

## Trinity Baptist Church, Fleetwood

Trinity Baptist Church is located at the Northern end of the Fylde coast, above the lights of Blackpool promenade. 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 and is also Mission Pastor for the Fishermen's Mission. While the church here is mainly an elderly congregation, they are very active, offering a wide range of ministries and events to their local community, including Monday Ladies' Fellowship, Bible Study groups two nights a week, Sunday School and a Senior version for some young students too...



George shares about the unique mission opportunity he has with the Fishermen's Mission, commenting, 'I believe in this work - a unifying conviction that Christ, who first called fishermen to be his followers, continues to imbue his Christian followers today with a love of serving fishermen and fishing communities all around the UK. Our maxim, "Christianity with its sleeves rolled up" means a local personification of an open, familiar and friendly face. That is who we are, when living out and exercising our Christian duty within the Mission.'



The opportunity to share the love of God with fishermen and their families in practical ways, provides George with an excellent chance to live out his faith among the people of Fleetwood, and to exercise ministry beyond the walls of the church building.

Alongside this, Church secretary Audrey Doyle reflects on the simpler things and everyday life of the church... "This year we have celebrated the 100th birthday of one of our members—The Mayor and Mayoress came to the church service and we celebrated with a wonderful buffet... We thank God for the ones and twos who join us, some finding a spiritu-

al home amongst us. We continue to be a people of prayer and we look to God for opportunities to serve him wherever he leads. We appreciate all that Home Mission has done and continues to do for the church financially. This has certainly helped us to make ends meet and is a great encouragement to us here in Fleetwood, and to the work that God is doing through the church." From mission to fishermen, to birthday celebrations, students and a loving community, Fleetwood Baptist Church is enjoying a diverse congregational life.

**"As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed him." Matthew 4: 18-20**

### For your thoughts and prayers:

- How could you connect with those in your community who would never step foot inside a church building? In what ways could you engage?
- What does 'fishing for people' look like in your church and community context?

