

Florida church has a British seaside link – without the ‘Kissimmee quick’ hats!

Kissimmee? Where is it? Members of Bournemouth Spiritualist Church could give an immediate answer. Their church has been twinned with The Church of Spiritual Awakening in Kissimmee for some years.

It lies about 20 miles west of the city of Orlando, Florida, an area well known for the tourist attractions of Disney World and Universal Studios. But it isn't all entertainment. The district also caters for followers of a variety of religions, among them Baptists and Spiritualists.

Kissimmee's Church of Spiritual Awakening offers services, healing and a full programme for local people and visitors, the latter always finding a great welcome when they include the church in their tour.

Although it has a small membership, everyone is extremely friendly, offering what most British people would expect in a Spiritualist service, and even the after-service refreshments! Food, coffee and drinks are always supplied by members after the Sunday service.

Founded some years ago by its pastor, the Rev Mary Kingslien, the church has moved several times, due to the

fact that it uses rented premises. Much work has been done to upgrade the current building to its present high standard.

The president, Michael Davies, comes originally from the UK and has worked tirelessly to bring it all to fruition, with the help of church member Ron Childers and others.

A number of British people sit on the board of the church, including treasurer Shirley Hunter and board member Janine



Bournemouth's Al and Geoff Potts join in this year's St Valentine's Day party.



The interior of the church.



The exterior of the Church of Spiritual Awakening in Kissimmee, Florida.

Russell. Visiting mediums from the UK, holidaying in Florida, have also given their services. Elaine Bevan, Brian Cox, Al and Bev Batten and others are among them.

Al and Geoff Potts of Bournemouth Spiritualist Church told *Psychic News*: "It has been our pleasure to serve and support the Kissimmee church in our own way for a few years now, and we would encourage other mediums going to Florida to give it the encouragement it

really deserves."

Other churches in the area are The Church of Spiritual Light in the city of Orlando, run by the Rev Gregory Kent, while the well-known spiritual community of Cassadaga lies about 50 miles east of Kissimmee.

Cassadaga consists of private homes, a hotel and the Colby Memorial Temple, where services are held, and which caters for around 250 people.

Al Potts says: "Accepting that they work a little differently from the British, we are all Spiritualists together, trying to spread the wonderful message of eternal life in many different ways.

"Florida also offers Spiritualist churches in Melbourne and St Petersburg. We hope you have a happy spiritual experience in Florida as we have done, and will hopefully continue to do for a few years yet."

The address of The Church of Spiritual Awakening is: 3044 Michigan Avenue, Kissimmee, Flo.34744. Further details can be found on the church's website: www.churchofspiritualawakening.com



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