

Making it Possible!

The Baptist Union Loan Fund and Emsworth Baptist Church

In December the BUC Directors agreed a loan of £500,000 for Emsworth Baptist Church in Hampshire to enable the church to build new premises. The church moved into their new premises in the summer of 2015.

Here is their story

Emsworth Baptist Church was founded in 1845 as Emsworth Zion Baptist Church with its home on the site of the current church building. In 2001 a vision stirred the church as to the need for more space and in 2002 the church bought an adjacent car park in order that it could in the future rebuild on this new larger site.

Haverstock Associates Architects were appointed to draw up plans for the new church building. Part of the brief was to design a building which would be used for the benefit of the wider community as well as the church. Following a number of iterations, including scaling back on the size of the building when costs became clearer, planning permission was granted following appeal late in 2011.

Since its inception, the congregation has faithfully supported the project prayerfully and financially. Fundraising was low key in the early stages but gained momentum as the project developed. The total cost of the new building was forecast to be £1.9M and it was decided to approach the BU for a loan of £500K to assure completion of the project, £1.3M of the balance being raised from within the membership from fundraising events but chiefly by personal giving, and some smaller loans from other sources. We are deeply grateful to the Baptist Union, and in particular to the Loan Fund Team, who were extremely helpful in all the communications we had with them. The project would not have been completed on time without their loan assistance.



The design of the new building significantly reflects the glory of Christ and enables our fellowship to have an appropriate and effective ministry in His name. This ministry is enhanced by modern facilities that express the warmth of our heart to make disciples and serve our community. It is a safe place for people to explore their spirituality in a rich variety of ways.

To find out more about Emsworth Baptist Church visit their website <http://www.emsbaptist.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

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