

Whitley Bay Baptist Church (WBBC), Park Avenue, NE26 1DX; www.wbbc.org.uk; Registered Charity No. [1126439](#)

About Us

WBBC is a warm, loving and welcoming fellowship, wanting to move forward within the Lord's purposes for us. We encompass a range of evangelical views within the fellowship but have a strong sense of unity. There is a renewed sense of mission and intentionality within the congregation in wanting to reach out to those currently outside the church.

We are a family friendly evangelical church¹ with 133 members (31/12/19) and over 150 people in regular attendance on a Sunday. This includes a wide age range from birth to 97 years. We have about 50 children and young people in the church.

We are very blessed with our church premises. There is a large sanctuary, a large and small hall and seven rooms of various sizes in our church centre. We have just completed a major refurbishment of the sanctuary to make it a flexible space with movable chairs and an open entrance with glass doors, making the space welcoming and fit for use in 21st century church work. The church currently owns a manse.

The church currently employs a full time Pastor (this post, see Team Leader Profile), and an office administrator, caretaker and cleaner (all part time). We are open to the possibility of other ministry staff in the future.

The church is led by the Church Leadership Team (CLT), made up of the Pastor and a number of elected church members.

We have two services on a Sunday with sung worship led by gifted musicians. The main service at 10am includes a full range of children and young people's work up to age 18 years. The singing is led by a worship group using a range of instruments to sing contemporary and traditional songs and hymns. We aim to include testimony and encouragement from many people within the service with various people leading our intercessions. The service is followed by a time of fellowship with tea and coffee.

The evening service takes the form of a more traditional service for three weeks in the month. On one Sunday per month there is a contemporary café style gathering. The time begins with food and fellowship and moves into an informal time for prayer, reflection and testimony.

Children and Youth

As a family friendly church, we have a strong Children and Young People's ministry². In addition to activities on Sunday morning covering all ages from crèche to 18 years, youth groups meet regularly with occasional youth social nights. Reaching outside the church, we run Open the Book and Prayer

¹ The church is an active member of the [Northern Baptist Association](#), adhering to the Principles of the Baptist Union and subscribing to the [Basis of Faith](#) of the Evangelical Alliance of Great Britain, of which it is a member.

² See the church website for further details of these ministries www.wbbc.org.uk.

Spaces in a number of local schools and have a football based ministry for those both within and outside the church.

Small Groups

We have ten small groups meeting around the town weekly or fortnightly for fellowship, bible study and prayer. Small Groups are a resource for growth in faith, discipleship, mission and pastoring and we want to develop these groups further.

Outreach Ministries

The church is engaged in a wide range of outreach and caring ministries and we are blessed with the many people who volunteer in this work. These ministries include Carer and Toddlers, Ladies Lunch, Take 5 and Chat, The Light, Movie Nights, Parish Nursing, Time out for Parents, Safe Families and Street Pastors². We also have a group looking into and engaging in links with local community activities. This is evidenced in the links with community organisations in the town such as [Big Local](#), reaching out in local pubs at Christmas, organising street events and the wide range of ministries listed above.

Links to other churches

We are seeking to work more collaboratively with other churches in the town to reach the wider community through service and evangelism. More widely across Tyneside, the church enjoys unity with many other organisations and supports evangelism, prayer and outreach events including young people's events and the work of Youth for Christ. There are two other local Baptist churches that historically grew from WBBC.

Mission support

As part of the world wide church we strongly believe in mission support for kingdom work beyond Whitley Bay. We regularly support BMS World Mission where we support a hospital project in Chad, Baptist Home Mission, and Tearfund. We also support the local foodbank, Children's Vision International in Bogota, Youth for Christ, Operation Christmas Child and a number of our congregation are engaged in Christian mission.

We believe it is right to 'speak out for those who cannot speak out for themselves'³, acting as advocates for the poor and oppressed. We also campaign to see the environment maintained and managed in a sustainable way and we are concerned that, as Christians, we should set an example by caring for creation in a God-honouring way ourselves. We are a Fairtrade church.

A number of external groups use the church premises through the week.

Summary

We are very aware of the need to disciple new and young Christians and also the need to bring on new leaders through training and support; we want to develop such discipleship and leader training. We are learning to think missionally in all aspects of our lives and want to encourage this. We care pastorally for one another through the Pastoral Care Team, small groups and Parish Nurses, whilst recognising that there is still more to do in this area of care. The premises of the church have been made much more friendly and accessible for adults at risk and those with disability and additional needs and we support those in our fellowship with such needs through a number of church groups. We are on a journey, looking for someone to work with the CLT and the fellowship to lead us in God's way following the retirement of our Pastor (Sept 2020).

² See the church website for further details of these ministries www.wbbc.org.uk.

³ Prov 31.8-9, Gen 2.15

Whitley Bay

Whitley Bay is an attractive seaside town, with blue flag beaches, situated 10 miles East of Newcastle upon Tyne. Together with Cullercoats, Tynemouth and North Shields, Whitley Bay forms part of a commuter belt along the coast. It has a mixed economy with areas of affluence and deprivation. The town has many amenities making it family friendly and attractive to young and old alike. There is an excellent range of independent shops, coffee shops and micro pubs that attract people to the town in the day and a large range of restaurants bringing people into the town in the evenings.

Whitley Bay has a long sandy beach with a recently reconstructed award winning promenade centred around the restored iconic, Grade II listed, Spanish City dome. This is home to restaurants and includes a plaza used for street activities and food events such as the annual Whitley Bay Carnival. Fairgrounds and other attractions take place on the adjacent Links overlooking the sea.

The town has a full age-range of inhabitants that are reflected in Whitley Bay Baptist Church and is generally a very welcoming community. The local schools and are among some of the best performing in the country.

In addition to the Baptist church, there are a dozen other churches in Whitley Bay and its adjacent area; these include most of the major denominations.

Nearby, Newcastle is the capital city of the North East with all the shops, arts and amenities one would expect to see in a large vibrant city. Whitley Bay is connected to Newcastle by the Metro railway and fast dual-carriageway roads giving easy access. London is less than 3 hours away by train and Newcastle International Airport has flights to many destinations.

The beautiful open countryside of Northumberland, the Borders to the north and west, and County Durham to the south is easily accessible with just a short drive out of town.