



UNITED Church – Bradford on Avon



Methodist & United Reformed

www.unitedchurchboa.org.uk

Bradford on Avon United Church is a Christian presence in the town seeking to gain converts to God's kingdom through Christian living, through prayer, through worship, through outreach and through the many organizations that use the Church premises.

We are seeking a new minister to lead us forward – to seek what God has in mind for us and to help us to play our part in making Bradford on Avon a truly Christian place.

Mission

Our Church Mission Statement.

Worship:

- The Church aims to increase awareness of God's presence
- The Church aims to celebrate God's love

Learning & Caring:

- The Church aims to help people to learn & grow as Christians
- The Church aims to provide mutual support and care

Service:

- The Church aims to be a good neighbour to people in need
- The Church aims to challenge injustice

Evangelism

- The Church aims to make more followers of Jesus Christ

Accordingly the Church seeks to:

- Be a fellowship where the presence of Christ is expected and known in the breaking of bread and the sharing of the Word.
- Be vital in worship which affirms the presence of Jesus, who makes God known and where God's people are enriched in the gifts of the Spirit.
- Be active in mission, seeking to make God in Christ present in the world.
- Foster the hope and reality of God's rule in the life of society by personal and corporate commitment to prayer, worship, evangelism and service.
- Acknowledge our fellowship and work with other churches in Bradford on Avon, the Wiltshire United Area and the wider communion of the World Church.

Local Community:

- Bradford on Avon has a population of 9000 & is a picturesque market town in West Wiltshire.
- The town has many facilities and amenities including a range of individual shops, supermarkets, a swimming pool, library, doctors and dental surgeries.
- There are walks along the river Avon and also the Kennet & Avon canal from the historic Tithe Barn.
- The main line railway station provides direct access to the cities of Bath, Bristol and London Waterloo.
- There are two primary schools and a secondary school of high repute – St Laurence.
- Bath is approximately 7 miles away and provides a full range of amenities with excellent shopping, the Theatre Royal, the Thermae Spa, cinemas and numerous restaurants.

Church Premises & Life:



- The Church dates back to 1740 and is situated near the centre of the town.
- The interior has been modernized and made user-friendly with disabled facilities.
- The capacity in the main body of the Church is 95 with additional seating in the balcony.
- We make full use of a screen to display notices and hymns during the service, A “power point” team of four provide the words on screen each week.
- Currently using a new hymn book “Singing the Faith” supported by popular hymn books eg. Mission Praise.
- A PA & loop system is also available.

The Church Hall is integral and in constant use with a footfall of over 800 per week and engages with the local community. Facilities also include a modern kitchen, toilets and disabled facilities. The income from the hall provides additional funding to support the maintenance and day to day running of the Church.

Membership & Worship:

We have a Membership of 54, 29 Adherents and a Pastoral list of 109. Our Junior Church membership is currently 12. Christmas & Harvest gifts are distributed regularly to the housebound. Services are held on Sunday morning with Holy Communion once a month and Evening Services are held on alternate Sundays and can be of a more informal nature. A prayer meeting is held monthly.



Breakfast Plus, a form of Messy Church, is held on the 1st Sunday of the month. This alternative form of worship enables people of all ages to meet together and then gives them the opportunity to pursue other activities elsewhere during the day if they wish to.

Organization

The Church Meeting and the Council meet on alternate months. The Church Council consists of 10 members plus the minister.

In addition the Church has:

- 19 pastoral visitors to support the Minister
- a team of Worship Leaders
- a Healing team supported by a Prayer group
- a Choir of 12 and an organist
- 3 house groups

We enjoy a spiritual musical presentation at least once a year.

Information is distributed through notices displayed on the Church screen prior to the Sunday morning service, a website, monthly calendar and a newsletter (magazine) which is produced six times a year.

Church activities and Ecumenical links

The Church is active in fundraising. Through the monthly Church coffee morning and other one-off events, the Church supports four local charities annually as well as responding to international emergency appeals.

Other Church activities include:

- Men's social group held monthly. (Church members and others).
- Ladies' group (Church members and others)
- Gift boxes to the housebound and elderly members at Harvest Festival and Christmas.
- Shoe boxes for sending abroad through Samaritan's Purse.
- Badminton Club.
- A group is actively studying the possibility of us becoming an Eco-Church.

The Church supports Bradford on Avon Churches Together (BACT) including participating in:

- Ecumenical Lent groups
- 'Follow the Cross' on Good Friday
- Pentecost Prayer Vigil
- Food parcels for the needy
- Ecumenical prayer meetings
- World Day Of Prayer
- The Church also supports the Food Bank which is based in The Hub, B-o-A. The Hub is a drop-in centre which also houses Hope Debt Advice and other support services

In addition the Church's engagement with the local community is demonstrated by the wide range of groups using the Church hall:

- Children's groups, including Brownies and 'Footprints' (Baptist Church pre-school group)
- Choirs, including Con Brio, the Bradford on Avon Choral Society and Sing Alive
- Dance groups, including Zumba and the Jane Austin Dancers
- Pilates
- Wiltshire Council Balance Group (Shake Up)

Strengths & Weaknesses

Strength: Friendly congregation with a welcoming attitude to newcomers.

Strength: Modern Sanctuary, hall and kitchen. The Building is in good repair (Quinquennial)

Strength: Potential increase in congregation size due to redevelopment in the town.

Strength: Excellent facilities close to the town centre.

Weakness: Congregation is ageing with a gap between 40 and 60. A large proportion of the congregation is over 70.

September 2019.