

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, COLLIER ROW, ROMFORD

PARISH PROFILE
SEPTEMBER 2024



We are a people who follow Jesus to partner with our community, so that tomorrow can be different for us all.

SECTION ONE

A WORD FROM THE PCC



Thank you for taking the time to discern whether God may be calling you to become our next Vicar. We are delighted to present our parish profile and hope it will provide you with sufficient information about us. We are a charismatic, evangelical church aligned with the values of the New Wine movement. Our model of mission and ministry seeks to empower everyone to discover their giftings and talents and deploy them for the common good. Thus, we aspire to build a church where every member is a true believer, every believer a true disciple and every disciple a true witness in the power of the Holy Spirit. Whilst in vacancy, we are seeing new faces come through our doors and God has raised several new people from among us who participate in leading various aspects of our worship services and mid-week programmes.

We have been blessed to have had incumbents who have helped us at various seasons in discovering where God is leading and joining in. Most recently, we developed and operationalised five community

transformation goals, which you will read about in Section 3 of this profile. These have provided us with fantastic opportunities to deliver the gospel in very practical and tangible ways. Our church is often described as pioneering, and we have founded and transitioned several ministry initiatives including the St Cedd Centre for Pioneer Mission. We are keen to discern what God has in mind for the next chapter in this element of our mission activity.

There remain some challenges within the parish, in particular around youth ministry, volunteering and the development of our small-group network, but in partnership with you we know that we can meet these head on and, guided by the Holy Spirit, unlock the full evangelistic potential of CoGS.

With pioneering in our DNA and the number of people God is raising among us, we believe that we are standing at the edge of something new and look forward with excitement, to discovering God's plan for the next season of our church life.



PCC members from left to right: Bolu Oluyannwo, Jason Frost, Julie Frost, Tim Nudds, Rev Keith Turner, Ruth Turner, Joyce Perry, Ruth Buckley, Lesley Judd, Terry Hollick, Yvonne Johnson, Evans Ofoajoku and Edith Brown.

SECTION TWO

THE BROADER CONTEXT



THE DIOCESE:

The Diocese of Chelmsford, 'the Church of England in East London and Essex,' is led by the Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt Revd. Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, assisted by three Area Bishops (Barking, Bradwell and Colchester), six Archdeacons (Barking, Chelmsford, Colchester, Southend, Stansted and West Ham) and the Dean of Chelmsford (who leads and directs the life and work of Chelmsford Cathedral).

The Diocese is a Church region of more than 1,500 square miles that stretches from the East coast to the Thames and ranges from countryside to towns and suburbs. It comprises the East London boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest, the county of Essex, and the unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock. With a population estimated to be 3,211,000 Chelmsford is the second largest diocese in England.

The average weekly church attendance of adults, young people and children is 36,600 in the Diocese. The Diocese comprises 463 parishes, 588 church buildings, 305 clergy posts and 130 Lay Ministers and Readers.

Nearly 30,000 children and young people attend 139 church schools.

The overarching strategic vision and approach to mission for the Diocese is outlined in *Travelling Well Together* (www.chelmsford.anglican.org/about-us/travelling-well-together). A document which seeks to articulate the shared values which help to shape how all churches in the Diocese can travel together, support each other, and provide mutual accountability.



THE DEANERY:

Havering Deanery is broadly coterminous with the London Borough of Havering. Covering 43 square miles, Havering has a lower population density than other London Boroughs, as large areas are parkland and 23 square miles (more than half the Borough) is Metropolitan Green Belt protected land. Havering comprises several former Essex towns and villages, which over the years have grown and, in some cases, merged, particularly during the housing expansion of the 1930s. Havering was transferred from Essex in 1965 to become a London Borough. The name originates from the Royal Liberty of Havering which covered broadly, but not exactly, the same area, and had been abolished in 1892.

As of the latest census, the population of the Borough stands at 262,100. The median age of the population is 39 years of age, which is higher than the London average, but slightly lower than that of England. Levels of employment are relatively high, as are levels of home ownership. The Borough is one of the least ethnically diverse within the Greater London area, but with evidence that this composition is now shifting with a growth in the numbers of people from an Asian, African-Caribbean, and mixed ethnic backgrounds. Christianity remains the majority religious affiliation (52.2%), with those identifying as having no religion being the second largest group (30%). Islam represents the next largest religious grouping at 6.2%, which has risen significantly in the last decade.

The Deanery of Havering comprises 22 benefices, with 27 church buildings. There are 38 clergy (with full time and part time stipends, house for duty, self-supporting and title posts), plus a host of Licensed Lay Ministers, Readers, Authorised Lay Ministers, Youth, Children and Family Workers, and Administrators. The combined parish share for the Deanery is assessed at over £1.39m, and the combined church Electoral Roll is around 3,500.

SECTION TWO

THE BROADER CONTEXT



COLLIER ROW:



Collier Row is a thriving suburban neighbourhood known for its strong community spirit and diverse amenities. Established primarily during the interwar period, it has grown into a well-rounded residential area that retains much of its original charm while offering modern conveniences.

Parks and open spaces are plentiful in and around Collier Row, with Lawns Park, King George V Playing Fields, Havering Country Park, and Bedford's Park offering scenic spots for recreation and relaxation. These parks provide residents with opportunities for walking, wheeling, various sports, picnicking, and enjoying nature, contributing to the area's appeal as a family-friendly locale.

Collier Row is well-connected by public transport, with several bus routes linking it to Romford. From Romford, residents can easily access central London via train, making Collier Row a convenient choice for commuters.

Education is well catered for, with a range of primary (Parklands, Crownfields, Clockhouse, Oasis Academy Pinewoods and St. Patrick's (RC)) and secondary schools (Bower Park and Marshalls Park) serving the area. We also have Immanuel School which is a private "All Through" school. Just down the road in Romford we have our two Church of England schools, St Edward's C of E VA Primary and St Edward's Secondary Academy.

These schools are complemented by various recreational facilities, including sports clubs and community centres, which support an active and engaged community life.

THE PARISH:

The parish itself takes in the south western part of the wider Collier Row area, which is overwhelmingly residential in nature, with various small retail parades scattered across the area. The population is approximately 15,000.

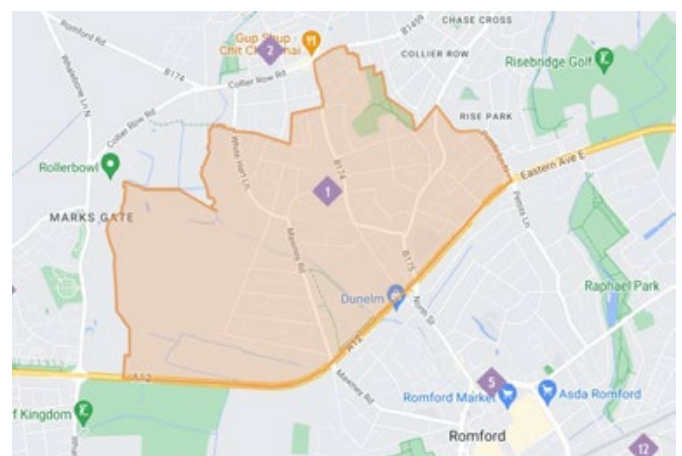
Demographically, the dominant ethnic group is white-British (74%) but with a significant cohort of residents hailing from South Asia (12.2%) and a smaller number of those of a Black-African background (7.55%). The medium age is around 39. Over 60% of the population is classed as economically active.

The profile of the housing stock is primarily semi-detached or terraced two-to-three-bedroom family homes, but with some medium-to-high rise flatted developments. The most significant of which is located just across the road from the church in Prospect Place, a development containing 72 flats across six blocks (ranging from three to four stories in height). The tenure type is majority owned or privately rented.

Located within the boundaries of the parish are two other places of worship: the Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church and the Catholic Apostolic Church (a primarily African-heritage church).

The parish spans two local government wards, encompassing the entirety of Mawneys (named after the Mawneys Estate, which is located within the parish) and a portion of Marshalls & Rise Park.

MAP OF THE PARISH:



Source: www.achurchnearyou.com

SECTION THREE ABOUT THE CHURCH



(A) THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD – A WORSHIPPING PEOPLE

“CoGS is filled with the power of the Spirit and the Truth of the Gospel”

Our church might be described as a Charismatic, Evangelical church that shares the same values as the New Wine movement. The Bible (in its entirety) is our ultimate authority being the inspired Word of God and we seek the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit in all we do. So, like a train moving forward on two rails, we seek to move forward by Word and Spirit together.

Following conversations around the Prayers of love and faith proposals, our former Incumbent and current Associate Minister indicated to the PCC that they would not be officiating at any such standalone services and would not, if approved, use any recommended prayers to bless same sex marriage. The PCC unanimously endorsed their decision and also took a decision that such services would not be allowed to be held in the church building.

“It is a place of bountiful hospitality”



Everything we do is based upon the foundation of Scripture, the expression of which is evident in the following:

STRATEGY:

Our ultimate goal is to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ in obedience to The Great Commission. In doing this, we recognise that people are at various stages of their faith journey, and some may not even have started the journey. We draw inspiration from the wisdom expressed by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:22b – “...I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.” We developed our five Community Transformation Goals (more on this under CoGS Transformation Goals) as a vehicle to effectively minister to people in a relational way.

So, beginning in “Jerusalem”, we equip our people to be confident witnesses to the saving grace of Jesus Christ through structured and themed Bible teaching. This enables us to become ambassadors of Christ where we live, work and play. We support the families in our community through programmes like Starlight Toddlers, where parents and their children can experience the love of God together. Our bespoke ministry to elders (Care & Share) offers weekly fellowship to people who would otherwise be lonely in their homes. In fact, some of them describe it as their church!

In situations where we cannot be directly involved, we prayerfully consider financial giving through our Mission Action Group (MAG) as you will read about later. We are not far from taking the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth, having sponsored missionaries to Senegal and Cambodia. We can look back and with a deep sense of gratitude, say Ebenezer – “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”

DISCIPLESHIP:

Our desire is to see everyone come to the Cross of Jesus in repentance and faith, to be born again of the Holy Spirit and then empowered by him as they discover his will for their lives. In this regard Alpha has proved for us to be an effective introduction to the Christian faith. It is supplemented by our “Seekers Group” which serves as a “pre and post” Alpha group for those who are enquiring about the Christian life, or who have yet to come into mainstream church life. In addition, church members meet in “Cornerstone Groups” in their homes for mutual support and growth through Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

“It is a place where the Holy Spirit moves in us and over us”

SECTION THREE ABOUT THE CHURCH



At our 10.00am Sunday service we dedicate quality time to preaching / teaching and the same text is used for both adults and young people. The content for our kids' church (CoGS Kids) is adapted for their various age groups. The idea behind this is to ensure that we move together as a worshipping community and strive towards the realisation where every member is a true believer, every believer a true disciple and every disciple a true witness to the power of the Holy Spirit.

WHOLENESS:

“Healing, counsel and fellowship are open to all who are searching for it”

We believe that Jesus came primarily to restore our broken relationship with God. He commences a work of restoration in our individual spirit, soul, and body, restoring relationships and making us whole. This reverses the work of Satan in people's lives and demonstrates the coming Kingdom. To this end we have developed a trained Prayer Ministry Team which offers prayer for healing etc. at the end of services and at other times.

WORSHIP:

“I love the freedom we have in worship”

Everyone who comes to our services is greeted on arrival by a member of our team of stewards. Then a typical Sunday morning service begins with a warm welcome and introduction followed by confession, absolution and a declaration of faith using a suitable creed. We are blessed with a large band of musicians and singers from whom a team is selected by our Worship Director to lead that morning's sung worship which consists of mostly contemporary worship songs.



During the singing, children are encouraged to gather at the front of the church to express themselves in dance and by waving flags as they choose. Sometimes the opening worship leads into a short time of spontaneous praise as the Holy Spirit leads us. The young children then leave us to go into the hall for their own activities. For very young children crèche facilities are available and there is a sensory room.

After any notices we have prayers of intercession followed by a Bible reading both of which are undertaken by members of the church who are on a rota. We are also blessed with a growing team of preachers and after that morning's sermon we continue in worship during which we welcome prophetic words from members of the congregation which are first shared with whoever is leading the service for consideration.

At the end of the service our prayer ministry team is available to pray in pairs for anyone who has any particular need. Refreshments are also served at the back of the church to everyone present who can then enjoy fellowship with each other and get to know people.

Approximately every four weeks we celebrate Holy Communion within these services and again, some Sundays we make time to pray in small groups. Every service is live streamed and available to view on YouTube having been filmed in a sensitive way.

In summary our services are characterised by informality, some use of liturgy, contemporary music, Biblical teaching and openness to the ministry of the Holy Spirit through the revelatory gifts and we believe that together we form a friendly, serving, family of God's people.

“We are gifted with a great worship team”

SECTION THREE ABOUT THE CHURCH



We are seeing changing demographics at our Sunday services, which is reflective of the changing nature of Collier Row and surrounding towns. Attendance on a regular Sunday morning ranges between 100 and 150.

YOUNG PEOPLE:

We believe young people are not so much the church of tomorrow as the church of today. We value their participation in the life of the church knowing that God promised to pour out His Spirit on all flesh including the very young. Our young people's ministry is in two main parts, covering crèche to Year 10 groups and then Year 11 to sixth form. We have a Children & Families paid worker serving our children. We are currently carrying a vacancy for a Youth Worker and would like our new incumbent to be part of the discernment process for finding a replacement.



Our Young People's ministry is not confined to our church family but very much a ministry to our community, including nearby schools.

WOMEN'S & MEN'S MINISTRY:

Our women's ministry "Refresh" was formed about 8 years ago out of a desire for the women of the church to have fellowship, be built up and minister to each other. They meet about 3 times a year with various activities including Saturday breakfast with an inspirational speaker, Friday night

social gatherings and have also had an overnight conference. Sometimes these are also opened up to non-Christian friends and women in the local community.

The men have also had a few gatherings including breakfast and meeting for a meal but kind of lag behind the women!

PIONEERING:

Here at CoGS the concept of being a 'pioneering church' is deeply embedded in our DNA. We are a place that actively encourages and supports 'fresh expressions' both within the church itself and outward in our community. Being a place which nurtures and develops this dynamic area of mission is one that has been recognised at Diocesan level.

It was this acknowledgement of CoGS's strength in this distinct field of evangelism which led to the church being host to the St. Cedd Centre for Pioneer Mission.

Inaugurated on All Saints' Day in 2015, this pioneering hub was established in partnership with the Diocese of Chelmsford and saw two cohorts of lay pioneers go through its formation, with 26 individuals authorised by the Bishop. It provided an environment for the identification, training, and support of lay pioneer missionaries, who were authorised to minister in their communities. Lay pioneers learnt as "apprentices" through reflective practice on actual pioneering initiatives based on their passions. The Church Mission Society provided teaching on mission spirituality, church in mission and context. This was then applied to the various initiatives through learning sets with a pioneer mentor.

St Cedd's has now moved into a new phase with its move to become part of the London Hub and Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication in East London where it continues in the work of training lay pioneers, continuing the work begun at CoGS.

Building on this significant legacy, CoGS is now keen to explore new challenges and opportunities in pioneering and we are looking forward to working with the new incumbent to discern exactly what the future holds for us in this regard.

SECTION THREE ABOUT THE CHURCH



MISSION:

Our desire to see the Kingdom of God grow has also led to our participation in mission at home and abroad and the formation of our Mission Action Group (MAG). This group exists to promote and support mission and distribute at least 10% of the church's income. Recipients include international, national, and local charities, local projects, and outreach activities.



From January 2021 – December 2023, we gave away in excess of £54,000. Our proposed giving for 2024 to 2026 amounts to £36,000 and some of the beneficiaries are mentioned below. Any remaining MAG budget will be donated as “one-off” gifts. We will also have special offerings if there is a specific need nationally or internationally such as the Ukraine crisis.

Middle East Media - A Christian organisation producing media and empowering other content creators to move the people of the Middle East towards life transforming faith in Jesus Christ.

Christian Concern for our Nation - Passionate about bringing the love, justice, truth, freedom and hope of Jesus Christ to the heart of society, they communicate God's truth in public debate, especially in the media, politics, and law.

CARE - Bringing a uniquely Christian insight into policies and laws that affect our lives, believing in a better story for our society and culture.

Congo Children's Trust (Kimbilio) - Working to rescue street children in Lumbashi in Congo, to feed, clothe and house often very young children who are thrown out onto the streets because families cannot afford to feed them or because they are just not wanted.

Christian Hope International - Working alongside the Anglican Church in Rwanda & Burundi, helping to provide healthcare, education, and food to those in need.

Hastings Sierra Leone Link - Town Twinning, Hastings UK & Hastings Sierra Leone. Expressing the Love of God by helping provide healthcare, education & meeting of other social needs.

Haverling Street Pastors - Local Charity providing safe support & encouragement to those in need within the Night Time Economy.

Haven House Children's Hospice - Local Charity providing respite and support to children with Life Limiting Illnesses and their families.

PRAYER:

“There are so many opportunities to pray and be prayed for”

We recognise the importance of prayer as the foundation of all we do. For example, those involved in taking services gather for prayer each Sunday before the service and there is prayer ministry available to anyone who asks for it at the end of the services by our Prayer Ministry Team. There is more opportunity for personal prayer at the meetings entitled “3R's” (Rest, Relax and Restore) which are held at various times during the year. At these meetings people can relax in the presence of God, make use of prayer stations, and be prayed for as well as worship and receive Holy Communion. Then again, in addition to the prayer in the Cornerstone Groups we hold a prayer meeting for the whole church every fortnight. Paid staff members are expected to attend the Wednesday morning prayer meeting which again, is open to anyone.

And finally.....

SECTION THREE ABOUT THE CHURCH



LEADERSHIP:

We believe the Holy Spirit has given every Christian at least one gift and has called quite a number of church members into some form of leadership, e.g., in leading worship and Cornerstone groups. Consequently, we developed the Ministry Enabling Team to oversee the whole ministry of the church. This is Biblically based as, according to Scripture, some are called to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, or teachers. We believe this fivefold ministry within the leadership is of critical importance for it is needed to...

.....equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The table below shows the team members currently involved in the various aspects of leadership in the church:

Pastoral Oversight	Role
Revd Keith Turner	Associate Minister
Mr Evans Ofoajoku	Churchwarden
Ms Yvonne Johnson	Churchwarden
Mrs Ruth Turner	Pastoral Assistant and Authorised Local Preacher
Ministry Leadership in the Parish	Role
Mr Jesse Lebby	Authorised Local Preacher (renewal pending)
Mrs Julie Frost	Worship Team Leader
Mr Tim Venton	Prayer Co-Ordinator
Paid Staff	Role
Mrs Ruth Turner	Parish Co-Ordinator (Part-Time)
Mrs Emma Hills	Youth Worker (Part-Time)

(B) THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES

“Community is at the heart of CoGS – young and old!”

We very much want to serve our local community and play our part in parish life. The church building is not at the centre of the main High Street and so as well as inviting the community into the church for events, clubs, and services, we have tried to reach out and be present “outside” of the church.

We offer services for weddings, baptisms, and funerals to the local community and over the years have built great relationships with a number of local businesses. This has grown since the formation of the Collier Row Business Network Forum that was started by a member of the leadership team in 2017. Some of the key businesses involved in this include Funeral Directors, Estate Agents, Restaurant owners to name just a few. We also work closely with the Collier Row Community Group, especially with their Christmas event in the town and one of our members is the Vice Chair of the group.

Our two closest Primary Schools are Parklands and Crownfields and over the years we have engaged with them with assemblies, after school clubs and bringing the children into church for lessons, services, and their Carol Services.

Over the years we have established good connections with local churches especially the neighbouring parish of St James & St John’s, with whom we hold a joint service on Good Friday. Other ecumenical programmes were interrupted by Covid, but the church is open to such initiatives. For several years we were also very involved with Christians Against Poverty (CAP), Food Bank and a Winter Night Shelter but these have now been handed over to other partners, although we still support them all financially. Some of our leaders also attend “Across Havering” meetings which enable church leaders and others from all denominations to worship, pray and seek the Lord together as led by the Holy Spirit.

God exists in the community of the Trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and also within the earthly community that is his world-wide church. We represent Him in the world by showing His love to those around us. So, we seek to reach out to those outside His Kingdom, to proclaim the good news of Jesus and to be a transforming presence in the lives of others. This has led us to the creation of our five transformational goals namely: strong families, healthy community, positive environment, overcoming loneliness and thriving businesses. In pursuit of some of these goals we have established for example, a business forum, our “Care and Share” luncheon club, the “Meeting Place” cafe and groups for parents with young children.

COGS TRANSFORMATION GOALS

Over the last few years, we have developed our Community Transformation Goals, and they form a large part of our work within the community in proclaiming the Good News.

“We are a prayerful and Christ-centred church”

SECTION THREE ABOUT THE CHURCH



WE WILL SUPPORT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN STRONG FAMILIES

- Youth and children's work at CoGS
- Starlight Toddlers - a toddler group for babies and pre-school children with their carers. A safe environment for children to play, sing songs, listen to stories, and for carers to sit and chat. Every Friday during term time.
- Sunbeams- support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs.



WE WILL SUPPORT AND BEFRIEND THOSE LIVING LOCALLY TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE DON'T FEEL ISOLATED OR LONELY AND HAVE PEOPLE WITH WHOM THEY SOCIALISE

- Care & Share – a friendship group for Senior Citizens every Tuesday in the church hall at 12pm. After soup and bread has been served, activities include craft events and regular speakers who speak on a variety of topics.
- Meeting Place - a free drop-in tea & coffee morning open each week aiming to ease loneliness, foster friendships and demonstrate the love of God to our neighbours
- Hospital Visiting
- Pastoral Visits
- Annual Bereavement Service / relationship with Harold Wood Funeral Services



WE WILL SUPPORT THE LOCAL SHOPS / BUSINESSES BOTH PRACTICALLY AND PRAYERFULLY IN COLLIER ROW SO THEY CAN THRIVE

- Collier Row Business Network Forum – formed in 2017 this group meet quarterly to discuss issues within the business community and work together for the good of Collier Row.



SECTION THREE ABOUT THE CHURCH



WE WILL WORK WITH THE RESIDENTS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY IN THE VICINITY OF COGS TO ENSURE IT IS A SAFE, CLEAN, HEALTHY AND HAPPY PLACE TO LIVE WITH A THRIVING COMMUNITY LIFE

- King George's Park – the nearest green space to the church we litter pick and look to take a keen interest in the area
- Area around CoGS
- Linley Crescent Community Gardens – set up by one of our members who is a graduate of the St Cedd Centre for Pioneer Mission course.
- Community clean ups and litter picking



WE WILL SUPPORT LOCAL RESIDENTS TO BE HEALTHY – PHYSICALLY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY, EDUCATIONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY

- Prayer & Healing Ministry
- Refresh – Women's ministry
- Seekers Group – this group meets on the first three Tuesdays of each month and aims to deepen each person's relationship with God, and the other members of the group, through a mixture of worship, Bible study, prayer, and social events.
- 3R's – Rest – Relax – Restore - during school holidays meet monthly on a Friday evening.



“Life of CoGS is supported by an amazing team of volunteers”

Group	Day of the Week	Time
Care & Share	Tuesday	12.00 to 3.00pm
Brownies	Tuesday	5.00 to 7.00pm
Seekers	Tuesday (1st 3 of the month)	7.30 to 10.00pm
Worship Group	Tuesday	7.45pm to 9.30pm (in church)
Meeting Place	Wednesday	10.30am to 12.30pm
Sunbeams	Wednesday (3rd of month)	1.00 to 2.30pm
CoGS Sewers for Kimbilio	Thursday (2nd of month)	10.00 to 11.30am
Starlight Toddlers	Friday (term time only)	10.00 to 11.15am & 1.00 to 2.15pm
Destiny	Friday	7.00 to 9.00pm
3R's	Friday (quarterly in school holidays)	7.00 to 10.00pm
Kingdom Builders	Saturday (1st of month)	10.00am to 12.00pm

“CoGS is such a welcoming environment”

CHURCH BUILDING:

The church was completed and consecrated in 1934 as a mission of The Ascension, Collier Row. A separate parish, taken from The Ascension and from St. John's, Romford, was formed in 1935. The church, hall, and vicarage were given by Dame Violet Wills. The church is situated on the west side of Collier Row Lane at the junction of Redriff Road.

The old, detached hall was demolished, and a new larger hall built which is attached to the west end of the church with access through the west wall. Much of the money for this was raised through gifts from the church membership and the new building was opened with much rejoicing and publicity in January 2007.

Significant investment has also been made within the church in recent years. This includes the provision of a central heating system replacing the old overhead heaters; the boilers being situated within the old entrance to the church. The platform within the chancel has been extended with network cabling being installed throughout to enable microphones and musical instruments to be utilised. The last two years has seen further investment in the improvement and upgrading of visual displays and the inclusion of cameras to enable services to be streamed, and also able to be relayed into the foyer and hall.

The church is mainly used for Sunday services and occasional weddings, funerals, and other special events. The next Quinquennial survey is scheduled for 2025.



SECTION FOUR BUILDINGS & RESOURCES



HALL:

Floor space, with adequate cupboards for storage space. A series of sliding panels can be slid into place to create two separate rooms within the hall enabling two separate groups to operate at the same time. The hall is kitted out with an audio system and two TV screens (one at each end) that are used for children's work and by other groups using the hall and also enables live services to be viewed.

The foyer area, which is also the entrance to the church building, includes a fully kitted kitchen, two meeting rooms and toilets including one for disabled use. A wall mounted TV screen here also streams live services, and we also have a card payment machine for use at clubs or for general giving purposes.

The hall is utilised most days of the week by various groups offering support to the church congregation and the wider community both older and younger – some of these groups include Care & Share, Seekers, Meeting Place, Sunbeams, Starlight's, and the Brownies. Future plans include a Lego club for the young ones and a sewing club for the older ones! The hall is not used for commercial purposes.



“CoGS is a place of security for those who feel vulnerable”

THE VICARAGE:

The Vicarage is situated on Collier Row Lane, directly adjacent to the church grounds, and can be described as a spacious and well-proportioned detached property of the style of the late 1930s.

The ground floor features an entrance hall leading to a study/office, a large living room, and a separate dining room and a recently refurbished kitchen, complete with a convenient utility room. There is also a downstairs WC for guests.

Upstairs you will find four well-appointed bedrooms, including the master suite with its own adjoining room that could serve as a nursery or private sitting area. There is also the benefit from a walk-in wardrobe providing storage. A family bathroom serves the remaining bedrooms.

Additional features include a garage and driveway parking, and an approximately 100' long x 60' wide enclosed private rear garden, complete with a small garden shed.

Front garden with space for 2 cars



Back garden



Lounge



Kitchen



FINANCIAL POSITION:

The church is generally in a good state of health, being £12k in credit at the 6-month stage of the 2024 financial year. There is also in excess of £120k on deposit.

Income and Expenditure 2022-2024				
	31st Dec 2022	31st Dec 2023	30th Jun 2024	Current Forecast 2024
Voluntary Income				
Regular giving	£133,427	£131,783	£69,261	£129,436
Other Gifts	£1,037	£944		£4,500
Gift Aid	£25,553	£26,652	£14,559	£27,832
Grants	£3,100	£950		
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest	£1,590	£5,696	£3,549	£6,865
Rent from Property	£10,800	£12,900	£7,200	£14,400
Income from Charitable activities	£7,682	£9,765	£4,596	£5,491
Miscellaneous Income	£1,190	£2,821	£2,000	£1,951
	£184,379	£191,511	£101,165	£190,476
Expenditure				
Mission and outreach	£8,914	£8,536	£3,350	£9,726
Ministry costs inc Parish Share	£73,675	£74,838	£37,567	£75,132
Church running costs	£80,132	£76,791	£40,475	£77,792
Missionary Tithe	£22,420	£18,757	£6,500	£19,174
	£185,141	£178,922	£87,892	£181,824
Surplus/Deficit	(£762)	£12,589	£13,273	£8,653

NOTE TO FIGURES:

The gift aid and interest figures do not include sums due to 30th June 2024 but not received until after 1st July 2024.

The Church owns a 3-bedroom house within the parish that has served as a curate's residence but is currently being rented out.

Missionary tithe for sums due to 30th June 2024 will be made in July 2024 to the sum of £6,000.

SECTION FIVE

THE FUTURE OF COGS



Whilst writing our Parish Profile, we engaged with all the groups and members of the church to hear their voices and hearts as we seek to find our new incumbent and you will see a number of their quotes throughout this document along with some thoughts from our children and young people.

The PCC consolidated all of the feedback and through a process of discernment established our areas of strength, those areas needing further development and the essential and desirable qualities we feel should be present in our new incumbent.

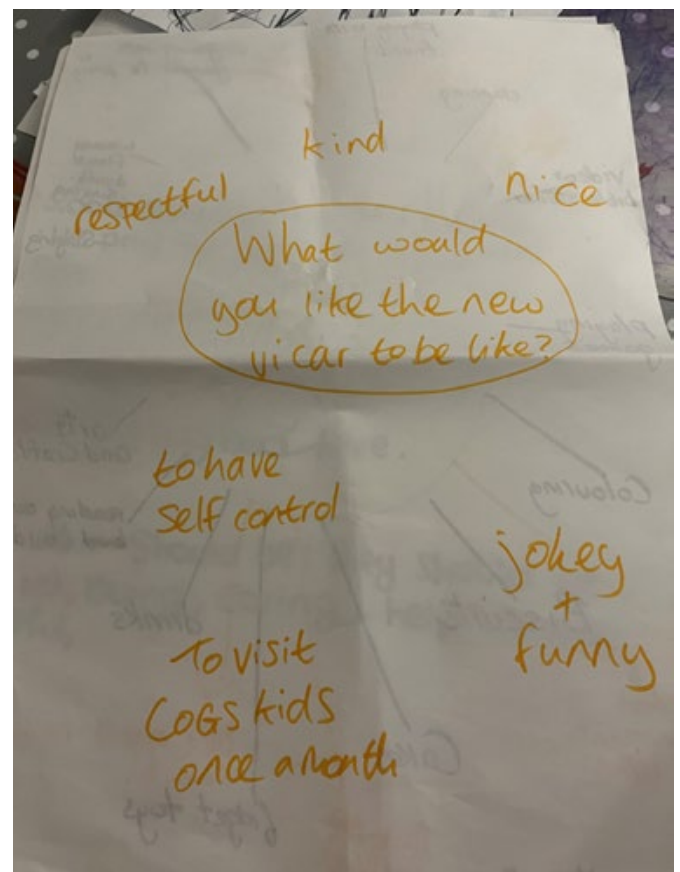
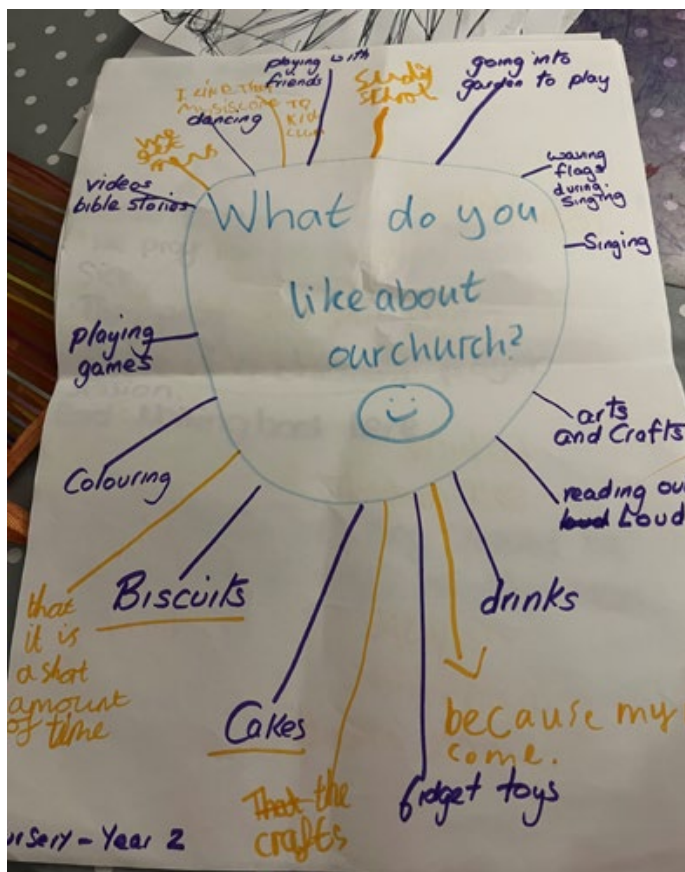
WHAT ARE OUR AREAS OF STRENGTH?

- We are a spirit led and gospel cultured church.
- Our worship is strong, and our live music is a great blessing.
- Outward facing in ministry, we have always sought to be servants in the community and to cooperate with any and all who are dedicated to this same end.
- A modern, well-equipped building regularly staffed and with an active body of volunteers.
- A very generous church
- A friendly, welcoming, and accepting place, with a corporate heart for fellowship.

WHAT ARE THE AREAS NEEDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENT?

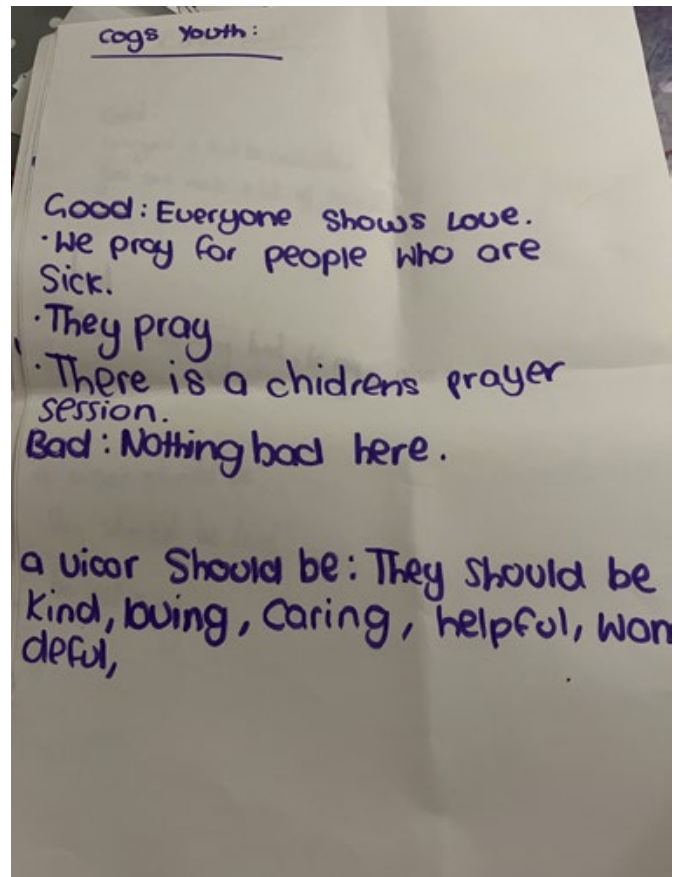
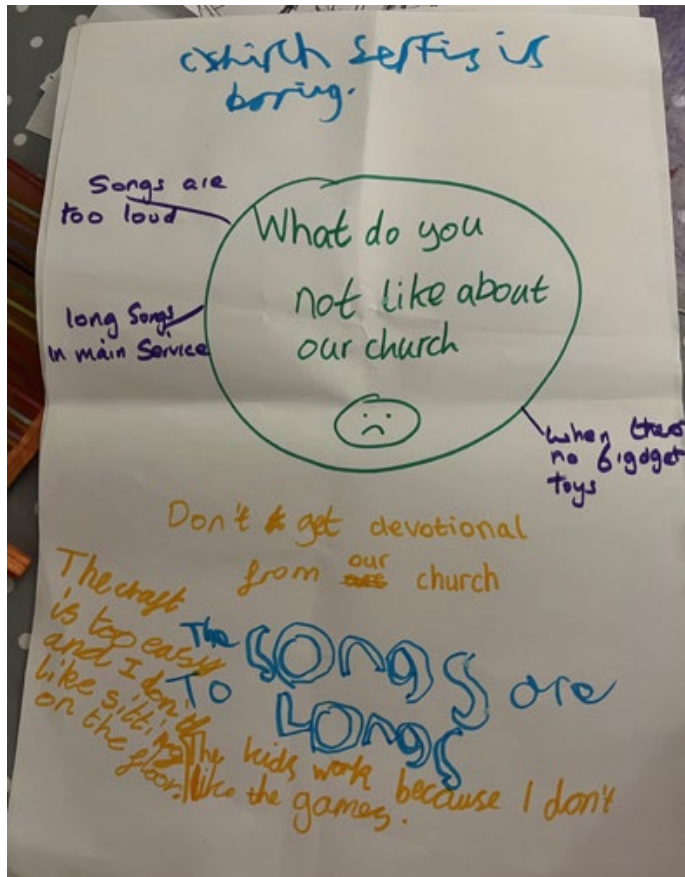
- Youth ministry has lost some momentum due to the loss of dedicated staff and resource.
- Small groups / home groups need re-invigorating and greater visibility.
- More structured engagement with new people and new Christians.
- Broadening our volunteer base.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:



SECTION FIVE THE FUTURE OF COGS

SOME THOUGHTS FROM OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:



"Children are encouraged to laugh, play, dance and express their faith in a way that they want to"

SECTION FIVE

THE FUTURE OF COGS



THE VICAR WE NEED...

ESSENTIAL:

- A mature person with proven leadership skills and previous experience of leading a worshipping community.
- A person who is passionate about evangelism, church growth and the Kingdom of God.
- A good communicator and an able Bible teacher.
- A visionary leader with the ability to help us discern and articulate the will of God for the church and the community it seeks to serve.
- An enabler of others who will encourage all church members to discover and use the gifts God has given them.
- A team builder and leader who will remain resolute and determined to meet God inspired goals.

DESIRABLE:

- Compassionate and empathetic listener.
- Can relate with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds.
- Committed to engaging with and serving the wider community, not just the church congregation.
- Works well with other church leaders, community organizations, and volunteers to further the church's mission.



“From toddler to elder, whether as a family or on your own, you will always find a place here at CoGS”

