

Welcome to the Smethwick Places of Worship Heritage Trail. We hope you'll enjoy your walk around Smethwick, learning about the rich variety of religious communities that live alongside one another. The trail will take you through a culturally diverse area with a rich industrial history. As well as learning about the faith communities you will encounter people, food and shops that reflect the diversity of Smethwick, and discover how significant Smethwick has been and continues to be for many different reasons.

1. The entire route is just over 4 miles, there is a shorter route marked with blue dots that is approx. 2 miles.
2. Check the route before you go so you don't get lost
3. Wear comfortable shoes and take waterproofs if needed
4. Be aware of your surroundings, particularly when crossing roads
5. Always stop walking when reading the map
6. Be considerate of other people if walking in a big group or stopping to read the information

The trail was developed by FNC: Faiths, Neighbours, Changemakers and was made possible by Funding from the Westhill Foundation. [fncbham.org.uk](http://fncbham.org.uk)

**FAITHFUL**  
Neighbourhoods Centre

**Westhill**  
make things happen

- - - - - Long and medium route\*  
 . . . . . Short Route  
 - - - - - Canal Walk

\*You can complete these routes by walking along the road or canal or take the train, details via the QR code



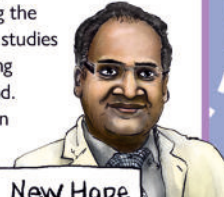
Scan this QR code for more information, other sights to look out for and contact details for all the places of worship

# Trail Heritage Worship of Places



This church is part of the Elim Pentecostal movement started in Ireland in 1915. They have two services

on Sunday one in English the other in Tamil. During the week they have Bible studies and activities for young people at the weekend. Rev Joseph Chinnaiyan has been the pastor since 1999.



**New Hope Christian Centre**



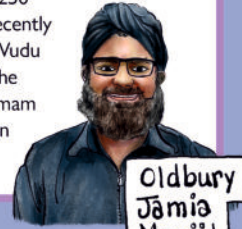
This site was originally the Spon Croft Pub and the temple opened in 2002. There is a tradition of Bhajan singing which is renowned nationally. The activities at the temple include language, cooking and Yoga classes. Ash and Kulbhushan have deities at home where they offer their worship.



**Durga Bhawan Mandir**



The building was formerly a social club and was bought but the community in the 1990's when the houses they were using were no longer big enough. They run a Madrassa for 250 children and have recently redeveloped their Wudu (washing) area for the congregation. The Imam is Muhammad Arslan Sultani Madani.



**Oldbury Jāmia Masjid**



The church was built in 1928, since the 1950's it has had many Caribbean

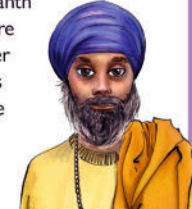
members of the congregation. Debbie grew up in the church and went to Sunday School and Youth Clubs, she is now involved in the leadership of the church as a steward.



**West Smethwick Methodist Church**



Originally the Empire Theatre, the community bought it in 1994 and rebuilt it in 2019. It houses approx. 300 saroop (spiritual text / guru) of the Guru Granth Sahib, many of which are being restored for other Gurdwaras. Harvey has been on the committee for 10 years and loves the sense of community in the Gurdwara.



**Gurdwara Baba Sang Ji**



Originally a church, a cinema and shops the community bought them in 1961. There are lots of activities here including the Langar Hall which serves approx. 15,000 meals per week and a Punjabi school for 500 children. Kuldeep has been coming all his life and has served on the committee for many years.



**Guru Nanak Gurdwara**



The first church was built in 1838 but was later rebuilt to seat 800 people. It was re-ordered in the 1960's and 1990's. The congregation is truly international with people from many different countries. Jenny serves on the Church Council and runs Women First an interfaith group.



**Holy Trinity Church**



The community has been meeting here since 2013, as well as the five daily prayers, they also run activities for people of all ages

and faiths. The madrassa has 160 children and a 2-year waiting list. Shabnam says that Islam gives her focus and guidance even on ordinary things of life.



**Abrahamic Foundation**



The community purchased the land in 2005 and completed the building in 2019. Along with 3 prayer halls it has 13 classrooms, a funeral area and community rooms where there are many activities including a foodbank. Mazhar helped oversee the building work ensuring high quality as a legacy for future generations.



**Jāmia Masjid**



This was built in 1877 on the site of an older church. It originally had a 3 story Sunday School building and community hall. It was redeveloped in the 1960's providing a worship space and community rooms. Pat and Margaret are both Deacons, helping run the church having been involved since childhood.



**Baptist Church**