

## **Report to the Annual Church Meeting of Rugby Baptist Church –November 2010**

Following recent changes in Charity Law for churches with an income of over £100,000 it is now necessary for the Trustees of the Church to provide an annual report of our activities which will then be forwarded to the Charity Commission along with the Accounts of our Church and associated papers. This is the first such report that Rugby Baptist Church (RBC) has been required to submit.

The Diaconate (Trustees) has met monthly over the course of the preceding year with additional meetings to explore calling a paid second Minister. We have also reported regularly to the Church Meeting, which meets bi-monthly, to discuss, share information and to take decisions together. A full list of our Church Activities and Appointments and a copy of our Church Secretary's Report and Church Accounts are attached. These will give an indication of the wide range of activities we undertake as a Church. Among our principal activities as a Church, however, are 1) Worship and prayer 2) The teaching of the Christian Faith 3) The pastoral care of individuals and 4) Service to the local community and the wider world. More information on what this means in practice can be found in the Reports.

According to recently researched statistics, our Church community has some 189 members (of whom 25 are currently inactive) and a further 64 Adherents (people who worship with us regularly or occasionally). Through our Women's' Fellowship, Luncheon Club and Coffee Morning a further 40 or so people are also in regular contact with us as a Church. In addition to this we also run programmes and activities for some 80 children and young people as well as a Holiday Club programme which also attracts other children between the ages of 5 and 12.

Part of the Trustees' main responsibility is that of ensuring that teams of volunteers are in place to run and deliver our Church's wide-ranging programme of events and activities. A team of leaders attend the Children's and Youth Forum overseen by our Youth Deacon, Graham Ridgway. Pastoral Care is overseen by a new team of around 10 people who work alongside the Minister in a wide range of pastoral care responsibilities. A team of at least 12 people deliver the House groups programme and meet together several times a year to plan this. The Church's new evangelistic Alpha course also involves a team of around 10 people working together to deliver a thoughtful imaginative course of teaching on the Christian faith *and* excellent food! Other examples of teams of volunteers who help to make our service to both church and community possible include those who plan, cook and deliver cooked lunches to around 50 elderly people most Tuesdays of the year; those who serve as volunteers in the ecumenical team that makes the work of Hope 4 among homeless and badly housed people possible; those who have been challenging our Church to become more environmentally-friendly in recent months – the eco-Congregation Task Group; the 15 or so people who make up our children's Holiday Club team and those who operate our church's various coffee and food rotas. In common with Christian Churches the world over so much good work and service is only possible because of the time, dedication and energy of hundreds of such volunteers each year. As the Church's Minister and chair of the Trustees' (Deacons') Meetings it is my privilege to both witness and help to co-ordinate this remarkable levels of commitment week by week throughout the year.

As we look towards 2011, three immediate priorities spring to mind. 1) The most pressing is to find the right person to come and work alongside us all as our Church's first full-time Associate Minister. 2) Linked to this is the need to reassess and also increase our Church's annual budget to make this possible. Until this is done it is the conviction of the Trustees that the Church will not be able to realise its full potential or move beyond a long-standing plateau. Among the changes we are also considering, in the medium-term, are some significant changes to our Church heating and electrical policy and equipment. 3) The main concern of our Trustees, however, in partnership with the Church Meeting, is to continue to oversee the broad range of activities and service, worship and teaching, pastoral care and community concern that has long been at the heart of Rugby Baptist Church. This is, of course, as part of our commitment to '...advance the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination and to advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.'

**Revd Dr Michael I Bochenski (Minister and Chair of the Church's Trustees' Board – the Diaconate)**