



Profile for Lead Minister

Barrow Baptist Church

A well-established Baptist Church of 115 members within the community of Barrow upon Soar; a large village with a population of circa 6,000, 4 miles south of the thriving university town of Loughborough. The traditional church building has recently been upgraded with new toilets, kitchen and refurbished sanctuary and school room. An adjacent multi-purpose annexe is well used throughout the week for activities and outreach.



Average Sunday attendance is 90-110, our worshipping community (those who attend at least monthly) is approximately 150. The members demonstrate a high level of commitment to working for the Lord, they also give generously and we are blessed with sound finances. Our well supported church member's meetings are held 3 times a year, they are a time to collectively discern God's will for the church, share information, approve budgets etc.

As a Church we seek to encourage and equip our members to go deeper in their journey of discipleship while reaching out to our local community with the love of Christ. Each month over 400 people regularly engage with the church in one way or another, we believe God has provided the harvest field and our task is to harvest.

The Church enjoys a good reputation amongst the Baptist family and with other local churches.

Barrow upon Soar

On the east bank of the River Soar / Grand Union Canal which enjoys attractive passing canal traffic with adjacent pubs and boatyards. Good rail links with a station on the Midland Main Line. Road links via the A6 and M1 with the cities of Derby, Nottingham and Leicester a short commuting distance.



Barrow, has expanded over the years with modern mixed housing and has now become a dormitory village whose workers seek employment in the nearby towns and cities. A good range of amenities including coffee shops, pubs, restaurants, Co-op, and a variety of take-a-ways. Health services include a chemist, optician, dentist and doctors surgery. There is a primary school and secondary school.

Leadership & Staff

The Lead Minister would report to the Elders and Trustees, a strong working partnership with a positive chemistry is very important.

We have an Assistant Minister who is 28 years old and was appointed in September 2017. He is currently in the process of starting his NAM period, having been approved for ministry at RSC. It is important that the lead Minister can develop a mutually supportive partnership with the Assistant Minister.

There are two other Elders who are energetic, passionate and committed to serving the church. Elders are also trustees, alongside 3 additional trustees. Trustees have responsibility for finance, safeguarding, charity compliance and data protection. They meet termly with additional meetings as required. We encourage open discussions where all may contribute and where differences of opinion and approach may be expressed.

The Church also employs three part time roles: an administrator, a cleaner and a Church worker.

Convictions

We subscribe to the Baptist Union Declaration of Faith. We play our part amongst the Baptist Churches of the Soar Valley and the East Midlands Baptist Association. As a thriving and active church we believe we have been blessed by God over the years with sound finances and we are pleased to give generously to Home Mission, BMS and other causes where our Christian brothers and sisters are able to do more than we are able for reasons of geography or scale.

We believe that Baptism should take place when a person surrenders control of their life to Christ. We operate on an open membership, however would strongly encourage those seeking membership to explore baptism if they haven't already. It is our understanding that all our current members have been baptised as believers.

In both personal and church life we seek to be led by the Holy Spirit who brings us to faith and enables our spiritual journey. We believe the Holy Spirit is present in the ordinary but are also open to responding to a move of the Spirit.

We accept the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Sound weekly teaching of scripture remains foundational in the life of the church.

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship is intended to be a church family celebration that honours God and builds up those who wish to know him more. We avoid a narrow interpretation of worship as music and aim to offer a worship service that is centred around the word of God with a balance of prayer, bible reading, sermon, song and sacrament (Believers' Baptism and Lord's Supper). Part way through the service our young people 0-16 go to their groups. Prayer ministry is offered and received at the conclusion of most services. We use special times to encourage greater attendance; Christmas, Mother's/Father's Day, Easter, Harvest etc.



Preaching is important and we expect our ministers to be able to handle the word of God in a way that is relevant, engaging and theologically sound.

Evening services are a mix of youth events, messy church, communion and testimony services. Our desire is to have an accessible style that can suit people where they are on their journey of faith.

The Sunday Service is under the overall direction of the Lead Minister but we are blessed with a talented group of musicians and music leaders. Our music style could be described as a balance of contemporary and traditional, our worship band typically includes: keys, drums, guitar, sax /flute and singers. We have a modern sound system with digital desk, theatre lights and large TV screen for song words and visuals.

Activities

We do not want to be an activity driven church – nevertheless our activities are an important part of our outreach, mission and discipleship. Below is a summary of our main groups:

- Growth Groups – to encourage study, discipleship and fellowship.
- Prayer Meetings – Weekly morning & Monthly evening
- Baby Buds – baby and mother group.
- Little Buds – Toddler group with 70+ carers and 110 children spread over 2 mornings.
- ‘Who Let the Dad’s out’ – Monthly Saturday toddler group for Dads - 20 Dads + children
- Youth Group
- Sparks – Friday evening Key stage 1 group
- Tuesday Live – Seniors weekly meeting for worship and fellowship.
- Silver sports – group for active retired with table tennis, pool, darts and bowls
- Lunch club – Ad Hoc lunch and events for seniors.
- Tuesday café – Each week we serve lunch to circa 70 people of various ages.
- Deeper – Weekly study group based around video teaching
- ‘Big Week’ – All age week of activities in the summer holiday



Building

Our premises comprise the main sanctuary and an adjacent hall with five upstairs rooms – an administration office, a lounge, a meeting room and a study for each minister. There is a catering standard kitchen. We have a separate modern multi-use hall to the rear of the church and a small adjacent car park. A programme of refurbishment, alteration and upgrade has recently been completed – we now have a building that is fit for purpose and a huge blessing for our growing and evolving needs. Our sanctuary can accommodate 180 people, we have recently invested in stacking (comfortable) chairs and can use this space flexibly for various activities.

Vision

We want to be a community church that shines the love of Christ into our area. We want to live as disciples of Jesus, rooted in the word of God and inviting people onto pathways of living faith. We see ourselves as fishers of people, working together as each person brings their worship, obedience, giftings, service and sacrifice. We want people to see what God is doing and join in.

Moving forwards

We would like to see our members progressing in their faith journey by encouraging personal devotions, seeing more engagement in corporate prayer and worship, and providing more opportunities for people to journey together in discipleship.

We have a lot of people in regular contact with the church and we would like to see more find that living faith. As such we want to maintain good community links and create deeper connections between our worshipping community and those exploring their beliefs. We want to encourage and enable people so they can play their part in sharing the good news of Jesus.

For many years we have had a very strong seniors' ministry which continues to develop and thrive. Over the past few years we have invested a lot of energy in our children and family ministry which is being richly blessed. Through the relationships made, we have seen a number come to faith and make a commitment to Christ through baptism. We would like to see these links continue to grow and, recognising a slight imbalance of ages in our church community, encourage and welcome more younger adults into our community.

The minister

In order to help us in this vision we feel we need an engaging and visionary leader who is excited by the mission opportunity that Barrow and Barrow Baptist Church offers. Someone who can work well as a team to harness their own gifts and the gifts and talents of others and bring a good chemistry and balance into the leadership. We seek someone who is passionate about outreach and discipleship and can enable and equip the church members to be part of bringing people to faith, as well as encouraging each other to go deeper in their own faith journeys.

We value engaging and challenging preaching and would seek someone who is a gifted communicator and personable to Christians and non-Christians alike. As a community church we would want them to be active in the community and be able to build on the links we have made, engaging well with a wide range of people. We are looking for a leader who is pastorally sensitive, understanding when their involvement is important and able to address difficult situations in a way that builds the fellowship.

It is important for them to have a clear understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses; we recognise that there will be no single person who will fully meet our requirements and, therefore, we would be interested to know how they intend to address or cover areas that are not their natural strengths.

It is vital that the minister can demonstrate a living faith that impacts on their daily life, leading by example in the area of personal prayer and devotions. They will exhibit good biblical understanding and be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Living in Barrow upon Soar is a requirement of the role. There is no manse but an accommodation allowance will be available for a Minister to rent a family home or support them in purchasing their own property.