

---

**EASTWOOD**  
Baptist Church

AGM 2024

# Eastwood Baptist Church

## 2023 Reports

## For AGM 2024

Also available on our website:-

<https://www.eastwoodbaptist.org.uk>



# Contents

- 1.Ministers Report - Rev Martin Wright
- 2.Secretary's Report - Val Statt
- 3.Treasurer's Report - Andrew Edwards
- 4.Newsletter - Kim Wright
- 5.Sound and Media - Kim Wright
- 6.Website - Kim Wright
- 7.Home Groups
  - > A - Monday Evening - Jo and Neil Keeble
  - > B - Tuesday Morning - Rosie Midson
  - > C - Tuesday Evening - Val Statt
- 8.Fabric - David Flatman
- 9.Friday Club - Rev Martin Wright
- 10.Energize - Rev Martin Wright
- 11.Family Play - Rev Martin Wright
- 12.Tea Services - Rev Martin Wright
- 13.External Tenants - Jo Keeble
- 14.Pastoral Care - Graham and Val Back
- 15.Safeguarding - Rosie Midson
- 16.Women's Fellowship - Linda Rouse/Brenda Pearcey
- 17.Pinocchio's Parent and Toddler Group - Jan Noble
- 18.Men's Breakfast - Graham Back
- 19.Ladies Breakfast - Val Statt
- 20.Foodbank - Sharon Watkins
- 21.Shoeboxes (Samaritan's Purse) - Sharon Watkins
- 22.Social Events - Graham Back
- 23.Flower Ministry - Rosie Midson
- 24.Safe Haven Community Cafe - Graham Back/Jo Keeble
- 25.Sunflowers - Nicky Howard
- 26.Sunday Youth - Susan Blake
- 27.Kintsugi Hope - Jonathan Blake
- 28.Craft Events - Nicky Howard
- 29.Women's Social Group - Kim Wright

# 1. Ministers Report - Rev. Martin Wright

As the Minister of Eastwood Baptist Church, I've been on quite the rollercoaster ride of emotions, experiences, and encounters. From the warmth of people's homes to the corridors of schools, from moments of sheer bliss to the depths of despair, I've journeyed through it all. But amidst it, I've been blessed with the incredible privilege of walking alongside people, sharing the message of hope, and witnessing the transformation that comes with embracing Christ.

To be honest, the heart of this church beats with a rhythm of love that's both awe-inspiring and humbling. From grand gestures to the tiniest acts of kindness, from words that uplift, to hands that reach out in support, I've seen God's love manifested in countless ways. It has moved me, time and time again.

Now, sure, you'll find a rundown of our church's activities and events in the pages that follow. It's all part of staying transparent and accountable as a charity. But let's not get caught up in the logistics. What truly matters isn't just what we do, but who we are—and who we are becoming.

So, as you flip through these pages, take a moment to reflect on the faces behind the scenes—the leaders, the volunteers, the supporters. They're the ones who bring life, with God spirit into our church community, each one a masterpiece in their own right or as Isaiah puts it they are 'a planting of the LORD for the display of His Splendour.

So to those who do not know our church yet, come and see the people, not what they do but who they are. If you are from our church family, Thank you. I have loved this year, seeing and working with you, seeing God work through and grow through you. Thank you for letting me witness this. I have been truly blessed.



## 2. Secretary's Report - Val Statt

I think I can say the life of EBC During 2023 was a very good one, we did have to say farewell to our home grown Rev Jo Hellenbrand and had a joyous time on the 8th January, and of course it meant cake to share!! This was followed up by some of us being able to attend her induction at STBBC on the 5th February.



Thankfully, we have Rev Martin Wright, who has further developed his ministry and led EBC wonderfully well throughout the year. We celebrated with him as he finished his training and now is working through his Newly Accredited Ministry training. Under his leadership and excellent team we have seen our Lord Jesus Christ work within all the groups and occasions that we have held. Martin has led our Friday Club and Energise; Family Play; we had local schools coming to us for their lessons or us going to them at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The Diaconate have also worked hard throughout the year, Andrew, Rosie, Sharon, Val and Graham, Christina, and Jan, and have served to make sure all flows within our church. A word also goes to our Fabric Steward David, who cares I think for every brick we have! Thank you to all the stewards, headed up by Brian who welcome everyone. Plus those who help with refreshments after our services who read and say prayers and to everyone who comes and joins us in making our church the vibrant, welcoming, worshiping place it is. Big Thank you to you all.

Whilst saying thank you, I must also mention Kim, Martin's wife who has been an enormous help with supporting Martin, and our Sound and Media Team, who she has helped train up for our live streaming on a Sunday. Plus our newsletter, Kim also manages our website, [www.eastwoodbaptist.org.uk](http://www.eastwoodbaptist.org.uk)

I do encourage you to take a look and we welcome your feedback!.

We continued with our regular weekly and monthly events throughout the year. Reports of these are included and we have added more photos too, so you can see all that happens.

We are also thankful for the many talents we have within our church and our Lord Jesus Christ has empowered many to share these with us all. Neil, as our Christian Magician has led services, using his skill; Nicky who delights in craft, created 3 events throughout the year, Easter, Adults and Christmas. Graham and Jo, have developed our Safe Haven Cafe; We are also blessed with Simon, Jonathan, Steve and Claire who also led us with their ministering and preaching skills. We also had some visiting speakers; Clare, Michelle, Matthew, and Katie.

Highlights were our dear Brenda B, receiving the Community Champion Award on the 21st April, at Iveagh Hall, On the 6th May, we celebrated the King Charles 111 Coronation, along with our Margaret's 90th Birthday. On the 20th August, Joel and Calla were dedicated. We also gave Cooper a thank you Farewell as he left for University on the 3rd September. He had preached on that day, and had supported our live streaming all the year.



Our church is a family in so many ways and we rejoice with each other as well as console when a friend goes to be with our Lord Jesus Christ. Last year Andrea's husband Ray went to glory. He had in previous years given a lot of support to EBC.

To end it has been a privilege and honour to have the role of church secretary, to help with administration, to give support to a wonderful team and fellowship.

# 3. Treasurer's Report - Andrew Edwards

Annual figures for 2023 were as follows;

## **Income**

Actual £69747.78 budget £56750

## **Expenditure**

Actual £79030.77 budget £68143.52

Unbudgeted expenditure on manse was £11074.10 for new porch and extractor fans.  
So without unbudgeted expenditure on manse we would have nearly broken even.

## **Communion offerings for 2023:**

Christian Hope International £112.00

TWAM £135.00

CAP £140.00

HARP £212.01

Guide Dogs £195.50

International Needs £186.00.

## **Fundraising:**

Carlie Lansley Foundation £251.00

Southend Foodbank £267.35.

Thank you to everybody for their contributions towards the above amounts.

Andrew Edwards

Treasurer, Eastwood Baptist Church

# 4. Newsletter - Kim W.

2023 saw the newsletter being produced through Canva, a design publishing tool. There were two versions of the biweekly newsletter being printed. One being in larger print for easy reading.

From September we moved our bi-weekly newsletter to an email version through Mailchimp. This allows us to contact people in one go and add much more to our newsletters, including links to events and our website. We are also able to see how effective the newsletters are with stats. It was then agreed that for those that do not have email to produce a once a month printed version. We currently print around 20 per month of the larger print newsletter and deliver a small few to people known to us.

Thank you to Rosie and Graham for all of their contributions to the newsletter.

If you would like to receive our newsletter, please speak to Kim.

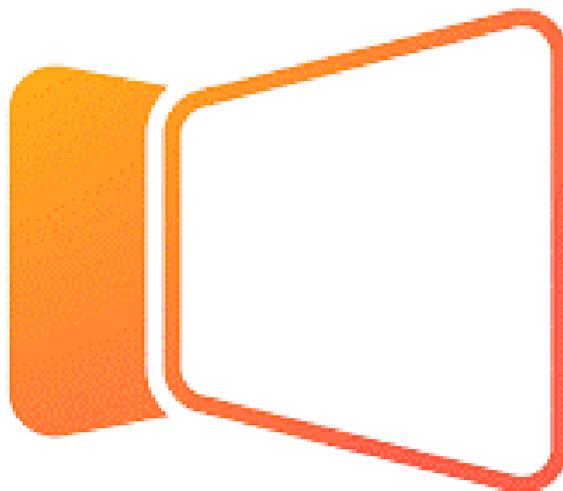


## 5.Sound and Media - Kim W.

In 2023 we were able to build our rota for the live streaming and sound and add to that some wonderful young people who have all worked really hard to learn how to run both the sound and media sections. With the loss of Cooper in September, I want to thank Macie for taking the reins and making sure the training was delivered in a way the young people understood.

We are still looking for volunteers to lighten the load of Neil and Brian who are currently covering every other week when Sunday groups are on.

Our services start with a short video on using our website and then lead on to our weekly notice reel with final countdown. We have tried to make our song backgrounds and slides visually the same, in line with the church logo. Our bible readings are in yellow to help people with visual impairment, Black on yellow are currently deemed the best colours to use. We have also started making larger print words for people to access via a QR code on their phones if the screen is not clear for them.



## 6.Website - Kim W.

Our website has so many possibilities we are not using it to its full potential. All events are added to the site and calendar. We have access to a member only area and a church directory. We use some of the rota functions which allow people to receive an email 2-3 days before they are volunteering for something. Our newsletters are also uploaded here as are photos from events.



[www.eastwoodbaptist.org.uk](http://www.eastwoodbaptist.org.uk)

# 7.Homegroups

## Monday Evening - Neil & Jo K.

We have enjoyed meeting together, although small in number, it gives us the opportunity ( if we feel we want to) to contribute. We are delighted to welcome new friends to our homegroup and look forward to getting to know each other better and sharing how Jesus makes a difference in our lives.

We are grateful to Martin for his thoughtful reflections and questions which prompt our discussions (chats)!

It's a great time together and enables us to go beyond the conversations that we sometimes have on a Sunday morning.

Please feel free to join us- and our dog, who often sits in! It's a good way to start the week



## Tuesday Morning - Rosie M.

We meet in the vestry at the rear of the church and have continued to develop relationships amongst the group as we read and talk and pray together. It has been good to follow Martin's Sunday preaching with further thoughts and teaching and we really value having his weekly sheet to guide this. Our numbers vary but we are consistent in meeting almost every week throughout the year and welcomed those from other groups during the summer when we held a 'book club' style meeting for 6 weeks where we read 'Serving without Sinking' which stimulated some interesting discussion.



## Tuesday Evening - Val S.

New Home groups were started in January 2023 with the congregation invited to join at a time and day to suit. Our Minister Martin gave each group a prayer diary; and a jar of blessings plus some icebreakers to start our groups getting to know each other.

Eg:

“Would you rather have Breakfast for Dinner or Dinner for Breakfast?”

Our group met in 2 homes during 2023, firstly at Jonathan and Susan’s then Margaret’s home. Both made us so welcome. We started our time together with a drink and a prayer before our bible study which had been supplied by Martin. These have been so encouraging and helped us all to gain more from the preaching on a Sunday morning and our discussions.

We then kept a book of our prayers and it was good to reflect back at the end of the year of all the answers we saw from within our group and outside. We ended our time together with a closing prayer and blessing from a little jar that Martin provided:-

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ And the love of God And the partnership of the Holy Spirit Be with all of you”.

During the August break, Nicky invited us down to her beach hut, where we had a lovely time together over cake and tea, smelling the wonderful sea air.

We have grown together as a group and I also started a whatsapp group which has been used to encourage and pray for each other at other times of the week.



## 8. Fabrics - David F.

I am pleased to report we strive to keep the church premises and facilities in good condition. We keep our regular statutory safety requirements (fire, gas and electrics) up to date.

We have had various issues including door adjustment and locks changed on our external doors but these are covered by the maintenance agreement with Hometec, so no cost is involved.

There was a safety concern involving the sanctuary front right hand steps and baptistery, a safety barrier was made up and fitted early in the year. It was varnished to try and match the existing platform woodwork.

The viewing screen was removed from the front of the church and refitted in the vestibule where more people will be able to see church information.

Repairs were carried out to the rear gate and the external handrail by the Nobles Green entrance.

New central programmer has been fitted to the boiler in the lower hall cupboard. The car park hedges are cut and the parking area cleared and tidied as necessary.

Various tubes and light bulbs have been changed as necessary.

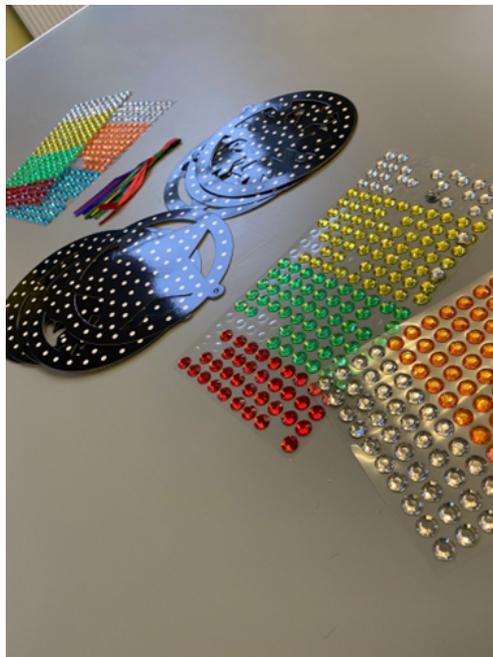
One word of caution: the vestibule roof is showing signs of leakage (it is over 50 years old) so this will be a major concern very soon.



# 9. Friday Club - Rev. Martin Wright

This club is for children in school years reception to year 6.

The group has grown this year and now has a regular group attending. Each session is full of interactive games, crafts and Christian teaching. The highlight of this group was our trip to laser tag and seeing the children grow in confidence throughout the evening. We have also been very encouraged by the children's questions and openness.



# 10.Energise - Rev. Martin Wright

This club is for children in school years 7 to 13.

The group has welcomed some new and younger members who have brought energy and creativity to the community. Each session involves differing kinds of games and challenges as well as Christian teaching. The resource we have been using for the teaching is called Stir which has given the children space to consider their spirituality and hear what Christians believe that to be.

We have ran trips and held sleepovers, all of which have been well attended and lots of fun.



# 11. Family Play - Rev. Martin Wright

The group was ran as an unofficial warm space to support families who may be suffering from the cost of living crisis during the winter months.

The space was created to encourage families to play together through games, challenges and crafts. We also provided a simple meal which the whole group ate together.

Through this group we have built and developed relationships with families from the community and I believe support these families in differing ways.

As with most groups this was ran for a season when the need was greatest and stopped when the weather became warmer. However, this has not stopped the families from being connected to our fellowship and we continue to meet and support one another informally.



## 12. Tea Service - Rev. Martin Wright

Once a month the church has run a Tea Service aimed at those who may struggle to attend the morning service. The songs have been more traditional but with a more contemporary cafe style layout. Over the years this has slowly been declining in attendance and with the development of our streaming service the leadership and members agreed to end this provision.



# 13.External Bookings - Jo K.

Over the last year, we have kept the regular hirers;

- > Tuesday: Pilates - weekly  
New U3A-monthly
- > Thursday: Mum's Night Out - weekly  
PHOLK (cookery skills for young adults with additional needs)- weekly.

Olive Tree held their supervision and training sessions throughout the year and their annual Thanksgiving service in October.

Cake club met on Thursday mornings until May, 2023.

Craft fairs (March /September), Westcliff Baptist Church away day (March), Craft evening (March), a Pamper afternoon (June), Polling Day(May), a 4th birthday party (June) were also held using the Church premises.

Historically, the Church premises are free to hire for Church members.

Please can I remind folk to check with me initially, to ensure their required dates are free so clashes can be avoided.

Prices were revised in June.

Lower hall/ kitchen : £19 /hour

Lower hall/ kitchen/Church sanctuary: £22/hour.

Tea/coffee/squash is provided, free of charge.

Hirers are asked to provide milk etc and their own tea- towels.

Thanks to those who have opened/ closed for me during the year when I have been unavailable.

# 14. Pastoral Care - Graham & Val B.

Pastoral care may involve:-

- Sustaining others through prolonged difficulty or immediate need
- Enabling a person's journey of healing and wholeness
- Supporting someone through the process of reconciliation with self and others
- Offering guidance about resources

A pastoral carer is someone who either formally, as part of a pastoral team, group or network, or informally, as part of their fellowship group or everyday relationships in the community, offers care and support to another.

So we think that, to one degree or another, we are all pastoral carers!

The pastoral needs of our church are supported by the prayers of the members and others in our fellowship, and friends of our church. We send prayer requests via email so that as many people as possible can be involved in the prayer life of the church, including support of the members, their families and friends.

The home groups that were relaunched by Martin early in the year provide an extra layer of pastoral care for those involved in those groups. The diaconate make regular contact with people in our fellowship, especially those not in home groups.

At each deacon's business meeting there is a time of prayer for those where there is a special need. In September this year Martin also restarted the monthly deacon's prayer meetings.

The problems with people's health (both physical and mental) has meant that during the year the need for contact by phone or email continues to be very important.

In last year's report we recognised that in the future there would be an increased need for visits to encourage and comfort those who are unable to get to church through illness or physical needs. This has been evident this year, with more home visits being made, and the need for some creative thinking as to how some members of our church fellowship can still be involved in the life of our church. There have also been several home visits to give communion."

# 15.Safeguarding - Rosie Midson

During the year we have completed Disclosure and Barring Checks for all helping with children's work, youth work or working amongst vulnerable adults. Those who are required to have attended safeguarding update training run by the area Baptist Association.

Any concerns or issues that have been raised with me have been appropriately managed and safeguarding is an agenda item at every deacons meeting. As always we will review the policy statement at our AGM and remind the membership of our corporate responsibilities to all.

*me, you, us*  
*safeguarding is everyone's responsibility*

## 16. Women's Fellowship - Linda R. & Brenda P.

We have continued to meet on Monday afternoons in the Lower Hall. We were unsure how to continue after Rev. Jo Hellenbrand left and we thank Martin for his help and support last January. Brenda P and Linda now lead the meetings with help from Maureen and Monica who contact those who are ill and pray for them on Mondays. We are grateful to Kim for arranging our speakers now and many thanks are due to Andrea for doing this for many years. We made a presentation to her at the end of March. Rosie is now our treasurer and Cecilia continues to play the piano for us each week. We have had some excellent speakers this year and thank those from our fellowship who have come to speak to us. We had many and varied speakers including a visit from Pastor Joshua.

We supported two charities this year, Baby Basics and Motor Neuron disease and were able to give £500 to each.

We enjoyed two cream teas during the summer, one with scones supplied by Kim and the other with strawberries, as well as a visit from Edwards Hall School choir who sang to us.

At Christmas we went to the Oakwood for an excellent Christmas dinner followed by a Carol Service at the Church with Rev. Claire Blatchford speaking to us.

We all really enjoy our meetings and the time spent together. All the ladies come as regularly as possible.



# 17. Pinocchios - Jan N.

We feel that God has really blessed us this year, four new babies have been born and are now a part of our group, much to the delight of Brenda. Numbers have grown, especially on Fridays which was a real struggle at the beginning of the year when some weeks there were more helpers than children! We considered maybe doing things differently etc but after much prayer we now have a really lovely group of families that come on a regular basis.

Each week we have a different craft and this year we have decorated flower pots and planted seeds and bulbs, made fish, trees, sunflowers and bees. We ended the summer term with a bouncy castle party which was enjoyed by all. The year ended with a Christmas party and a visit from Santa.

Please continue to support us in prayer as we get to know and interact with the children and their families and continue to invite them to other activities and services in the church.



# 18. Mens Breakfast - Graham B.

It was a year of some change with our men's breakfasts. At the start of this, our eleventh year, we continued having our breakfasts "in house" at EBC, and up until May had three breakfasts, with guest speakers at two of them, with retiring collections for the charities they favoured.

We had in recent years had our July and December meetings at The Oakwood, to give our cooking team (Andrew and Graham) a break. These still happened as planned, with Hawaiian shirts (July) and Christmas jumpers (December) the suggested "garb"....at the latter the pub gave prizes for the best jumpers...see the photos!!

But for a few reasons we decided that from the second part of the year we would have all our breakfasts at The Oakwood. The main reason for this was our increased numbers! This flowed mainly from conversations with guys at our Walk of Witness at Easter with Eastwood Evangelical Church (Leighfields) and St Laurence Church, which led to increased numbers at our breakfasts, which was starting to make it difficult to cater properly in church. Nevertheless a great challenge, and with a hope for 2024 of having speakers giving their testimonies at some of the sessions again, at that very public space at The Oakwood!



## 19. Ladies Breakfast - Val S.

We held five ladies Breakfasts at The Oakwood pub in Eastwood during 2023. Sally and her staff always look after us all very well and we enjoy a wonderfully cooked breakfast over lots of chat in an unhurried way. Excellent for busy ladies to have some down time on a Saturday morning at 9.30am.

We average around 20 ladies with their daughters sometimes. It is lovely to see our young ladies join us. We have invited ladies from Leighfields church and is open to other friends as well.

This is a popular event and we will continue to meet in 2024.



## 20.Foodbank - Sharon W.

Our food bank has continued to develop and grow over this past year and as the cost of living crisis bites the need for help grows. Southend Food bank has found requests for food boxes rise exponentially. We regularly give out all our stock boxes in one session. A helpful development has been that the full boxes are now delivered to us on a van each week.

The end of year figures, 01/01/23 to 31/12/23 ((2022){2021} figures for comparison) show just how we have grown and also reflect the growing needs of the society we live in.

499 (361) {193} vouchers were issued that fed 1364 (1033) {539} people full meals for three days which works out giving to 788 (588) {321} adults and 576 445 (218) children. In this time period Southend Foodbank have issued 7835 vouchers feeding 20,435 people.

3046 (4686) {4403} Kilograms of food has been donated via Eastwood Baptist Church. That works out at 3.6 % (4.5%) {5.8% } of all the food donated to Southend Food bank.

The Trussell Trust works on the principle that they provide emergency food parcels that will feed a person/family for three nutritionally balanced meals for three days. Guests should not see the foodbank as a permanent source of food. As folk often have a range of needs we try to point them in the direction of other means of support but this is an area that needs expert help.

We give thanks to those who regularly donate much needed goods and money. We recognise the time and love given by all our volunteers. So thank you for your support and helping hands that have made this project what it is. The picture shows our Christmas extras table.



## 21. Shoebox Appeal - Sharon W. & Rosie M.

Both Rosie and Sharon are both involved in this project. Rosie helps with the organisation across different organisations that make up shoe boxes and has a really good picture of what is happening locally and nationally.

This year Sharon was able to attend the coordination meeting held for project leaders at Holy Trinity church in Rayleigh. It was really encouraging to meet up with so many people that support this initiative. There were also lots of ideas for items that could be made to be put into the boxes. I took photos of them and used them in the project launch in church.

In 2023, where the cost of living is really biting, we were so encouraged by collecting in nearly 100 boxes and so kept up the numbers we usually provide. Nationally 237,730 boxes were collected.



## 22.Social Events - Graham B.

Although in recent years, social activities at EBC have tended to be run in the Spring and then in the Autumn, things developed differently this year. Several of our church activities have spread out into regular social events, such as the men's and ladies' breakfasts and mid week evening events, Safe Haven (Community Cafe), Family Play, and Knit and Natter sessions.

Neil also hosted a Christian Magic Evening in January 2023.

All of these normally include some amount of refreshment....hence the picture of a cuppa!

We continue to look at opportunities for further social activities, both for our church fellowship, and for others in our local opportunity



## 23. Flower Ministry - Rosie M.

During the year we have appreciated the beauty of creation in various floral displays.

Many folk have given flowers or money towards the cost of weekly flowers, thank you everyone who donates. Often people choose a special anniversary or memorable date to give flowers, there is a list in the vestibule to which you can put your name.

Your flowers can be arranged for you should you wish, many thanks to the small team who help with this. After the service on Sunday the flowers are given out to be shared and enjoyed.

Money from the flower fund is also used to purchase small tokens which might be given on pastoral care visits.



## 24. Safe Haven Community Cafe - Graham B.

This was a year in which the regular monthly free sessions became more popular, with people coming for purely social reasons alongside others with dementia needs and their carers. Carol F continues to amaze with a seemingly unending run of ideas for craft activities, which are always popular. Graham sets out board and other table games, and quizzes for all to have a go at, and Jo K sorts out refreshments for everyone, often with something special relating to the time of year. The other volunteers make sure that there is always a warm welcome in this safe space. Gradually we started to introduce special activities recognising particular times of the year (Wimbledon, Remembrance with songs of the Second World War era, Christmas).

We have not lost sight of the reason these sessions were originally set up, and include many dementia friendly activities. During the year we continued to be regularly joined by the Dementia Navigator from Southend Council, offering an opportunity for carers to have a chat and get advice while their loved ones were being chatted to by the volunteers. This facility was becoming more used during the year, in enabling carers to better cope with their circumstances

However, in December we learnt that Southend Council was considering significantly reducing the dementia care support facilities, which may mean that we no longer have any help from a Dementia Navigator. The volunteers are determined that the sessions will move forward into 2024, and we will, with God's guidance, seek ways to provide similar, if not better, sessions.



## 25. Sunflowers - Nicky H.

This year, Sunflowers has run every other Sunday during term time. We have a steady number of volunteers to help with this although we would always welcome more. Recently Laura has offered to take the lead once a month to take the pressure off of me and this is very welcome.

Some weeks we have 10 children and some weeks we have two children and one week we had none! So a certain amount of flexibility is needed.

During our Sunday sessions we have welcomed children from age 3 to 11. This brings certain challenges but I usually plan a number of activities to suit differing ages and abilities. I also try to talk separately with the older children so we can deepen the conversation.

The children are all very enthusiastic and will have a go at most things. We pray, read bible stories, sing, play games, do craft and get first dibs on the biscuits! Themes this year have included “Bible Characters”, “Encounters with Jesus” and “Act Justly”.



## 26.Sunday Youth Group - Susan B.

Sunday Youth Group began in September 2023 with an introductory session held in June '23 prior to the school holidays.

It is generally held every 2 weeks during school term times in the upstairs room of the church building.

Currently the group is run by Susan B. with one other adult helper.

Attendees are aged 11-16

Number of attendees varies between 3- 8 young people.

Activities include games, Bible study, crafts and prayer.



## 27. Kintsugi Hope - Rev. Jonathan Blake

A Kintsugi Hope well-being group is a place where people can share how they are feeling, experience support and encouragement from others in a similar situation, learn tools to help self-manage mental and emotional health and find information on additional support if needed. Running over 12 weekly sessions, the group covers issues such as disappointment, loss, anxiety, anger, perfectionism, depression, shame, forgiveness and self-acceptance and is explored through videos, discussion and practical activities.

The first Kintsugi group ran from late Feb - June 2023. It was a daytime (morning) group and had six people attending. The course was fantastic with the group bonding really well. Having completed the course, group members continue to remain in contact, meeting up every 2-3 months for support and prayer.

The second group started mid-Sept 2023. It was an evening group, meeting at the Eastwood Community Centre on a Tuesday evening. We initially had 11 people register an interest in attending this group, with a couple of further enquiries from individuals outside of the church, although we actually started the group with 4 people. Unfortunately, due to a drop in numbers, we took the decision to finish this Kintsugi group earlier than planned. Our hope is to offer participants the opportunity to join a new and larger group, which we hope will be run in the latter part of 2024.



## 28.Craft Events - Nicky Howard

We have had two craft afternoons in December and April, aimed at children and their families although all ages were welcome. In the Summer term we also ran a craft evening for adults (including teenagers). At each event we had eight tables set up with a different craft activity on each one.

For the December event these activities included Christmas cards, Christmas story puppets, Christmas table top decorations, stained glass windows, sewing a binca bookmark or folding a paper gift box.

For the Easter event activities included Easter cards, Miniature Easter garden, sewing an egg cup cosy, woolly pom pom chicks, Easter bonnets or decorated biscuits.

We noticed that at the other two events that some of the parents really wanted to try the crafts but this is difficult when you are looking after young children so during the Summer term we held an adult crafting event. In the end it was mostly church families and friends who attended (maybe babysitting was an issue). Activities included, bead bracelets, knitting, a jigsaw, stone painting, colouring and sewing a felt bookmark.

These events ran for two hours or more but took about an hour to set up and an hour to clear up. Luckily we had a team of about a dozen helpers at each event setting up tables, baking cakes, chatting to visitors, serving refreshments, helping children with the crafts and clearing up.

At each event we were able to welcome a steady flow of local families and had opportunities to have some really meaningful conversations. We had the opportunity to build relationships with the local community and we are seeing familiar faces return for each event. I personally have had a very meaningful conversation and prayer time with a mother in need at each event.



# 29. Women's Social Group - Kim W.

We are nearly a year into our women's social group and so far, it seems to be going well. All updates are on the WhatsApp group with a real emphasis on people making plans to do things together.

In 2023 we gathered at homes for social time, visited the theatre, had meals out, a jazz evening, a craft evening and a family time at the fireworks.

If you would like to join us, please do speak to Kim.



# Contact Us

## Eastwood Baptist Church

☎ 01702 520 617

✉ [enquiries@eastwoodbaptist.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastwoodbaptist.org.uk)

🏠 Nobles Green Road,

Eastwood,

Leigh-On-Sea,

Essex

SS9 5PY

🌐 [www.eastwoodbaptist.org.uk](http://www.eastwoodbaptist.org.uk)

