

Beeston Baptist Church - Profile

Beeston (John Clifford) Baptist Church meets at the Middle Street Resource Centre situated in Beeston, Nottingham. Some 6 years ago the church sold its building and became one of the first users of the reconstituted MSRC. The main user is a charity which aims to facilitate mental health wellbeing. Professionally managed with support from volunteers it works mainly with people with mental health issues.

The church has a membership of 20, plus some more regular attenders. Sunday worship takes place in the café of the centre and is relaxed and informal. Over the years, the church has built up an exceptional relationship with both centre staff and users of the centre which has developed as a community hub for a large number of community groups.

Our aim is to develop our relationship with both users and staff of MSRC and share our Christian spirituality in an incarnational manner. We have been encouraged by the response so far.

The Church

We are a small mainly older but lively group of people from a variety of backgrounds who are committed to being church within an interesting community setting. Sundays are special to us as a time of meeting with God and each other. The café we use ensures an informal setting. We enjoy a variety of worship styles with both traditional hymns and more up to date songs. Our Sunday service is well served by an excellent pianist. Some of us enjoy looking at the Bible together and we are a caring and prayerful church, both for the fellowship and beyond.

After a period of discerning God's will we are committed to intentionally reach out to all users and staff of the MSRC and beyond. The church runs a craft group and a ladies meeting both based in the centre and a number of members participate in activities developed by, or based in, the centre. One of our members is a trustee. More recently the church has been asked to run a Christian meditation session and be involved with looking after a memorial garden, along with organising a memorial service for some of the users who have died. Every year we help organise a carol service and Christmas celebration for both the centre and the local community. As part of a harvest celebration we had, in conjunction with the centre, a collection of tools for Tools with a Mission. This has resulted

in the church being a contact for on-going donations of tools and is another link with the centre and community.

Apart from our involvement with the life of MSRC, some of us are involved with Friends International, a Christian organisation reaching out to overseas students. The church has an active link with BMS missionaries working in Nepal. We have good relationships with other churches in Beeston and take a leading role in co-ordinating local World Day of Prayer services. The church is in membership of the BU and EMBA. There are good relationships with our local councillors.

Surrounding Community

The town of Beeston is located just over three miles from the city of Nottingham. It has a diverse selection of independent shops and high street stores, cafes, pubs and restaurants, and a mixture of private and social housing. There is a large student community, with the University of Nottingham's main campus close by. The town is well served by the local tram and bus network and has a train station (mainline to St Pancras). The A52 passes through the north of the town and junction 25 of the M1 is about 5 miles to the west.

Middle Street Resource Centre, where the church meets is a community centre managed by Beeston Community Resource CIO for the last 6 years. Prior to this the Centre was run by Nottinghamshire County Council as a mental health day centre. The County Council still own the building, and a community mental health team has a base in the Centre. Situated near the town centre, MSRC's main purpose is to reach out to people with lived experience of mental health issues and promote mental health wellbeing. Since BCR took over the management, it has tried to reach out to the wider community of Beeston and apart from its own projects now hosts a variety of community groups.

The future

Most recently, Beeston Baptist Church has decided to develop its relationship with MSRC in a more intentional way. The centre management and trustees are open to the church sharing its spirituality with all who come, with the image of the church becoming a chaplain to the centre, and also the community beyond. We are keen to develop our relational presence with the Centre community, whilst also maintaining a broader Christian life and ministry.

Ministry we are seeking

We are looking for someone who is comfortable in a community centre setting and has experience in a mental health context. They need to be able to build upon the relationship the church has with the Centre, and also to take it further by drawing together and helping to equip volunteers from the church community. Someone who is able to share Christian spirituality in an appropriate manner for the setting. A willingness to engage with the wider ministry of the church, particularly on Sunday.