



Queen Edith Chapel

Wulfstan Way, Cambridge, CB1 8QN

A community of all ages, nationalities and backgrounds in Queen Edith's, gathering to worship God, growing by the work of the Holy Spirit and going to witness to Jesus

Queen Edith Chapel is an independent evangelical church in South Cambridge in Queen Edith's Ward. Our name and the name of the ward complement 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 - We are situated 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 number of secondary schools, 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 Queen Edith's Ward. Postgraduate and post doctoral students occasionally attend but distance normally prevents attendance by 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. We have been led over the years by a succession of Eldership teams, together with the support of employed staff, particularly over the past 35-40 years. Inevitably, worship styles have changed over the years, although we continue to value open congregational worship and encourage the exercising of spiritual gifts within church life. We have always valued a pluralistic style of leadership, and in recent years we have increasingly appreciated the input of salaried staff in the areas of pastoral care, teaching and outreach.

Premises - The church buildings have been extended and developed over the church's lifetime and incorporate a main meeting hall, which extends into a large welcoming area known as the atrium, a variety of small rooms serving as offices and classrooms/small meeting rooms, a well-equipped kitchen and multi-purpose sports hall. There is also a large garden and potential for further extension. These facilities are available for other groups, especially those serving the local community, to hire at reasonable rates. We are currently preparing to carry out a further renovation of the building with a particular focus on the main meeting hall to make it more welcoming and conducive to worship.

Our current situation - Our fellowship numbers about 60-70, with about 50 regularly attending a typical Sunday morning service. Our age demographic is skewed so that 60% are over 55 years of age. About 50% live within a 1.5 miles radius of the church. Members of the fellowship represent a wide variety of nationalities, occupation, need, and background.

The dominant attitude towards the church of the fellowship could be expressed as *spiritual home and family*, together with the idea that it is a place where a personal relationship with Christ can be expressed with openness, thus encouraging personal spiritual growth and maturity. We are known

as being welcoming to newcomers and international visitors, offering 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, we run many groups and activities, based on the premises, serving the community amongst children, young people, and the elderly. We also support missionaries serving in South America, South East Asia and France, together with local and national missions based in the UK.

Our Pattern of Sunday Worship/Prayer - Our services begin with led worship, including all age activities, followed by teaching/preaching during which the children/young people attend Sunday School. We then have a period of open worship, where we encourage attendees 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. Before and after the service we provide refreshments and coffee giving opportunity for informal fellowship. As a pandemic legacy we retain a hybrid facility using Zoom.

For one Sunday a month, called a Focus Sunday, we worship and learn together as a church family, led by a team from the fellowship who present a specific subject of faith, practice, celebration or mission through a range of all age activities. This is then followed by a fellowship lunch.

These main gatherings are complemented by 5-6 home-groups, and weekly and monthly gatherings for corporate prayer.

Outreach - Programmed activities

Children

Weekly

- Messy Play and/or Bouncers (pre-school)
- Livewires (Reception and years 1 & 2)
- Powerpack (years 3 & 4)
- Sunday Morning Group (year 6 and below)

Monthly

- Bouncers plus (pre-school & Dads)
- Family fun, faith and food (Reception and years 1 & 2 and their families)

Young People

Weekly

- Lasers (years 5 & 6)
- SAS (Sunday at Six) (years 7-13)
- Mid-week home group (years 7-13)
- Mentoring in local school (with YFC)
- Youth Drop In (with YFC)
- Sunday Morning Group (year 7 upwards)

Senior Citizens

Weekly

- Mid-week café style informal gathering

Other adult activities

Weekly

- 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.

Annually or ad hoc

- Annual church weekend away (a number of lives have been touched through these times of extended fellowship and teaching)
- Alpha, Christianity Explored courses put on from time to time
- Seasonal events and services, and Big Lunch events.

Employed Staff

- Employed elder (full/part time tbc)
- Children's Worker (part time)
- Youth Worker (part time)

Leadership Structure - We are led by an eldership who oversee the spiritual leadership, which has historically been and is currently a team ministry. It has recently been complemented by a group of trustees who oversee governance issues relating to the operation of the charity. Employed staff lead the children and youth ministries reporting in to the elders and trustees.

Employed elder (vacant) - We are currently seeking to fill this role.

Children and Families Worker - Our current Children and Families Worker has been with us for two years. When recruiting for that role we took the opportunity to re-evaluate this role and give it a new focus on *families* as well as children as key to future growth.

Youth Worker - Our current youth worker has been in place for the past 10 years. A recent focus has been on developing more pioneer outreach working with YFC alongside the existing ministry which takes children on who have come through the children's clubs .

External Affiliations

- *The Evangelical Alliance* - as such we accept their *Basis of Faith*.
- *Counties* (formerly through *Partnership*) - 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 steps are being taken to reach families, very little or no impact has been had amongst adults in their 20s through to their 50s who are either single or couples without children, or with children that are not attending clubs.

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

Website

www.queenedithchapel.org

Provides general information about the church.

August 2026