

## Chandler's Ford Methodist Church

Chandler's Ford Methodist Church is part of the Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit within the Southampton District. There has been a Methodist church in Chandler's Ford since 1900. The earliest of the buildings on the present site dates from the late 1950s with the most recent development being completed in the early 1990s. The church lies at the heart of the community it serves and a desire to make more faithful followers of Jesus drives all that it does.

The church itself is used for midweek and Sunday worship, events and concerts. It is a large, modern attractive space providing flexible seating, screens and cameras for projection etc along with an organ, piano and electric keyboard. The main Sunday service attracts a post pandemic congregation of 90+ with a further 15-20 people joining on Zoom. The monthly early Holy Communion and evening worship on Sundays and the weekly midweek service have a small faithful following.

Work with children and young people is developing following of the appointment of a Youth and Children's worker during the past year. A monthly Sunday morning Breakfast Church is well established, attracting children and families. The weekly Doves Toddler Group goes from strength to strength. An After School club to support children of school age is being launched in September. Girls and Boys Brigade companies meet on the premises with the highly regarded BB band attracting musicians of all ages. A thriving Ladies Fellowship meets weekly, as does the Men's Fellowship games group. There are several housegroups. The church's Peter Pan PreSchool has run in termtime for over 30 years, serving generations of local children over that time.

The Doves Café, open 5 mornings a week staffed by volunteers, is a popular meeting place both for members of the church family and for those in the local community. The café is very much at the heart of the church's outreach as it seeks to offer a welcome to all. The Food Larder is another initiative in response to local needs as is the collection point for the Eastleigh Basics Bank.

The extensive premises are well used by community groups including Springboard, a charity which for many years has used upstairs rooms to help and offer advice about employment issues.

Chandler's Ford Church has a strong Leadership Team which is supported by several Action Groups which focus on and sustain the work. Our Ministry Team comprises our Minister (75%), two part time Pastoral Assistants and our Youth and Children's Worker. We hope to add a Local Pastor to the team in the near future. We also have a part time administrator.

We are an active Church that seeks to discover God at work in our lives and the lives of others.