



## Weekly Prayer Focus: 24th October 2021

### Park Baptist Church

Standing just a stone's throw from the sandy beaches of Great Yarmouth is Park Baptist Church. A multicultural fellowship comprising of English and Portuguese speaking congregations gather each week, with up to a dozen nationalities represented.

The church is centrally located in one of the town's poorest wards, with levels of deprivation amongst the highest in the country. In recent years this has become increasingly reflected in the make-up of the congregations, with more people attending who live within walking distance, rather than the traditionally higher numbers travelling in from other parts of the borough.

The easing of Covid restrictions in recent weeks has enabled the church to celebrate the 15th anniversary of its ministry to the Portuguese-speaking community in the town. A joint bilingual service was held on 16th October, led by one of the ministers, Rev Jorge Damasceno, with attendees returning home with plenty of cake!

Alongside this ministry the church operates a CAP debt centre, co-hosts the town's night shelter *The Living Room*, and runs a weekly art and crafts drop-in. Midweek Connect Groups have begun to resume meeting in-person, although the weekly prayer meeting remains on Zoom.

There is a sense of a new season beginning in church life as Rev Peter Timothy returns from his sabbatical and questions begin to be asked about what kind of society is emerging post-Covid? The church had been taking steps to increasingly integrate the congregations, and there is a realisation that how this is done and how it relates to the surrounding community may require a re-examination through fresh lenses, and with a willingness to try new things.

Prayer Points:

- Please pray for conversations regarding the future of the building and finding space to worship and socialise as one congregation
- Please pray for our CAP clients, particularly a number of new individuals who have expressed an interest in church
- Please pray for provision and raising up of new leaders, especially with several vacancies on the Leadership Team due to be filled at next month's AGM