

## **Trinity Congregational Church, Brixton**

### **The Church**

Trinity Congregational Church, Brixton, is a fellowship of gathered Christians from diverse backgrounds who confess faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. The chapel, a grade two listed building, has stood here since 1828. This is a much-loved place which has been a spiritual home to many people over the generations.

As a Congregational church we believe in the priesthood of all believers and are an autonomous body (independent of outside control from synod, bishop or other ecclesiastical authority). We come here to meet God and to meet with one another. The life of the church revolves around the Sunday worship which takes a variety of forms but is usually informal and accepting of all; our minister preaches about four times each month and other services are led by members or by visiting friends, lay and ministerial. Services, of which there are two each Sunday, range from the structured to the very informal. Each service is followed by fellowship in the church hall over tea and coffee. Most members of the congregation stay for this and the conversation is wide ranging. Monthly church meetings, currently on Zoom on a Friday evening, are held, where matters of importance to the life of the church are discussed and decisions made by consensus. From time to time there are study groups or talks.

What happens here, we hope and pray, is guided by the Holy Spirit. It is also true that the fellowship at any particular time is defined by the unique and willing contribution of each member. We value our openness and welcoming character and that we provide a place where people may find God, explore the deeper questions of life and make lasting friendships. We welcome initiatives from our members and are happy for our buildings to be used in diverse ways – for music, arts, culture, education and so on. The Alcoholics Anonymous meet here on Wednesday lunchtimes.

### **The Minister**

The church is seeking a part-time minister to follow our current minister, who is due to retire. Our congregation meets for worship at 10.30am each Sunday and also at 4.00pm, except for the first Sunday in the month when there is a service on Zoom at 9.15am instead. At the moment the minister shares the leading of worship with church members and friends of the church. During the services members of the congregation are free to contribute. The congregation consists of some who have been Congregationalists for a long time, others who

have joined us from different church backgrounds (including Roman Catholic) and have found a home here and some who are new to Christian worship. It is important that our minister accepts people from all such backgrounds and can encourage and inspire them.

A good knowledge of the Bible and its background is essential. Any minister will be expected to have completed some theological studies. The church would be happy for a new minister to be continuing his/her academic studies. The minister should have an understanding of Congregational history and principles.

The minister should be prepared to work in a team with the deacons and other church members who will do their best to give support.

The minister normally chairs church meetings and is willing to lead study groups, when needed.

The minister will be expected to visit church members and to have a pastoral concern for those who attend worship. In recent years relations with members of the local community have become stronger and an ability to build on these will be useful.

The church produces a valued newsletter, regularly once a month, which begins with a reflective letter from the minister. Through the newsletter we keep in touch with friends and former members around the country and in many different parts of the world. This is an important part of our ministry. There are also friends far and wide who join us for our monthly Zoom service.

The church is currently working to become more ecologically friendly and the minister would be expected to have sympathy for this aspect of our work, although not to lead it. Brixton has good public transport and members try to use this whenever possible.

At the moment we are keen to improve the church's music and our use of technology. However, an ability in these areas is not essential for the minister.

The church has a three bedroomed manse in easy walking distance of the chapel.

A salary will be paid in line with the recommendations of the Congregational Federation.

We would be pleased to meet any enquirers in person or on Zoom to discuss the church. Anyone who is interested in the position will be invited to visit the church to meet deacons and members. Following this they will be expected to lead at least two services.

### **Brixton**

Brixton is a multi-ethnic area of south London, part of the borough of Lambeth. It has excellent transport connections with buses and both overground and underground trains. It experienced a rapid rise in population during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and Trinity Chapel's foundation stone was laid in 1828.

The area is known for its markets, restaurants, music venues, Ritzy cinema and lively nightlife. Lambeth Archive and the Black Cultural Archive are now situated in Brixton. The University of London's colleges are within easy reach.

Over about the last twenty-five years there has been a noticeable process of regeneration and 'gentrification'.