

Trinity Baptist Church, Fleetwood



Trinity Baptist Church is located at the Northern end of the Fylde coast, above the lights of Blackpool. For most of the 20th Century Fleetwood has been a prominent deep-sea fishing port, and as part of his ministry to the community, Rev George Ayoma works as a chaplain to the docks.

While the church here is mainly an elderly congregation, they are a warm and welcoming community to newcomers, striving to share the love of Jesus with those around them. Below, a single mum who recently became part of the church shares the story of how she found a family among strangers....

“When my three year old son and I arrived at Trinity Baptist Church in January 2013, we had nowhere and no-one to turn to. Our first visit was to a midweek Bible study on a Thursday morning. They were a lovely group of ladies who warmly welcomed me with open arms. I will never forget that day, for I heard God talking to me and I knew from that moment that this was our new home. One of the members brought a magazine cutting that I still have with me to this day, which I took and read to mean that God was telling me he had brought us to this moment—”He was watching and waiting for us.” Since that day, my son and I now regularly come to church, ‘our church’. We don’t intend to miss a Sunday service for anything. We arrived homeless and without living means, the only family we had were each other; we were unhappy and on our own.



But at Fleetwood Trinity Baptist Church we found both a home and a family. We thank God everyday for bringing us here—being here makes us feel safe and secure. Today, we have more than a spiritual home, we have a roof over our heads, we are not going hungry any more, and we have shoes on our feet. My little boy adores his new church family. The whole church (the pastor, leaders, members, young people and children) are all our family and friends, and they make sure that we aren’t alone, or lonely. When we need help, the church are here to offer all the help - we have heroes and heroines right here in the church, wonderful people who we love and look up to. Their dedication to God and to each other is inspiring to us.

This world is a strange and frightful place without a loving family or a caring community - and we certainly have nothing to fear now. Trinity Baptist Church is not only here for its own members. We’ve found a church that is committed to helping members of the whole community, which it does in many and varied ways. It all began in the middle of the night on January 8th 2013, when I picked up the phone in deep distress to call the one number where I felt someone might care and answer, of a local church in the town, where we knew no-one. Someone answered, and from that moment we have seen life change in so many ways. For anyone who doubts God’s goodness, we have discovered that he truly is so good, and we have learned to reach out to him in prayer, echoing the words of this song: “Open the eyes of our hearts Lord, open the eyes of our hearts, we want to see you, we want to see you. To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory, pour out your power and love, as we sing holy, holy, holy!”

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness¹ will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.” Is 58: 6-8

For your thoughts and prayers:

- Where and how is God calling you to a life of ‘true fasting’ ?
- Is God calling you to a ministry of ‘community engagement’ such as chaplaincy?