

# St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green and St George's, Crowhurst Parish Profile

## August 2023

We are looking to appoint a Team Vicar and we hope this Parish Profile will give you a sense of each of our churches, and our visions and priorities for the future. Thank you for reading, and we look forward to meeting you.



## WELCOME

The churches of St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green and St George's, Crowhurst are looking for a new Team Vicar. We are part of the Oxted Team Ministry of four churches that also includes St Mary's, Oxted and St Peter's, Tandridge and part of the Tandridge Deanery and the Diocese of Southwark.

St John's and St George's operate separately and independently but come together for some community-based events. The previous Vicar spent about 85% of their time at St John's and 15% at St George's.

We aspire to be inclusive and welcoming of all people, irrespective of ethnicity, sex, sexuality, age or background and we are looking for someone who wants to join our church family, lead us in worship and develop God's work in our community.

## WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?



**We expect someone with:**

- A **good sense of strategy**, and experience in **leading and managing change**, setting clear vision and direction. Someone who can prioritise and delegate with a **pioneering spirit** who doesn't mind experimenting, even when experimentation fails.

- A heart for **sharing Jesus not just in our church buildings** but also in our local areas so that we can be part of our local communities and alongside those in need.
- Knowledge of what it means to be a **church embedded in the community** and welcoming those from non-church backgrounds to discover the love and blessings of a faith community without proselytising.
- The **skills to draw together** young and old, families and singles, those with traditional models of family as well as those with non-traditional ones. We look for an **inclusive approach** to church including (but not limited to) women in leadership and acceptance of the diverse LGBT+ communities.



- A desire to build on the work that has been done to engage with **children and youth**. Someone who has imaginative ways of involving them in our services and church life.

#### We would love:

- An **inspiring and enabling** leader who is warm and approachable, compassionate and encouraging.
- Someone who can **discern gifts and skills** in our people, equip and disciple us to become what God has called us to be, teach us at every age and stage of our faith journey.
- A **team builder**. Someone who is happy to lead and comfortable when others lead.



## THE TEAM

Your team at St John's and St George's includes:

- 1 non stipendiary, part time priest
- 2 Readers
- 1 Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (currently on reduced duties due to ill health)
- 4 churchwardens

At St John's we also have:

- Part time paid positions: Director of Music, Parish Administrator, Communications Officer, Room and Hall Booking Secretary, Hurst Green News Editor, Oxted Team Youth Worker, Bid Project Manager, Gardener and St Agatha's Hall caretaker.
- Volunteer servers, sidespeople, intercessors, PCC members and Deanery Synod members.
- Dedicated volunteers who clean, arrange flowers, serve coffee after the main service and provide a monthly brunch, lead Sunday school and youth work, and maintain parts of the church grounds.



The wider team (St Mary's and St Peter's):

- Team Rector Designate
- 2 self-supporting, associate non-stipendiary priests
- 1 Reader
- 2 Churchwardens
- Part time paid administrator

There are regular opportunities for prayer, conversation and fellowship with Team Ministry Clergy and Readers and this is given a high priority.

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HURST GREEN

### Where we are and what's in our parish

The Parish of Hurst Green is situated in a semi-rural area of East Surrey, south of the M25 with outskirts of Oxted to the north and the parish of Crowhurst to the south. The church is located at the north-east end of the parish. We are a five-minute drive from J6 of the M25.

The parish is one of the largest in the Tandridge Deanery, with a population approaching 7,000 and comes under the Oxted South Ward of Tandridge District Council, Surrey County Council and the East Surrey Parliamentary constituency.

There is a broad range of housing, from large, detached properties to several large council estates. The parish is one of contrasts with some stockbroker housing but also some pockets of real deprivation. Many residents commute to London and Croydon, and others more locally in a wide spectrum of jobs. There are a few local shops and two pubs and extensive sports fields with a tennis club and a social club. Nearby Oxted has more shops, library, cinema, leisure centre, doctors, restaurants etc. There is a train station with regular services to London.



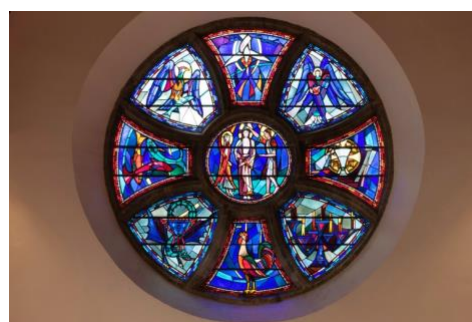
There are two residential care homes – David Gresham House (Abbeyfield) and Windmill Manor which provides both nursing and specialist dementia care.

There are three schools in the parish – Hurst Green Infant School (3 – 7), Holland Junior School (7 – 11) and Moor House School and College (8 upwards), a boarding school for children with speech difficulties to which pupils come from all over the country. There is no church school.

Click on the following link for a map: <https://goo.gl/maps/e1SwdHBtGDJbW7cD8>

### Our buildings

St John the Evangelist church was consecrated in 1913 and is not listed. An extension at the west end was built in the late 1950s to meet the needs of a growing population and dedicated in 1962. In 1988, the church suffered an arson attack and fire quickly spread to the tower and the roof. The massive damage required major rebuilding and the opportunity was taken to remodel the church, reflecting the changing needs and ideas in the community. The church was rededicated on Passion Sunday, 1 April 1990.



In late 1990s it was clear that bigger facilities were needed, both for church events and for more general use. An extension to the north side of the church was constructed, and the York Rooms were opened in March 2010. Due to a growing need to connect with the wider community, further building work is under consideration... more of this later!

There is an office in the tower with photocopying facilities.

There is a large churchyard which includes a Memorial Garden where ashes are buried, a wildflower conservation area, shrubs and a rose bed as well as parking.



The church is surrounded by grounds on all sides and is in a narrow, quiet residential road at one end of the community. It is tucked away in a semi-rural setting, the land previously being fields and given to the church. It is not visible from the centre of Hurst Green and is rather hidden away which presents us with some challenges, especially in terms of drawing in the wider community.

We hold a Bronze A Rocha Eco award and our proactive Eco group have lots of plans for further improvements.

We also have a hall, St Agatha's which is in a more prominent position adjacent to the village green and this is used for community events such as Community Fridge and Community Hub as well as being available for commercial hire.



## Our congregation



There are currently 145 people on the electoral roll. Like many churches, we are struggling to return to pre-pandemic levels of attendance at the main Sunday service, although attendance at our 8.30am service is increasing. We have a wide range of ages of people who come to our services and we are particularly keen to find a new

team vicar who can appeal to young and old alike. We have many young families and many retired and all shades in between; we're an inclusive congregation but not that ethnically diverse which reflects the area in which we're based. We would like your help in growing our congregation over the coming years, with a particular emphasis on welcoming young families and children.



We struggle, like many, to find volunteers to help with the various jobs around the church. We try to come up with imaginative ways which can fit around people's busy lives but we hope you can assist us to develop a helping culture.

## Our pattern of worship

The worship style is middle of the road / central Anglican. Eucharistic vestments are worn and the Sacrament is reserved.

A typical month includes the following:

Sundays	8.30am	<b>Holy Eucharist (said) Common Worship Order One</b>	Usual attendance 15-20
	9.45am	<b>Parish Eucharist (sung) Common Worship Order One Intercessions are lay led All Age Service on first Sunday of month</b>	Usual attendance 50 -60, usual number of communicants 40 - 50
	12.00 noon	<b>David Gresham House Holy Communion (Reserved Sacrament)</b>	Taken by St John's Clergy plus other designated people each week

	<b>11.30 (third Sunday)</b>	<b>Café Church</b> An informal service with a contemporary music group. The talk is delivered by a member of the congregation and the prayers are led by a family.	Usual attendance 40
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Morning prayer</b>	Usually online
<b>Fourth Wednesday</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist (said) Common Worship Order One</b>	Usual attendance 5 - 10
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Windmill Manor Holy Communion (Reserved Sacrament)</b>	Taken monthly by St John's clergy / reader

Our 09.45 Sunday service (and some special services) is streamed and typically receives around 30 views. In addition to the above, the clergy and Reader take the reserved sacrament to housebound parishioners on a fortnightly basis.

## Church Music

Our music is a mix of traditional and contemporary. We use organ and piano mostly, sometimes clarinet and bass guitar. The choir of approximately 10 only robes for festivals and special occasions and usually sits nearer the congregation to give a strong lead. An anthem is sung during the distribution of communion.



Café church uses worship songs with piano, bass and rhythm guitar, saxophone, and a mix of singers.

Music is of particular importance at Easter and Christmas when other singers in the area are invited to join us for these services.

## Occasional Offices

In 2022, there were 15 baptisms, 2 marriages and 25 funerals (at church and / or at a crematorium or cemetery).



## Children and Youth



We run Sunday School approximately twice a month and Sunday Munch (a discussion group for teenagers) once a month. In addition, there are two Youth Groups each of which meets fortnightly in the evenings. We have a paid part time Oxted Team Youth Worker who is supported by volunteers from across the team.

We admit children age 7 and above to Communion once a year following a period of preparation with them.



The local schools are not church schools but we have solid relationships with all of them and the schools regularly hold services at Christmas and Easter in the church. The clergy team also visit the schools and participate in school assemblies.

## Groups and Activities

We are committed to working to be a church without walls, and have several groups and activities which are available to the whole community:

- **Yo Yos** – a group for babies through to pre-school children and their carers which meets once a week during term time. Run by a team of volunteers, it includes free play, tidy-up time, coffee and cake for the adults and finishing with a story and lively time of singing action songs.
- **Art Group** – meets monthly
- **Coffee Morning** – meets fortnightly, originally set up for the elderly and the lonely
- **Community Hub** – meets weekly in St Agatha's Hall and is a warm space for folk to meet, connect, talk and feel supported. Managed by St John's and The Accessibility Project with support from the United Reformed Church.
- **Community Fridge** – meets weekly, we collect food from local sources that would otherwise go to waste and share it from St Agatha's Hall; anyone is welcome to take and make use of what they would like. Referrals can be made from here to the local food bank and other sources of support. People also stop for a drink and a chat.
- **Health Hub** – we have previously provided space to the NHS community team who help and support local people by providing health checks, COVID boosters, and having conversations about mental health. We hope to repeat this soon.
- **Hurst Green News** – a monthly publication which is delivered to 3,000 homes in the parish. It includes a clergy lead article and promotes local clubs and activities. It is funded by advertising.
- **Informal Home Group** – meets ad hoc as a type of Bible discussion group.



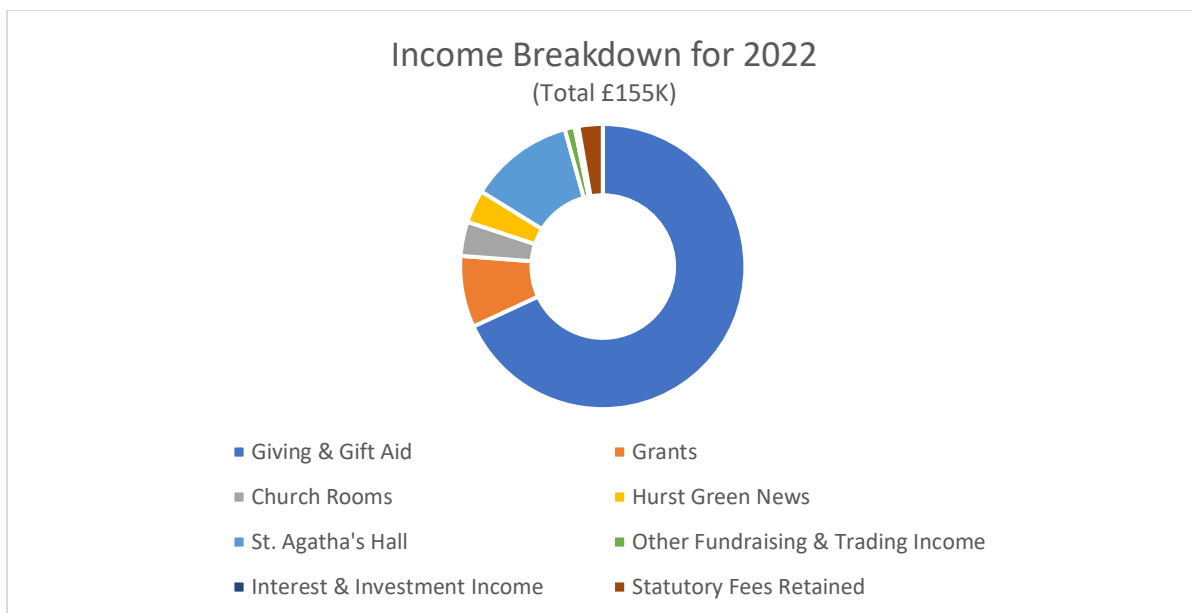
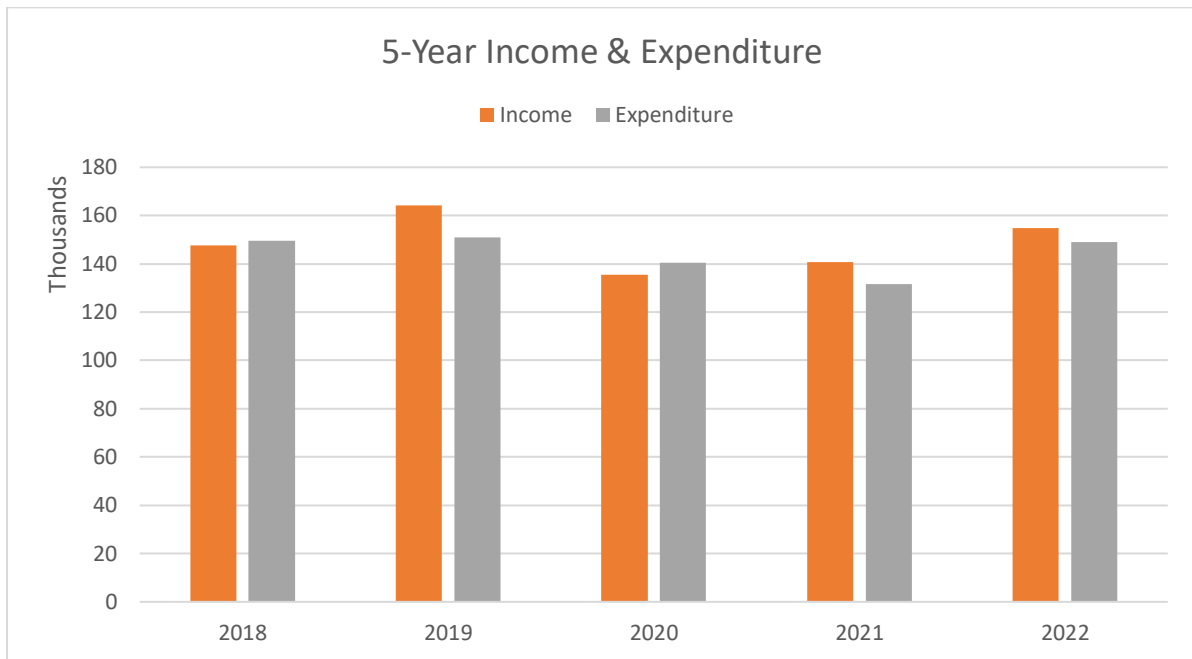
In addition, our church and rooms are used by other local organisations such as Hurst Green Singers, a local choral society, the WI, a club for the visually impaired and yoga classes.

## Our Finances

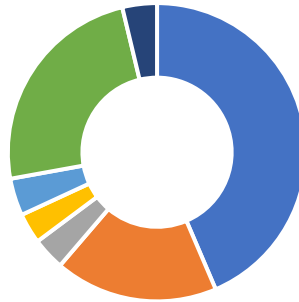
Like many churches, we haven't quite returned to the regular giving levels prior to the pandemic and it doesn't feel right to be asking people to give more to make up the shortfall when we are living in such difficult times. But between St John's and St George's we contribute to the Parish Support Fund and make monthly payments which represent about 88% of the

requested total. We also pay clergy expenses in full. We need your help to ensure we continue to manage our finances with wisdom, grace and discernment.

Here's a snapshot of our finances:



## Expenditure Breakdown for 2022 (Total £149K)



- Parish Support Fund
- Non-Clergy Salaries & Wages
- Clergy & Staff Expenses
- Church Mission & Evangelism Expenses
- Utility Costs
- Other Church Running Expenses
- Other Rooms & Hall Expenses

## Our Mission Action Plan

Our Mission Action Plan was revised at the beginning of 2023 and focuses on the three priorities from the Church of England strategy – to become a church of missionary disciples, to be a church where mixed ecology is the norm and to be a church that is younger and more diverse.

- Our mission is to welcome everyone, deepen faith, inspire action and share God’s friendship and love.
- Our vision is to be a church without walls at the heart of the community.
- Our values are rooted in Christian faith.

We look forward to sharing the detail with you.

## Crossing the Threshold

About two years ago, we started our “Crossing the Threshold” project with a hope and vision of increasing the use of our church building. We are now exploring funding sources for an ambitious and substantial building project to make our church more flexible, sustainable and accessible. As our space is currently empty for over 80% of the time, the PCC is committed to opening it up to use by all – not just regular church attendees – but for the benefit of the wider Hurst Green community.

Funding is being sought to remodel part of the church and build an extension to render the main church



building more suitable for week-day community use. This work will allow more community projects to be based at St John's and establish much-needed facilities such as a community café and networking centre.

This project is a significant undertaking; a major building project is scary, but exciting. There will be some inevitable challenges and disruption, but ultimately it will allow us to engage with our community in ways we simply cannot at present.

We have a strong team running this project, including a paid Bid Project Manager, but we need a vicar with vision, energy, and a commitment to help us get this project over the line. Could this be you?!

## The Vicarage



The vicarage was built around 30 years ago and is a 4 bedroomed house, the rear garden of which backs on to the churchyard. It is situated in Oast Road. The ground floor accommodation includes a vicar's study. There is a spacious two car garage and a pleasant, sunny garden. It is expected that the vicar's study will be used as the vicar's office; secretarial support is home based from the parish administrator's home.

## ST GEORGE'S, CROWHURST

### Where we are and what's in our parish



The village of Crowhurst, lying between Lingfield, Hurst Green and Tandridge, is rural and sparsely populated. Between three and four hundred people live in a total of approximately 140 dwellings which range from small, terraced cottages to large, detached houses, including several listed buildings.

The ecclesiastical parish was enlarged around 30 years ago to include Crowhurst Lane End where there are now about forty houses that are not included in the civil parish making a total of 180 dwellings in the Parish of St George.

There has been a small amount of new housing in recent years on 'brown field' sites, including a barn and outbuildings conversion providing four new houses presently for sale adjacent to our church which will double the number of near neighbours to the church!

Residents are a mix of retirees, commuters, farmers and self-employed and an increasing number of people are now working from home rather than commuting.

The village has no school or shops but does have a well-used village hall about a quarter of mile from the church that is used for church and village events.

## Our Buildings

The church is a small, attractive Grade 2 listed building, founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century but substantially rebuilt and refurbished in later centuries. The interior is simple with striking mosaic frescoes on the east wall and stained-glass windows on all sides. The stone font is of Saxon origin and bears several examples of recently identified medieval graffiti! The churchyard contains graves and tombs dating back several centuries as well as the famous hollow yew tree purported to be 4,000 years old.

There is no kitchen, running water or inside toilet but there is a portaloo secreted in the churchyard. There are no parking facilities so parking is on the lane outside the church.

The maintenance of the church is constantly assessed and reviewed and our surveyor stated in the last quinquennial report: *Much has been achieved by a small number of people ....*

There is however a very costly repair of the steeple to consider within the next few years.



## Our People and Worship



A Eucharist service is held once a fortnight on Sundays at 11.00am with an average attendance of 15-20 mostly mature adults and we are encouraged that numbers are increasing. Most people stay for coffee and a chat after the service. If any children attend, they are welcomed with age-appropriate activities although for the first time in many years there are no young families attending regularly.

The congregation numbers usually more than double at Christmas and Easter, as well as at traditional agricultural festivals such as Plough Sunday, Rogation and Harvest, with Remembrance Day bringing people from the wider community.

Outdoor services, whether in the churchyard or on local farms for Rogation, are always popular, as is Carol Singing in the Barn with a short Christmas talk which can attract up to 100 folk of all ages depending on the weather.

St George's is open every day and dog walkers and ramblers using the public footpath through the church grounds often pop into the church to say a prayer. Visitors to our famous Yew Tree also come in to see the church and our visitors book lists names from many parts of the globe.

There are on average two weddings a year. So far this year there have been three funeral services in our church; two were followed by a burial in the churchyard and the third followed by a burial of ashes. Baptisms numbers are also variable with one adult baptism so far this year.

## Looking Forward

An ancient church in a rural location with a small population brings many challenges. These are the things we want to work on with you in the coming years:

- Our wish list of practical items for the church includes running water, drainage and better toilet facilities. These have been researched but put on hold whilst we prioritise the installation of more efficient and eco-friendly heating in 2023/4.
- Working to facilitate the increasing number of people who 'pop' into our Church but don't attend services by providing appropriate resources and publicity to encourage their exploration of Christianity.
- Involving the community in preserving and protecting God's creation as we plan more wildlife friendly areas in the churchyard and beyond.

- Expand our charitable projects by encouraging the participation of residents throughout the ecclesiastical parish.

Increasing the church attendance figures from a small population is challenging but we have a stable congregation with signs of growth in a village where non-churchgoers look out for ‘their’ church as we look forward to welcoming a new Team Vicar.



## THE WIDER TEAM: ST MARY'S, OXTED

### Where we are and what's in our parish



Oxted is a small town nestled on the edge of the North Downs. Our town is small, friendly, cohesive, and has all you need. Oxted has diverse shops ranging from a large Morrisons to smaller Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Co-op, Boots and independent bakers, jewellers, clothes shops, stationers. We have a leisure centre with a swimming pool, Everyman cinema, The Barn Theatre, coffee shops, restaurants, pubs and charity shops. There

are societies and clubs including the Arts society, music, choirs, history, gardening, Scottish dancing, yoga, Pilates, walking, running, dancing and team sports for all ages. Parking is available and much is free. We are quite a traditional community: there will be a welcome from the broader community who see a place for the traditions of the church even if they do not attend beyond Christmas and family occasions.

There are approximately 5,200 living in the parish of Oxted. There is a very broad range of housing, including large, detached properties, retirement flats and social housing. Many residents commute to London and Croydon, some work at Gatwick Airport and others more locally in a wide spectrum of jobs.

There are two residential homes – Tandridge Heights and Ridgeway Manor, which we visit on a regular basis for services and events.

Oxted has schools at primary level and a very large secondary school. We have a wonderful relationship with our St Mary's Primary School. There are also two Special Needs secondary schools, plus private education provision up to 13 years old. There are nurseries, preschools and toddler groups (St Mary's Monkeys).



## Our People and Worship

There are currently 115 people on the electoral roll.

St Mary's is in the open evangelical tradition, with a mixed diet of worship. Our main 9.30am service is Common Worship Holy Communion. Our 4.30pm service is a relaxed and informal time of worship.

A typical week includes:

Sundays	8.00am	Holy Eucharist (said) BCP	Usual attendance 5-10
	9.30am	Parish Communion with hymns Common Worship Order One All Age Service (non-Eucharistic) last Sunday of the month	Usual attendance 60-70
	4.30pm	Café Service – informal worship Café Communion on last Sunday of month	Usual attendance 20-30
Wednesday	11.00am	Holy Communion Common Worship Order One	3-5 attendees
Thursday	11.00am	Tandridge Heights (weekly)	Taken by St Mary's clergy / reader
	2.30pm	Ridgeway Manor (fortnightly)	

## Occasional Offices

In 2022, there were 22 baptisms, 2 marriages and 27 funerals (at church and / or at a crematorium or cemetery).

## Children and Youth

Children and Youth are really important to us at St Mary's – we run our Junior Church each Sunday morning at 9.30am (except the last Sunday of the month, when we all worship together for the whole service). There are usually 10-15 children at Junior Church. We also run a weekly youth group, which has 10-12 regular members.



## Mission and Vision

Our Mission Action Plan is: Knowing Christ, Growing Community, Renewing our Heritage.

### Knowing Christ

In addition to our regular services, we have several home groups which meet for bible study and prayer. We also run a 10-week annual Alpha course jointly with St Peter's. We offer preparation for baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals. We also visit our church primary school for Collective Worship regularly and provide festival services on a seasonal basis for the wider community.

### Growing Community

At St Mary's, we have The\_Space, which is a flexible room for our use. Currently we run the following events there: Wobble Class (seated exercises), Baby\_Space (a group for newborns and their parents), Meeting Place (an open coffee and cake morning). Other regular use in The\_Space has seen Pancakes and Prayers, Open Youth and children's events and much more.



We are also delighted to continue our Oxted Adventure events – usually in Advent, but we have expanded to have Adventures in the Summer, and for the King's coronation – these are true community events, which bring much joy.

### Renewing Heritage

It is a privilege to be custodians of a beautiful ancient church building. Maintaining the fabric and the churchyard is a constant challenge. We have the St Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust which works hard to keep fundraising and work going. We love holding Open Days in the church, and seeing the community come in to explore the building.



## THE WIDER TEAM: ST PETER'S, TANDRIDGE

### Where we are and what's in our parish

Tandridge is a small, rural village 3 miles from Oxted. The Parish has a strong sense of community centred around the school, church, and village hall, with well-attended community social events such as the village Christmas Show, Harvest Supper and Village Fete. There are close ties with nearby farming communities.



### Our Building

The church is Grade 1 listed with sections dating from around the 11<sup>th</sup> century. We are particularly proud of the magnificent and ancient Yew which is regarded as one of the oldest and largest in Britain. There are plans to instal proper toilet and tea and coffee making facilities.

### Our Congregation and Pattern of Worship

There are currently 90 people on the electoral roll.

The worship is modern Catholic / Central. Eucharistic vestments are worn.



A typical month includes the following:

Sundays	8.00am	Peaceful BCP or series 1 Said Service on first Sunday	8-10 attendees
	11.00am	A lively, interactive <b>Family Service with Family Communion</b> on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.	10-20 attendees
	6.30pm	<b>BCP Evensong</b> , quiet and reflective. Twice a month the Reigate School Choir joins us for sung Evensong.	15-30 attendees

### Occasional Offices

In 2022, there were 15 baptisms, 2 marriages and 25 funerals (at church and / or crematorium or cemetery).

## Groups and Activities

Our annual cycle of church events includes: regular school worship, in both St Peter's Church and school; Christingle, and our hugely popular and interactive Christmas Eve service with gifts of Christmas decorations hand-made by parishioners; Messy Church



in the Village Hall; ecumenical Lent groups and a contemplative Good Friday service, recently with devotional chamber music; a joyful Easter service; worldwide prayer events; our Patronal Festival with picnic and rounders match and Remembrance Sunday service with two-minutes' silence held at the village war memorial.

## DEANERY SYNOD

Formed in 2016 with the amalgamation of Godstone and Caterham Deaneries, Tandridge is the newest, largest (geographically) and most rural Deanery in Southwark Diocese. It covers approximately the same area as Tandridge District Council and includes both wealthy regions and pockets of social deprivation.

The Deanery Synod is led by Area Dean, Michelle Edmonds (Warlingham Team Rector), Assistant Area Dean, James Ashton (Oxted Team Rector Designate) and Lay Chair, April Alexander. There are 30 churches and around 75 members. The Deanery Synod meets three times a year and its strapline is: Inclusive, Collaborative, Supportive.

## AND FINALLY...

For an informal chat about the vacancy, please feel free to contact James Ashton, Team Rector Designate after 22 August 2023. Email [james.p.ashton75@gmail.com](mailto:james.p.ashton75@gmail.com) Telephone 07948 248030.

Closing date: Tuesday 12 September 2023  
Parish visit: Monday 25 September 2023 (morning)  
Interview date: Monday 25 September 2023 (afternoon)

<https://www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk>

<https://www.stmarysoxted.uk>

<https://www.stpeterstandridge.uk>

<https://www.otoc.uk>