

# Sharing God's love...

Standing at the door one Saturday, a young woman lit up a cigarette next to me. I said hello. After a while she looked up at the sign and said, 'so what's going on in there?' I explained that the church was open so that people could use it as a quiet, safe space to think or pray and that anyone could come in.

She said, 'I don't even know who I am any more,' And told me that she had just received a medical diagnosis which she was struggling to process. She asked me if I thought God cared about her, which I did, and how I knew. I replied that my day job was working with people with her specific condition and that maybe God had placed her somewhere where she might be able to explore her feelings with someone who understood.

I invited her inside and we spent about an hour talking about her diagnosis and the impact it had on her. She was quite agitated but seemed relieved to 'offload'. I was able to signpost some possible sources of help. When she made a move to leave I asked if I could pray for her. She agreed but wanted me to tell her what I would do and say. Because I understood her condition, I was able to do this in a way I thought would be accessible to her, and I prayed. When I stopped, she said, 'that's the first time I have felt still in years. Thank you.'

*"It's the easiest way  
I've ever found to  
talk about Jesus"*  
Denise, volunteer



*"It's amazing, people  
are so pleased to see  
the church is open."*  
Julian, volunteer

**Night Church Chester  
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**Night Church is a sacred  
space where, regardless of  
people's views or beliefs,  
all are welcome.**



# Sacred Space in the heart of Chester

## What is Night Church?

Night Church is a sacred space open to everyone where anyone in town on a Saturday night, whether clubbers, night-workers or homeless, can experience something of God's presence.

25 volunteers from nine Chester churches have welcomed over 15,000 visitors since we opened in 2010. Visitors who seldom planned to come to church on night out, they're confused 'why is the church open?' Some light a candle or have a coffee, others are wrestling with the deep questions of life. Many tell us that Night Church was the best part of their evening.



We welcome people of all faiths and none. Mostly none. We are seed-sowers, participants in God's mission, trusting that He has planned our visitors' next step, knowing we are not likely to see it.

## What do volunteers do?

Volunteers usually take part in Night Church once a month, we have three different teams;

**Cafe:** most volunteers join our cafe chaplaincy team helping to set up at 8.15pm, provide hot drinks, keep people safe and pack down at the end of the night (around 2:30am) Some prefer to help in the kitchen while others enjoy listening to our visitors, chatting, praying and making them feel welcome.



*"Cafe chaplaincy is spiritually rewarding, a true service to God" William, volunteer*

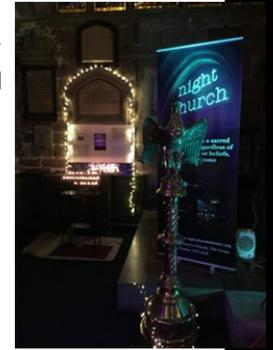
**Prayer:** our intercession team pray from 9.30pm until 2am. They say that they find it easy to pray at Night Church, the environment helps them to focus on God.

**Worship:** Worship draws people into Night Church, and builds an atmosphere of reverence. Musicians usually play a 2 hour set. Worship is highly valued by volunteers and visitors alike.



## How can I join?

Our volunteers are Christians from a number of different churches and different denominations. Our love for Jesus unites us. Volunteers are aged over 18 but we have no upper age limit. In some circumstances musicians aged 16-18 have also joined our team.



1. The first step is to visit Night Church and meet our team.
2. Then complete a short application form and let us have the names of two referees, one of which must be the leader of your church.
3. When we have your references we will invite you to join the team, provide you with training and pair you up with an experienced team member until you feel confident.

## Where and when is Night Church?

Night Church runs at St Peter's Church behind the cross on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month. We usually open 9.30pm until 2am full details are on our website [www.nightchurchchester.org](http://www.nightchurchchester.org)