

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 195, 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 six Task Group areas:

-  **Discipleship**
-  **Community**
-  **Children, Youth & Families**
-  **Premises**
-  **Communications**
-  **Pastoral Care & Prayer Ministry**

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 four 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, Minister 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 Minister Team Leader 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 Minister Team Leader, is made up of elected members who each serve for a three-year term before standing down or being



re-elected. There are currently ten members of Church Council. They meet, with the Minister Team Leader, once a month for a business meeting and once a month in six Task Groups.

Task Groups

The six Task Groups, one for each area of church life: Discipleship, Community, Children, Youth & Families, Premises, Communications, and Pastoral Care & Prayer Ministry, 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 sung worship led by the worship teams and the provision of Children & Youth activities, known as 3.16.

Refreshments are served after each morning service which enables the whole fellowship to meet together informally.

A varied programme of evening services/ events 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 Groups helps to support the pastoral care within the life of West Leigh. In addition to this, a small Pastoral Care Team, led by the Minister Team Leader, meet weekly to review pastoral needs. The Parish Nurse and her team play a crucial part in supporting pastoral care.

Baptism and 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 the 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 Team led by 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. The Parish Nurse ministry is a thriving one, and a growing twice monthly lunchtime congregation has emerged over recent years.

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 and Evangelism

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 supporting and partnering with a new wood recycling project 'New Life Wood'.

We have recently seen new initiatives emerge, **Baby Massage**, **Wonderfully Made**, and **Baby Sensory**, and hope to see 'Taste and See' begin soon, which have provided good links into our community and brought many of our young families into contact with those in the community.

A new evangelism strategy has been written and plans are being made for both training and active engagement in evangelism.

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!

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 & FAMILIES: Inspiring, Encouraging, Releasing

WLBC went through the process of a Children and Youth Review in 2015 which was designed to evaluate our Children and 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 and

Youth in our church and community. Currently all these groups are overseen by the Children, Youth & Families Task Group.

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.



Boys' Brigade

Boys' Brigade is back in September 2018 after a long absence.



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.

Little Steps

Little Steps 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 Teams

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

PREMISES: Enabling, Facilitating, Coordinating

- Fabric/premises
- Health & Safety

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. The church family, together with The Cornerstone charity shop, have now cleared all but £200,000. Our intention is to pay off this within the next one to two years before embarking on the next phase of the rebuild (replacing the Memorial Hall) at an estimated cost of £1.8 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 / MinisterTeam Leader Support, part time, 20 hours per week
- Parish Nurse, part time, 12 hours, plus 8 voluntary hours per week
- Parish Nurse Assistant, part time, 10 hours per week
- Parish Nurse Health and Nutrition Consultant, part time, 6 hours per week
- Parish Nurse Family Worker, part time, 10 hours 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, 20 hours per week (paid through profits from the shop).

COMMUNICATIONS

This is a new Task Group and will take responsibility for overseeing and developing internal and external communications including AV, wifi, data, phone systems and website.

PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER MINISTRY

Again, a new Task Group which will oversee the Pastoral Care strategy, responses, prayer chain, and development of opportunities for corporate prayer, as well as prayer support at events.

Church Council oversee...

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...

Associate Minister

We are looking for an Associate Minister to work alongside our Minister Team Leader Rev Jon Stannard and the following job description defines the role.

Job Description: 'Associate Minister'

Purpose

- To lead, shape, oversee, and manage 'some' of the existing ministries within West Leigh Baptist Church (WLBC) in accordance with the overall Vision for WLBC, and in conjunction with other ministry areas.

There are currently five ministry areas:

- Discipleship
- Communications
- Community
- Children, Youth & Families
- Pastoral Care & Prayer Ministry

It is envisaged that our current Minister Team Leader will oversee 'Discipleship' which includes taking the lead role in developing the vision, and the preaching and teaching programme.

We would be keen to discuss with a suitable candidate how the other four ministry areas would be shared between the Minister Team Leader and the Associate Minister, dependent on the gifting and the character of the candidate.

- The Associate Minister will engage in regular preaching ministry, leading worship, mid-week congregation, worship events, funerals and weddings. The responsibility for the vision and planning of the preaching and teaching programme would lay with the Minister Team Leader.

Leadership

- To work closely with the Minister Team Leader, Church Council, and the Task Groups (ministry areas) to ensure that the vision is clear and that there is a strategy to achieve it.
- To manage the budget for the areas of ministry the Associate Minister would be responsible for.
- 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 future and ongoing development of the agreed ministry areas.

Team

- To attend and play an active role within Church Council, Task Groups (ministry areas) 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.
- 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 and creative approach.
- A working and contemporary understanding of Social Media.

Key Requirements

A full enhanced DBS disclosure, and a demonstrable commitment to the church's policy on safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

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 provide a second Manse.

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

**For more information or an informal conversation
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**WEST
LEIGH**
BAPTIST
CHURCH

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