



# Silchester Methodist Church

## EBENEZER NEWS

Autumn 2014

Our Ebenezer project, now in its 4th year, continues to stretch our resources in respect of volunteers' time and skills, and of course our finances, so we extend our heartfelt appreciation for all the prayers, support, expressions of faith and many kindnesses offered through gifts and donations for it.

One part of the project currently is to replace the inefficient electric heating with gas central heating throughout our church building. We are now in a position to agree finer details with a contractor and seek grants. We do have more than half the cost already saved or received in donations.

Of course our major work has been in our garden. This year it has become greener due to new areas of planting, existing and new plots displaying colourful flowers or sensory plants, recycling waste and fitting water butts with links to rainwater pipes. Our ambitious targets to complete the higher rock water feature **and** the adjoining Arid zone flat shingle and rock areas has been achieved. The two zones merge and are now fully planted with bamboos, palms, grasses & flower beds and rockery plants.



We didn't stop there! We now have a base laid for a garden shelter / gazebo; a tidied up corner for a conservation area; and a semi-paved area under the single oak tree in readiness for a seated area—hopefully with oak-crafted furniture and oak artifacts to look at. (We will need your help to source these—please get



in touch.) Also the large cross featuring Christ's silhouette has been installed .... Quite stunning to see! Other things still to complete in our garden are: the Sunken Garden Zone; the Shelter; a recycling corner; gaps to be closed in our boundaries; and a Welcome Area from the car park to our garden. This later area will feature the original Ebenezer gate (see our logo).

Major garden preparation work ceased during the summer months to allow friends more access to the garden during events such as Cream Teas in June & July and children's Holiday Club. Wedding ceremonies took full advantage of the extra "room". Our working parties meet regularly to keep the garden tidy. We are delighted by our visitors' appreciation of this project and our achievements so far. If you are this way drop by—our garden is always open.