

EMMANUEL CHURCH
FLEETWOOD

CHURCH PROFILE



A Christ centred, missional community.

Loving people, transforming lives.

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Why are we here?

SECTION 1

‘To be a Christ centred, missional community. Loving people and transforming lives.’

“Who we are!”

Emmanuel is a warm, caring family of all ages and backgrounds. We try to live out Jesus’ words: “Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”, while also following His call to ‘take up our cross and follow Him’. We aim to be outward-looking, supporting one another and reaching beyond our walls to our local community.

Emmanuel is a place where everyone can belong, encounter God, and grow in faith.

Here, people are encouraged to explore their gifts, experience the Holy Spirit, and deepen their love for Jesus and one another. Through our groups, activities, and courses, we learn together, support each other, and put our faith into action in practical ways.

Everyone at Emmanuel is valued and invited to play their part. Our hope is that as we grow in faith and love, we also go—serving others, sharing God’s love, and making a difference in our communities. It’s a place where humility meets purpose, and everyday lives are shaped by faith, compassion, and service.

BELONG

ENCOUNTER

GROW

GO

Where are we?

SECTION 2

Fleetwood is a seaside town on the west coast of Lancashire with a population of around 26,500. It is a peninsula, bordered on the west and north by the Irish sea and on the east by the River Wyre, that allows for its sheltered harbour. Fleetwood has an interesting and somewhat unlikely history in that it was designed and built as a transport hub back in the 1830s, with both rail links to London and sea routes to Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man. Unfortunately, that plan did not really work out for Fleetwood but it did function as a busy port for many years, becoming prominent for fishing in the 1920s, continuing through to the 1970s, when the Icelandic 'Cod War' and EU rules curbed the profitability of fishing.



In parallel with its industrial activity, Fleetwood was designed to be a Victorian holiday resort, which until fairly recently included a pier. It functioned as a quieter and more relaxed, (than its well know neighbour), family holiday location for many years. Boasting many foreshore facilities, including a boating pool, pitch and

putt courses, a model yachting lake and the rather splendid 'Marine Hall and gardens', which has hosted some big-name performers in its time.

Where are we?

SECTION 2

With the decline of the fishing industry and the silting up of the harbour there is little significant employment in the town, with many locals commuting for work. There is a long standing and well visited market in the town and the 'Affinity' retail park on the old harbour site. The only significant employer in the area is the famous Lofthouses 'Fishermen's Friend' factory, which originated from a chemist shop on the town's main street. Fleetwood now suffers from significant social decline and unemployment but retains a strong community spirit. As a town rooted in a fishing heritage there are still strong social bonds, whereby neighbours still help each other and look out for each other. As a peninsula, Fleetwood is also a town where 'everybody knows everybody'.

Historically, Fleetwood was a largely homogenous community, but it has become increasingly diverse over the last thirty years. This evolution began with international students at the local Nautical College and continued with the arrival of a significant Bulgarian community, who remain a vital part of our local economy.

Most recently, Emmanuel has been privileged to welcome many seeking asylum - particularly from Iran, Afghanistan, and Eritrea. Though the transient nature of local accommodation often means their time with us is short, these arrivals have become a deeply valued part of our church family. Our congregation is proud to be a space where established residents and those just passing through can find a true sense of belonging and Christian fellowship



How did we get here?

SECTION 3

Emmanuel Church was founded in 1933 following a tent mission led by the Assemblies of God. After meeting in various locations, the church is now based in a former Methodist building near The Mount in Fleetwood. Although originally an AoG plant, Emmanuel became an independent church in 1976.

Rooted in Pentecostal tradition, the church places a strong emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit, alongside sound biblical teaching and the authority of Scripture.

Emmanuel has a history of active outreach, including community initiatives and, in 2013, planting Emmanuel Church West - part of "One Church, Two Expressions." In 2016, the church acquired its current site, a historic building that continues to be developed as a welcoming and flexible space for both church and community use.

Under the leadership of Rev. Chris Kelsall from 2017, the church experienced growth, with a strong focus on community, belonging, and mission. Following his faithful ministry Chris was called home to be with the Lord hence our current vacancy. Today, Emmanuel Church is a vibrant, multi-generational church family, committed to serving Fleetwood, welcoming people from a growing range of backgrounds and nationalities, and sharing the gospel locally and beyond.

For more information please look at our website emmanuelfleetwood.org.uk



Where are we going?

SECTION 4

Over the next few years, our priorities are to:

1. ***Build and strengthen our church family***, fostering a place where everyone feels valued and connected.
2. ***Encourage a culture of discipleship, care, and mission***, helping people grow in faith and put it into action.
3. ***Develop and empower life groups as key spaces for transformation***, spiritual gifts, deepening relationships, serving others and reaching out with the gospel.
4. ***Support and nurture the next generation of leaders***, equipping them to guide and inspire in various areas of church and community life.
5. ***Strengthen Bible teaching and gathered worship***, helping everyone encounter God through Scripture, prayer, & the work of the Holy Spirit, & be encouraged to live out their faith in daily life.
6. ***Grow our provision for children, youth, and young adults***, creating opportunities for faith, fellowship, and leadership development across all ages.

What are we like?

SECTION 5

“We are a family!”

Above all, Emmanuel sees itself as a *family*, made up of a wide range of ages, backgrounds and ethnicity. Our outward focussed ethos of ‘everyone is welcome’ is rooted in the disciple Philip’s words of invitation to Nathaniel; “Come and see!” All are valued and encouraged to see themselves as called and loved by Jesus and to be transformed by the Holy Spirit. In addition to Sunday gatherings, Emmanuel has a wide range of groups, activities and courses designed to help us to grow in both love of Jesus and one another, and in service to each other and outwards to our town.



“Emmanuel is such a friendly church.”

‘There’s something for everyone here!’

“I was totally broken but after being introduced to Jesus, I found peace and joy here.”

“A safe place for anyone”

“A lovely family feel”

“When I’m not able to attend, I genuinely miss people as I love them as a family”

SUNDAY GATHERINGS

200-230
adult worshippers
10 youth
25 kids church

BAPTISMS

Full immersion during
Sunday gatherings
or in the sea!
11 in 2026 (so far)
9 in 2025
11 in 2024

SERVICES

1 funeral in 2026
8 funerals in 2025
6 funerals in 2024
2 weddings in 2025
1 wedding in 2024

Church family Life

Over the next few pages you'll find a 'snapshot' of some of our ministries, gatherings and key people who help lead Emmanuel.

WE LOVE TO GATHER, CELEBRATE AND EAT TOGETHER!

A key characteristic of Emmanuel as church family is seen when all ages gather to worship, celebrate and share food together. Whether it's a seasonal gathering at Easter or Christmas, witnessing those being baptised or one of our regular 'Celebration Sunday's' for all ages, the people of Emmanuel love to eat together! We rejoice in the growing diversity of the congregation and the richness that the variety of cultures and backgrounds brings.



We are involved in a wide range of activities providing for church family and serving the wider community.

Further information can be found on our website in the events section.

**“God isn’t just for
Sundays or for when
you’re going through
hard times of life; God
is with me everyday,**



**“It is a safe environment to make
mistakes, to learn but to
ultimately go deeper”**

'Leadership Team'

SECTION 5 /cont.



Rob Guinney

Acting Senior Minister

I joined Emmanuel in 1979 as a student and soon became involved, teaching in the Christian school it then ran. After 20 years in secondary science education and senior leadership, I returned to Fleetwood in 2005, sensing God's call into ministry. I am now Acting Senior Minister, responsible for Emmanuel West, and passionate about seeing every member equipped to know Christ and make him known. I am married to Jane, with two grown-up children and two beautiful granddaughters. I enjoy playing guitar and keyboard, walking in the hills, bowling, growing vegetables, learning new things, and watching tennis.



Sue Kelsall

Associate Minister

I came to Emmanuel in 2015 with my husband Chris & our two sons Liam & Joel to be involved in a church plant in the community at Fleetwood. We served together until 2025, with a real heart to reach the lost & to create a church culture that would become the vision of Emmanuel through discipleship & walking alongside pastorally. I am currently on the leadership team doing whatever I am called to do, although my heart is always for the lost & encouraging church in that . I enjoy cooking, walking & in recent days gardening & am a season ticket holder at Fleetwood town football club.



John McLellan

Associate Minister

After my conversion I joined Emmanuel in 1969 with a heart for evangelism and became a member of the church's first ministry team in 1977 I continued in this role, in its various expressions, expanding after my day job retirement. My role now includes supporting migrants, inter church witness and secular groups focused on community wellbeing, church ministry, pastoral input and additionally I am the chaplain for a national Christian organisation for ex-offenders. I am married with four offspring and various grandchildren. My hobbies are Fleetwood Town FC and dark chocolate!



Rob Steward

Associate Minister

I've been at Emmanuel for 20 years and love being in this kind, Jesus-centred church! In my day job I lead Scripture Union in the north of England, but it's a delight to be part of church leadership as a volunteer. I'm passionate about church being real, relational and for all ages, a place of belonging for all. I am an avid tea drinker, beach lover and football supporter! I'm married to Sarah and we're kept busy by 3 beautiful girls aged 17, 8 and 5.

Emmanuel West

SECTION 5 /cont.

Emmanuel West launched in 2013 with a team of 21. West was created to take church beyond the building and explore new ways of sharing the gospel. Its vision is to reach those who might not normally enter a church building by forming small, relational gospel communities in West Fleetwood and wherever members live, work, and play.



West meets across two missional communities and gathers monthly in a local community centre. Meetings focus on small, interactive groups where everyone can learn God's Word, use their gifts, experience the Holy Spirit, and ask questions - no question is ever "stupid."

West 'gospel' communities' aim to make ordinary activities missional by inviting others in, while fostering a culture of discipleship and mutual care. Pastoring one another is central to life in the church.

Reflecting its welcoming and relational ethos, West has an unofficial strapline: "No meeting without eating."



How do we gather?

SECTION 6

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday gatherings starts at 10:30 for about 90mins. We have refreshments before and after our service. After a time of worship the children and youth leave for their part of the service. In the evening twice a month we have a prayer meeting with communion and every few months we hold a 'Theology Cafe' were we look at specific topics in a relaxed setting



LIFE GROUPS



These are central to all we do in the life of Emmanuel. These small groups meet regularly across Fleetwood and the surrounding area. They are a place for relationships and somewhere we can belong, encounter God and grow in our faith. They also offer mutual support through life's challenges. They serve as a relational extension of the wider church, incorporating bible study and prayer, encouraging spiritual growth and serving together.

YOUTH CHURCH

Youth church is currently led by a team of volunteers. Youth church exists to inspire and equip young people between the ages of 12-18 in a friendly and welcoming environment, to grow in faith, build relationships and be passionate about Jesus.

Through Bible teaching, discipleship, mentoring and opportunities to serve, we seek to see lives transformed

They join the 10.30 am service and leave after the time of worship to gather for their time together

We also host youth gatherings on Friday evenings, offering opportunities to build friendships and engage with faith in relaxed and supportive surroundings. This ministry is developing and growing, and we are committed to continue to invest in young people as they grow and become part of the life of the wider church.



KID'S CHURCH

Kids' church is for children aged 4 – 11 and provides a fun, safe and Christ-centred environment. Led by our part time children's leader and small team of volunteers, the children can explore the bible and grow in their understanding of God's love.

We are passionate about helping kids build a strong foundation of faith, while discovering God's love in ways they can understand. Sessions include stories,

creative activities and discussion. We believe church should be a place where children feel excited to come, be eager to learn and have fun in God's presence

They start the morning in the main church service and leave after the worship for their group.



Alongside Sunday mornings, we also host occasional Friday evening children's sessions, inviting children from the wider community to join us for activities and games.

This also gives us opportunity to build relationships with families from local schools.



“I instantly had the sense that I had ‘come home’ as soon as I walked through the door at Emmanuel.”

WEEKLY COFFEE MORNING

Held in the church building, it is an opportunity to reach out to the community and build relationships, providing refreshments, crafts and games.



After our Sunday services we come together as a church family, to enjoy refreshments, chat, build relationships, and catch up with friends.

There are also times when more speciality occasions occur, such as a Jacob's join, feast of nations and other occasions throughout the year.

HEARTBEAT

Prayer and Communion held the first and third Sunday in the month

MINISTRIES & COURSES

Run periodically throughout the year
Bereavement Journey
Alpha
Celebrate Recover

DISCIPLESHIP

Run periodically throughout the year
Freedom in Christ
Christianity Explored
Sanctuary Course

'Facts and stats.'

SECTION 7

EMMANUEL WEST GATHERINGS

30 members meeting
across 2 homes

23 baptisms since
launch in 2013

MOUNT SUNDAY GATHERINGS

200 adult worshippers
+
10 youth
+
25 kids church

MOUNT BAPTISMS

Full immersion during
Sunday gatherings
or in the sea!

8 in 2026 (so far)
9 in 2025
11 in 2024

SERVICES

8 funerals in 2025
6 funerals in 2024
2 weddings in 2025
1 wedding in 2024

MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

Scripture Union
Global Commission
Partners

LIGHTHOUSE COUNSELLING

Our service for Church
and community
141 referrals since 2022

INCOME/ EXPENDITURE IN 25/26

Income £261k
Expenditure £219k

STAFFING

Senior Minister
2 F/T equivalent Associate
Ministers
Children's Worker (8hrs)
Youth Worker (16hrs)
Administrator (32hrs)

WHERE TO LISTEN TO US

emmanuelfleetwood.org.uk/category/sermons

Podcast on apple/
spotify/Amazon music
search for Emmanuel
Fleetwood