

BEACON COMMUNITY PROJECT



AIM: TO RETORE LIVES AND REBUILD
COMMUNITIES.

BEACON
EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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BEACON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Our Brief History

Since its inception in 1987, Beacon Evangelical Church has been a beacon of hope and light in our community. It was born from the collaboration of three vibrant Handsworth congregations: Lawnswood, Waverhill Road, and Calvary. Together, we pooled our resources and established our home on Sandwell Road, symbolising our mission to shine on the hill brightly in our community.

Years ago, we felt a powerful calling from God: "Go!" This simple yet profound message ignited our passion to step beyond our four walls and share the gift of life and love we have received. With a spirit of courage and purpose, we actively seek innovative ways to convey God's message of hope and grace to those who may never have heard it before.

****Vision Statement****

We strive to be a vibrant, welcoming inner-city church, a living testimony of the good news of Jesus Christ. We aim to share His message with joy and authenticity while embodying His love as devoted disciples.

****Core Values****

Worship: Our lives are an expression of our love for God. We believe in continual worship and prayer within church walls and every facet of our daily lives.

Service. We seek to love one another and our neighbours as God has loved us. By collaborating with other Evangelical faith groups, we aim to restore lives and rebuild our community through dedicated service and outreach.

Obedience: We are committed to living out the teachings of the Bible, obeying God's Word as our guiding light.

Excellence: In everything we do, we strive for excellence, knowing we do it for the glory of God.

At Beacon Evangelical Church, we embrace this journey with open hearts and hands, eager to bring transformation and love to our community. Together, we are a living beacon, shining the light of Christ for all to see. Join us in this inspiring mission.

Meet the team:

Trustees: Tim Turner, Elaine Salmon, Veronica Johnson, and Philip Evans

Community Development and Outreach Leader – Eric Mustapha

SENIORS' LUNCH CLUB

JOIN US FOR A MEAL & FRIENDSHIP

The Lunch Club is a warm, welcoming space for everyone in our community, no matter your background—Savour delicious meals and essential items at prices that won't break the bank. Immerse yourself in a vibrant atmosphere where fun and friendship flourish. At the Lunch Club, we believe in banishing loneliness and sadness. It's your ideal destination to unwind, enjoy fantastic food and beverages, connect with old friends, and forge new memories.

Commences on- 3rd February 2025

When: ** Every Monday, 10:30 AM - 2 PM

Where: ** Beacon Evangelical Church, 47 Sandwell Road, Handsworth, B21 8NH

Cost: £5 for a two-course healthy meal.



WHO WILL HOST THE CLUB?

Our Lunch Club is expertly run by a talented team of caterers guided by the Beacon Community Project. This ensures an exceptional experience for everyone.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

Look forward to a varied menu featuring warm, satisfying meals that cater to our community's diverse tastes. If you have specific dietary requirements, please let us know—we're committed to making sure you can enjoy your favourite dishes in an inviting environment.

BEACON DROP IN



What Is It All About?

Drop-in is your go-to destination for making friends, chatting, and engaging in different activities. Enjoy complimentary meals, graciously provided by a group of volunteers, in a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere. We encourage you to join us, and if you know someone who could benefit from our services, spread the word—everyone is welcome, and there are no barriers to entry. Come and access various advisory services, engage in games, and connect with the lively Beacon Community. There will be plenty to discuss, see, and do, so don't miss out!

When: Wednesdays

Time: 11 AM - 2 PM.

What Services Are Offered? -

Delicious food and snacks, Fun games, creative craft sessions, advisory support on benefit applications, energy efficiency, health, overall well-being, and Immigration guidance and advice by health professionals where possible.



BEACON JOB CLUB CENTRE

(Starting In May 2025).



WHAT DO WE DO?

Navigating unemployment can be challenging, especially without support. That's where Christians in Poverty Job Clubs, in partnership with our Beacon church, can make a difference. It allows you to face these challenges alongside others in similar situations.

Our Job Club Centre assists job seekers in finding employment by providing practical and emotional support and access to valuable resources. Here's what you can expect:

What We Offer:

Guidance: We advise writing CVs and cover letters, completing job applications, and mastering interview techniques.

Resources: To help you in your job hunt, you can access computers, print for free, and books on job-seeking.

Community: Join a friendly community that helps boost confidence and self-esteem.

Information: We offer information about government initiatives and local resources, including universal job matches and national job agencies.

Skills Development: to help you identify your strengths and abilities and improve your interview skills.

In partnership, Christians Against Poverty and the Beacon Evangelical Church welcome anyone, regardless of religion or beliefs. We monitor our services to ensure that everyone receives the same caring support.

We are pleased to announce that a job board will be available to advertise employment vacancies. We encourage you to take advantage of this resource and visit the Beacon Community Project for any employment-related inquiries.

Additionally, the job club will commence in May once our volunteers have completed their training. More information will be provided soon.

BEACON COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

Community chaplaincy is a transformative journey where faith meets compassion to uplift individuals transitioning from prison to society. We aim to support these individuals in navigating resettlement challenges and their spiritual well-being. We believe in a holistic approach that nurtures the mind, body, and spirit, empowering them to embrace a fresh start.



With a dedicated "WELCOME TEAM", we are working on modalities to welcome and assist recently released people. Our collaboration with probation officers and Winson Green Prison ensures no one walks this path alone. As we await our proud members of the Community Chaplaincy Association, we gain valuable insights and resources to strengthen our impact and cultivate a community that embraces everyone.

At the heart of our work lies a profound biblical truth. Matthew 25:36 inspires us with a call to action. Jesus reminds us that every act of kindness extended to those in prison is not merely an act of humanity but also a way to serve Him directly. When we visit, support, or care for those who have faced incarceration, we fulfil a sacred duty that enriches their lives and ours.

Hebrews 13:3 encourages us to maintain a deep sense of empathy, remember those imprisoned as if we share their struggles, and treat them with dignity and love. Embodying this message, we help build healthier individuals and a more compassionate and understanding society.

Together, let us commit to fostering an embracing community where every prison leaver can rediscover their potential, heal from past wounds, and contribute to the tapestry of a brighter future for us all. Hope is alive, and change is possible; let us be the agents of that change!

BEACON WELL-BEING HUB

Introducing the Beacon Well-Being Hub: your comprehensive advisory health care hub.

We play a vital role in improving public health outcomes and supporting our local community.

Our well-being hub bridges healthcare providers, government agencies, and the public, offering services and resources to enhance community well-being.

Key Feature:

Health Education: Advisory sessions will provide valuable health information and resources to community members, promoting preventive care and healthy lifestyles.

Keep-Fit – We look forward to integrating a physical keep-fit feature into the health hub shortly.

Services Offered:

1. Health promotion and disease prevention programs to cover Mental health
2. Information support for managing chronic conditions
3. Mental health services, including dementia and Alzheimer
4. Elderly care support
5. Advice on healthy eating and lifestyle

Our approach is community-centred, often tailored to local health needs. We engage healthcare professionals to deliver these services.

Time – 11 am -2 pm

Wednesdays – from 5th February and fortnightly thereafter

Cost – Free of Cost.



Children, Youth and Young Adults

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HOME- START CHARITY

Home-Start is a volunteer-led family support charity. It offers locally trained volunteers to provide emotional and practical support to families in their homes. Home-Start supports parents and their children dealing with difficult life circumstances. They partner with local charities and faith organisations like Beacon to reach even more local families. Children need a happy and secure childhood, and their parents play a key role in giving them the best possible start in life and helping them achieve their full potential.

Beacon will partner with Home-Start to support children and families in the Handsworth community by offering the following:

Targeted support for families who need short-term intervention for needs.

Support family resilience, promote independence, and possibly break the cycle of dependency.

Provide activity and support groups for the community. Beacon looks forward to becoming one of the support group centres.

BEACON YOUNG PEOPLE.



Children:

The Beacon Children's Group, also known as the Sunday Club, meets on Sunday mornings from 11:30 to 12:15 P.m. This group is designed for children ages 3 to 11. It's a fun, engaging environment where children learn about God's love through age-appropriate Bible stories, songs, crafts, and

games. Each Week, the children are encouraged to explore faith and build friendships in a safe, nurturing space.

Within the small group settings, our DBS volunteers provide personal attention and create meaningful learning experiences, helping children grow in their understanding of Christian values and teachings. Whether through hands-on activities or interactive lessons, the goal is to make each Sunday morning a memorable, inspiring time for every child.

Youth:12-16 YEARS



An older youth group (12-16) also meets in a separate area following a programme of lessons geared to their age group and experience. Throughout the year, we encourage Sunday Club members to participate in our main Church services, e.g., youth-led services, Father’s Day, and Christmas Family Services, sharing what they have been learning or their thoughts on a given topic’s scripture. We also encourage this group to partake in adventure weekends, which include teaching and indoor and outdoor activities, at least once a year.

12+ YOUTH GROUP.

It meets once a fortnight, usually on a Friday evening, for young people aged 12-17. It alternates between an evening out doing activities—climbing, theatre, laser quest, night games, sports, and a

variety of fun and educational experiences—and an evening of indoor games and activities combined with time to think about deeper themes of faith and life, often explored through the Bible. 12+ is a great combination of friendship and activities.

Young Adults:

Young Adults Fellowship is a new group established from a 10-week discipleship course at Beacon Church. The fellowship provides vital space for connection, spiritual growth and community for individuals aged 18 to 30. This group offer several key benefits:

1. Create a safe space for young adults to explore faith and life challenges
2. Provide opportunities for genuine relationships and spiritual development
3. Focus on relevant topics like career, mental health, relationships and personal growth.
4. A spiritual atmosphere where gifts are nurtured and enhanced positive engagement with the church and the community.

The group activities include:

1. Weekly gatherings (often on Tuesdays at 7 pm).
2. Small group discussion on the scripture and contemporary issues
3. Engaging worship experiences and gospel singing
4. Exploring opportunities to serve and develop leadership skills
5. Social activities like sports, games and adventure trips.

The ultimate goal of the young adults' fellowship is to ensure they feel acknowledged, valued, and supported in their spiritual journeys. We strive to foster meaningful connections with the broader ministry of the church and the community while nurturing their God-given gifts for service.

Beacon Music Academy



Beacon Evangelical Church increasingly recognises the importance of music education for young people. Therefore, we look forward to offering diverse opportunities for musical training for both personal enrichment for those who are not Christians and for worship participation for Christians.

Our training will include the following instruments:

1. Keyboards
2. Guitars (Rhythm and Bass)
3. Drums
4. Saxophone.
5. Violin.

The primary goal is four folds:

1. To Glorify God
2. To develop a skill-
3. Increase community engagement participation
4. To divert their attention from crime
5. To help their mental health by reducing stress and increasing social connection
6. Developing creativity and Identity- allowing young people to explore their values and self-perception

The Music Academy will commence in March 2025. Contact the Community Development Leader for more information.

Beacon Street Pastors

Street pastors are volunteers dedicated to enhancing community safety and supporting vulnerable individuals in their area. Beacon will establish its street pastors in partnership with local churches and Ascension Trust. Measures are currently being implemented to ensure this ministry is up and running by March 2025, following the training of volunteers.

The primary mission of our street pastors is to care for, listen to, and assist individuals on the streets of Handsworth. We will engage during the day. Our Street Pastors aim to provide practical assistance such as:

1. Helping calm aggressive situations
2. Supporting vulnerable individuals and those with immediate needs
3. Providing food to the hungry on the street
4. Offering a listening ear
5. Engaging in meaningful conversation with lonely and stressed individuals.

We will be committed to fostering collaboration with local authorities, including the police, councils, and statutory agencies, to enhance community safety and social cohesion. We invite you to consider joining the Beacon Street Pastors team, which partners with local churches to make a meaningful impact in our community.

We are currently seeking compassionate volunteers to support vulnerable individuals during the day in the bustling streets of Handsworth. Comprehensive training will be provided, and we request a commitment of at least one session every two weeks. This meaningful endeavour offers an opportunity to serve others while deepening your faith. We welcome you to contact us for more information.



Meet the Team and Partners

Trustees

Tim Turner

Veronica Johnson

Elaine Salmon

Philip Evans

Beacon Community Project Team:

Tim Turner; Angie Rowe; Elaine Salmon; Jarvia Blake; Eric Mustapha.

OUR PARTNERS

Birmingham City Mission; Home-Start; Age Concern UK.

Bringing Hope; Prison Link; Dementia UK.

Christians Against Poverty; Community Chaplaincy Association

Ascension Trust (for street pastoring in the future), Local Churches in Handsworth

For more information, please get in touch with us:



Eric Mustapha

Community Development and Outreach Leader

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