

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY

Our church occupies a prominent site on one of the main routes into the town. It was built to serve the growing needs of the new Garden City and opened in 1914. We have therefore just celebrated our Centenary, which was marked by a wide range of events. As a permanent reminder we have our centenary stained glass window, which you will not fail to notice on entering the church.

We have a membership of 109 and a normal Sunday morning congregation numbers 60-70 people including children aged 0-16.

We have a number of outreach activities and our premises are well used during the week by a variety of community groups for all ages, including a flourishing company of Girls and Boys Brigades.

Our congregation have a range of tastes in worship and our services vary from modern and participative all age services to more traditional liturgy used in Communion services. On most Sundays, music is played on our newly refurbished organ, but we also have a grand piano and, for family and special services, we are accompanied by our enthusiastic and talented band on a range of instruments.

The senior steward will contact you about 10 days before your service and advise which member of the stewards' team will be your vestry steward on the day. You will then be able to send them your order of service and the duty steward will make any necessary arrangements eg for readers for the lessons. Please let the steward know any requirements for projection (see below).

Our Junior Church shares in the first fifteen minutes of worship except on Communion Sundays when they come in at the conclusion of the service to share in Communion. At all age services where they are present throughout. For normal worship, a short childrens' address and a child-friendly hymn will be appreciated. You can expect the young people to participate, and if you are leading all age worship this is normal practice.

Members of the congregation take part in the services by reading the lessons. In addition, worship leaders are sometimes available to conduct part of the service. The steward will advise or the worship leader may contact you direct.

Our hymn book is "Singing the Faith" and we have enjoyed learning some of the more modern songs contained in it. We have a projector and screen available for words of hymns or images. This enables us to sing almost any hymn provided that the music can be found and it is within our copyright licence agreement. A minimum of five days notice is required for preparing hymns for projection and if you want to use a song or hymn not in "Singing the Faith" please let the steward have the full words so that the projectionist can get them right.

In our prayers we are used to either form of the Lord's Prayer so, as you introduce it, please indicate which one you would like us to use. For the intercessions, the stewards will let you know of any particular requests, but we also pray each week for members of our church family on a rota basis irrespective of need. You will be given the names before the service.

At the end of the service, except after Communion, we share fellowship over tea and coffee in the hall and preachers are most welcome to join us.

Other services we hold at Letchworth Central are 08.30 Communion every two months, a monthly evening all age service to cater for our youth group, a monthly evening quiet room service, and also monthly a service at nearby Robert Humbert House which is an old people's residential home. About once per year we hold a café style service, and in summer we have four united services with the Free Church. We hold a range of special services around the Easter and Christmas holidays.

Our members are good supporters of various events in town organised throughout the year by Churches Together.

We strive to be a welcoming and loving congregation and we hope you will find your visit to Central uplifting and joyful. If so, please tell others and if not, please tell us!

If you have any further queries about Letchworth Central and its worship, please contact the senior steward, Roger Harrison, on tel 01462 623629 or email rdh.harrison@gmail.com