

Church Profile

Who are we?

Cambray Baptist Church is a welcoming and growing Fellowship with around 350 adults and children meeting on Sundays. Although situated in the town centre, the majority of the Church family come from outside. We are Evangelical and Baptist by constitution and persuasion, though we attract members from a wide spectrum of Christian traditions, experience and worship styles. We believe God's Word and good Bible-teaching is central to our church life. The Regency spa town of Cheltenham is renowned for its high quality shopping, period buildings, excellent schools and the beautiful Cotswold countryside, but away from its comfortable exterior it has areas of social deprivation. With perhaps 6% attending any kind of church on a Sunday, our town needs Jesus and we want to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation.

What is our vision?

We want everything we do as a church to reflect our strapline: *We aim to encourage and equip everyone to become fully committed everyday followers of Jesus Christ*. We are currently undertaking a church review, asking ourselves how we could repurpose our activities so that we are all actively involved in discipling and evangelism – whether within our current congregation or the not-yet Christians in our town and beyond. We would love to see so many people coming to faith in Jesus that we run out of space on a Sunday!

Who works at the church?

All of us – well, that's our aim! As regards full time staff, the team is growing and we now have three full time posts – a Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor and Pastoral Assistant. Part time posts are also an important part of the work, with an Administrator, Finance Manager and Caretaker. We are also seeking a Youth Pastor. In the recent past we have been blessed by a number of apprentices, who have gone on to greater things! All are ably assisted by a myriad of volunteers.

There is a maximum of 12 Deacons elected by about 200 members. As we discern where God is leading us, we know we will need to change some of these structures. However, every one of us needs to be doing the task that God has readied for him or her throughout the week, with Cambray being the place where we are equipped for service in our communities. Over the last few years we have been highlighting living for Christ where we work and play in our "Frontlines" initiative.

What is the building like?

We are blessed with an ideally situated town centre building dating from 1855, near the main shopping streets and a few metres from



the new John Lewis store that opens in 2018. From the outside, it looks rather austere, with limited parking.

However, on the inside, the main meeting room is an impressive space, able to accommodate 400+ people. Behind is a hall big enough for badminton, as well as teaching rooms, lounges, kitchens and offices.

We want to develop the way we use the building to be a blessing to town centre workers, shoppers and visitors alike.

Any links to other organisations?

We partner with and support Leckhampton Baptist Church on the southern edge of the town, a Fellowship that is growing also with Shurdington Chapel, also on the outskirts of Cheltenham. We also work together with other likeminded churches in the area.

We are an independent evangelical church, linked to the West of England Baptist Association, the Mid-Cotswold Evangelical Alliance and other local groups.

We have Charitable Incorporated Organisation status.

We are involved with Street Pastors, Christians Against Poverty, the local YMCA, Youth for Christ, Cheltenham Family Space and food bank.

Global Mission

As well as our local community, Cambray has a long history of working in partnership around the world. We currently have mission partners working in Madagascar, Bolivia and Nigeria and want to develop our association around the globe.

Each year our Harvest appeal raises funds to support Christian work in Developing Countries.

What groups are there at Cambray?

Gateway meets every Sunday at 9 am for adults with care and support needs, while Gloucestershire Chinese Christian Church uses our premises on Sunday afternoons.

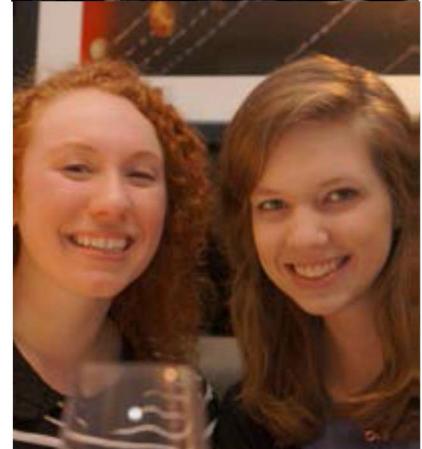
On Sunday mornings our Junior Church joins with us for the first part of the service before going to groups for ages 3-7, 8-11 and 12-18.

Through the week there are events for tots and toddlers, girls and boys, young people and students, twenties and thirties, women and men as well as a number of small groups meeting in homes.

We run the Marriage Course, Christianity Explored, Discipleship Explored and Bible teaching series.

As a church, we set aside a day every month for prayer, alongside other prayer groups.

Nevertheless, we must acknowledge the fact that we need to pray more.



What will the future of Cambray look like?

Our hope is that our church life will be more pleasing to God, our walk with Him will be closer and we will be able to welcome hundreds more into His family. Our desire is to connect more effectively with the community around us. We aim to equip and facilitate members of the church family to be less Sunday oriented; rather building bridges in the places they live and work.

Small groups meeting through the week provide close fellowship and, under God, we trust these will become key to disciple-making and localised outreach. We want to see younger Christians being trained to take on more roles within the church.