

Fairland United Reformed Church Wymondham



Mission
Manifesto
November
2017





Where are we?

Our church is: Fairland United Reformed Church, Wymondham.

Wymondham is a market town 8 miles south of Norwich. It is a growing community with a number of new housing developments being built. These are on the outskirts of the town. The population is growing all the time and at present it is estimated to be 20,000, predominantly white and British born. It has three primary schools and one high school. The Police headquarters for Norfolk is based in Wymondham and the town lies close to the A11. Many people commute to Norwich for work, especially to the Norfolk and Norwich hospital and the University. There is some employment in the locality mainly in the service industry. The town is also surrounded by countryside and farms. These are arable with some chicken, turkey and pig farms.

There is a wide range of activities available in Wymondham covering sports, music, arts and crafts, drama, film and a great variety of clubs for all age groups.

Ecumenical relationships

There are 8 churches of different denominations in Wymondham and together they form the Wymondham Church Network. The group work together on local initiatives and share a good understanding and respect for each other. We are an active part of this Network.

During the last five years the congregation has developed a closer relationship with the Methodist church and has had two united services each year.

Who are we?

Fairland United Reformed Church was established as an Independent fellowship in 1652. The church building was opened in 1706. In 2002 a complete refurbishment of the building took place and it is now very adaptable for modern use. This refurbishment was sensitively done and the church building has retained its historical ambience as a peaceful and welcoming place.

The worship is traditional in nature but new ways of worship and modern hymns are appreciated.

The church is part of the Norwich Area URC group. We do not have our own minister but receive some ministry from the Team Leader of NAURC.

The congregation is mainly over the age of 70. There are 38 members and about 10 adherents. The average number for Sunday worship is 28. About half of the congregation live within a mile of the church and the rest over 3 miles. Although we have lost members through death we have received new members on transfer so that our membership number has not changed much over the last five years. We have 7 serving elders and 4 non-serving.

What do we do?

Sunday morning worship is at 10.30 am. There is a communion service once a month usually the first Sunday. Rejoice and Sing is the main hymn book. The church celebrates the main festivals of the church year with special services. A screen is available for use and a group of church members leads worship from time to time.



Each elder has a pastoral list so that all our congregation has someone as a point of contact. We hold discussion groups for Advent and Lent. A group has met regularly for discussion and worship once a month mid week and now this is to be developed to twice a month from January 2017. We have special services for the main Christian Festivals throughout the year. We support a number of charities especially Christian Aid, The Vidiyal Trust and Traidcraft.



We believe we should express our faith by being open and welcoming to all. We believe we should be involved in the local community and where possible provide support and practical help to those in need. Members help with the Foodbank and lead worship at a local Care Home. We initiated a Pabulum Café for those living with dementia about eight years ago. This is held in the Church Centre and now meets twice a week. It has grown so much that it is now an independent charity called the Wymondham Dementia Support

Group and it has been a beacon for how to provide this form of support in the local community. It has just been awarded the Queens Award for voluntary groups. The church agreed to it developing a garden on a strip of land by the graveyard and this is now a beautiful and peaceful place to be. We work with Pabulum in partnership and together we have redecorated parts of the buildings and together we are installing a disabled platform lift to provide access to the church building from the car park.



We hold a monthly coffee morning open to all and this is attended by people from the church and locality. It is for meeting together and not fund raising. Once a month there is a film show which is well supported by people mainly from the community. Current films are shown with some well loved films from the past.

The buildings , church and hall, are used extensively during the week for a whole range of local groups and clubs. There are four choirs, Baby Sensory, AA, a reading group and various physical activity groups. Alive church in Wymondham runs a support group for mothers with young babies and also a group for women living with mental health issues. We see ourselves as facilitators for this work as we do not have the personnel to do this ourselves.

What are we here for?

Our Mission Statement

We believe that the Fairland United Reformed Church exists to worship God by sharing our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. This we will do by living out our faith as individuals and as a community and caring for our neighbours.

What are our resources?

Skills, gifts, experiences of personnel

We have dedicated and hard working elders who cover most of the pastoral and practical needs of the church. We are served well by our treasurer and assistant treasurer and other friends who are able to contribute a variety of skills. As we are an ageing congregation the number of those capable of giving physical help is rather limited.

Property resources – strengths and weaknesses

Our buildings are a great asset to us and the people of Wymondham. The church building is a Grade 2 listed building. It is used extensively through the week. It has a small kitchen with a hatch into the church so that coffee and light refreshments can be served. There is also a comfortable lounge which is used for smaller meetings and discussion groups.

The hall is a separate building and this has just been redecorated and updated with new blinds. It has a good sized kitchen and is also booked most days for a variety of activities. There is also a smaller hall off the main hall and this has been refurbished with carpet and will be used mainly by the WDSG as a room for carers to meet. However it is also available for hire.

Financial resources

We do not have capital resources to supplement our needs but our weekly giving has been growing regularly and we are able to meet our costs through this and our lettings. We do some fundraising activities during the year for the church as well as charities

Spiritual Resources

The Church Centre is a spiritual resource in itself. Its history, light, proportion and the managed beauty of its surroundings with the graveyard, garden and large Cross at the front provide a peaceful and spiritual space. This and the shared faith of the members and Sunday worship all contribute to an awareness of God's presence with us.



What are our opportunities and how do we use them?

We have many people using our premises and so we must make sure we are prepared to share our faith with them if called to do so. We must treat all we meet with the love of Jesus.

We must be prepared to take new initiatives. Some suggestions have been made.

- 1) Provide cards for prayerful reflection to use in the garden.
- 2) Use Facebook and website forums to comment on current issues.
- 3) Make a quiet space for prayer and reflection inside the buildings as well as outside in the garden.
- 4) Produce leaflets for special festivals in the church calendar.
- 5) Provide information to be on hand for those facing difficult circumstances in their lives.

Priorities and goals for the next few years.

- To continue to make Fairland a welcoming and vibrant centre for worship and community use.
- To be involved as much as possible in the community of Wymondham.
- To develop our understanding of discipleship as we explore this in our discussion groups.

