

## A Time for Change

Eynsford Baptist Church has been part of village life since 1775 when it began in the home of a Mr Hodges, after which it moved to some stables in Priory Lane. The first building on its present site was constructed in 1806 and it was replaced by the present building in 1906. So, after several transformations, it is just 5 years away from being 250. And now it is time for yet more change.

Firstly, the time has come for the current pastor, Chris Moffett, to retire. Secondly, the leadership and membership have come to the view that rather than seek a replacement for Chris, the church should amalgamate with another local Baptist Church just six miles away in Dartford. At the time of writing, this is not a “done-deal”. The formal process will take a few months. The *one-new-integrated-church* with a single identity, will operate in two locations under the same leadership, sharing resources and connecting for worship together with the help of the Internet. Both churches feel that so much more is to be gained by being together than by being separate. Most importantly we feel that this is the way God is leading us onward in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

At the moment, with Covid restrictions, the church is unable to meet as it used to. In a paradoxical way this is providing an interlude for the necessary changes to be worked through. But in the fulness of time there will be a return to regular worship and teaching, coffee mornings, monthly lunches and Advent Crafting in addition to many new initiatives and provision. Connecting with those beyond the current church community will be high on the agenda. So, watch this space!

Chris is especially grateful to the many in the village – the other churches and in the community, for their friendship and partnership over recent years. Very recently he had a phone call from someone asking the question, “Is Eynsford a good place to live?” He gave the enquirer an emphatic, “Yes!”

CJM

### Church Meetings

Normal activities, including hiring, will be resumed as soon as it is safe to do so!