



Ampthill Baptist Church



Ampthill Baptist Church - Profile

Our Mission: *Helping people meet Jesus Christ and become His fully devoted followers.*

Our vision for 2025-2028: *That everyone who lives, learns, works, spends or plays in Ampthill has the opportunity to become a follower of Jesus.*

Character

We are committed to presenting Christ Jesus and his good news to all people, confident in the gospel, with its life-changing implications and the call to repent and believe. We are confident in the Bible as our ultimate and reliable guide, making it central to our life together and our walk with God, and relying on the Spirit to equip, empower and lead us. Please see appendix for our Ethos Statement, which we are currently working through as a church.

Our Story

ABC was founded over 225 years ago in the market town of Ampthill. We are a medium-sized evangelical Baptist church, with around 140 church members. On Sundays, we have a morning service at 10.45am every week and a monthly Six Thirty service, which is more contemporary in style. We usually see around 130 attendees at our morning services, with many others over the course of a month through the many varied ministries we run. We are an intergenerational church, with a congregation ranging from babies to those over 90 years!

Our Lead Pastor is Andrew Goldsmith, who has been with us for over 10 years. He leads the ministry team, which also includes our Operations Manager, Pastoral Support Assistant and Seniors ministry lead. They are supported by a part-time Church Administrator and a part-time Caretaker. The church is governed by a group of 9 trustees.

As a church, we are blessed with many gifted volunteers including trustees, preachers, musicians, tech team, small group leaders, ministry leaders, first aiders, Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders and many more!

Our ministries

Our ministries involve worship, discipleship, and mission across a range of activities and contexts, including the following:

- All together in Sunday services, which are livestreamed. These focus on Bible teaching, collective worship and prayer, and monthly evening services in a contemporary style.
- A flourishing small groups structure including 9 house-groups and 12 smaller “Formation groups” for discipleship, personal Christian growth and accountability.
- Active dedicated ministries for children, youth, students at university, young adults, men, women and seniors.
- Supporting our mission partners, including for example: locally, the Impact Christian schools charity and Need Project (a foodbank); nationally, Fusion working with students and churches; worldwide with MAF and BMS. ABC has been a sending church for some years, particularly to Africa where two members currently serve with MAF in South Sudan.
- Since 2008, ABC has developed a good relationship with an Arab Baptist Church in Shefa 'Amr, Galilee, which is part of the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel. Visits have been exchanged, and there is ongoing prayer support and other contact.
- Meeting community needs e.g. Fellowship Lunches for seniors; Renew Wellbeing <https://www.renewwellbeing.org.uk/>; the Bereavement Journey; serving the organisers of local town events e.g. hospitality for guests at fireworks event and hosting a monthly service in a local care home.
- A variety of discipleship and enquirers courses including Big Questions, Alpha, and explorations of Bible themes and teaching.
- Regular corporate prayer through monthly breakfasts, prayer meetings, and occasional special gatherings.



Children and Youth ministry

- Lighthouse, our 'Sunday school' for school aged children up to year 8
- Tiddlyfish, our creche in the Sunday service for pre-schoolers
- Coffee Stop, our toddler group on Thursday mornings, reaching 40+ families
- Messy Church – bi-monthly
- Friday Club – every Friday evening in term-time for years 7-8
- Open House – every Friday evening in term-time for years 9-13
- Celebrations and After 8s – Sunday evening Bible study for years 9-13

Schools engagement:

We have established a strong partnership with a Lower school, where we are regularly invited to lead assemblies, as well as Easter and Christmas events. Typically, there is an Open the Book assembly once every half-term.

In the past, we have organised a mid-week after-school Bible study for Middle school children.

There is a lunchtime Christian group at the local Upper school, which we have supported, along with another local church.

Annual events which the postholder would be expected to engage with:

Co-lead children's holiday club at ABC in the summer holidays. This has previously been over 5 mornings in a week for children aged 5-11.

Identify, plan and accompany a group of youth to a Christian summer camp – e.g. Satellites.

Co-lead potential all-age church services around Easter, Christmas, Harvest, and a Lights Party on 31st October.

Pastoral Support:

Pastoral support for youth, in the form of conversations, meet-ups after school, encouragement and signposting to additional support if needed. Liaison with our Safeguarding Lead where appropriate.

Example of working week for Children and Youth Ministry Lead

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	Team Meeting Line Manager catch up	Prep	DAY OFF	Toddler Group Prep/Admin	Prayer Meeting Prep for Friday evening	DAY OFF	Sunday Morning service including Sunday School and creche
Lunch		School Christian Union					
Afternoon	Admin	Possible after school catch ups (pastoral)		Possible children's Bible study	OFF		OFF
Evening					Youth Groups – two different age groups		Youth Bible Study

Appendix

Ethos Statement at Ampthill Baptist Church

An Ethos Statement clarifies our Christian beliefs, values and convictions as a church. Every Baptist Church is an independent church, so ABC can produce our own through discussion and discernment, with Scripture as our primary authority. The church membership, through the Church Members' Meeting, is in the process of agreeing the Statement.

The principles in the Ethos Statement would apply to those employed by the church in specific leadership roles, including the Children and Youth Ministry Lead, where there is *a legitimate occupational requirement* to hold to these beliefs and convictions. This is NOT about who is welcome within the church fellowship nor who can be a disciple of Jesus. We are all sinners in need of grace, offered through Christ and accepted by repentance and faith. Grace is available to all without exception.

The primary voice on all matters is always the authority of the Bible. Other interests may be considered but must sit under the Bible's authority.

In the context of the Ethos Statement, 'ABC's Statement of Beliefs' relates *only* to the following protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010. These are:

- Women in Leadership
- Marriage and Divorce
- Sex and Gender
- Sexual Orientation and Same-Sex Marriage

ABC is currently working through each of these four protected characteristics and the church's position will be discussed at the interview.

Outside the context of the Ethos Statement ABC as a church would hold to central Christian beliefs, common to historic biblical Christianity, such as those of the Evangelical Alliance's Basis of Faith: <https://www.eauk.org/about-us/how-we-work/basis-of-faith>).