

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY

Our church occupies a prominent site on one of the main routes into the town. It was built in 1914 to serve the growing needs of the new Garden City.

We have a membership of 135 and our Sunday morning congregation numbers 80-90 people including children aged 0-16. We have an active robed choir who often sing an introit (subject to numbers) and occasionally sing an anthem on special occasions.

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. At present we are financially stable and are able not only to meet our circuit commitments but also to invest in our facilities. We have some concerns for the future as the age profile of our congregation is tending to rise. Nevertheless we are encouraged by the fact that a number of younger families have joined us in recent years.

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.

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, and at all age services where they are present throughout. The all age services include a good deal of participation by our young people.

Members of the congregation take part in the services by reading the lessons. In addition, we have worship leaders who are available most weeks and who can conduct part of the service, usually the prayers or sometimes the children's address.

Our hymn books are Hymns and Psalms and Mission Praise Combined Edition. 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.

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, and a monthly evening service at nearby Robert Humbert House which is an old people's residential home. We hold a range of special services around the Easter and Christmas holidays.