

Great Chishill United Reformed Church - A Bright Future

Great Chishill is a beautiful village, boasting the highest point in Cambridgeshire. Sitting on the boundaries of Essex and Hertfordshire, with a population of approximately 700. We are a very active and sociable village with much 'going on' to cater for many tastes. There has been a 'Congregational chapel' on the site of the present United Reformed Church for over 400 years and we are very much planning for the future.



The United Reformed Church has been going through a season of change with our Minister moving on to pastures new. We presently have a Membership of three, but are very optimistic about increasing this number. Our congregation has been growing in recent years, notably increasing our average service attendance. This has been while trialing different forms and times of services supported by guest preachers. We have held an evening service once a month; this has proved to be very popular. For our 'special' services at Christmas, Easter, Advent and Remembrance we have welcomed between forty and one hundred people into the chapel.

The chapel fellowship has become an increasingly important part of village life with a variety of events encouraging people to come together – films, Scottish dancing, concerts, silver surfers' internet café, whist drives and hosting parties for all ages. On a Sunday you are guaranteed a warm welcome, with services held on the first and third Sundays of the month. Whether a morning or evening service the duration will be around 45 minutes with a time of friendship and fellowship afterwards in the schoolroom (usually with splendid refreshments). We warmly welcome all ages to our services. The children and the children's corner are very much part of our church and services, and are encouraged to play an active part.



Children at Easter

The present pattern of services is for a 5.45 evening service on the first Sunday of the month and for a 9.30 morning service on the third Sunday of the month.

It has become customary for our Sunday service flowers to be delivered to those in the village who we feel are in need and in our thoughts and prayers.

We share Easter, Remembrance, Advent and Carol services each year with the parish church, St Swithun's. The relationship between the two village churches is strong and a very positive for the village population.

We host a breakfast during Christian Aid week before the Sunday service, which has been well supported by the village and the Link Pastorate churches. The Harvest Festival supper is held in the schoolroom - often oversubscribed; we always manage to find a chair for an extra one or two! Being a rural community this is very much an evening of thanksgiving, celebration, fun, laughter and fellowship. We try to focus on this being a charitable event, inviting guest speakers. We have had talks from the Teenage Cancer Trust, the Brain Trust and Jimmy's Night Shelter, in recent years.

A village choir has been formed and has performed at the Remembrance and Christmas services.



The church sits in well-maintained Churchyard that we consider a garden for everyone and anyone, to come and enjoy peaceful times sitting on the benches, having quiet thoughts, enjoying the sunsets or even feeding the chickens.

We are very proud to have been the 500th church, nationally, to register for the Eco Church Awards. We are presently working towards the bronze award. Composting, recycling, management of the churchyard and developing an awareness and needs of the local and global community.

We are very much a village asset, not only as a facility but also as a centre for offering regular worship and maintaining a belief in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Reaching out to the local and wider community with warmth and fellowship.

As we open another exciting chapter in the Great Chishill United Reformed Church we are presently looking for a Minister who will lead us in our worship and fellowship. One who will be committed to encourage the teaching of the Word of the Lord to all ages, including children. A good communicator, enthusiastic about being part of a wider community and interested in bringing people together with humility, love and humour.



For further details about services or any URC events please do contact Angus Gent by email angusgent@gmail.com or keep an eye on the village website or indeed the church noticeboard on Barley Road.