

RELEASE DATE: 24th March 2024

## Once again, we host one of the FIEC Regional Conferences

As you are probably aware, Broadstone Baptist Church is affiliated to the nationwide organisation: The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. (The FIEC). As the name suggests the FIEC is a network of member churches across England, Scotland and Wales. Founded in 1992, their mission is to see those churches working together with the big vision: "To reach Britain for Christ." The network currently includes 645 churches and a growing family of 55,000 members.

Between February and June this year the FIEC are holding twenty-seven "local" conferences at member churches across the country. Pastors attending are encouraged to bring whoever they think may find the conference helpful: women in ministry, elders, deacons, ministry wives, youth workers, or others. The theme at all the 2024 events is: "How we minister as those justified by grace."

The FIEC know there is great value in leadership teams coming together to these kinds of events, and the hope is that the local nature of the conferences will allow teams of leaders to join in from local churches.

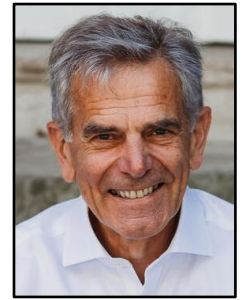
The challenge for the conferences in 2024 is, *"Whilst believing in justification by grace alone, through faith alone – but how does that message change how we do ministry? How does it combat the drift towards 'proving ourselves' by our ministry? How does it change how we live and lead as teams of elders, staff, and others?"*

Last year we hosted the South Western regional conference and just days ago on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March we hosted the 2024 event at York Road. Numbers were up this year and we welcomed thirty-five delegates from associate FIEC member churches in Dorset and surrounding counties.



Delegates travelled to join us from as far afield as Salisbury, Street, Southampton, Crewkerne, Portsmouth, Weymouth, the Isle of Wight, New Milton, Poole, Bournemouth, Verwood and Ferndown.

This year's event was led by John Samuel (picture right) who lives in Southampton and serves as FIEC's Director for Hampshire and Dorset, supporting church leaders in the area and helping churches work together to reach the region for Christ. The FIEC encourages church leaders to build fruitful gospel relationships across towns, cities and regions and these local conferences are a big part of the process.



After coffee and refreshments on arrival and time to mingle, the delegates moved into the main hall, having been given a "Proving Yourself?" workbook – see picture below.

During the conference the delegates explored how justification by grace changes affects individual pastoral ministry.

The timetable was split into three sessions with refreshments and comfort breaks between.

Session One:- "Understanding Justification".

Session Two:- "Applying Justification".

Session Three:- Video & Discussion "Realising Justification".

After a hot buffet BBC lunch the delegates headed off home.

