



Church Profile (2024)

Beacon Community Church

91-93 Beacon Road

Bradford, West Yorks

BD6 3ET

Website: www.beaconcommunitychurch.org.uk

Email: beaconcommunityc@gmail.com

Phone: 07464 519218

The Road to Beacon

Our official church name is the “Beacon Community Wesleyan Reform Union Church” but we are recognised and known locally as “Beacon Community Church”. Our official name identifies us as member of the Wesleyan Reform Union (WRU) of Churches in the UK. We are one of four churches making up the Bradford Circuit of the WRU.

Known originally as Slackside Chapel, this spiritual site has a history dating back to the 1800’s. The merger of the chapel with Central Avenue Church in 2011 resulted in the formation of our current place of worship - Beacon Community Church. Since joining together, we have grown into a strong and closely connected family of believers – and this is our true church identity. We are varied in age, background and the testimonies that have shaped our lives – but we are one at heart in seeking to glorify God. We look inwards to build each other up and learn more about Jesus, but we also look outwards to share the Good News in our community. Our vision as a church is summarised below:

- We want to glorify God.
- We want to know Jesus and make Him known.
- We want to be a worshipping, praying, serving church, caring for and strengthening members in spiritual maturity and demonstrating God's love practically in the local community.

Our vision statement is; **“Growing in God; Growing together; Growing in the community.”**

Our location

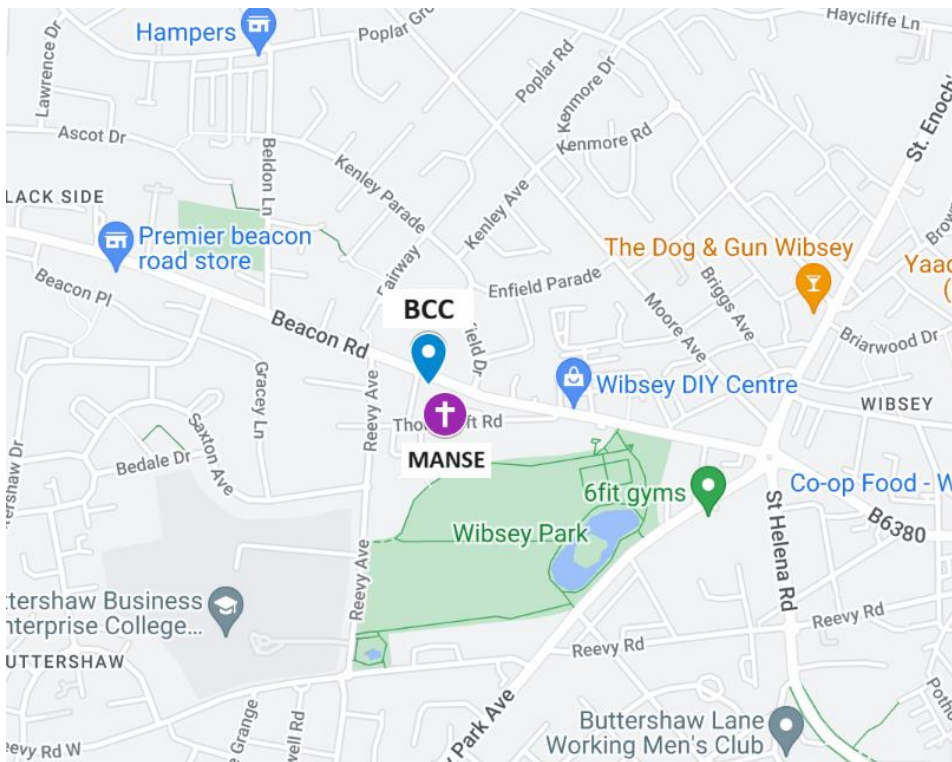


Beacon Community Church is based in a popular residential area in Wibsey, which is located in the south of Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Bradford is the City of Culture 2025, famous for its multi-cultural cuisine. It also offers professional football and rugby league clubs and the national science and media museum. It is well served by local and national transport, with a great selection of local bus and train connections.

Wibsey is less than one mile from the M606, leading to the M62 so giving open access to travel in all four directions of the motorway network making up the length and breadth of the north of England.

Wibsey ward is comprised of a broader area than just Wibsey village. Much of the village centre is located to the east of our church. This area is served by the Salvation Army and Methodist churches. Our church is towards the edge of the western section near to the park and other local amenities, doctors surgeries, adult and elderly care homes, cafés, local stores, local independent shops, schools (primary and secondary) and post office. There are full sports facilities at Sedbergh, Horsfall Stadium and many local gyms.

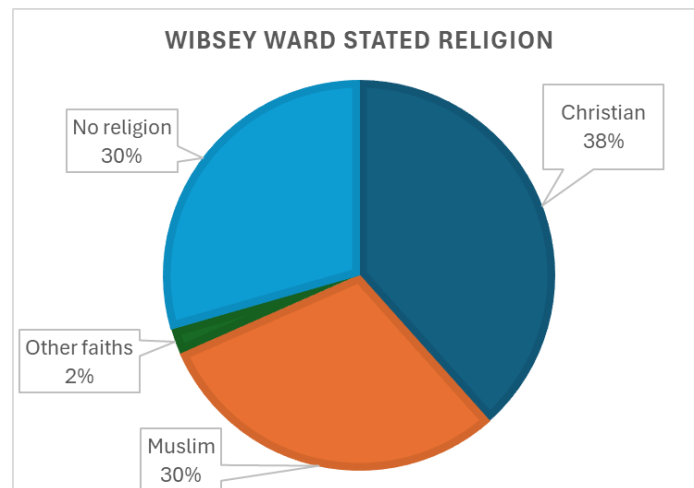


Find a church link <https://www.findachurch.co.uk/church/wibsey/33761.htm>

The location of our church provides easy access to the countryside and beautiful places to visit such as Shibden Park, Judy Woods, the Piece Hall, Ogden Water, historic Saltaire, Haworth and the Bronte Parsonage, local museums, music venues, art galleries and theatres. The [Bradford Tourist Information](#) site shows all that Bradford has to offer.

The Wibsey ward has a population of approximately 16,000 people and covers an area of 3 km². The 2021 Census identifies Wibsey as bordering two wards which fall within the 10% most deprived wards in England of which one, Buttershaw, served by its own local churches, charities and youth workers, has a large social housing estate very close to the chapel. In Wibsey:

- 25% of the population are under 18; 56% are aged 18 to 65; 19% are over 65.
- 84% of the local population declare the UK as their country of birth
- 36% of the local population classify themselves as non-white.
- The question about religion was answered by 95% of the local population, with the following results:



Our church family



The average Sunday attendance is about 40 people. Most are in the fifty plus age group with some in their twenties. Approximately half of the attendees are from Wibsey, with the rest choosing to travel in mostly from adjoining neighbourhoods.

We have a regular worship service each Sunday morning at 10.45am with the first Sunday of each month being a Communion Service. Our service style is informally structured and open to change. The worship music is predominantly modern, and guitar led along with other musicians and singers. The service is broadcast live on Facebook and recorded for further distribution through our website.



We are blessed with four local preachers within the congregation. We do not currently have any children in regular attendance, but we are committed to working towards improving this situation, currently contemplating the introduction of a “messy church” service.

There are currently no paid staffing roles or positions in the church. There are around 25 to 30 committed volunteers who either lead or support the work of the church (Treasurer, Secretary, Leadership, Trustees, Preaching, Leading Worship) and the management and delivery of activities such as:

- Bible Study Group
- Fellowship Groups
- Food for thought Café
- Men’s Group
- Friendship Group (Chairobics)
- Baby Massage
- Community Choir
- Pilates Group
- Wellbeing Café – Alzheimer’s support group
- Community Cinema
- Coffee Mornings

Through our church services and activities, we seek to engage and offer opportunities for fellowship, friendship and witness. As a leadership team we also take time to stop and reflect on our performance and ask if we are really making a difference in what we do. However, the best people to answer that question are the congregation themselves. Their most recent answers (May 2024) are shown below.

Beacon is a warm and welcoming church community who love and support one another. (Jane)

I would say that the Beacon church is one of the best for the Word of God. (Julie)

Beacon is friendly and offers a warm welcome. There are plenty of opportunities to join in activities and meet new people. Ideas are welcome for new activities. (Carol)

My first thoughts are that Beacon is a warm, inclusive and welcoming church. When I first walked through the doors of the church, I didn't know what to expect. I was struggling to reinvent myself after my husband's death and going to places on my own was daunting. I needn't have worried. I slowly found my feet and settled in.

Secondly, from that initial introduction I got into some of the activities run for the community and I've made some lifelong friends. The teachings of the Word are exemplary, very accessible and just what I needed. (Diane)

I went to Beacon for the first time in 2017 and it soon became clear to me that this church was a church I wanted to come back to. The main reason was because it was so friendly and for the first time in a long time, I felt the warmth and love of the Lord. I quickly made friends who soon became close friends. Since going to Beacon, I have become closer to the Lord – closer than ever before. The Men's Group has been very supportive and when I was unable to go to the group they came to me, which was truly a blessing. (Stuart)

Despite our modest membership we are richly blessed with individuals who want to make suggestions, dream visions, share testimonies and remain open to new ideas. This spirit of adventure (greatly assisted in prayer) resulted in a team of volunteers managing to raise over £200,000 to completely renovate, decorate, and convert our ageing school building into a new, fit for purpose, Community Hall. This new resource continues to be a wonderful asset for God to work in us, and through us, to open our doors and welcome the community throughout the week.

Sometimes a church only discovers its strengths and weaknesses when put to the test and trials of modern life. Covid certainly challenged us, but we were blessed to be able to quickly learn how to broadcast through Zoom and Facebook. A church service was performed and delivered every Sunday through the pandemic. We thank God regularly for this rich period of blessing in our church life.

And out of adversity comes invention and adaptation. We set up a WhatsApp Group to keep us all connected, assisting members of the congregation to install and use the app where necessary. This is now a thriving church communication and prayer medium with its greatest asset being the ability to quickly insert and request prayer for all situations. This ability to join together, pray and assist each other has helped us greatly in establishing a caring and committed church family.

Our congregation readily rises to the challenge to help others in need. We do so with a joyful heart and frequently work with surrounding charities and foodbanks to assist as needed. We engage and support local requests for sponsorship or assistance.

Our church is well placed at the midpoint of the length of Beacon Road. The church, and now more so the Community Hall, is becoming readily accepted as the hub of the community. We purposely get involved in local activities, social nights, Councillor sessions and other forums or activities to promote community cohesion.



Easter Breakfast 2024 in the Community Hall

Where do we feel we are being led?

We remain purely focused on listening to and being led by Jesus, giving Him full control of all we do. We trust more in God's wisdom and directing than our own plans and strategies. Within that context, we want to develop strong and deep spiritual roots so that our foundations will be built upon God's word. Our Leadership Team are committed to building up our congregation, establishing a clear strategy for the future and then leaving a legacy that will enable future members to lift up and carry the beacon of the good news to the next generations.

We have been given a great outreach opportunity with our Community Hall. We have a congregation who are heart shaped and who have a great love for our community. Community outreach and engagement are central to what we do.

Our number one desire is to build God's church in our community. We want to be led in prayer and seek out God's plan for His church, in His community, in His time.

What we believe

As a church family, we don't all believe the same things about everything, but we are united in our faith in Jesus and our beliefs about the following:

- Worshipping and glorifying God, our prayer is that He will build His church in maturity and number.
- Seeking to know Jesus better and make Him known, by sharing the love of Christ in our area, with outreach focussing on promoting health and wellbeing, and combatting isolation through community.
- Being open to all, whatever their background, status, race, faith, orientation, identity. We are all in need of God's grace.

As a member church, we are also committed to the Wesleyan Reform Union confession of faith as attached to the end of this profile.

How we are led

We believe that the Lord Jesus leads and governs His church by His word, the Bible, but that He gifts and sets apart individuals to lead our church. Our normal chain of governance is as follows:

- We are led by our Church Pastor.
- The Church Pastor is supported by the Leadership Team and Trustees.
- The Leadership Team and Trustees perform tasks including praying for the church, arranging Bible teaching for the congregation, model Christian living and managing the affairs of the church.
- We have four regular church business meetings each year for all members to attend.
- We have effective lines of communication to and from the congregation.
- All major decisions and policies are shared with the members for approval.
- As a member of the WRU of churches, we are self governed but can seek leadership, guidance and support from the national body.

Who we are looking for

We are looking for someone who is enthusiastic about their faith and has a real heart for others, keen to share their faith to build up and strengthen our fellowship, leading the whole church as together we reach out into our community with the love of God.

You will be open and friendly, tolerant and understanding (a good sense of humour will help!) - a visible presence in the community, proactively seeking to do God's will.

For fuller details see the personnel specification and job description.

What we can offer you

We believe that the Lord will guide us to the right individual, to lead us in the vision that God imparts and resources. We are committed to supporting, assisting, and helping our Pastor to lead and grow our church. Below are just some of the resources to achieve this:

- Accommodation at the manse – a 3 bedroom detached house with study, 2 large reception rooms, newly fitted kitchen and utility room. It is 2 minutes from the church and Wibsey Park.
- An annual package worth over £30k, including accommodation and council tax worth £10k and salary plus pension contributions over £20k, together with 25 days annual leave.
- MS Office 365 is supplied.
- Time for relevant training, personal development, retreat and academic study etc.
- Workspace in Beacon Community Centre.
- A strong, supportive Leadership Team.
- Friendly and active volunteers.
- A bright new worship hall with seating for 120, opened in 2015. This is equipped with 2 screens and projectors and PA system including a 16 track mixing desk with stage end inputs.
- Excellent music and worship group.
- A newly refurbished adjoining community hall, finished in 2023. This is a flexible activity space, and also has office/meeting room, ample storage and catering kitchen.
- Dedicated car parking for up to 12 vehicles
- All facilities are level access.
- Sound finances. Balances are currently £47k. There is annual income over £30k with around two thirds of that from tithes and offerings.
- Active social media pages. Here is our Facebook site.

And finally (but most importantly!)

- A prayerful and committed congregation - we are praying for you!

Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches - Confession of Faith

(Approved by Conference 1970, Amended by Conference 2008)

"One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren" (Matthew 23:8)

WE BELIEVE:

1. That there is one true and living God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; Creator of heaven and earth; Him alone we worship and adore.
2. That the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, as originally given, are of divine inspiration and infallible, supreme in authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
3. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and are thereby subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
4. That God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and that He is truly God and truly Man, Jesus Christ our Lord.
5. That the Lord Jesus Christ offered Himself as the substitutionary sacrifice for the sin of the whole world. He was raised from the dead, ascended into heaven to be our Advocate and Mediator, and that He will personally return in power and glory.
6. That the Holy Spirit is a divine Person both equal to, and of one substance with the Father and the Son, that His work is necessary to make the death of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ, and He also indwells every believer as his Sanctifier, thus placing His seal upon him as a child of God.
7. That the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church.
8. In the priesthood of all believers, and that we being members one of another are one body in Christ Jesus having equality of spiritual opportunities as the sacred right of all.
9. That the Sacraments are an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, and that only Baptism and the Lord's Supper were instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ as such, maintaining that the proper subjects for Baptism are believers and children to be brought up within the fellowship of Christ's Church.