

# St Peter's Vauxhall

Our story starts in 1864 when St Peter's was planted into the Vauxhall community with three main purposes: to share the hope of the Gospel, to face the crucial local social issues of its time, and to be built as a place of prayer.

At St Peter's, we are a family of God's people with a vision to see Vauxhall and South London reached and restored by the love of Jesus. We believe that knowing Him changes everything, and we long to be a community who worship Him authentically, speak of Him faithfully, and bring His love and hope to our city. Our services cater to diverse worship styles, and we are committed to addressing local social issues, continuing the legacy of our founders.

We believe the message of the Gospel is the same but no one has a monopoly on how you worship. At the heart of St Peter's is that message – We preach Christ crucified to ourselves and offer Christ crucified to others and believe this is the greatest most life-changing news ever.

Our response in worship and style differs, with a traditional service at 11am and a contemporary 4pm service.

Along with the Gospel our core foundations are Prayer, Bible & Renewal.

These 'seeds' grow into fruit, which we long to see here in Vauxhall and South

London. 'Relational Justice' God calls us to fight for justice at every level of society. As a local church we believe doing that in friendship with those who face any form of injustice. 'Radical Hospitality' Radical hospitality starts around the dinner table as Jesus himself came eating and drinking. Eating food together is a key part of our church life along with opening our lives and homes to those in our church family. 'God's Mission' having experienced the love of God and been reconciled to him, we join in His mission, to reconcile Himself to others and reveal His love to everyone.

Pray that as a church we might remain faithful to the Gospel.

Vauxhall is going through major changes, with significant redevelopment. Pray we would be a place of safety for those whose local area is changing and that we would be a welcome to those moving into the area of the coming years.

Pray that we can respond to the injustices in our area with a focus on the two hotels of refugees in our area, the growing homeless community and those who have been trafficked into Vauxhall.

Pray we would be rooted in the Bible, that we would be a people who



want prayer to be a central part of our lives and also a foundation to the life of the church and we would believe that all Christians have been renewed by the Holy Spirit and the Christian life is a journey to know the greater depths of that renewal.

Pray that people would come to know Jesus Christ and His Kingdom would grow here in Vauxhall and South London.



Gospel



Prayer



Bible



Renewal

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## Welcome to Brandon!

We are excited to be part of the 2025 Unlock Walk and hope that you will have a good time exploring our South London neighbourhood, enjoy a refreshing rest in our building and take time to learn more about Unlock while you are here.

## Brandon Baptist Church

United in Jesus



**Who we are:** We are a warm welcoming community of followers of Jesus, from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds and Christian traditions, who are finding their ways together as one family in Camberwell. We are proudly a multi-ethnic and inter-cultural church of 49 members plus more attendees not in membership which together provides a variable congregation of worshippers on Sundays. Most of us live within walking distance in Camberwell, but some travel from a little further afield within Southwark, Lambeth and Lewisham.



Our building situated on Redcar Street in the Comber and Wyndham Estate, may not be much to look at, but thankfully church is the people rather than buildings! Rev. Steff Wright is our Minister who joined us in 2021 and supports the church along with our leadership team. Brandon is an open membership Baptist Church, which aims to be open to all who love the Lord, whatever their church background or history. Our prime theology and practice is to share the love of Jesus and support one another as we follow and serve Christ here.

**What we do:** We meet every week for Sunday worship at 11am. Our services are relaxed and informal (and accommodate young children and those who find it hard to sit listening for long periods) and involve songs, prayer and a short talk. The worship style can vary as we seek to represent our mixed congregation and different people take a turn in leading worship and speaking from the front. We have a children's group and a monthly all-together service. Every few months we have a bring and share meal, and also 'Pop-Up' Sundays where people stay after church to play games together, share fellowship and chat. There are regular dominoes and scrabbles games as well as table tennis and giant Jenga! Tea and coffee plus biscuits or cakes after the service are a staple!

'Mayhem' is our youth group for secondary school children who meet on Friday evenings once a month, go on outings and go camping each summer. There is also a network of young adults (graduates of Mayhem) who occasionally meet up and

keep in touch online to support each other in their Christian walk. We also have a 'Coffee-Break' group who meet together monthly for fellowship and more cake. Over the last year we have begun monthly gatherings online to pray and explore the Bible together, these have been a good way to connect with those who can't join us in person, and are a wonderful way to encourage one another although the cake doesn't share so well! Across the year we have several regular events such as our Thanksgiving service and meal, and our annual day trip to the seaside which includes not only our church family but friends, wider family members and neighbours. (Last year this included more travelling by train too!)

Many people in Brandon are active in the local area in a variety of both professional and voluntary roles and the church aims to support their work. Indeed, we have limited activities during the week intentionally in order to encourage people's involvement in activities outside the church during the week and to have time to develop friendships with both church and non-church people.

Brandon is part of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, (Baptists Together) and are members of Southwark Citizens (part of London Citizens and Citizens UK), a broad-based alliance of local organisations, bringing together everyday people to build a better, fairer society. We work and campaign on issues impacting our community especially on housing issues and welcoming migrants.

**History and buildings:** This year we are celebrating 50 years as Brandon Baptist Church in our building in Redcar Street, so unusually for us we are reflecting on our history.

First established in 1865, like many other churches in the area we were an offshoot of the Metropolitan Tabernacle. Soon independent, and self-funding, the church met in a variety of places around the area, until we acquired a building in 1940 known as Camberwell New Road Baptist Church, which is around the corner in Councillor Street. This building is now Calvary Temple after it was sold to a Caribbean Pentecostal Christian community in 1959. The remaining small Baptist congregation moved out and met in community halls whilst a vision continued to develop for a more community-based church facing into the estate rather than onto the main road. Negotiations took place with the local authority for a land lease and joint working to meet local needs.

Finally, in 1975 our present multi-use building was completed and was named Brandon Baptist Church Centre with the church changing its name to link it more closely to the local area - there is a large estate of that name close by. The building was partly funded by the Council who ran a Senior Citizens Day Centre in the building and partly funded by the local

educational authority ILEA, who together with the church ran an open youth club in the evenings. Behind the church, Carey Court sheltered housing was built at the same time by the Baptist Men's Movement Housing Association, there were plans to have a 'church sanctuary' separate to the hall on the site but money limited the plans.

In the 1980s and with ILEA's closure, the youth work funding ended and then the Day Centre closed. The focus on the community use of our building however, has continued. We have hosted various community groups including an after-school club; a charity linking isolated elderly people with befrienders, and a charity supporting parents with young children - people from the church were closely involved in the creation and work of the latter two. The building is presently used by an alternative provision school on weekdays.

Our building has served us and the community well and shaped how Brandon Baptist Church has grown but it is showing signs of wear, and there are slow moving plans by the local authority to redevelop the site in the future, and a new church building is envisaged alongside new housing.

**Unlock links:** Walkers today may be interested to know that Brandon's history links with that of Unlock. Roger Dowley and Roy Dorey were two of the founders of the Evangelical Urban Training Project (now called Unlock) in 1972. Both were part of the Brandon family over many years and the church has been shaped by their influence. Jenny Richardson, who was the chief officer of the EUTP and Unlock for many years, was Brandon's youth worker from 1976-1978. Brandon has continued to support Unlock to this day, including going on the walk each year, indeed two of our members are on Unlock council and the walk planning team.

Please join us in praying for:

- The anniversary celebrations and the years to come
- New opportunities for connecting with the community
- The future of the building
- That the people God is calling here to join us would respond to the call
- For the future of the church here to be God's calling, God's leading and God's plan. May we commit to walk together in faith and hear God's voice through one another.

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Since its first days as Walworth Wesleyan Chapel in 1813, the congregation on this site has lived into its Methodist ethos of encouraging 'personal and social holiness.' Originally set in the village of Camberwell on a country lane now called Camberwell Road, the mission of the church has unfolded in chapters, while remaining true to the Methodist calling 'to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission'.

Over the last century, chapters of the church's history include the visionary leadership of Revd Jimmy Butterworth, who created Clubland – a church run by and for youth – in the 1920s (Michael Caine credits Clubland with giving him his first acting experience); the Luftwaffe destruction of the then new premises in 1939; the energetic rebuilding campaign of the post-war years enlisting members of the royal family, stars from Hollywood, and British footballers (look for well-known names inscribed on the walls of the courtyard); Methodist Leadership Racism Workshops led by the Revd Vic Watson and Local Preacher Sybil Phoenix in the 1980s; hospitality and welcome extended to foreigners during times of societal hostility; becoming a heart of life and faith for London's West African and Caribbean communities; and recently seeing the creation of the Southwark Peace Garden (note the dove of peace sculpted from confiscated knives).

Since 2008 the congregation has been part of the Southwark & Deptford Methodist Circuit, and reflects Methodism founder John Wesley's words, 'The world is my parish'. Worship, service and outreach is offered on a broad inter-cultural map. Sunday services at 9:30 and 11am incorporate the customs from many lands, combining a traditional Wesleyan reverence with vibrant cultural practices. Choir anthems, congregational singing, diverse styles of preaching, walk-up offerings, and opportunities for fellowship are all vital aspects of Sunday worship.

True to its Clubland emphasis on youth, the Sunday school offers an active ministry to children. During Black History Month each year the congregation organises a week of inter-age and inter-cultural Beauty-in-Diversity activities, in addition to sending a large delegation to the annual British Methodist 3Generate Youth Gathering in October. An annual Confirmation and New Member class explores Christian themes as individuals prepare to make important steps of faith on Pentecost Sunday each year.

As a large congregation, pastoral care is offered through the early Methodist system of small group 'classes'. Fellowship groups from Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Ghana provide cultural connections, companionship for the elderly, care for those in difficulty, and fund-raising for charitable projects in their respective homelands. Many diaspora school organisations, choirs, national chaplaincies and local support groups use the building as a locus for their gatherings and work.

The congregation welcomes all pilgrims on this year's Unlock London Walk!



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Camberwell Salvation Army is a community motivated by **God's love**. Our core **Values** are Hospitality, Peace and Justice.

Camberwell Salvation Army (CASA) has been active from this site for 137 years. We are a Spanish and English speaking community hub. We worship together every Sunday and we aim to serve our community throughout the week. The Spanish word for 'house' is 'casa' and we want you to feel at home whenever you come through our doors.

Camberwell Salvation Army has a thriving Baby Bank which has been in operation since 2018. The Baby Bank is a collection of good quality second hand baby items donated by parents who no longer need them. We sort and distribute the items to families in order to help with the costs of having a child. This is mostly for ages 0-2.

## Currents News

In 2024 our Baby Bank received recognition from Citizens UK, *a charity that brings together local communities and organizations to create a fairer society*, for creating a shift from a transactional response to a holistic



response. We endeavoured to get to know the parents and babies using our services and form a community and appoint a leadership team from the parents. This yielded a great harvest and we have grown in knowledge and

wisdom from listening and fellowshiping as a community. We arranged quarterly Baby Bank celebrations which have been so rich in blessings, and we have seen happiness and joy. Bringing together parents of all different cultures and celebrating together and actively listening to each other. In a fast moving, diverse, busy and sometimes hostile part of London we believe we provide a place of safety, relaxation and comfort where people can be and experience good relationships.

## Well-being café

Our newest project is a Well-being Café, which is in response to our holistic approach to ministry, that we are not only a handout and pass down but rather a response of 'being with' and joining together. The Café seeks to be a place where parents and children can have access to a large space with some toys and activities that would be often too big to play with at home. For many we know families live in small spaces with no gardens so we wanted to provide a space where children could play and parents could relax, receive and form relationships. We provide a quality meal and good tea and coffee; we provide an activity each week which is based around well-being so that parents can engage and consider their wellbeing and we provide some exciting toys and play activities for the children.

## Kids club

We have a thriving Kids club and excellent team of volunteers; our kids club is a Christian kids club, and all our activities are based around the Bible teaching for that week. As part of the club, we start with a hot meal so that children are fed after school and then we plan a teaching, games and activities each week. The club has grown, and we are very passionate and excited about the future. Our next incitive is to provide young leader training for those children who are now too old for the club but have decided to stay on as leaders.

## Local Partnerships

We partner with other fantastic organizations who run their programmes in our hall. Parent Action uses our hall on Mondays to lead

Parent University--an antenatal and postnatal class. On Fridays, Parent Action creates a space for parents to come together and connect with others, finding friendship and support they do this while also creating a fun space for kids to play and interact. This partnership works beautifully alongside our Baby Bank and our Tuesday toddler group and our Wednesday Wellbeing Café.

We also partner with English for Action to teach English Classes on Thursdays. Cocaine anonymous, and Narcotics anonymous also use our hall to offer recovery support for over 100 people each week.

## PRAYER POINTS

For all the families that we encounter each week and our mission to see all come into relationship with Christ. Through our desire to 'Be With' that our response is not solely a charitable hand out but rather a family together that learns together and forms good and lasting relationships.

For the wellbeing of parents and children in a chaotic environment that through our groups they may see and learn the unforced Rhythms of grace. To love one another and to let go of some of the walls that build up from living in the city and from having to cope and protect themselves from the hurt of the world. Transformation!

For our Kids that they may grow in their love and faith in God, that they will be an example just where they are and grow to be leaders' firm in the faith and for those who have the call, that they come forward for full time ministry in the Church.

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Welcome to Stockwell Parish, St Michael's. We are a thriving, joyful and mutually supportive congregation in a church that is open and welcoming for all, with deep partnerships in the community. Come and see for yourself!

St Michael's is a fun, vibrant, friendly church. The congregation is a mixture of long established members and new families. Ethnically we are mixed, with a good range of people from white, African and Afro-Caribbean backgrounds. Socio-economic backgrounds are very varied too. Most people in the congregation volunteer to do things either in the service or behind the scenes. The service are broad church, with singing backed by an organ. The clergy robe, but the style is not too formal.



There is a weekly choir who sing at the 10.15am Sunday services. At Christmas, Easter and the Community Summer Festival service, a larger scratch choir, adding other people from the local community, sing a more complex range of music.

The lead charitable activity for the church is the Robes Project which helps homeless people. We partner with a number of other local churches to provide one night's accommodation a week for up to 20 homeless people in the church hall during winter months. Members of the congregation and other local people volunteer to cook for them and sleep over with them to ensure things run smoothly. We also volunteer at and support our local food bank, and members of our congregation also volunteer at the children's playground opposite the church, our church school as governors and various Diocesan committees.

The church hosts a number of ad hoc classical music concerts during the year.

## **St Michael's Church Building**

Architect: W Rogers. Built in 1840-41, St Michaels is a Grade II Listed building. The church is constructed in the Gothic Style. The building was originally planned with the sanctuary beneath the spire and the main entrance was from Stockwell Park Crescent. The orientation was changed in 1880 when the altar was moved and the space under the tower became the main entrance and porch. The walling is generally built of brick with buff coloured Suffolk bricks used on the west elevation and stock bricks on the side and rear elevations. The tower is constructed in stone and there are stone copings, cills, kneelers, string courses, finials, hood moulds and other details.

At the west end there is a flower room, workshop, porches and lobbies. Above the main central entrance lobby is the tower and spire.

## **Safeguarding**

Our parish is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults from harm. We follow the House of Bishops guidance and policies and have our own Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). Our Diocese of Southwark's safeguarding pages contain vital links and information including contacts for the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor who advises our PSO.

Please pray for us as a parish, for continuing growth as a congregation, for our church school St Andrew's, and for our work in our community amongst the homeless and disenfranchised.

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[achurchnearyou.com/church/814](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/814)

## St George with St Andrew, Nine Elms

St George's is the second oldest Anglican parish in Battersea, established in 1828 to serve a working class population which grew rapidly as railway and factory workers moved into the area. The parish has constantly changed shape with industries and housing estates coming and going, and now with Nine Elms, the Power Station and US embassy replacing old industrial areas.

There have always been high levels of social need in the area and the glamour of Nine Elms today can hide the challenges still faced on the inner city estates around the church. Life can be hard because of poverty, loneliness and violence.

The congregation at St George's serves local people through community activities, working with children, offering authentic worship and genuine friendship. We are few in number with no disposable income, so sustainability is a constant challenge, and we long to have more impact in the lives of people we serve. There are so many opportunities to share the gospel and we are constantly looking for ways to stretch our resources to reach more people.

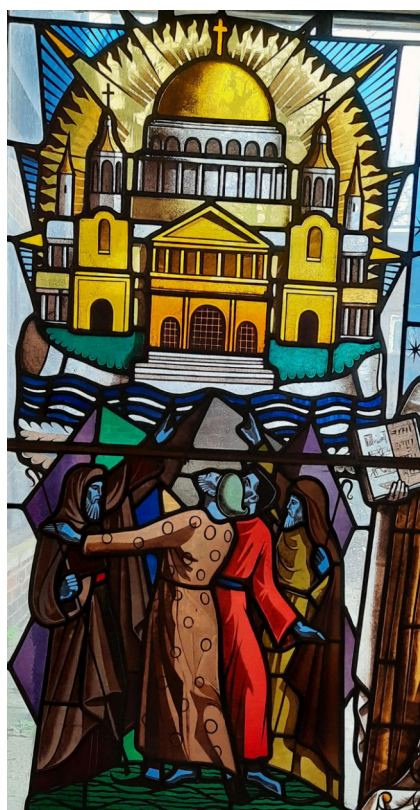
**Please pray** that St George's will be an effective witness in this area for years to come, and that new resources of funding and people will gather here for gospel work.

**The Building** is a delightful space and we hope you love it as we do, with its plentiful natural light, honey-coloured wooden beams and warm atmosphere.

**Please pray** that people in local estates and the incoming community in Nine Elms will find a warm authentic welcome and a spiritual home in St George's, and pray for support for the Music and Arts Hub we are creating in the church.

**The Pilgrim's Progress** windows were commissioned from post-war damage repair funds and designed by artist W T Carter Shapland. They show scenes from Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan and include the Pilgrim traversing the Valley of the Shadow of Death and his sight of Christ in glory.

**Please pray** that the gospel message portrayed in these windows and told in Bunyan's story will be communicated afresh to many local people, in word, song and welcome and through arts of all kinds taking place in the church.



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FIELDS PARISH**

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