



Marlborough Square Methodist Church

“Sharing the love of Christ with all”

“Church with an Open Door”

OUR VISION

We seek to bring people into a relationship with God, through Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, reaching out with God's love to the lost and hurting, whilst seeking to connect with people and serve in our local community.

We believe that God has put us in a unique position to bear witness to his love in the town centre community of Coalville, on Marlborough Square and we look to make the most of the opportunity to do so.

As a church we share our faith in welcome, worship, friendship and care, through working and fellowship together in a variety of church-organised and community-organised groups and activities, to offer conversation, support and prayer.

We aim to encourage everyone to follow Jesus, basing their life on him and learning from him, using their God-given gifts to help and serve, as the Spirit makes us more like him.

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This Mission Plan is by way of review and setting of more specific actions out of the “Plan for Growth” agreed at Church Council in February 2020 which so far has been somewhat limited by the Covid Pandemic of 2020/21.

1. WORSHIP

As a Methodist Community, worship is at the heart of all we do.

We aim to continue developing a variety of styles at our Sunday morning act of worship, sometimes more traditional others more contemporary, always friendly and informal. We enjoy singing both hymns and worship songs with mix of accompaniment including the pipe organ which is played regularly.

Holy Communion is a valued part of our rhythm of worship.

Since “lockdown” we have launched our SMILE Church, a craft and story based, family-friendly service. We aim to build this up as a regular once a month activity reaching out to our wider community and to provide at least 9 Smile Church events within the next 12 months.

We aim to develop regular use of technology in the worship area, with a more permanent, readily useable setup and integrating use of presentation and video in services at least once a month.

2. EVANGELISM & OUTREACH

Saturday Café

We run a café from the coffee bar at the back of the worship area with doors open to the street on Saturday mornings. It is increasingly busy since the easing of COVID restrictions and serves as a valuable point of contact and friendship for members and wider community alike.

Relationship With Schools

Harvest, Christmas and Easter services and other special occasions are held in the worship area. We will continue to build a close connection with Belvoirdale Primary and Marlborough Day Nursery and seek to make links with other local schools.

We aim to re-kindle Christmas Journey, Easter Journey and “Open the Book”.

Special Events

We run occasional special events such as concerts by some of the groups that also use our building during the week and exhibitions e.g. Knitted Bible. The worship area provides a larger capacity venue with good acoustics for groups' concerts which are usually shared events with church folk.

We are hoping to re-establish a Memorial Service for those who have had funeral services at the church and others who wish to join in remembering lost loved ones, this in partnership with CoOp Funeral Services. Initially this will be an annual event.

Fellowship

A group from the congregation called "The Mission Squared" lead the way in our Social Events which are a key part of supporting and building our fellowship.

Before COVID there were regular monthly events planned such as film nights and Tuesday Talks. There were events such as Barn Dances, Suppers, Quiz Nights, Bowls Nights, Afternoon Teas and Lunches. As we build up our confidence after the pandemic, some of these events are being planned again in order to give opportunities for a return to our valued fellowship.

The Mission Squared group will plan an event to take place at least every 2 months.

Churches Together

We are very committed to our involvement with Churches Together and provide a regular venue for joint prayer. Our church is a key venue from which to base shared witness at times like Christmas & Easter.

As part of the Churches Together team, we join in more with wider town events e.g. "Picnic the Park", Christmas market / turning on the lights and this year we are part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations by providing refreshments to the town's event.

Members also take part in the Food Bank team.

We aim to continue growing our mission partnership with Churches Together in Coalville by having representatives attend the monthly prayer meetings, hosting at least two prayer meetings a year and supporting every CCT planned event.

3. LEARNING & CARING

We will continue to review and develop the pastoral care system of '**Pastoral Friends**', so that all will know they have someone as a point of contact, support and friendship.

We will provide a regular support group for our pastoral friends, with a training element, perhaps to share ideas, experience and knowledge, and to pray together twice a year.

We look to encourage involvement and leadership, training people to improve skills and confidence for various roles and activities of the church.

We aim to offer **prayer/study/fellowship** through a **short series** of 4 to 6 weeks Bible study activities, with opportunity for participation "in-the-room" and via ZOOM, to **help people grow as disciples**. We aim to hold 3 series in the coming year, autumn / advent, Lent, and after Easter.

4. SERVING

In the Community with the Building and on the Square

We serve a variety of community groups through their use of the building e.g. Brownies, Community Choir, CAOS, Musical Theatre School, Seated Exercise and local school and pre-school groups. We continue to work on developing these various relationships as part of our outreach work.

MSMC is used by the Methodist Circuit with the Circuit office based in the church building.

There are occasional chaplain-style visits to the New Market stall holders and events.

Our most immediate building priority is to replace the heating system for the worship area in order to make it usable before the winter months. Fund raising progress is reported to Church Council as an ongoing figure in the finance data collection.