

Chandler's Ford Methodist Church: Further Information

Part of the Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Methodist Circuit, located within the Southampton District, Chandler's Ford Methodist Church (CFMC) has been at the heart of its community since the 1900s, being in its current building since the 1990s. CFMC is a large, diverse community, encompassing those gathering for corporate worship, events, concerts, children's groups, youth groups and community groups that use and hire our building space.

The staff team includes Revd Ruth Fry (Minister), Ellie Carter (Children, Youth and Families Pastor), Jane Padley (Pastoral Assistant), Katrina Neale (Church Centre Manager), Keith Cole (Caretaker) and Glenn Stephens (Property Manager). Alongside the staff team, the church has a leadership team as well as action teams which all help to further the work and development of the church. We are seeking a passionate community chaplain to join the staff team.

The traditional 11am Sunday service sees around 90 attendees with a further 15-20 attending via Zoom. The monthly Communion and evening service, along with the Thursday morning midweek service receives a small but faithful congregation. Breakfast Church runs on the first Sunday of the month which is aimed towards those seeking a more relaxed and modern style of church whilst sharing breakfast together. On the third Sunday of the month at 11am, we hold an intergenerational service where there is something for everyone to be able to encounter Jesus.

In terms of children and young people, our full-time children, youth, and families pastor runs and supports lots of groups for all ages throughout the week including Boys Brigade (inc. Boys Brigade Band), Girls Brigade, DoveTots (toddler group), Kids Club, Youth Club, Hand in Hand Puppets. As well as these things, we also hold regular events for the younger generation and their families and have good relationships with local schools. Alongside these groups, our pre-school manager runs a successful church pre-school 'Peter Pan' in the back of our premises. This pre-school is well known in the community for its quality and remains one of the most popular in the area.

Along with seven church house groups, Women's Fellowship meets weekly with a large number attending and the men's supper club meets regularly as well. The building is highly utilised by external hirers who value our premises. These include Springboard employment support, Eastleigh Child Contact Centre, Stroke Group, Memory Group, Blood Donors and many more. The Dovetail Café at the front of the building opens six mornings a week and is run by a large group of volunteers. Serving good value drinks and snacks, the café is a popular meeting place that serves the community from the youngest to the oldest. The café is often very busy and is an important hub for those who use it. Similarly, the community food larder that sits outside the front of the building is a free resource for anyone who needs food and is struggling to afford it. It is well used, and we receive regular food donations from individuals and local stores.