



Making it Possible!

The Baptist Union Loan Fund and Christchurch Baptist Church

In September 2015 the BUC Directors agreed a loan of £420,000 for Christchurch Baptist Church in Dorset to enable the church to buy, and refurbish, some additional buildings.

Here is their story

In June 2015, Christchurch Baptist Church were approached by the freeholder of a property opposite our current site on the 'off chance' that the church might be interested in purchasing the land and property which had been part of their family estate for decades! Little did the vendor know that the church had been exploring their options for expansion due to significant numerical growth over the previous 4 years! The property in question had not come onto our radar because it had been in the same family for such a long time. Having already transitioned to a two service model to accommodate the numbers of folk attending on Sundays, we desperately needed additional space to cope with Sunday morning children's ministry and various church and community based activities which happen during the week. The only problem was that the vendor wanted a very quick sale due to personal circumstances. It was at this point that the church were extremely grateful for the existence of Baptist Union Loan Fund because it made possible what seemed impossible in a very short period of time!



To cut a long story short, within 4 months, with the help the of the Loan Fund and the generosity of God's people, Christchurch Baptist Church became the new owners of 51 Bargates which is a very large detached building with car parking. The property has now been developed to accommodate the administrative offices for our staff team and also created five new meeting rooms in combination with the church's existing site which we hope to further develop before the year 2020! We also managed to secure a rental agreement with an opticians whose business is located on the ground floor of the purchased property – this is providing significant income until such time that the entire site is developed for the church's use.

The efficiency and professionalism of the Loan Fund and BU Corporation was invaluable in enabling the purchase and effective ongoing use of this property. The team have bent over backwards to support us with matters which were way beyond our knowledge/capability as a local church.

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