



Christ Church St Albans
an all-age community on a shared journey of faith
making the edge the centre

Christ Church is committed to being an all-age community. Having employed a Children & Families post three years ago there is now an evolving need for work with youth. Each Sunday has two worship services one at 9:00am (more traditional) and the other, more contemporary, at 10.40am. Monthly the latter is all-age whilst at other times those aged 11 - 14 leave the service after sung worship to meet as Pathfinders. Children and young people are encouraged to participate in music when feasible. Refine (14-18) meet on Sunday evenings. We support and work with 267 Project – a city-wide youth project. Christ Church is evangelical with a gentle charismatic influence. On a journey of faith together, our chief priority is those who are on the edge of faith.

Christ Church Parish

20 miles north of London, population about 75,000, St Albans is generally affluent. Many people commute into London, others work more locally. House prices are high, often requiring two wage earners. The parish spreads from near the city centre up to its northern edge, containing approx. 7,000 people.

It is split in two by Batchwood Drive, a major ring road, Christ Church Centre to the north on the 1950's New Greens estate. Mixed council/private housing with wide social range there is a residents association club opposite the church. To the South there is a large residential area of mainly older properties but with newer developments on old hospital land including an area of social housing (Oysterfields) with its own challenges. This area also includes what remain of the City Hospital amenities.

Schools

Two primary schools, an Educational Support Centre and a special secondary school lie within the parish. Two secondary schools lie just outside the parish boundary, one of which is Church of England. With good working relationships at both primary schools there is huge potential at the secondary schools especially working alongside STEP – a St Albans based Christian secondary education project.

Outreach Projects

We run a variety of thriving outreach projects. 'Little Acorns' (for toddlers and parents) meets weekly as does 'The Shack' (an open youth club for 8 -13 year olds). We run 'Big Lunch' over the school summer holidays – two hours weekly for all ages to meet, eat and share some activities. This pattern is followed by a 'Big Tea' on October 31st, giving people a Halloween alternative. Messy Church happens ten times a year and needs some creative work to keep teenagers with younger siblings engaged.

Staff & Leadership

The Youth Worker will minister alongside the full-time Vicar and full-time Children & Families Pastor. There is also a half-time Church Administrator. They will also be part of the Staff Team which comprises paid workers and unpaid workers with roles in strategic areas of church life. Office space will be shared.

The legal and decision making structure in the Church of England involves the Vicar, Church Wardens and PCC (Parochial Church Council) working together. Formally the PCC is the employer.