



Joint Western Arun Area Committee Community Initiative Fund application



CLC Reference: 416/JWAAC

Local Councillor: David Edwards

Status: Fundraising Stage

Overfunding enabled (refer to 'what we'll deliver' section)

Project Cost: £11,066.00

Project Title: Bognor Church toilet facilities

About:

Our building is used by local community groups, charities, and ourselves to positively impact the lives of local people. We wish to remodel our toilets creating a disabled toilet and baby change. Research shows that loneliness and social isolation are harmful to our health (Holt-Lunstad, 2015). The activities and events that take place in our building have a positive impact on people's lives by connecting them with each other in both formal and informal groups. We have a number of church-based activities open to the community, including Table Tennis, Running groups, Knit and Knatter and coffee mornings that connect people and build relationships that help to combat social isolation and loneliness. we also run youth groups, parenting courses and open the church to those who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day. We will shortly be starting a Story Sack Project run by a speech and language therapist to encourage parents to read with their children. The building is also used by statutory groups and charities to provide more formal support to parents and families and connect people with useful information services.

Project Delivery Manager: Bognor Regis Baptist Church

About me:

We are a growing church made up of people from all walks of life and from different backgrounds and cultures. Our name reflects our belief that for all of us, whoever we

are, the door to God is wide open. It's an open gate to God's love, to relationship with Him and with one another. The door is open to our communities and our world: all of God's creation and all of His children. Bognor Regis Baptist Church, known as Opengate Church, is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The church was established in 1902 and moved to its existing site in 1964. Our church has a strong family focus and our objective is to make a positive difference to the lives of those who live in the Bognor area. In addition to those who regularly attend on a Sunday we have contact with over 200 families, including those recently moved from Eastern Europe, and offer them Toddler groups, a dedicated nursery, and midweek activities. Our marriage and parenting courses are open to anyone and we offer pastoral support to people who are connected with the church in any way.

Website: <http://www.opengate.org.uk>

Why we're pitching for a pledge:

This will enable us to help and connect people within the local community, improving people's wellbeing and building relationships.

What we'll deliver:

- Refurbish our toilet facilities
- Build a new disabled toilet to make groups more accessible to those with specific needs
- Improve our baby change facilities to make life easier for parents and carers of young children

How any extra funds raised from overfunding will be spent:

- Furnishing for toilets – baby change table, soap dispensers, toilet roll holders, paper towel holders

Why it's a great idea:

Whilst almost a fifth of the population say they are always or often lonely almost two thirds feel uncomfortable admitting to it (British Red Cross and Co-Op, 2016). Providing these activities in a community hub allow people to connect with others without having to be seen as being lonely. The activities and events that take place in our building have a positive impact on people's lives by connecting them with each other in both formal and informal groups, helping to combat loneliness and social isolation. We have a strong focus on families, running our won projects and providing space for external projects that improve the mental health and well-being of parents of young children. Improving our toilet facilities will both provide a better environment for these activities to take place and by remodelling, will allow more of these activities to take place at the same time.

Steps to get it done:

- Refurbish the toilets