

WARWICK METHODIST CHURCH

“BRINGING the LOVE OF CHRIST to ALL”

By being an active and vibrant Church, playing a leading role in the spiritual and pastoral life of Warwick.

5 YEAR PLAN



Be Joyful, Be Prayerful, Be Thankful

Methodism was introduced into Warwick 210 years ago in 1801 by a local preacher called Thomas Facer, who was a stonemason from Yorkshire. How ironic then that this plan is being drawn together because of our need for structural repairs to be carried out on the Church Building plus our need to review/develop our spiritual and pastoral life.

Dr John Tudor, who was the preacher at the official re-opening of the present refurbished Church in January 1993, gave us a motto;

“Always be joyful, always be prayerful, always be thankful”

However, he also issued a challenge **“the Church to become a Power house in the Community - to do which we must stay plugged in to our Spiritual Source “**

Our Church Today

Jesus said “ Love one another” and “Love your neighbour”

Our Church offers a warm welcome in its worship and other activities to visitors and newcomers. We aim to be a Christian Community which cares for people and responds to needs both locally and globally.

We believe in God, we follow Jesus and we trust in the presence and the movement of the Spirit. We worship in the Methodist tradition.

5 Year Church Plan

This plan has looked to build on and develop all the good things that are already happening both spiritually and pastorally in our Church life.

For example it is acknowledged that the actions for Pastoral life, builds on quality informal pastoral care that presently naturally takes place through groups which already meet within the Church i.e. lunch club, guild, bible study groups etc.

The Church Mission statement and main objective can be found on the front page.

The plan will be reviewed and updated annually

Spiritual Life

Objectives

- To increase the spiritual life of the Church by providing a wider menu in relationship to Worship, Prayer, Bible Study and Working Together (fellowship, house groups, prayer circles etc).

Strategies

- Ensure we have a range of quality activities in place to meet the needs of those wishing to move forward on their own personal faith journey.
- Improve all aspects of communication to ensure the congregation is fully aware of all events, encouraged to participate and feel led to invite friends.
- Build on present foundations of bible study groups and prayer circle.
- Open doors – Church premises to be open for longer period for drop in visits, meditation and chat.

Actions

- Identify/invite quality leaders and coordinators to support the minister in delivering/developing/helping people on their personal faith journey.
- Identify/train worship leaders.
- Fully involve Church members through the Worship Committee to look/introduce a variety of worship re content, delivery and times.
- Invite volunteers to allow the Church to be open during week days for drop in visits, meditation, coffee and chat.

Outreach

Objectives

- Attract more people into the Church and community centre by increasing/introducing activities that are community linked. Raise awareness of all aspects of our Church Life through improved visibility, communication and contacts.

Strategies

- Build on present successful activities, such as, lunch club, widows and friends, and Saturday coffee mornings, that will attract local people into our buildings.
- Use our local contacts to better understand the needs of the local community.
- Improve our communications both internally and externally, embracing new technology.

Actions

- Revamp the Northgate News and consider its wider distribution or the introduction of a separate community newsletter.
- Build and relaunch a new Church web site, hosted locally and updated weekly.
- Increase the number of members with the necessary hygiene certificates to support our present catering activities and have the ability to cater for new initiatives.
- Ask for volunteers to set up a tea/film club, a social activity for our elderly members and their friends, open to all in the local community.
- Approach the Town Tours to include our Church within their itinerary, presently they pass by and look in through the windows, Church to be open with leaflets available on the history of the building and 200 years of Warwick Methodism.
- Open the Church during the week for coffee and chat with quiet area for prayer/meditation.
- Leaflet also to be produced for hotels, guest houses and tourist information centre which will include an invitation to the Church services and events, needs to be kept up to date.

Outreach Actions Continued

- Review and renew all our outside signage/boards to improve visibility and attract people into the Church/community centre.
- Review and renew all our internal notice boards to provide better communication of events and to include a church Photo board – “who’s who”
- Use existing members, who have local contacts to establish closer links with the community, looking for opportunities for joint events to raise the Church profile e.g. existing civic service – invite local community groups, Rotary, and Probus.
- Establish closer links with local Children’s Centre, nursery and primary schools.
- Increase the profile of Churches Together in Warwick within the Church, in order for more members to be aware of events and have the opportunity to become more involved.
- Lifts to services and events – need to review transportation options.
- Look into the options and cost of introducing broadband/wireless connections which would enable those with IT skills to help those who wish to know more – “silver surfers”
- More use to be made of local publications to communicate events and services.

Pastoral Life

Objectives

- Review and build on present traditional pastoral care system in order to strengthen the links between church members, extended church family, the local community and the Church.
- To continue to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment within the Church for existing members, new worshippers and visitors.

Strategies

- Provide quality pastoral care to those in need, especially in sensitive situations i.e. bereavement, and those who are seriously ill physically or mentally. Provide quality and regular visits to those who are housebound, elderly, or have young families etc.
- Provide continual support and development to the pastoral team.
- Provide a range and level of pastoral care which can help to meet the requirements of all within the Church community – to be fully inclusive
- Key “greeters” people who are able to identify visitors to the Church to ensure they are put at ease, informed of that days events, and spoken to after the service, with personal invite to coffee etc.
- Develop, build on links with local organisations, supporting other charitable activities and areas of need within the local community.

Actions

- Start the review of present pastoral care system with the full involvement of the present pastoral committee – design a confidential questionnaire to be sent to all who are on the visiting lists – in order to understand their pastoral needs and how we build on the quality of visits from pastoral visitors.
- Identify Church members who are able and willing to form a key visitor role group to work closely with the minister thereby delivering quality support to those in need at critical times, making sure regular visits are made to those unable to attend Church, ensuring regular communion is given to the housebound.
- Provide necessary training/support to visitors when required, in order to deliver the above objectives.
- Discuss “meeting and greeting” with present team of door stewards also review/reorganise the entrance vestibule.

Finance/Property

Objectives

- To raise the necessary funds for the Church building maintenance programme to be completed in line with the Structural inspection report of July 2009, costing in October 2009, £168,000
- Ensure that future Church financial planning makes adequate provision for building maintenance.
- Maximise usage of the Church buildings

Strategies

- Funds to be raised by a mixture of gifts, grants, activities and loans from Church members with all loans to be repaid within 5 years.
- Explore all opportunities to enable The Church to become a multi purpose building.

Actions

- Produce a Church survey, to include offers of financial help re gifts and loans.
- Follow up Church survey with the initial aim to raise £60,000 from members gifts and loans.
- Volunteers from all aspects of our Church life to form a planning team to produce a 5 year plan, to be presented and accepted by the Church Council, Circuit Meeting and District Office.
- Application for grants then to be made to Methodist Property Division, The Rank Foundation and various national and local charities.
- Volunteers to organise regular fund raising activities and special events.
- Special envelopes to be issued for members to made regular donations to the building project.
- Building maintenance work to be undertaken once funding is in place.

GENERAL POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A dedicated and energetic team to implement the Plan
- Review present organisation procedures to work smarter not harder eg save time re meetings, consider merits of a management committee to be responsible for business/finance/property matters, presently covered by 2 committees.