A little bit about the church and mission opportunities

Broadstone URC have a strategic plan that has enabled growth in their mission and ministry, even during and since COVID. They provide regular activities where families are being encouraged to be part of events and acts of worship.
The Mission House participants will be part of a wider team of people to help plan and run existing projects as well as develop new areas of ministry such as youth work and schools' work.

Potential for further growth and ministry include:

- **Older Young People.** Developing further the ministry with pre-teens and teenagers. None of the churches in Broadstone cater for this age-group – their activities are generally centred around younger children and their families.
- **Developing family ministry.** To begin to disciple families.
- **Working with schools and wider community.** The opportunities are there in many local schools, but the church lacks capacity to do more.
- **Other opportunities.** There are also opportunities to gain experience alongside a worker at other local URC Churches. The participants would also be required to support Synod level events such as Camp and Big Day Out.

The Local Area

Broadstone is a suburb of Poole where around 10,300 people live. Approximately 17% of the predominantly white population are children, 52% of working age and 31% are retired (figures from 2021 census). Broadstone is a generally affluent, popular, residential area which some people still refer to as 'the village' and, although no longer strictly accurate, it has that community feel. The village centre just down the road from the church provides a range of shops, restaurants, pubs, sports centre, doctors, dentists and a library.

There are two first schools (Reception to Year 4), one middle school (Year 5 – 8) and one comprehensive school (Year 9 upwards) all within a ten-minute walk of the church as well as several nursing homes in the area.

Broadstone is served by direct bus links to Poole, Wimborne and Bournemouth with a bus-stop directly outside the church. From Poole, there are bus links to the wider area including Swanage, Wareham and the Purbeck Hills, and a regular train service to Weymouth and Brockenhurst in the New Forest. There is a network of cycle lanes/paths which connect the church to the rest of Poole and Wimborne.

Introduction to Broadstone URC from the Elders

Broadstone URC sees itself as a friendly, caring church that also seeks to serve the local community. We are a broad church embracing a range of styles of worship. We aim to be a church that cares for everyone within the church community and which reaches out into the

wider community. Spiritually we aspire to be a church that encourages all people on their own personal journeys of faith whatever their background or Christian experience.

Vision for the Church

We want to be:

- an enthusiastic, thriving church;
- a spiritual home for all;
- a community of all ages – worshipping, praying and playing together;
- a church that cares for everyone within the church community and reaches out into the wider community; and
- a church that cares about creation.

Who are We?

Our membership is currently 58 and a typical Sunday morning service sees 30-40 people worshipping.
The congregation is mostly retired with a few families on the periphery of our fellowship. We continue to work with children and young people outside of the Sunday Service, even though the attendance of children on Sunday is currently limited.

Our current activities

Sunday Worship

Our services are held at 10.30am with Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. We hold a Worship for Everyone service on the third Sunday morning which is family-friendly worship and usually includes band-led worship songs. We have a children's corner where families are welcome to sit during services, with toys, colouring and craft activities.

Pop-in

Pop-in is our version of Messy Church and is held on the second Saturday of most months. We attract children from toddler-age upwards and numbers can be anything from around 10 upwards. The activities are based round a Bible story and the children take home a storyboard to keep the Christian message alive. We finish by coming together for a short period of music, story-time and reflection on the morning's message.

Toddlers

On Wednesday afternoons, our Toddler Group has grown from strength to strength in recent years. Complimentary reviews on family-focused social media sites brings a regular flow of new members and we often have over 30 children attending. Good facilities, such as our secure, grassed field, allow the children to let off steam while mums, dads, carers and

grandparents get to know each other. A strong team of church members ensure that everyone receives a warm welcome. Each week we usually offer a large selection of toys, a craft activity, snack and drink, a song and story-time session.

Yarn with Yarn

The Yarn with Yarn Charity Craft Group meets on alternate Wednesday mornings and attracts folk from the wider community. The group started in 2014 as a group of people from the church and beyond who are interested in doing something practical for charity using yarn in any way, usually knitting. Articles knitted include premature baby-sized items (for the hospital), Prayer shawls, hats and neck warmers (for the Sailors' Society).

Social Events

We hold all-age social events during the year, including a New Year Party, a BBQ and Mission Suppers where we invite a speaker from a charity to give a presentation about their work. A ladies' coffee morning meets at the church fortnightly and the Oasis group meets monthly in each other's homes for a bring-and-share lunch whilst the men's curry club visits local restaurants on an occasional basis. We have recently started running occasional board games nights, which has attracted a few Pop-in families. We serve tea and coffee after morning worship. Church lunches are served after some of our church meetings (after Sunday worship), which is another popular social occasion.

Twinning Link

Since 1989, we have had a twinning relationship with Zwölf-Apostel-Kirche in Frankenthal, Rhineland-Pfalz, Germany. Members have visited each other in turn, on a 1–2-year basis. Members stay in each other's homes and this provides an opportunity to share fellowship.

Community links

There is an active Churches Together group in Broadstone, where we collaborate with the local Anglican, Methodist and Catholic churches. A day centre for the elderly meets in our church hall on a Tuesday and, along with the other local churches, we take our turn in providing catering support. We take part in the annual local community fun day on the local recreation ground in July. We have a link with one of the local first schools, who use our church for their carol service each year. We have a variety of local groups who use our church hall on a weekly basis, including a Brownie Pack.

Vision and Mission

We have several successful activities that reach out to the community, but we have reached capacity with our existing volunteers to build on our successes. We are keen to extend our mission outreach and there are many opportunities to consider and discuss with the successful applicants.

We would be keen to understand the skills and experience that successful applicants have to offer, to explore together what direction future projects might take.

Whilst this list is not exhaustive, these are examples of opportunities that might be considered.

Children and young people

- Outreach and developing links with local schools.
- Developing our Sunday morning provision for children and young people
- Exploring provision for older children/young people. Pop-in is very successful, but families stop coming once the children reach 10-11 years' old. How can we build on this success?
- Local secondary school students pass our door every day – how might we develop this opportunity?

Raising our profile in the community

We are keen to raise our profile within the community and alongside this, take the opportunity to raise much-needed funds for the church.

- The community holds a Christmas parade every December with a range of stalls – we do not currently have the capacity to get involved in this event, but this is an exciting mission opportunity.

- There is an annual community fun day (think village fete!) on the recreation ground in July where we currently run a toddler play area. However, there is an opportunity for extending our involvement which could include an element of fund-raising activity.

- We do need to find ways to supplement our membership giving – therefore we are interested in exploring fund-raising ideas with the successful candidates, within the community or at community events.

- We have a large number of community groups that rent our church hall, which could be an opportunity to develop our community links.

The elderly/lonely/intergenerational

- In the past we have held a successful 'holiday at home' week in August with a series of activities, which was very much appreciated by the local community and was supported by young and old alike. The elderly appreciated having somewhere to go to meet people and enjoyed interaction with the younger generations.

- Day Centre/inter-generational activities – can we invite Pop-in families to come along to do some crafting with the old folk, for example?