

# Elder's Report

We stand on the threshold of a new era in the life of Oasis Christian Centre. From that initial prayer meeting some 11 years ago we dared to believe, trust and follow God. So before a brick is demolished from the bungalow or a digger scoops the first bucketful of soil from the ground let's not forget the pioneers of this church who almost 40 years ago dared to believe and follow God.

We, like them are building on the foundations laid by God himself in Redditch, let's also not forget those who were at the start of this work who through choice, calling or circumstance are no longer fellowshiping with us. They served and gave through time, effort and sacrificial giving. Others who too gave financially, some who actually had not even set foot in our present building but have heard about the building project. All have made an investment of one sort or another in the furthering and enlargement of the Kingdom of God. In due time they will see a reward for their investment, the rewarder being God himself.

Our move to Birchensale was forced by growth, we know that God causes the growth. It was not without it's challenges both personally and logistically, a big thank you to all who were and are still able to help facilitate the Sunday morning meetings, our move back from Birchensale seems long overdue but during this time we have grown both spiritually and numerically. It has been a time where new structures have been put in and are being built upon, members have stepped up and stepped into new roles and taking new steps in their Christian walk. Our younger generation have a better future to look forward to and they in turn, God willing, will step into new roles. It really is vital that we encourage them and continue to be good role models for them.

We can now look forward with renewed confidence in God, Our reliance has been totally on and in Him. We may have found favour with the town council and certain influential individuals but they I'm afraid are subject to change where as God is unchangeable.

Yes we will continue to pray for and work alongside those in authority in Redditch, that's our duty, more importantly we should remain independent in our reliance and trust in Him alone. In doing so we will not be compromised and will be free to do God's will in this town without fear or constraint by man to make us do otherwise. Oasis Christian Centre will continue but in a greater measure to be a place where all ages find hope, refreshment and direction for their lives. Our opportunities to care and do good and show Gods love in this town and the wider world are in Him and for his Glory, it will not be without commitment, hard work and challenge but little in this life is, knowing that, and more importantly who it's for makes it worthwhile, rewarding and glorious.

Personally I look forward to moving back to Oasis Christian Centre so I will be able to spend time speaking to many of you after the services and not be constrained by time and clearing away, additionally it will be nice to be able to take my dog for a longer walk on a Sunday Morning.

My thanks go to all who have prayed, encouraged and supported Ellen, Amy

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and myself, I will continue to serve you to the best of my ability and apologise for any shortcomings in my role

John Hill.