



Roundhay Evangelical Church – who we are! (April 2025)

We are a group of believers, currently numbering around 50 adults and 20 children on Sunday mornings, and 25-30 in the evening. We are a happy welcoming group who love the Lord and want to serve him. We have a burden for the area and want to grow through his word. Many are actively involved, doing what they can to the glory of God. We meet in the local community hall.

Our Vision

To see lives transformed by the Good News of Jesus Christ, in Roundhay, Leeds and beyond.

Our 'Strapline' 'Sharing the love of Jesus'

Our Ethos

Jesus Centred. Jesus Christ is Lord and head of the church and of our lives. We are saved by his gospel of grace, through faith in him alone.

Bible Believers. The Bible is God's Word. It is the guide for our practice, and the source of our teaching. We are united in its essential truths. We are happy with diversity on secondary matters.

Prayer Dependent. Prayer is vital and effective in all we do as we seek to follow God. We rely upon God the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live for Jesus, bear good fruit and make him known.

Loving Community. We welcome all into an atmosphere of warmth and love. We desire to grow in our love for God, one another and those around us.

Active Disciples. The Christian life includes service, and all have been given gifts to use to the glory of God. We are to be disciples who make disciples.

Relevant Gospel. The church has an unchanging message to share that is urgently needed by those without Christ. Individually and collectively, we seek to make the good news known by living out our faith in the real world.

Our history

The church was planted as a local church in an area of Leeds without an evangelical witness. After a year of prayer and preparation, the first church service was held in Sept 2007. We started as a plant from City Evangelical Church (in the south of Leeds), and we attracted local and semi-local people from a variety of backgrounds. Initially we were an elder led church (hoping for but not achieving multiple elders). In 2020 we appointed our first pastor, and have seen the church grow significantly since then. He is now stepping down from leadership. We have four deacons.

Sunday Services

Numbers have grown at both services in the last few years.

Morning Services. This is a traditional meeting, with songs, prayer, bible reading and a sermon. We also have a 'fun spot', aimed primarily at the children – an illustration (often interactive or with PowerPoint/video clip) with a short teaching point, done by various people in the church. Songs are a mix of contemporary and older hymns, with words and music on a video projection, giving us high quality music when we haven't (yet!) got a quality music group. The sermon is around 30-35 minutes, usually exposition through a bible book.

Evening Services. We have developed a varied evening programme, again centring on the word, but with a different format each week. Generally we sit round small tables. Currently the first Sunday in the month is

based around 'meeting a bible character', the 2nd is 'digging deeper' where we study a passage in depth together, the 3rd is a bible discussion using a video series as a starter, and the 4th is a devotional service centring on communion.

Our activities

Growth Groups

We have 4 midweek home groups meeting for fellowship, discussion bible study and prayer. These join together once a month for a church time of prayer (our Focus meeting).

Children's/youth work

We have 3 age groups in 'Explorers' on Sunday. A monthly 'Splat' for Primary School age gets around 15-20. 'No Adults Allowed' is fortnightly for Secondary School age, and gets 15. We take regular assemblies in several primary schools.

Young Adults

We have a weekly young adults lunch for the 18-30 age group, rotating round several houses.

Women/Men

Separate ladies' group and men's groups meet monthly for fellowship, fun and outreach.

Missionary prayer

We circulate a monthly update from our missionary partners for prayer at home and forming the basis of a monthly Zoom prayer time.

Toddler Group

During term time we run a weekly morning toddlers' group in the hall. Parents/carers attend with their toddlers

Outreach

Primarily we encourage and support individuals to be a witness in the place God has put them. We hold regular events, varying from friendship evenings, guest services, and themed evenings to having a testimony/evangelistic talk. We distribute invitations to our carol services widely.

Our theology

- We hold to the FIEC doctrinal basis (actually the pre 2024 version – while we agree with the recent modification, we prefer not to highlight the gender issues in our basis).
- We agree with the three additional FIEC ethos statements.

Note that in much of the following, while we have a clear view of what scripture teaches, we preach it with grace recognising that many mature Christians, and some in our congregation, might hold a different view.

- Balance. We prefer the label Evangelical and wouldn't call ourselves Calvinist, Reformed or Arminian. We see both election and free choice in Scripture.
- The role of women. Women are vital in the spiritual life of the church. They do not preach or lead services, but they do have significant input in missionary prayer, leading youth/children's work, outreach, etc. We have two lady deacons.
- Non-charismatic. The teaching of the church is non-charismatic rather than charismatic or anti-charismatic. While some in the church would practise some of the gifts personally, there is an understanding that we welcome their general spirituality and contribution in church life, but they do not promote or practise the gifts in the fellowship.
- Second coming. The church doesn't have an official view – just looking forward to Christ's return!
- Church governance. Led by elders, supported by deacons, with ultimate authority in the membership. A paid pastor would be an elder.
- Creation. We believe in a 6 day creation, though it only crops up occasionally.
- Baptism. We teach and practise believers baptism, but it is not a condition of membership.

Our culture

- Involving people. Service is part of the Christian life, and a means of growth, so we encourage all to be involved in some way.
- Outreach. This is part of our DNA. We encourage individuals to share the gospel and have a varied programme of events to help that and reach others.
- Membership is for people who identify with the beliefs and practice of the church, and are committed to it. (A 'Meaning of membership' document is available on request). We have 29 members at the time of writing.
- Constitution (2 page document available on request)
- Preaching. Usually exposition, going through a book. 30-35 minutes. A balance of OT and NT. Usually sermon points and illustrations are on PowerPoint. We generally use the NIV.
- Songs are projected videos (no hymn book) and are a blend of new and old. We prefer videos with a contemporary music style, but have a variety.

Links with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptists (IMB)

For the last 2 years we have enjoyed having a couple with us who work for the IMB, who are fully involved in the life of the church. Through them we currently have a lady intern from the US. We have also had team visits from the US and are looking to strengthen. We have been encouraged and strengthened by these connections.

Our area

Leeds is a prosperous and growing city. We are in Roundhay, a northern suburb, which contains a large well-known park, some very big houses, plenty of semis, and a few terraces. It neighbours several fairly deprived estates. Some people travel quite a way to us, others are more local. The area is multicultural.

Relations with other churches

We have friendly relationships with other evangelical churches in Leeds and area, whether they are FIEC, totally independent or denominational. We are not members of Churches Together. Individuals have fellowship with converted people in other churches. We have guest preachers from various churches. We support local FIEC activities, and other evangelical gatherings.

The elders give an annual report at the AGM. You might like to read the Feb 2025 document – please ask for it.

If you think this might be right for you, please email Gordon Robertson (church elder) at gordonandclare@gmail.com