



Bramhall Baptist Church

Church Profile

Introduction

Bramhall Baptist Church is a warm, caring fellowship seeking a new Minister who will walk with us into the next chapter of our life together. We are a Bible-centred church with a genuine love for one another, and we long to grow deeper in faith, wider in mission and stronger in our life together.



Bramhall Baptist Church has a long and faithful history, beginning with its planting in 1856. Our current building, opened in 1993, has served as a home for worship, fellowship and mission for more than three decades. Until the 1990s Bramhall Baptist was an independent Baptist Church since which time it has become a member of the Evangelical Alliance and joined the Baptist Union. The church has a strong core of committed and motivated members who continue to carry a deep desire to see the church flourish. As we look to the future, we are seeking a new Minister to lead, teach and enable us to grow to maturity.

We are very much a family church as we are fortunate to have a wide range of ages in the church, including families with young children and teenagers. Our congregation includes people from diverse theological backgrounds, united in our desire to follow Jesus faithfully and to grow into the church God is calling us to be. We are also blessed with a richer mix of cultural and mixed-heritage backgrounds than is typical of the surrounding area.

Bramhall Baptist Church Profile

However, like many congregations, the pressures of life, work and family can make regular engagement with church activities challenging for some. We are grateful for the many active older members who are able to participate fully in the ministry of the church.

The Fellowship

Membership & Attendance



There tends to be a congregation of around 60 on a Sunday morning, although numbers vary as not everyone is able to come every week. In addition, there is a wider group of people connected to the church who attend occasionally, bringing our overall community to roughly 100. We have a membership of 40. Our leadership team consists of 2 Elders and 3 other Trustees, one of whom is treasurer.

The Church as It Is Now

We are a friendly church and make a point of looking out for newcomers and enabling them to feel part of the church. We welcome and include everyone who wishes to attend. There is a pastoral team but a lot of support is given through established small groups and informal care networks.

There is a church WhatsApp group, a Facebook page, and a website (<https://bramhallbaptist.org>). Social media engagement represents an opportunity for further development. Services can be viewed on YouTube (<https://bramhallbaptist.org/Groups/363622/Sermons.aspx>). Weekly communication about all upcoming church events and things of interest wider afield are emailed to church attendees on our “news scroll”.

Bramhall Baptist Church Profile

Sunday Morning Worship

Our services are built around the Word of God, worship and prayer. We enjoy a variety of music styles during worship, which includes the use of contemporary worship songs as well as more traditional hymns.

A music group usually leads the worship and we have invested in good audio-visual equipment which helps us with corporate worship and with live-streaming the services. Morning communion takes place once a month.



Evening Worship

Informal evening services are held twice a month, one of which is a communion service.

Children and Youth

A number of families regularly attend the church and we have a thriving Sunday School, averaging 10 children each week, plus a teen group with about 8 attending. We currently have a youth group held on a Wednesday evening, attended by some children not otherwise connected with the church. We also support holiday clubs held by local churches. A creche is available for babies and toddlers during the Sunday worship service.

Firepit

Firepit is a well-attended group for men which meets outdoors once a month at a church member's home to listen to a testimony, share food and chat.

Bramhall Baptist Church Profile

Midweek Activities

Prayer

Prayer meetings are held before the Sunday morning service and also on a Wednesday lunch time. At the beginning of lockdown in 2020 an online prayer meeting was started which still continues to meet at 8am each weekday morning, praying for one topic with a relevant Bible reading.

Home Groups

Four groups meet regularly to study God's word and pray together—two in the evenings and a ladies' group that meets in the morning. In addition, a monthly group meets exclusively online. One of the evening groups operates in a hybrid format, with some attending in person and others joining online, enabling those who cannot travel to still participate fully. Across all groups, there is a committed attendance of around 35 people.

Tea Break



Tea Break is a very popular ministry for seniors both from within church and in the wider area. Events are normally held on alternate weeks and include food and fellowship – sometimes at church, and sometimes trips out. The ministry aims to build friendships within the group and has an evangelistic focus. Currently around 40 people attend the meetings. There is also a “Holiday At Home” which takes place over 3 days each summer in conjunction with other local churches.

Missionary Support

Missions support is a core part of our purpose. Support and distribution of missions giving is overseen by the Mission Group who meet several times a year. The church currently supports both UK/local mission ministries including The Message Trust and Christians in Schools Trust; and overseas missions in Portugal, Kenya, Brazil, and the Far East.

Other Groups and Events

Groups such as the Book Group and the Walking Group meet periodically and there are occasional events such as a games evening or quiz night. These all give an opportunity to invite friends and family to a more informal gathering.

Bramhall and Woodford Churches Together

We actively participate in and support joint activities with other local churches. These include regular public witness in the village centre at Christmas and on Good Friday, a joint prayer meeting once a month, and joint activities for teens and children. Ministers meet weekly for prayer and once a month for administration and co-ordination.

Bramhall Baptist Church Profile

Community Involvement

Action and Outreach

The immediate area surrounding the church building is affluent, but there are areas nearby which are more obviously deprived. We support local Foodbanks including those run by Hazel Grove Baptist Church and Chelwood Baptist Church. There are large new housing estates being built close to church which could provide opportunities for further outreach.

Little Lambs

This is a busy and well attended toddler group of about 20 adults and 25 children held on Thursday mornings from 10–11.30am in term-time. Most of the parents and carers who come are not connected to the church and this provides a great opportunity for outreach.

Local Schools

There are primary and secondary schools nearby which welcome our involvement. A local primary school visits the church to learn about Christian festivals, and our previous minister has taken assemblies in primary schools and ran a lunchtime Christian group in a local secondary school along with the youth worker from Christians in Schools Trust.

Christmas, Easter and Other Special Occasions

We hold a nativity service, a Christingle and a Carol service at Christmas. On Good Friday local churches hold a joint service followed by a walk of witness and an outdoor service. There is, of course, a joyful Easter service. We distribute invitations to the local neighbourhood to invite people to these.



Church Building



The building contains the main worship area with seating for up to 120, and a number of smaller meeting rooms and functional areas. The worship area is octagonal with a vaulted wooden roof and a low stage with lectern, an area at one side dedicated to the music group including an electric piano and drum kit and space for musicians. There are folding doors at the rear allowing overflow into the foyer area, and a baptistry set into the centre of the floor which is covered when not in use: seating is rearranged as required. There is a sound desk and AV station at the back with display screens on the front and rear walls.

There is a small kitchen and we enjoy occasional bring-and-share meals as well as regular tea and coffee after services.

Also on the ground floor, there is a crèche room, a meeting room which is most often used for work with young people, toilets and a small office.

Upstairs, there is a large room which is used for youth and children's activities and Sunday School. There is also a toilet, and a "chill out" room which is mainly used by the teenagers.

Bramhall Baptist Church Profile

Overview and Ministerial Requirements

The Church's Vision

Our vision is to be salt and light in the place we are – to show the love of God to those we meet in word and action, through service and gospel proclamation. As a congregation we want to grow in faith and fellowship – to worship together, to support one another and to be a witness to God's love.

Ministry

In seeking a new Minister, we recognise that it is impossible for any one person to have all the attributes necessary to lead every aspect of church life. However, it is our aim to support the Minister strongly through team work and use the skills and talents already available in the fellowship to complement the Minister's strengths and to provide support for those tasks that the Minister may not be gifted or able to undertake. We envisage the Minister preaching 3 out of 4 Sundays to enable time for the development and mentoring of other aspects of church life. This gives the opportunity for people within the fellowship to develop their preaching and leading gifts, and also to have outside speakers and hear what God is doing in the wider Christian community.

The Person We Are Looking For

We are seeking a Minister who demonstrates most of the following qualities:

Leadership and Vision

- Clear leadership and vision
- Able to provide direction and help the church discern God's leading with a unified sense of purpose
- Encourage each member to confidently take part in the life of the church and to use and develop their gifts
- Servant-hearted with a deep love for Christ

Bible-Centred Preaching and Teaching

- Loves Scripture and teaches it faithfully and clearly
- Communicates the Bible in ways that are engaging and relevant
- Encourages and challenges people of all ages to grow in faith and understanding

Spirit-Filled Ministry

- Open to the work and guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Values prayer and worship as central to church life

Heart for Outreach and Mission

- Passionate about sharing God's love locally and more widely
- Encourages the church to be outward looking and engaged with its community

Pastoral Care

- Approachable, caring and relational
- Willing to walk alongside people
- Committed to nurturing a culture of compassion, support and mutual care

Bramhall Baptist Church Profile

Practical Matters

Bramhall Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Union (BU) and the Evangelical Alliance. We also have an affiliation with the Northwest Baptist Association.

The BU terms of appointment will be used as a starting point for discussion. The pay is set at the BU recommended stipend. The church complies with the relevant regulations with regard to pension contributions. The Minister must have the right to work in the UK.

We have a 4 bedroom manse, you can take a tour here: <https://youtube/DHoTMH6PhrY>



The Manse is situated on a quiet road 1.7 miles from the church and backs onto a woodland valley. It is close to local shops and a large park; larger supermarkets are within easy driving distance. There is a bus stop nearby and the railway station is just over a mile away. There are several excellent primary schools in Bramhall and the Manse is within walking distance of Bramhall High School and Hazel Grove High School. Sixth form colleges are accessible by bus.

There is room in the Manse for a study and there is a small office in the church. The Minister will be provided with a laptop, printer and mobile phone plus a contribution towards internet costs. Details are a matter for discussion between the Elders and Trustees and any prospective new Minister. Flexibility is available to meet the needs and circumstances of the new incumbent, including alternative housing arrangements.

An appraisal process is in place in order to support effective two-way communication about priorities between minister and the church. . We are keen to invest in the ongoing growth and continuing ministerial development of our Minister.

Bramhall Baptist Church Profile

Appendix 1

Information about Bramhall and surrounding areas

Bramhall Baptist Church is an on the rural edge of suburban Stockport

Bramhall was originally a village in Cheshire and is now part of the Metropolitan Borough of Stockport in Greater Manchester. It is still affectionately referred to as a village by locals and retains a strong community feel. The centre has several independent shops along with a wide range of restaurants and coffee shops. Bramhall Park, with its beautiful Tudor house, attracts many visitors throughout the year, especially during the annual duck race. The area offers easy access to Stockport and Manchester, while also being ideally placed for enjoying the beautiful Cheshire and Derbyshire countryside and villages.

At the 2021 census Bramhall alone had a registered a population of 17,195. However, due to expansion of nearby Woodford's 'Garden Village' the Council estimates the total population of the two electoral wards (North plus South and Woodford) has now reached 25,004

House prices in Bramhall average £500,000, reflecting the above average number of detached houses but there are several estates considerably below these prices and a cross-section of housing costs in new-builds.

Bramhall is close to the M6 motorway (18 miles from Junction 18 at Holmes Chapel or 5 miles via the M56 link road to Manchester Airport and the new A555 link-road to within 200m of the church). It is also less than 4 miles to the M60 motorway at Stockport.

Bramhall has a local station on the Macclesfield-Manchester line with hourly services in each direction with easy access to Stockport for connections to Inter-City trains north and south (within 10 minutes) and directly to Manchester in 20-25 minutes.

Manchester Airport, with 2 terminals for domestic, European and trans-continental services, is 5 miles away.

Appendix 2

Audited accounts

The published accounts for charity numbers 1133038 and 1212504 are available on the Charity Commissions Website.

The pension deficit was paid off in 2020 and the only major liability is now the mortgage on the Manse.

Transfer to CIO

In 2025 Bramhall Baptist Church changed its legal entity to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).