



Brief Introduction to Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church

We are passionate about discipling people of all ages to live lives of worship within their God-given shapes and gifting. We seek to help them find fellowship within the loving support of the church family and to grow and release leaders who can serve the Lord in ministry and mission through communities.

We would call ourselves a 'Word and Spirit' church with equal weight being given to sound theology and beliefs as revealed in scripture and to the work of the Holy Spirit who speaks to us, equips us and helps us to encounter the Lord in ongoing experiential relationships and as we meet together to honour and worship Him.

We are a broad intergenerational church family from diverse backgrounds and traditions and we seek to embrace this, drawing from the wealth of varying ways of worshipping, encouraging people to meet with the Lord within who they are and celebrating our unity with generous hearts towards one another.

We consider ourselves spiritually and culturally blessed to be able to draw from, and engage with different Christian conferences and organisations that provide resources. There are regular groups from the church in attendance at Soul Survivor, New Wine and Spring Harvest and we also, from time to time, have quiet days and retreats for those who prefer a more reflective and contemplative approach.

Our main style of worship is modern/contemporary whilst integrating one or two traditional hymns. These are typically led by a band and reflect the variety of those who make up the congregation.

We are always keen to work with other churches and organisations within the town and are involved in many ministries including work with the homeless, supporting those with mental health issues, befriending the vulnerable elderly, helping those with financial difficulties through debt advice and engaging with those enjoying the Tunbridge Wells Night Life through Street Pastors. We have those within the church working in areas of justice, fair-trade, national issues of politics and also many with a heart for the middle-east.

We are currently on a very intentional journey towards missional discipleship and have invested significant resources, time and training, along with working with other churches in the town (2 Anglican, 1 New Frontiers and 1 Church of Christ) with the aim of having thriving missional communities (some joint across the churches) in place to reach different sections of society with the good news of Jesus through shared life and experience. We have previously hosted a 2 year learning community and are now embarking upon a community of practice from 2019-2021, with those other churches, to work towards that aim.

We have just recently launched a project to raise the funds for the restoration and transformation of our Sanctuary which is our main worship space.

There is a very happy and friendly staff team at the church. We work well together as we each bring our different personalities, character and gifts to bless and build up one another and the wider church.

Duncan Threshie (Senior Pastor – full time) has been at TWBC for 14 years having previously worked on the pastoral staff teams at Gold Hill Baptist Church and Guildford Baptist Church. He pioneered a Christian ministry in schools and Colleges in Lesotho, Southern Africa for 14 years. He initiated and developed a 2 year School and Church based Diploma in Christian Service for working with Children and young People. He, among many other things, co-leads the Home From Home Community at TWBC with his wife and others, for those from other nations. He is also involved in the Seniors Community and their twice a month Traditional Service.

Dilys Threshie (Pastoral Worker – officially 1 ½ days a week) is Duncan's wife and very much involved in her own right in many aspects of TWBC life as part of the Leadership team, and in leading prayer across the town. She has, for a number of years, led the team for the Leader's Lounge at one of the weeks for New Wine. Outside of church she also spiritually accompanies people and leads retreats. She also supervises Pastoral Workers.

Adam Parkes (Outgoing Music & Worship Pastor – full time) has been working at TWBC for over 12 years and regularly leads the sung worship as well as being a part of the leadership and preaching teams. He was both Worship and Youth Pastor for his first 5 years with us. We are currently recruiting a new Part Time Worship Leader to replace him following his departure at the end of 2018.

Rachel Hayward (Children & Families Pastor – 2.5 days a week) is a Baptist Minister and has previously been a primary school teacher. She co-leads the Children and Families Community with her husband, David, (who is part of the Leadership team) and is part of the preaching team.

Sarah Plimmer (Office Administrator – 19 hours a week Mon, Tues and Thurs mornings and all day Fri) has previously worked in operations and communications for St George's Childcare, Tunbridge Wells and has also held voluntary positions at her children's school running music groups and helping in classes.

Lizzie Russell (Youth Worker – part-time placement) Lizzie grew up in Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church and has always been an active part of the youth group and church family, having also done an internship with the church on a local gap-year programme. She is currently in her 3rd year of studying for a Youth and Ministry degree with Oasis College and has been on part-time placement with us. She completes this summer and will then go further afield.

You will be able to get further information on who we are, including our vision and values and what goes on at Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church from our website www.twbc.org.uk.