

Church Profile

2008-2009

September 2008



Lliswerry Baptist



Liswerry Baptist Church

Introduction

Liswerry Baptist Church: *In Christ Alone*.

We believe we are heading for exciting times and are earnestly seeking God's will for the future.

We are a friendly, evangelical, family church whose aim is to serve Jesus in our lives, in the local community and beyond.

Liswerry Baptist was founded in 1889 as a church plant from a much older fellowship, Nash Baptist Church. The church was established to serve those working in local industry.

The previous Senior Pastors have served the church for sixteen years and thirty years respectively. Due to the increased numbers in the congregation and church activities and ministry, for the last twenty years a second full time Pastor has been employed to help provide for the needs of the fellowship and our outreach, including youth work.

Our congregation comprises a cross-section of ages, backgrounds and life situations. We have 125 church members and an average morning worship attendance of 120, with 60 attending the evening service. While all ages are represented, we recognise that there are not many young people in the 16-25 age group. This is an area which we would like to address.

Beliefs

As a church, our goal is to be Christ centred, Bible based, Mission focused and Spirit led. While we come from various denominational backgrounds, we are united in our belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, the authority of Scripture and the necessity to share the Gospel and live holy lives.

We are Evangelical in theology, holding to God's Word as the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We are open to the moving of the Holy Spirit who equips the church with gifts to worship Him and serve one another.

We are members of the Evangelical Alliance and hold to their Statement of Faith.

Vision

We want to move forward:

- In our walk with the Lord as individuals, families and as a church.
- In using our gifts to worship God and serve one another.
- In being *salt and light* in the local community.
- In continuing to become a church where everyone feels at home, especially the younger generation.



Worship & prayer

At Liswerry we recognise that worship is more than just what we do on a Sunday; it is a lifestyle. We see our times of worship as a response to God's love.

We mainly use contemporary worship songs as well as some more traditional hymns. There are often opportunities for times of open prayer as the Holy Spirit leads. Our children are encouraged to take part at the start of the morning service with the singing of action songs and a short talk is sometimes given before they leave for Bible Club.

We thank God for our music group who lead us in worship. They currently include pianists, guitarists, vocalists, a violinist and a drummer.

We have a well equipped studio from which the audio and visual aspects of the service are managed. Projection equipment and a multi-media presentation software package are used to display songs, Bible readings and sermon illustrations.

As a church, we believe in the power of prayer. Every activity, from the Sunday services to the cleaning day, is preceded by prayer.

Leadership

For the past sixteen years our outgoing Senior Pastor, Revd. Harry Place, has provided us with sound Bible teaching and leadership. He has recently accepted a call to another church.

Revd. Jim Thomas joined us as an Assistant Pastor in 2003 after completing studies at Bible College. Since successfully completing his accreditation period with the Baptist Union, he took on the role of second Pastor. Now that Jim has come to the end of his three year probation as an accredited Minister, he will shortly be looking at the possibility of moving on to lead a church of his own.

The daily running of the church is overseen by the Leadership team which is elected by the church members and consists of the pastors, elders and deacons.

Currently we have three elders (two male, one female) and seven deacons (four male, three female). Each is elected for a term of three years but may upon re-election serve for a further three years. After six years of service they are required to stand down for a minimum of one year.

As a leadership we meet once a month for prayer, fellowship and to discuss church matters.

At least three times a year a church members' meeting is held where we gather, as the family of God, to seek His will for our future. Reports are also given and decisions made concerning the life, work and mission of the church.

The church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Evangelical Alliance.



Liswerry Baptist Church

What we do in the church and community

We have a busy programme throughout the church year which runs from September to mid-July. Activities are set out below, on a daily basis for easy reference.

SUNDAYS

Morning and evening services are usually led by the Worship Group with Bible Club and crèche taking place during part of the morning service. We currently have 38 children on the Bible Club register covering four different age groups from 4 to over 13 years.

The evening service is followed by refreshments. Both services are preceded by an open prayer meeting.

Communion is celebrated twice a month and is offered to all who love the Lord.

MONDAYS

Monthly deacons and elders meetings are held on the first Monday in each month.

5 a side football is held weekly, in the evenings as an outreach.

Craft club fortnightly in the afternoons for ladies has proved to be a successful outreach.

TUESDAYS

Morning - Parents and Toddlers. This meets an important need in the community and also provides opportunities for witness and support for the mums and dads.

Evening - Prayer Meeting. This takes various forms including Bible study, worship, prayer walking and missionary visits.

'Xplore', which is a nurture group, is held fortnightly at the same time as the prayer meeting.

Home groups are held monthly in place of the prayer meeting. We have seven groups which meet in different locations around the area. One of these specifically caters for young families.

An early morning prayer meeting is held fortnightly.

WEDNESDAYS

Ladies coffee morning and Bible study.

Ladies meeting in the afternoon, which is centred on God's word.

Men's Bible study meets at the same time.

From 4.45pm to 8pm, Xalt – which is our youth work – has 80 children covering three different age groups from 4 to 13 years, the majority of whom are un-churched.

That is followed by our bus ministry which reaches out to teenagers who congregate on the streets.



THURSDAYS

Morning – Parents & Toddlers.
Once a month a ladies evening Bible Study is held.
Fortnightly worship group practice.

FRIDAYS

No meetings or activities are held. Members are encouraged to spend time with their families or in other community involvement.

SATURDAYS

Last Saturday in each month - SAFE (Saturday Afternoon For Everyone). This is an evangelistic meeting followed by afternoon tea.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Various outreach events are held throughout the year, e.g. Men's curry and quiz nights and ladies' Christmas meals.
- On a monthly basis, a team visits local homes for the elderly and a nursing home to conduct services.
- In recent years, we have held Alpha courses and another course will be starting soon. Ten baptisms have taken place in the last twelve months as a result of running an Alpha course and another baptism class is currently in progress.
- We recently incorporated a *Freedom in Christ* course into our evening service. This enabled people to deal with past hurts and discover their true identity in Christ.
- Annual children's and youth camps are arranged together with a 'Light Party' for children as an alternative to Halloween.
- The bi-annual church weekend away for teaching and fellowship is always well attended.
- We have strong links with the primary and secondary schools in the area and run a weekly Christian Union. We also make regular visits to the local hospital and hospice.
- Every year we hold a student welcome lunch. As a result, a few students regularly attend Sunday services.
- Some of our members belong to the Prison Fellowship and regularly visit a local prison.
- We have good relationships with other churches in the city. We occasionally join together for outreach and fellowship.



Liswerry Baptist Church

We have willing teams who work hard in conjunction with the leadership in many areas including youth work, worship, administration, welcoming, catering, building maintenance, Bible Club, dedication follow up, transport, finance and pastoral care.

Mission

We are committed to mission. As well as supporting many missionary organisations, both prayerfully and financially, we also play an active role in various local initiatives. For example Aid for Romania – a team regularly help at the local warehouse and a number from the church have gone to Romania over many years.

Teen Challenge – we are represented on the local committee and we use the Teen Challenge bus to minister to teenagers on the streets near the church.

Buildings

Main Church Premises

The church is located in Camperdown Road which is in the residential area of Liswerry. The main church is a single storey 'L shaped' building, built in 1889. It is a stone building which will seat 180 people. Adjoining the church is a brick built school room which is used for meetings and social events and, when required, to extend the seating capacity of the church. In addition, the church has a well equipped kitchen, vestry, entrance lobby and toilets. In the 1990s, the church built a two-story extension called 'The Cornerstone'.

Church Office/Flat

At the end of Camperdown Road, the church owns Camperdown House, which was bought in 2003. The house is a three-storey property which was an ex-commercial premises. This building is used as the church office with study rooms/classrooms on the lower two floors. The top floor is a one bedroom flat, which is currently let to two of our newly-married young people. The area around the house is used as the church car park.

The Manse

The Manse is a 1960s three bedroom semi-detached house in a pleasant residential area, one mile from the church. It has gardens to the front and back, conservatory and the garage has been converted into a study. A new kitchen was installed in 2007.

Maintenance

The church properties are well maintained. Work is carried out by members of the congregation or by specialist tradesmen.



The city of Newport

Llswerry Baptist Church is located on the East side of the city of Newport, South Wales. We are fifteen minutes from the border between Wales and England. Newport is a multi-cultural community with a large student population which has seen rapid expansion in recent years. It is a city which has grown from traditional industries such as Iron and Steel manufacture and is now benefiting from growth in the electronics, financial and service sectors.

The M4 motorway is routed through the city and we have good road and rail communications to the rest of the UK. We are within an hour's drive of two international airports and the capital city, Cardiff, is within thirty minutes drive.

Being on the edge of the city means that we are only a short distance from the countryside. A drive of less than an hour will take you to the picturesque locations of the Brecon Beacons, the Wye Valley and the coast.

Llswerry is a residential area comprising a mix of old and new housing. It has a primary and secondary school within walking distance of the church. Newport's International Sports Village is located close to the church. Also close by is a retail park which includes a cinema, restaurants, large Tesco supermarket and other shops.

Newport City shopping centre is currently undergoing major redevelopment and there are a number of large shopping centres within a short distance of Newport.

For further information see:

www.llswerrybaptist.org.uk

www.newport.gov.uk

For demographic information on Llswerry Ward see:

www.newport.gov.uk/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=population.populationstats&titleid=12

Pastor profile

We are seeking to appoint an experienced Senior Pastor who will be a visionary leader, gifted Bible teacher, have a heart for evangelism and an ability to relate to people of all ages and walk of life.

We hope our new minister will be someone who will:

- Inspire and challenge us in God's word and lead us into a deeper understanding of the things of the Spirit.
- Encourage us to live life in all its fullness.
- Equip us to minister to one another and the local community (as in Eph. 4:11-13).
- Have a sensitive pastoral heart and a sense of humour.

Please note – We are not a perfect church and we are not looking for a perfect Minister!
We are seeking *God's* choice.