

# Main Street Community Church, Frodsham Church profile



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Main Street Community Church is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered charity number 1136953.

## **WELCOME TO MAIN STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH**

We hope you will enjoy reading our church profile. We aim to give you an insight into Main Street Community Church as a church, as well as what we're looking for in our new leader.

We are:

- a bible-believing, non-denominational evangelical church
- based in a recognisable and well used building
- a friendly church family with a wide age range, that is welcoming to all
- a committed, skilled and supportive congregation
- pastorally-minded, both within and outside our congregation
- members of Frodsham Churches Together, with a collaborative approach and involved in many joint ecumenical initiatives
- involved in the wider community, with a range of regular activities for local people
- mission-minded, supporting a good number of missionaries and projects both locally and further afield
- a church that values good teaching, prayer life and worship
- based in an area with a lot to offer, yet not without its challenges.



## OUR HISTORY

While our current facilities are relatively modern, our church dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the most recognised and well-loved buildings in Frodsham.

In early 1872, the vicar of Frodsham, the Revd William Charles Cotton, proposed to build a chapel of ease on the Main Street of Frodsham. The estimated cost was £600 plus £200 for heating, lighting and furniture. The land was provided by the Marquis of Cholmondeley. The building was erected from a kit and opened for Easter Week 1872, named St Dunstan's.

In 1880, the parish church of St Laurence was temporarily closed for refurbishment, meaning an alternative meeting place was needed. The iron church, as it had become to be known, was fully licensed as the main parish church. The 1906 edition of Kelly's Directory lists the church as: *"The church of St Dunstan, in Main Street, an iron building, affords 230 sittings, and is served from the mother church at Overton."*

After some years of disuse, the building was taken over by Frodsham Evangelical Fellowship. This group had been meeting at the Frodsham Community Centre on Sunday mornings. The building was refurbished and it reopened as a place of worship at the start of the 1980s.

In 1995, the trustees of Frodsham Evangelical Fellowship sold some land at the back of the church building to allow a developer to build a nursing home. To make room for the road needed to access to nursing home, the church building had to move. It was put on rollers and taken ten feet to the left! At the same time a modern and adaptable new worship area was built onto the back of the building and the whole building extensively refurbished.



In 2015, Frodsham Evangelical Fellowship Trust passed its assets onto a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation, named Main Street Community Church. This change was made to allow trustees to be added more easily, and it reflects the name by which we are widely known.

## WHAT WE'RE LIKE NOW

On 1 July 2007 we were re-named as Main Street Community Church.

We could be described as open evangelical and gently charismatic. We are members of the Evangelical Alliance.

A typical Sunday morning service attracts about 50 people. Our congregation is largely on the older side, although we're welcoming increasing numbers of young families, and people under the age of 16. Despite these relatively modest numbers and our ageing demographic, we punch well above our weight in terms of the energy, activity and quality we bring to the diverse range of activities, initiatives and events we're involved in.



There is, and has long been, an expectation that all members of the church should be actively involved in its life. We are all encouraged to discover our gifts and to use them for God's glory. Those involved in leading and preaching include men and women, young and old.

We have team leadership made up of men and women, with two elders who lead pastoral and ministry work. It is expected that the Church Leader will join as an elder and will work in conjunction with the existing elders. The elders are supported by a five-person wider leadership team, which provides insight and expertise into various areas of the church's work.

Main Street Community Church, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, owns the premises and employs the church leader. The trustees carry responsibility for the finances, legal compliance and the fabric of the church.

### **Sunday services**

We usually gather to worship at 10.30am on a Sunday morning. We alternate between an informal communion service and morning praise. Younger members go to Sunday clubs part-way through the service. Our morning services are followed by coffee and tea in the hall, where lots of lively fellowship takes place.



Our evening services, which take place on the second Sunday of the month, are quieter and more reflective.

### **Second Sunday**

On the second Sunday of every month, we hold our all-age service. This starts at 10am with breakfast in the hall, and is followed by a short 45-minute service for all ages, starting at 10.45am. This service includes more interaction than a standard Sunday service, as well as greater use of new media.



### **Share your story**

If there are five Sundays in a month, the fifth Sunday morning is a Share your story service. It's a time where members are invited to share their testimonies, stories of faith in action, or anything else they wish to share with the rest of the church family.

### **Music ministry**

We have a strong pool of singers and musicians, who play vital roles in leading the church in worship. We use a diverse variety of music in our worship, which includes modern classics from the likes of Graham Kendrick and Stuart Townend, alongside traditional hymns. We are always keen to learn new music and songs. The worship group is supported by sound desk and projector operators. Song lyrics are projected onto a screen, along with videos and images.

### **Sunday clubs**

Our Sunday clubs run for ages 3 – 16, and involve bible teaching, discussion, art and craft and much more. Regular attendance is low, and at the younger age of the spectrum, but we want to be a church where children and young people are highly valued, and are keen to further develop our facilities for young families. This is an area in need of development.

### **Weddings, baptisms, dedications and funerals**

We practice adult baptism and offer dedication services for children. We have also hosted numerous weddings and funerals over the last few years, mostly for current and former members of the fellowship.



### **Housegroup**

We have a small but thriving Tuesday housegroup, which meets every week, alternating between the homes of two member families. Homegroups are an opportunity for growth and development, as there is scope for more people to be involved in more housegroups.

### **Pastoral care**

Our pastoral team is made up of about ten members, who supplement the pastoral work of our leaders. In addition to visiting and caring for those who are unwell or facing difficult times, and their families, we're involved in leading courses covering areas such as mental health and bereavement.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Market day

Every Thursday is market day in Frodsham. Together with Churches Together in Frodsham, we host a coffee morning, offering drinks and light snacks for shoppers and traders. During the coffee morning, we have a stall supplying a range of Christian greeting cards, books and Fairtrade items. The 'Listening Ear' service is also available.



### Friday Break

Each Friday morning we run the increasingly popular Friday Break, offering an opportunity for pre-schoolers and their parents or carers to come and play. The mums and carers can enjoy coffee and toast, while the children have a healthy snack and enjoy free play, singing and stories. The Christmas party in 2015 saw 60 children, along with their parents and carers attend. This is a very rapidly growing area of our service to the local community.



### **Messy Church**

Through Frodsham Churches Together, we are involved in an exciting new Messy Church venture, held at one of the local primary schools. While Messy Church is in its early days, we have been very encouraged by the response from children and their carers.

### **Christmas and Easter Journey**

As part of Frodsham's Christmas festival, Christians from several churches in and around Frodsham invite children from local schools to enjoy the Christmas story through a multimedia experience at the church. The event is extremely popular with local primary schools and a core part of our outreach in the area. Easter Journey uses a similar format to explain the Easter story to slightly older children. Both Christmas and Easter Journeys were developed by members of our church, who have published books through BRF aimed at resourcing other churches around the country to run their own journeys.



### **Christmas**

The Frodsham Christmas lights switch-on is a well-attended annual event. Each year we open our doors to the community, offering a warm place to sit and meet friends, with free mince pies, hot drinks and carol singing.



### Parenting course

One of our members runs regular parenting courses, both at the church and further afield locally.

### Friendship group

Once a fortnight, the Friendship group meets at the church for tea, cake and conversation, providing many older local residents with a wonderful opportunity to make friends and enjoy a range of activities.



### Community links

Other groups we support and who regularly use our building include:

- Cheshire West CAB
- New Horizons Group
- Cheshire West Credit Union
- The local foodbank
- Local care homes, including Meadow Court, where we run a short weekly service



### Churches Together in Frodsham

While we're not the biggest church in the area, we play a very active part in Churches Together in Frodsham. Other churches in the group include:

- St Laurence Church (C of E)
- St Luke's Church (RC)
- Frodsham Methodist Church
- King's Church (Free Methodist)
- The People's Church (independent evangelical)

Churches Together in Frodsham works together on many events and initiatives throughout the year, including the Castle Park Summer Festival, Christmas and Easter Journey, work in local schools, Messy Church, joint services, Christian Aid Week collection and much more.



We produce a short newspaper-style publication, *Together*, which is delivered free to every home in the town.

## MISSION WORLDWIDE

Main Street Community Church has always supported a number of long-term mission partners, who we see as our primary mission commitments. We undertake to support them through regular prayer and giving. To facilitate this, we have a rolling Mission of the Month programme, which highlights a different partner each month.

Our current mission partners include:

- Kimbuta Rural Development Programme, Uganda – [www.krdp.org](http://www.krdp.org)
- Uganda Development Services – [www.ugandadev.org.uk](http://www.ugandadev.org.uk)
- Mission Aviation Fellowship – [www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org)
- Bible Explorer and Walk thru the Bible ministries – [www.bible.org.uk](http://www.bible.org.uk)
- Christian Aid – [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)
- Children of Hope: Tumaini Kwa Watoto, Kenya – [www.kenyachildrenofhope.org](http://www.kenyachildrenofhope.org)
- Christians against Poverty – [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org)
- Global Care – [www.globalcare.org.uk](http://www.globalcare.org.uk)
- Kreativity Ukraine – [www.kreativty.org](http://www.kreativty.org)
- Operation Christmas Child – [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)
- Tearfund – [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)
- UCB – [www.ucb.co.uk](http://www.ucb.co.uk)



Other organisations we work closely with or support include:

- Acorn Christian Foundation, who provide listening courses
- Fairtrade Foundation – we try to only use Fairtrade tea and coffee
- Bible Reading Fellowship and Barnabas ministry
- Open Doors UK – providers of material for our regular prayer meetings for the suffering Church around the world
- Traidcraft – providers of many of the items the Wellspring stall sells each Thursday.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Facilities

Our facilities include:

- a modern, purpose-built and versatile worship area
- a sunken baptistery
- sound desk, laptop, projector and screen
- refurbished kitchen
- excellent toilet facilities, including disabled and a baby change room
- large car park to the rear of the building
- a large and adaptable hall area with a serving hatch from the kitchen
- several Sunday school rooms
- side rooms that are used by local organisations, such as Citizens Advice Bureau and the local credit union
- a large number of toys and new play equipment.

### Finance

The church is currently in a sound financial position: as well as running a small surplus, we have money in reserves in case of unforeseen necessary expenditure. Over the last few years we have moved from running an annual deficit, thanks to a gradual increase in giving by the congregation.

Our financial ethos is to encourage planned direct giving through a standing order to meet a prayerfully set annual budget, which includes giving an amount away to other organisations. Some members choose to give via Stewardship or CAF, while others give in the weekly collection. We periodically receive large one-off gifts from members.

There may be other ways of generating income for the church that we could explore.

### Communication

We have a church website which is hosted and managed by a member. There have been significant changes to the website recently, and we would like to move further to enable our various groups to make better use of technology to support what they do. We have a [church Facebook page](#), while several of our groups also use Facebook for communicating with members, such as [Friday Break](#).

Each week, a notice sheet is produced, providing information, news and notices, as well as service times and scripture readings. For special events, we often produce promotional material including posters and postcards.

Our prayer chain is also managed by email, meaning that any urgent items for prayer can be communicated quickly and effectively, with arrangements made for those who aren't online.

## ABOUT FRODSHAM

Our church building is in a prominent spot on Frodsham's main street, making it a well known local landmark. Nestling in the shadow of Frodsham Hill, in the county of Cheshire in the North West of England, Frodsham is a vibrant and picturesque market town. The town began life as an ancient Anglo-Saxon settlement, featured in the Domesday Book. The village became a town in July 1992, and elected its first mayor. The bee emblem, incorporated in the regalia, was adopted by Frodsham in honour of Rev William Charles Cotton – a former vicar and an authority on bee-keeping.

Today, our community includes:

- four primary schools
- catchment area for high school in the neighbouring village
- large and well-equipped health centre
- a modern and popular library
- a council-run leisure centre
- 200+ local businesses
- 100+ clubs and societies
- numerous restaurants, pubs and bars
- several hotels
- six churches.

We have good transport links, by road, rail and air. Located near Junction 12 of the M56 motorway, we have a railway station on the Chester – Manchester route and are within 30 minutes of Manchester and Liverpool John Lennon Airports. It has recently been announced that a disused part of local railway track will soon be brought back into use to enable a direct rail link to Liverpool.

Despite its undisputed charm, Frodsham has its fair share of social challenges. For example, the unemployment rate here is the highest in Cheshire West and Chester.

