



**Welcome Baptist Church**  
HEATHFIELD

# Welcome Baptist Church Profile

Welcome Baptist Church  
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# Our vision

**Our vision**

**Loving  
each other**

in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Loving our  
community**

with all our strength.

**Loving God  
passionately**

in Jesus Christ.

# Who we are

## Who we are

### Welcome Baptist Church: a portrait of faith and fellowship

Nestled in the heart of Heathfield, East Sussex, Welcome Baptist Church is more than just a building; we're a vibrant community of believers committed to living out the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our church family seeks to embody the love, grace, and truth of Christ in every aspect of our communal and individual lives.

### We're a Spirit-filled church

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to love and serve our community, desiring to see it transformed for God's glory. Our congregation longs to be led by the Spirit in all we do, from worship to outreach, ensuring that our actions reflect the fruit of the Spirit and the heart of God while using the spiritual gifts He has given us.

### We're a worshipping church

Worship at Welcome Baptist Church is a heartfelt response to God's love and grace. Our Sunday services at 10.30am are designed to honour the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, incorporating times of worship, intercessory prayer, all-age talks, and Bible teaching. We strive to create an atmosphere where individuals from all walks of life can encounter God and express their devotion.



# Who we are



## We're a praying church

Prayer is the engine room of our church. We gather regularly to seek God, knowing that without Him we can do nothing. Whether in early morning men's prayer, weekly Saturday prayer gatherings, or spontaneous moments of intercession, we're always learning to depend more deeply on the presence and power of God.

## We're a learning church

At Welcome Baptist Church, we believe that discipleship is a lifelong journey. Our commitment to biblical teaching is evident in our Sunday services, where the gospel is always front and centre. We delve into Scripture through series from Old and New Testament books, aiming to apply God's word to our daily lives.

## We're a growing church

Growth at Welcome Baptist Church is both spiritual and numerical. We're dedicated to nurturing faith from the youngest to the oldest, seen across our wide range of activities throughout the church, providing opportunities for deeper connection and discipleship. We have seen attendance and church membership increase over the past five years since Covid restrictions were lifted. We now have 124 members with an average attendance of 150 at our Sunday services.

# Who we are

## We're a community church

Our mission extends beyond our walls into the Heathfield community and surrounding villages. We host a variety of midweek groups for all ages, providing a space for intentional fellowship. We pray for one another, for our community, and for the nations. We trust that when we pray, God moves.

## We're an evangelical church

Our foundation is the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are unashamed of the good news, recognising it as the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. Our services and ministries are designed to share this good news clearly and compassionately, inviting others into a transformative relationship with Christ and the world. We are members of the Evangelical Alliance and affirm their statement of faith.

## We're a family-centred church

Family is at the heart of Welcome Baptist Church. We believe children are not just the church of tomorrow; they are the church of today. Our family-focused ethos flows through everything we do—from all-age services that bring generations together to special events designed to help children encounter the love of Jesus in fun and memorable ways.



## We're a justice-seeking Church

We're a church with a heart for the nations, committed to prayerfully and practically resourcing gospel work in different contexts. We do this through supporting mission partners by walking alongside those already serving, who, in obedience to Jesus' call, are living out their faith in practical and courageous ways. Our role is to encourage, equip, and stand with them, whether in our local community or across the world.

As part of this commitment, we set aside a monthly 'Give It Away' fund that supports partnering organisations such as Hope Lebedyn, Medair, and Tearfund.

Recently, we have reviewed our approach to mission support and produced the policy below:

### **Mission - faith in action**

- **Steward the material resources of creation**  
Carefully use and protect God's resources so that we live sustainably for future generations.
- **Serve human beings without distinction and whatever the need**  
Respond to all human need, extending compassionate care to every person regardless of background.
- **Bear witness to Jesus**  
Proclaim the Gospel with faithfulness.
- **Champion God's justice**  
Speak up for truth and fairness and advocate for peace, equity and human dignity.
- **Model reconciliation, liberation and grace**  
Demonstrate Jesus' liberating love and live as a forgiving, generous, and servant-hearted community.

These principles guide how we live out our faith and mission locally, nationally, and globally. They shape how we pray, serve, give, partner and act, ensuring all our ministries and decisions reflect God's love, justice and kingdom purpose.

# What we do

## What we do

### Sunday services

Each Sunday our service starts at 10.30am and lasts about an hour and a half; we then have refreshments after the service. Some of our Sunday teams include:

### Pulpit team

We have a team of gifted preachers from within the membership who offer different voices and perspectives. Between them, they prayerfully consider and develop our preaching series throughout the year.

### Worship team

Our team of gifted musicians and worship leaders share the responsibility of putting together the sung worship on a Sunday morning. This team also head up a recently started service called Kingdom Come, which is an occasional midweek gathering aimed at spending intentional time with Jesus through sung worship and creative prayer.



# What we do

## Prayer ministry

We have an active prayer ministry team. The team are available to pray with anyone in the congregation after a Sunday service. They head up our weekly Saturday morning prayer gatherings; men's prayer & share on Thursday mornings; and they've recently held a prayer week to join the global 24 /7 prayer initiative.

## Children and young people

Through a team of dedicated volunteers, our Sunday mornings include a thriving Sunday School for primary-aged children, where Bible stories, creative activities, and caring leaders help young hearts grow in faith. A crèche is available for our youngest members, ensuring parents can engage with worship while their little ones are safe and loved.

We have a GAP (God's Awesome Presence) programme for our teenagers, which encompasses teaching, games and fun.





## Midweek events.

We have many midweek events, each aimed to deepen faith and reach out to our local community.

## House groups

Approx. 70+ attendees

We have a number of house/discipleship groups, meeting to provide fellowship and spiritual growth. Run by members of the church, they meet the needs of the congregation by being flexible with times and approaches, ensuring there's something for everyone.

## GAP (God's Awesome Presence) midweek

The GAP youth group meets fortnightly on Wednesday evenings and offers a welcoming space for young people aged 11–17, whether they come from within the church or the wider community. Each session is filled with fun and variety, ranging from games and activities in the church building to outdoor socials when the weather allows, such as chips on the beach, ten pin bowling, barbecues, swimming, and team games. At the heart of every gathering is a time of testimony and reflection, ensuring that Christ remains central as young people build friendships, explore faith, and discover what it means to follow Him in their daily lives.

## Warm Space

This group was set up during Covid and meets on a Monday afternoon at the church to provide a safe space for those who would like to meet together. This is open to anyone free of charge. We have refreshments available all afternoon with crafts, games, knitting, crocheting and reading. We have entertainment such as quizzes and talks.

## Ladies Coffee Morning

This group meet once a fortnight on a Friday morning. During the summer they go out for coffee to various garden centres or places of interest. During the winter months they tend to be in the church where they have a variety of activities including testimonies, sharing their faith & Bible study.

## Baby and Toddler groups

We run a weekly baby group and two toddler groups, all designed to be a safe, welcoming space for families. It's where little ones can play, and make friends, and where parents and carers can find support and community. Each group provides fun and stimulating activities to help children grow and develop. As a church, we believe every child is a precious gift from God, and our hope is to help families feel loved and encouraged as we show God's love through serving our community with kindness and care.

## Cedars

This group is for anyone 60 and above and meets once a month on a Thursday afternoon at the church. Each session includes refreshments, entertainment and is always centred on Christian content.



# What we do

## SEND Stay & Play

We're delighted to host our SEND Stay & Play group at the church, offering an inclusive space where children with additional needs are celebrated and cherished. Thanks to a grant from the local council, which recognised us as the only SEND group in the local area, we have specialist equipment to meet the children's needs. Beyond the resources, this group provides a much-needed community for parents, a special place where they can connect, share, and support one another in a safe and non-judgmental environment.

## Clothes & Toys Swap

We host a Clothes & Toy Swap three times a year as an expression of our calling to love our neighbours and care for God's creation. This event helps families in our community access good-quality clothing and toys whilst reducing waste. It's more than just a practical solution; it's a way for people to connect, build friendships, and experience our church as a place of generosity.

## Messy Mums

Motherhood is a beautiful, though often challenging, journey. It's a role filled with incredible joy, but also one that can feel overwhelming at times. That's why our Messy Mums group meets monthly, offering a night off. We've found that it mainly serves mums from the community who don't usually come to church. It's a supportive space to connect with other mums, enjoy some cake, and do a little crafting. Each evening starts with a devotional to connect the truths of the gospel to the everyday moments of life.



# What we do

## Duke of Edinburgh award scheme

We run a very popular DofE award scheme that offers young people opportunities for service and adventure. It's been running for over 30 years, by a team of faithful volunteers. Every DofE expedition includes a 'morning thought' given by one of the leaders as a testimony of their faith.

## Women@Welcome

Our women's ministry is a vibrant and welcoming space for women of all ages to connect and grow in their faith. We believe in the power of building genuine relationships where women can openly share their victories and challenges. Through various events, including breakfasts, awaydays at Ashburnham Place, Bible studies and conferences, we provide opportunities to deepen our connection with God and with each other. This is a place to find support, share stories, and walk alongside one another on the journey of faith.

## Men's Ministry

We have a thriving and vibrant men's ministry where men can meet together, bringing friends from outside the church, knowing they will be entering a friendly and welcoming environment. It's a place where friendships and relationships are built and strengthened as the men talk of their faith and hear others' personal stories and testimonies in an informal setting. The group offers a variety of activities for the men, including a weekly early-morning Share & Prayer meeting, annual weekend away, build a burger nights, curry nights and breakfasts. A men's study group is being set up for those who want to dig deeper into Christ's teachings.



## Minister Profile

We are prayerfully seeking a Spirit-filled minister, male or female, who will join us in discerning and living out God's vision for our church and community. Our heart is to grow as disciples of Jesus, deepen our relationships with one another, and reach outward with the good news of the gospel in word and action.

We are looking for someone who will:

- **Be gospel-centred and rooted in Scripture** – a gifted Bible teacher who can encourage, challenge, and inspire people of all ages in their walk with Jesus.
- **Lead with humility and reliance on God** – someone who is prayerful, Spirit-led, and committed to discerning God's will for the church.
- **Value relationships across generations** – an effective communicator with all age groups, helping us continue to grow as an intergenerational church family.
- **Be a people person** – approachable, caring, and relatable, able to meet people where they are, share life experiences, and show compassion both within the fellowship and in the wider community.
- **Equip and release others** – a facilitator and encourager who recognises and nurtures the gifts within the church, delegating and enabling teams and leaders to flourish.
- **Have a heart for mission and evangelism** – outward-looking, helping us to engage with our community, develop intentional relationships, and explore new opportunities for outreach, discipleship, and world partnership-mission.
- **Strengthen our worship life** – with a heart for worship and a desire to lead us deeper into God's presence.
- **Work collaboratively with leadership** – willing to listen, share, and navigate difficult issues together with grace and wisdom.

We believe God is calling us into a season of being more intentional in mission, discipleship, and community life. Our new minister will play a key role in helping us reset, grow, and step out in faith together.

We recognise that no one is perfect, and we are looking for someone who will grow with us as we seek God together.

## Practical Details

As a Baptist church we are members of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the South East Baptist Association.

We will therefore be following the Baptist Terms of Appointment, which outline the conditions of employment. An offer above the stipend would be considered.

Conditions of employment include a DBS check and regular safeguarding training for leaders provided by the South East Baptist Association.

The church is self-funded by the generosity of the congregation and financially stable.

## Location



We own a property next door to the church, which we don't believe to be suitable for a family manse, so depending on the need we would look into suitable options.

Heathfield is a small but expanding town with a flourishing High Street, large secondary school and 4 local primary schools.

## Appendix

### Church Leadership Team

Joanne Martin - Children's and Families Ministry (employee)

Sue Lade - Pastoral worker for the elderly (employee)

Janet Cole – Church Administrator (employee)

Caroline Adams – Church Secretary & Stewarding Deacon

Greg Durrant – Treasurer, membership Deacon

Jackie Selby – Youth, Pastoral Deacon

Laura Selby – Prayer Deacon

Roger Stevenson – Mission & DofE Deacon

Andrew Taylor – Building development Deacon

Anandi Dimon - Pulpit Team & Pastoral Deacon

Dan Arnott - Pulpit Team and IT Deacon

### Profile of Members and regular attendees

Membership – 124

Average group attendance

Sunday service - approx. 150

Baby & Toddler groups - 15-25 families per group.

Creche - 3-5

Sunday School - 20+

Cedars - 45 over 60s.

GAP - 8-10

Duke of Edinburgh awards - 26

House/Discipleship groups - 70+

Ladies Coffee Morning - 20

Men's Share & Prayer - 6-10

Messy Mums - 20-30

SEND stay and play - 12 Families

Warm Space - 20

Women's Ministry - 20-50

Men's Weekend Away - 40-50

Clothes & Toy Swaps - 200-300



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