



Queens Road Baptist Church (QRBC) is a friendly, mid-sized Church that is situated close to the centre of the historic city of Coventry. QRBC can trace its roots back nearly 400 years in the city and is now in its third location. We are a Church that is varied in age, background, and nationality, with members coming from around the world including the UK, Nigeria, Zambia, Cameroon, Ghana, China and India. We would describe our theological approach as thinking evangelical, in addition, we would also describe ourselves as Bible-based and Spirit-led. Having been in a process of slow growth, change, and transition, particularly since Covid, we are looking for someone to come and join our ministry team, as an associate/assistant minister.

Our Church as it is now

Pre-Covid, QRBC had very much followed a path of facilitating community engagement, with the community using the building most days and evenings during the week. This approach came from an original vision established 20 years prior, that QRBC would reach out into the community, through a community activism model.



However, over time a transformation took place. Several staff and volunteers maintained the centre, and its public use, and there was a disconnect between what was happening in the week, and what was happening on a Sunday. During the season of Covid, an opportunity was taken to pause and reflect in a way that the busyness of life pre-Covid did not afford. It was unanimously decided through prayer, and discussion by key stakeholders, ministries, and the leadership, that the use of the centre had developed a life that was separate to the life of the Church, and that it was in some cases now hindering ministry taking place. This reflection process, coupled with the changes in public bookings post Covid, meant we intentionally transitioned

away from the heavy community usage that we had been involved in and have taken a more deliberately selective approach.

It seems our decision was pleasing in God's sight, as over the last 4 years we have seen slow but steady growth, both numerically, but also in diversity of culture and of age. We have had numerous baptisms, dedications, and decisions to follow Jesus in the last few years, and we are hungry to see more of God at work in our fellowship. Whilst we are pleased and grateful at what God has done, we want to see more. We desire to reach out more into the community, either by restarting some old ministries that had to stop during Covid such as our baby and toddler groups or begin new ones such as an evangelistic outreach team. Our current paid staff consists of a senior minister and an Operations Coordinator, and we are looking for an associate/assistant who can come and help share the burden of existing work but also with the aim that this will help free our existing minister to pursue new opportunities and allow the new member of the team to pursue new opportunities themselves.

The Services



In terms of Sunday morning services, we have one morning service most weeks, which usually takes a semi-formal style. This is a deliberate choice, as we are seeking to be a Church where everyone knows they matter: older people, younger people, students, children and everyone else in between know they are welcomed, and that they matter. In practice, this means we generally have a mix of modern sung worship, some older songs, whilst also incorporating more traditional elements, such as an all-age talk, intercessions, and a Bible reading. These are delivered by members of the congregation to allow for different voices. The sermon is around 20-25 minutes, and is generally delivered by the minister with support from others from the fellowship or people with a connection to the Church from outside organisations. These services are streamed live on YouTube.



Once a month, we have 2 services on a Sunday morning, a shorter, more traditional service, followed by a service that is longer, freer, and less formal. This allows for those who enjoy more freedom and spontaneity, as well as those who prefer a more traditional style of worship.

For our younger attenders we run: Crèche (0-5), JAM (5-11) and FSG, (12-16) and we have several all-age services throughout the year, usually tied to special events such as Mothering Sunday or Father's Day.

The feeling about the approach that we have taken is that this has worked very well for us, allowing both for a generally shared worship experience, and also for diversity in both taste and approach.

In addition to the Sunday morning service, we have at several points in the year, bimonthly prayer and praise events on Sunday evenings, days of prayer and fasting, and other prayer events.

In terms of numbers, we use the phrase mid-sized, because it is difficult to get a specific figure on attendance. We average around 150+ in weekly attendance, with around 25+ joining via the live stream, but these numbers fluctuate weekly, and we then have an average of 100 views a week on YouTube. Whilst this started over Covid out of necessity, we have maintained this consciously as a significant way for those unable to be in regular attendance to remain part of the worshipping community.

We enjoy a good representation across the ages, and our numbers and attendance have been on the increase.



The Activities

Mid-week, we have a wide variety of activities and events, these include:

Youth

- Lumen, co-run with Coventry YFC, a Wednesday evening youth group - ages 11-14.
- Thursday night youth discipleship group - ages 14-18.
- DofE - A large Duke of Edinburgh Award group made up from teenagers from across the city and surrounding area.

Adults

- House groups - There are several house groups that meet at various times and evenings throughout the week.
- Oasis prayer group - a group that explores different practices of prayer.
- Foodbank - This runs every Monday morning and is linked to Coventry Central Foodbank.
- Arty Crafters - A monthly craft group.
- Wednesday Fellowship - A monthly daytime meeting that examines topics of interest and faith.
- Banner Group - An occasional group that meets to create banners for the Church.
- A quarterly Pastoral Area Communion - an opportunity for those who struggle to make Church services to share in communion and a brief service together.

The Church also facilitates other external groups meeting, such as among others:

- Singing for the Brain, an Alzheimer's care group.
- Open Christmas, the Church building is used by a charity for a week-long annual homeless Christmas shelter.
- Clothing Coventry School Pop Up – A 3 week-long event in August, where people can come and donate and pick up school uniforms.

The Church's history

With origins in the mid-1600s, the church's first "meeting-house" (since demolished) was built in Jordan Well in 1723. The church grew and moved to a larger chapel in Cow Lane, also now demolished, near today's New Union Street. As Coventry grew, the church grew too.

The church moved its worship services to the present building in Queen's Road in 1884, with other rooms being later additions.

The Building

QRBC is a bit Tardis-like, largeish on the outside, but even more massive on the inside. The chapel seats around 600, with a servery that can seat about 80. We have a large hall for around 200, a small hall for 100, 3 further large rooms at the back, with a large and small kitchen. There is also a dedicated set of offices as well. The buildings are largely maintained by volunteers.

Wider Community

The Church is located just outside the inner ring-road, facing into the city centre, which is both a strength and a weakness. A strength in that we can access all the people in the city centre for mission, and we are centrally located, which works very well for attractional events and sessions. It is also a weakness as we suffer slightly from not having a clear parish to work in. There are residential areas that are back from where the Church faces, but these tend to have a high occupation turnover, or they are gated blocks of flats. This has made reaching out to these areas more difficult, not impossible just a bit harder. However, there are ongoing plans by the Council, to develop more living spaces around the where the Church is located.

The Area

Coventry has a rich history. In medieval times it was a centre of pilgrimage to its many Churches and monastic buildings a number of which are still standing. Today, its modern Cathedral is a beacon of Peace and Reconciliation within the City and across the world.

The city has shown an ability to adapt to economic challenges with an evolving industrial heritage from watchmaking, cycle manufacture through to car manufacturing moving from boom town in the 1970's, to the Specials 'Ghost Town' in the mid 80's, only to bounce back again in the 21st Century, just as it did after the destruction in World War II, with new tech companies and service industries.

Coventry is a large city, one of the seven Metropolitan boroughs that make up the West Midlands Region. It lies to the south-east of the West Midlands conurbation and has easy access to rural Warwickshire. With its position in the centre of England, Coventry is well served by the rail network, its proximity to Birmingham airport and with major motorways nearby.

The current population of 360,000 is diverse, multi-ethnic (58.0% of Coventry's school children are from an ethnic minority group) and with a larger than average number of younger people. The youthful bias is mainly due to the two main Universities in the City: Coventry University and the University of Warwick. The city centre south is currently undergoing a rebuild and revamp seeking to ensure that the city meets the needs of the 21st century.

Wider Connections

QRBC is a member Church within the Baptist Union of Great Britain and is part of the Heart of England Baptist Association. As a Church, we have long-standing and fruitful connections with several partner mission agencies. These are with both agencies based in Coventry, such as Coventry City Mission and Coventry Youth for Christ, and international agencies, such as Global Care and African Pastors Fellowship, and of course Home Mission and BMS World Mission. We are also partnered with the Community of the Cross of Nails.

The Church we would like to see

We recently sought to determine the main values that we seek to share as a Church, and we arrived at 5 main guiding principles. These values and ideals direct our shared values and approach to Church. These are:

- 1) Driven by worship - A Church that has at its heart the worship of the triune God: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Shaped by Scripture - A Church that bases its principles, ethics, values, and behaviour on the revelation of Holy Scripture.
- 3) Marked by grace or People who matter - A Church where everyone matters, regardless of age, ethnicity or status.
- 4) People with purpose - A Church where everyone plays their part.
- 5) Called to act - A Church that reaches out in evangelism, prayer, and support both at home and abroad.

The minister we believe we need

We are looking for an associate/assistant to come and join our ministry team, someone who can join with us as we continue in our transition, both by enabling new ministries and services to be started, whilst also helping make sure that faithful members don't get missed.

The particular areas that we feel that need investment, are pastoral care, and families' work. Whilst opportunities to lead services and preach will be given, this is not the main priority of the role, as we wish to prioritise creating greater pastoral care, and enabling new ministries to begin, and established ministries to flourish.

Practicalities

Depending on the experience of the successful applicant, we are offering 5%-10% over the BUGB recommended standard stipend plus housing allowance, with 5 weeks holiday and 1 reading week. We do not have a manse but office and meeting space are available at the Church at all times. We envisage that this role will be hybrid, with at least one day in the office with other team members. You will need to be eligible to work in the UK.