

UPDATE



October 2006

Talents

At our Harvest Service we gave thanks for the talents, which have been used and shared within the fellowship in order to raise money through donations for Living Stones. This was a chance for everyone to feel a part of the project and be able to contribute with their individual gifts and also to be able to get to know others within the congregation that we may not otherwise know so well. We have done well in raising money but also felt that the congregation seemed closer as a result of this. The talent scheme and offering of services is to continue on an ongoing basis.

Outreach

Shoebox appeal

We are working with our neighbours, the Crowthorne Traders to produce shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. They have all been invited to contribute boxes so it is great that we are working together to make Christmas more enjoyable for less privileged children and to enlighten them into projects that the church is involved in.

Craft Fair.

On 1st December we are once again opening our doors to the public of Crowthorne on late night Christmas shopping night. We will be joining with a new venture of Crowthorne to have a ceramics studio in the hall for children to make Christmas gifts. Stalls will include cards, Crowthorne Baptist Church recipe book, Christian books, bread, pickles, various craft goods and possibly a flower arrangement stall - including Christmas wreaths. We will also have our carol singing outside the church - weather permitting.

Our building within the community

We have been trying to seek opinions of how we may be able to use our new facilities and also work together with members of our community around us, to be able to utilise our prime location within the village. There have been contacts made with appropriate figures within the community and we hope to survey them more formally in the near future. Initially we are going to meet with Councillor Jim Finney who has a very strong understanding of the village and the needs within it, as well as the history, which leads us to the crossroads where we chose to start the building plans. We also are meeting in early November with Andrew Mackay MP for Bracknell Forest who also may be able to give assistance and advice, as well as possibly make suggestions of who to approach for funding.

Monthly Prayer.

We continue to meet on the 3rd Sunday and have been led by different members of the group. It has been a valuable time to meet with God and listen to Him to seek his will for Crowthorne Baptist Church. We have had also had different formats to keep the meetings fresh and interesting each time to allow us to discuss and interact as we see fit.

The next meetings are 19th November and 17th December, and will be held at the church at 6.30pm.

Finance

Funds continue to grow as we are having the regular giving which is building interest and not going out at this stage until we are in a position to move forward. We now have a substantial amount of interest coming in per month due to the money sitting in the account. We have improved the position on the regular giving, although we are still a way off our target of over £5000 committed giving per month, in order to take out a loan. We also have had many generous single donations which have assisted the Living Stones balance but again we need to increase this further before we have the deposit money.

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- **Please continue to pray for the Living Stones Project; that we may know God's will for the future direction of our church and how our building fits into that vision.**
- **We thank God for the variety of talents which are being used in our church and that everyone is finding their place as a Living Stone of Crowthorne Baptist Church**
- **Please also pray for the people outside the church who we are building relationships with, so that they may be touched by God's spirit and want to know more about God whilst working with us and talking to us.**