



# Yardley Baptist Church

Rowlands Road, Yardley, Birmingham. B26 1AT

[www.yardleybaptist.co.uk](http://www.yardleybaptist.co.uk)

## Church and Community Profile

### The area and community

Yardley is a suburb located 3 miles to the south east of Birmingham city centre and borders Solihull Metropolitan borough. The area comprises of the four wards of Acocks Green, South Yardley, Stechford & Yardley North and Sheldon, and has a combined population of around 107,000.

Across the area there is a patchwork of relatively affluent and less well-off households, the average being slightly below that of the city as a whole. 66,000 are aged 16-64 and 36% of the area are aged 24 and under, fitting with Birmingham's profile as the youngest city in Europe. 35% of children within Yardley are defined as being in poverty whilst GCSE attainment is above that of the city as a whole. Youth unemployment is falling and 81% of the working age population are employed.

Yardley has a changing ethnic mix and this change is mirrored in the congregation of Yardley Baptist Church. Within the area 62% are white British, 23% Asian, 5% Black and those remaining are of mixed heritage.

Yardley has good public transport routes to the city centre, the airport and also to other areas of the West Midlands. It is well situated for easy access to the motorway network. Yardley Baptist is situated 200m off the main A45 Coventry Road, a dual carriageway which links the City Centre to the Airport by a number of frequent bus services.

A short walk from the church building takes you to The Swan shopping centre, which is home to Tesco, Costa, Pound Land, Peacocks and a few other smaller shops. In the other direction is The Yew Tree, which is an area with a few independent shops, Co-op supermarket, Wetherspoons pub, Dominoes Pizza, and a couple of restaurants. The Wheatsheaf is slightly further afield but has a variety of places to eat.

The church itself stands on Rowlands Road and backs onto Gilberstone Recreation ground. The schools of Lyndon Green Infant & Junior and also Yardley Primary are only a 10 minute walk away and are predominantly where the younger people go to school. The nearest secondary schools are, Cockshut Hill and King Edwards Sheldon Heath are about 25 minutes away but generally our young people tend to travel further afield to get to school.

### The Church

In 1938, 25 founder members proposed the church was established in Rowlands Road, 65 people attended that first service on 11<sup>th</sup> September. The church met initially in a school hall and then due to the war in a couple of other locations before finally acquiring the current site and moving into a building in October 1948. Over the years there have been several ministers, the current minister Rev Peter Everitt took up the pastorate in May 2012.

We are a church that seeks to be rooted in the local community, wanting to see everyone become all they can be through encountering Christ and His Kingdom. Our vision is to be deeply rooted in authentic Christian discipleship, branching out to embody and share Gods radical love for the whole world.

We have a building that is multipurpose; we have a large ‘sanctuary’ area used mainly for communal worship, we have a kitchen which is due to be refurbished within the next 12 months or so. A multi-purpose hall, a smaller lounge style room and then 6 smaller breakout rooms and storage spaces upstairs. There is a large capacity carpark to the rear which also has gated access directly onto the park.

### **Membership and attendance**

Our current membership is around 75 people, with around 100 regularly attending Sunday worship. We have age appropriate groups for our younger people to attend during the morning Sunday worship and additionally midweek we have both Girls’ and Boys’ Brigade groups and a Toddlers’ group. There is also a lunch club for anyone who wishes to attend and generally this is frequented by people of the older generation. Each half term there is an all age family evening of activities that includes a short service and a meal together and then on several Sundays in the year there are all age interactive services. Scattered throughout the week are several house-groups and prayer groups.

Currently there are 8 Trustees, comprising of the minister and 7 Deacons.

### **Weekly Activities**

#### **Sunday:**

Morning Worship, includes age appropriate activities for children and young people. Evening Worship. Once a month a ‘soaking’ prayer evening.

#### **Monday:**

Girls Brigade, 30+ young people aged 18 and under

#### **Tuesday:**

Lunch time ‘welcome centre’ place to meet and share a meal, generally 30ish older generation. Bi-monthly church meetings.

#### **Wednesday:**

Toddler Group, 30 under 4’s and their parents/carers

#### **Thursday:**

Alternate weeks leadership team meetings, Half termly all age CHAOS evenings.

#### **Friday:**

Boys Brigade, around 40 boys aged 16 and under

Throughout the week on different days and evenings there are various bible study and prayer home groups.

### **Wider Connections**

We are a member of the Heart of England Baptist Association (HEBA) and the Baptist Union of GB as well as members of the Evangelical Alliance. We support Baptist Home Mission, the Baptist Missionary Society and Birmingham City Mission financially as

well as other one off projects. We have a particular link with BMS missionaries in Lebanon and also with Sofia Baptist Church in Bulgaria.

There are links with the local churches as part of multi-denominational 'churches together' and we share in Christmas and Easter outdoor events with them.

### **Sunday Worship**

Sunday morning services begin around 11am and include a variety of bible teaching, prayer and sung worship using mostly contemporary but with a good blend of traditional songs and hymns too. There is tea & coffee before, during and after every service. The young people start off with the adults then go out to continue their own teaching and worship elsewhere in the building. Around 5 times a year there are all age worship services some of which are also parade services for GB & BB. Communion is once a month.

### **Our hopes and expectations**

- Our heart is to impact the local community, through prayer and action.
- Develop a kingdom culture of discipleship and mission.
- Be a Spirit lead and Spirit empowered church
- Be a community of radically ordinary followers of Jesus.
- Create a community of belonging that explores what it means to be multi-generational church.
- To see see spiritual and numerical growth

