

Shadwell Methodist Church

Membership of 19

Average Congregation 20

Village location

Location of SMC. The church is on bus route and fronts the main road through the village. St Paul's Church of England is also on this road, we enjoy joint services and social events. There is a primary school, pub, library and arts centre, a handful of shops and village hall along this main road too.

Background . SMC attendees were encouraged to give suggestions, a group met to discuss these suggestions and a discussion paper was issued. A church meeting was held on 1 Nov for further discussion. We are a small membership with no young families regularly attending. Our regular congregation is aged 50 to over 90 years. We have concerns about resources because of ageing and able members of the church. We have taken into account suggestions from the Neighbourhood plan. We have welcomed the opportunity to look in detail about the future of our church.

Vision for next 5 years. We have decided on a realistic rather than aspirational vision. **We expect the church to still be “open” and we aim to have more attendees and have more of a community presence in the village.**

How will we achieve this? We identified over 20 positive actions and we felt the building blocks to achieve this vision fell into 5 categories

| What | How or why |
|---|---|
| Re-visit the mission statement | Is it still relevant in today's society? Is it in today's "speak"? Does it reflect our plans for next 3-5 years? |
| Re-examine our current policy on use of buildings by outside groups and organisations | Can we encourage more community use? Is the pricing structure encouraging of this? There is competition from 6 other buildings in the village are we being proactive? |
| Profile in village | Do passers-by even notice the building? Could we encourage the school children to do bible artwork to attract attention? Art work on wall? Wayside pulpit posters Develop relationship with library Better use of publicity via village website and monthly Shadwell News. Landscape frontage to give better visibility of church |
| Outreach | We have only sporadic attendees at Sunday School, so can we offer something on other days? After school club? Parent and Toddler session? High profile sports person talking about their belief? Develop links with school-visit once a term? Bible study group already meet- Additional "basic" bible study for those thinking about coming to church. A retirement home built 2 miles from church can we forge links there? Already been invited there for carol singing |
| Community | Already hold monthly coffee morning with St Paul's church. Can we expand this offering? Weekly? More of a pop-up café offering soup/food on seasonal Christian events? Providing companionship for villagers and encourage people to come into church and chat. BBQ for village children |

Summary. We need a succession plan and these ideas should bring extra members into church. We felt this was an achievable plan of action taking into account our members' drive and abilities. We would engage with other villagers for some of the activities thus sharing the load.