

Meet the Preparing for Retirement Host Team

Ken & Heather Walker



Ken served 38 years as a Baptist minister, first in Swansea then 15 years each in Beckenham and Kingston upon Thames in the London Baptist Association. Now returned to his native north-west he is active both in the North West Baptist Association and ecumenically, one of 8 amazing retired ministers at the Wesley Church Centre in Chester. Married to Heather, with choirs to sing in, Welsh hills to climb, time to watch birds and count butterflies, it's a full life.

Heather spent the first 65 years of her life in Baptist churches, 38 of them married to Ken as minister. She was a secondary teacher before being at home with young children (now in their forties), then led the church preschool for 11 years. Wishing at that point to have a more individual identity, she trained as a counsellor, and worked 17 years as a student counsellor in universities & colleges. Post-retirement she has explored Methodism, serving 4 years as a steward, and has worked with the local Bereavement Counselling Service. She has also been on the register of the Churches' Ministerial Counselling Service for 18 years. She is passionate about playing the flute, and walking labyrinths to encounter God and ourselves.



Ian & Rosi White



Ian is a Baptist Minister now based in Churchdown, Gloucestershire, England.

Ian has a passion for teaching the Bible clearly and leading worship that helps people engage with God using a wide variety of music and other media.

He started his career as a mathematician and was awarded a PhD at Swansea. His speciality was the flow of oil and water inside oil fields –

Having worked on the staff of Swansea University and then as a mathematician at British Petroleum, Ian felt called in the ministry. He trained at the London Bible College (now London School of Theology) and went to work on the staff of Purley Baptist Church.

At Purley he took on responsibility for worship, small groups and counselling and began to develop preaching and teaching ministry which has taken him to various parts of the world.

He then moved to Chichester Baptist Church and during his eight years there he saw the church develop into a multi-staffed wide ranging ministry which touched many areas of the city.

Ian left Chichester and moved to Eastbourne when he became the senior minister of Victoria Baptist Church. He has a passion for communicating God's word with clarity and for helping people to engage in worship which touches the heart.

Ian also has other interests and has been a trustee of a Bible College, the chairman of the Sussex Baptist Association and until 2015 was vice chairman of Memralife whose conferences (Spring Harvest, Aiming 4 Excellence) and media ministry (under the ICC label) are known world-wide.

Ian has retired from church leadership but is still active in teaching and mentoring. He is currently a Field Placement Tutor with Spurgeon's College, a funeral celebrant and creates online teaching resources for churches.

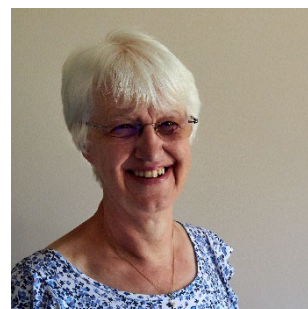
Ian is married to Rosi who is also active in the church and does her best to keep him in order. They have an adult son Christopher had a daughter Esther who went to heaven in 2009 when she was 22. In what spare time remains Ian collects rare tea, is a keen photographer and interested in the technical side of just about anything.

Rosi had a career both as a mother and a Social Worker.

Rosi has worked as a Social Worker in Swansea, East and West Sussex. She specialised in assessing people with complex health or social care needs and investigated safeguarding cases where vulnerable adults may have been at risk.

She has a passion for the pastoral side of church ministry and was responsible for the creation of the church's Pastoral Care Action Group which manages the pastoral ministry of their church.

She is very active in the church supporting families with special needs in the church. In her remaining spare time she loves creating scrapbooks and cross-stitch.



Karen & John Smith



Karen spent her working life in Education as a teacher and then as a Literacy Adviser for the Local Authority. She is passionate about early reading, children's literature and children expressing themselves creatively, especially children from disadvantaged backgrounds, something she has bucket loads of experience of. In retirement, however, her passions are twofold - prayer and resettling Syrian refugee families through Community Sponsorship. Over the last five years, she has led a team to buy a house locally, furnish it and welcome and support two families to resettle in Godmanchester, where they still live. She is also passionate about her wonderful family, trips in the Motorhome and coffee at the

garden centre with a mate.

John had pastorates in Gloucestershire and Suffolk before spending ten years as the BMS World Mission Area Co-ordinator for Central and Eastern England. His last very happy ten years of ministry were spent at Godmanchester Baptist. Retired for four years, he has moderated three churches, one of which was so encouraging, he and Karen have settled into membership there. After 35 years of ministry, in retirement, he mostly wants to spend time in the community where a particular favourite activity is being a "Lockkeeper for the Lord" on the River Great Ouse.

