

Upney Baptist Church

Barking, Essex



www.upneybaptist.org.uk

Church Profile

Upney Baptist Church (UBC) is a Bible-believing evangelical church. We aim to make the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ central to everything we do and therefore we aim to have the preaching and teaching of the Bible at the heart of all our activity.

We have a current membership of 34 people and usually have a congregation of 50 to 80 people at the Sunday morning service.

The church is made up of a diverse range of people from different ethnicities, ages and backgrounds.

We are an independent church, a member of the FIEC and part of the 'South East Gospel Partnership'. We enjoy strong links with a network of other conservative evangelical churches in the area.

UBC has a heart to reach people for God's glory with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We seek to do this through evangelism amongst the local community, and through supporting overseas missions.



Challenges and Vision

The leadership see current challenges and priorities as including:

- Seeking a new pastor following the departure of the previous minister in March 2025.
- Developing a desire for evangelistic outreach in the local area.
- Developing new leaders to strengthen the eldership and diaconate.
- Adapting to the changing diversity within the local community. Both in serving the increasing number of African and Asian people within the church, and reaching out to evangelise the increasing local Muslim/Asian population.



Formation

Upney Baptist Church was founded in 1935. The chapel was erected and donated by the developer of the surrounding housing estate, Mr Leftley. He also provided the minister's stipend for the first year. Most of the foundation members were Christians who transferred from Barking Tabernacle in the town, and looked upon it as a church planting operation.



Church elder, trustees and deacons: George, Graham, Mary, Neil, Thai, Josh, Vinu (inset)

Location

The church is situated in a residential area on the Leftley housing estate in Cavendish Gardens, Barking. There is a primary and a secondary school on the Leftley estate, and two other schools within close proximity. The church is very close to the Faircross parade of shops and to two parks.

Barking enjoys good transport links. The church is close to the A13, A12 and A406 arterial roads, and M11 and M25 motorways.

Nearby Barking and Upney tube stations (zone 4) have good links to central London, both being on the District line, and Barking station being on the Hammersmith and City, Suffragette (overground) and c2c train line.



Membership/Congregation

There is unity, commitment, and a caring and positive attitude amongst the fellowship.

The congregation is made up of people from different nationalities and backgrounds, including people from Nigeria, Cameroon, Romania, Vietnam, India and Brazil, though the majority are white British.

Theological Stance

Conservative evangelical, distinctively baptistic and Non-ecumenical. A copy of the Church's Statement of Faith can be found on the church website.



Affiliation

The church is independent and is part of the FIEC. We also enjoy a very close relationship with other local gospel churches in the local area, as part of the 'South East Gospel Partnership'. This includes a weekly prayer meeting of the leaders of the churches, some exchange for preaching, and working together to host evangelistic outreach events.



Worship Style

Central to the church's Sunday worship is the preaching of God's Word, with the sermon usually lasting around 30 minutes.

The music style is varied between traditional and contemporary both in song selection and use of instruments. We sing some modern hymns and choruses, though the majority are more traditional taken from the Mission Praise hymn book.

The church bible used at UBC is the ESV.

Leadership Structure

The church became a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) in 2021. The church's system of governance, practice and statement of faith were laid down with the church rules at the same time.



Church Buildings

The church site lies back from the housing building line in Cavendish Gardens and has a large car park at the front. The building comprises of a meeting hall, Sunday school rooms, kitchen/store room, Pastor's office, and an entrance foyer with toilet facilities.

There is a three bedroom semi-detached manse for the incumbent minister, located 200 metres from the church in Brockdish Avenue.

Other Regular Meetings

In addition to Sunday worship meetings there is a midweek prayer meeting, monthly Wednesday fellowship, weekly Girls Brigade group and a Sunday school before the morning service.

Overseas Mission

7% of the church's general giving and gift aid is set aside in the Mission Fund, which supports our mission partners currently in West Africa and Romania plus other spending on mission related causes. We also sponsor the education of two children at a Christian school in Uganda. At harvest, we invite the church to support a children's home in Zambia.

Evangelism/Outreach

The church uses the 'Christianity Explored' course, with those interested in Christianity. Wonderfully, this has resulted in a number of people becoming Christians and being baptised.

Every summer for the last 15 years, a team from the church, with the help of a team of young adults from 'Baptist Youth' in Northern Ireland, have run a week-long Holiday Bible Club for 5-11 yr olds. Each year we've seen around 50 children from the local area come along and hear the gospel. And during that week we host events in the evening for teenagers and parents to come to where they hear the gospel.

Communication

The church has a website (www.upneybaptist.org.uk) and a Youtube channel that broadcasts the weekly sermons.

Our usual means of communication is a weekly bulletin sheet, which contains the details of upcoming events, services and meetings for the week, as well as prayer requests for supported missionaries and missionary organisations.

