

Who should I contact?

Every church member has a named Elder who will seek to support them and can be approached in the first instance. If for some reason you are unaware who this is, Madan Kallow can help you with this contact information.

You are also very welcome to speak to:

Rev Adam Broughton

0116 271 3805 [Church office]
adam@oefc.co.uk

Madan Kallow (Elder)

0116 2714384
madan@oefc.co.uk

*What we believe
& What we do.*

Pastoral Care



Oadby

Evangelical Free Church



What is pastoral care?

Pastoral care is sometimes called “the care of souls.” By pastoral care we mean the work of the local church in sustaining, guiding, healing and helping to reconcile people with God and other people.

Pastoral Care at Oadby

Pastoral care can happen through preaching, home groups, 1 to 1 discipleship, study courses, the Lord’s Supper, baptism, marriage preparation, men’s and women’s social events, away days and weekends, caring in times of need and developing and growing friendships. Our aim as a church is with the help of the Holy Spirit to present people “perfect in Christ” – that is to see people mature and grow as Christians – through understanding better the good news of Jesus as revealed in the Bible and applying its truth to our lives.

This means that most of the time our pastoral care tries to be proactive – that is to teach one another the Bible and apply it to our lives so that when we face problems and hardships we are already equipped to know what God teaches, to trust his love and grace and have friends around us who will encourage and help us. We believe that for most people, most of the time, the normal activities of the church and the personal friendships formed there provide the support we need to share in life’s joys and help us in its struggles.

Pastoral care in times of need

From time to time each of us finds ourselves in situations where we feel that the activities and people (e.g. personal friends in the church) who normally care for us are not sufficient. This might be a difficult situation in the workplace, conflict with people we live with, bereavement, struggling with a particular sin or any other struggle we face. Often what we need is quite straightforward – for example a meal in someone else’s home, a chat over a coffee or a room to stay in for a night away from our own house.

We recognise this is an important part of our care for one another and all the members of the church are committed to looking after one another, and others who come into our church family.

Pastoral counselling

Pastoral counselling is a more specialised part of pastoral care. It can help us deal with life’s pressures and crises. Pastoral counselling usually involves meeting with one of the older members of the church, often but not always a church leader, and talking through particular issues.

At Oadby our goal in pastoral counselling is always to come to understand what the Bible teaches on a particular issue, to see how God’s truth, grace and love can help us deal with life’s pressures and, where appropriate, how you can work practically to deal with issues. Issues that can often benefit from pastoral counselling include financial problems, depression, anxiety, parenting issues, sexual issues, grief, addictions amongst others.

Anyone at Oadby who is involved in pastoral counselling will also be aware of other people and organisations (such as doctors, debt advice organisations and Christian counselling organisations) who may also be able to help.

Confidentiality

At Oadby we recognise that much damage can be done in churches through gossip and rumour. When you speak to someone at Oadby about an issue or problem you can be confident that your privacy will be respected. We encourage married people to share openly with their spouse but you can be confident that information will not go further than this.

However there are circumstances where we cannot promise confidentiality:

- If you or someone else has committed a criminal offence, or if we are worried for your personal safety, or that of others, we may need to involve other people. This would include issues of child protection and domestic abuse.
- Where something may be a matter for church discipline we may need to share information with the elders of the church

Other than in extremely exceptional circumstances no information will be shared with others without you being consulted first.