



Queen Edith Chapel

Together - With Jesus at the centre - Reaching our community

Wulfstan Way
Cambridge
CB1 8QN

www.qeccambridge.org.uk

Queen Edith Chapel is an independent evangelical church arising from a Christian Brethren heritage. Its naming complements the local road names which recall key players in our English Saxon history. Queen Edith is also the name of the local Council Ward.

Geographical – The 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 and enjoys excellent public transport. Current and future mixed housing developments are taking place near but outside the periphery of Queen Edith Ward. The church is outside the catchment of either university.



Premises - These have been extended and developed over recent years and incorporate a main meeting hall, a variety of small rooms, community facilities, a well equipped kitchen and multi-purpose sports hall.



Historical - Queen Edith Chapel started as a church plant from a 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 25-30 years. Inevitably, worship styles have changed over the years, but nevertheless, 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 the pluralistic style of leadership, but in recent years, has increasingly appreciated the input of salaried staff in the areas of pastoral care, teaching and outreach.

Our current situation - Our combined membership and congregation number is about 85, with about 60 attending a typical Sunday morning service. Our age demographic is skewed so that 70% of our total is over 50 years of age. About 60% of our numbers 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 members 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 is welcoming, with a ready acceptance and inclusion 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 by members 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 India, together with local missions based in Cambridge.

Our Pattern of Worship/Prayer –

Our main corporate worship event is held on Sunday mornings within a two part framework, separated by a time of refreshment and fellowship. The first part is of a familiar pattern of led worship, followed by teaching/preaching. The second part is one of open worship, where attendees are encouraged to contribute in various ways expressing worship, praise and reflection, followed by communion which is open to all believers.





On a monthly basis, the pattern changes with a Focus Sunday all age service when various 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. On these Sundays, there is also a simple evening Communion Service.

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

Outreach Programmed activities

- Children
 - Messy play - (pre-school)
 - Active music - (pre-school)
 - Reception club - (school reception year)
 - Livewires - (years 1 & 2)
 - Powerpack - (years 3 & 4)
 - Lazers - (years 5 & 6)
 - Sunday Morning Group

- Young People
 - SAS - (years 7-11)
 - Life Christian Union (Secondary School based)
 - Sunday Morning Group

- Senior Citizens
 - Monday Fellowship - (a friendship group meeting for senior citizens on a two weekly basis, complemented by a smaller Bible study group meeting on the alternate Mondays.)

- Men's Group (meeting on a monthly basis)

- Badminton Group (friendship through sport, which has led to some Bible studies/discussions)

- International Coffee morning

- Annual church weekend away. (a number of lives have been touched through these times of extended fellowship and teaching)

Employed Staff

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

Leadership Structure – Church leadership has historically and currently been expressed as a team ministry. In the recent past, the roles of Eldership (pastoral, teaching, policy, vision and strategy) and Leadership (an extended group including the elders responsible for general business) have been separated. However, owing to recent house moves, the Eldership team was depleted, so the above groups were amalgamated in 2012. It is now known as the Core Team dealing with all aspects of church governance. The current Pastor/Teacher takes an influential, but not dominant role in this activity. The group corporately decides matters relating to church business with major decisions widely consulted amongst church members.

Pastor Teacher – Current Role The incumbent will complete 5 years of ministry within the church during 2014 and will leave us at the conclusion of this present contract to seek a fresh opportunity of ministry.

The role has been one of spiritual leadership within a framework of pastoral care and teaching God's word, as well as being part of the Core Team.

A Job Description is available which details the requirements of any future job holder.

External Affiliations

- The Evangelical Alliance - as such we accept the *Basis of Faith* held by this national organisation.
- Partnership – a support network of independent churches, providing advice, resource literature. It also acting as a recruitment clearing house giving support to both churches and applicants.

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 membership with an eye towards future church growth and leadership.

Website – www.geccambridge.org.uk

Provides general information about the church.

Password access to sermon downloads and church magazines is available on request.

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