

Profile of Cross Way Church, Seaford

Background

Cross Way Church is an LEP (Local Ecumenical Partnership) linking the Methodist and URC in Seaford. It has been engaged in a major review of its building and financial resources since 2014 with the objective of creating a place of Worship, Mission and Outreach which will serve the town well in the long term. Since its formation as a Single Congregational LEP in 2004, Cross Way used its Methodist Church for worship and its URC building as a community centre. However, in 2015 the decision was taken to become a single-building church. This would avoid escalating costs in maintaining two old buildings. Furthermore, by updating the previous URC building, (Clinton Place, sited in the centre of town) our aim is to extend and widen outreach activities.

Our final service at the Methodist Building was held on 30th December 2018 and our first service in the original URC building took place on 6th January 2019. Although it was a huge undertaking transferring our Church from the Methodist building across town to the URC building, this was safely accomplished due to the work and commitment of a dedicated band of people. Good homes were found for unwanted items!

We were especially delighted to host the induction of our new minister Rev Andrew Mills on Saturday 9th February, 2019. As part of a new pastorate, Cross Way looks forward to working with Christ Church Lewes, and Alfriston. To this end, Cross Way welcomes the opportunity to be part of an on-going discussion with Christ Church regarding the appointment of a Children/Families worker.

Finances are satisfactory since we have only one church building, but are under review given the planned building work. (Plans for the building work on display in the Hall so the congregation and community users are kept informed.) Charitable donations are as agreed.

Church Family Life, work is taking place on re-designing the web site.

Summer Garden events to go ahead as usual.

The Tuesday coffee mornings to be reviewed.

Property – Minor issues concerning the smooth running of Sunday worship are being addressed.

Objectives & Mission

Our objective is to create sufficient interest in our work and make Seaford aware of, and be encouraged to come into, Clinton Place – a warm welcome awaits. Our long-term aim will be to bring more and more people into a closer relationship with God.

Outreach – our aim is to extend outreach support for all age groups. Current activities include: weekly café (under review): monthly lunch club: Craft Club: Friendly Group: Wednesday Group: Prayer/Bible Group: Film night – hope to extend to younger age groups.

Furthermore, new ventures under consideration: Parent & Toddler Group: Messy Church: Quiet Space for reflection and prayer.

Worship Arrangements – a traditional style of worship does not appeal to everyone and Cross Way is keen to explore alternative forms of worship that should widen its appeal.

Raising Cross Way's Profile – in order to ensure a presence on the High Street the following are planned:

- New website to be regularly updated
- New notice boards
- Improved signage/sail flags
- Attractive, eye-catching notices (internal & external)
- Weekly activity sheets
- Regular media articles
- Regular updates regarding progress on the building works
- Cross Way information leaflet for distribution at key locations eg doctors' surgeries/estate agents etc

Although there will be some upheaval with the development work to Clinton Centre, it is Cross Way's intention to go forward with our plans for Mission and Outreach.

Summer 2019