

Introducing Chudleigh...



Chudleigh is a small town situated between Exeter (10 miles), Plymouth (35 miles) and Torquay (10 miles). It is growing fast with 2 new estates currently under construction in the town which will see the population increase from c.4,700 to 5,500 in the next few years.

Situated only 15 mins from the sea at Teignmouth and 20 mins from Dartmoor, Chudleigh offers great opportunities for exploring the great outdoors, although with limited public transport services, these can best be explored by bike or car.

The town has a small selection of shops & cafes, library, youth centre, health centres and primary school. Secondary school-aged children attend various schools in the area, although the catchment school is Teign School in Kingsteignton – a 15 minute bus ride away.

The Multi Activity Games Area and the skate park, pump track and outdoor gym are favourite places for children, families and young people to visit. A lack of venues for young people in the evenings represents a potential opportunity for anyone with a pioneering spirit wanting to engage with and serve this age group in the community. The youth centre runs open-access evening sessions twice a week and is open to explore partnerships with other youth-centred organisations. For more information on the community, activities and facilities, please visit the Town Council website <https://www.chudleigh-tc.gov.uk/>



Introducing Chudleigh Baptist Church...

We are a small but growing family of all ages and from many different backgrounds, with 26 of us under the age of 18. We meet on Sundays at the community hall for worship, fellowship and youth & children's ministry. A team of adult and youth volunteers are committed to working in our youth and children's ministry on Sundays and mid-week and are keen to work with the Youth Team Leader to develop this ministry and new initiatives to reach young people in our community.

We also have a small community hub and garden known as "The Square" in the centre of town from which we seek to serve the community throughout the week. Our gardening club and Renew café aim to build relationships and offer a welcome to all. Pre-pandemic we enjoyed monthly board games nights, which we hope to resume soon and we have held after school drop-in sessions for the youth in the past. Wherever possible, we work in partnership with the Parish Church to build God's kingdom and serve our community side by side, e.g. running the baby & toddler group, "miniones" (FB @ MiniOnes Playgroup).

Our mid-week youth groups meet on a Tuesday night and are open to those in Y6+. Currently we have contact with 18 young people, most (but not all) from a church background. We have just introduced a mentoring scheme for the oldest members of the group and are excited to see the impact this will have on their discipleship.

Our church has identified 4 key ministries to focus on: Worship, Growing Together, Nurturing children and youth, and Serving the Community.

More information about the church can be found on our website and facebook pages: www.chudleighbaptistchurch.co.uk / @thesquarechudleigh / @chudleighbaptistchurch

Introducing the team...

We see the post of Youth Team Leader very much as a leadership role and whoever is appointed would join the leadership team, which meets weekly on zoom for prayer and every 3-4 weeks in person. Given the fairly young demographic of our church, we see ministry with under-18s as a vital part of what makes us family and so we would expect to work alongside the Youth Team Leader as equal servants of the church.

Currently, the leadership team is made up of 5 people:

Eleanor Moffatt is the minister and has particular oversight of *Growing Together* (house groups, Sunday/whole church teaching). One-day a week, Eleanor is seconded by Bristol Baptist College to run the Exeter Hub where she trains those on the Ministerial Formation Programme (those called to pioneering or pastoral ministry). She has oversight of all aspects of church life, ministry and mission and is very grateful to have a committed and supportive team to serve with. Eleanor is married with 3 boys in secondary school.

Miia Thomas is a Minister-in-Training who joined Chudleigh as a placement church in September 2021 for the 3 years of her Ministerial Formation Programme. Miia is gaining experience in all aspects of ministry, but has a particular focus on developing our presence and impact in *servicing the community* through The Square (our town-centre community hub). Miia is married with 4 children and lives nearby on the coast.

Gareth Sowden is our church secretary. He keeps us on track and, with his expertise in all things technological, has also kept us connected throughout the pandemic and beyond. Carpenter by trade, he can turn his hands to most practical problems and we are blessed to have him on our team. Gareth is married with children away at uni.

Jonathan Pimperton is our church treasurer, trustee for safeguarding and leader with oversight for *worship*. He is equally at home with spreadsheets and guitars! Jonathan has a young family and is keen to see young people released in their giftings and involved in leading worship.

Emma Funnell is a wellspring of creative ideas for engaging with the community and has been instrumental in getting Sunday morning children's ministry up and running again after the lockdowns. Recently, she has taken on the role of overseeing *nurturing children and youth*, to ensure this gets the impetus and support it needs. This responsibility would be handed over to or shared with the successful candidate. Emma is married and has 3 children in the local primary school.

And you...? Would you like to join this team? The church may be relatively small (50-80 regular worshippers), but it is also fairly young and up for the adventure that God is calling us to. Appointing a full-time Youth Team Leader demonstrates not only our commitment to reaching and investing in young people, but our trust that God has big plans that he is inviting us to participate in. We expect the person appointed to be similarly excited by following the Spirit's lead and we are determined to support and release that person to be all that God is calling them to be, in and through the ministry they exercise amongst us. Support, mentoring, supervision, further training – we are happy to explore whatever is needed to ensure our team members are looked after, equipped, effective and appreciated.

Is this a team you would like to join?