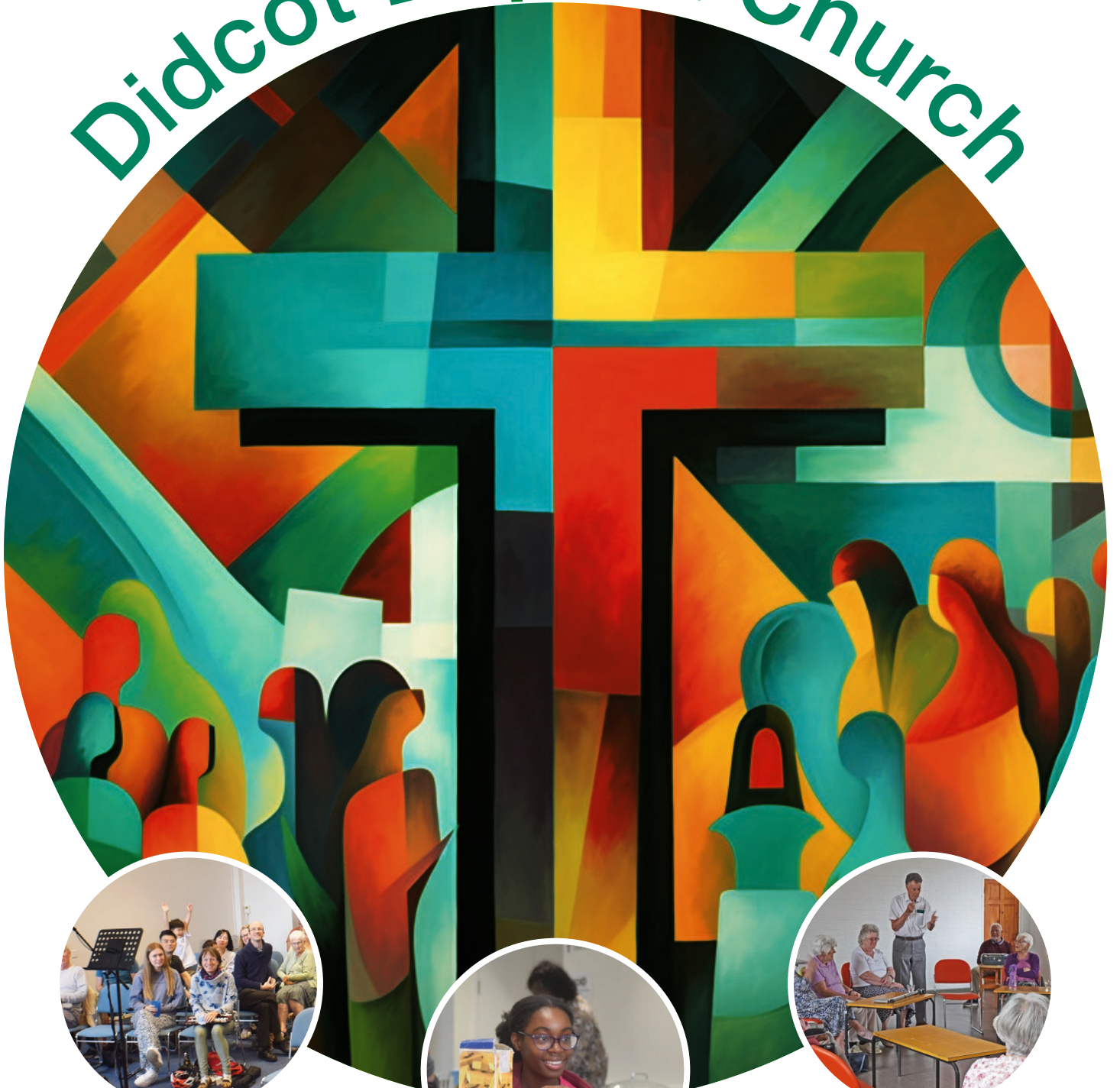




Didcot Baptist Church



Profile



Introduction

Didcot Baptist Church (DBC) is in South Oxfordshire, 14 miles from the City of Oxford and very close to the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. DBC is a lively evangelical intergenerational church, and our vision statement is 'to be a welcoming community, following Jesus and making him known'. We are seeking God for a Senior Minister who will help us continue in our calling, joining a strong team-based body of Christ, which includes a full-time Associate Minister, and a part-time Children and Youth Director, Operations Manager, and Toddler Leader, as well as a large number of committed volunteers.

The church has well-established links with the local community and is busy each day of the week. This includes The Didcot Emergency Foodbank and Christians Against Poverty. We are part of ECHO (the Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust), and Churches Together in Didcot and District (CTDD).

DBC has around 140 church members. Currently, there is one Sunday service with an average weekly attendance of 150, of which around 35 are children and youth. Our congregation is made up of about 20 nationalities. We livestream to Zoom and approximately 15 people join us online. Worship is led by a band and mixes contemporary with traditional styles.





Location and Demographics

DBC is located half a mile from the town centre. Didcot received much press interest in 2017 when it was claimed by researchers to be the 'most normal town in England'.

It is a growing town, with the population increasing from 24,000 in 2001 to 35,500 in 2021, with a number of new housing developments currently under construction and in the pipeline.

The town centre has had investment in recent years with new shops, gyms, and restaurants.

There is a range of excellent primary and secondary schools in the local area.

The railway has always been an important part of Didcot with fast trains to London taking less than 40 minutes and the City of Oxford just 12 minutes. This, combined with easy access to the A34, M4, and M40, means that Didcot is a commuter town.

Countryside surrounds and we are in easy reach of the North Wessex Downs, the Chilterns, and the Cotswolds.





Staff and Leadership

We have an established Staff and Leadership Team.

The Leadership Team (which includes Elders and Deacons – the Trustees) is presently made up of the Associate Minister, Children and Youth Director (who are both Elders), two further Elders, an Administrator, Treasurer, and Deacons (Evangelism, Pastoral Care, Premises, Safeguarding, and World Mission).

We also have co-ordinators for communication, music, community, and safeguarding, as well as CTDD (Churches Together in Didcot and District) and CAP Representatives.

The current Eldership are shown below.



Louise Brown
Associate Minister



George Ferguson



Hannah Field
Children &
Youth Director



Sara Green

Images: ECHO Event - Table Tennis in Hub and Welcome Break





Sunday Worship

Sunday Services at DBC are relaxed and friendly and a wide range of people enjoy coming along and being involved. Worship starts at 10:30am and lasts about an hour and a quarter. We livestream to Zoom which enables those unable to be there in person to join the services each week. Our sermons seek to connect the reality of faith in Jesus to ordinary, everyday life.

Each Sunday the first 20 minutes of the service is all-age, before the children and youth go out to their groups.

Once a month we have an interactive All-Age Service.

We finish with the offer of refreshments and fellowship.





Community

The church building is large, well maintained, and has had recent extensions which provides a very welcoming space. This is enabling strong links with the local community meaning we are busy each day of the week. Activities of the church including inter-church projects we actively support:

- Christians Against Poverty
- Coffee and Company
- Didcot Emergency Foodbank
- ECHO including e.g., Youth Cafe, Summer Sessions, Sports Outreach, and Events for Young People
- English Conversation Class
- Girls' Brigade
- Homegroups
- International Cafe
- Men's Group
- Stepping Stones Toddlers and Baby Group
- Welcome Break – outreach to the third age
- YU – for those in School Year 10+

The premises are also used by a variety of community groups. We are also partnered with a church in El Salvador.



Images: ECHO Event - Games in Hub and Welcome Break



The Minister we are looking for

We are looking to appoint a full-time Senior Minister who models collaborative leadership.

Ministerial Giftings

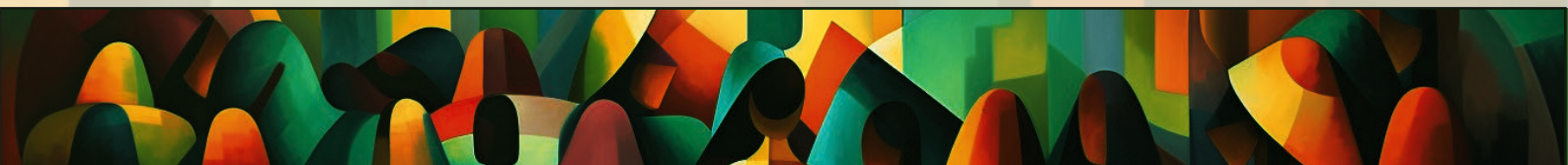
Our Associate Minister is a generalist and has a calling and gifting which is outward facing, for example working with other churches, Christians Against Poverty and ECHO. She has a passion for building bridges from the church into the community and encouraging mission both locally and globally.

We would look for the new Senior Minister to be a generalist who would focus on building up the congregation, and on collaboratively driving forward the vision of DBC. This will include encouraging discipleship, life groups, prayer, evangelism, ministry across all ages and circumstances and being a gifted preacher, teacher, strategic thinker, and pastor. They will also be expected to be a Charity Trustee of both the Church and of the local CAP Debt Centre.

Characteristics of the new minister

The person we are looking for will be:

- Filled with the fruit of the Spirit.
- Collaborative, relational and servant hearted with all ages and backgrounds.
- An encourager - able to release people to use their giftings.
- Someone who can carry responsibility and make difficult decisions.
- Able to work fruitfully with people they disagree with.
- Someone of significant experience in ministerial leadership and providing pastoral care.
- Gifted in Bible teaching, discipleship and reflective practice.
- Demonstrating an ongoing personal faith in Christ as Saviour, rooted in the Bible and empowered by the Holy Spirit at home, work and leisure.
- A life-long learner, in Christian ministry and character.
- Trained in theology to at least degree level.
- In agreement with the Baptist Union Declaration of Principle and the Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith.





The Minister we are looking for

Doctrine at DBC

DBC is part of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB), Southern Counties Baptist Association (SCBA) and the Evangelical Alliance (EA).

We are historically shaped by membership of BUGB and the EA. We welcome applications from both male and female ministers. As a Baptist Church the Church Meeting is where our doctrine is worked out. Having someone who can help lead conversations on doctrine, encourage deep engagement and respect for others will be vital as we navigate a rapidly changing culture.

Terms and conditions

- Recommended Baptist Union Stipend + 5-20% depending on level of knowledge and experience.
- Accommodation based around individual/family requirements.
- Working twelve sessions per week, with opportunity to spread these over five or six days in the terms of appointment.
- Baptist Union pension scheme.
- Holiday – 25 days + 8 bank holidays.
- Use of an office in the church.
- Travel expenses. Annual Christian book/journal allowance for Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD).
- Annual spiritual retreat/conference/study of one week.
- Regular reviews.
- Compliance with confidentiality, safeguarding, GDPR and accountability protocols.
- Nothing that would disqualify you from being a Charity Trustee.
- An enhanced DBS check will be required.

***For more information, please email
administration@didcotbaptist.org.uk***

Closing date 7 May 2024

