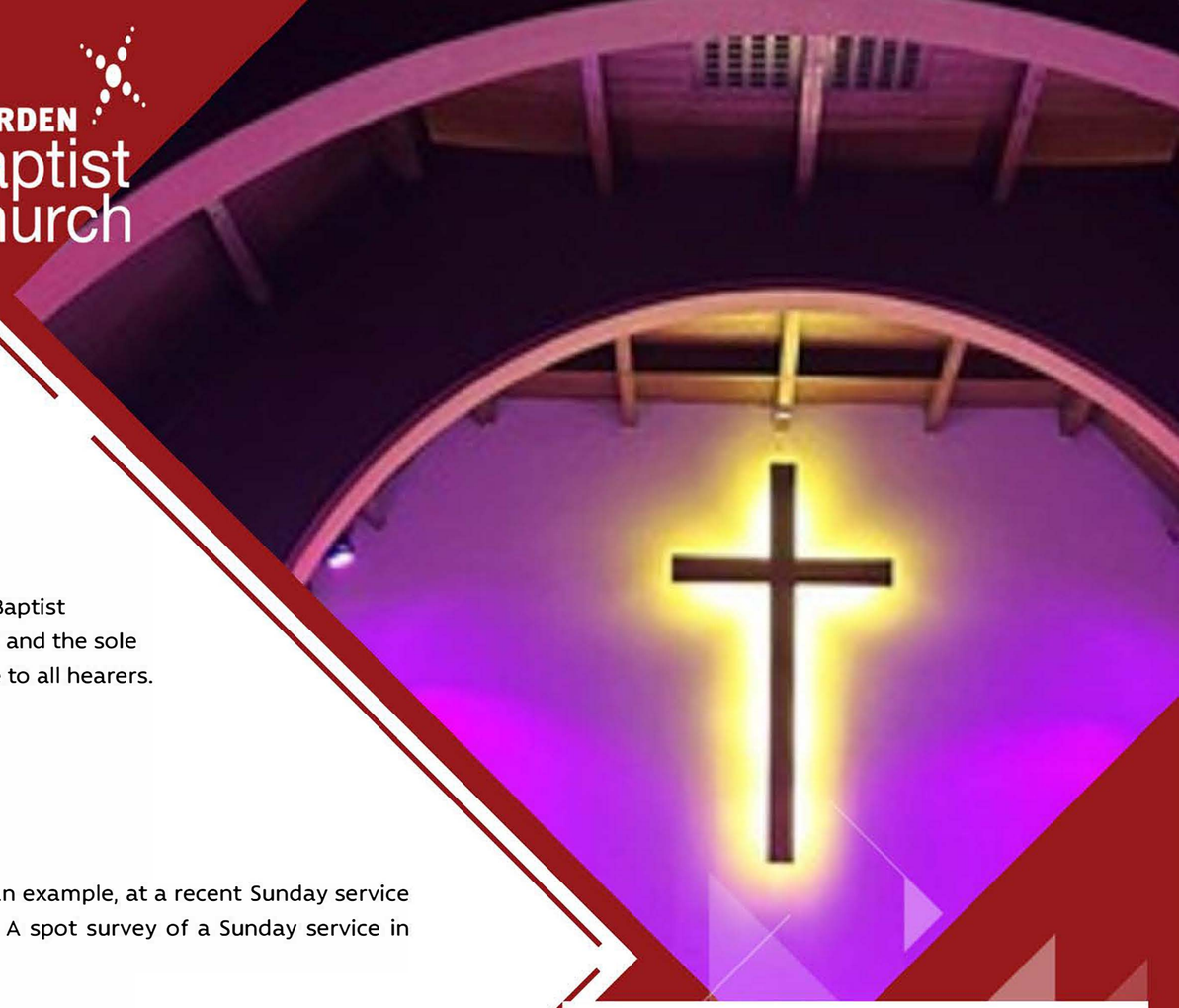
Introduction

MORDEN baptist church



We are looking for a Minister to lead Morden Baptist Church into the next stage of our journey together, as a group of Christians with the current church vision as "Growing disciple makers who transform Morden and beyond". The website gives a visual overview of the church vision and values, and its environment https://www.mordenbaptist.co.uk

There are a good number of church members involved in the activities of the church, and we believe that there is a great potential to see the kingdom of God increase, both within the fellowship and in the local area.

Our themes for 2024 were "Repentance, renewal and restoration", 2025 was "Engaging with God, fulfilling our life purpose", and this years theme is 'The Pursuit of God'. Are you the person God is calling to lead and travel with us?

Theology

The church is mainstream charismatic evangelical, part of London Baptists and Baptists Together, a member of the London Baptist Association, Baptist Union of Great Britain, and Evangelical Alliance. We uphold the Bible as the inspired written Word of God and the sole source of authority in matters of faith. We desire to communicate God's Word in a way that makes it relevant and accessible to all hearers. We believe in the priesthood and ministry of all believers, and we seek to release people in their gifts and service of God.

The People

In terms of size we have 84 members, with Sunday gatherings between 50 to 70, with a diversity of ethnicity and age. As an example, at a recent Sunday service there were people representing more than 20 different nations, reflecting the diverse ethnicity of the local community. A spot survey of a Sunday service in September 2024 had 68 people, 62 % female and 38 % male, of which 16 % in the 18 – 35 age group.

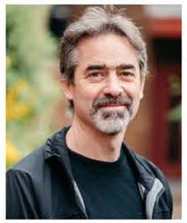
The Leadership

The lead pastor role has been vacant since mid 2023. A Youth/Children's and Families worker was in post from 2022 to May 2024, and this post is currently under review.

The Leadership Board comprises of 9 people who are the charity Trustees. This is made up of any church ministers, the Chair and 8 other members who are elected to serve a 5-year period. There is a "wider leadership" team composed of 35 people who each play a part in leadership of the church activities and groups. The church is aiming to review its structure in the coming year.

Dom Moass
Chair Leadership Team

Alan Britten
Trustee



Callum Newman
Trustee

Debbie Willetts
Trustee

David Eveleigh
Treasurer/Trustee

Gershon Wornoo
Trustee

Jill Eveleigh
Trustee

Mercy Wornoo
Trustee

Ruth Newton
Safeguarding Trustee

Staff Team

The current structure consists of the minister (vacant), a part time Office Administrator and a part time Facilities & Bookings staff member. A full time Youth/Children's and Families worker post was re-instated in September 2022 and the incumbent left in May 2024. This post is on hold, and we are currently looking for about one and a half days of support per week for a children & family worker in the interim.

The Services

There is a weekly 10.30 am Gathering on Sunday morning, with attendance varying between 50 to 70. Communion is part of the service approximately monthly. The services have open times for the congregation to contribute prayers, praise, or testimony. The service is intended to provide a warm, welcoming and supportive environment that will lead to worship and to the development and support of the church family members and visitors.

There are Welcome and Hospitality teams and after the service many people stay around to catch up with one another, and we see this as an important time of connection and mutual support. There has been several baptisms in the last two years.

Youth, Children & Family Work

On Sunday mornings there are usually activities for children with an average attendance of 6 children of primary age.

The church has run a successful weekly toddler group for almost 50 years until the 2020 pandemic. This group restarted in 2022 but is currently on hold until a new Youth/Children's and Family worker can be appointed.

There is a youth club on Friday evenings, with a rota of adults to lead and currently around 20 regular attendees, about 2/3rds boys. Two Sundays mornings a month there are youth activities.

There has been a youth weekend away for the past few years, and last year an Alpha course for young people.

Home Groups/Life Groups

The current small groups are:

- **The Abbots** meet twice a month on Wednesday evenings.
- **Huddlers** online each Friday.
- **Ravensbury Ward Group** weekly meeting on Tuesday evenings.
- **Men's Group** a weekly online Bible study.
- **Young Adults** meet on an adhoc basis for a meal, discipleship and encouragement.

Community activities run by the church

The current community activities run by church members are:

- **Leisure Day** Seniors' day, including a cooked lunch and various activities.
- **Inspire Community Choir** Weekly evening sessions, with about 50 members.
- **Reflect** A craft group on the first Saturday of each month.

- **Garden Coffee Morning** Last Friday of each month 10.30 - 1 pm. This raises funds to develop and maintain the community garden next to the church. (Pictured above.)
- **Parent & Toddler Groups** See previous observations under "Youth, Children and Family work".
- **Foodbank** For people referred by the local authority.

Groups in recent years no longer running:

- Learning Together, for adults with learning disabilities. Warm Space Cafe. We are considering whether to continue these, or similar activities.

Community Activities run by others

The following activities are organised by others outside the church.

Merton's Community Fridge
Reducing food waste, this group has been given a room for food handling and storage.

One Stop Shop
Weekly to support victims of domestic abuse.

Winter Night Shelter
Last took part in 2022/2023 as part of the local faith group's initiative for rough sleepers, and we would like to be able to take part in future years.

Merton Street Pastors

Wimbledon Tennis Outreach
Run by Third Space Ministries.

Prayer Meetings

Once a month there is a 12 hour day of prayer, and since Sept 24 an evening prayer meeting at the church, twice a month.

Other regular Building Users

The MBC premises have a number of rooms that can be hired out to members of the community.

The Buildings and Facilities

The church building has a number of different sized rooms to accommodate various purposes.
Note that the church has offices upstairs, currently with no lift, but reasonable adjustments to enable ground floor working will be made by arrangement with ministers who require this.

Accommodation

There is a manse for the minster, a 3-bedroomed end-of-terrace house about 5 minutes walk from the church. The church also has a 3 bedroomed semi detached house about 30 minutes walk from the church, This was used by the previous Youth / Children and Family worker, with his family.

The Local Area

Morden town centre is at the beginning of the Northern line, with buses connecting thousands of commuters per day travelling in and out of London. There are 3 supermarkets, a range of small shops, fast food and restaurants, a post office, one bank, chemists, pubs and snooker hall, charity shops, and gambling and pawn broking shops. About half a mile away is the Baitul Futuh Ahmadiyya mosque, the largest mosque in Europe, with a capacity of 13,000. Although there is a significant local Muslim community, many of the attenders travel a great distance to attend the mosque. It is also the centre for worldwide television and audio broadcasting to this community who are outside the mainstream Muslim communities.

Connections

Zimkids is a charity for vulnerable children and families in Zimbabwe, see www.zimkids.co.uk. Third Space Ministries is a charity with the mission of "Demonstrating God's love in the third spaces of society", see www.thirdspaceministries.co.uk.
The church has regular giving to the following: Zimkids, Third Space ministries, Street Pastors, Mizpah Outreach, Baptists Together, BMS World Mission.

A Brief History of the Church

Morden Baptist Church was founded in the 1880s, when Charles Spurgeon commissioned the start of a "gospel work" in Morden. From humble beginnings in a grocer's shop the congregation grew and in 1929 the current site was purchased. Over the years the number of buildings increased to accommodate the growing size of the congregation. This culminated in 1990 by the addition of an extension which bridged the various buildings together, the façade of which now faces directly onto the main street and provides a dominant presence in the town centre.

The Church We Would Like To Be

We aim to be the Body of Christ in our community, a group of Christians walking closely with God and with one another in daily life, growing as disciples of Jesus and lead by the Holy Spirit. We want to enable people to express their spiritual and practical gifts within the church, to build one another up in faith, good works and in unity. As an organisation we want to have practices and procedures that ensure the protection and safety of all members, especially the vulnerable. We want to develop and hold a shared vision of our purpose, and to be organised to coordinate the giftings of church members needed to achieve those aims. In this we value teaching and training, with clear leadership and delegation, with accountability of all people.

Terms of Appointment

The post comes with a stipend at the standard rate of the BU with an enhancement subject to experience of the appointee, a 3-bedroomed end-of-terrace house about 5 minutes walk from the church, and the church contributions to the BU pension scheme. Full Terms of Appointment are available on request.

Contact

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST PLEASE CONTACT
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MORDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, CROWN LANE, MORDEN, SM4 5BL .

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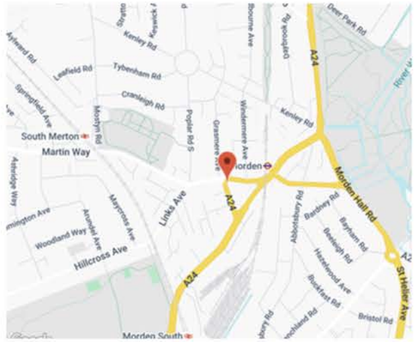

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The Minister We Believe We Need

The minister must be a practising Christian, holding to the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle, and on the Baptist Union's Register of Covenanted Persons Accredited for Ministry, though this condition may be dispensed with if the church and the Council of the London Baptist Association think fit. We look to the BU standards for ministers to set our expectations of ministerial character and competence, whilst fully recognising that individual ministers have strengths and weaknesses.
The church has identified the pastoral and teaching roles as the two top priorities, so we are looking for a minister with a gifting in one of these areas and the ability to lead effectively in the other. The minister will also take overall responsibility for the other important areas such as worship and evangelism, delegating and working with others as necessary. We highlight the following areas that we think are some of the important characteristics for a minister at Morden Baptist church:

- Candidates must be able to show significant experience in successfully leading a church, ideally to be no less than 5 years in ministry.
- Having a strong personal spiritual life, biblically based and spirit lead, and with the ability to enable people to develop and express their spiritual and other gifts.
- Continuing in personal growth and lifelong learning, for example by participation in the BUGB Continuing Ministerial Development program. Previous ministers have also taken part in Merton 316 as a peer support group of Churches and Christian organisations in Merton, and this is strongly encouraged.
- Open communication with other leaders and church members, and good team leadership and team working.
- Able to hold others accountable and to also be personally accountable for their actions.
- Able to develop and communicate a vision, with the patience and skills to take the church along with them, and to identify the needs of the congregation in going forward.
- The minister must be able to manage a busy and very varied workload, with organisational skills and excellent interpersonal skills.
- Awareness of their strengths and weaknesses, and to be able to develop strategies for gaining support as required.
- The minister is expected to manage their own communications, phone and email, and to be competent with Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office products to allow everyday reading, editing and production of documents as required.
- The role requires some local travel, possibly travel within the UK to events.

** The minister will act as the line manager for the office staff, and will act as head of the church team if other posts are added from time to time.