

# Highams Park Baptist Church Profile 2022





# About us



We are a friendly family church. We love to welcome new people whilst giving them space.

We are a diverse church, ethnically and in ages. We are thoughtful and caring to each other and the community around us, and seek to develop this further.

We accept one another, journeying together as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We love eating and socialising together, enjoying lunches, picnics and BBQs, social evenings, afternoon teas and craft days.



We enjoy being part of this small, happy family and look forward to welcoming a new minister who wants to come and lead us in the next stage of our life together.

We currently have 40 members and around 90 extended family and friends that we keep in contact with. Normally about 30 people join us for Sunday worship. We have a small number of children and young people who have their own group twice a month as part of the morning service.



## Our church text for 2022

## Cast all your anxiety on God because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5 v7



# Looking Forward



Our vision for our church is to celebrate God's love, to make it known, and real, in the lives of our worshipping community and throughout Highams Park.

We want to be more focussed on outreach to share God's love with the homes around us.

We want to renew, challenge and excite people with effective Bible-based preaching, teaching and worship, which is relevant to the challenges of living in the world today.

We want to grow and develop our prayer life, increase our hunger for God, and explore additional ways of worshipping God in our Sunday services.



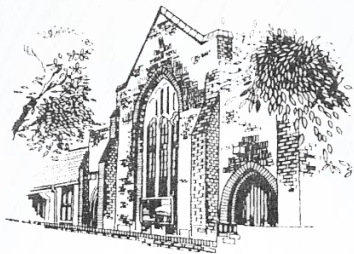
## What does our new minister look like?

Someone who:

- has a life and ministry that is rooted in prayer
- has a heart for mission and will reach out in sensitive and relevant ways to people who have little understanding about Jesus and encourage us to do the same
- cares, makes time to listen, takes time to visit and comes alongside us in the challenges of daily life
- preaches God's word faithfully, with words that are clear and easy to understand. Able to use modern technology to make teaching accessible to all, and encourage us for the week ahead
- will engage with online groups and home groups, meet people who hire our buildings, and forge links with our local schools
  - will pray with us, disciple and nurture us in our faith journey, encourage us to use our God-given gifts for his work and will prayerfully help us move forward into the next phase of life as a church together



# What goes on?



Our Sunday morning service includes a mix of hymns and songs, preaching, prayer, and worship. Some Sundays we have musicians and singers, and other Sundays we sing to backing CDs.



Currently our services are being led by church members and external speakers. We meet at 10am and the service is followed by refreshments and a time of fellowship. Currently we celebrate communion once a month and the children's group meets twice a month during the second half of the service.

On Tuesday evenings an online home group meets together from 7:30 - 9:00pm. We are keen to explore more activities again.

Each year we organise a group from the Church with friends and family, to attend Spring Harvest at Skegness or Minehead. We have attended Spring Harvest as a church since it first started in 1979.



At other times of the year we have bring and share lunches, craft days, social evenings, breakfasts and rambles and of course special services for Easter, Harvest and Christmas including a nativity, carols by candlelight, midnight communion and a Christmas morning service.

We have a church council consisting of the minister (vacant), treasurer, secretary (vacant) and five deacons, who are responsible for overseeing the church. The treasurer and secretary are elected annually and deacons are elected for three years and can serve two concurrent terms.



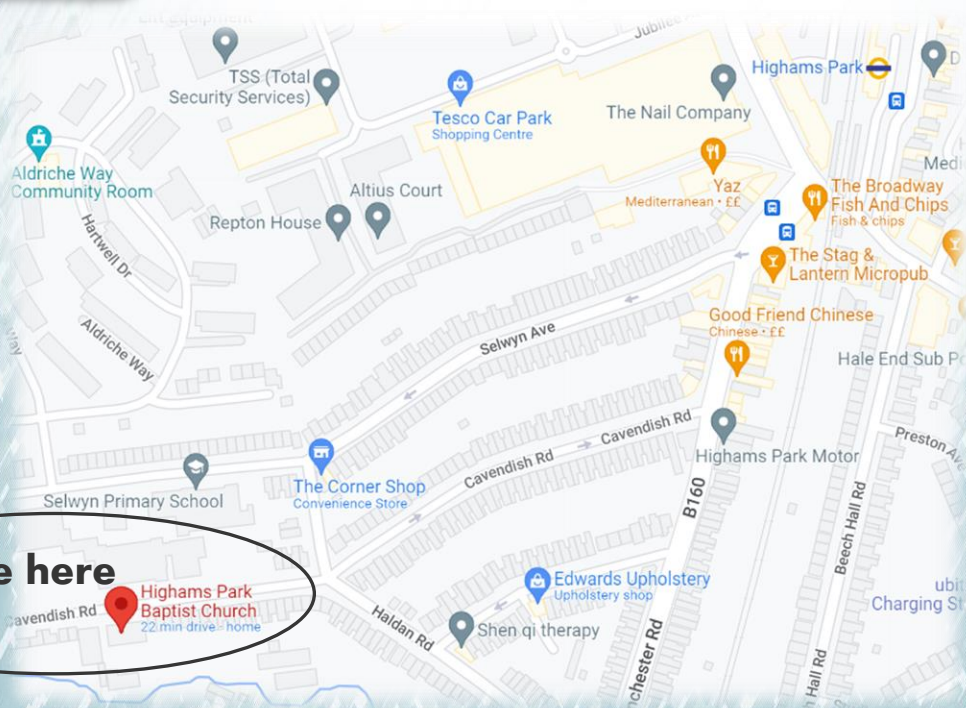
# Our Buildings



Highams Park Baptist Church was founded in 1913. We have a spacious sanctuary that seats c.100 people. Our modern facilities include a well-equipped kitchen and kitchenette, toilets, a vestry, a prayer room /office, two lounges, a courtyard garden and two large halls that are used by some 300 people from the community each week.



The groups that use our buildings include keep fit groups, a pre-school, and the 17<sup>th</sup> Pals' Battalion Band (which sprang from our former Boys Brigade Company), a dance academy, a film club and a drama group.



**We are here**

The church owns a manse located approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the church (15 minute walk). It is a spacious, attractively decorated, 1930s, semi-detached house which has four bedrooms, a new kitchen and bathroom, double glazing, gas central heating, off-street parking and a good sized manageable garden.





# Local Area



Highams Park is a lovely place to live and work. It has lots of green space and is close to Epping Forest and High Beech. The area is mainly residential with a mixture of Victorian and terraced housing alongside newer flats, both private and council owned, housing approximately 11,000 culturally diverse people.

We have a small central shopping area which includes a Tesco store, independent small shops and restaurants, a library, a post office and medical centre, a large secondary school (Highams Park School) and two primary schools. Selwyn Primary School is immediately opposite our church building.



There is a large park and lake about 15 minutes walk from the church called "The Highams Park" from which the area gets its name. There is also a small wood, allotments and a variety of sports and fitness options.



Situated in the north of the London Borough of Waltham Forest, nestled between Epping Forest, Chingford and Woodford Green it has its own railway station with Walthamstow Central (on the Victoria Line) two stops away and Liverpool Street a 23 minute ride.

The city is a 30 minute commute away, with all the entertainment, shopping and culture offered there. Three bus routes come through Highams Park giving access throughout Waltham Forest and beyond, or venture away from London with Stanstead Airport a 35 minute drive away and the coast a 55 minute drive.

Whether you like walking, swimming, fishing, watching football (Leyton Orient), drinking coffee or a tipple at your local pub, getting a bargain at Walthamstow market or our own monthly farmers market there is plenty to see and do locally. The Highams Park Society, Highams Park Planning Group, Highams Park Forum (business group) and The Friends of the Highams Park are all quite active organising local events which adds a vibrancy to the area.



# Survey



Some thoughts from our congregation

Why do you like coming here?

**It's nice and friendly**

**God's presence is here**

**It's part of my family**

**Fellowship with the  
congregation**

**It's very welcoming**

What do we do well?

**Caring for the church family**

**Everything is well organised**

**We make people feel welcome**

**Hiring out our halls**

**Different people leading the  
services**

**Working with our children**

What do we need to work on?

**Attracting more people**

**More things for the young  
people to do**

**Weekly prayer meetings**

**Reaching out more**

**Pastoral care to those who  
can't come to church**

What would you like to see in a  
new minister?

**Good sense of humour**

**Approachable and friendly**

**Preaches the Word so we can  
understand it**

**Brings new ideas**

**Strong, faithful leader**

# Links



We like to keep in regular touch with our members, wider church family, friends and the local community. We produce a weekly news bulletin, a bi-monthly magazine and have a church website. The magazine is sent to friends and past members of the church, and those who are unable to attend for health or other reasons.

Our Sunday services are recorded and are made available on the website. We have cluster groups to keep in touch with our church family and also send prayer requests by text and e.mail to people in the church as and when need arises.

We are currently talking with other ministers in Highams Park to re-establish Churches Together. One church runs a food bank to which we contribute and some members help with Christian Kitchen. Some of our members are also involved in Care Highams Park, which is led by Winchester Road Methodist Church.

We are members of London Baptists and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. We also support the work of BMS World Mission and Baptist Home Mission.

If you want any more information about us you can look at our website at [www.hpbc.co.uk](http://www.hpbc.co.uk) which we are in the process of updating.

## The ministerial package

Our offer follows the BU recommended guidelines and terms of appointment. We encourage and support CMD.

- We are offering £24,750 stipend per year (increasing annually according to guidelines) and pension contributions.
- The manse will be your home, which we will maintain as and when required.
- We will pay council tax, water rates, a share of the fuel bills and provide a mobile phone and internet connection.
- We will pay for your work related expenses.

We would expect that you maintain a good work life balance