

CHELWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH



Daring to dream big!

We have been incredibly blessed by Home Mission for a number of years and this financial, prayerful support has seen God do above and beyond what we could have imagined. Some people say that as a church we 'punch above our weight' but actually it is God doing all the 'punching'!

In the past we have run a community cafe on our local estate and launched a very successful foodbank and homeless charity, but in 2015 we are embarking on a new adventure.



At the beginning of 2013 our minister, the Revd Steve Hough, felt that God was telling him to step aside and let our new minister in training, Andrew Phillips, step up to lead the Church into a new phase



of Chelwood's mission with family at the heart of it. Andrew has now been in post since September while he trains at Northern Baptist College. We have realised that our foodbank ministry grew so big so quickly (which was really positive) that it took our focus away from our local community - one which we have always been at the heart of. We feel called to get back to our community and make a difference as locally as possible. We also sense God calling us to model family life, both in the household but also as the family of God together.

Our Bible passage for 2015 and beyond is Ephesians 2:19-22:

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.



Andrew being inducted by Tim Presswood

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This was the passage that the church was given when it began nearly 20 years ago and now we feel God saying we need to revisit it. The first part of 2015 will be spent in preparation for all that lies ahead. We plan to meet regularly to pray, to prayer walk and to plan the nitty gritty. Then we aim to get out and show our community what the household of God looks like. We have some activities already planned such as a monthly all-age meeting on a Friday night after school, an Easter fancy dress hunt and we are even aiming to bring the beach to Stockport! We are also excited by our Home Mission hub of four churches working together and being accountable to each other in mission. There are events already being planned for the year ahead.

We aren't entirely sure what the next few years will hold for us here at Chelwood but what we pray is that God will bless us and that we will continue to see him do more than we can ask or imagine!

Thank you so much for our Home Mission grant. It means so much to us.

Andrew Phillips
Minister in training,
Chelwood Baptist Church



Please pray:

- » For Andrew as he leads the church in this new phase of mission
- » Give thanks for the way in which the church has been involved in the community cafe, foodbank and homeless charity and seen such success
- » For a clear sense of God's vision for the church in 2015 as they discern the new direction in which he is calling them
- » For those involved in the detailed planning of events - that teams will work well together and affirm one another in all they do