



Sharing Our Story...

Chelwood Baptist Church, Stockport

Andrew Phillips is the Minister-in-training at Chelwood Baptist Church, a community-focused church serving the Larkhill Estate in Cheadle Hulme. The church is actively engaged with its locality through ministries such as 'Shine Like Stars', Messy Church, Zumbatonic and Chelwood Foodbank. While running these various activities, Andrew has become conscious of an intentional shift in mentality within the church, as he explains here...

"Over the last two years at Chelwood, we have been trying to change the way we do things. We are a church that has been really good at 'doing stuff' but we have been learning to try and 'do' less, and 'be' more. We have been thinking about what it might be like to reflect the family of God individually, as a church, in the community and globally and this has seen lots of things change in our services, gatherings and socially too.

One of the most exciting things we have seen God do is bring lots of families without a church background into church. We have sought to live our Christian lives alongside these people rather than invite them to things that we are doing, and we believe God is doing great things through it.

One highlight of the last few months is the story of Angela and her family. A couple of people from church have come alongside the family over the last two years, to help where they can, knowing that Angela would be willing to do the same for them! In November, Angela took the next step on her faith journey and was baptised. It was a joyful day for the whole church family and we pray that others will come to the same place in God's timing.

As a church we want to thank you for the support of Home Mission. Our new way of doing things isn't the most glamorous and we are definitely making mistakes and learning together as the family of God at Chelwood, but we are excited by being His family and growing day by day.

For your consideration, reflection and prayers:

Have you, and has your church, got the rhythm and balance right between 'being' and 'doing'? Is your current rhythm healthy and sustainable, and if not, what steps could you take to alter this?

Is there a tension / balance to be struck between being a church 'to grow and encourage believers' and being a church welcoming and suitable and encouraging to those with no church background? Who are we catering for in our church life?

Home Mission: Supporting, equipping and enabling churches in God's Mission