



**OTTERY**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**MID-YEAR  
NEWSLETTER  
2023**



It's hard to believe that we are more than halfway through the year already.

We want to thank the Lord for his hand on Ottery Baptist and each of us. There are a few people who have still never returned to church since 2020 and are sadly missed. We are grateful that the Lord is bringing in new people who we hope we have made feel at home. We thank Him for each of you and look forward to getting to know each of you better. We were very sad to lose our dear Ceciel who had in a very short time become a very important part of our family – she will be missed for a long time. The Lord added to our number in another way recently when Faith and Gibson's daughter, Michaela, was born – Congratulations to you both, we can't wait to meet her. The Lord guide each person attending OBC as you seek how you can best serve Him. We are so blessed to be able to serve him here.

The executive started off the year with a working brunch, this was again very kindly hosted and catered by Keith October, and we spent time making plans and enjoying some fellowship as well.

We came to the decision that most of our fundraising this year should go (after tithing) towards much needed maintenance of the wonderful premises the Lord has given. We feel that this is still in line with our vision from 2 years ago. This is what we are doing with what He has given us:

# **RE** BUILD TURN IMAGINE FOCUS ACT

**RE Build** - To build something again after it has been damaged or destroyed

**RE Turn** - to resume an activity after an interruption; to re-connect

**RE Imagine** - to form a new conception of...

**RE Focus** - to adjust the focus; focus on something new or different

**RE Act** - to act in response to something

The church building was built in 1991. The manse, the pastoral family's home, is at least 88 years old (appears on a 1935 photo). The office block is a bit newer (+/-1998) but also in need of lots of tender loving care especially the roof and one or two windows.

In the manse a number of the windows needed replacing because they were too broken to be fixed. The church building itself will need to be sealed/painted when the weather is drier. We hope that the funds from our Spring Dinner will help with that.

Thank you to all who worked so hard and supported our March Market and other fundraisers. The March Market was a lot of fun and it's always a joy to get to know other people better as you work together with them. The Market brought in an amazing R43 000. Parkhaven Old Age Home, who we are trying to be more involved with this year, were very grateful for the tithe of R4300.00 from these funds that we were able to share with them.

The broken windows, about 12, have been replaced costing R28 350.00 and a few other smaller maintenance issues have also been seen to. Sadly, some of these maintenance expenses have been due to attempted break in and other theft. Thank you again to each one of you helped with fund raising.

We had a beautiful & blessed Easter Banquet Service, and we continue to be blessed every week as we Praise the Lord together and hear wonderful teaching in the form of sermons and Connect Group studies from Pastor and from Tyrone. The most recent study, which we are still busy with, is from Deuteronomy entitled 'It's a Matter of Life and Death'.

Our Elder, Tyrone Fenton, who has been our Worship Leader for a couple of years, has, due to various life pressures, needed to step down as worship leader and Pastor has resumed this role. Tyrone will however continue to assist with preaching and his other usual functions. We are very happy that the Worship Team has grown a bit with some new members and some who are developing/growing other skills as well. We welcome anyone who would like to get involved either as a musician, singer or on the tech side (training provided).

There have been some fun activities in the first half of the year with a wonderful family picnic in Green Point, a Family Hike and of course our annual Soup and Games evening. We would like to thank all who participated as they would not have been a success without you.

On the financial side, the Winter months are proving a bit lean, however, the Lord has always provided for our every need, and we continue to trust in Him to do so again. We encourage you to trust Him in your giving as well.

The AFM (Annual Financial Meeting), in March, was well attended. With sending out financials prior to the meeting, we were able to go through everything swiftly and keep the meeting short. We are grateful to our members that we did not battle to achieve the required quorum. The next AFM is 27 March 2024.

Here are some announcements for you to keep in your planning for the end of the year: The members voted at the AFM on what services we should have for Christmas and New Year. This was done because of how these days fall this year:

## Christmas Weekend

Sunday 24 December - 9am Service

Monday 25 December - 8am Christmas Service

## New Year

Sunday 31 December - 9am Service  
and

Sunday 31 December - Late Afternoon or Evening get together (time still to be decided.)

Praying for every blessing for you and your family as we work our way through the second half of the year.

The Executive



# OTTERY

## BAPTIST CHURCH

**We continue to seek the Lord and His guidance and trust that our body of believers here will grow as more and more come to know Him and are added to our number and we grow and reach out more into communities around us bringing even more to salvation in Jesus our Lord.**

