



Parish of Mortlake with East Sheen

St Mary's Mortlake, Christ Church and All Saints East Sheen

Diocese of Southwark

Mortlake with East Sheen Team Ministry

Parish profile

The Team Rector has two roles:

- To lead the team of enthusiastic and committed clergy (including two Team Vicars at Christ Church and All Saints) and lay people working collaboratively to help develop vision and strategy across the parish
- To be the priest responsible for St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake

The vacancy has arisen upon the retirement of the previous incumbent, Canon Ann Nickson, who began her ministry in this parish in 2010.

The three congregations have been consulted about what we hope to find in a new Team Rector. We hope applicants would see the great potential of a supportive and welcoming Christian worship community eager to embrace new leadership.

We are seeking:

- a dynamic and capable spiritual leader whose ability to lead others is underpinned by their Christian faith
- an engaging teacher and preacher who will respect the different traditions and styles of worship in the three churches of the parish
- someone who can communicate with all ages, is empathetic and open-minded
- someone able to give the Christian faith greater relevance amongst people who haven't considered it before, and encourage younger people to join our congregations
- someone who is comfortable working with community groups and schools and youth organisations, recognising that Mortlake is a growing neighbourhood
- an experienced administrator and chair of meetings
- a willingness to guide us towards a more sustainable future
- someone who is able to make God real to us, to nurture and grow with us.



Mission

The three churches each have their own Mission Action Plan (MAP) with a further MAP relating to the parish. Our MAPs relate to the five Marks of Mission. As we review our MAPs, we are aware there is room for our understanding of our Mission to grow and develop – both as a parish and at St Mary’s. As we think of our care for creation, we are grateful we can express this through our care of the churchyard at St Mary’s and our thankfulness for the green spaces locally, but we are conscious that there is a huge challenge in what it will take to heat our churches renewably.

We seek to respond to the needs of the communities in our parish through the Community Ventures lunches we run, through our support for Rackets Cubed and other local charities, through our partnership with the Mortlake Community Association, through our involvement with the Sunday Lunch Scheme locally, and in other ways – but we are aware that there is more we could do in this area. Likewise, we seek to pray about injustice in our parish prayers each week, asking God to be at work in his world in a way that glorifies his Son Jesus and that furthers the justice.



St Mary’s carol singing at Mortlake station

We welcome about thirty new Christians (mainly under the age of two years) through the sacrament of baptism across the parish each year, and many remark on the warm welcome they receive as they bring their children to be baptised – but it is too often the case that those baptism families do not become part of the congregations of our churches.



Sporty Church Christingle at St Mary’s

We seek to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven, we treasure the transformative love of God that is at the heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and we show this love in our pastoral care for older people in the parish – but we need to look afresh at how we communicate to the world around us so that we connect effectively and fruitfully, in faith, with the younger generations of this parish.

As we think of the priorities set out in this parish profile, we hope that our new Team Rector will lead us in discerning, through the Holy Spirit, the vision God has for us so that we are fruitful in the service of Jesus his Son.

The Parish

The Parish of Mortlake with East Sheen is mixed with social housing in Mortlake all the way through to large, detached houses near Richmond Park. It is in a busy part of south-west London with good transport links. Mortlake is bordered by the river to the north, divided from East Sheen by the railway running from Waterloo to Richmond. East Sheen, in turn, is bordered by Richmond Park to its south. The railway is something of a wall between Mortlake and East Sheen, compounded by the level crossing at Sheen Lane which is frequently closed. The South Circular Road (two lanes only) runs through the middle of East Sheen and traffic is heavy much of the time, particularly as Hammersmith Bridge is closed. East Sheen is the main shopping centre in the parish and there are still a number of independent shops in East Sheen, with numerous cafés in the area.



The parish is in the Richmond Park constituency, represented by the LibDem MP, Sarah Olney. There are two LibDem and one Green councillors in Mortlake, and three LibDem councillors in East Sheen.

Four state primary schools (one is Roman Catholic) and one private school for boys serve the many families with young children living in the area. At secondary level there is a comprehensive school in East Sheen, a Church of England comprehensive between East Sheen and Richmond, and the Royal

Ballet School at White Lodge in Richmond Park.

The Sheen Lane Centre accommodates a health centre, a public library, and areas used by voluntary associations including Citizens Advice and FiSH. FiSH is a neighbourhood care organisation dedicated to Friendship, Independence, Support and Help, mainly working with elderly people; it was originally set up by members of the church congregations of this parish. An occasional service is held at the Sheen Lane Centre, led by the ministry team of the parish. There is one small care home in the parish.

Mortlake Crematorium and the Fulham and Mortlake Cemeteries are situated within the parish; and the Putney Vale Crematorium and the Richmond and East Sheen Cemeteries are nearby. The proximity of these crematoria and cemeteries, together with the three local funeral directors, means the ministry team receives a greater number of funeral enquiries than for many similar London parishes.

Mortlake

Mortlake, situated between the Thames to the north and the London to Richmond railway to the south, faces social and economic challenges. It is one of the most deprived wards in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames, with few shops and social facilities. It contains a mix of social and private housing including blocks of flats, and modest Victorian maisonettes and houses. The large housing development planned for the site of the former Stag Brewery means Mortlake will change considerably in the coming years. This development will open up access to the River, but local residents are campaigning for a smaller development with more affordable and social housing than the one planned.



The thriving Mortlake Community Association (MCA), originally a parish initiative, serves the local community with groups, activities and outings, and a weekly lunch that started in response to the cost-of-living crisis. The MCA Community Development Manager shares the parish office and works closely with St Mary's. Most MCA activities take place in Mortlake Hall, of which the Team Rector is an ex-officio

trustee. The two charities are working towards merging so that MCA has a centre and Mortlake Hall will better serve the community.

East Sheen

To the south of the railway, East Sheen is very different. It is one of the most prosperous areas in the borough with the majority of housing privately owned, ranging from mansion flats, 3-bedroomed terraced houses, and larger detached or semi-detached properties. Proximity to Richmond Park makes it an attractive place to live. Sheen Common and Palewell Common are both large, open spaces with tennis courts, cricket and football pitches and other sporting facilities.



Many of the residents of East Sheen work in the professions, the City, and the media. It is a friendly area and many people are involved in voluntary activities. There is widespread recognition of the part the churches play in the local community.

The three churches of the Parish

The three churches each have different traditions and styles of worship, which the people of the parish value. St Mary's is of a central tradition with a fairly relaxed approach to worship in which the Eucharist is important. All Saints is in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, and Christ Church is somewhere in between – but we work together as a team! Details of the ministry team are on page 11.



The congregations and choirs come together to mark the patronal festivals of the three churches. All three churches have a Director of Music, and all three churches find it challenging to recruit new singers of all ages to our choirs. As in many other places, Covid and the attendant lockdowns affected all three churches of the parish, and church attendance is still below pre-2020 levels. As with many Church of England churches, the majority of our congregations are energetic, older people.

As a parish we organise a week-long Holiday at Home each summer, aimed at those who cannot get away. Through the year we run Community Ventures lunches and occasional outings, aimed at the active retired. We are aware that we need to offer activities for our children and young people.



Ecumenically, we are part of the Richmond Sunday lunch scheme. On Palm Sunday our three churches meet with St Mary Magdalen's Church, a Roman Catholic church in Mortlake, for a shared service at Sheen Lane, followed by a procession to Mortlake – with a donkey! Together with St Mary Magdalen's and Our Lady, Queen of Peace, a Roman Catholic church towards Richmond, the three churches hold a Remembrance Sunday service at the war memorial in East Sheen.

Groups active within the parish include a Contemplative Prayer Group, Julian Group (a second silent prayer group), a Cursillo group, a Mothers' Union branch, and a Progressive Christian Network group. The parish is a signatory of Inclusive Church. St Mary's and Christ Church both have the Eco Church bronze award. We have recently begun a bi-monthly parish newsletter which is emailed to the congregations.



Being in a relatively prosperous area, though with pockets of poverty within the parish, our Parish Support Fund payment is presently £291,000. Additionally, we give to charities in the UK and overseas on a three-year rolling programme.

The parish is considered a good training parish, and we hope to appoint a Team Rector with the skills and attitude to be an effective training incumbent.

St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake

Open doors, open hearts, open minds

These are increasingly anxious times across all ages and walks of life. In our immediate area there are many who need to find that they have a spiritual home at St Mary's and become part of our community and where the presence of God is real. We are looking for a Rector who:

- is eager to reach new generations and build our congregation again through a new sense of mission and presence in the local community
- will develop worship to meet the needs of people who are tentatively on the fringes of the church to enable them to feel it is their spiritual home
- will be energetic, outward looking, happy to work with other churches to produce a more effective Christian outreach in the community
- will be a force in the community promoting Christian values where anyone can come for help and friendship
- will lead a community where the presence of God is not just hoped for but is a reality, felt and touched by all who are searching

St Mary's has a flexible approach to its worship. The sole Sunday service is at 10.00am, a Common Worship Eucharist. There is Play Church for young children in term time and Tower Half Hour for 10+ children once a month. On the third Sunday the service is a shorter, simpler all-age format 'Worship for All'. Sporty Church, a short, informal service once a month at 2.00pm, is for children and their families with sport commitments on Sunday mornings.

Baptisms are within the Sunday morning service and an opportunity for the laying-on of hands for healing every two months. On Tuesdays there is a Eucharist at 10.00am.



We have additional services for Christmas, and for Holy Week and Easter. Each November, there is a Memorial Service to which we invite the families of those for whom the ministry team has taken funerals in the previous year. There are ecumenical services for Palm Sunday and Remembrance Sunday. We share in the patronal services of the other two churches of the parish.

The congregation at St Mary's is noted for its warmth and friendliness – to each other, and to everyone who comes into the church for any reason. It has a good spread of ages and

diversity of people who attend regularly. Coffee after the 10.00am Eucharists on Sunday and Tuesday is an opportunity to mix and chat. The 10.00am Sunday Eucharist is livestreamed via Facebook for people who are no longer physically able to come to church.

The church is open from Monday to Thursday for private prayer. It is surrounded by a churchyard closed for burials and in the care of the local authority. A monthly working party of members of the congregation maintains the churchyard which is well used by people who value it as a calm oasis in the middle of a congested area.

We host a number of annual events enjoyed by both churchgoers and the local community: the Shrove Tuesday Pancake party (supported strongly by the Guiding and Scout groups), a quiz night with fish and chip supper, the Summer garden party with cakes and music held in the churchyard, and a barbecue at Harvest. Another popular annual event is Boat Race Teas, as Mortlake marks the end of the race.

While there has been a church by the river at Mortlake since 1348, the oldest surviving part of St Mary's, the tower, was built in 1543 – making St Mary's one of the earliest post-Reformation churches. There is a fine ring of eight bells, some from the 1690s, which are rung most Sundays. Visitors are invited to climb the spiral staircase to see the bells as well as the splendid views over the Parish and beyond. The 15th-century font, a gift from Archbishop Bouchier, comes from an earlier church in Mortlake and is still used for baptisms.

Most of the church was rebuilt in the late 19th century and, following reordering in the 1970s, provides an attractive and light space which can be used flexibly, both for worship and for social events. There are plans in progress to extend the kitchen and replace the dividing doors between the church and the St Mary's room to the north of the church.

Music at St Mary's

Music plays an integral role in worship at St Mary's. The church has a small but able and loyal robed choir. St Mary's Band plays at the monthly all-age Worship for All services, and the St Mary's Chorus leads the singing. The Director of Music and organist is Christopher Hughes.

At Worship for All services, the band accompanies the hymns (a mix of traditional and modern) and the mass setting, and plays an instrumental piece during communion as well as music before and after the service. The St Mary's Chorus leads the singing of the hymns and sings an anthem or song, and is an opportunity for families to sing together, for less confident singers and those who would rather not commit to sing every week.



Our vision is that music should enhance St Mary's presence in the community by recruiting from the congregation, and by developing existing links with local schools and community groups. We hope that music will draw people to St Mary's for the spiritual refreshment that so many find that music can provide.

Christ Church

Christ Church has a 'central' church tradition. The main Sunday morning service is a Sung Eucharist at 10.00am as prescribed in Common Worship. There is no separate Sunday School but complementary material is provided for younger worshippers in St Nicholas' Chapel. There is a monthly 8.00am service of Holy Communion, and a monthly 5.00pm service of Choral Evensong – both according to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). A service of Holy Communion according to the BCP held weekly on Wednesdays at 10.30am attracts an average of 20 older people in the parish who enjoy staying on for coffee and cake. Once a month, on a Monday afternoon, there is a Messy Church service. The robed choir has junior choristers, and is joined occasionally by choral scholars paid from a legacy fund. Christ Church has a Pastoral Group which supports members of the congregation, and is open daily for private prayer.



Christ Church was built in the 1860s, and is near a primary school and two pubs. It is popular for weddings and baptisms and attracts large numbers on Christmas Day. The Community Hall (built in 2016) is let out for activities and children's parties, and the church rooms are hired after school by a tutoring organisation. The church's lighting is being renewed this summer. A recent funeral planning day with local funeral directors and crematorium staff speaks to community engagement and reflects the high number of funerals in the parish. The church is used for concerts, particularly at Christmas.

All Saints

All Saints is the newest of the parish's churches, built in 1929. Its worship is in the Anglo-Catholic tradition; its congregation is friendly and welcoming, and would like to be more representative of the population of the parish.



Music is an important element of worship at All Saints, with a strong adult choir singing at the Sung Eucharist at 10.00am each Sunday, and a junior choir singing monthly when the 10.00am Sung Eucharist is in all-age format. There is a service of Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer at 8.00am each Sunday; a short, less formal Service of the Word at midday each Sunday; and an experimental 'modern' service on the first Sunday of the month at 4.00pm. In Advent, Lent and Holy Week there is a full round of worship. There is an annual Quiet Day.

There are popular Lent and Advent courses for adults. All Saints has a pastoral team which supports members of the congregation in particular need, along with other teams which ensure the smooth running of the church. Teamwork is the essence of life at All Saints.

The church runs the All Saints Concert Series, a programme of four concerts a year offering the community high quality music at a reasonable cost. All Saints hosts the Holiday at Home programme (mentioned above) and circulates a newsletter three times a year to all the houses in this part of the parish.

The hall (built in the late 1960s) is used by a nursery school and by those holding parties, while All Saints itself is used by community groups for meetings, and for concerts by orchestras and choirs.

Facts and Figures across the Parish

The average Sunday attendances for 2023 were:

- St Mary's: 55 adults and 10 children
- Christ Church: 54 adults and 3 children
- All Saints: 70 adults and 2 children, 10 at Family Service

The parish's electoral roll stands at 277 (St Mary's 75, Christ Church 87, and All Saints 115).

Baptisms: 2 (SM), 13 (CC), 13 (AS)

Communion before Confirmation: 8 (SM), Confirmation: 2 (CC)

Marriages 2 (SM), 3 (CC), 2 (AS)

Funerals in church 3 (SM), 5 (CC), 5 (AS)

Funerals at crematorium and cemetery: 26

St Mary's: Carol Service 150, Christmas services 278, Easter Day 129

Christ Church: Carol Service 190, Christmas services 659, Easter Day 186

All Saints: Carol Service 290, Christmas services 691, Easter Day 262

The Ministry Team

Clergy

Revd Alex Barrow

Team Vicar at All Saints since 2017, Area Dean since 2020

Revd Jonathan Haynes

Team Vicar at Christ Church since 2022

Revd Sylvie Collins-Mayo

Part-time Assistant Curate based at All Saints since 2021

Revd Matthew Watts

Assistant Curate based at St Mary's since 2022, currently stepped back from ministry

Revd Olwen Williamson

Priest with PTO, based at Christ Church since 2003

Revd Peter King

Priest with PTO, based at All Saints since 1984

On grounds of theological conviction, Peter is unable to receive the sacramental ministry of women bishops or priests. He has ministered graciously alongside female clergy in the parish, notably so with Canon Ann Nickson, the former Team Rector.

Readers

William Arnold, based at All Saints

Paul Russenberger, based at Christ Church

Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA)

Deirdre Munro, based at Christ Church, but ministering mainly in hospital chaplaincy

Directors of Music

Christopher Hughes (Director of Music at St Mary's)

Tom Coxhead (Director of Music at Christ Church)

James Cryer (Director of Music at All Saints)

Edward Buxton (Organist at All Saints)

The stipendiary clergy meet for Morning Prayer each weekday, and at midday on Wednesdays for a staff meeting. Periodically, the ministry team meets for lunch or an awayday.

Although members of the Ministry Team are based at particular churches, they lead worship and preach across the three churches of the parish, visiting the other churches of the parish once in each four-month rota. Some aspects – for example, Mission Giving – are undertaken as a parish enterprise rather than by the churches individually.

Administration

There is a single PCC for the parish with two Parish Wardens and a Parish Treasurer who work across the parish. Each church has two Churchwardens and a Church Treasurer who deal with the day-to-day running of the churches, and an elected Consultative Group.

There are three sub-committees of the PCC: Finance and Property, Planned Giving, and Mission, Peace and Justice. Each of the three churches is represented on these committees.

The parish employs an Administrator, based at the parish office at St Mary's. At present she works in the parish office for two days a week and from home for three days a week.

Despite being a relatively wealthy parish, sustaining a high level of giving to the Parish Support Fund and paying for half the cost of one of the Team Vicars, our finances are under pressure. Since 2020 Planned Giving has not risen in line with our costs, and the cost of energy has increased significantly. Our budget deficit for this year (£20,000) has been covered by a generous, anonymous one-off donation but we cannot rely on this happening again.

We are thankful for the generous legacies that have enabled work to the fabric at St Mary's and Christ Church, but we recognise that these legacies mean donations to the parish's Planned Giving scheme are lessening as new donors can seldom give as generously as those leaving the scheme. A newly-formed Financial Strategy committee, reporting to the Finance and Property committee, has been established to address this situation.

The Rectory, 170 Sheen Lane, SW14 8LZ

The Rectory, a detached house dating from the 1930s, sits at the centre of the parish at the corner of Sheen Lane and Penrhyn Crescent with windows facing East, South and West.

Downstairs there is a hallway, a breakfast room, a kitchen, a sitting room, a dining room, a study and a cloakroom; upstairs there are five bedrooms and a bathroom; outside there is a spacious garden and off-street parking for two cars.

St Mary's is twelve minutes' walk; Mortlake railway station is seven minutes' walk; Waitrose is three minutes' walk; Sheen Lane Centre is four minutes' walk; and Richmond Park (at Sheen Gate) is twelve minutes' walk.

