

COWPER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, DEREHAM

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a family of believers who:

- Love and worship God through faith, fellowship and friendship.
- Serve one another, our local community and the wider world.
- Share the love of God and the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through our lives, our loving, our witness and compassionate action.

We feel led to appoint a minister to Cowper Church at Dereham and applications are now being invited to fill this role.

The following is a brief summary of the life and work of the church at Dereham.

DEREHAM

Dereham is a vibrant market town serving many surrounding villages and has a considerable range of shops, ranging from national chains to local independents. There is a market held in the Marketplace every Tuesday and Friday and the town benefits from large, free to use, central car parks.

Dereham is centrally located in Norfolk and less than one hour away by car are the facilities and attractions of Norwich and the lovely beaches of the Norfolk coastline. There are frequent bus services to Norwich and surrounding villages.

Dereham Hospital provides professional rehabilitation services plus a range of clinics although there is no Accident & Emergency service there. Two doctor's surgeries and three dental clinics are located close to the town centre. At least a dozen schools ranging from infants to academy are located in and around the town. Average house prices are c £250,000 (Zoopla) and at least seven estate agents and two solicitors are established to service home buying and selling requirements.

There are many clubs and societies catering for just about every hobby and pastime that you can think of, a swimming pool with sports centre and bowling. Dereham also has a lively cultural scene with a programme of events and performances at the Memorial Hall. Also, the railway line between Dereham and Wymondham has been preserved and is now operated as a tourist line.

CHURCH PROFILE

Cowper Congregational Church was gathered 1779 and moved to its present site in the town's Market Square in 1874. The building is a prominent landmark in the centre of the town and is Grade two listed. The church has a seating capacity of 400.

For twenty five years the church has been led by a non stipendiary church leader who has recently retired. The church worships in a traditional style, with good preaching and hymns as an important part of worship. The church is a loving fellowship and wants to try to use its prominent position in the town to reach out into the community.

The church is very aware that the doors of the building are closed for much of the week. The age of the congregation is a concern and the lack of leadership that a minister would bring is felt to be detrimental to developing the work of the church.

There are several large evangelical churches in the town who worship in a contemporary style. Cowper church offers an evangelical witness in the heart of the town, but a more traditional style of worship that appeals to those whose spiritual needs are not met by the other churches. The church believes that its life and worship enrich the life and work of the wider church in the town of Dereham.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the church is 29 and there are 10 adherents. The majority congregation of the congregation are aged over sixty. There are usually about 20 - 25 people in the congregation on an average Sunday.

The Sunday service commences at 11 a.m. and Holy Communion is celebrated at the end of the service on the first Sunday of each month. Mission Praise is the preferred hymnary and the congregation enjoys music which is played on our pipe organ. We have a regular organist, and in their absence music is provided by a recently purchased Hymnal 400-HT music system. Cowper Church has friendly links with neighbouring churches through Churches together in Dereham.

HALL

There is a hall and kitchen at the rear of the church which is used mainly for church events. There is access to the hall for the disabled and disabled toilet facilities are also available. Maintenance of the hall and church is undertaken following discussion by the diaconate and church meeting,

MANSE

The church does not own a manse.

DEACONS AND CHURCH MEETING

The Deacons (currently four in number) are appointed by the church meeting to deal with the day to day governance and pastoral care of the church..

The Deacons are responsible to the Church Meeting which is the final authority in all matters concerning the life, work and witness of the church as it gathers to look to Christ for inspiration and leadership through the Holy's Spirit's presence amongst God's people.

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP

The Midweek Fellowship usually meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month. The meeting is often led by members otherwise an outside speaker is invited to lead the meeting. ~The meeting is usually devotional in character.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group has met regularly for many years but has recently ceased. We would like to start this group once again.

HOUSE GROUP

The House Group meets on Thursdays at 10.15am in a members home.

PRAYER MEETING

There is a weekly prayer meeting which is held at the church on a Tuesday commencing at 10.00am.

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

The church holds a regular coffee morning on a Friday. This is an opportunity for the church to welcome visitors and an opportunity to engage with the community of Dereham.

THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

The church seeks to reach out into the community through its regular Friday coffee mornings. Recently the church has opened its doors during community events which are based in the Market Square. Recently over two hundred visitors came into the church when the church opened as part of Dereham's commemoration of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. The church is open in a similar way during the town's Christmas celebrations and at Harvest when visitors are invited to see the decorations in the church. Being placed so centrally in the town, the church would like to open its doors more regularly and engage more with the local community.

OTHER BODIES

The Church is represented on the following bodies:-

Churches Together in Dereham

Dereham Foodbank

World Day of Prayer

CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION

Cowper Congregational church is affiliated to the Congregational Federation and sends representatives to assemblies and any other activities that may take place within the Federation.

MINISTER'S KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The key responsibilities of the minister of Cowper Church are as follows:

He/she will be the spiritual leader of the church and will be responsible for the pastoral care of the congregation. He/she will be expected to foster and develop the activities of the church. Our minister will also be expected to reach out to and develop the church within the local community. Visitation of the congregation (particularly the sick and elderly) is also seen as a priority. The calling will also involve representation of the church at events organised by the Congregational Federation and the wider church.

MINISTER'S PROFILE

The successful applicant will be someone who is suitably qualified for the position. Experience would be preferred but anyone who is undergoing training and nearing the end of their studies would be considered. There is no age barrier but the applicant should have good leadership qualities and also have the ability to motivate people. He/she should have a strong commitment to all aspects of the life of the church and should be a dedicated and motivated individual. Good communication skills are necessary and a sense of humour would be a boon!

Should you be interested in obtaining further details about our vacancy please feel free to contact our Church Secretary Mrs Bobbie Ward bobbie703@hotmail.com 01362 853589 or our Associate Minister the Rev. Chris Damp chrisdamp@mac.com 07702 270086

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ROLE OF MINISTER

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The main role of the Minister is to oversee the life, focus and direction of the Church and to provide spiritual guidance
- To prepare for and conduct regular services each week, leading the Church in worship, fellowship and mission
- To promote a clear sense of purpose, values and strategy within the fellowship
- To oversee the welfare and pastoral care needs of the congregation
- To actively encourage new ideas and initiatives to grow God's church
- To co-ordinate and lead regular Church and Deacons meetings and keep members informed
- To represent the Church at meetings as and when required
- A willingness to visit members and friends of the fellowship as necessary
- To keep the Church informed of developments within the denomination
- To encourage involvement within the local community

PERSON SPECIFICATION FOR ROLE OF MINISTER

- Formal qualifications are preferred although not essential. If our minister is not accredited by the Congregational Federation we would hope that they would be willing to undertake the necessary training with the Congregational Federation which would lead to accreditation.
- Good knowledge and understanding of Congregational principles and practice.
- A dynamic and inspirational leader who will lead, empower and shape our Church for the future
- A willingness to work flexibly and to develop the role to meet the needs of the Church as a whole
- A good team member who is happy to work together with the Deacons and members
- The ability to network with individuals, other Churches and organisations
- Good teaching and preaching skills
- A willingness to conduct baptisms, funerals and weddings