We aim to be a family of faith where there’s always room for one more.  We are a Group of Churches (3 on site and 1 online). We are a Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Some people who are part of our family don’t identify with any of those labels. That’s fine too.

Our main vision and goal should always be, to be like Paul, who said, ‘I resolved to know nothing among you apart from Jesus and him crucified.’ We hope that within our aim to be a family of faith where there is always room for one more that we always have Jesus at the front and in the centre of all our aims, whether they are youth groups, work in the community, evangelistic work, church services, hospitality or anything else.

Our Church building which contains a cafe, hall, meeting rooms (including a Youth Room) and offices are based in Weston Favell Shopping Centre. This is a wonderful base of opportunity both for inviting people in and from which to step out into the wider community.

The area we live and work in is home to well over 30,000 people, including fourteen housing estates, thirteen schools (nine Primary, one Secondary, two Special Schools and a Sixth Form College Campus). The Church of England parish we serve is in the bottom 10% in the country for social deprivation. Parts of it are more deprived than others, certainly, but this does lead to us providing several elements of social outreach and mission (Trussell Trust Foodbank, Money Support Centre, Job Club, a Cafe open five day a week, Memory Cafe, Walking Group, along with several different layers of listening support, pastoral care and so on). We have good links with groups in the local community we can sign-post to and are a diligent church in relation to safeguarding. We have opportunities not just to serve, but to invite people to know Jesus and to invite them to participate in life with Him, with us and grow into people who use their gifts for the good of the community and for God. That’s the goal. Some of our community work operates under the banner of an Edge Centre <https://edgeministries.net> which is designed to help Churches on estates both to serve and to grow Edge Communities - small groups of Christians committed to worship, prayer, hospitality and service. We will be exploring developing this aspect of our life together in 2022.

We want to partner with God in inviting people of all ages and stages of life to realise that the kingdom of heaven being close at hand is not conceptual, it is actual. We are looking to maintain solid foundations of faith, worship, prayer and teaching on the one hand, pastoral support of both those who are already part of our community and those who are not yet on the second hand and to find ways to serve, bless, support and encourage our wider community on the third hand. Some things do have three hands.

**Youth Work and Ministry at Emmanuel**

In the past much of our youth work has been on the basis of small groups and one to one work, which we hope to continue in ways best seen fit by the new post holder.

We have good links with many of the schools, especially Northampton Academy (Secondary) where the Team Rector is a member of the Local Governing Body. There is hope that as Covid recedes, there will be weekly access into the school to provide presence, pastoral support and care and to contribute in whatever way best serves the school. This particular school has a student body of almost 1700, along with the primary schools there are thousands of children and young people going to school in our area each day.

We regularly do assemblies in 8 of the local Primary Schools and have good contact with the Special Schools too. There is a vision to work more closely with other local churches to serve the 20+ schools in the area, working in collaboration with a schools worker, who is yet to be appointed.

We also have partnerships with C2C Social Action and Northampton Association of Youth Clubs along with the Police and Crime Commissioner among others to deliver a Youth Hub after-school drop-in on a weekly basis.

The format of what groups to run will be developed by the right candidate, along with the minister, young people and volunteers. We hope you’ll catch the vision for who we are and what we feel called to be and do but if you show initiative, enthusiasm and passion we will give you freedom to be entrepreneurial, to explore and to enjoy being creative in co-delivering with young people what they want, need and will most benefit from and enjoy.

As can be seen from the above, there is ample opportunity for youth work of all sorts, whether in-Church, detached, or in connection with schools and wider projects. We would love to see a greater integration of our work with young people in the wider life of the Church and would welcome hearing your ideas of how this could be done before collaborating with you and God to do all we can to bring it about.

You can find out more about us at [www.emmgroup.org.uk](http://www.emmgroup.org.uk)