

# **BAPTIST CHURCH & THE CORNERSTONE**

## **'Free Church – Free Church'**

From an article in the Baptist newspaper – Sept 2010  
Author unknown

Birchington Baptist Church has been given a new building. In September 2008 a local evangelical church closed, and offered their premises to the Baptist Church – as a gift. This included the premises and all the contents.

The Minister, the Revd. Bob Goode, said, "The offer from THE Cornerstone Church was absolutely overwhelming, and we thank God for it. We will be holding our morning services at the new church, as we need the space - and our evening services will still be on familiar ground in our other church building in Crescent Road". The Baptists have been meeting in Crescent Road since 1924.

In June 2010 they held their first morning service in the new premises, starting with a noisy procession between the two buildings. The church is already used for a weekly evening club for 7-11 year olds, and they are looking forward to it being used much more, including a parent and toddler group and a drop-in centre.

The premises opened as a Public Hall in 1902, and since then it has been a cinema, a nightclub, a bingo hall and a social club, until it became home to the Cornerstone Church in 2000. A couple of weeks before the recent opening, the Baptist Church discovered they had gone full circle. In 1923 the Baptist Church began a series of evening meetings in the Public Hall. Bob said, "Some folk found the idea that we were 'coming home' to be a real help at a time of change."