

Barn Church seemed perfect for our family

Anuschka Perold is part of the team hosting a new congregation that offers something different to those living in the Meon Valley

Who are you?

I'm Anuschka Perold, and I'm married to Joe with a 15-year-old daughter called Sia.

Which church are you part of?

We're part of Barn Church, which meets in the Soberton and Newtown guide hut, near Soberton recreation ground in the Meon Valley.

How did you start going to that church? We were on the coffee rota of our local parish church and worshipped there, but not every week.

We were looking for somewhere where our whole family could worship together, and someone in my prayer group mentioned Barn Church, which was launched by the Rev Emma Andersen in September.

I came to some of the introductory meetings before it launched, and we offered to be part of the team. So we were there for its very first service. I think it's really important to be somewhere where your children can engage, feel comfortable and invite their friends.

What do you love about it? There is a really friendly welcome there, and a sense of community which is harder to achieve in a larger city or town church. It also appeals to all generations, from young children to



Left: Anuschka Perold serving coffee at Barn Church; right: those of all ages enjoy the discussion within the hour-long service

middle-aged, to the elderly.

We enjoy the format, which includes coffee and pastries, some worship, some prayer, and discussion of the Christian faith. We love the songs we sing, there's not a rigid format, and the interactive discussion means that you don't just sit there and nod at what someone else says – you have to get involved!

It has led us to attend the Alpha Course as a whole family. We've learnt how Jesus really loves us, and it's good to hear that again and

again and really believe it. It's also good to learn from others who are exploring faith too, to find out what they already know and what they are struggling with.

Since we've started attending Barn Church, Sia describes Sundays as the happiest day of the week, which is great to hear. We've started a youth group in our home, and two of the other young people also go to Barn Church. It's great to be somewhere where a teenager is happy to invite their friends as well.