



Ebenezer Chapel and SBC

September 2024

EARLY EBENEZER

Ebenezer Chapel was built in 1879 by George Foster Esq. of Sabden as the sister church of our very own Sabden Baptist Church. The building itself remains the property of the Baptist Union with the primary understanding that Christian fellowship would remain the core life of the building in the community. For many years now, the building remained in use in the community as a church, community centre and also a café.

OUR RECENT UNDERTAKING

For some time now, there had been decreasing Church activity at Ebenezer Chapel/Church. In the absence of this activity, the North West Baptist Union is powerless to prevent the Baptist Union from selling the building, thus ensuring it's loss and value to the community forever – a significant loss, for the name “Ebenezer” means “Stone of Help” linked to the stone Samuel called Ebenezer set between Mizpeh and Shen in 1 Samuel 7:12 with the declaration “Thus far the Lord has helped

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us". The Lord's help is as essential in our world today as it ever has been. Supported by the North West Baptist Union, SBC worked with Graham Vernon to start to re-establish church activity within the building and the community. As our sister church, it was our fervent hope that we could rebuild the relationship that our former members once established. Unfortunately, staffing and financial challenges overwhelmed the endeavour and the alliance.

HOPE REIGNITED!

God, ever amazing, but unsurprisingly so, has brought Joanne Brindle across our path. Joanne previously ran the café from the building, a service to the community which, unfortunately, has also since stopped. Fortunately though, Joanne has the strong desire, and the ability on multiple levels, to work with us and the North West Baptist Union to rebuild the church and community use of Ebenezer Chapel/Church over the coming 3 years! Like with anything that looks positive, hopeful and fruitful for Christ, we are always aware that the Devil is ready and waiting for the opportunity to undermine our ways and plans for keeping Jesus and His Good News through His finished works ever-present and relevant. At this time therefore, it is more important than ever, that we pray – not only for the Lords guidance and wisdom in this journey, but for His protection over us, the communities and this journey. Additionally, like some of our members have already done, there is the ability to become a dual member of Ebenezer church, and be a real part of it's future.

We hope that this information is helpful and it is our wish to keep you updated. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with confidence to any of the Deacons.