

PRE-SERVICE REVEAL OF BEAUTIFUL BESPOKE PREACHING DESK

In January 2021 when, through God's grace, our first worship service took place in the new church building, there were understandably a few fixtures and fittings still to be sourced. Recently, at the start of the morning service on Sunday 14th August 2022 a final key item was unveiled by Pastor Tim Gamston and put to immediate use.

A key location in the church is the position from which God's Word the Bible is expounded to the congregation. Since the post-pandemic resumption of services, a basic music stand was pressed into service pending the arrival of a newly commissioned bespoke preaching desk.

Amongst the church leadership, Broadstone Baptist is blessed to include elder Clive Baines whose occupation is as a full time, self-employed, premier furniture designer and maker. Over many years his top-flight woodworking skills have been to the benefit of the church on numerous occasions.

Clive submitted a few sketched designs for the new preaching desk to the diaconate and the selected design received unanimous support. Clive began the project, with the sculpted design loosely representing a pair of hands lifted heavenwards in praise.

The desk is made in oak which Clive tells us is one of his favourite woods to work with. The frame base and top are in solid common oak, with the tapered sides and front laminated in ply over a curved jig, then over veneered in English "brown oak". The final finish on the preaching desk is 20% acrylic, which is then waxed over.

English "brown oak" takes its colour from a fungus, which attacks the roots of the trees, causing the wood to assume a chocolate brown hue, which often appears as streaks rising-up from the base of the tree and tapering out further up the trunk. In affect the tree is starting to die and rot but catching the tree in this state is unknown until you fell the tree.

The Cross on the front of the desk is also made in oak, but to achieve the contrast it has been scorched, bronze brushed and sealed with acrylic. What is lovely is that the cross is made up of off-cuts retrieved from the making of the huge cross on the front of the building, which sits on the same centre line.

On behalf of the church family thank you Clive for our new centrepiece.

