

## **Baldock Methodist Church 2016**

Our church is in the centre of town on Whitehorse street, set off the road with a small garden in front. Our service starts at 1045am each Sunday morning followed by tea and biscuits. We share services with Stotfold and Arlesey approximately 5 times a year.

We are a close church family and have welcomed several new members in the last year (including four children aged 2-8 years) who have been received into our family and worship with pleasure. We like to include the children when they are present at church. The children stay with the main congregation for the first hymn and then go into the vestry to do activities supervised by a member of the congregation who is usually sat at the back of the church. The children then return to the service for the last hymn and The Lords Prayer. Our junior church is still in its infancy and visiting preachers will be made aware if any of the junior will be attending the service as they love to be included.

As a Methodist Church with a small congregation we are always looking to reach out to other members of the community and to increase awareness of God's presence, celebrate his love and help people grow and learn as Christians. Our church reaches out in a number of ways and is always looking for more opportunities to help. We currently support the following;

- Lunches on the last Friday of the month for the elderly members of our community,
- Host the busy bugs every Friday and Monday (a toddlers music/dance group),
- Each Monday, Thursday and Saturday the upstairs room is used by the AA
- Several choirs use the church extensively to practice their performances.
- We hold the retired standard of the Baldock British Legion and support them in various ways by fundraising raffles and hosting meals.
- We are fortunate to be able to support a number of charities; one of our most recent 'The magic of play appeal' at Lister Hospital. Our junior church held a cake stall to raise funds as the youngest member had needed their help after falling over his sister!. We also pay a subscription to Water Aid from our Lunches.

We are aware our congregation is small and as a church we have decided to be proactive in raising our profile within the community. We recently held our first church meeting (13/06/2016) focussing on upgrading premises, fundraising and growing as a congregation.