

Christ Church Barnet



The Parish

The parish of Christ Church Barnet was founded in 1845 to serve the rapidly expanding population of High Barnet and is one of the most northerly parishes on the edge of London Diocese. Barnet feels like a typical commuter town (with access to excellent links into and around London - on the end of the Northern Line and close to: M25, A1M, M1) but is also right on the edge of Hertfordshire countryside – so has the best of both worlds!

The parish has a population of 4,750, made up of more than 3,000 residences, most of which are owner occupied. The cost of housing in the area has increased considerably and the majority of the parish is white middle-class but becoming more diverse. The parish includes the Spires shopping centre, a library, a market, one secondary school and two primary schools. Christ Church primary school was originally located next to the church but is now a few roads away. Our links with the school provide many opportunities for outreach to the school families. There are several other schools in the area and three residential homes for the elderly. Barnet General Hospital and Barnet & Southgate sixth form College are just outside the parish boundary. While the parish ranks as one of the least in terms of overall deprivation, it borders the Underhill Ward, an area that is in the 10% most deprived in the UK – and so the general area has a wide mix of people.

The Church

We have a great legacy! William Pennefather, a godly, spirit-filled evangelist of the 19th century, was the first Vicar of Christ Church and he led hundreds to Christ, seeing significant church growth between 1852 to 1864. Christ Church has always been evangelical, committed to the authority of Scripture and holding to traditional theology in faith, ethics and conduct. We are a church that embraces women in leadership and seek to be a church led and guided by the person and work of the Holy Spirit. We are still praying for greater openness and the full release of the '5-Fold Ministries' in church life. We are encouraged that more people last year signed up for the New Wine summer conference. Our Sunday attendance is around 180-220 including children (over 350 on database). The

Alpha Course has been used here for several years and we long for even greater impact on our community and beyond.

Other Resources

We have a rambling network of buildings and several rooms and offices attached to the church. The 'Open Door Centre' (originally the school) beside the church was refurbished 7 years ago and has its own café and an extra room which has the potential to be the base for community outreach in years to come. The Pennefather Hall and office spaces have all been refreshed in recent years and make an excellent place to work and reach out from. We are working on plans to refresh the church itself and re-vamp the main church building with the heating and lighting it needs. Our desire is to make the physical space a warmer and more welcoming place for encountering Jesus!



Sundays

9am More traditional reflective style service (mainly gets retired folk)

10.45am Contemporary service including children and youth groups

6.30pm Worship at the Well – an informal worship space led by the Spirit

On alternate weeks an Indian Marathi/Hindi congregation worships at Christ Church during the afternoon.

Leadership & Staff

Andy Rimmer has been vicar since 2017 and we have a fantastic staff team including an Operations Manager (PT), Administrator (PT), Youth Worker (FT), Kids & Families Worker (PT) and Premises Manager (FT). We have an excellent Warden and a great PCC that are all up for new adventures! We are looking to potentially appoint a Community Outreach Worker to grow our connections to the community.

Outreach

In addition to our Sunday activities, a large number of church members volunteer for a wide variety of ministries during the week: a weekly outreach group to the elderly, the Open Door coffee shop, children & teen outreach groups, Saturday Street Outreach. We operate a CAP Debt Centre from our

offices alongside local partner churches and are involved with Rail Pastors. In recent years we have joined with other local churches as a Night Shelter (once a week housing homeless in the winter). We hold a variety of outreach events – including some aimed separately and specifically for men and women as well as events for all. We are committed to growing our outreach here as a way of life and are believing God to renew and refresh us - that we may impact Barnet, London & beyond for His Kingdom!

Discipleship and Pastoral Care

Over 60% of the church are linked to a Connect Group (about 13 groups) – these groups seek to be a real and authentic place for relationship-based application and space for Word and Spirit to speak. Connect Groups are our primary pastoral care unit but we also have a newly-formed ‘Pastoral Care Team’ that supports across the church where necessary.

8 Wentworth Road

Our current Associate lives at 8 Wentworth Road (about 500 yards from the church). This is a fully equipped detached 4 bedroom house, with driveway for off road parking, a great garden & good sized family kitchen. The church owns Wentworth Road and is always looking to keep it in good order as best it can!

