

The Methodist Church, Preston Ribble Circuit

Part-time Cleaner/Caretaker for Fulwood Methodist Church

Background

Fulwood is a suburban area of mixed housing approximately two miles north of Preston City Centre. Fulwood Methodist Church (www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk) is situated on Watling Street Road, near to the junction with Garstang Road (A6), close to bus stops allowing it to be reached easily from a number of directions across Preston by public transport. The church and community work reflect the diversity of the neighbourhood which is becoming increasingly multi-cultural and multi-faith. It has a small car park at the front and a larger car park at the rear with an entrance on Highgate Avenue. The Church premises were extensively rebuilt and refurbished to a high standard in 2010 at a cost of £1.2M and now include a worship area, seating 300 and fully equipped with audio-visual aids, and the Crossroads Centre comprising: a large coffee area (The Willow Grove), large hall, fully-equipped kitchen and three meeting rooms. The premises are fully accessible from the front and rear entrances and incorporate modern facilities suitable for a wide range of activities. The Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit Office is located at the Church in a room off the worship area with its own external entrance, where the Circuit Administrator works on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week between 10.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Fulwood Methodist Church also employs a part-time Church Administrator who works in an office next to the entrance to the Crossroads Centre on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. She currently undertakes the administration for the Church's large and thriving Theatre Visits Group in addition to her general administrative duties.

Vision & Mission Statement

The Church Council adopted the following Vision & Mission Statement in June 2016 and is actively seeking to put the statement into practice:

The Vision

Fulwood Methodist Church - disciples of Jesus Christ, enthusiastically continuing on a journey of faith, demonstrating God's love for all people.

The Church's Mission

The journey we are undertaking is to witness to our faith through worship and service in ways that show God's love for all people. In witnessing to the love of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit we are thankful for our heritage and for the gifts and resources with which we have been provided. We will be responsibly creative in adapting these to the opportunities and needs which present themselves. To that end we commit ourselves to the following:

We will

1. Renew our commitment to being part of 'a discipleship movement shaped for mission' which gives honour to Jesus Christ and to God's creation in all we do.
2. Recognise that every individual is different and yet made in the image of God.
3. Exercise 'radical hospitality' in our regard for each other - children, young people and families, people at work in their various daily occupations and those with different opportunities and challenges – and warmly embrace the stranger, the newcomer and those with additional needs, continuing to offer our premises and ourselves in service.
4. Develop a variety of opportunities for worship at different times and in different styles over the whole week.

5. Emphasise well-being, development and growth and especially our need to develop our spiritual understanding and maturity.
6. Actively meet people in our community, listen to and learn from their voices, and work with them to create a more just society.

The Church Community

With just over 290 members and another 900 or more local people associated with its activities, Fulwood Methodist Church has a lively and varied life for all ages. It has a Leadership Team which comprises the Church Stewards, the Pastoral Secretary, a Youth, Children's & Family Worker and the Minister, and is accountable to the Church Council. Finance and Property Groups each look after their respective areas of activity. There is a strong emphasis on collaborative leadership in the church with working groups to pursue issues or undertake tasks rather than formal committees, particularly in the areas of Church Life, Church Outreach, Pastoral Care and Youth and Family Work. The Church is committed to being a vibrant witness within Fulwood as an inclusive community which welcomes people from all backgrounds. The vast majority of activities are carried out by a dedicated team of a hundred or more volunteers.

Worship & Fellowship

Worship and fellowship are at the heart the Church, which seeks to be family-orientated. Creative use is made of audio-visual technology and an array of musicians (including a worship band). Worship takes place on a Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m., with a crèche and children's programme running in parallel, except for the monthly all-age worship services. Evening worship takes place at 6.30 p.m. on the first three Sundays of the months and on the fourth Sunday members of the congregation join in the worship at Ashton Methodist Church. A diverse range of styles is followed from the more traditional preaching services, all-age and parades, to informal participatory services and café-style worship and the quieter reflective worship of Taize and Compline. There are weekly informal services for prayer and Holy Communion on Wednesday mornings and half-termly Messy Church sessions over a Tuesday tea-time. It is hoped that, in future, other developments might take place with different styles of worship being planned at other times of the week. There are currently eight fellowship groups which meet at different times in the week (three women's, one men's, a bible study, a book club, a knitting group, and a community choir). Several of these include people from outside the traditional church community who do not worship on a Sunday.

Outreach

An increasingly varied range of community and charitable groups, as well as individuals from the neighbourhood, regularly rent rooms in order to hold their activities in the Church. At the same time, the Church offers 'open hospitality' with its own extensive outreach programme attracting members of the local community, especially for the Tuesday coffee mornings and the Welcome Wednesday activities with coffee, lunches and 'new to you' stalls. Age Concern and special needs groups bring adults on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings to take advantage of the facilities. Other activities are offered which attract those from the community seeking support and company, such as the thriving Theatre Visits Group with its regular programme to venues across the North West. The Church contributes to the activities of Preston as a Fairtrade City by its use and sale of fair-trade goods and the organisation of regular Farmers Markets. Members of the Church provide support and services for homeless and vulnerable people through their involvement in a local Methodist charity and the church recently took part in a fundraising scheme (Toilet Twinning) to enable toilets and latrines to be built in developing countries with limited sanitation. The Church is committed to exploring its place within the world-wide Christian family, is committed to Christian Aid and is also twinned with a church in the German town

of Recklinghausen. It has begun an environmental audit and has registered as an 'Eco Congregation' with a view to seeking to gain an award.

Youth, Children's & Family Activities

The Church has had a long history of and commitment to work with children and young people and their families. A new full-time member of staff, responsible for co-ordinating this important area of the Church's work, is due to start work at the beginning of August. In addition to the Sunday Club and crèche, which run in parallel with the Sunday morning worship, there are two smaller monthly Sunday afternoon youth groups, primarily catering for families linked to the Church. The well-established Messy Church meets each half-term, including very well supported Messy Good Friday and Messy Nativity. These activities attract a significant number of individuals and families who do not attend on Sundays alongside those who do. There are thriving uniformed organisations sponsored by the Church, with the three sections of both Scouts and Guides all represented and with regular waiting lists. A long-established and very large Toddlers Club meets on Friday mornings. On Friday evenings, there are two well subscribed 'open' youth clubs, one for primary (KS2) and one for secondary (KS3&4) school-aged children and young people. With the appointment of the new Youth, Children's & Family Worker, the Church is looking to extend its programme of activities in this area.