

People's Church



P A R T I N G T O N

Profile

**Reaching into
Partington, Carrington
and Neighbouring
communities with the
good news of Jesus**

We are passionate about sharing the Gospel of Jesus with the community of Partington, standing together as a community of disciples engaging in God's mission being stirred by God's love for us in this community.

Background

People's church is a vibrant Baptist Church situated in the heart of Partington. We are called the People's Church because this is a church for all people, regardless of background, upbringing, family history or current circumstances – God reaches out to all people through Jesus Christ, and invites us to a new life in him.

We are deeply thankful for the ministry and leading of Jonathan and Caroline Boyers over the past 14 years where we have seen the church grow and develop into a vibrant community of God. There was a time some 20 years ago when the church community had dwindled to a 'faithful remnant', a handful of older people who were keeping the church and the building going, but God's faithfulness has been incredible and in the past 10-15 years we've seen the church grow steadily, seeing many come to faith, re-connect with church and find a home and a family here.



Currently we are a community of 120-140 who are connected to the church and on a Sunday we normally have 60-80 with us covering all ages. On community events we organise have seen as many as 400 coming to participate. People's Church has an active series of ministries focused on discipleship, pastoral care and reaching the local community.

Established as a missional church over 50 years ago. The church's vision is to reach out to the whole cross section of the community engaging with, and reaching out to, the Community is still in the DNA of our church - we desire to be a Bible based, Spirit filled people of hope, joy and grace that makes a difference in our local community.

The People's Church is a Baptist Church, we are an evangelical church, emphasise believers' baptism and the importance of the unity of the church family in coming together to work out what God is leading us to as a church.

We are part of the North Western Baptist Association and the Baptists Together network. We seek to be a Biblically faithful and community-loving church, engaged in our locality and impacting neighbouring areas.

Vision and Values

Our Vision is currently expressed in summary below. As a people of God who are listening to Him for direction, we recognise that discerning God's vision for People's Church is ongoing aspect of our church life. We desire to continue to develop our vision for People's Church with whoever is appointed to lead.

Reaching into Partington, Carrington and Neighbouring communities with the good news of Jesus

We are passionate about sharing the Gospel of Jesus with the community of Partington, standing together as a community of disciples engaging in God's mission. Stirred by God's love for us in this community, we give ourselves:

To see God transform the lives of young and old alike in Partington, through saving faith in Jesus Christ.

To build a vibrant and culturally relevant church that reaches this community while honouring God and his word.

To serve and love the community we are part of, actively engaging with it.

To see not only lives but also unbiblical systems of power and establishments transformed by the power of the Gospel.

To grow in love and understanding of God and his word as we follow Jesus in our daily life.

C

Christ Centred : Disciples committed to following Jesus, his word, his teaching, his example, putting Jesus first in our lives both personally and corporately. If something isn't part of our walk with Jesus, or helping others in their walk with Jesus, or those who don't know him to connect with Jesus, then we should have serious questions about why we're doing it.

H

Hospitable: As God's people, we're here to 'welcome the sinner', 'love the unloveable', reach the untouchable, and like the Acts 2 church, be a community of friends. That community ate together, and shared life together, welcoming others into an irresistible community. We want to be generous with our time, energy and hospitality to those who don't yet know Jesus

U

United: As a Baptist Church, the unity of God's people is a key theme for us. We are all many parts of one body, all working together for the health and growth of the body and the building of the Kingdom. As a church believing in the priesthood of all believers the unity of God's people is a key way of discerning God has spoken. When it comes to church, we are called to unity, if God calls us, he calls us together for his mission.

R

Relational: No one is called to follow Jesus alone, but as part of the body, the people of God. We are called to relationship with each other, sharpening, encouraging, correcting and inspiring, and we're called to relationship with Jesus – growing as disciples lived out in relationships in the world – workplaces, families and community. To distinctively follow Jesus in the world.

C

Charismatic: Unashamedly a people of the Spirit of God, believing that the fruit and gifts of the Spirit are for today. Having the expectation that the living God will meet with us, as one brings a song, a word, or a scripture...we want to be open to what God will say through His people whom he has given his gifts to with outreach that has a charismatic cutting edge and open to prophecy and following God's leading

H

Holistic: Believing that every part of every person matters, and every part of the community and beyond, are invited into God's plan for redemption. Practically, this means – we are not just a people who 'pray a prayer to get to heaven', we believe in God giving you life in all its fullness, before death! Our message is one of transformation of mind, body, spirit, and eternity, transforming addiction, thought patters, behaviours etc. and transformation of our community. We are part of God building His Kingdom, blessing what He is doing elsewhere, and also supporting / open to sending, commissioning, releasing missionaries in and beyond Partington.

Sundays at People's Church

Our Sunday Service is the main focus for gathering together to worship and hear God's Word. We meet at 10.30 and our services are informal and relaxed. Every week we commence with a time of all age worship together before the under 11s head out to Kidz Church and Crèche. The word of God is central to our service as is a time of extended worship to give space for prayer, ministry and respond to God's spirit. We are blessed to have a number of musicians who lead worship and each month we have an "all-in" service where we worship together. During lockdown we re-equipped the technical areas that support the service with a Digital PA desk, digital cameras and facilities to enable live streaming of services. We continue to stream and record services for those who are unable to join on a Sunday Morning.

There is no regular service on Sundays evenings, we use this time for a regular monthly prayer meeting, monthly men's meeting (firepit) and other events that we plan throughout the year.



Being part of People's Church

As a church we are understand the huge importance of appointing a new minister. To support this process, we recently had some time out, to look at who we are as a church and enable everyone who wanted to participate in describing the People's Church. The first question we looked at concerned our views on People's church – **what brought you, what excites you and what draws you in?** The word cloud below expresses it well and some specific quotes highlight this. A strong theme through many quotes were those of community as Partington in terms of mission and People's Church as a family.



Everyone is welcome whatever age or background

The passion of the whole church in serving the community

Worship Together,
Learn Together,
Serve Together,
Grow Together

preach scripture and open to holy spirit

Ministries

People's Church has a number of active ministries to support church life, build community and develop discipleship across all areas of the church community including Discipleship and House Groups, Ladies, Mens , Youth and Children and Pastoral Care.

Additionally People's Church also runs Alpha Courses, Marriage courses and other events as needed in the life of the Church.

Discipleship and House Groups

We have two primary aims for our discipleship within the church, firstly to draw in those on the fringe of the church to become more actively involved and secondly to encourage everyone to go deeper in their faith.

Aim 1: Encourage those on the fringe to take a step towards being more actively involved in a low pressured way - if somebody is passionate about something, provide some support and options to develop their skills in that area. It has been very encouraging to see that a number of our congregation have 'had a go' in the zoom services whether it be preaching, anchoring, leading the prayer time, operating the PA system, contributing testimonies or sharing visions/experiences. Now that we are facing a new stage in the life of the church, there could be opportunities for people to 'try out' their skills/passions. Such areas could be in preaching, Kids Church (helping or leading) or in leading/anchoring services. Some of these are happening already, but there are more opportunities to encourage people to 'have a go'.

Aim 2: Encourage people to go deeper in their faith. This is conducted primarily through our housegroup structure. We currently have 4 different groups meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings in Partington, as well as one mid week group meeting in Flixton and a couple of day time Partington groups too.

- Following lock down, we conducted a Discipleship Explored Course (created by Christianity Explored Ministries), which takes a look at the book of Philippians and encourages us to consider all aspects of faith in Christ as the apostle Paul demonstrated in his life and in his preaching. The course has been well received and attended by an average of 7 people, thus enabling good discussion and sharing of experiences and ideas.
- Other resources are being sought which could be useful for those who are 'just looking' through to those who are mature in their faith and are continuing in their walk with Jesus.
- For Small Groups, resource books have been used to assist leaders in facilitating discussion, prayer and encouragement for Small Groups members

Families and Children

Our ministry has evolved over the last seven years and we are grateful to God for our vibrant ministry which is core to church life. We currently have 9 families that regularly engage with our Kidz Church and supporting activities. These are from a mix of spiritual journeys and also include a family that engage through Safe Families and occasionally a child who is fostered. If all our children attended, we would have over 20 in Kidz church with the majority being in Key Stage 2. One of the priorities for the next 18 months has to be the demographic change within our children. From Sept 2023 we will only have 2 or 3 children in our Key Stage 1 group and currently have 1 baby (under 12 months) of creche age. Since the decision was made after the Lockdowns to not reopen our mid-week toddler provision, we have seen the demographic of our children's ages significantly shift- a trend we are prayerfully looking at how to address.



Seeing children
grow in their love
and knowledge of
God

Being family
and providing
good role
models

Develop
Connections
with young
Mums and Dads

Bringing
more children
into Kids
church

Our programme is built around developing faith and spirituality within our children and all our activities are constructed on the premise that the family unit is the first and best place to develop our children's faith and our Kidz Church work should support this. Our Sunday provision varies with one week a month having more of a Holiday Club feel with parents being invited to support the Kidz Church lead and one week being led by our "All In" team where we run a lively and engaging all age service. The other two Sundays a month we run more traditional Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 groups that use a mix of bible stories, discussion, craft, prayer and worship to explore our theme. In 2023 we hope to explore how we help families engage with Lent, Advent, and Pentecost in a more meaningful way. As a team we are always, looking to grow and develop the ministry and it would be great to see some of these ideas and dreams come to fruition in the future as we reach out more into the community.

Youth Ministry

Our youth church is made up of a mixture of young people who attend church with their families and some who attend on their own or with friends. We all meet with the rest of church at 10:30am for half an hour for some worship songs and to hear the notices before going upstairs to the youth office for hot chocolate and brioche. We normally start by playing games before exploring the Bible together. Currently youth church is made up of a handful of teenagers in years 7-10 from different faith backgrounds and our Sunday morning meetings are a great opportunity for the young people to ask questions and discover their own faith with God. All of our youth work is led by our Eden Team, our committed youth and community workers who live in Partington and volunteer with young people both in the church and in the wider community.

Eden Partington is part of the Eden network. Eden teams are made up of Christians who live and volunteer in a community as “urban missionaries”. Eden Partington lead all of the youth work at The People’s Church. We have a range of groups and support for young people of different ages, wherever they’re at with God.

On Thursdays there is an after school club for Ks3 at 4:30-5:30pm and a Ks4 group at 7:00-8:30pm where the young people bake, play games and explore a theme or question from the Bible. These groups are often the first time some young people have come into contact with Christians and get to think about faith for themselves. The Eden team also run a lunch club in the local High school for years 7s and 8s to introduce the Bible to them.

We also offer one-to-one mentoring sessions to any young person who knows us and feels they would benefit from that kind of support.

Pastoral Care

People’s Church believes in the importance of pastoral care within the church. Our home groups are a primary source of care and support for their members.

In addition, we have a team who meet monthly to discuss pastoral needs within the church and pray together for members of our congregation. As a team we also respond practically, delivering meals, flowers, cards or making a call to keep in touch with those who are isolated, bereaved, unwell or facing difficult circumstances.

Ladies Ministry

Prior to the pandemic we have had an active ministry for ladies across all ages within the church. We have held regular breakfasts with bible studies or testimonies, evening outreach social events and retreat days. This is now starting again with monthly events planned for the coming year as we hope to build deeper relationships together and encourage one another in our faith.



Mens Ministry

For the past 10 years or so there has been regular men's ministry, which has taken the form of Mens breakfasts, evening missional events, socials etc. The current Mens Ministry programme focusses on three main activities

Fire Pit: Currently we have a monthly mens gathering called Fire Pit. Here we gather around a fire pit (weather permitting!) and have pizza, a discussion time on a subject and one of the men is interviewed about something in their life relating to the discussion topic. Sometimes this will be in the form of their testimony.

The Gathering: Annually a number of People's Church men attend the Christian Vision for Men weekend away event called The Gathering. This is a great opportunity to deepen friendships, go deeper with God and is also a great opportunity to invite non-Christian men in our local community to the event too.

Who let the Dads out: Another strand of our mission to men is our monthly Who let the dads out session which has been an important part of the People's Church mens ministry since 2013. Currently this takes place at The Hideaway every 2nd Saturday morning. Some of the men volunteer their time to chat to dads from the local community who attend this event with their young children.



Partington Area and "Love Partington" outreach to the community

Partington Area:

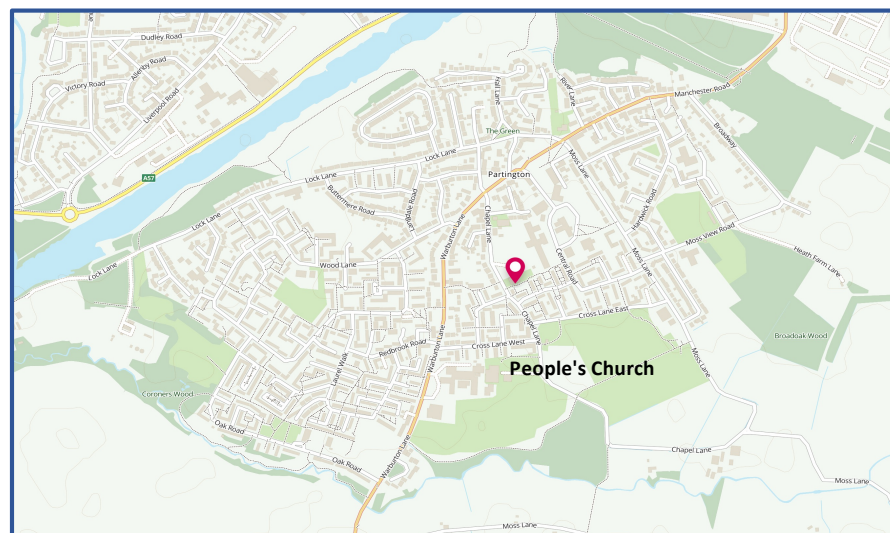
Partington is a small town on the edge of Greater Manchester, in the borough of Trafford. Originally a rural village, it saw its population increase dramatically in the 1960s as people were moved out of the slums in the centre of Manchester into the area. The town is now expanding again with more and more houses being built around the area all the time. The population is currently around 8000, but over 1000 new homes are expected to be built in the area over the next few years.

Partington has retained its village feel with a strong sense of its own identity and a strong sense of community and belonging. It's shopping centre has been redeveloped within the last decade as has the healthy living centre which houses the doctors surgery, library and a community café. There are also a few clusters of other local shops around the area.

Partington has 3 primary schools, one high school, all Ofsted rated as "Good" and a good number of nurseries and child minders, many of which are "Outstanding".

A significant proportion of Partington is made up of social housing and housing that was previously council owned but is now private. According to the indices of multiple deprivation, all of Partington is counted as in the 30% most deprived areas in the country with a lot of the households falling within the 10% most deprived.

Partington is surrounded on two sides by the more rural areas of Warburton and Dunham and is a short drive away from the towns of Lymm and Altrincham. It also neighbours the more industrial area of Carrington and is a short drive from the M60 and the Trafford Centre, with Manchester City centre being just 12 miles away.



Love Partington is all about blessing the local community, connecting with families and providing much needed resources and contact points for families in Partington and Carrington and beyond.

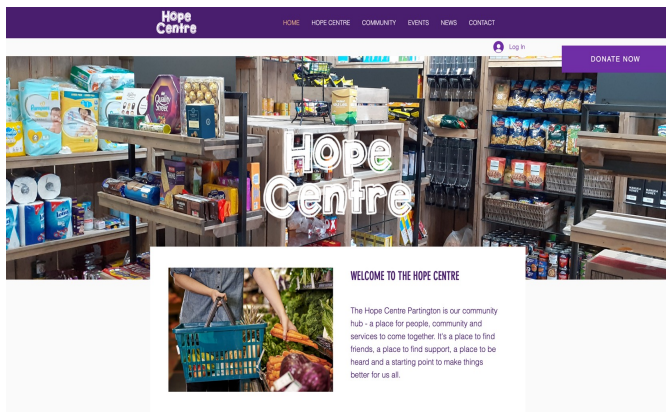
Throughout the year we run a packed calendar of free events. We will run community fun days using the entire church building and outside space; an Easter trail around Partington; quiz nights; Day trips to further afield including providing coaches; Summer holiday activities on site for the community and even turning the whole church into Bethlehem for a special Christmas mission event! Love Partington takes dozens of volunteers - at times the entire church get involved but it's a lovely way to get to know new people, to provide a fantastic service for the whole community and to bring thousands of non-church members each year into the church building.

Partner Organisations

The Hideaway & Hope Centre

The Hideaway exists for the benefit of our local Partington community as well as the wider borough and region, using resources to support families and residents in Partington through a range of services, education and partners. The play centre designed for 0-8 year olds helps to support families and help children in their learning and development. All families can also access a range of support through the Hideaway's Family & Education team, such as courses, mentoring, and activities.

Coming out of the covid 19 pandemic, **The Hope centre** now provides support ongoing support to all residents in need through an affordable food pantry, school uniform, meals.



CAP

The CAP Centre here at People's Church came about in 2009, as a result of the 'synergy' initiative at Altrincham Baptist Church. ABC was the place of employment for the Centre Manager and a volunteer debt coach. The centre served the wider Altrincham area, Wythenshawe and Partington. Later on coverage of Wythenshawe was passed to another church, and Partington had its own dedicated and employed debt coach. (under the CAP centre manager based at ABC).

In parallel with the Debt Centre work, in 2012 the CAP Life Skills course was co-developed and pioneered on a voluntary basis at People's Church, featuring in video on the CAP website.

CAP Continues to be a significant ministry for People's Church.

Kolkata Bhalobashi Foundation

Bhalobashi means "love" in Bengali. The work of KBF seeks to demonstrate God's love for some of the poorest people in Kolkata, India in practical ways. Currently they run a schools club, a hospice and children's club.



Hopes, Dreams and Challenges for People's Church

As can be seen, a strong theme running through the profile is the importance of engaging with and working in the community. Because of the way Partington was established as a town it has a strong local community identity, the People's Church has always sought to be at the centre with its community events and outreach. A significant challenge has always been to see people take the 'next step' in connecting with the church on Sundays and through into discipleship.

In summary two quotes from our away day were that People's Church for its size '*punches above its weight*' in its engagement with the community and missional focus and that our key hope is to '*continue growing*' as a community seeing more people come to faith and discipleship deepen in maturity as we continue to serve God and each other.

Having and developing people to lead ministries within People's Church

Bringing the huge number of people we connect with in the community to engage with church and come to faith

Being Strategic about how we take people from no faith -> to Faith -> to Discipleship

Continue to serve the community - outgrow our present building and reaching a wider community.

Reaching out to the new build housing - whilst not forgetting the established community as new areas develop

Everybody Mobilised and enabled to use their gifts

Develop Connections with young Mums and Dads - Bringing more children into Kids church

How do we join up our ministries from community events - Outreach - Alpha courses and Discipleship

Ministerial Profile

We believe we need a minister who will enable the church so that we continue to see growth from mission within the area, whilst those within the church are strengthened and deepened in their relationship with God; being equipped and released to serve. Specifically we are looking for someone who:

Has a passion for spiritual renewal, the use of spiritual gifts within the church whilst maintaining the scriptural truth of orthodox evangelical biblical theology.

- Has a deep and profound respect for the Bible and its truth applied in their own lives
- A good bible teacher who delivers messages that are relevant and applicable to everyday life that are biblically true.

Has a missional Focus. People's Church has had a strong history of mission and working within the community. We are looking for our minister to continue to develop this work having a missional/evangelism heart and community focus.

- Able to develop/maintain relationships within the Partington area as a platform for evangelism
- Supporting and equipping those who are working within the community (Hope Centre, Eden, Love Partington)
- Comfortable working within socially deprived area and wide social cross section
- Willing to work with other churches within the community

Is someone who can equip and enable. As People's Church has grown, there is a vision for all members to develop in gifting and leadership within the church.

- Someone who can create the right environment and support structures for developing the gifting of members who are currently leaders or emerging as leaders across the different facets of church life.
- Is an enthusiastic teambuilder recognising that service within the church is most effective when people work together to achieve God's vision.

Has a passion for families and children with an understanding of their exciting role in kingdom building.

A heart for Discipleship, particularly the challenge in developing new Christians into active and committed member of the church.

A motivational leader with ability to challenge and inspire the leadership team, a robust but sensitive/relational person who is able to give and receive feedback positively

Outwardly demonstrates their faith and walk with God, leading by example

Church Timeline



In the 1950's initial Gospel meetings were held in a Tent, later a Nissen hut was built and the church was known as Emmanuel Church

1950s

In 1976 Greg Hanley arrives as assistant Pastor and in 1979 Greg Hanley takes over as Senior Pastor when Stan Woods is Called to Birmingham.

In 1985 the Church is severely damaged by Fire

1970s & 1980s

2005 - 2008 The congregation declines leaving just 10-12 faithful members in the congregation and no minister

2007 The synergy partnership is established with Altrincham Baptist Church . With Angie Tunstall working across 5 churches

CAP centre established to serve the community on helping people become debt free

2008 Jonathan Boyers is appointed as Minister

2010

2022 Jonathan Boyers is called to Denny Baptist Church in Scotland

2022

In 1961 with a growing congregation chapel lane was identified and Gordon Kayes begins to build the church.

After 7 years on 7th April 1968 the Church opens and The People's Church formally begins.

1968 Stan Woods appointed Pastor

1960s

In 1989 from Bible college Phil Dixon moves to become Pastor of the Church in his first role after completing training.

1992-1996 Gordon Kayes returns for a second spell as minister.

1997-2004 John and Kirsteen Macauley take on the role of co-ministers

1990s

2013 People's Church partners with the message trust and Eden Partington launches as part of the church. Eden continues today through the leadership of Karen Greenhalgh.

Over the following years the church begins to grow with new families joining the church. Love Partington is established to support outreach to the community

2018 People's church celebrates 50 years of Service into the community

2020