



Stalybridge Congregational Church

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Profile of our Church

Stalybridge Congregational Church was founded in 1830. After having two chapels and two Sunday School buildings over a period of years on its Melbourne Street site in the centre of the town, the church had to leave its buildings and worship in the local community Centre in 1990. Much prayer, hard work (and tears) resulted in us opening our new building on Baker Street, in December 1999. This building is adjacent to, and visible from a busy main road a short distance away from the centre of town.

The new building is modern, easy to heat and maintain and will seat 100 comfortably. We are a small, mature, but young at heart fellowship, with a supportive Diaconate and willing helpers amongst the congregation. The congregation consists of 15 members, 10 adherents and children.

Stalybridge is a town in Tameside, Greater Manchester, with a population of around 25,000. Historically a part of Cheshire, it is 8 miles (12.9 km) east of Manchester city centre and 6 miles (9.7 km) north-west of Glossop. With the construction of a cotton mill in 1776, Stalybridge became one of the first centres of textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution. The wealth created in the 19th century from the factory-based cotton industry transformed an area of scattered farms and homesteads into a self-confident town. Due to the decline of the cotton industry in the first quarter of the 20th century and the development of modern low-density housing in the post-war period, the town is now semi-rural in character.

Sunday services are at 11:00 a.m. with Communion on the first Sunday in the month. The Sunday services at present are led by visiting preachers. We serve coffee and biscuits in the Meeting Room at the back of Church after the service.

We are a traditional group overall but are willing to try new ideas as long as they are not too radical! Our services are of the hymn sandwich style and Communion is an integral part of the service. We do not have an organist, instead like many churches today we have a digital hymnal.

Activities

Monday at 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study (though not at present).

Third Wednesday in the month - Deacons and Church meetings are held on an alternate bi-monthly basis at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. - Stay and Play (pre-school children) A private business.

'Thursday Group' held the first Thursday in the month. We began in January 2013. We have a wide range of activities led by guest visitors. The money raised is given to a range of charities. For example we have sponsored 2 toilets in villages in Bangladesh, given money to Mountain Rescue, Open Doors and many others.

Outreach into the community

Food bank collection for a local group who serve lunch to the homeless.

Harvest Service - collect monetary gifts for Barnabus for the homeless in Manchester and have contributed to the Shoebox appeal for several years but recently have supported a local charity with monetary gifts to use as they see fit to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

We have a team of volunteers to clean the Church.

Periodically we have fairs, afternoon teas, evening concerts and other social 'get-togethers' not necessarily with the aim of raising money, but for fellowship and outreach. We support many charities this way. For example: Christian Aid, UNICEF, Rainbow Family Trust - Francis House a local hospice for children, Willow Wood a local hospice for adults, The Bible Society and contribute when possible to calls for help after natural disasters.

Ecumenical

There is fellowship between the various denominations within the town. Stalybridge Churches Together hold some joint services.

We would be looking for someone to take two services per month (three in a five week month), chair Deacon and Church meetings and to be involved in some Pastoral visiting. We do not have a manse.

Like all churches we would like to see our congregation increase and would consider all ideas put forward in order to achieve this.