

Making it Possible!

The Baptist Union Loan Fund and Haywards Heath Baptist Church

In November 2017 the BUC Directors agreed a loan of £470,000 for Haywards Heath Baptist Church to enable them to replace their church premises which had become unfit for purpose.

Haywards Heath Baptist Church started life in 1978 through the vision of some medical staff working at the now closed Cuckfield hospital for a Baptist witness in their town.

Originally the members met in homes and then in a local youth centre but in 1993 they were offered a no-longer-required Methodist Church building in the centre of town. Having their own premises enabled the church to expand its work particularly amongst children and young people.

This building served the church well for several years but, in time, the roof and the kitchen and toilet facilities were deemed unfit for purpose. In 2016 the church unanimously decided that the existing building needed to be knocked down and re-built to provide a modern open and flexible space that would be welcoming and transparent to the community. The new building would also provide greater opportunities for the church to share the good news of Christ with the people of the town.

Plans were drawn up and planning permission obtained. Then, following a Pledge Day, the church agreed that, with the help of a loan of around £500,000 they would be able to afford the estimated project cost of £1.76m.

In their own words ...

“Commercial lenders and the BU Loan Fund were approached, and the latter proved very helpful in guiding HHBC through the required process eventually providing a 15-year loan facility at a competitive interest rate. It was far easier to deal with the BUC than commercial lenders and saved significant costs in terms of loan and professional fees. The BUC staff understood HHBC’s needs, motivation and challenges without long explanations and discussion.

We moved into the new building just in time for the 2018 Christmas services, the new baptistery was used early in February 2019, when four people witnessed publicly to their faith in Jesus, and as I write an Alpha course is underway.

This is just one example of how the Baptist family supports and assists its members as they endeavour to fulfil the great commission.”

To find our more visit the church’s own website: www.hhbchurch.org.uk

For more information about the Baptist Union Loan Fund go to www.baptist.org.uk/loans

or contact the BU Loan Fund Officer at Baptist House

