

Thornborough Methodist Chapel

March 2025 Annual Report to Thornborough Parish Council

We are happy to report that the chapel has had another good year and is doing well.

Chapel Structure: Built in 1903, the chapel has recently undergone some much-needed maintenance. The roof has been re-tiled and insulated, a new notice board installed, and some further improvements done inside leaving the chapel in good condition.

Membership: There are 24 adult members with other attendees giving a healthy average congregation of around 20 to 25. Our congregation comes not only from Thornborough but also from surrounding villages and Buckingham. Newcomers to our chapel will always receive a warm welcome.

Services: The Chapel holds a service every Sunday morning followed by refreshments in the lounge. We continue to enjoy a monthly shared service with St Mary's Church, alternating the venue between chapel and church each month (although we stay in the chapel over winter). We have a good relationship with the church which we value.

Messy Church: The Chapel, along with the church, holds a Messy Church for children from babies to 11 year olds and their parents on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the chapel room.

Drop-In: The weekly Drop-in is on Wednesday mornings between 10.30am – 12.30pm and is held in the lounge at the rear of the chapel. We meet for a chat and free refreshments and is open to all. It is well attended with numbers varying between 12-20 on average. In the summer we sit out in the chapel garden. Once a month the Drop-in also holds a Bring and Buy sale.

Meet & Eat: The monthly lunch, also open to all, is held usually on the first Monday of the month and continues to be well-attended with around 20 regular attendees from Thornborough and the surrounding area. For £6 you get a two-course meal followed by tea/coffee.

Lyrics and Lunch: The Chapel runs a very successful 'Lyrics and Lunch' group on the last Monday of the month. This centres on providing a space for family or carers to come with their loved ones with dementia, to share singing well-known popular songs and have a light lunch such as soup and cake along with tea/coffee and a short thought for the day. It provides a support and social group for the carers especially and a safe place for those with dementia.

Chapel Meeting Room: We have a lovely meeting room at the rear of the chapel (which can be hired out) complete with modern kitchen and toilet facilities, including wheelchair access to one of the toilets. In the main chapel there is an Induction Loop system for the hard of hearing.

Garden: The beautiful chapel garden is always open and villagers may come and sit in peace and enjoy it. In 2023 it took part in Open Gardens and will do so again this year.

Fun Run: We love to support this great village event each year by providing tables, chairs and refreshments and the use of our toilets.

Other: The chapel has also been used as a polling booth for elections on a number of occasions.

We love to serve the village and publish all our activities in the Thornborough News magazine. We thank the people of Thornborough for its support and we are always available to try and meet your needs.

Les Davis

Thornborough Methodist Chapel