

CHRIST CHURCH SIDCUP

A black and white photograph showing the interior of Christ Church Sidcup. The view is from the congregation's perspective, looking towards the altar and pulpit area. Several people are seated in the pews. The altar is visible with a cross and a sign that reads "HOLY HOLY". Above the altar, a plaque with the text "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden" is visible. The church has high ceilings and wooden pews.

Parish Profile

INTRODUCTION

Christ Church Sidcup has grown steadily in recent years through the faithful proclamation of the gospel. As we enter a new chapter, we are looking for a pastor-teacher who will shepherd the congregation by equipping the paid and volunteer team to point people to Jesus.

Things we would love to see in a new incumbent include:

A love of the Lord Jesus and his people

A proven gift in Christ-centric expository preaching

Leadership and strategy for staff and congregation in evangelism and ministry

Encouragement of others in the development of gifts for ministry and leadership

A pastoral heart

A deep theological foundation and a desire to share it with others

If you are appointed, we hope and pray that the Lord would use you to challenge our minds and our hearts into trusting the Lord Jesus more with our whole lives, and that many more people may come to a living faith in the Lord Jesus in Sidcup.

In return, we hope to be a committed church family who will support you, including protecting your time off.

ARCHDEACON'S WELCOME

Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to be the next Vicar of Christ Church, Sidcup.

This is an exciting time in the life of Rochester Diocese as we reflect on how we as a Diocese, and in different ways in each of our parishes, might Change and Serve and Grow so that God's Kingdom can be increased, and more people can come to know the love of Jesus. Our Diocesan vision and strategy prioritises parish ministry and we are committed to supporting our clergy and lay leaders in their mission and ministry in their local context. We have recently been awarded £11m of SMIBB funding (from National Church) to support this vision.

Christ Church is a church with a high regard for the authority of scripture and a commitment to prayer. I can see potential for Christ Church to be part of our strategic thinking around church planting, therefore, in addition to the need to build up and encourage the local congregation I pray for a new Vicar with a heart for mission and evangelism and a vision for working collaboratively.

I am praying for a leader with a passion to make Jesus known, a commitment to Biblical teaching, experience of growing children and families ministry, and the ability to prioritise discipleship.

Please be assured of my prayers as you discern whether you are the person the Holy Spirit is calling to join us in this next stage of mission and ministry in Sidcup. I'd be delighted to have a conversation with anyone who may be interested.



*Ven Allie Kerr, Archdeacon
of Bromley and Bexley*

Who we are

We aim to be a loving church with a Jesus-preaching, Bible-teaching heartbeat, growing in depth and numbers, where everyone plays their part in establishing new and revitalised faith in Jesus.

As an evangelical church, we emphasise expository Bible teaching and encourage personal Bible reading as the way we hear his voice and learn how to live out his new life. We pray together to draw upon the living presence of God the Holy Spirit. We believe that all people need to be rescued from their sin and to be transformed by the power of the Spirit.

We are a congregation of around 190 people. We are blessed to count in our number many from a wide variety of ethnic, cultural and church backgrounds. We are united in our love of Christ and his people.

We make much of our church family relationships because Jesus wants us to share his life together. We share Jesus' message to help others discover life with Him for themselves. We aim to make the church accessible for new people to join, including those who live with disabilities.





Who we are

As part of the profile writing process, the congregation were asked for their views, and the prevailing themes were a gratitude for the quality of preaching and individual welcome, and a real hunger for a deepening of faith which has an impact on our whole lives, beyond Sunday.

We regard safeguarding as an indispensable priority of pastoral care and the PCC is assisted by a very able and experienced safeguarding officer. We have a small team of people who provide pastoral care to the vulnerable members of the congregation, led by an experienced coordinator.

In April 2023, the PCC wrote in humility to Bishop Jonathan to express that all people are welcome at Christ Church Sidcup, and to reaffirm our conviction that, biblically, marriage is between one man and one woman.

Who we are

Opportunities and Challenges

We feel that we are in a threshold stage of our growth where the Lord could use a new incumbent to bring in a new phase of our church life. At our recent PCC away day, we considered:

- ▶ We have many people hungry for Jesus and we want to feed them.
- ▶ We are getting to a size where one person may not be able to pastor alone.
- ▶ We do not want any to drift between the cracks.
- ▶ We have many gifts, but we may not be using them to their fullest.
- ▶ We have a committed core of volunteers, but like many churches, responsibility falls disproportionately on a few shoulders.
- ▶ We have many activities but not all are integrated fully into the life of the church.

But above all, we want to be led by God and his priorities



Sunday Services

9am

Holy Communion (Common Worship)

9:30am

Bubble Church, a service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families. It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-food-fuelled, 30 minute kids and families adventure.

10.30am

Our main service of about 150 people (also livestreamed), with Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month and an interactive all age service on the 2nd Sunday. Children's groups meet in the second half of the service other than in the all age service. Music is either by music group or pre-recorded.

6pm

A contemporary but more intimate service, cafe style in the West-Wing with pre-recorded music.





Midweek activities

Home groups meet twice a month, led by members of the congregation. We hear the word of God and discuss, typically supported by material from the Good Book Company, we pray together and support one another pastorally.

There are prayer meetings on weekly and monthly cycles. Each Friday we have a shorter meeting where we pray for the Sunday Services. Our monthly prayer meeting is a longer time of praying thanks and for provision in the local and international Church.

There are a wide variety of activities to reach out including children's groups, a contact club for the active retired, Christmas & Easter choirs, and drama performances. Christianity Explored typically runs twice a year. In recent years, we have had successful church away days and holiday bible clubs.

Children and Youth



Children and youth is an area where we have seen some challenges, particularly in our numbers for our Sunday groups. However we continue to also see great provision from the Lord.

We have longstanding ministries including Boys Brigade (who join us for all age services), toddler and “bumps and babies” groups. The church also runs a play group for the benefit of the community.

In 2022 we appointed a full time Children’s Youth and Families Minister (“CYFM”). Since then, a Girls Brigade Group has started to join the Boys Brigade and Bubble Church has begun and already needs to consider the space it has for new families.

Our CYFM has recently been appointed to an international ministry role. However, he remains a valued member of the congregation and volunteer leader.

Staff team

The vicar, supported by the wardens, led a staff team of 3: children youth and families minister, church coordinator, and verger. There is a weekly staff meeting each Monday, including the paid staff, the wardens and often the safeguarding officer.



CHURCH WARDEN



CHURCH WARDEN



CHURCH COORDINATOR



VERGER

Leading and preaching is supplemented by members of the congregation, including one licensed reader.

Following the departure of the CYFM, there is the budget for appointment of a new staff member, as well as an ambition on the part of the PCC for a further full-time associate minister. We hope that if you are appointed you will set the strategic vision for those recruitment(s).

Our Local Community

Sidcup is a commuter settlement at the intersection of Greater London and Kent. With a population of 15,000, it is the principal town in South Bexley. It is in London travel zone 5, with frequent trains to London Bridge in under 30 minutes, and easy access to the Kent coast and countryside (or the M25 for links further afield).

Local facilities include enviable primary and secondary schools, a large hospital, and a cinema on the bustling high street.

Longlands is the parish of Christ Church and is the west side of Sidcup. The population of the parish is 5,310. It was formed with a new church building at the turn of the 20th Century. The emphasis on biblical teaching has been a distinctive of the parish from its inception.

We maintain strong links with neighbouring churches through Churches Together in Sidcup, joining together for events such as the Easter Walk of Witness, Lent lunches and the Civic Carol service. The Women of Faith's breakfast and evening services are often attended by friends from other churches.



Our Local Community



Opportunities and Challenges

In both Longlands and Sidcup as a whole, professionals aged over 30 make up the largest demographic in the 2021 census. This is younger than our congregation would reflect.

According to Bexley Borough Council, “Sidcup is known as the cultural capital of the borough, with two international performing arts and music colleges: Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performing Arts and Bird College Conservatoire of dance and musical theatre.” There are also a significant number of students who travel to other parts of London for studies. We have a burgeoning student-age ministry but would love to improve in this area.

Our Buildings

The Church

The church building is situated on the corner of Main Road and Christ Church road, very near to Sidcup high street. The church is in good repair and has been well maintained. It seats up to 300 people and seating is currently in pews. The fellowship rooms located as you enter the church are where we welcome people in and where we congregate after services for tea and coffee. It has a small kitchen.



The West Wing

In 2018, a new wing was completed and provides facilities for children's groups on a Sunday, midweek meetings and bookings for local groups and businesses.



Our Buildings

Church Hall

The church hall is situated a little way from the church in Woodside Crescent, conveniently next door to Longlands Primary School. This has enabled close links with the school including visits to the school by the ministry team and membership of the governing body (which has in recent times been carried out by the children youth and families minister). It is also convenient for parents with preschool children who attend weekday toddler groups after the school drop off.

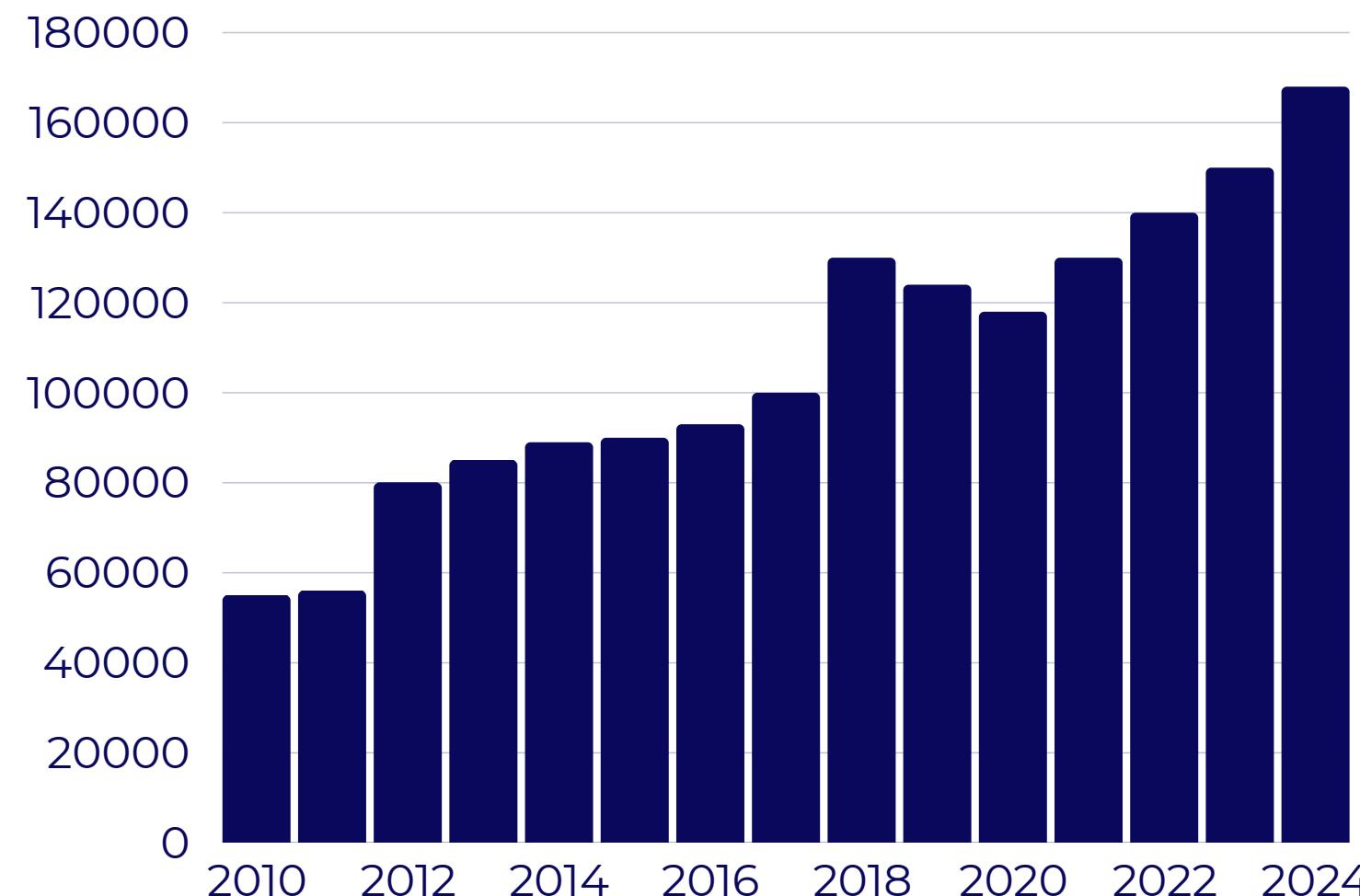
Vicarage

This is a large pleasant five-bedroom house, in good condition, with two reception rooms, kitchen, generous study, with shower room and toilet downstairs, and separate toilet and bathroom upstairs. The windows are double glazed, and heating is through a gas fired boiler. There is an integral garage. It is located on a corner of residential roads approximately 150 metres from the church, surrounded by large mature, sunny gardens.



Finances

Undesignated income



The accounts of the PCC have been remarkably resilient over the last 20 years, meeting revenue expenditures which have grown beyond inflation with increased staffing provision.

The chart below provides the scale of general undesignated giving during the last 14 years. General giving has remained strong and reassuringly robust to meet the higher operating costs. Unrestricted revenue reserves have held stable at c. £80,000 in the last three years.

Substantial additional funding for capital works has been raised predominantly through the congregation to fund the construction of the West Wing, the updating of Church facilities, for improved health and safety, DDA compliance and support and also modernising the services with the latest IT and audio-visual equipment. We have excellent facilities that are much appreciated by the whole congregation and provide for inclusive services.

Works to address our boiler to heat the church building were completed 3 years ago, funded by way of a loan to the Church. This has been the subject of regular giving and the loan will be paid off in full by November 2026.

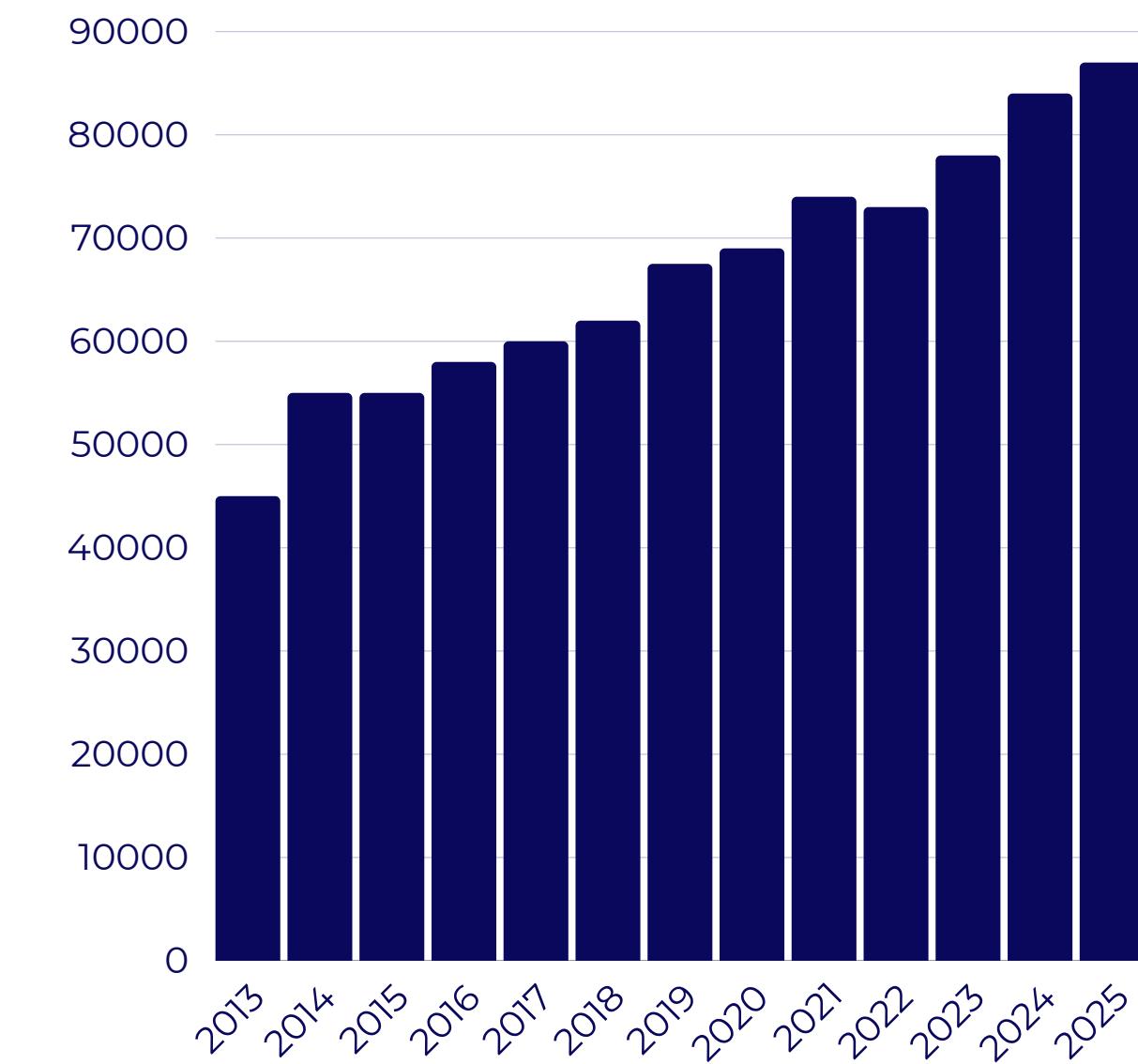
The most recent quinquennial inspection identified the need to replace the lower south roof and through fundraising and existing repair reserves we intend to complete these works in summer 2026.

Our parochial organisations (such as the playgroup) are financially stable and self-funding in all respects. Each maintains their own undesignated reserves sufficient for their needs, even against potential redundancy liabilities where relevant.

The Parish Share is the largest regular operating cost and is paid in full. From 2025 onwards, our parish share was offered through a designated fund for churches not conducting prayers in love and faith.

The Church Hall is used by many of the parochial organisations and is available for external letting in the evenings and Saturdays. The revenue generated through the external lettings covers the operating costs of the hall and provides a modest surplus to general reserves annually.

Total Parish Share costs



How to apply

If you believe God might be calling you to apply for the role of incumbent here and you would value an informal conversation, please contact either Allie Kerr or Andy Wooding Jones (the CPAS Patronage Representative) by emailing:

Allie Kerr

Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley
archdeacon.bromley@rochester.anglican.org

Andy Wooding Jones

CPAS Patronage Development Officer
awoodingjones@cpas.org.uk

Full details about the benefice and how to apply can be found on the vacancy pages of the Diocesan (www.rochester.anglican.org) or CPAS (www.cpas.org.uk) websites.

**We look forward to hearing how you might play your unique part
in building the Kingdom of Christ in this parish.**



**Thank you for
taking the time
to read our Parish
Profile.**



Visit
our
website

Appendix 1: Mission Partners

The Congregation supports enthusiastically our Mission partners. We have 6 formal mission days annually plus our annual Carol Service collection. Mission giving has regularly been c. £12,000 per annum in recent years.



Crosslinks

Portia Konadu Yiadom
Accra, Ghana

Portia is based in Accra as the women's worker for Relite Africa Ministries – a Ghanaian-led training scheme that was started in 2009 by Rev Yaw Boamah. Relite teaches university students at one of Ghana's top universities to 'correctly handle the word of truth' (2 Timothy 2:15).



Frontiers

Our focus is on sending teams to live out and share the love of Jesus in Muslim communities where no one has previously made Him known. A member of the congregation serves abroad with this organisation.



CRIBS Christian resources in Bexley schools

They are best known for their puppet shows at Easter & Christmas in local schools, as well as RE lessons within the secondary schools, and after school activities in primary schools.



Lark in the Park

LITP runs in the summer holidays to bring the name of Jesus to those living in Sidcup and the surrounding areas. It is run by many from the local churches in Sidcup, including Christ Church.



Bible Society

Translating the Bible and making it accessible in people's heart languages. Bringing it into public spaces where its voice can be heard and encouraging people who've never thought the Bible was for them to explore it for themselves.



Home for Good and Safe Families

Aiming to equip the Church and create a network to support families and place vulnerable children in homes where they can flourish. Inspiring individuals to explore fostering, adoption and supported lodgings.

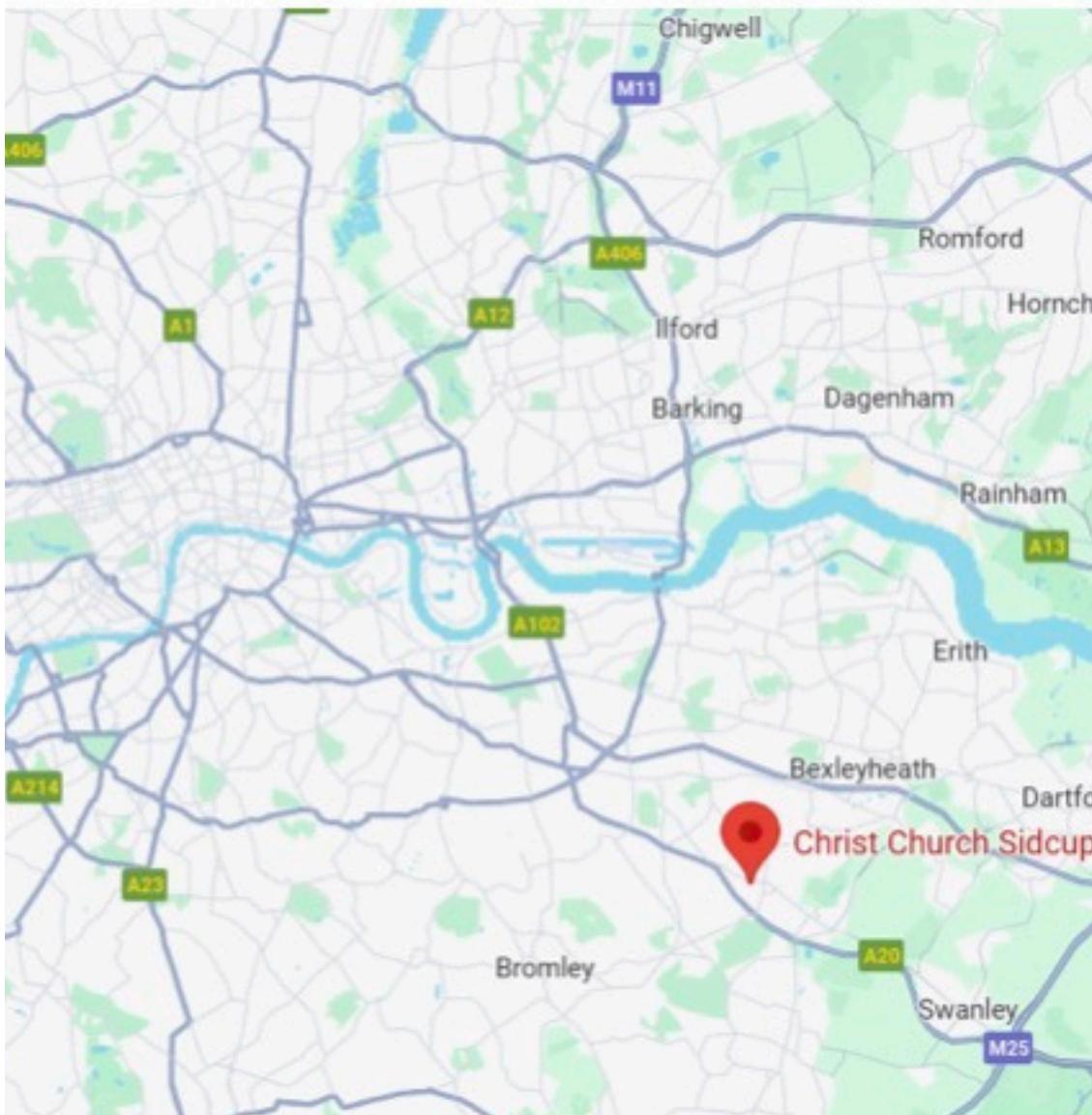


CPAS

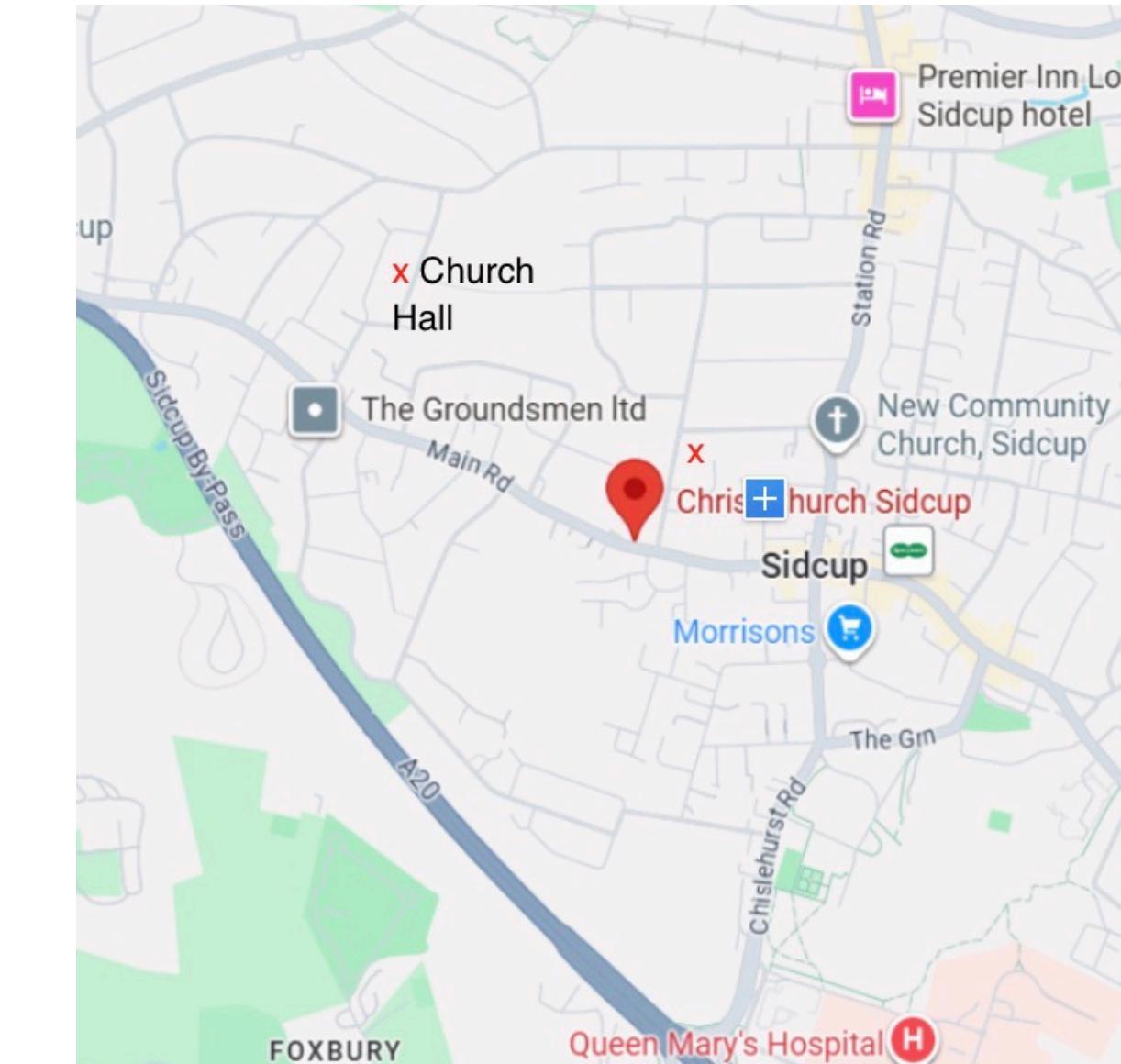
Our patrons whom we also support financially. The gifts are divided equally between the head office and Falcon Holidays for disadvantaged youngsters. We have particular links with the Carrotty Wood holiday near Sevenoaks.



Appendix 2: Maps

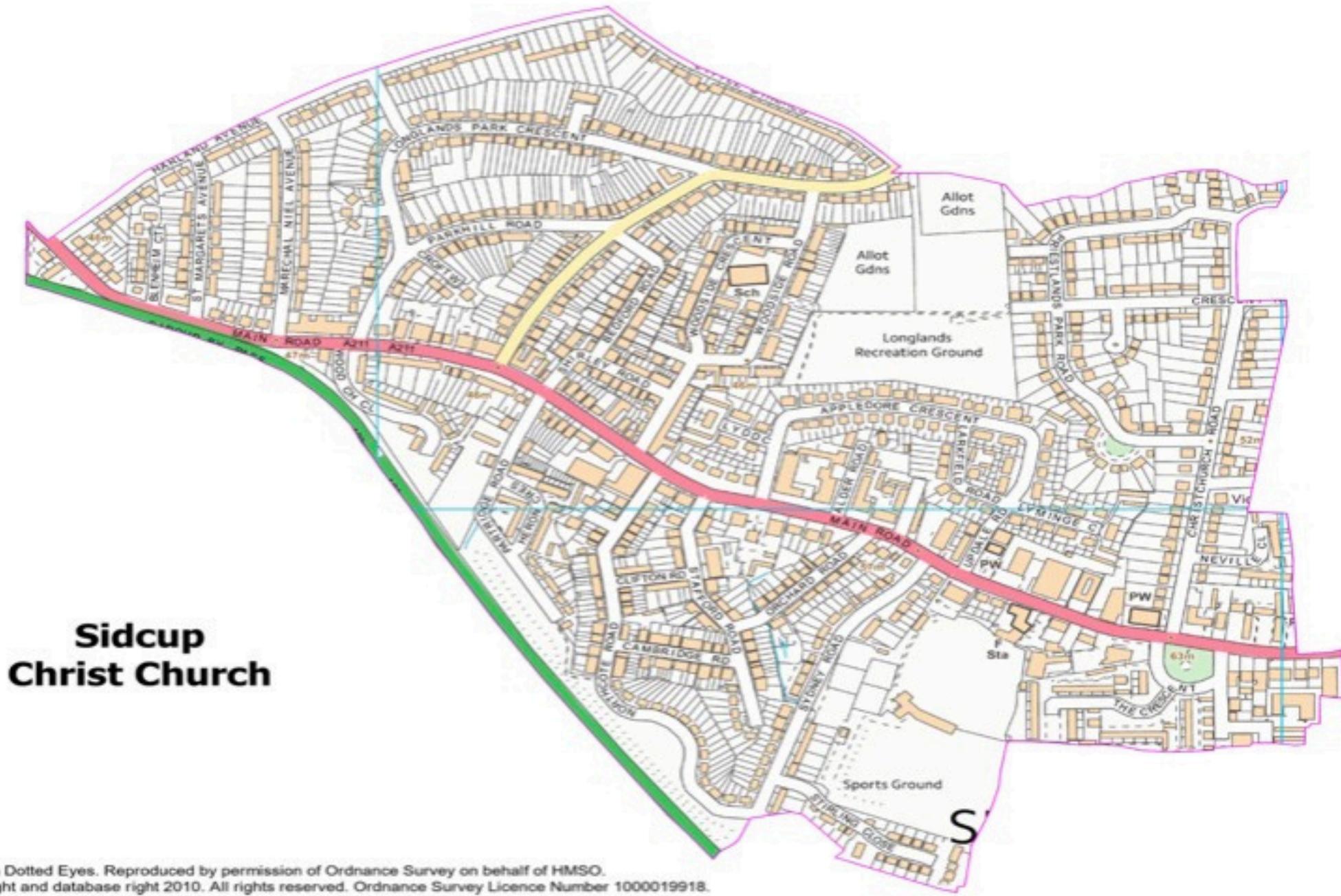


Sidcup within Greater London



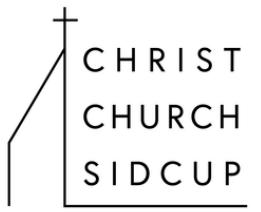
**Christ Church and its facilities
within Sidcup. The parish is the
western half of Sidcup town**

Maps



Parish boundaries

Appendix 3: Typical weekday activities



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
In the church building	AM Team Meeting (weekly)	Contact Club (2 nd) Bexley Tinnitus Society (2 nd)	Pastoral Drop-in (1 st) Bumps & Babies (weekly)	Craft Group (1 st) Homegroup (1 st & 3 rd)	Homegroup (1 st & 3 rd)	Women's Breakfast (2 nd)	9am for Holy Communion and Bubble Church 10:30 for our main service
	EVE Girls' Brigade (weekly, term time)	Christianity Explored (as scheduled)	Monthly Prayer Meeting (2 nd)		Prayer Meeting (weekly)		6pm evening service

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
In the church hall	AM Playgroup (term time)	Tiny Tots (term time)	Playgroup (term time)	Parents & Toddlers (term time)	Playgroup (term time)
	EVE				Boys' Brigade (weekly, term time)



OUR VISION

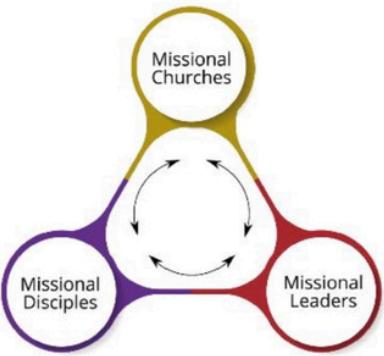
As a family of faith across the areas of Medway, north and west Kent, and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley we understand that we are:

Seeking first the Kingdom of God, and are called together by God to change, serve and grow with compassion, courage, and creativity.

OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

Within this vision, our key objectives are to grow **missional churches**, with **missional leaders** and **missional disciples**, that are:

- Growing a safe and healthy culture for all
- Growing younger and more diverse
- Growing spiritually and numerically
- Impacting their communities
- Releasing financial resources for mission
- Planting and growing new missional churches



MAKING IT HAPPEN

Four workstreams help focus our work to **grow God's Kingdom** and ensure a **flourishing and well-resourced parish structure**.

All are seen through the lens of **growing safe and healthy cultures**, because if we are truly seeking God's Kingdom, then we must reflect its values of righteousness, peace, wholeness, and fullness of life for all.



BE PART OF IT

The vision stands on the shoulders of a generation of previous post-war pilgrims of the Diocese of Rochester who, also at a great moment of societal change, upheaval and challenge, had a steadfast belief that through their combined endeavour, generosity, and faith, they could grow the Church and God's kingdom.

This is what we are being called to - let's make it happen!

Dear God,

Fill us with courage and vision to carry your light into new places, meeting people where they are, and sharing the life-changing truth of your gospel.

Bless these communities with strong and Spirit-filled leaders, faithful disciples, and hearts ablaze with love for you.

May our churches and communities become vibrant and healthy expressions of your Kingdom—places where your Word is proclaimed, lives are transformed, and communities are renewed.

Guide us, Lord, and remind us always that you are with us, empowering our every step, even to the end of the world.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

Appendix 4: Diocese of Rochester Vision