



Weekly Prayer Focus: 6th March 2022

Holly Lodge Baptist Church

Our prayer focus this week turns its attention to Holly Lodge Baptist Church in Ipswich. This well-established church is ideally placed in a residential spot just five minutes' drive from the bustling town centre.

Much of the local demographic is made up of short-term renters, creating a rather transient community which can be hard to reach and build relationships with. However, the church enjoys a thriving youth and children's ministry, with a weekly youth club, Sunday school and toddler group, plus quarterly Messy Church and youth-led services.

As the church emerges from Covid, one of the big challenges facing them is the reality of an ageing congregation and a need for younger individuals to take on some of the responsibilities of leadership. They are in the process of discerning what God is calling them to do and the kind of church God is calling them to be in light of this.

One of the key questions they are seeking to answer is whether to carry on as things are, or to stop and consider whether God is calling them to something new. Helping them with this process is minister-in-training, Shane Hughes, who joined the church last year and is combining his ministry with study at Spurgeon's College. A recent vision morning with leaders led to the conclusion that every activity the church engages with should clearly have a specific link to three pillars: Prayer, Discipleship and Evangelism.

Plans are currently being made for some joint Easter events with other churches before a redecoration project in the summer, aimed at creating a more family-oriented, outward-focused building.

Please pray for:

- * Clarity in our ongoing discussions around what type of church has God called us to be.
- * Courage and faithfulness to act on the answer to the above and step out in faith.
- * The upcoming joint Easter events; that Christian unity would be a powerful and effective witness in our town.