

BARNOLDSWICK GOSPEL MISSION

VALLEY GARDENS BARNOLDSWICK LANCASHIRE BB18 5HT

Website: www.barlickmission.org.uk

Church Building Newsletter

Our present building in Valley Gardens (pictured right) is a former RAF barrack hut which was purchased and erected as the first permanent place of worship for the fellowship in 1958.



This building has served the church well for the last 50 years but it is now nearing the end of its useful life, and is also no longer adequate for the needs of the fellowship.

We need increased floor space to accommodate those presently attending the meetings comfortably and safely, and to allow for incremental growth. There is also a need to provide disabled access into the building, a disabled toilet, and hygienic kitchen facilities which can cater adequately for the numbers attending the meetings that are presently held. As a temporary solution we have, since 2002, been holding our Sunday morning service at the Civic Hall, a local authority venue.

Over the last 15 years we have, from time to time, explored many options, and most recently in 2005 we obtained planning permission for the construction of a new building on the Valley Gardens site. However the leadership, and many in the fellowship, have felt uneasy about pursuing this as a viable option, particularly due to vehicular access and parking difficulties that are always going to be present in that location, and also due to the fact that the significant expenditure required would not be readily recoverable because of a restriction in the deeds that would prevent the site being used for anything other than a place of worship.

In April 2007 a 'season of prayer' was held to come before God and seek His guidance on the way forward concerning our need for permanent long term accommodation. As that season of prayer began we became aware of an opportunity to purchase a former warehouse and office building on Wellhouse Road Barnoldswick. This building (pictured below) has the potential to provide accommodation that would be adequate for our needs, is in a more accessible location, and has parking facilities on site.

Preliminary negotiations have been successfully concluded for the purchase of this building and we now have to:-

- Obtain Planning Permission for change of use to a place of worship and
- Raise the necessary funds to complete the purchase and carry out alterations and refurbishment to make it fully functional as a church building.



Pastor: Revd. P.J. Standley, 6 Rylstone Drive, Barnoldswick, Lancashire, BB18 5RG Tel: (01282) 814705

This Newsletter is to inform you of this opportunity and to ask for your fellowship in prayer and financial support.

Firstly, please would you pray for confirmation that this opportunity has been provided by God at just the right time for us. Pray also that the planning permission would be granted and that the necessary funding would be forthcoming to enable this opportunity, if it is indeed of God, to be realised and enable the fellowship to move on in its ministry to the town of Barnoldswick.

A modern building with the appropriate facilities would enable the church to serve the local community better and permit expansion into areas such as lunch clubs for the elderly and groups for those with special needs. Our vision is for a seven day a week Church with someone present throughout the week so that people could drop in, feel secure, accepted, listened to, and helped according to their need.

Secondly, we would ask that you prayerfully consider standing with us financially by making a gift towards the funding that will be needed.

Barnoldswick Gospel Mission is self-supporting, relying on the free will offerings of its membership (presently numbering 43) and others attending the various meetings. The Church employs a full time Pastor as well as financing the activities of all the groups and events presently run. No charge is made for entry to any of the meetings. 10% of the total income for each year is transferred to a Missionary Fund for donations to Missionary causes.

We believe that giving is an act of worship and a sacrifice to God. Biblical giving is not done in return for goods or anything else so we do not hold fund raising events. We believe that fundraising should be by free will offering to the church, and by making our project known to appropriate grant giving bodies and organisations. "Each man must give as he has decided in his heart, not under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7

We have been preparing for new church premises for some years and, predominantly as a result of donations from our Members, both regular and on special gift days, we have so far accumulated a fund of £130,000 towards the project, which is approximately 50% of the initial purchase cost. Our target is to raise a further £170,000 to cover the balance of this and the cost of alterations and refurbishment.

Any gift, however small, will be greatly appreciated, and a separate response form is available for your use.

If you would like further information concerning the project please do not hesitate to contact the Church Secretary:-

Christopher Jackson, Arley House Thornton-in-Craven, Skipton BD23 3TU
Tel: 01282 844472 ~ email: Jackson@arleyhouse.freeserve.co.uk

Even if you are unable to consider making a gift at this time we would value your prayers for us as we seek to move forward in the will of God.

May 2007

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