

Additional Information

Burgess Hill

Burgess Hill is a town in West Sussex close to the border with East Sussex, on the edge of the South Downs National Park, 39 miles south of London and 10 miles north of Brighton and Hove. It had a population of c.31,000 at the 2011 Census.

The town has two railway stations on the London to Brighton line and as a result is popular with commuters. A large industrial park contains a mix of businesses including technology, pharmaceutical and financial services.

St Edwards

We are a growing Church. In the last 12 months the congregation has more than doubled in size to around 60 people. The Parish is seen as significant and strategic for future church growth due to the building of 3,500 new homes in an area known as The Northern Arc which will add to the substantial number of houses and flats in the Parish already.

The number of children has grown from zero to around 8 – 10 regularly attending on Sunday mornings. A good relationship has been established with two local schools and school holiday events have attracted up to 60 children.

St Edwards is in an Apostolic Partnership with The Point Church which meets in our Parish. The Partnership was put together by Bishop Ruth to support the revitalisation of St Edwards. Discussions began in July 2021 and were formalised with the licensing of Rev Jules Middleton in February 2022.

More information about St Edwards

www.facebook.com/StEdwardsBurgessHill

www.stedwardsburgess.co.uk

Our Parish

The Parish has mixed socio-economic housing and includes an industrial estate. Victoria Ward, which sits within the Parish, is in the second highest band of deprivation identified across the whole of Sussex, with the combined overall IMD score being between 21% - 40% of the most deprived level of deprivation. The Parish also has the highest level of deprivation in the whole of Burgess Hill and, along with one area in Haywards Heath, the highest level of deprivation across Mid-Sussex.

Our Vision for Children and Families

Our overall church vision is to revitalise St Edwards spiritually and numerically and the appointment of someone to oversee Children, Families and Schools work is critical to this.

Working in collaboration with Rev Jules, volunteer children's leaders and other key people in the church, we hope to see the core children's work and outreach in relation to local schools and families develop into a concrete and holistic plan. Key areas that the CFS worker will address include Sunday children's work provision, work with schools, and being part of the team to deliver our new garden service.

We also want there to be space for the CFS worker to use their skills and experience to engage fully with the community to further explore the needs and possibilities. With the wider team they will develop a plan that will take the work we are already doing to the next level and beyond, building deeper relationships with local schools and aiming to see more families and children engage with the gospel and with St Edwards. We believe this is a key part of seeing the Church becoming a centre of the community, more than physically, but spiritually and supporting the holistic flourishing of children and their families.

The Opportunity

This is an opportunity for someone with the required skills and commitment to join us at the start of an exciting time for St Edwards. Our vision is fully supported by the Church family. We have been granted funding for three years by the Diocese of Chichester and we would expect this role to form a key part of the staff team at St Edwards beyond this. The development of our work with children and families will support our other plans which are underway in pastoral care, teaching, worship and community engagement.