



Weekly Prayer Focus: 13th October 2024 Earls Colne Baptist Church

Earls Colne Baptist Church is a tiny fellowship on the road between Colchester and Halstead reaching out to a number of local villages. ECBC is led by Deacons Cynthia and Judy, assisted by moderator Rev Peter Thomas and longstanding friend of the church Michelle Tennens.

In April 2023 they had to stop using their substantial premises pending essential repair works. They continued faithfully in hope and prayer and after meeting in their manse for more than a year, the church are thrilled to be back holding weekly Sunday morning services in their small hall again. These are already bringing in new visitors. They hope to resume activities like the Chatterbox toddler group in the large sanctuary very soon.

When it opened, ECBC's impressive mid-Victorian building was the largest Baptist church in Essex. However it now requires major repairs. Looking to the future, the church are in the early stages of finding a developer who will work with them to reconfigure the space, maintaining the existing exterior while adding mezzanine floors to create a multi-use site. Promising possibilities include residential or office space alongside a substantial hall and meeting rooms for church and community use suitable for the 21st century.

Pointers for prayer:

- That the fellowship will continue to grow numerically as well as spiritually.
- That Chatterbox and other activities will thrive once they are back in the building again.
- That a suitable developer can be found who will share the church's vision for the future.
- For finance for ongoing essential repairs.