

# Queen Edith Chapel

Wulfstan Way  
Cambridge  
CB1 8QN

[www.queenedithchapel.org](http://www.queenedithchapel.org)

## ***Together – With Jesus at the Centre – Reaching our Community***

**Queen Edith Chapel** is an independent evangelical church in South Cambridge in the Queen Edith Ward. Our name and the name of the ward complements those of local roads and other community facilities which recall key historical figures in our English Saxon history.

We are a charity, registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Nov 2023) with the Charity Commission.

**Geographical** - The Chapel site is near the southern fringe of the City of Cambridge within walking distance of the regional Addenbrookes Hospital. The surrounding area is composed of mixed housing, sheltered housing, local primary schools, a large secondary school, two sixth form colleges and local shops and amenities and enjoys excellent public transport. Current and future mixed housing developments are taking place within the southern boundary of the Queen Edith Ward. The church occasionally attracts attendance of postgraduate and post doctorate students, but distance normally mitigates against footfall from university undergraduates.

**Historical** - Queen Edith Chapel started as a church plant from a Christian Brethren Meeting in the City centre during the 1950s with an outreach vision to families, children and young people in what was then a new housing area for Cambridge. From the outset, the church formed its own identity with an attitude of openness and responsiveness to its surrounding community. The church has been led over the intervening years by a succession of Eldership teams, together with the support of full time employed personnel, particularly over the past 35-40 years. Inevitably, worship styles have changed over the years, although the value of open congregational worship with its encouragement of exercising spiritual gift within church life remains as a key feature. The church has always valued a pluralistic style of leadership, and in recent years has increasingly appreciated the input of salaried staff in the areas of pastoral care, teaching and outreach.

**Premises** - These have been extended and developed over the church's lifetime and incorporate a main meeting hall, a variety of small rooms, community facilities, a well-equipped kitchen and multi-purpose sports hall. These facilities are available for other groups, especially those serving the local community, to hire at reasonable rates. An internal renovation uplift of the premises is currently being planned and managed.

**Our current situation** - Our fellowship numbers about 70, with about 60 attending a typical Sunday morning service. Our age demographic is skewed so that 70% of our total are over 55 years of age. About 60% of our number live within a 1.5 miles radius of the church. A wide variety of nationalities, occupation, need, and background are represented.

The dominant attitude towards the church by the fellowship would be expressed by sentiments of *spiritual home and family*, together with the thought that it is a place where a personal relationship with Christ can be expressed with openness, thus encouraging personal spiritual growth and maturity. The attitude to newcomers and international visitors is expressed through an informal welcoming/friendship and ready acceptance and inclusion within the fellowship at the earliest opportunity.

Outreach and the support of mission is an integral and vital part of church life. Many are active in personal friendship evangelism as part of their Christian lifestyle. In a more structured way, there are many groups and activities, run and based on the premises, serving the community amongst children, young people, and the elderly. Support is further given to missionaries serving in South America and France, together with local and national missions based in the UK.

**Our Pattern of Sunday Worship/Prayer** - Our services begin with led worship, followed by teaching/preaching. We then have a period of open worship, where attendees are encouraged to contribute in various ways expressing worship, praise and reflection as led by the Holy Spirit, culminating with communion which is open to all who have an active faith in Christ. Prior to the teaching/preaching the young people leave for separate teaching classes. Before and after the service refreshments and coffee are provided giving opportunity for informal fellowship. As a pandemic legacy we retain a hybrid facility using Zoom.

On a monthly basis the pattern changes with a Focus Sunday, where designated team members contribute to open up, in a structured way, a specific subject of faith, practice, celebration or mission. This is then followed by a fellowship lunch.

These main gatherings are complemented in mid-week by 4-5 home-groups, and weekly and monthly gatherings for corporate prayer.

### **Outreach - Programmed activities**

- Children
  - Messy Play and/or Bouncers (pre-school)
  - Livewires (Reception and years 1 & 2)
  - Powerpack (years 3 & 4)
  - Lasers (years 5 & 6) (led by Youth Worker)
  - Sunday Morning Group (year 4 and below)
- Young People
  - SAS (Sunday at Six) (years 7-11)
  - Mid-week home Group
  - Sunday Morning Group (year 5 upwards)
- Senior Citizens
  - Mid-week café style informal gathering
- Men's Group (meeting on a monthly basis) (under consideration)
- Badminton Group - friendship through sport, which has led to some Bible studies/discussions
- International Coffee morning - a joint Bible study and fellowship group led by and shared with another local church.
- Annual church weekend away (a number of lives have been touched through these times of extended fellowship and teaching)
- Alpha, Christianity Explored, Marriage Course, Parenting Course
- Seasonal events and services, and Big Lunch events.

## **Employed Staff**

- Pastor/Senior Leader (full time)
- Children's Worker (part time)
- Youth Worker (part time)

**Leadership Structure** - Church eldership overseeing the spiritual leadership has historically and currently been expressed as a team ministry. It has recently been complemented by a group of trustees who oversee governance issues relating to the operation of the charity. The current Pastor/Senior Leader takes an influential, but not dominant role in both activities.

**Pastor/Senior Leader** - The current incumbent will complete 10 years of leadership ministry within the church this year and has been reaffirmed by the congregation who have encouraged him to continue beyond this anniversary. The role has been one of spiritual leadership within a framework of eldership and governance.

**Children's Worker** - The current staff leader wishes to retire at the end of this academic year. We are taking the opportunity to re-evaluate this role and a new job description has been formulated and will be available on request. The title will change to *Children and Families Worker* to better reflect the requirements of the new job description.

**Youth Worker** - The current ministry staff leader has been in place for the past 7-8 years.

## **External Affiliations**

- The Evangelical Alliance - as such we accept the *Basis of Faith* held by this national organisation.
- Counties - an evangelism support network for independent churches, providing advice, literature and resources on a regional basis.

**Key Challenges** - Whilst there is considerable family contact through the children and young people's work, very few take further steps to become part of a worshipping community. The challenge is how to lead these families into the family of God.

Whilst there is fertile ground amongst the elderly living in local sheltered accommodation, there is also an underlying concern surrounding our members' rising age profile and the steps needed to attract a younger family profile with an eye towards future church growth and leadership.

## **Website**

[www.queenedithchapel.org](http://www.queenedithchapel.org)

Provides general information about the church.

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