



Scunthorpe Congregational Church

Scunthorpe.

The town of Scunthorpe is in North Lincolnshire. It has a population of approx. 60,000 people.

It is close to the M180 which links to other major motorways. Scunthorpe railway station has frequent services to Doncaster which acts as a rail hub for journeys throughout the UK. There are several local bus services in the town with the church being on one of these.

The steel industry is still a major employer in the town along with North Lincolnshire Council and the NHS.

Education is well provided for from pre-school to university level education.

A recent public announcement has indicated that the government and the local council are to provide £60million pounds to regenerate the town over the next five years. This is to include amongst other things a University centre and accommodation for NHS staff.

The Church. (www.scunthorpecc.co.uk)

Our mission statement:

We believe in the Living God revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Through worship, fellowship and service, we aim with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to bring praise to God and to make known the Gospel and its relevance in today's world.

The church is a member of the Congregational Federation with representation both on Council and on the executive committee of the North East Area. Both our previous minister and our current lay Minister for children and young families,

Rev. and Mrs. J .W. (Bill) Bentham have served as President of the Congregational Federation.

Church building.

The current building, the third building of Scunthorpe Congregational Church was opened in the spring of 1998 on its present site. The previous buildings being at the corner of Doncaster Road/Oswald Road from 1912 and the first one newly built in 1878. There has been a Congregational Church presence in the town for 139 years. The building is comprised of a worship centre and a meeting room/hall.

There is one main entrance linking the two.

The worship centre has seating for 80 people and is fitted with a loop system for the hearing impaired, a sound recording system and projector and screen. There are two electric pianos. There is also an adjoining vestry. The church is registered for the solemnisation of marriages.

The meeting area consists of a hall, toilets including one for the disabled and a fully fitted kitchen which has a 5 star food hygiene rating from the local council. The hall also seats approx. 80 people if required.

There is adequate car parking within the church grounds.

Commercial cleaners and a gardener are paid to maintain the building and gardens.

The church owns a three bedroomed manse which is currently let and would require the tenants being given 6 months' notice should it be needed for the use of a minister it also owns shop premises in the town centre which are let to a firm of estate agents.

Membership - Members 35 Adherents 21 .

Ministry.

Our previous Minister the Rev. J.W.(Bill) Bentham retired in August 2016 after 14 years' service as ¼ time Minister.

In January 2013 Mrs. Betty Bentham was given a 5 year appointment as ¼ time Lay Minister for children and young families. This, as the title suggests, was with the specific remit of encouraging and developing work with children and their families. This appointment will terminate in December 2018.

Consequently, we are looking for a ½ time ordained Congregational Minister, who has the expertise and enthusiasm to build on and develop the work that is currently on-going.

S/He will need to demonstrate their love of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ in the preaching of the word and in their personal qualities. They should be able to encourage and inspire the church family and actively seek ways to bring others into it.

Worship.

Currently services are held every Sunday at 10.30am.

Once monthly on Saturdays for Messy Church.

There are occasional services for holy days and for CINS (churches together in North Scunthorpe) of which the church is a part.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.

Currently the hymn books in use are Songs of Fellowship, Junior Praise and Congregational Praise. The lectern and pew bibles are the Good News version.

The worship style tends to be the traditional congregational form, however as we are reliant on preachers from other churches and denominations to lead worship regularly other styles are often experienced.

The doors of our church are open to everyone.

The majority of our membership is predominantly female and over retirement age and average attendance is in the region of 24 on a Sunday.

Messy church services are attended by families and the average attendance is in the region of 30.

Mid-week activities.

Mondays:

A short mat bowls club meets at 2pm. This was formed by the church but is open to non-churchgoers as part of our outreach programme.

Evening. The hall is hired by a local Weight Watchers group.

Tuesdays:

2pm. The church fellowship group meets. This again is a church formed group but is also open to all. It has a variety of speakers and social afternoons.

5.30pm. BASH club (Building After School Hours). This is a club that was initiated by the Lay Minister for children and young families and is for children from 5-11. They

are accompanied by one or more parents and spend an hour socialising and model making with Lego type bricks.

Wednesdays:

On the first Wednesday in the month the hall is hired for the morning by the NHS for a baby clinic.

The 3rd Wednesday of the month is Souper Wednesday, another initiative of the Lay Minister for children and young families, where the Saturday and Sunday worshippers meet together to socialise over a simple soup lunch.

On most Wednesdays at 2.30pm the Elderberries singing group meet in the church to rehearse. The Elderberries, although not a church group are led by the church pianist and several members of the church belong to the group. They regularly give concerts for charity both at the church and at other venues in town. Although they use the premises rather than hire them they give generously to the church.

6pm- 8pm. is the time allocated for the Youth club, unfortunately due to the illness of the leader and the lack of volunteers this is temporarily suspended.

Thursdays:

9.00am The buggy club meets; the buggy club is a mother and toddler group that was formed by a group of church members several years ago but was not actually run as a church organisation, although it was staffed by volunteers from within the church. Grants were obtained from outside agencies to start it and it is registered with the local authority. Last year however, on the resignation of the leader of the group who was one of the founder members the leadership of the club was taken over by the Lay Minister for children and young families. It is still staffed by volunteers from the church but also by parents and grandparents of children who either still attend or have attended.

2pm. The Bowls group meet for their second afternoon of the week.

Evening. The hall is hired by the local Slimming World group.

Fridays:

am. The hall is hired by the local Slimming World group.

Evenings. The building is used for occasional social events either by the church itself or by the Elderberries and the local group of the Maritime Volunteer Service who also hold their meetings and training events on the premises. As the MVS is itself a

charity, it is not charged rent by the church for the hire of the premises but they do give donations to church funds.

Saturdays:

am. Monthly Messy church, regular Elderberries rehearsals, occasional MVS meetings, church coffee mornings and the annual Christmas Fayre.

Other outreach/pastoral care initiatives:

As well as those listed as regular activities the church supports Christian Aid and also adopts either one or more charities to fund-raise for throughout the year September to August.

The Lay Minister for children and young families visits the local day nursery at Easter and Christmas.

The deacons' have shared pastoral responsibility for all members and adherents. The church also has an appointed Hospital Visitor.

Communications:

The church has a website www.scunthorpecc.co.uk which is up-dated regularly. It also has an editorial team which produces a bi-monthly newsletter as well as two large noticeboards where details of events are posted.