



Letter to Brixham Baptist Church Members and Congregation.

30.10.2024

Darrell Holmes our Pastor believes that God is calling him to be pastor to the town of Brixham, not just the church, and to reduce from full-time church pastor (5 days) to part-time (4 days). This will free him to spend more time with people outside the church. He does not yet know specifically how this additional day spent in Brixham or Torbay will be used, but is seeking to step out in obedience confident that the Lord will open doors. He may take on a town chaplaincy and/or a hospital chaplaincy role or indeed something else. He may receive a grant or salary for that role and requires permission from the church members to have an alternative income source. Both Darrell and Lucy are happy to reduce financial support from the church by 20%.

The leaders support this proposal which will be brought to the church members' meeting for approval on 26<sup>th</sup> November. It seems to be an exciting new opportunity and way of working which the Lord is leading us into. That may cause us to be anxious, but if we sense the Lord's leading then we do need to "*trust in Him*". Obviously, there will be areas within the church to which Darrell will need to reduce his commitment or hours. We already have a staff team of three, sharing flexibly in the pastoral role of the church, and we have others who can share in pastoral support, leading services and preaching. In January this year, church members agreed to appoint Colin Opie as non-stipendiary associate pastor for an initial period of two years from 1/2/24 working flexibly 2 days a week. Maria Orton is employed 25 hours a week as Children, Youth and Families Pastor. All three of our pastors usually work more hours than their contracts.

We believe that as a church we need to be making a difference in our town. Some are doing this through their links with other groups and individuals in the town. Some are doing this through church activities. We all need to be *shining for Jesus, sharing Jesus and shaping our community for Jesus*. Darrell is following the call God has shown him. We all need to be following God's call for us as individuals too.

Darrell and Colin would like to make it clear that although they do not work seven days a week, they are happy to be contacted on their days off in urgent cases. We would like to express our appreciation to Darrell, Colin and Maria for all their care, love and work both inside and outside the church.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to one of our leaders or pastors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Andrews". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julia Andrews (Church Secretary)  
On behalf of the church leaders and pastors