

Introduction to the Strict Baptists

Among Baptists there are two main differences, one is doctrinal and the other is a question of church order. The doctrinal difference arose around the doctrines of predestination and redemption and the church order issue arose over who was to be admitted to the Lord's table or communion service.

Following the Reformation, most Protestant churches in Europe agreed in the Biblical teaching that God made choices in eternity about who should be saved. This teaching has become associated with John Calvin and some now call this emphasis 'Calvinist' or what came to be known as 'particular redemption'. Other Christians in the seventeenth century began to follow the teachings of Arminius, a Dutch Reformed pastor, who taught that God did not make choices in eternity and people had free will to choose if they became Christians or not and that Christ had died for everyone.

There were Baptists in both camps of this divide and those who followed the 'particular redemption' teaching became known as Particular Baptists. Those who did not become known as General Baptists.

Both Baptist groupings had differing ideas about how to order the church. Most churches wanted to restrict the communion to those who had been baptised as believers and a minority wanted to open the communion to all believers whether they had been baptised as adults or as infants. The ones who practised a restricted communion became known in later times as Strict Baptists.



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(Please visit the website for rules of the Society and to download an application form)

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The Strict Baptist HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Formation

The Strict Baptist Historical Society was formed in November 1960 to promote an interest in the history and stand for Scriptural truth by Strict Baptists. A library was begun with 120 donated books, pamphlets and reports and has continued to grow ever since. It was initially housed in 'Ebenezer' Chapel, Fulham until 1973 when the chapel closed and it transferred to Derby Road Chapel, Croydon and then a move was made to its present position in Dunstable in 1985.



Aims

1. To encourage the preservation of all books, documents and materials of historical interest connected directly or indirectly with the Particular Baptists and the Strict Baptists.
2. To collect, collate and catalogue all matters of interest from the material received.
3. To promote and disseminate by all means a better knowledge of denominational history.
4. To further the exchange of historical information.



**Suffolk and Norfolk Strict Baptist
108th Conference,
Wattisham, June 1938**



Membership

Membership is open to any who are in sympathy with the aims and the work of the Society, and who wish to further interest in Strict Baptist and non-conformist history.

Details of current subscription or life subscription rates are given on the attached application form and on the Society's website or may be obtained from the Treasurer.

Annual Meeting and Lecture



**Gravemarker, Golden
Cross, Sussex**

This public lecture, on an historical subject is given after the Annual Business Meeting, which is normally held in the Spring.

Library

Our library is housed within the Evangelical Library (5/6 Gateway Mews, Ringway, Bounds Green, N11 2UT www.evangelical-library.org.uk). Normally most of the books are available for loan to members. Those wishing to use the Library should contact the Evangelical Library. Copies of the Library rules are available which are intended to ensure the efficient operation of the Library for all users, and a guide to the Library gives details of the catalogue, classifications and the layout of the Library.



The Librarian is always glad to hear from those having books, magazines and papers for disposal which might form suitable additions to the stock.

Archives

The Society retains a considerable number of old church books, and other documents of historical interest. A list is available and anyone wishing to use them for research should contact the Librarian in the first instance. He is also prepared to help with enquiries and problems concerning denominational records.



Publications

The Society seeks to issue a Bulletin and a Newsletter each year. The Bulletin contains an article of biographical or historical interest, usually based on the Annual Lecture and the Newsletter contains details of the Society's work together with any requests for information. Both publications are sent to members.

A number of other publications have been produced under the imprint of "The Fauconberg Press". Copies of the latest Publication List are available from the Publications Secretary and the Society's website.

