

Parish Profile

St Peter's with All Saints, Chertsey
Holy Trinity, Lyne and Longcross





The Diocese of Guildford is a warm and friendly place to be, with a strong cohort of gifted and passionate laity and clergy, some excellent church schools, and plenty of beautiful countryside to enjoy on a day off!

Our vision as a diocese is to see lives and communities transformed through the love of Christ; and, to that end, we have recently refreshed our Diocesan Strategy Transforming Church, Transforming Lives, with a particular focus on Growing Disciples, Growing Diversity and Growing Community. Although our congregations are generally rather larger than average, we are all too conscious that we are only reaching a tiny proportion of our Parish populations, and are particularly keen to become more effective in passing on the baton of faith to younger generations.

Our team of Mission Enablers are committed to working with every Parish in fleshing out that vision in an appropriate way, going with the grain of the church's history and tradition, whilst also suggesting new ways to 'proclaim the gospel afresh in each generation'. The pandemic, while presenting many challenges, has helped to forge new relationships between many of our churches, creating a spirit of 'us and us' more than 'them and us', and opening up new approaches to partnership and inter-church collaboration.

If you share our vision for transformation, and have a track record in growing disciples, growing diversity and growing community, we'd love to hear from you!

✠ *Andrew Guildford*



There is much to celebrate across the benefice of St Peter's with All Saints, Chertsey and Holy Trinity, Lyne and Longcross, which has committed and faithful worshipping communities eager to share the good news of Jesus with others in word and deed.

We are seeking to appoint a full time Priest-in-Charge who will build on the strong foundations of the previous incumbent and enable St Peter's, in particular, to grow in discipleship and number in the next season of ministry. The new minister should have a passion for seeing people come to a living faith in Jesus, have strong pastoral gifts and a desire to serve the community of faith and those who live in the benefice. Prayer is a significant aspect of ministry in these churches, as is a commitment to a strong community focus and ministry to families, children and youth. I sense that the previous five year vision of the PCC at St Peter's has been largely fulfilled and so a new leader who can work with others in discerning the future direction and strategy of this church is crucial.

Historically, the incumbent of St Peter's has had a light touch approach to ministry at Holy Trinity as the current House for Duty priest there has been seen as the *de facto* incumbent of that parish. The benefice has been suspended due to some conversations about the future shape of ministry in this area, and although nothing has been decided, there is a possibility that the two parishes will be legally separated, leading to the successful appointee becoming the incumbent of St Peter's only. I would imagine that the current supportive partnership between the two parishes would continue regardless of any pastoral re-organisation that might take place.

This appointment is perfect timing for receiving resource and support from the wider diocese. 2024 marked the beginning of our second cycle of our Parish Needs Process, which is a brand-new way of working whereby the diocese will seek to walk alongside each parish to help them with vision and whatever needs they might have arising out of this.

I am very enthusiastic about this post. For the person that God calls, there is so much to offer here: the warmth of great church families; the opportunity of leadership in a benefice, deanery and diocese which offers considerable support and resources; the challenge of discerning with these communities what God is doing and how we might join in; the privilege of living and working in a part of the country with so many opportunities for clergy and families.

If you'd value an informal conversation about this post, I would be keen to speak with you, so please do not hesitate to be in touch with me via: archdeacon.dorking@cofeguildford.org.uk

Venerable Martin Breadmore, The Archdeacon of Dorking

Thank you for your interest in this exciting role.

The Haberdashers' Company is patron of St Peter's, Chertsey, a role we are very proud to undertake.

The Company takes its role as patron seriously. The connections we have with our church patronages have a centuries-long and rich history. Our affiliation with St Peter's began in 1623 through a generous gift from Dame Mary Weld. She gave money for the purchase of three patronages, one of which was St Peter's.



Today the Company takes a genuine interest in the life and ministry of all eight Haberdasher patronages. Twice a year clergy are invited to Haberdashers' Hall in the City of London for a time of hospitality and mutual support. Alongside each Diocese we strive to take an active interest in the well-being of Haberdasher incumbents and offer additional pastoral support, as necessary. The Company also visits each church on a four yearly basis. The next visit to St Peter's will be in 2027.

The Company provides each Haberdasher church with an annual grant, currently set at £2,000.

During this appointment process the Company is supporting St Peter's parish representatives and its PCC to discern wisely and prayerfully. The Company holds the parish of St Peter's in high regard and you would be joining this faithful and vibrant community at an exciting time.

As patron, we look forward to being part of this process and hope to meet you in the near future. You can be assured of the Company's prayers.

With my very best wishes

*Past Master Caroline Davis
Chair of the Charities Committee
The Haberdashers' Company*

Thank you for taking the time to read the Parish Profile for our two Parishes.

We are delighted that you are considering applying for the vicar vacancy at St Peter's, in the Benefice of Chertsey. Ours is a church at the heart of its town, it's busy and thriving, central to the life and fabric of Chertsey. We open our doors daily to welcome townfolk in. Some come in just to sit and be still, finding a haven from the bustle of the world. Some visit our prayer room, with its themed interactive prayer stations. Others come in for our activities and gatherings in our church hall: one day, parents with toddlers; another, pensioners for coffee, cake and a natter. Every month, an all-age lunch brings everyone together.

We have recently re-ordered the church. We have made it more flexible inside – we can host our own church groups, but now we have a bigger space to welcome in activities from the wider community. Of course, we aim to build on this. Both our services on Sundays are well attended. A recent survey found St Peter's to be friendly and welcoming. That's how we want it to be.

St Peter's has a strong ministry and leadership team who support and encourage each other through prayer. After many years of service, our previous vicar has retired. We seek a new spiritual leader – someone Christ-centred and prayerful, someone to help us discern God's will, guided by the Holy Spirit, to lead our parish forward into this new season.

Our vision is to continue to develop our discipleship, prayer and youth ministry and to grow our outreach to the wider community and beyond. We need someone with fresh ideas, and the energy to deliver them; yet someone with the sensitivity to take account of people's traditions, views and opinions. We can see that's a tall order.

Whomsoever God sends, we will make them welcome. Where they take us, we will go. Where God leads us, we will follow. That is our commitment.

Our sister church in the benefice, Holy Trinity, Lyne and Longcross is a traditional village church in its own parish – built by the Victorians through public subscription. It sits in the village of Lyne a couple of miles west of Chertsey. At Lyne we have a part-time priest (technically a curate from St Peter's) and a small but loyal community of worshippers. On Sunday mornings we host "Trinity Praise" – an informal all-age service, followed by a more traditional Holy Communion.

Holy Trinity also has a small, modern church hall (The "Parish Room") used for meetings, activities, and sometimes services too. Holy Trinity had its Quinquennial Inspection in summer 2024. The QI report shows that the fabric is essentially sound; but it has given the churchwardens plenty of pointers for future maintenance.

We hope you find the information in this parish profile useful and encouraging. If you have any questions please contact us, we will be happy to help and look forward to meeting you.



*Dave Phillips and Jan Alexander,
St Peter's Chertsey*



*Barbara Payne and Gerald Wilson
Holy Trinity, Lyne & Longcross*

PARISH PROFILE

St Peter's with All Saints, Chertsey Holy Trinity, Lyne & Longcross

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Parish Profile

St Peter's with All Saints, Chertsey Holy Trinity, Lyne and Longcross

About Us

St Peter's sits centrally in Chertsey, a bustling and prosperous town, while Holy Trinity is on the edge of the pleasant village of Lyne.

Both churches are welcoming and friendly communities, active in serving and ministering to their local areas, St Peter's for over 800 years and Holy Trinity for nearly 200 years. The parishes are south-west of London, straddling the M25 and largely south of the M3, close to Heathrow Airport and with easy access to London in one direction and open countryside in the other.

The Church Community

St Peter's and Holy Trinity are both in the Deanery of Runnymede, in the Archdeaconry of Dorking, in the Diocese of Guildford.

St Peter's sits firmly within the evangelical/charismatic tradition. There is a clear emphasis upon the authority of scripture and an openness to the Holy Spirit in seeking God's leading and empowering. Prayer is central to the life of many and is foundational to decision making by the PCC and leadership

team. The 24/7 Prayer Movement has impacted the church in recent years and has been embraced enthusiastically by many.

Holy Trinity is central in churchmanship, and values traditional, eucharistic worship. An early service provides informal and accessible worship for all ages.

The future of the current joint benefice is under review – see the Archdeacon's statement above.

Both congregations reflect the diversity of their local communities, and are largely middle or working class, mostly White British with an increasing number of Black British and some Asian British. All ages are represented, with many families attending together.

The leadership team have faithful reliance on God to provide all the resources we need – whether this is people, volunteers, finance or time – and this

When asked what three words describe St Peter's, the congregation responded with these...



applies across all aspects of our ministry and church life. The team support each other to prayerfully take forward our vision.

The ministry team and key officers at **St Peter's** are:

- Sue Phillips, OLM, who is in the final year of her curacy and will remain at St Peter's as an OLM, and has a strong pastoral ministry.
- Christine Pattinson, Associate Minister, who has PTO and is very active in various services and also has a strong pastoral ministry.
- Carolyn Clark, LLM, who preaches and leads services at St Peter's.
- George Hobbs, who has been an LLM at St Peter's for 53 years, which has involved preaching at Sunday services.
- Clare Rice, Children's Leader, leads Children's Church creatively engaging the children in a range of crafts and activities to share the good news of Jesus.
- Annie Burnham, Children's and Families Worker, responsible for the midweek family's ministry. Her work includes Open The Book in four primary schools in Chertsey and Lyne, with whom we have good relationships, often being asked to support vulnerable and bereaved families in their setting.
- Dave Phillips and Jan Alexander, churchwardens, supporting the incumbent with all aspects of church business and pastoral issues and ensuring the buildings and property are maintained and secure.
- Dom Maher, Church Treasurer and Operations Manager, manages all church finance, and as operations manager works closely with the incumbent, churchwardens and leadership team to provide 'invisible' support to the key ministries of the church.
- Laura South, Prayer Co-ordinator, is responsible for creating the themed, interactive prayer stations in the prayer room and for 24/7 prayer sessions. She also created Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and co-ordinates Open The Book for our local primary schools.
- Christine Leach, Church Administrator, carries out all church administration, manages the hall hire and is the face of the church throughout the week as she works in the office at the hall.
- Ron Howell, Safeguarding Officer, ensures all DBS checks are carried out for all church staff and volunteers, liaises with the diocese safeguarding team, and supports the incumbent in safeguarding issues.



St Peter's has a prayerful PCC made up of mature Christians from a range of professional backgrounds, offering diverse and broad experience. They have a heart for God and work cohesively with the leadership team to ensure the mission of the church is promoted and the maintenance of its assets and buildings is upheld. The PCC meets every other month.

The ministry team and key officers at **Holy Trinity** are:

- The Revd Laurence Gamlen, who is self-supporting and part-time House of Duty Priest at Holy Trinity, is the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Lead Chaplain for Ashford and St Peter's NHS Foundation Trust, and is also PCC Chair.
- Gerald Wilson and Barbara Payne are the churchwardens. Barbara is also Junior Church Leader and Safeguarding Lead.
- Sophie Quest is the Pastoral Assistant
- James McKee is the Organist and Choirmaster.
- Sue Holloway is the Treasurer
- Judy Snell is the Mothers' Union Leader

The Holy Trinity PCC meets six times a year.

The laity are involved at all levels within both churches. During services they lead prayers and take Bible readings, and lead the worship or preach. At St Peter's several are authorised by the incumbent to administer the chalice. As a fellowship we work hard to make sure everyone feels and is included, irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, or any other barriers that we see but God does not.

St Peter's historic ring of eight bells includes a 14th century bell from Chertsey Abbey and one cast in 1588 to commemorate the victory over the Armada. Ringing is maintained by a band of mixed ages and abilities, providing an outward voice of the church in the community. The bells are currently rung before the 9 am service and when required for weddings or other special services. They are also rung for community events such as The Black Cherry Fair, The Goose Fair, special school services, the annual Museum service and Royal events. The bell-ringers also maintain the tradition of ringing a Curfew Bell at 8 pm on the weekday nights between Michaelmas and Lady Day, one of only a handful of churches in the country that still continue the tradition.



The bells are regarded as one of the most difficult peals of bells to ring in the Diocese, hence the proposal to install a ringing gallery which will make the bells much easier to ring, with the added bonus of a community room on the ground floor. The ringers would welcome periodic visits from an incumbent on a Wednesday practice night and at our occasional social events.

The tower also houses a clock which strikes the Westminster chimes, a carillon which plays tunes on the bells four times each day and the roof supports a flagpole, flags being flown on designated days.

Our willing volunteers run the church and its activities smoothly and efficiently: children and youth work, worship and sound, prayer and pastoral care, catering, School outreach ministries, home groups, Alpha, support for the elderly, maintaining the fabric and in numerous other ways. We hope to increase the number of active Church members so that we can grow our reach into the local communities.

Church Services

St Peter's	2022	2023	2024
Electoral roll	200	205	212
Added	4	8	9
Left	2	3	2
Live in Parish	129	129	135
Outside Parish	71	76	77
Average weekly attendance			
Adults	131	154	136
Children	65	40	29
Baptisms	10	18	10
Weddings	7	1	2
Funerals	24	18	20

The doors of **St Peter's** are open every day for anyone to come in and find a quiet space. Some eat their lunch, others pray, many just sit and find peace. The church has become an open community space used by people of faith and of no faith.

On a Sunday, St Peter's hosts two services, a 9 am traditional Communion, and a 10.30 am Informal Worship, with communion on the third Sunday of the month. Children's Church meets at the same time as the Informal Worship. There has also been a BCP Eucharist fortnightly on a Friday

Holy Trinity also has two services on a Sunday: 'Trinity Praise', an informal family-friendly gathering at 9.30 am, and a traditional Service of Holy Communion at 10.45 am

Our Christmas services at **St Peter's** include a Christingle Service for the uniformed organisations (followed by Christmas lights being turned on in Chertsey town), Museum carol service, Carols by Candlelight, Toddler's Church Nativity, Christmas eve late afternoon Christingle service, Midnight communion service, and a Christmas morning communion service followed by an informal family service.

Easter services include a reflective service on Maundy Thursday, Walk of Witness with Chertsey churches on Good Friday finishing in St Peter's church for a short service, a Good Friday reflection (either 'an hour at the cross' service, or Stations of the Cross), and on Easter Day we have had a sunrise service on Abbey Field followed by bacon butties, and then our Easter Sunday services in church.

Sung Worship is only a part of our offering to God but can be an important contact point for people and facilitate spiritual engagement. There is a worship team of ten singers and musicians who provide music for the informal Service at St Peter's on a rota system. There is a leading singer and a guitar or keyboard, often with a second singer and with an occasional supporting guitar and bass. Songs are usually



contemporary worship, or contemporary arrangements of widely known hymns, and songs are chosen, where possible to go with the theme of the sermon. We are very open to learning new songs.

Holy Trinity	2022	2023	2024
Electoral roll	53	55	55
Added	3	5	3
Left	11	3	3
Live in Parish	12	12	12
Outside Parish	41	43	43
Average weekly attendance			
Adults			32
Children			6
Baptisms	0	0	0
Weddings	8	8	4
Funerals	12	12	11

St Peter's has a sophisticated sound and AV system, run by a small team. For both the worship team and the AV team there is a need for extra people.

Separately from the 10.30 worship team, there are two organists and a keyboard player who play at the 9 am and when needed for occasional offices and other services and events. They play a mix of standard traditional hymns, and contemporary hymns that are written for a congregation. This provides a contrast to the worship band and enriches our worship. A choir is formed for the Christmas Carol Service, and there are some who would like to see a permanent choir formed, to sing at the 9 am service.

At **Holy Trinity**, we have an excellent organist and pianist who plays at the 10.45 Communion service.

St Peter's children's church is flourishing on Sunday mornings and the rota of volunteers have the joy of sharing the good news of Jesus to many children and families each week. We have twenty to thirty



children and young people we minister to in the marquee in the churchyard. Each week starts with the same action prayer so all the children can join in, after which the children have the opportunity to share any news or how they are feeling. Then the theme of the day is introduced through stories, worship or video, leading to relevant discussions and activities. The session ends with games and a final prayer. An annual Light and Laughter party is held on 31st October. Open to our church family and the wider community, it is well-attended. The children also have a Christmas party. More volunteers are needed to help, and various families have asked about holding all-age services on a regular basis.

Discipling and Teaching

There is an emphasis on biblical teaching at St Peter's and at Holy Trinity, which is central to the churches' growth and maturity. We use both lectionary and sermon series for Sunday morning preaching. The church community is blessed with several people both on the clergy team and occasional preachers who provide a high standard of teaching to our congregation and our challenge is to sustain this standard of teaching.

St Peter's has seven well-established home groups meeting across the week during the daytime and evenings. There is a mixture of resources used by our home groups, either choosing recommended resources to meet a need or particular preference of the group, or specific material to align with Sunday themes.

About 40% of St Peter's belong to a small group and our challenge is to increase this level of congregation participation. We believe a new co-ordinator with fresh vision would help to address this.

Alpha has been run at St Peter's for many years, usually offering two courses a year following Easter and from September. Alpha has been successful in bringing a portion of the attendees from each course to Christ, and another portion keeping connected with the church through major celebrations like Christmas and the re-opening of the church in 2023 following the re-ordering.

Our challenge is to ensure there is a route for those who have completed an Alpha course and have given their lives to Christ. We want to enable an opportunity to nurture their new faith and for them to remain together with those they have built a bond over the weeks of Alpha and become part of St Peter's.

The side chapel in the church has now been rebranded as The Prayer Room, with soundproofing and separate heating. Additional heating and modern lighting has been approved by the PCC as part of the development works and should be completed soon. Our Prayer Coordinator runs a 24/7 prayer event every year or so. Interactive prayer themes are always available in the prayer room, and are changed every six weeks or so. There is a visitor's book in the room, and comments show that this room is valued by the wider community when they pop in midweek. There is an excellent collection of interactive prayer



resources now, and good collaboration with the children's workers means that these resources can be used in Children's Church on a Sunday morning to help the children (and their parents) develop their conversations with God.

A thrice-weekly prayer meeting is led by a member of the ministry team, either in church or on Zoom. An Emergency Prayer Line allows prayer requests to be speedily disseminated. Various members of the

congregation lead intercessory prayers during services, and prayer ministry is offered after the 10.30 service by a committed prayer team. There has always been a core group of dedicated people who have attended prayer walks and other *ad hoc* prayer evenings, and interest is slowly growing. This could be seen on Good Friday 2024, when forty people attended our first Stations of the Cross event. Many people were visibly moved, and the event is set to run again in 2025.

A bookstall is open in the nave every Sunday after the service and during the week when the church building is open, and is a popular addition to the life of St Peter's.

St Peter's Women's Ministry is an opportunity for women of all ages to get together to share in fellowship and encourage each other in faith. They meet regularly every two months on a Sunday evening in the church building, where 30 to 35 women regularly meet together. The evening has a regular format of refreshments whilst catching up and getting to know the women in our church community. They then come together for worship, followed by listening to testimonies of our women and ending the evening with some form of prayer. We are so blessed by the openness of our women in sharing their stories, which gives great encouragement as we hear how God has been working through the struggles and joys of individuals' lives. Annually we hold a fund-raising event in the form of an afternoon tea and for the last two years have supported a Surrey based charity supporting survivors of Domestic Abuse. We also support the Runnymede Foodbank by asking those who are able to bring a food item along to our meetings. The organisation and running of this ministry is by a small group of dedicated women volunteers.

St Peter's is blessed to have a good community of men regularly attending our Church services. We run a variety of social activities – curry nights, Top Golf – to build relationships and there is a home group

specifically for men, called the Filling Station. This meets monthly, and has used various video courses as tools to encourage and engage the men on ways to deepen their faith journey. There is a latent opportunity to build upon this concept and consider new initiatives to strengthen this key part of the congregation e.g. prayer breakfasts, speaker events.

Our young people meet together at Sunday Morning Youth (for Years 6 to 8), a place to have fun, be comfortable, spend time with their friends, fellowship as a group and with the leaders, read the Bible and think about their relationships with God and others, worship and pray in a safe and accepting space and group – to experience a sense of belonging, love and acceptance – from the group and from God. Sessions run in the hall on two Sundays a month. We have seven young people who attend on a regular basis with their families, plus several other young people who come when they can. We have been running these sessions since around June 2024. The leaders are building positive relationships with the young people and the young people are forming valued friendships with each other. Prayer has been introduced towards the end of a session, and it has been amazing to see these young people wanting to pray out loud in the group and pray for their families and friends and each other. In the future, more volunteer leaders would enable the group to meet every Sunday. On a Sunday evening in term time our youth meet for an hour and half to enjoy fun, fellowship, pizza and finding out more about God. The numbers of this group have been steadily growing with twelve coming along regularly, which consists of church family and also friends of those children. There is a big event each term which has included a summer BBQ and a camp out cook out. They have followed the Youth Alpha course which the youth engaged well with. This is another area we would like to develop and grow.

Pastoral

Pastoral care occurs through the following pathways:

- Children and young families through our Children's Church on Sundays and two community groups which meet during the week: Pop Along Heroes, a support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs, and Toddlers' Church. Families are also encouraged to join the monthly Generations lunch with our elderly Coffee Break members.
- Coffee Break (see below) meets weekly and is a thriving community project, supported by church members, with prayer and counselling on offer if needed.
- There are a number of Home groups (see above) which offer Bible study and prayer and pastoral support to its members, as well as friendship.
- On Sundays, prayer support is available after the 10.30 service and where possible after the 9 am communion service.
- There is a monthly service led by clergy at a local care home, The Grange.
- Open The Book is an excellent project (see below), offering Christian teaching at school assemblies and thus direct links with the community.



In the future we would like to establish a pastoral care team which would cover home visits to the housebound and offer services at Abbey Chase and Parklands Manor care homes.

Finance and Administration

St Peter's' leadership and governance structure is shaped around its Parochial Church Council (PCC) supporting the Church Wardens, Priest-in-Charge and Leadership and Ministry Team. Certain leadership roles will hold *ex officio* status. There is a Standing Committee that can execute any urgent matters between meetings and consists of the incumbent, both churchwardens, the treasurer/operations manager, and at least one other PCC member. The Standing Committee members are agreed by the PCC at their first meeting following the APCM. We can also provide up to three Deanery Synod reps to support the Runnymede Deanery. There are a small number of paid roles – Administrator (0.9 FTE), Children's and Family Worker (0.5 FTE), Children's Church Leader (0.3 FTE), and cleaner (0.3 FTE). We also have Verger support on an hourly-rate basis.

We have previously secured external funding to support a Worship Leader and a Youth worker – both are roles that we are keen to revisit and review with the new Priest-in-Charge.

St Peter's, Chertsey	
Finances for 2024 (estimated)	
INCOME	£
Voluntary income	170,000
Church activities	25,000
Investments	10
TOTAL INCOME	195,010
EXPENDITURE	
Outward giving	12,500
Parish Share	101,220
Ministry costs	1,300
Upkeep of services and teaching	30,000
Running expenses	34,000
Church administration	26,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	205,020
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(10,010)
General Fund balance	12,000
Re-ordering Fund balance	22,000

Holy Trinity, Lyne & Longcross	
Finances for 2024 (estimated)	
INCOME	£
Voluntary income	34,660
Church activities	9,960
Investments	2,580
TOTAL INCOME	47,200
EXPENDITURE	
Outward giving	4,600
Parish Share	39,780
Ministry costs	0
Upkeep of services and teaching	260
Running expenses	18,680
Church administration	4,770
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	68,090
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(20,890)
General Fund balance	4,520
Restricted/Endowment fund balances	32,010

St Peter's relies on our faithful God to provide all the resources it needs to further His Kingdom in Chertsey. We have a gracious group of members (c. 25% of electoral roll) who give regularly and are supported annually with grants from the Haberdashers Company. We do not have any large reserves or investment structures and so we trust God to provide enough to allow us to break even. We can also take gifts online or via a tap-and-go terminal in the Church. We strongly believe we should aspire to tithing a proportion of our income to support those carrying out God's work in the wider community, both locally

and globally. We do this in faith, regardless of our financial status. The PCC agree at the start of the financial year who to support. St Peter's currently supports four groups via an annual Outward Giving payment: Runnymede Foodbank, The Besom Project, The Anglican Diocese of Jos, Nigeria, and the work of Sue and Neil Browning in Uganda and South Sudan. We are seeking to improve and streamline our systems and processes with new software – Expense Plus & Worship Tools – that will complement our existing Church Suite offering. We are fully up to date with our Parish Share commitment and have no outstanding creditors or debtors.

Holy Trinity uses its tithing to support the Barons Court Project, East to West, Child Action Sri Lanka, and Runnymede Home Start. The PCC at Holy Trinity is aware that relying on reserves to finance the current level of deficit is sustainable for only one more year. To address this, we seek to grow the numbers attending services, and therefore potentially growing the number of regular givers, as well as focusing on fundraising efforts led by a Fundraising Committee, recognizing the challenge that this presents.

Safeguarding

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of the whole church. Everyone who participates in the life of the church has a role to play promoting a safer church for all, as set out by the Church of England in the document "Promoting a Safer Church". All those involved with children, young people and vulnerable adults are required to go through the Disclosure and Barring Service process.

At the time of writing there are 57 members of **St Peter's** who are DBS checked, including all members of the PCC. St Peter's has a "Promoting a Safer Church" action plan created using the Diocesan website. St Peter's has moved to level 3, up from level 2 last year and currently stands at 90% complete on the Diocesan Dashboard. Safeguarding has been highlighted during special services.

Holy Trinity has adopted the Church of England's "Promoting a Safer Church" policy and associated guidance and protocols and has three members who are DBS checked, and is at Level 3 on the dashboard.

Our Buildings

St Peter's has been a central part of the community for over 900 years and the bell tower is the highest building in the town. It is a Grade II* Listed building, with a medieval chancel and tower and a Georgian nave. Originally built by Chertsey Abbey as a chapel for use by the growing town, with mention of a vicar in the late 13th Century, it was extensively re-built by the Georgians with further work by the Victorians. Thomas Cranmer drafted the first Book of Common Prayer at Chertsey in 1548.



More recent re-modelling has seen the installation of AV equipment and lighting, glazing-in of the memorial chapel, and, very recently, removal of the pews to create a more dynamic and flexible space. The building is in generally good repair with two new boilers and a focus on improving its green

credentials. Future works could include a bell-platform and community room in the main Church, and a complete transformation of the Hall to increase capacity and support for wider outreach activities.

To the north is the churchyard, a tranquil place enclosed by buildings and containing the church hall. It was closed for burials in the 1960s and the gravestones arranged around the church yard walls to ease maintenance, but there is a designated area for the interment of ashes.

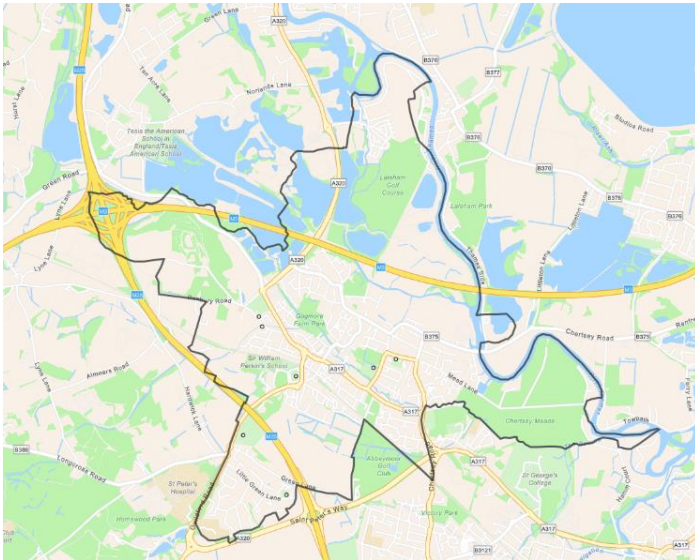
The church hall was built in 1982, and refurbished in 2014 and again in 2022. The hall is in heavy demand, with regular users including external groups: The Chertsey Society, NHS Fellowship, U3A, 5th Chertsey Brownies, Chertsey Rainbows. The Rock Project and Chertsey Orchestra use the church for weekly rehearsals. In addition to this the hall is used by the following internal groups: weekly for Coffee Break and the monthly Generations lunch, twice a month by Creative Friends, weekly by Toddlers Church and the Pop Along Heroes special needs group (which is co-run with external specialist leaders).

The Diocese are considering selling both St. Peter's vicarage and curate's house due to their size, significant repairs costs, cost of maintenance to the fabric and the gardens, and ongoing energy costs. The intention is to purchase a newer vicarage that will provide more modern accommodation and cost less in terms of both repair and running costs going forward.

Holy Trinity was built in 1849, to serve the hamlets of Lyne and Longcross, and is in generally good repair. There is a Parish Room which serves as a small church hall, and there is a modern village hall nearby.



Around Us



PARISH BOUNDARY OF ST PETER'S CHERTSEY

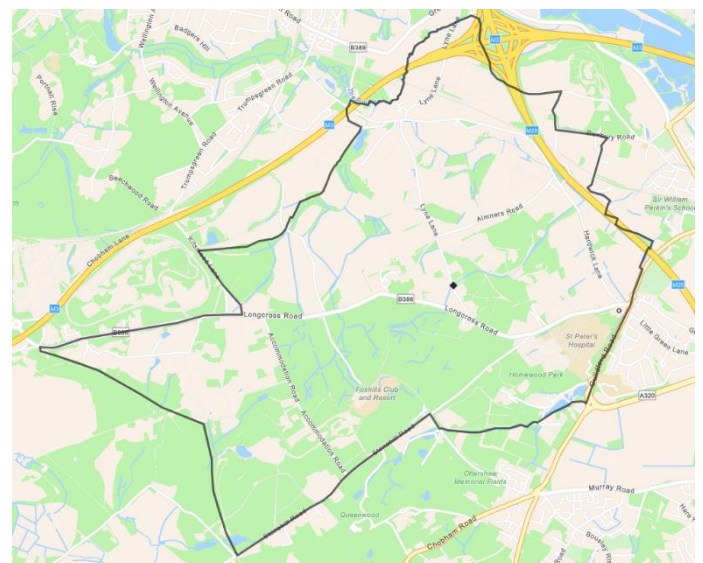
mostly Christian. Unemployment is low, with major employers such as Samsung and Toshiba, but deprivation is higher than the average for the diocese.

Lyne is a small village of about 1,600 residents, and originally a hamlet owned by Chertsey Abbey, and Longcross has a population of about 1,000. Most of the residents live in the parish of Holy Trinity: 63% are owner-occupiers, 15% are under 15, and 18% are over 65. The last Census shows the area as predominantly white British, and mostly Christian. Unemployment is low, with many working in local businesses or Longcross Studios, or commuting into London, but deprivation is higher than the average for the diocese. One of the largest Gypsy Roma Traveller parks in the UK is located in the parish.

There are good road connections, with the M25 and M3 nearby, and Heathrow airport is close, with Gatwick a little further away. The local train service connects to fast trains to central London, and there is good bus provision to local areas.

There are many green spaces locally. A few minutes' walk brings you to St. Ann's Hill, Abbey Meads, Chertsey Meads, and the River Thames, where the Thames Path connects to the Wey Navigation. Windsor Great Park, Runnymede, Chobham Common, Horsell Common and Virginia Water are all a short drive or cycle ride away. Thorpe Park is nearby and a popular attraction.

There is excellent shopping in nearby Staines, Windsor, Woking or Guildford. There is a good-sized Sainsbury's and Aldi in Chertsey, and various local shops, restaurants, pubs and cafes. There are large supermarkets and many local shops and cafes in neighbouring towns and villages.



PARISH BOUNDARY OF HOLY TRINITY, LYNE AND LONGCROSS

Chertsey is one of the five historic towns of Surrey, growing up around Chertsey Abbey, established in AD 666, and gaining a market charter from Henry I. The Chertsey bridge has been an important Thames crossing since well before the current bridge was built in 1783. Chertsey has a large number of listed buildings, and the high streets still have many small shops, although, as is common everywhere, their character is changing. Chertsey has a population of about 16,000, all of whom live in the parish of St Peter's: 66% are owner-occupiers, 18% are under 15, and 21% are over 65. The last Census shows the area as predominantly white British, and

The Chertsey Museum (supported by the Friends of Chertsey Museum) is an excellent local museum. Its displays cover various aspects of the Borough of Runnymede, and includes information about Chertsey Abbey, together with a nationally important costume collection.

The Chertsey Society is a local amenity society affiliated with the Civic Trust, CPRE etc. It makes representation to RBC, SCC and Government on planning matters, flooding etc. The Society organises the Annual Town Forum and holds open meetings on a variety of topics in the Church Hall monthly.

Chertsey hosts four major Community Events during the year:

- Black Cherry Fair (fifty stalls on Abbey Field and a procession – 8,000 people attend).
- Chertsey and Shepperton Regatta.
- Chertsey Agricultural Association Show (one of the longest running agricultural shows in the country. Combines Horse show, Dog show, Arena events, Livestock show, Classic Cars, Steam and Traction Engines etc. About 10,000 people attend. The Agricultural Association also organises an annual ploughing match).
- Goose Fair (Charity & Craft stalls in Guildford Street prior to Christmas).



A new monthly Artisans' Market has just been launched.

Local Sports Clubs are Chertsey Cricket Club (since 1737, men's, ladies' and junior teams), Chertsey Football Club (with a strong local following), Chertsey Bowls Club, Abbey Rangers (a thriving youth football club for both able and disabled players), Runnymede Raptors (a youth basketball club), and Runnymede Rockets (a BMX Club based at Brackendene Open space).

Youth Organisations are Chertsey Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, Beavers and Rainbows.

There is a good health centre in Chertsey, and the local hospital, St Peter's Hospital, is a major hospital for the area, with a large A&E department.



Primary schools in the parishes are St Anne's Catholic, Pycroft Grange, Stepgates Community School, Lyne and Longcross CoE, and Meadowcroft. All are rated by Ofsted as good, good with outstanding elements, or outstanding.

The local senior schools are Chertsey High, Salesian School, Sir William Perkins (independent girls, converting to co-ed), with Philip Southcote School, a specialist SEND provider from its on-site and in units in mainstream schools. All are good with outstanding elements, or outstanding.

Barbara Payne, one of the Holy Trinity churchwardens, is a governor at Lyne and Longcross CoE, as are two members of St Peter's.

Reaching Out

Opening the Building

Sir William Perkins' uses St Peter's for their Christmas service, and Stepgates Community School and Pycroft Grange both use the church for their Easter, Harvest and Christmas services. The uniformed organisations run a Christingle service, and the Chertsey Museum hold their annual carol service.



The re-ordered nave is already attracting interest as a venue for events, such as concerts by the Chertsey Orchestra.

There is a substantial traveller community in the local area with whom we have good relations, many of whom have their funerals at St Peter's and their weddings at Holy Trinity.

Working with Others

St Peter's supports the Runnymede Foodbank through weekly contributions of food items from our congregation and a monetary donation from St Peter's as part of our annual tithing.

We have had connections over the years with the local nursing homes and the local dementia centre, The Orchard. Currently we provide a monthly service at The Grange nursing home and would like to re-establish connections with the other homes.

We have good relationships with the local Catholic Church and Beacon Church who are based in the town and for many years have run a joint event on Good Friday. The walk of witness around the town concludes with a service at St Peter's with each church taking it in turns to lead. The community Act of Remembrance held at Chertsey War memorial on 11th November is led by St Peter's vicar; the community lay wreaths including Mayor, MP, councillors, emergency services, schools, social clubs, etc.

Over the years we have had a presence at Chertsey's annual summer event 'Black Cherry Fair' held on Abbeyfield following a procession through the town. Our involvement has included activities at the church or being on the field and we consider this an important event at which we should be present in some form.

A recent event has been a community Christmas tree outside the church, with a community carols around the tree event led by the



church. The community were invited to make pompoms for the Christmas tree, which followed on from the amazing flower tower displayed on the church as part of the celebration for the re-opening of our church in 2023. For that event schools, nursing homes and the community in general were invited to make flowers for the tower. In excess of 2,000 flowers were received.

In the Community

Both churches maintain their own websites, and St Peter's posts regularly to social media.

St Peter's has the capability to livestream services, but lack of people means this happens irregularly.

The vicar is expected to be a trustee, governor or similar of various local charities and schools; this has been an important role but it would be an opportunity to review some of these upon appointment.

The Governorship/Directorship of Sir William Perkins' School has been a significant role. In recent years the vicar has been a senior governor as Chair Head of Education/Pastoral Committee, and has had a major role in appointing senior staff including the headteacher. This role can be time consuming but provides an opportunity to bring a distinctly Christian emphasis to a school.

Over the years the church has provided governors for our local junior schools. This should be encouraged, providing a strong Christian input. This coheres with our Open the Book Ministry.

The Chertsey Combined Charity meet in the church hall quarterly. It has an investment portfolio of approximately £2.3 million and disperses an income of about £50k pa for local organisations and individuals in need within the historic parish of Chertsey. The Vicar is also supplied with a rolling discretionary fund of £200 to support persons in need, which can be replenished when required. The trust deed requires the Vicar of Chertsey and churchwardens to be trustees.

"There has long been an association between St Peter's and Sir William Perkins's School. While not a denominational school, it was founded on Christian principles and the original Articles of Association state that the school would provide an education for girls of good character from the parish of Chertsey. For the past 20 years, the Vicar of St Peter's has been an active member of the SWPS governing board, and we have valued his wise counsel. Founded in 1725, the school's tricentennial celebrations will focus on community service, and we would welcome even closer ties with the church. We hope that, as one of two nominative governors, the incoming vicar will be happy to take on the role and to play an important part in the continued development of an already strong relationship."

*Melanie Duke, Chair of Governors,
Sir William Perkins' School*

The Chertsey Almshouses Charity and the Willats' Almshouse Charity are less onerous, and both require the Vicar to be a trustee. Both Chairs would be in touch with the new Vicar in due course.

The trust deed of the Chertsey Cricket Club requires the Vicar to simply be a grounds trustee. The Vicar rarely gets involved but would do so if there are legal issues.

The Chertsey Nursing Charity is a small trust that distributes funds to individuals struggling in a variety of ways.

Open The Book continues to be delivered in four of our local Primary schools. A wonderful team of volunteers who faithfully turn up each week as able, excited and inspired by the Holy Spirit to share God's

word with the children joining in and taking part, re-telling bible stories with words and action, often with laughter and gasps of astonishment from the those watching.



A popular annual holiday club is run for one week every summer for primary school-aged children from the local community, taking part in crafts, games, bible stories, eco slot, reflection, praying and singing.

The church administrator often speaks with those needing help with day-to-day life, transport, befriending, etc., pointing them towards possible help sources – often Chertsey & Addlestone Good Neighbours.

Coffee Break meets every Friday morning for the community to enjoy friendly company over a cup of tea and home-made cake. Numbers are increasing, and it is good to see new friendships made and lonely people made welcome. Many of our regulars say that Friday mornings are the highlight of their week. We are always pleased to welcome our friends from the Orchard Dementia Centre with their helpers.

Once a month the Generations lunch carries on from Coffee Break so most of the folk stay on for the lunch while others come in just for the lunch. We serve between thirty and forty lunches each time. A full Christmas lunch is planned! The concept of Generations is that parents and their babies and toddlers are invited to share lunch with the older folk.

Creative Friends, a group of ladies from St Peter's and the surrounding community, meet twice a month to do creative crafts and have fellowship. They work on large-scale projects for the church, such as the pom-pom decorated Christmas tree, the flower tower, wreath-making, and the remembrance cross.

St Peter's works with Fairshare, making three pickups of surplus food from Tesco's Chertsey which are distributed around Chertsey, and other pickups which are distributed in neighbouring Addlestone. We also support the Runnymede Foodbank.

Holy Trinity supports Runnymede Home Start, a local charity which provides emotional and practical support to parents with at least one child under five years old, and the Salvation Army in Addlestone with their 'Tin a Week Scheme' for the Food Bank that they operate there.

We also support the Shoebox appeal together with the school.

Into the World

Over the years, a number of people have received a call from God to be ordained, and have left to go to other churches, and St Peter's has always been a strong training church for curates.

For many years **St Peter's** has been supporting Neil and Sue Browning, a surgeon and theological college lecturer respectively, who have been working in Uganda and South Sudan, from which they have recently returned permanently. Sue is an ordained Anglican minister but does not yet have PTO.

David and Heather Tucker lead DH Ministries, developing and training Christian leaders, mostly in Africa but on other continents too, and are supported in prayer by St Peter's.

Holy Trinity supports the Barons Court Project, the only day centre in Hammersmith and Fulham who support people that are on low income, homeless, or vulnerable to mental health issues.

They also support East to West, supporting local children, young people and their families struggling with difficult and damaging issues.

Holy Trinity also supports Child Action Lanka and last year managed to raise £8000 to help build a house for Ramesh in Sri Lanka. This year Holy Trinity helped CAL to raise money to buy a bus to enable the children to be transported to school.



Vision

The vision of **St Peter's** had focussed on prayer life, growth in discipleship, re-ordering and renewal of church buildings, developing new leaders (ordained and lay), communication (both externally and internally) and finance (including significant increases in planned giving and associated stewardship)

Since this vision was developed a lot of progress has been made across all these areas, but we as a fellowship recognise that more is still to be done,

As we move forward we see Discipleship, Prayer, Youth work and Outreach as key areas for St Peter's and should remain our near-term priorities:

- *Discipleship:* Our teaching series and home groups have followed programmes by Tim Keller and John Mark Comer, and we plan to encourage our congregations to be “emotionally healthy and spiritually alive in the chaos of the modern world.”
- *Prayer:* We hold 24/7 Prayer weeks and have an established Prayer Room that is open every day. A prayer team ministers after the main service.
- *Youth Work:* Whilst our work amongst children and families is thriving, and in the short term we are going to focus on the 9-12 age range who are already in church in reasonable numbers (ten to twelve) with specific focus from our existing children and families workers.
- *Outreach:* St Peter's has a well-developed outreach programme already which includes Open The Book in all four junior schools in the town, a mid-week toddler group, and a group for those families with additional needs. We have a rolling Alpha programme based in a local bistro. A Friday coffee break and Generations lunch focuses on older members of the wider community and dementia centre. Several schools have expressed a keen interest in Open The Book.



The vision of **Holy Trinity** is to become a more praying, welcoming, caring and loving church, with the five mission priorities of ministry among children, commitment to older people, developing our relationship with the school, growing our spiritual life together, and furthering our relationships with others. Holy Trinity plans to enact this vision by establishing a Forest School in the Vicarage grounds, developing a fruitful relationship with the local school, resourcing and developing Trinity Praise and an online weekly Bible Study Group, and further developing their support for Child Action Lanka by involving the school more.

Challenges

At **St Peter's** we see the main challenges facing our new Priest-in-Charge to be:

- *Discipleship:* We plan to sustain our current standard of teaching. We see the need for a mentoring and supportive approach that will develop the skills and styles of preaching we have on offer. We are also seeking to increase the membership of our home groups and are keen to explore fresh ideas in how to achieve this, which would include training for small group leaders so as to build on the number of already established groups. We also need to develop pathways for new Christians to deepen their faith and become an active part of St Peter's. We want to encourage our congregations to be “emotionally healthy and spiritually alive in the chaos of the modern world.” This we see as a way to underpin the pastoral, safeguarding and prayer life of St Peter's and encourage the desire for greater participation in Church life as a whole. There is a desire to develop a pastoral team to support our church community, to visit those no longer able to come to church, and to develop or re-establish engagement with the nursing homes and the dementia centre.
- *Prayer:* Our prayer ministry offering needs to be promoted and developed further to encourage more people to get involved particularly to provide support after both of our Sunday services and with intercessory activities. We hope to see all members of our Church having an active personal prayer life both as an individual and in prayer partnerships/triplets. We would like to develop further regular one off prayer events like 24/7 prayer and the prayer stations used on Good Friday, we have carried out prayer walks in the past and had specific prayer evening events.
- *Youth Work:* Whilst our work amongst children and families is thriving, the loss of our paid youth worker who retired in 2022 has left a gap. Despite widespread advertisement, a budget for a new youth worker, and a potentially flexible job description, we still await a suitable applicant. In the short term we are going to focus on the 9-12 age range with specific focus from our existing children and families' workers. All our youth activities are currently on a Sunday, however there is a desire to offer a mid-week youth club to engage wider with the youth in our community. We will want to revisit the way forward for our Youth leadership – linking into the new opportunities offered by the Diocese and also being open to consider innovative alternative structures and/or collaborative approaches developed with other local Churches. We do see opportunities to offer services that are targeted for our Youth and Intergenerational families.
- *Outreach:* St Peter's has a well-developed outreach programme which includes Open The Book in all four primary schools in the town, a mid-week toddler group, and a group for those families with additional needs. We have a rolling Alpha programme that has been based in a local bistro. A Friday coffee break and Generations lunch focuses on older members of the wider community and dementia centre. With the change in the religious education school syllabus in primary



schools there is an opportunity to do more in our primary schools which we would like to explore. We are keen to work with the Diocesan Mission Enabler and Diocesan Youth Catalyst Project to support our growth and seek further outreach opportunities.

We need to revisit our communication to our local community in terms of our website, social media usage and taking advantage of local publications, to ensure it is current, and to reach and engage with our parish.

The re-ordering of the main Church enables some of these areas to expand through collaboration with other local Churches to share resources. We now need a new vision to transform our Church Hall and create a new centre that will serve the future needs of the Church and our community.

We are always in need of volunteers and lay leaders to maintain and grow all of these activities further – we hope the new vicar can bring energy, encouragement and engagement to take the Church outwards into the community.

At **Holy Trinity**, we see our main challenges as:

- We sit next door to the village's CofE primary school, and in former times, there was a thriving relationship with the school. A change of leadership personnel at the school has sadly severely compromised this relationship, and this remains an ongoing issue and challenge.
- Resourcing Ministry, with the resignation of Rev. Laurence Gamlen from our ministry team from June 2025.
- Growing the number of regular givers.
- Ongoing viability for the church, due to the resignation of Laurence, so ministry continuity is vital.

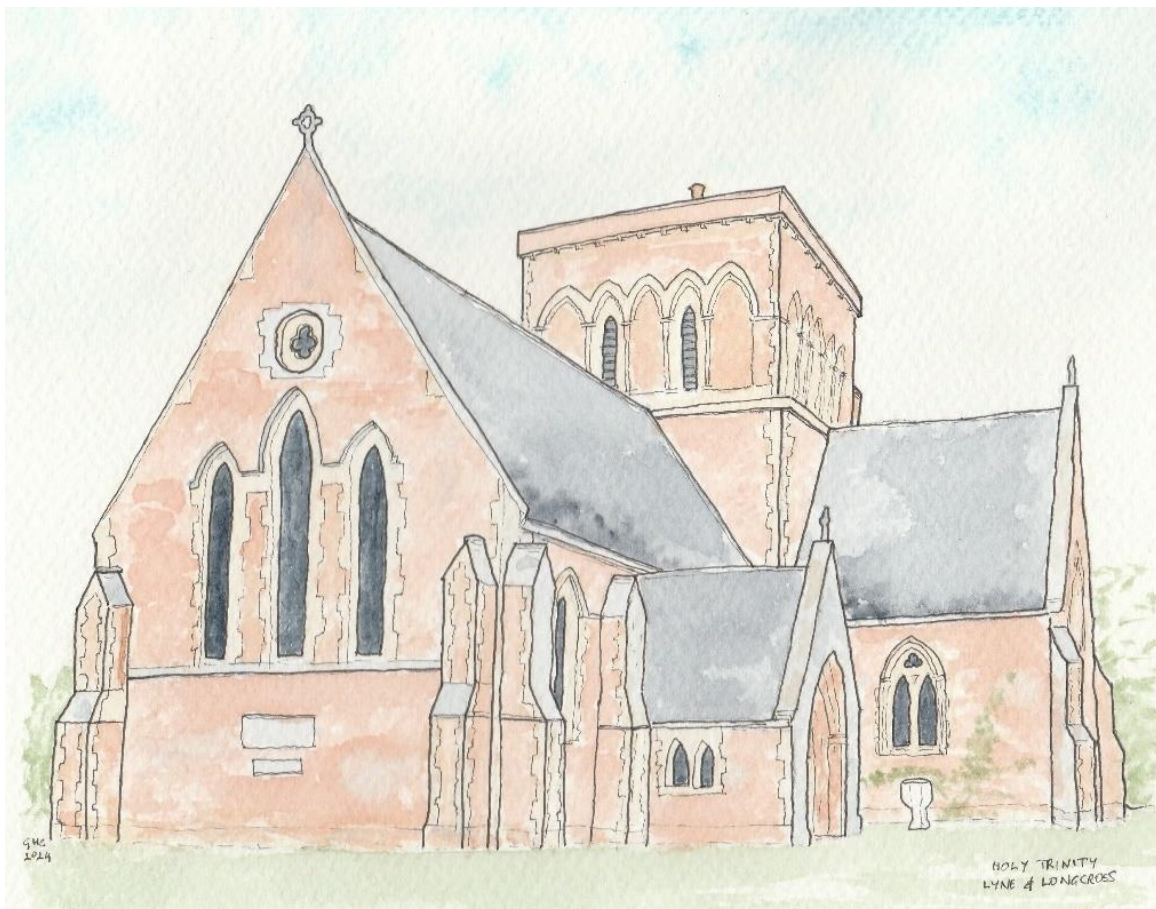
Person Profile

We are keen to appoint a Vicar who as Priest-in-Charge will share our vision for spiritual development and greater community engagement, and who will be excited about investing the energy and prayer necessary to achieve this.

We are looking for a priest in Anglican orders of an Evangelical/Charismatic stance, who will take us where the Spirit is wanting to lead us. Ideally, we believe that he or she will be a strong communicator and teacher drawing on their life experience, who listens to the Holy Spirit, is passionate in prayer, and has a pastor's heart. They should be able to relate to the diverse groups within our churches and in the communities around us, and be creative and enthusiastic in finding fresh ways of connecting to and supporting them.

Our new priest should be compassionate and caring, open and approachable. They should bring vision to the leadership of the two churches, collaborating with the rest of the ministry team and laity, promoting teamwork, and serving the fellowships with a servant heart. Although change is welcome and anticipated, they should have a respect for traditional practices, while being comfortable in changing what needs to be changed, and managing any potential conflicts this could bring about.

Great days lie ahead for St Peter's and for Holy Trinity, and we look forward to working with and supporting our new Priest-in-Charge.



Appendix – Diocesan Support

The Diocese of Guildford recognises that being a clergyperson is both a joy and at times a challenge. So that you can thrive in your role we want to support and care for you to the best of our ability and resources. To do this, the diocese provides the following support:

- An exciting diocesan vision of "Transforming Church, Transforming Lives" with 3 priority areas: "Growing disciples, growing diversity and growing community"
- A diocesan facilitated Parish Needs Process designed to support clergy and churches to better engage with their communities
- A commitment to maintain clergy stipends at the top end of the range compared to other dioceses
- A Clergy Wellbeing Covenant, setting out senior clergy and parish commitments to support clergy
- A 36-hr rest period each week, extended to 48-hrs once a month
- 6 weeks holiday per year
- 3 Bishop's study days per year
- A clergy induction and training programme for first time incumbents
- An optional mentoring programme available for all clergy
- A Ministerial Development Review every 2 years
- An Employee Assistance Programme, and access to a confidential counselling service, if needed
- A day one right to maternity and paternity leave and pay
- Generous sick leave and pay entitlement