

# CHURCH PROFILE



**“Jesus in us, our church, our community, our world”**

**West Leigh Baptist Church (WLBC) is an active and vibrant Church Family with a growing membership of more than 180, with many others of all ages who meet with us and participate in different aspects of church life.**

Our **Vision** is to be a 400 member plus church; with multiple congregations meeting on our London Road site; with a vision to plant a new kind of church in the area called West Leigh.

Our **Vision Values** mean that we will demonstrate our love for God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and one another by striving to:

**Centre our lives on Jesus Christ**, recognising the need to be distinctive in our Christian lifestyles. Seeking to equip and care for one another in daily discipleship.

**Reach out to, and serve, others outside our church**, welcoming the stranger, offering hospitality and challenging injustice.

**Encourage our leaders and each other** to be visionary, pastorally sensitive, demonstrate humility, commitment to prayer, forgiveness and listening to the Spirit.

**Be generous** with our time, our money and our gifts.

Our **Vision Structure** means our church life is structured around the following areas:

-  **Discipleship**
-  **Community**
-  **Children & Youth**
-  **Support Services**

## Location

West Leigh Baptist Church is positioned on the main London Road (A13) in Leigh-on-Sea, on the edge of a residential area known as West Leigh. Leigh itself is situated on the Thames estuary in Essex, 40 miles east of London. Leigh has its origins as a small fishing village and the Old Town retains many historic features. With a population of approximately 22,000, Leigh-on-Sea is part of the Borough of Southend-on-Sea, the local Unitary Authority, although Leigh also has its own Town Council. Leigh is a thriving town, with its own clearly defined character, with many churches, schools and a local shopping area known as The Broadway. The town is connected by rail to London Fenchurch Street and a fast and frequent train service (journey time around 45 minutes) means that many people commute daily to London for work.

## History

The church at West Leigh was planted in 1914, in an area of Leigh that was rapidly becoming more built up, as a church plant from another Baptist church in the town, Leigh Road Baptist Church. It was with joy and thanksgiving to God that we celebrated our centenary three years ago. There have been many changes over the years, but our vision to serve God in our local community remains unchanged.



## Leadership

The Rev Jon Stannard – Team Leader, was called to the pastorate of WLBC in November 2012; a familiar face to many at West Leigh as he had been a student minister in training here in the 1990s. Jon, his wife Sarah and their four grown up children were welcomed back to West Leigh and under his leadership as Pastor the church has grown and thrived. The Stannard family live in The Manse, a four-bedroomed house owned by the church, less than a mile away.

## Church Council

Church Council, who form the Leadership Team with the Pastor, is made up of elected members who each serve for a three-year

term before standing down or being re-elected. There are currently nine members of Church Council. They meet, with the Pastor, once a month for a business meeting and once a month in four Task Groups.

## Task Groups

The four Task Groups, one for each area of church life: Discipleship, Community, Children & Youth and Support Services, meet monthly, with other co-opted church members, to oversee the life of the church in that aspect of church life.

## DISCIPLESHIP: Worshipping, Growing, Caring

### Sundays

We generally hold two services on a Sunday morning; the first one being shorter and more reflective which suits some of our more elderly members, and the second one with singing led by the Music Group and the provision of Children & Youth activities, known as 3.16.

Coffee is served after each morning service which enables the whole fellowship to meet together informally.

A varied programme of Sunday afternoon or evening services is held each month, including a monthly Re:Vive worship service.

### Home Groups

Everyone in the church is encouraged to join a small group, or Home Group, and we have a good number of them which meet at different times





during the week. Currently around half the church congregation are involved with Home Groups.

### **Pastoral Care**

Having a good network of Home Group helps to support the pastoral care within the life of West Leigh. In addition to this, a small pastoral care team, led by the Pastor, meet weekly to review pastoral needs. The Parish Nurse plays a crucial part in supporting pastoral care.

### **Baptism & Membership**

We affirm believers' baptism by total immersion and it is the normal expectation that people will have been baptised in this way before being welcomed into membership. However, we operate an 'open' membership so there may be those who have made commitments in other ways in different denominations who have also been received into membership. It is always a joy to celebrate with people as they go through the waters of baptism!

### **Men's Fellowship**

The Men's Fellowship meet informally a couple of times a month to encourage each other spiritually. There are also opportunities for more practical activities and friendship building as part of 'Men Outdoors at WLBC!'



*Heather and Jan at the Resource Centre*

### **Resource Centre**

The shared resources: Bibles, study notes, books, DVDs and cards in Resource Centre, a new development, are to help to equip and encourage everyone in their own personal daily discipleship.

## **COMMUNITY: Serving, Sharing, Partnering**

### **Parish Nursing**

We have a Parish Nurse, a member at West Leigh, who is a Registered General Nurse and Registered Sick Children's Nurse. Her role is to care for the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of her clients. The Parish Nurse aims to give holistic health care through our church to its members and to people living in the surrounding community, reaching out with God's love in a practical way. The Parish Nurse runs clinics from the church, visits people in their homes, attends critical appointments with clients, arranges exercise classes and other health promotion events. She offers advice and support that enhances care given by the NHS and Social care system and she works closely with these organisations.

### **Alpha**

We run regular Alpha courses once or twice a year depending upon interest. We have seen a number of people come to faith and be baptised through the course and we see this as a vital part of our outreach.

### **Outreach**

As with Parish Nursing we believe that organisations such as **CAP** and **Foodbank**, which we support, provide a useful service to the community in our part of Leigh and we are looking at other ways to extend this ministry including a potential **wood recycling project**.

We have recently seen two new initiatives emerge, **baby massage**, and **baby sensory**, which have provided good links into our community and brought many of our young families into contact with those in the community.

### **Global Mission**

The aim of the World Mission Group is to bring an awareness to the church of God's work throughout the world and to provide information on those organisations and individuals we have agreed to support. We currently have links with BMS World Mission and a Link Mission Worker, the Baptist Union Home Mission, as well as supporting three other organisations or individuals.



*Enjoying a cup of tea at Cornerstone*

## **The Cornerstone**

The Cornerstone, our local charity shop, was originally set up to help with the building project, but it has proved to be more than just a successful fundraising project. Through the shop we have seen a number of people attend church and the staff often have the opportunity to share their faith with customers – a great outreach opportunity!

## **Seniors**

We have a growing ministry to Seniors, mainly through the work of the Parish Nurse, and each month we arrange a mid-week short service, followed by lunch; a wonderful opportunity for our elderly friends to share fellowship together.

## **Adams Elm**

A service is held once a month on a Sunday afternoon for the residents of Adams Elm House, sheltered accommodation located opposite the Church.

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH: Inspiring, Encouraging, Releasing**

WLBC went through the process of a Children and Youth Review in 2015 which was designed to evaluate our Children & Youth work at the time and make recommendations about how we can develop and expand this area of church life. This resulted in the church starting to look at employed positions which could help to develop the vision for the Children & Youth in our church and community. Currently all these groups are overseen by the Children & Youth Task Group.

## **3.16**

3.16 is the name given to the groups for our young people that run on a Sunday during the 10.30am service. They run for those aged 2½ - 17 years. There are five age groups and each group receives age appropriate teaching from a group of volunteers from the church membership.

## **Crèche**

Crèche is a comfortable area with toys available for parents to use with their babies and toddlers during services, where they can still see and hear the service.



*Having fun at Girls Brigade*

## **Girls Brigade**

Girls Brigade is a uniformed organisation for girls to explore the Christian faith together and make friends. It runs on a Tuesday evening, staffed by a group of volunteers from the church membership.

## **Extreme**

Extreme is a youth club for secondary school aged children to build friendships. It runs on a Friday evening and involves activities on site and in the local community. In recent years there has also been a group of young people from this age group attend Solid, a local Christian weekend festival. Both are staffed by volunteers from the church membership.

## **Carers and Tots**

Carers and Tots is a group for pre-school children and their carers to come and play, chat and build relationships run on a Monday morning in the church by volunteers from the church membership.

## Wired

Wired is a group for young people aged 15-18 to explore and discuss the Bible in the style of a home group run by church members.

## WLBC Football Team

We have a football team for young people which competes as part of a local church league on a Saturday morning; this is run and coached by church members.

## SUPPORT SERVICES: Enabling, Facilitating, Coordinating

The areas which the Support Services Task group focuses on are as follows:

- Finance & Governance
- Fabric/premises
- Health & Safety
- Administration & Communication
- Leadership/Oversight.

In view of the nature of these delegated responsibilities, both the Church Treasurer and the Church Secretary serve on this Task Group along with others.

The aim is to focus on activities that will support the other Task Groups so that they are in a position to carry out their programmes and initiatives. This is best illustrated by some recent examples of work that the Support Services Task Group has been involved with:

- ✂ Installing new illuminated signage on the exterior of the building to increase awareness of the church's presence in the community.
- ✂ Installing an electronic TV notice board facing out onto the main road, enabling messages to be displayed in an engaging way to passers-by.
- ✂ Carrying out an audit of storage requirements for all groups within the church and developing a plan of work that will not only create more storage space but also see benefits in terms of practicality and tidiness, having regard also to health and safety requirements.

✂ Carrying out a review of church safety and security to identify what policies are in place and whether these are fit for purpose.

✂ Reviewing the present Church Rules and Constitution to ensure that they are up to date and in line with present practice.

## Buildings

We have completed a major rebuilding programme with a brand new facility opened in November 2011. The project cost £1.6 million, £900,000 of which had to be borrowed, and the church family together with The Cornerstone Charity shop have now cleared all but £280,000 and our intention is to pay off this within the next two to three years before embarking on the next phase of the rebuild (replacing the Memorial Hall) at an estimated cost of £1.2 million. Our buildings are increasingly used by both church groups, and many in the local community including youth groups, dance groups, theatre companies, Southend Borough Council, and U3A to name just a few.

## Staff

The church currently employs:

- Rev Jon Stannard, Full Time Minister, team leader



*Julie, Administrator*

- Church Administrator/team leader support, part time, 20 hours per week
- Parish Nurse, part time, 12 hours, plus 8 voluntary per week
- Site Manager, part time, 25 hours per week



- Assistant to the Site Manager, part time, 4-8 hours per week



*Bob, Bookkeeper*

- Bookkeeper, part time, 10 hours per week
- Charity Shop Manager, part time, 25 hours per week (paid through profits from the shop)

## Finance

WLBC is in good financial condition and the church community have been wonderful in their support both to the General Fund, and in

seeking to clear our mortgage on the new build as soon as possible. We continue to face the challenge of wanting to clear the debt quickly but also to develop ministries to meet the needs of our local community and resource the growing needs within church life. We continue to pray for wisdom.

*We would like to add further support in areas including Pastoral Care, Seniors, and communications in due course, but our priority right now is....*

## Minister for Children, Youth and Families

We are looking for an Associate Minister to work alongside our team leader, Rev Jon Stannard. This new Minister will oversee Children and Youth work, supporting leaders and developing our growing work amongst families.

Therefore, the following Job Description was agreed. **'Associate Minister' with responsibility for Children, Youth and Families**

**For more information or an informal conversation please contact  
Rev Jon Stannard, 07825 638589  
or contact  
revjon.stannard@wlbc.org.uk**

## Job Description:

### **'Associate Minister' with responsibility for Children, Youth and Families**

#### **Purpose**

- To lead, shape, oversee, and manage the existing ministries within West Leigh Baptist Church amongst Children, Youth, and Families, in accordance with the overall Vision for WLBC, and in conjunction with other ministry areas.
- To develop, oversee and manage new ministries and projects within Children, Youth and Family ministry, including missional opportunities beyond the life of the local church.
- To be involved in preaching, leading worship, and taking special services including: all age services, messy church, worship events, funerals and weddings, in consultation with the Minister Team Leader.

## **Leadership**

- To work closely with the Minister Team Leader, Church Council, and the Task Group for Children & Youth, to ensure that the vision is clear and that there is a strategy to achieve it.
- To manage the budget for the Children and Youth, and Families ministries.
- To oversee the recruitment, training, support and ongoing encouragement of volunteers to implement the vision and strategy.
- To provide pastoral support to those in these ministries, working closely with the Pastoral Team, and Minister Team Leader.
- To take the lead role in communicating to the Church Members and congregation both the ongoing ministry and future of the Children, Youth and Families ministries.
- To take the lead role in forming and developing a team for special events, all age services, messy church, and new projects.
- Oversight of the church's commitment to its Child & Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy, and developing a culture which ensures proper assessment and implementation of the policy.
- To develop and oversee the church's policy towards Social Media amongst Children, Youth and Families.
- To build links and network with other churches in the local area and the Southend Area Baptist Network with Children, Youth and Families in mind.

## **Team**

- To attend and play an active role within Church Council and Church Members' meetings.

## **Essential person specifications**

- An accredited Minister within the Baptist Union of Great Britain or other denomination, recognising a Baptist expression of church.
- Demonstrable ability to understand Children & Youth, and family life in a suburban setting.
- A demonstrable passion for Pastoral Care, Mission and Evangelism.
- A demonstrable commitment to continuing professional development including ongoing training and mentoring.
- Proven experience in leading volunteer teams.
- A strategic and organised approach to planning.
- Pro-active style, self-motivated, adaptable & creative approach.
- A working and contemporary understanding of Social Media.

## **Key Requirements**

- A full enhanced DBS disclosure.

## **Important to note:**

We do not yet have a second Manse so would rent a suitable property in the short term, with the hope that in the mid-term we would be able to purchase a second Manse.

The church is part of the BUGB, the EBA, Southend Area Baptist Network, and Churches Together in Leigh-on-Sea, and affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance, holding to a traditional evangelical position theologically.



[www.wlbc.org.uk](http://www.wlbc.org.uk)

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