

**PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING – TUESDAY 8th APRIL 2014 at
7.30.pm**

WALDRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

As a Church, we have just commenced a new era as for the first time in our history since 1823, there are now 2 full time Pastors.

James Wilson, who has been part time for just over 2 years, has now joined Steve in a full time roll, as from March 1st this year.

James and his wife Naomi live at Bucklesham and have a two year old son called Oscar and are expecting another baby any day!

This was a real step of faith in God, as when the decision was made, we hadn't got the funds to meet all the Church finances, but already in the first month, we have received an anonymous gift for £10,000!

The Church continues to be very well attended especially Sunday mornings with a spread of all ages from new born babies to those in their 90's! Young people's activities (One Way Club for children, Bible Class for teens and a crèche run concurrently with the Sunday morning service)

There are other activities for the young during the week - Yoyo's meet on a Monday night (You're Only Young Once) as well as Parent and Toddlers Group every Thursday morning and "Ignite" on a Friday Evening, (more Teens) as well as our annual Holiday Bible Club.

Other groups for the not so young take place on a regular basis. The Tuesday Fellowship (First Tuesday afternoon in the month) has seen an increase in those attending, which is also true of the Ladies TLC (Evening Group.)

The Men's Sports Evenings meet once a month, on the second Thursday evening of the month. There is a varied programme of sporting activities, suitable for all ages. (Carpet bowls, pool, etc.)

It is encouraging to see so many at the Friends and Neighbours Lunches (the next one is on Friday 6th June – please come and join us!)- Also Quiz Evenings (every 6 months on a Saturday night) and Golf days.

It was a great privilege to have recent visits from Peter Jackson (Blind pianist from Cardiff) and a young singing group from Romania called "A New Song".

We also had a Church away weekend at Sizewell Hall last October which was really enjoyable!

The Prison Ministry Team continues to visit two units at Hollesley Prison on a Sunday morning. There are two short Services which include a short message from the Bible as well as music and testimony with the inmates.

There are several Teams involved within the Church – As well as an excellent Music group who play each Sunday (both services) we have a very competent team of Technicians who oversee the sound and recording systems and the power point

system which enables us to sing with words on the screen, rather than hymn books! We have 8 Deacons who are responsible for the practical needs as well as a Care Team to help with visitation.

Keith Oliver (a member of the Congregation) continues to visit ships which have docked at Ipswich and Felixstowe for the weekend and invites crew members to come to the Sunday Evening Service. Keith is regularly accompanied in the congregation by a number of sailors, especially from the Philippines.

All Sunday Services are recorded both in CD or DVD and are freely available to anyone who asks. Also, all Sunday Services can be downloaded by visiting our web site at www.waldringfieldbc.org.uk. It is a good way to find out what the Services are like if you have never been!!

We have regular feedback from listeners, both in UK and overseas. Recently a couple in Linton, Indiana USA, sent and asked permission to copy CD's so that they could distribute them to friends in the States!

Pastors Steve and James continue to conduct regular School Assemblies in Primary Schools at Waldringfield, Bucklesham, Trimley St Martin and Trimley St Mary as well as Steve being Chaplain to Genesis (Special needs group in Ipswich), visiting every two or three weeks.

The Church supports several overseas Missions with a great interest in Romanian Orphanages in and around Arad and Timisoara.

We continue to channel used clothes, shoes, spectacles, picture postcards, stamps, coins and notes, tools, blankets, etc, through various organisations to help aid those in Africa, Romania and other places including some in the UK. (Not forgetting those who supply golf balls!- The money raised from selling these goes to the children in Romania and you may be interested to know that we have reached well over £13,000 from the sale of golf balls alone!) THANK YOU to those who help in this way!

We are very grateful to the Waldringfield Golf Club for allowing us some parking spaces each Sunday, in order to avoid roadside parking outside the Church.

Please note some of the forthcoming events and Special Services – and feel free to come!!

Good Friday (April 18th) – Service at 10.15 until 11 am followed by Ramble, lunch and Easter egg hunt.

Easter Sunday Services at 11.am and 6.30.pm

Golf Day on Saturday 26th April at Seckford Golf Club. – Brunch at 11.30 am followed by 18 holes of golf – with prizes £20

Saturday 28th June – Church/Young Peoples Outing to Lowestoft – leave 9.30 returns

6pm – ALL Welcome to join us

Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th August from 10am – 12 noon – Holiday Bible Club with Family Service on Sunday 31st August at 11am

QUIZ NIGHT – Saturday 4th October at 7.pm – Bring a Team of 6 or simply come and join a team!

We anticipate having another Team from Capernwray Bible College in the near future.

Finally, we are grateful to God for providing for us – through people's generosity! (Sunday Offerings average well over £1000 each week).

In all of this, we have one main aim – to share our faith in Jesus Christ! Please come and find out more! YOU are VERY WELCOME!