



Swaythling Baptist Church

Guidance notes for visiting speakers

We are looking forward to your visit. Thank you for sharing your ministry with us.

SBC is a mainstream evangelical church. We usually have a congregation of between 30 - 50 people of mixed ages. In our worship we aim to incorporate the best of the old and the new. The congregation is able to participate in open prayer in times of adoration, thanks and praise as well as intercession. We sometimes have an open time where people can bring a word of encouragement, challenge or to tell a story or request prayer. We often have a time of extended worship at the beginning of the service. The sermon follows the bible reading. There is a reading rota so if you can let the Church Office know your choice of reading (churchofficeswaythling@gmail.com) they can contact the relevant person. Please note the office is usually only staffed on Monday and Thursday mornings. The sermon is anything from 20-30 minutes long and sometimes incorporates Power-point or video (however see note below).

It would be good if you could consider something for the children during the first part of the service but do not feel compelled! We normally have between 5 -15 children in church for the first 20-25 minutes aged between 0-10. The very young ones will be on the back carpet during the first part of the service and will need to be encouraged to come down to the front if you want them to engage. The children leave, at the service leader's invitation, for their Sunday School classes usually after the notices. These divide the service in two and are led by a deacon, there is a sample order of service over-leaf below.

The church is located in Fleming Road, near McDonalds, just off High Road in Swaythling. The post code is SO16 2JD. You can find a map on the church web site at www.swaythlingbaptist.org.uk.

Our Sunday morning service starts at 10.30am and usually ends anywhere between 11.30am and 12 noon. We have assumed you will lead the whole of the service but please let us know if you would prefer not to do so and we will find someone to lead for you. You would then be expected to liaise with them about the bible readings and theme.

Communion is normally celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of the month but we will confirm this nearer the time. If you are not happy taking a lead in this one of the deacons will do so. The church is usually open on Sundays by 9.45am. There is a car park. The Deacons will be pleased to pray with you from around 10.20am.

We do not generally take up an offering but have collection bags at the rear of the church which are brought forward by the steward at the invitation of the service leader who will offer a prayer of thanks. This is often done just before the children leave the service. At the end of the service we invite anyone who would like to be prayed for, or with, to the front of the church where there will be people waiting to pray with them.

The Music Group practice on Wednesday evening. Please let Helen Andrews know your choice of songs and readings before this so that the songs can be practised and the reading can be put into our projection software (Tel: 023 8048 0938 or 07796 680855, email: hfandrews@ntlworld.com). The Music Group usually comprises a piano, singer and guitar. We use the Songs of Fellowship series - books 1 to 4 – which we have in a single volume and enjoy both contemporary and traditional hymns and songs. There is also a

downloadable thematic index on the Visiting speakers tab on the web site but please note we do not necessarily know all the songs listed. Helen will advise you of any unknown choices and can often suggest an alternative along similar lines.

We have audio-visual projection facilities but you would also need to check with Helen that she is available to import any Powerpoint or video into our projection software before the service. The sermon is normally recorded and put on the church web site. If you are not happy with this then please speak to the person on the sound desk at the back of the church.

We serve tea and coffee after the service in an adjacent lounge. All are welcome to join us. Any questions or problems on the day please contact Helen on the phone number above.

Sample order of service

Call to worship

SF 51 Breathe on me breath of God

SF 1187 Before the throne of God

SF 714 Father of creation

Children's talk

Open time (an opportunity for anyone to bring a story, experience of God at work etc)

Notices and welcome

Offering and prayer

(Children to Sunday School)

SF 975 Over the mountains

SF 26 Ascribe Greatness

Bible Reading

Talk

SF 1013 Teach me to dance

Prayers of intercession.

SF 483 Restore O Lord the honour of your name.