

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MISSIONER

Background Information

This post is about providing capacity in addition to that of the Minister which is distinctive and different from the ministerial role.

We are looking for someone to

- work across the three churches of Warwick, Wellesbourne and Whitnash
- enhance the church's pastoral ministry by resourcing and supporting community engagement
- work in partnership with the Minister and the leadership teams in each church as together we discern and develop our mission in the community
- support the overall vision of open and inclusive churches whilst recognising and supporting the church members who might struggle with this.

Below you will find information about each church.

Warwick Northgate Methodist Church Profile June 2019

(Barrack Street, Warwick CV34 4TH)

Warwick Methodist Church is centrally located in the county town, and the majority of members travel in to attend. It has a membership of 121, with average attendances of 55. The worship is fairly traditional, although members are open to alternatives such as café church. The congregation is largely, but not exclusively, retired and we have one family with young children who attend regularly and for whom the junior church remains active. There is one local preacher, a worship leader, and a retired minister who worship regularly with us. One exciting development for the Circuit is the introduction of the role of Reader. There are 2 commissioned Readers at Warwick Church.

Our Community Centre (church hall) is regularly booked most evenings for local community activities. Each Tuesday is designated as a "Community Tuesday" and we are building activities on this day to welcome our community into our premises. There is a Bread Church on alternate Tuesdays in the morning (average 12-20 attending), with the afternoons seeing a Craft Club once a month and a Friendship Club on the other Tuesday. On the 2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoon there is a Extend keep fit club for older and/or disabled members. There is an active Guild meeting fortnightly, with a range of speakers. The hall is open to all for coffee each Saturday morning. We are currently developing plans for refurbishment of our facilities, particularly the kitchen.

We have run a successful holiday club, weekly through the summer holidays, for the last couple of years, which has seen attendance of up to 70, including about 20 volunteers from the membership. We would like to develop a more regular family-based activity.

Church communications include a website, newsletter (120 copies monthly), fortnightly notices and the powerful message of the Wayside Pulpit placed prominently outside the church.

In common with many churches, the demographic of our congregation is skewed towards the older age group, which already leads to challenges, particularly in filling essential offices such as stewards, and staffing outreach activities. As long standing, enthusiastic and dedicated office holders move from their seventies into their eighties, some will inevitably retire. It's crucial to the church's witness in the community that our congregation is revitalised with some younger members.

There are strong ecumenical links through Churches Together in Warwick.

Profile of Wellesbourne Methodist Church

(Bridge Street, Wellesbourne, CV35 9LR)

Wellesbourne Methodist Church is situated in the heart of the large and growing village of Wellesbourne (population over 6,000). Sunday congregations average 25. There are a number of weekday activities, including a term-time parent and toddler group, fortnightly mid-week worship, a craft and cake group and a weekly Saturday coffee morning. The church enjoys warm ecumenical relationships. The premises are regularly used by others from the village: 4 Brownie/ Rainbow groups, a monthly lunch club for older people, the village choral society and a range of other community groups. The whole church is excited by the opportunities (such as providing a meeting place serving coffee / tea etc.) which have been brought by the opening in February 2019 of a new purpose-built medical centre directly across the road from the Methodist church.

Whitnash Methodist Church

(Murcott Road East, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, CV31 2JJ)

WHITNASH is a Town with a population of approximately 9000 (last census) bordering on the larger communities of Leamington Spa (56000) and Warwick (32000).

Recent developments of new housing estates in Whitnash have resulted in significant growth in the population. Further very large developments are ongoing in the area of Warwick Gates between Whitnash and Warwick.

These currently include a large retirement complex and a new first school with a further school, shopping facilities, sports stadium etc on the way.

LOCAL FACILITIES

Whitnash has 3 Churches...

- Whitnash Methodist Church
- St Margaret`s C of E
- St Joseph`s (RC)

Also a new Church plant was created as part of a Community Centre on the Warwick Gates estate some time ago and this has now become a new Parish (Heathcote) in its own right. This is approx. 2km from Whitnash Methodist Church.

...and 4 schools

- Briar Hill Infant School (4 – 7 yrs) (CV31 2JF)...within 200m of Whitnash Methodist Church.
- St. Margaret's C.Of E. Junior School (7 – 11 yrs) (CV31 2JF)...within 200m of Whitnash Methodist Church.
- Whitnash Primary School (4 – 11 yrs) (CV31 2EX)
- St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Leamington (4 – 11 yrs) (CV31 2LJ)

The nearest secondary school is Champion School which is within 2km.

There are 3 small areas of local shops but several large supermarkets within 4km.

WHITNASH METHODIST CHURCH is located close to the old centre of the town and is surrounded by residential areas largely built from the 1950s onwards.

As with many Churches we have an older congregation and reducing attendance at Sunday worship. Our usual attendance on Sunday morning is 12 to 14 with up to 40 occasionally at e.g. Parade services.

BUT..

We see ourselves at the centre of a community with great possibilities and mission is crucial. At the moment it is difficult to see a way forward but we have been taking `small steps` which give us optimism for the future.

The Church facilities are well used by ...

Brownies / Guides / Beavers / Cubs and Scouts on 4 nights each week. The Church supports them by allowing them use of the premises at no charge (but they do make occasional donations and support fund raising events). We have regular Parade Services which are reasonably well attended.

A growing monthly Messy Church run jointly with St Margaret`s Church.

A small Knit and Natter group.

Monthly Saturday Coffee Morning.

Other organisations using the premises are.....

A Keep Fit Group (4 days) and Pilates (1 day)

W.I. (monthly)

`Dramalings` drama group for children (1 afternoon)

A Breakfast Club for children (5 mornings and 4 afternoons each week)

THRIVE Youth Ministries are based in an office at the Church (please see their website). (<http://www.thriveym.org.uk/>)