

## **PRESS RELEASE FROM CEMETERY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, SHEFFIELD**

**16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**

### **Baptist Church can plan for the future thanks to the National Churches Trust**

Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Sheffield, is among twelve churches across the UK to have been awarded a Project Development Grant from the National Churches Trust, the UK's church repair and support charity. With its Victorian Romanesque design and large rose window, as well as its twin towers, this Grade II Listed building is thought to be modelled on Bloomsbury Baptist Church in London.

Project Development Grants, a new funding stream, allow churches to develop and plan high quality repair and community projects. This includes getting expert advice in making applications for grants to major funders to help pay for structural repairs and the installation of modern facilities.

As well as worship, Cemetery Road Baptist Church is used for English classes, asylum support, lunch club and FoodCycle community meals, choirs, university groups, Al-Anon and mental wellbeing support, pantomimes and exhibitions.

The National Churches Trust's Project Development Grant of £10,000 will be used to decide how best to make even more use of the church. The church will produce a 'master plan' to decide the best alterations to the building, and work out a funding plan. Aims are to fix damp, install an energy efficient heating system, accessible toilets and storage, and to restore parts of the interior.

**[Clare Bonson](#), Chair of the Church's Property Advisory Group, on hearing of the National Churches Trust Grant said:**

"This is amazing news. Praise God! The grant is a wonderful springboard for delivering our vision that our buildings will provide first-class, sustainable facilities to support the church's worship and ministry in the local community. We want the buildings to be a great place for Christians to come together, for worship and fellowship, and to show and share the good news of God's love, by getting to know our neighbours, regardless of faith."

**Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust said:**

"Finding out what work is necessary, and how much it will cost, is one of the hardest parts of planning a major repair or modernisation project for churches. With the help of the National Churches Trust, congregations can help ensure the future of their building for many years to come."

**Ends**

**For further details contact:**

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**Notes to the editor:**

1. About Cemetery Road Baptist Church  
Napier Street, S11 8HA. Registered Charity (No 1132964):

Its purpose is to follow Jesus Christ and make Him known. Its vision is to be a growing, thriving, nurturing family of God. It has a growing international congregation with 160 members and 120 refugees and asylum seekers. It is available 7 days a week, 9.00 am - 9.00 pm and each week around 250+ people attend 5 Worship Services with 5 fellowship groups meeting fortnightly mid-week.

The church acts as an essential community hub. In the past 12 months, the building hosted over 250 services of worship, 1 wedding, 56 baptisms, 11 funerals and Christmas parties for over 120 refugees and asylum seekers.

During 2017, the church hopes to appoint a Young People's and Families' Pastor and a Farsi Support Worker. On 8<sup>th</sup> February, at 12.00 noon in the church's Hall, the successful launch of the Sharrow FoodCycle Community Meal will be celebrated - All welcome!

For further details see <http://www.crbchurch.org.uk/>

2. About the National Churches Trust:

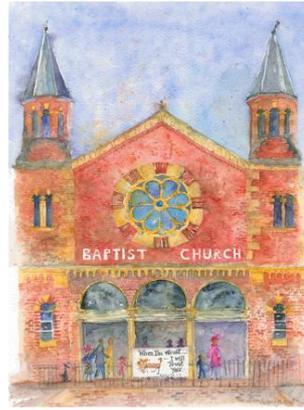
The National Churches Trust is the national, non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting and promoting churches of all Christian denominations in the UK.

It aims to:

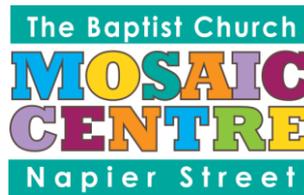
- a) Provide grants for the repair, maintenance and modernisation of Church buildings
- b) Act as a catalyst to improve and bring resources to the management of Church buildings
- c) Promote the value of Church buildings to the community at large.



Clare Bonson,  
Chair of Church Property Advisory Group



Watercolour painting of Cemetery Road Baptist Church by local artist, Victoria Butterell (Copyright CRB Church)



Proposed name for the Church's community facilities



Damp and dry rot in Ron's Room Café:  
Needing roofing repair and kitchen re-fit



A church with two spires:  
Entrance lacking disabled access



"Closed for business" appearance, Napier Street entrance: Making people feel they are "crossing a threshold"



Old heating system needing replacement & relocation: Creating space for accessible toilets