

# We are Herne Hill Baptist Church

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**Herne Hill**  
Baptist Church  
LONDON

A diverse, multicultural body of believers who hold the gospel of Jesus Christ at the heart of who we are.



# People



We have 78 church members and 50 to 60 people attending on an average Sunday.

We have struggled since the pandemic to rebuild our numbers, particularly of families with young and school aged children.

We have many committed long-time members, but we are aware that the average age of our congregation is older than it used to be.

We have 15 children and youth on the register for our Sunday morning groups but some of these don't attend every week.

We are pleased that the ethnic and social diversity of South East London is represented in our membership and congregation.

We have a leadership team of trustees comprising elders and deacons.



The staff team comprises a full-time Families, Youth and Children's Worker, a part-time Office Manager and a part-time finance team.



# Church life



We have a church service on Sunday mornings at 10.30am. We enjoy lively worship, bible teaching and prayer.

There is a core of people who take part in leading and/or preaching alongside the minister.

One Sunday a month we stay together for All-Age worship and have been exploring ideas for the format of this such as cafe church.

On other Sundays during the second part of the service, we run groups for children and youth.

We look forward to our monthly Church Lunch where we get together for fellowship and to enjoy food from our diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Regular prayer meetings and home-groups are an encouragement and

support to members but need reinvigorating so that they become a core part of church life again, attended by a higher proportion of the congregation.





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# Church life

continued



Other midweek groups aim to welcome members of our community and build friendships – from parents and carers seeking support and a safe and stimulating environment for their children, to older people in search of company, cake and a warm meal.

We have been working with a nearby Anglican Church to support a CAP project, hosting job clubs and co-running a budgeting course.

Our weekly youth and children's clubs are an opportunity for young people to have fun, and make new friends.

They are popular with young people from outside our congregation and we have developed relationships with families through special events such as quiz nights and our Christmas party.

Pre-pandemic we ran Messy Church and other events for young families but following the closure of our church-run pre-school last year, we struggled to maintain attendance.



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# The Area



Herne Hill is a busy, mainly residential neighbourhood, straddling the boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark in South East London.



Its park, independent shops, cafes, and excellent connections by train to central London make it a popular place to live. The area has a strong identity and community feel.

Herne Hill and neighbouring Dulwich have a high number of families attracted by the good local schools. As a church we have historically had a strong outreach to families and maintain an active partnership with a local primary school.

Over recent years the area has become more affluent and affordability of accommodation is an issue for many residents. Despite this, the area has maintained its ethnic and social diversity.





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# The church we would like to be



We want to be a church that knows God's calling for this time and place and has the vision to grow and reach out in new ways.

We are open to change and we want to be equipped and challenged to build our fellowship and reach out to our community.

We want to be able to apply the word of God to our lives and to be able to share the gospel message with friends, colleagues and neighbours.

We want to be equipped to do this in a way that models the grace and compassion of Jesus.

We are prepared to be flexible and creative, both within church life and as we reach out to underrepresented groups. We are keen to connect with families and young adults, as well as vulnerable people who may be infirm, lonely or have mental ill health.



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# The minister we believe we need

- is an inspiring leader who is committed to teaching the word of God and demonstrating how it can be applied to our lives in 21st century London



- has excellent organisational skills to oversee a large and historical building, a small staff team and a number of volunteer teams

- has a collaborative style of leadership which brings out the best in people and is able to disciple members and help them understand and utilise their gifting

- is a creative thinker who can suggest new ways of doing things

- has a love for all people, and a particular heart for reaching families teenagers and young adults who are currently under-represented in our congregation

- is able to lead us in exploring difficult theological issues in a safe, informative and kind way





# The Building



The church building is Grade 2 listed. Built at the turn of the last century (c1906), it is a red brick building located on a corner plot. The interior has been modernised with the place of worship (including Baptistry) upstairs.

Downstairs there is a large rear hall with a fully equipped kitchen, a lounge with a secondary kitchen and small room with soft seating which is used by our youth and bible study groups.

# Accommodation

Our building is hired by many community groups but there is potential to use the building both for further church run or community activities.

Depending on the Minister's needs, we can provide a four-bedroom manse or alternative accommodation in the local area.

