

Welcome to
**St Augustine's
Church**



St Augustine's Church

St Augustine's Church was founded in 1871 with the vision to serve and support the growing population in Hyde Park and Woodhouse in Leeds. Today it still has this same vision to share the good news of Jesus and to serve our diverse and ever-changing community. Made up of two congregations, Wrangthorn and Church @ Hyde Park Corner, both communities strive to engage with the people who live and socialise around the church out of a

heart that knows God's love and wants to share that with all

those around. St Augustine's is an Evangelical Anglican church and is part of a team of three churches in St George's Team Ministry.



Wrangthorn

Wrangthorn is the longer standing congregation of St Augustine's church. It is made up of fifty or so members, including faithful members who have been at the church for 40+ years and a growing number of young adults who have recently started calling Wrangthorn their home. Wrangthorn currently doesn't have a formal children's ministry but has relationships with two local primary schools that we are working to build on. The church longs to facilitate mission to the surrounding community which has grown up around the church and believes that they can be a beacon of hope to those who are in the parish. The church's vision is to know and understand God more through His word (the Bible) and share stories together about works in our lives, to grow to be more like Christ, shepherded by the gospel message to be Jesus-shaped people and to share the good news with our family, friends, the local community and those who we are called to serve. The congregation meet at 10.30 am on a Sunday morning for a relaxed traditional service with a communion every fortnight and midweek for a small group.

Church @ Hyde Park Corner

Church @ Hyde Park Corner is a student church planted into St Augustine's 3 years ago as a part of an SDF (Strategic Development Funding) bid, with a focus to see non-christian students come to faith in Jesus. It is a fresh expression congregation 'a student church for unchurched students.' As is the nature of the student world the congregation of the church is transient but we have seen students committing to the church for the time they are in Leeds studying. A church that is seeking to Connect with unchurched students in Hyde Park, Communicate the unchanging good news of Jesus and Cultivate a transformative community of new disciples. So in practice, this means that everything we do is with unchurched students in mind, including our social media, website, discipleship and how we gather as a Church community. Church @ Hyde Park happens at 1 pm on a Sunday and currently involves running a free meal for students to engage in with the hope to befriend those who enter our doors. We also are hoping to start mid-week groups to engage with students more, including one which allows students to explore the gospel and ask their questions about life and faith.





Space

Space is our Wednesday community space which we opened in 2022 in response to the cost of living crisis. It has blossomed over the 5 months into a loving growing community. The space is open from 9.30 am-3 pm and offers breakfast, lunch and tea and coffee for free. We also resource a craft activity and offer newspapers, magazines and books to read, and a space with free Wifi for people to work in. The vision of space grew out of the churches longing to serve those in our community as we are told by Jesus to Love our neighbours as ourselves.

In starting this project we have realised the loneliness present in our church and the local community. We want to keep this space going and see it grow, we have a longing to support more of the people who live in the area but we are taking each week at a time praying for God's guidance in where he will take the project.

Wrangthorn Runners

Every 1st Saturday our church opens its doors and welcomes in park runners off Woodhouse Moor (the green opposite the church) and offers them refreshments. With such close proximity to the weekly running event, those in our church who participate regularly saw an opportunity to engage deeper with those they spent their time with each Saturday. This ministry to serve the runners in our community has been happening for several years and has grown into a lovely group of people who share a passion for running. It is another way the church has found it can serve the local community and is lay led.

Coffee handouts

Part of Church @ Hyde Park corners outreach ministry which has received encouraging engagement is our Coffee cart, which we roll out onto Woodhouse Moor twice a week to hand out free tea and coffee to those crossing the moor to get to the Universities. The aim is to spread the love of God to students by blessing them with a free beverage to help them know that they are known and valued. It is also a key way of letting students know about our Sunday community and seasonal events we put on. A wider outcome of this is positive engagement with the community of Hyde Park.

Carol service

The carol service that was put on at St Augustine's this year was a collaborative event between Wrangthorn and Church @ Hyde Park Corner. This we found was a joyful event bringing both communities together at Christmas to spread the story of Jesus' birth to our community. We had 60 people join from across the community of Hyde Park and Woodhouse. We are currently in conversation about how best to celebrate Christmas across the two congregations this year excited by the possibilities that are out there.

Freshers and seasonal events

Another area we have found outreach to be valuable is at key seasonal times in the student calendar, such as Freshers week. We aim to put on events which are there to let students know of our presence as they move into our Parish. This year we put on a marketplace in partnership with local artists and charities (including Caring for Life and St George's Crypt) for Freshers Week and several food themed handouts through the year, corresponding to seasonal events like bonfire night and pancake day which we find students love and give us a chance to serve the students in our community. We love to do this as we have found students get stuck in a student bubble in Hyde Park. This means they feel unknown by the surrounding community so we remedy this by introducing ourselves and getting to know students around the church through these events.



All together service

All Together is a new service we have started in recent months. This service happens every third Sunday and its aim is to be a more accessible creative service. At St Augustine's we are passionate about seeing a diverse range of people be able to worship and meet Jesus. This service is shorter and more relaxed with creative and interactive activities meaning it is accessible to a wide range of abilities and ages. It has been received well by the congregation and we are hoping it will become a space we can grow our children's ministry. As this is a relaxed service it is a great space to grow and encourage young leaders.

Going forward

Going forward in both Wrangthorn and Church @ Hyde Park Corner we long to grow our communities with those who want to know more about Jesus and let Him shape our lives. For this we want to go deeper giving more time for people to explore faith. Wrangthorn is called home by so many people and there is a deep passion within our community to share this sense of home and the gospel message. To do this there are currently three things we are focusing on.

Midweek communities

We think being the body of Christ is more than just worshipping together and goes beyond a Sunday. Mid-week communities are our response to this desire, our vision is to have multiple communities that are founded around shared interests for those at Church @ Hyde Park Corner. We also believe this will provide good spaces for students to grow friendships and have a smoother transition into their time in Leeds. We currently have 4 groups in the pipeline they are: a DnD group, a social running group, a community choir and an Explore group (for those who want to start exploring faith).

Small groups

Wrangthorn currently has 2 midweek small groups that have started recently, one during the day and one for young adults in the evening. Our hope is to see these grow and be a place of deeper discipleship, fellowship and an extension of the churches worshipping life.

Building project

As part of the SDF bid St Augustine's received funding for a building project. The vision is to update the church building to be more accessible and upgrade its facilities as there are no toilets or a kitchen in the building. This process is still in progress as we wait on outside groups to grant the permissions needed. We hope to see this come to fruition as we believe this will open more opportunities to meet the community where they are while also being more accessible and inviting as a church.



Team

The team at Saint Augustine's is made up of a Team Vicar, Curate, Student worker, Operations Manager, Social Media Manager, Church Wardens and PCC. We also have a pool of passionate volunteers from the two congregations. The team works across the two congregations and the wider St George's Team Ministry.

For more information visit our website
www.wrangthorn.org.uk/ and
www.hydeparkcorner.church/

