



Stapleford Baptist church

Briefing for applicants for community outreach pastor/worker vacancy

The town

Stapleford is a town just off M1 J25 with a population of 16,649 (2021 census figure) of whom 15,279 are white. This means the ethnic population proportion is significantly lower than that of nearby Beeston and Nottingham, though growing.

The town was originally a village that grew with 19th/20th century industrialisation. By the second World War the two largest local employers were a railway marshalling yard and a plant producing iron pipes, both just outside the town. Both later declined substantially but for a long time the town retained its working class roots, and the main post-war housing development was a large Council estate on the North side of the town. There has been some recent change with new private housing on the Northern fringe, some central infill development, and further housing likely on the southern Bramcote/Toton side of the town near to the Tram terminus (the tram – Nottingham Express Transit or NET - gives a direct and efficient route into Nottingham from just outside the town). The majority of people living in the town work outside it due to its proximity to both Nottingham and Derby, as well as the nearby M1.

For local government the town is in the Broxtowe District, but also has a local town Council which gives it some civic identity. The town has recently received government funding which is being invested in a Business centre and also a newly opened football academy.

Although on the fringe of the Nottingham conurbation it has not traditionally been very closely linked into or affected by it. The large West Indian and South Asian waves of immigration into Nottingham passed it by. More recently immigrants have begun to find and settle in the town. It is also too far from the Nottingham University to be affected by it, with few students living in the town.

There are 4 infant/junior schools, and secondary provision is through George Spencer school on the A52 side of town, and Bramcote College which primarily serves North Stapleford and Bramcote pupils.

The church

Stapleford Baptist church is a church which first began to meet in the mid-19th Century and was formally established as a church in its own building in the 1870's. The church still meets in that location, but has upgraded and continues to alter and reshape the old premises to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

Each Sunday around 100 adults and children meet for our morning service, and a smaller number for an evening service. Our membership has risen in the last few years to around 80. We have over 30 children/youth in our Illuminate children/youth evening on a Friday, the majority of whom are not from church going families. There are about



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.... children who are in our Sunday morning classes. Our worshipping community includes some Africans and some recent Hong Kong immigrants.

Our theological position is conservative and we focus on teaching and preaching in a primarily expository style, and our sung worship features a band and extensive but not exclusive use of modern songs. The church is FIEC affiliated and is one of 8 FIEC churches in the Nottingham conurbation. These work together to some extent. Another local church is considering an involvement with the FIEC churches as part of a church revitalisation project, details of which are as yet uncertain and may change in coming months as conversations develop.

As a church we also relate to other churches in the town through a churches Forum which meets on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance basis of faith.

We are congregational in government, led by a team of elders of whom the pastor is one. Within the church we have teams in which members serve, covering everything from mission to catering.

Local community contact

Over the last few years our contact with the town has grown as our ministries have developed.

Our long standing youth work has always had children from the town who are not from church families. Some children are from families touched by our youth work over several generations.

Through the Stapleford churches Forum we share in schools work in local junior schools. We actively support a foodbank run by The Haven Church (AoG), and a charity called Baby Basics.

After Covid we picked up on a previously expressed desire of some members to open the church to the local community and this has become Refresh – a Monday morning drop in café with space for conversation, some crafts, jigsaws, a small area for young children with parent, and a weekly Bible discussion group.

More recently a member set up a weekly Pilates group which is attended both by church members and local people.

We had a small number of Hong Kong immigrants come to us through one of our members and through them we reached out more widely in that community through an English conversation club we have run for the last 3 years or so. Recently some asylum seekers have been referred to it by the Borough Council.

A member leads bereavement, and brain and soul boosting groups, and has had people referred by to them by the local health centre.



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Special events are held from time to time. An annual Tear Fund quiz attracts over 60 people, the majority of whom are not church attenders. Each Christmas we host a pantomime for children (Saltmine Theatre company), and we hold a Cantonese carol service with a guest speaker from Nottingham Chinese Church. Our Carols by candlelight on Christmas Eve is popular with people beyond our church membership and we always have a full church. Other special events are held from time to time.

Occasionally, we have run Christianity Explored groups. Some of our present members were converted through these.

The Role

All of the above are needing a level of support, co-ordination, and equipping that is beyond our current resources, and we can see that there are more opportunities for evangelism and outreach than we can currently take up. More detail is set out in the role description.