2009 it has been very noticeable that the church needs more room and the cry 'We need a bigger church' is a reference not only to numbers in the congregation but also to the lack of room in our chapel.

2009 therefore began with a new sense of direction and purpose and with a clear desire to maintain the area around Hills Lane as a specific focus for our mission activities while recognising that this is the Baptist Church in Madeley and also has a wider mission field.

Mission Ongoing.

Madeley Baptist Church has continued to make significant contributions to both BMC and Home Mission - about 10% of income goes to each of these throughout the year - making equal gifts to both based on our church membership. At the end of 2009, our BMS Link Missionary Joan Woodyer had completed her contract with BMS and we were pleased to hear that a family currently training at IMC in Birmingham will in all likelihood become our Link Missionaries during 2010.

Madeley Baptist Church has strongly financially supported the work of Peace Chapel International in Accra for another year, providing more school accommodation for hundreds of children, including emergency repairs to a storm-damaged school. The Local PCI at Hollinswood, Telford of which Keith has had oversight joined HEBA and BUGB during 2009. Again at Christmas the church sent a gift of two thousand pounds to Accra which enabled many hundreds of children to enjoy a Christmas lunch.

The Minister, the Rev'd Keith Osmund-Smith has continued his work as Chaplain to G Division of West Mercia Police. He was granted a half stipend by the church in January 2009 with a view to A

Home Mission Grant application being submitted for 2010. In June 2009 supported by HEBA Mission Development Group he was granted a further half-stipend to establish the work of coordinating chaplaincy within Telford and Wrekin area. This work which will build on previous chaplaincy arrangements is seen as 'cutting edge' mission both by the church and the Mission Development Group. The Baptist Union approved a 50% Mission Grant for 2010 during the year and so during 2010 half of the minister's stipend will be provided by The Baptist Union, a quarter by HEBA and a quarter by MBC. The expectation is that the church will raise its level of support for the minister year on year (In 2011 – the second year - it is anticipated that BUGB will provide 45% Mission Grant or less).

A Support Group in respect of the Coordinating Chaplaincy consisting of MBC members and members of other churches meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Chapel of Christ the King at Meeting Point House for information sharing and for prayer. Keith reports and is accountable MBC Church Meeting and to the Ecumenical Dean of Telford (from February 2010) and to the Chairman of the Telford Workplace Chaplaincy Committee – a sub committee of Telford Christian Council.

Minister's Sabbatical.

The minister is due to take a three month sabbatical between June 2009 and June 2010 but intends to seek the approval of the Annual General Meeting in 2010 to defer this until at least 2011.

Baptisms and Dedication Services.

Three people were baptised in services of Believers Baptism during 2009. There were no services of infant dedication during the year.

Other Meetings

During 2009 it was decided to discontinue Bible Studies which have been held in church on Tuesday evenings for many years. After a little while a number of people again requested Bible Studies and it is planned to recommence these in a member's home early in 2010. There is a number of meetings during the week with a Prayer Meeting – named the 'SEVEN:14' - every Wednesday evening which has seen prayer answered again and again. Numbers attending vary from 8 to 21. Church Members Meetings are held on the first Monday evening of every month except August and a prayer meeting is arranged for every Saturday morning preceding the Members Meeting. There are open coffee mornings on Mondays and Thursdays.

Weddings

There was one wedding at Madeley Baptist Church in July. The church was heavily involved in the wedding of Ana and Miguel Lopes and the church garden was used for the Reception. This was a delightful and joyful occasion.

Membership.

During 2009 a total of 3 people were elected into membership of Madeley Baptist Church. The church membership stands at 56 persons.

Ecumenism.

Madeley Baptist Church has continued to develop and maintain strong links with the churches in South Telford (STAC) through the meetings attended by the leaders and through shared activities. During 2009 the joint Good Friday service was again held at St Mary's RC church and was followed by a March of Witness to Russell Square. In November the usual Remembrance Day Service was led by the Minister with the Anglican clergy from St Michael's CE church. At Christmas the churches joined together to sing carols outside the new Tesco store in Madeley Centre and a Carol service was held on a December Sunday evening in a public house in Coalport which was attended by nearly one hundred people.

The First Madeley Boys Brigade.

The Boys Brigade enjoyed a very successful third year with a number of new recruits and a very successful autumn camp. A number of church parades were held during the year which were variously attended by Brigade senior personnel and which provided a valid and meaningful act of witness for the many parents and relatives of the boys attending. Early in the year The Captain and his wife retired and a new Captain was appointed. There was some real concern about a paucity of adult help for the Brigade which was brought to the Church Meeting. This need became a prayer focus for and by the end of the year seventeen adults including parents and grand parents of boys and girls in the Brigade had become regularly involved with the work. The Chaplain Paul Booth resigned at the end of the year and his place was taken by Jacquie Osmund-Smith.

Our World Neighbourhood Nursery.

Our World Neighbourhood Nursery which has now been housed in the church hall for several years is governed by a Board of Directors made up entirely of church members (until December 2009 when a non-church member was elected to the Board). The Church has been made aware of serious financial

difficulties which are a reflection of the general economic downturn and which in spite of careful fiduciary management will lead to the probable closure of the Nursery at the end of the Summer Term 2010. The church is committed to praying for the continuance of this important work.

Spring Harvest 2010

It is anticipated that 18 church members will attend Spring Harvest at Minehead immediately after Easter 2010

Mission - 2010 and beyond.

- The church remains committed to its Mission Field in Hills Lane, Madeley and to the wider area.
- Links with Madeley Academy have progressed as anticipated and the minister conducted a memorial service at the Academy in July. The Academy is likely to be the venue for the HEBA Family Day in 2010.
- The church leadership hopes to make contact with Saltmine UK (Dudley) during 2010 with a view to outreach and mission and the Telford Youth Worker has become involved in assisting the Boys Brigade by providing training for the leaders.
- The Church will continue to support the developing work of mission to the commercial and industrial community by supporting the minister as he undertakes the role of Chaplaincy Coordinator.
- During the Spring and Summer months there may be a number of open air events held on Saturdays on the front of the church.
- Madeley Baptist Church is in good heart and anticipating exciting times ahead as the Holy Spirit leads. (The church heard at its AGM on Monday 1st February of the possibility of building a new church and conference centre in Madeley)