

Gorse Hill

BAPTIST CHURCH

CRICKLADE ROAD
SWINDON
WILTSHIRE
SN2 1AA
Tel: 01793-534193
www.ghbc.org.uk
Charity Registration No: 1127294

Gorse Hill Baptist Church in Swindon is a vibrant, friendly and outward looking church with around 135 members. We are well established church respected and involved in the local community. We meet in the original 1904 Church which has an extension, built in 2000. The church is set in the Victorian expansion directly north of the main London to Bristol railway, a 20-minute walk from the town centre.

The area of Gorse Hill surrounding the church building is predominately Victorian terraced housing originally built to house the workers for the railway works, today it houses an ethnically diverse population, but some of the poorest in the town; not helped by the closure of Honda making many redundant.

117 words

Declaration of Faith (revised AGM 2009):

As members of Gorse Hill Baptist Church we subscribe to our declaration of faith we believe in:

- The full inspiration of the old and new Testament Scriptures; their authority and sufficiency as not only containing, but being in themselves the Word of God; and being fully trustworthy for faith and conduct; the need of the teaching of the Holy Spirit to a true and spiritual understanding of the whole.
- The unity of the one true God who lives eternally and co-equally in three persons the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; the Sovereignty of God in Creation, Providence and redemption.

Minister:
ministerial Vacancy
pastor@ghbc.org.uk

Secretary:
Shirley Westall
secretary@ghbc.org.uk

Treasurer:
Ian Burbidge
finance@ghbc.org.uk

- A personal devil, the instigator of all evil.
- The corruption of human nature in consequence of the Fall, and the necessity for a new birth.
- The true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; His virgin birth; his real and perfect manhood; the authority of His teaching, and the infallibility of all His words; His dying in our place, paying the price for sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us to God; His bodily resurrection and His Ascension into heaven; and his present Priestly intercession for his people at the right hand of the father.
- The justification of the sinner solely by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.
- The necessity of the ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our ministry, worship and witness.
- The sacrament of believers baptism by immersion, as being instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, not as conveying the new birth by grace but as a confession of the new birth.
- The sacrament of the Lord supper has been instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, in remembrance of his death and resurrection, and binding upon all believers. Not as being a sacrifice for sin, nor involving any changes in the substance of the bread and wine.
- A personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory.
- The resurrection of the body; the judgement of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, with eternal life for the redeemed and the eternal condemnation for the lost.

Governance:

The church is served by a Diaconate it of nine, (currently four female and three males plus 2 vacancies) Secretary, Treasurer and Minister, there is no formal eldership. There are monthly deacons meetings and generally bi-monthly church members meetings attended to by around 40 to 60 members.

In 2010 we updated our constitution in line with the Charities Act and changed our membership status from “closed” to “open”. At our 2022 AGM we amended our constitution to allow for online or hybrid meetings and voting.

Membership:

We review our membership regularly our membership is currently 136. Since our return to meeting onsite after Covid the Sunday morning service attracts 70-80 adult worshippers, plus children, we also attract a number of regular worshippers to our online stream of the service on Face Book. Pre-Covid we would regularly have 150+ in the congregation. Relatively few of the congregation live locally, most travel from other parts of Swindon and the surrounding villages. The ethnic mix of the congregation has changed over the last ten years becoming more balanced, with Caribbean, Nepalese, Indian and Bangladeshi attending in larger numbers. There continues to be a good number of children attending Kidzone (Sunday School) as well as our children’s clubs.

Missionary (Christian Charity) Support:

We support a number of home and overseas missions and Christian organisations with Christian aims and objectives comparable with the churches own charitable purpose. With the drastic reduction in our income due to Covid Missionary support was hit the hardest, cutting our support to a limited numbers of organisations which include; Swindon Night Shelter, BMS World Mission, Educacion Plus, Home Mission (WEBA), The Leprosy

Mission, Swindon Youth For Christ, Tear Fund, Friends of Centre Mokili – Congo, Angels Orphanage and Emergency Appeals. The Missionary support budget for 2022 is £16,000.

Worship:

We hold one service on a Sunday, at 10:30, with a rounded mix of traditional hymns and modern songs mainly based on the Songs of fellowship collection. All Age services usually feature once a month and communion is held on the third Sunday of the month.

We use a PC based projector for presentations and worship onto a large screen (with smaller screens on the side pillars to improve visibility). Sung worship is backed by a music group with a variety of instruments and singers depending on availability.

Since the return to onsite services we are trailing other meetings on Sunday such as breakfasts, picnic lunches, sung worship evenings and a service aimed at young people (but open to all).

Outreach:

Gorse Hill Baptist Church has a wide range of activities:

- Prayer meetings on the first Saturday of each month.
- Home groups meet fortnightly in several locations around the town and on various days.
- Friday night clubs, CFC (children's Friday club) cater for the 6 to 11 year olds, followed by the Ignite youth club for secondary aged children.
- Kidzone Sunday school meets during the second half of the Sunday morning service.
- recreate is an initiative to reach the unchurched. It's a Saturday morning craft event at key events alongside "Kettles On" to bring local children and parents into the building for craft activities with some biblical teaching.
- Pram club serves parents and toddlers in the community and meets every Friday morning during term time.
- We are actively involved with schools outreach where a team from a number of churches take school assemblies. We also have a team which invite to local primary schools to the church twice a year to present Christmas unwrapped and Easter wrapped up.
- Luncheon club for the older generation within the community.
- Advent trails, Easter egg hunts plus various food themed give-aways.
- August Bank Holiday Fun Day.
- Boxes of Hope
- Stepping Stones

Vision:

Know God and make God known

- By deepening our scriptural foundations
- by realising that change is necessary
- by ministering to the whole person and the whole community
- by recognising that we are all invited and involved
- by releasing empowering encouraging and enabling people to fulfil this task

What does this mean?

Beacon Christ's light shining to (and in) Gorse Hill: being an observable community.

Bridge Service and sharing with others in Jesus' name: being a giving community.

Build Growing and being made whole: being a building community.

Belong Becoming part of the church: being a welcoming and affirming community.

Body Working together: being a valuing community.

Calendar:

Please refer to our website: www.gorsehillbaptistchurch.org.uk for our latest weekly programme. During the week we also let a number of rooms to groups such as Slimming World, Swindon Contact Centre, a drumming group, Brazilian Church etc. This provides a very useful income.

Regular activities:

- Sunday morning service; 10:30am worship with Sunday school. Streamed on FaceBook.
- Community Fridge: serving the community and reducing landfill
- Badminton: badminton and other games.
- Friends & Fun: fun and games for over 50s
- Luncheon Club: a good meal reasonably priced and company
- Pram Club: activities for young children and somewhere for parents to meet.
- Music Group Practise: rehearsal of Sunday's music.
- CFC (Children's Friday Club): craft, games and stories for junior aged children.
- Ignite: fun for secondary aged children

Social Events: To be completed

Stepping Stones:

Boxes of Hope

In June 2020 we started running the Boxes of Hope project as a response to some of the issues that were affecting families during the pandemic. We had partnered with Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) as we had previously been planning to run Make lunch and they gave us £200.00 to start the project. We started on a very small scale delivering food parcels to families and individuals associated with the church or groups that we ran who were isolating due to COVID, struggling financially due to being furloughed or awaiting benefits etc. We then started working with supermarkets and Fareshare to get some of the food that we needed to fill the parcels. Very soon after we started applying for grants to buy more food. We quickly began working with other agencies around the town to get food to the people who needed it and were the most vulnerable. In the last two years the project has grown massively. We are now a mainly referral based service and work with many agencies around Swindon both statutory and non-statutory. Many various professionals refer families and individuals to us such as schools, housing, youth engagement workers, health visitors, school nurses etc. We have been extremely fortunate to receive a lot of funding from Swindon borough to enable us to continue to deliver the service. The church members have been fantastic and really got behind the project, we have volunteers that make and write the labels to go on the bags, volunteers that fill them and most importantly those that deliver them to the doorsteps. All of the food parcels that we send out have Christian literature in them and all have a personal handwrite message on the bag. To date we have filled and delivered 5072 food parcels, feeding 6977 adults and 10,359 children around Swindon.

Our overarching theme for the food parcels is Hope as it says in Psalm 33 verse 22

“Let your unfailing love surround us Lord as our hope is in you alone”

Swindon's Community Fridge



Early in 2021 a young man named Chris Anthulakis approached us as he had seen what the church had been doing with the Boxes of Hope project. He was interested in partnering with us to set up a Community fridge. Following some discussion we partnered with both Chris and Hubbub an organization that promote environmental change. The idea of a Community fridge is to reduce both food waste and food poverty and to be a social space that brings people from the community together. We launched the fridge in June 2021 and currently open three times a week between 11 - 2. We are one of 250 fridges that operate across the UK. Supermarkets donate their waste food to us that would otherwise have gone to landfill. Up until February 2022 we had 5496 visitors to the fridge and had prevented over 14 metric tonnes of food going to landfill. On average in the last month we have had over 120 visitors to the fridge each day. Some of our visitors come just to collect food but for others it is much more about meeting other people and seeing a friendly face. One of our visitors said 'I had no money for food this has saved me'



another said, 'I think the fridge is a wonderful idea; it has helped so many people in very tough times. It has also given me a place to go and chat'

Our customers include the homeless, asylum seekers, refugees, people who are dependent on substances, people waiting for benefit payments and others that are environmentally aware want to make a difference.

Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me"

We have recently responded to our customers need for a chat and some company by starting a drop in café on a Monday. This enables us to get alongside them and get to know them.

We have also run a CAP course, which is an Introduction to money management to help some of our customers manage financial difficulties that they have which have arisen because of the Pandemic. We are now planning on running a second course.

As a team we have been really encouraged by some of our customers attending our Church services. One lady has asked for Bible and met with the team and one mum asked for books about the Easter story so that she could read them to her children. A couple of ladies have attended our luncheon club, children the holiday clubs and many families attended the light party, all after having their initial contact from a food parcel or the Community fridge.

As a team we continue to be overwhelmed by the way that God is using us and working through us and we are really excited as we look to the future to see what he has in store for us next.

Children's and Youth Worker:

Jacob Barron joined us in September 2020 on a three-year contract. Jacob joined us when many restrictions were still in place following the first lockdown. Many activities had to be re-thought. Zoom proved useful, although difficult for the very young. Thinking about doing things outside and in small "bubbles" Jacob's "trails" were born. **Needs more content**

Church Building:

The "sanctuary" area is all that remains of the 1904 building. The extension completed in 2000 gives us on the ground floor; a large hall, a fully equipped kitchen, a large meeting room (currently in use for boxes of hope), the church office, a small meeting room, toilets and two foyers. Up a straight

flight of stairs are three class/meeting rooms, a kitchenette, caretakers store, general store and a toilet. To the rear of the building is a car park with marked spaces for 19 cars.

Drone shot of building?

Finance:

The church raises funds, which it needs to carry out its activities from within its own membership and congregation income is also received from the letting of rooms and from tax recovery on gift aid schemes.

During Covid lockdowns and restrictions we started looking for funding from grants that would enable us to fund Stepping Stones projects and in particular Boxes of Hope. We have also been able to use grant funding to enable us to provide a Fun-day for our local community.

Leadership Team:

We have a strong leadership and we believe we are looking for a leader who will be a strong team player, whilst having the ability to steer the church and the God's guidance to the place he would have us go. Please refer to the person specification for the role of minister the team is as follows.

Insert team Photo

Secretary:

Shirley Westall

Treasurer:

Ian Burbidge

Deacons:

Julie Harris

Liz Mildenhall

Vicki Payn

Gary Pricor

Becky Tromans

Adam Sibley

Matt Wright

Practical Matters:

Stipend details from Ian

Manse:

We own a four bedroom detached house approximately 3 miles north of the church.

Pictures of manse

Person Profile
Minister of Gorse Hill Baptist Church

Gorse Hill Baptist Church is looking for a new minister to enable us to fulfil our vision.

We are looking for someone who can fill the following roles:

- Spiritual leadership
- Preacher teacher
- Pastor
- Team Builder
- Encourager facilitator
- Strategic thinking

We realise that in reality, it is a tall order to expect all these from any one person, so we view this as a basis for discussion with you about your priorities for ministry.

To give a better impression of what we mean by these headings we have added some further in detail below.

1. The spiritual leader

We are looking for a prayerful spirit field person who can catch sight of God's vision for the church and its mission to the wider community and lead by both words and personal example we would expect them to be a person of integrity and exemplifying servant leader as part of this we would expect our minister to be growing spiritually and encouraging us to do the same.

2. Preacher / Teacher

We believe in the importance of God's word and we are looking for someone who sees its preaching and teaching as central to our church's growth. A person who can challenge and inspire us and share the vision of the way ahead, allowing God's word to speak prophetically into our lives, and who can also build our understanding by clear, well structured and thought-through holistic teaching. We would expect our minister to be effective in communicating both publicly and privately and able to bridge the gap between biblical text and today's world.

3. Pastor

We are looking for someone with the heart of a pastor, who will love the people of our church and community and oversee pastoral care within the fellowship. This will include care of those on the fringe or who have drifted away.

4. Team builder

Team working is important to us across the church. We anticipate that our minister will be someone who enjoys working as part of the team, values the contribution of other team members and he's open to learning from others. Within the leadership the minister will be the team leader, mentoring, developing and inspiring the rest of the team and the wider church.

5. Encourager/ facilitator

We are looking for someone who is able to encourage and develop God's people. We would like our minister to be someone who will help us discover and then develop our gifts, and provide an environment where people can try things out and, with support, learn from both their positive experiences and their mistakes.

6. Strategic thinker

We are looking for someone who can think strategically and creatively, helping us turn the church's vision into real plans and it felt a clear idea of our mission. As part of this our minister will be involved in communicating the way ahead to the whole church.