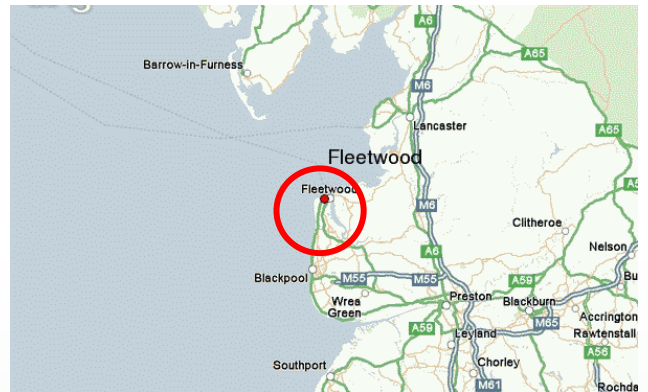


Trinity Baptist Church, Fleetwood



Trinity Baptist Church has been a Christian presence in the town of Fleetwood for more than 90 years now, and serves this former fishing community in a number of ways, caring for the needs of the elderly while also seeing the life of Christ at work in young adults and in a growing youth group within the church. Church secretary, Audrey Doyle, shares the story...

Recently, some of our older members have transitioned into care homes or rest homes, while some have been hospitalised. This has resulted in a smaller number of our congregation gathering on Sundays and at our midweek Bible study groups. Our Sunday school has also reduced in size, particularly at the younger end of the age range. These things taken in isolation have at times been discouraging....



However, we have a group of youngsters in their teenage years who are a committed and regular part of our church congregation. They have set up a band, and God is blessing us with this young people's group. Some of them went to the Keswick Convention together last July and were very moved on occasions. Following on from this, seven of our young people went to the Impact Youth Weekend Away (run by NWBA - Ed) and the youngest of them at that weekend asked Jesus into his life, and to be his Saviour. Two of the older lads in the group became interested in baptism, as did another couple of people who had joined the congregation, and it was our privilege to baptise them all before Christmas. These were all very special and very moving services.

God has blessed us, and we thank Him for his grace and mercy, and for the new life growing here in Fleetwood. In recent times we've been reminded of Jesus' words that he would never leave us nor forsake us. We praise His name for all that he is doing."

Rev. George Ayoma, who also serves the community as chaplain to Fleetwood Town FC, and as part of the Fishermen's Mission, added "What marks out our church life in this former fishing community is a prophetic message that speaks of restoration and hope, not only for the individual member, but also for the whole community of Fleetwood. And yet, our aspiration is not just local, it also remains very much a national and global challenge to be involved in all that Christ calls every Christian disciple, and Christian community to be: *A Fisher of men...*"

For your thoughts and prayers:

- Trinity Baptist Church's story is one of some members aging but also a celebration of new life and new birth - where are the signs of new life and new birth in your church and community?
- Where and how could you and your church become more actively engaged in the local community to be 'good news people'?

