



Church Profile 2017



BEACON CHURCH

*Expanding God's Kingdom by loving & serving
Jesus, each other & our community*

 /Beacon Church

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Welcome!

Let's start by introducing the Beacon, who we are and what we are about. As well as telling you what we currently do we will also indicate some of the opportunities and challenges that face the church.

The Church

The Beacon is an independent church, fully committed to the unchanging Word of God in an ever-changing world. We are situated in Ashton-in-Makerfield just outside Wigan. The church started in 2012 after emerging from a local Baptist church.

We meet on Sunday mornings in a local high school, in the school theatre. It's a relaxed setting with lively worship, children's work and good Bible teaching. Around 130 people attend the Sunday morning service regularly including a strong Kids' Church of 50+ children and teenagers. The church is predominantly made up of families with young children and many of our attendees are part of larger family groups all worshipping together. Alongside the main Sunday morning service, we provide a broad programme of activities throughout the week including:

House Groups, a varied Sunday night programme, Mother and Toddler group, a variety of youth groups ranging from reception age through to upper Sixth form, Men's and Women's ministry, weekly coffee mornings and a weekly running club. We also run Christianity Explored courses, Baptism classes, the Christians Against Poverty (Money Management) course and provide a broad range of social events throughout the year for the wider church.

We work with other local churches in Ashton to co-ordinate calendars, put on joint musical events and

support the combined gospel work in the area. The church has members involved in door-to-door work, work with Refugees, the Food bank, Samaritan's Purse and Asialink.

Our church is a member of the North-West Partnership (<http://northwestpartnership.com>)

The Leadership Team

We currently have a Senior Pastor, Ray, and Associate Pastor, James, working for the church full time. Ray will be retiring in January 2018 and James' contract is until November 2018 presently. They are supported by two Elders, David and Glyn, who help with the spiritual leadership of the church and a willing team of Deacons who support the life of the church. Like the church itself, our Staff Team is relatively new and are still establishing themselves. The Elders and Pastors currently meet once a week to assess the fellowship's needs and to pray for the church. We would like to see the Staff Team developing and growing both individually but most importantly as a team working for the glory of the Lord in our area.

It is our hope and desire to have both a Senior and Associate pastor who are working full time and are committed to the long-term future of the fellowship.

Our Vision

Simply put, the desires and aims of the church are expressed in our mission statement: 'Expanding God's Kingdom by loving & serving Jesus, each other & our community' or Reach, Grow and Send.

Where we are right now

→ Reach

The desire of the Beacon is to share God's love in the community by making church accessible and applicable to their lives. Through our church programme we seek to reach out to the community and share the transforming power of the gospel.

We are conscious that over recent years the majority of growth has been through existing Christians joining the fellowship. We have seen some people giving their lives to the Lord since the church began but we are keen to see real growth through those who don't know Jesus as Saviour being reached and having their lives transformed by the power of His Spirit.

→ Grow

First and foremost, the Leadership Team at the Beacon want to encourage all members to mature in their faith. With each member of the fellowship confidently walking day by day with the Lord, growing more and more into the likeness of Jesus.

As well as our morning and evening services we meet regularly in House Groups to discuss and unpack the

Sunday morning message and apply it to our lives in a meaningful and practical way. We pray, break bread and get a chance to share in an informal setting.

In the last year, we have seen both Men's and Women's ministries developing. We are keen to continue to look at new ways that we can encourage members of the fellowship to spend more time in God's Word and develop their prayer lives to ensure they are ready willing and able to live a life for Christ.

→ Send

The Beacon has strong links with mission organisations, both in the UK and others with a global mission perspective.

Several members of the fellowship have served with United Beach Missions and Open Air Mission over the last few years. Our Associate Pastor James currently serves with UBM as do other members of the fellowship. Ray, our Senior Pastor, has been involved with the work of Cumbrian Christian Youth Camps, with some of our young people joining him as junior leaders over the last few summers. Many of our young people also attend the camps year on year as have many older members in the past.

The church has supported members of the fellowship going on short term mission trips with Asia Link and more recently supporting the work of Jireh Orphanage in Uganda. We also have members involved in coordinating and taking part in the work of Operation Christmas Child with Samaritan's Purse



The Opportunities

In a short period of time we have become established in the local area and are excited for where God will take us in the next few years. Here we outline our aspirations and hopes for the future:

→ Reach

We want the Senior Pastor to inspire and energise the current work we do, to help us to put together a more effective mission strategy for the future and build on the current work. He will help us to prioritise our ministry and work more effectively both collectively and as individuals. We want to share through the Beacon the clear and life transforming teaching of Christ and are looking for a Pastor who can expound and apply God's word to our lives.

→ Grow

We are keen to encourage each member to grow and develop in their Christian lives. Key to this will be belonging to a House Group, a place to share, grow and develop our love for God and each other. We see this as a real opportunity for the new pastor to lead and inspire through teaching at both a corporate level on a Sunday and more intimately in house groups. To help train up new group leaders, to better equip current leaders and inspire a mentoring mentality within the Beacon.

→ Send

Whilst we would acknowledge we are still in a formative stage as a church; we are looking to the future in the hope of eventually church planting, working closer with other churches and seeking to grow, train and inspire the next generation of Christian workers.

We also recognise the reality of the mission field on our doorstep and would look to better equip the church to meet the demands of witnessing in a secular society.

The Challenges

God has blessed us so much in our short life as a church. We have had the joy of seeing people coming to know Christ, the church growing and have established close relationships with other churches.

However, we face a number of Challenges moving forward. Here are a few:

a) We see a real need to help each member of the Beacon go deeper in faith and whole-life discipleship. Developing really good House Groups will be part of rising to this discipleship challenge.

b) We want to encourage each member to make time in their busy lives for reflection, prayer and deeper study.

c) Our church has many young families and a vibrant Kids' Church. The Challenges of meeting the needs of so many children are many. We have a need for committed organisers, teachers and helpers.

d) We are growing from a small informal sized church to a larger church. This sets us the challenges of being better at communication, organisation and keeping a more consistent output.



The Town

Sunday services are held at Cansfield high school in the town of Ashton-in-Makerfield. The town has a population of around 30,000 and is roughly equidistant from Liverpool and Manchester.

Beacon church has good relations with a number of the other churches in the area and has co-ordinated events. Ashton has good links to motorways, primary and secondary schools and colleges within a few more miles of the Area.