

Widnes Baptist Church



Widnes Baptist Church was a church at the point of closure just over 10 years ago, an elderly group of seven people all that was left of the church...But God is in the habit of resurrection, and brought a new vision to have a contemporary purpose driven church that would attract families and reach out to the community. The church has since grown notably, and now hosts a range of activities to connect with its local community, including 'Here to Listen', Little Stars Tots group, midweek small groups and other initiatives too. Although the church are currently without a paid minister, the church is positive, moving forward and excited by what God is doing, including some recent baptisms, as Jon Symons, one of the church deacons, explains...

"The past year has been a year of great blessing but also a challenging one as we continue without a Pastor. Blessings have come in the form of the wonderful variation of ministry by lay preachers from outside of our own congregation. And so many people from within our congregation have played their part too, bringing enthusiasm and contributions, sharing the things God has placed on their hearts and making our services varied and refreshing. The leadership team have been overwhelmed by the amount of input and spiritual growth we have seen within our congregation, which has helped us face some of the challenges that we have encountered. Our worship team have worked hard to lead us into the presence of God with both old and new songs. The tots group Little Stars has developed wonderfully with songs, stories, and activities and many friendships have been formed both by children, parents, grandparents, and leaders. The love of God and his word shared through the stories, songs and activities bringing blessing to all.

Easter Sunday has been one of the real highlights for us this year, not only because of the joy of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour but because of the blessing and joy of seeing three members of our congregation taking the step of obedience, being baptised and seeking a closer relationship with their Saviour. Louise, Karl and Rhona were then received into church membership along with Val Eden. This was all rounded off with snacks and cake and some joyful fellowship as they were given cards and gifts. It was an absolutely wonderful time!

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland..." Isaiah 43: 18b-19

For your thoughts and prayers:

- What activities could your church provide as a means of connecting with the local community, and providing a service that is needed locally?
- What is your church's vision of what it is seeking to be for the community?

