



Making it Possible!

The Baptist Union Loan Fund and Richmond Baptist Church, Liverpool

In September 2016 the BUC Directors agreed a loan of £355,000 for Richmond Baptist Church to enable them to make use of new premises which had been offered to them.

Richmond Baptist Church has existed in the Anfield/Everton area of Liverpool for over 152 years but their extensive premises were sold in 2009 because the much-diminished congregation could no longer afford to maintain the grade 2 listed building. Since then, the fellowship made use of the nearby Methodist Church premises for Sunday worship and social events. Despite the relative "invisibility" of the church, the fellowship started to grow again and was also able to maintain a Tots Group in the hall of another nearby church. However, these arrangements were far from ideal for the church.

In May 2014 the church was asked if they would be interested in taking over the premises of the nearby Good News Mission as the congregation there was no longer able to meet maintenance costs. Following conversations with regional ministers and a number of prayer meetings, the church agreed to pursue the opportunity offered. Building Surveyors were engaged to give advice on the viability, design and cost of making the premises suitable for use.

The Mission Hall was attached to a large double fronted Victorian House and the mission premises included part of the ground floor of the house. The church needed to make the mission hall suitable for use by all as the premises presented considerable difficulties to people with reduced mobility. The rest of the house had previously been rented out as four self-contained apartments and, if brought up to a suitable standard, this arrangement could be restored. To do all of this work would cost £575,000 and funding came from the sale of the old chapel, church giving, some grants and a loan of £355,000 from the Baptist Union Loan Fund.



In their own words ...



"This is The House – Home of Richmond Baptist Church" are the words that greeted those who walked through the doors of the Liverpool based fellowship's newly opened premises on Sunday 4 February 2018. The Church Meeting having previously given permission for the term "The House" to be used in reference to the new meeting place.

Applying for such a substantial loan was not without trepidation on behalf of the church members, or their leaders; but the process was relatively straightforward and those involved felt that the visit and input of the Loan Fund representatives was constructive and supportive.

Whilst the project has provided an accessible new home for Richmond Baptist Church for worship, outreach and other fellowship purposes it will enable the church to start to develop other community services: a youth club and a drop-in cafe facility for example, as well as opportunities to host outside groups offering community support services. The young people of the church already have an eye on the, as yet relatively untouched, basement area with a view to making it their own social space – but that is the next project!

To find out more visit the church's own website: <http://www.richmondbaptistchurch.btck.co.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