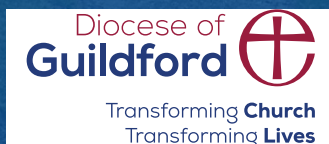




St Mary's Church, Byfleet

Parish Profile 2024

Praying, Loving & Serving the Community of Byfleet



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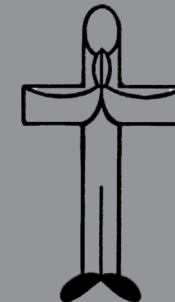
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A Letter from the Bishop of Guildford



Rt Rev Andrew Watson,
Bishop of Guildford

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!

Bishop Andrew

A Letter from Venerable Martin Breadmore The Archdeacon of Dorking

There is much to celebrate in the life of St. Mary's Church Byfleet, which includes a beautiful church building sited in the largely residential village of Byfleet, a committed worshipping community, a growing and deepening relationship with its primary school and a desire to reach out in service to the Parish of Byfleet and beyond.



The Ven Martin Breadmore

We are seeking to appoint a full time stipendiary Incumbent who has a heart for revitalisation and a desire to see real church growth, in terms of numbers and depth of discipleship, especially amongst children and families. Whilst having a very committed core, which is largely over the age of 50, this parish recognises its need for revitalisation if it is to ensure its health and viability for many years to come. There is real potential in this parish with a Church school across the road from the church and the majority of those living in the area being families with children. The person appointed should be able to embrace all that currently flourishes in the parish but also bring with her or him a commitment to developing new missional activities. The successful candidate will benefit from the support of working with the Mission Enabler for Revitalisation from the Diocese, for about 18 months, to enable the revitalisation of this parish to begin, as well as having the opportunity to receive a Diocesan grant from its Mission Fund to further its growth.

This appointment is perfect timing for receiving resource and support from the wider diocese. 2024 marks 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 a great church family; the opportunity of leadership in a parish, deanery and diocese which offers considerable support and resources; the challenge of discerning with this community 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, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me via: archdeacon.dorking@cofeguildford.org.uk.

Martin Breadmore

A note from the Churchwardens

Welcome to the St Mary's Parish Profile!

We're thrilled that you're taking the time to explore our parish. St Mary's and Byfleet are truly wonderful places to be.

A recent survey revealed that the strongest sentiment among our congregation is that St Mary's is a welcoming and supportive church community.

We are blessed with many long-standing members who joyfully engage with individuals of all ages and backgrounds, sharing our love and faith in Jesus. Many of us have worshipped here throughout our Christian lives, which speaks of our deep commitment. Our congregation includes enthusiastic lay preachers and a dedicated group of volunteers. We enjoy and benefit from well thought out sermon series, passionate prayer leaders and a wealth of wisdom and talent within our community. Many of St Mary's worshippers are fully embedded in the fabric of the life of Byfleet.

We actively collaborate with other churches in the Diocese, and as St Mary's prayerfully awaits a new incumbent, we are filled with positivity and hope for the future.

We aim to build upon the foundation laid by our previous leaders, particularly in nurturing relationships with families at our local schools, including St Mary's CofE Primary School.

As a congregation, we are eager to renew our vision by seeking God's guidance, listening to the Holy Spirit, and confidently moving forward. We are looking for someone who will prayerfully listen to, nurture, strengthen and build our community, empowering us to live out our faith and encouraging others to become disciples.

If you would like to have an informal chat, please feel free to email us. We would love to hear from you and sincerely hope you feel called to lead us on this journey. You would be warmly welcomed!

Bernice & Mike



bernicemrust@btinternet.com



michael.edis@ntlworld.com



Who We Are

Our Parish

Byfleet is a village of some 12,000 people in North-West Surrey, lying just inside the M25 but surrounded by Green Belt. Predominantly a residential area, Byfleet lies between the towns of Weybridge and Woking and is characterised by medium-density suburban housing. The first written reference to Byfleet is in 727, when Byfleet was granted to Chertsey Abbey. The village consisting of Manor House, mill and church is mentioned in the Domesday Book, being valued at £4. The present Manor House at the end of Mill Lane dates from 1686, built on the site of a succession of houses. The present church, built on the original Saxon site, dates from the 13th century.

The Wey Navigation Canal was built between 1651 and 1653 and forms the western boundary of the village. The River Wey forms the eastern boundary, although some parts of the parish extend to the east of this waterway. Byfleet was mainly a farming village until the second half of the 19th century. All that changed when Hugh Locke-King built the famous Brooklands racing track at the turn of the century. The space enclosed by the track attracted early aviators and the building of the Vickers aircraft factory there in 1911 caused Byfleet's population to almost double in ten years. The aircraft industry was the main employer in the locality until British Aerospace finally closed down in the late 1980s. Currently Byfleet contains a significant area of light industrial and commercial activities. In addition, there are two retail parks, one in the village and one to the north of the village, which together have caused some degeneration of the village centre.

Byfleet & New Haw station is well served by rail, located on the main line from London Waterloo to the West Country, Dorset & Hampshire. It is a 35 minute train ride to London. Byfleet is also in easy reach of the M25, Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

The age structure of Byfleet residents shows 48% in the 30 - 59 age bracket, 18% over 65, 19% aged 15 and under, and 15% in the 15 - 29 age bracket. This contrasts with the current church attendance being predominantly over 50s.

There is a Centre for the Community in Byfleet. This is currently open on a limited basis, following recent local authority cuts, but there are plans to reopen the facility pending a Capital Asset Transfer application being approved by Woking Borough Council. There is one Residential Care Home and four independent living establishments for the elderly. In addition, there are 2 residential homes for people with additional needs, and a further one under construction.





“Byfleet village is a very welcoming and sociable community and it is very like a country village even though it is in quite an urban area.”

KATE LAVER
COMMS LEAD

12,000
People live in
the village

2 Primary
schools

24
Businesses
listed in the
village

6.24km²
Area of Byfleet

Who We Are

St Mary's is a **warm and welcoming** traditional church family, deeply rooted in a sense of community, with many worshipping at our church for most, if not all, their **Christian Life**. There are currently 117 members on our electoral roll. Our church family includes a small number of families, but predominately covers an age range of 50s to 90s, 90% of whom are resident in the Parish.

Our **picturesque 13th-century church** building has long been a cherished landmark in the village. For many, our journey of faith began at **St Mary's CofE Primary School**, and families continue to turn to us for significant life events such as weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Our Festival Services are consistently well attended.

However, in recent years, we have seen a decline in the active participation of younger families. We are committed to reversing this trend, reaching out to families to share our faith in Jesus and His love for us. Initiatives like our Open the Book and Laser Run activities at the school have already begun to nurture this community.

The future of our church relies on our Parish being revitalised to be a **vibrant, growing community**, where people of **all ages** and backgrounds come together to **worship, pray, serve** and **grow** in a relationship with **Jesus Christ**. We want to seek to strengthen our impact on the wider community, focusing on building a future where younger generations and families are drawn to join us, experiencing the love of God through meaningful worship, fellowship and outreach.

Our Church Development Plan is still being revised but in it we look to the central themes of growing, worshipping & praying and loving.

It is our responsibility to sow, cultivate, nurture, and reap this vital crop to increase & continue to be God's family in Byfleet.

Hopes for the Future

Worshipping and Prayer

- Fostering a vibrant community where worship & prayer are at the heart of our faith journey.
- Developing our worship, specifically the musical aspects, to glorify God.
- Develop more opportunities for prayer, both collective and as individuals, seeking the transformative power of the Holy Spirit to guide, heal & inspire us.

Growing

- Reaching out to share the gospel with more people in our local community.
- Deepening our faith through biblical teaching, worship & authentic fellowship.
- Expanding our contact with our local schools and families.

Loving

- Extending God's love to one another & all those in our local community
- Increasing our welcoming & caring environment where every individual is valued & loved as part of God's family.

Serving

- Reaching out with compassion and acts of kindness, bring hope to those in need, reflecting God's Love in Action.
- Working with other local organisations to build a more compassionate world.

Worshipping

Growing

Loving

Serving



Parish Team

In addition to the Rector, St Mary's has 1 Licensed Lay Minister and 2 Occasional Preachers. We have 2 members of the congregation currently in training on the Foundations in Ministry Course.

The PCC consists of the incumbent, 2 churchwardens, 1 Deanery Synod representative, 8 elected lay people. There are bi-monthly meetings, where sub-committees present their minutes, and proposals are discussed and agreed. These sub-committees and working groups meet during the interim month, and consist of some PCC members, and other members of the congregation. Leadership and decision making are collaborative.



Bernice Rust



Michael Edis



Jean-Pierre Frossard



Jo Prior



Jim Allen



Marian Nash



Kate Laver



Ralph Hales



Amanda Boote



Samantha Fisk



Rob Knee



Sarah Frossard



The church office is on the 1st floor of the Church Hall across the road from the Church. It is currently not staffed, following the recent illness and subsequent death of our part-time paid administrator. Messages can be left on the answerphone, which, along with any post and emails, are checked regularly by volunteers, who also assist with many aspects of church life – admin for funerals & interments, churchyard matters & material for services. A weekly notice sheet is prepared and circulated by email, posted on our website and available in the church in hard copy. Volunteers assist with other areas of administration – monthly rotas for services; baptism enquiries and procedures; and weddings.

Standing Committee This comprises the incumbent, 2 churchwardens, PCC secretary and 2 lay members of the PCC. They conduct any interim business and set the agendas for the next meeting cycle.

Property Management Committee This committee exists to care for and advise the PCC in all matters regarding the buildings - Church, church hall and curacy. There is a part time (paid) hall administrator who takes care of bookings and other matters relating to the hall. All major spending decisions are authorised by the PCC.

Communications Group This group works to facilitate communication both within St Mary's and out to the Parish.

Pastoral Team They oversee pastoral care to the members of St Mary's and share God's love in the wider community as appropriate.

Safeguarding Our Child Protection Office/Parish Safeguarding Officer works with our designated PCC link for Safeguarding to protect the children and young people in our care, following the Diocesan guidelines.

Rotas Many members fulfil the needs of church life on various rotas, e.g. flowers, coffee following 10.00 am services, church cleaning, sound controls, etc.



Woking Deanery

Woking Deanery covers 14 benefices in Woking town centre and its surrounding villages. Our Deanery Chapter is a friendly, supportive and prayerful set of people covering a full range of churchmanship. We meet regularly to catch up and hear from people who can support our ministry. Our Deanery Synod meets termly and aims to be stimulating and helpful for our ministry. Woking is a wonderful area to live in, with a thriving town with excellent facilities and transport links, surrounded by beautiful, accessible countryside. We look forward to the new Rector of Byfleet joining us!



Mark Wallace, St Mary of Bethany -
Woking Area Dean





What We Do

Our Services

Our usual Sunday pattern of services is: -

8 am Holy Communion This service is a said service using Common Worship, Order Two. Attendance ranges from 10 to 14. The congregation is mostly made up of some of the older members of our community.

10 am First Sunday of the Month Morning Worship for All - often led by lay people, café style, held in our Church Hall. Usually attended by around 40 people, sometimes including 2-3 families with children, often those coming forward for infant baptism. This service is an opportunity to initially encourage those seeking baptism for their child to give thanks for them, and then return after their baptism to be welcomed into God's family.

All other Sundays Morning Worship, leading into Communion. This service follows Common Worship. The first part of the service includes confession, absolution, and the ministry of the word, with 3 – 6 children leaving for their teaching twice a month, just before the readings. They re-join the service at the passing of the peace, when currently there is an opportunity for anyone to leave who doesn't wish to stay for communion. There is always music at this service, usually from the organ or clavivova. The laity play an active role in this service, with rotas for people to read the lessons, intercessions and administer the chalice. Attendance is usually between 30 to 50 people and the service up until the Communion is broadcast on Facebook and available to watch on "catch up".

The Facebook link has enabled some of our congregation who are now housebound to continue to feel part of our church family. There are approximately six people watching this live, and a good number more 'views' afterwards.

Vestments are sometimes used at Festival Services.

St Mary's doesn't have a paid organist in post at present and music is provided by a member of the congregation, other volunteers, and visiting, paid organists.

There is coffee after all our 10am services in the church hall across the road, to give time for fellowship, and for friendships to grow.



Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*

Matthew 21:22: *“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith”*

A Prayer Shower group consists of members of the congregation and a co-ordinator, who have expressed a desire and willingness to pray for those in need and pass prayer requests round promptly.

Prayer requests are received by the co-ordinator, either by phone or email, who then circulates the request to the group by email. Confidentiality is observed, and prior permission is sought from those to be prayed for.

Urgent prayer requests are shared on our Church Family WhatsApp group on the understanding that confidentiality will be held within the group.

Prayer Meetings There have been regular prayer sessions at varying times over the past years, and meetings arranged when specific prayer needs arise.

Monday Evening Prayers This has been established recently, twice a month, to soak everything in the current Vacancy period in prayer. The formats are being varied to cater for varying prayer styles.

Adventures in Prayer A new meeting which is held on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 2 -3pm in the Committee Room of the Church Hall, so that it is easy access for all. There is no fixed format. We include a time of praise, maybe a meditation, there is paper and pencils to draw or make notes, a time of silence and prayer. So far, our numbers have been 3 - 4, but we hope it will grow.

Tuesday Morning Prayers The previous incumbent invited some parishioners to pray with him every Tuesday. This gave him a safe space to confide, express concerns and triumphs. There are 8 in this well-established and longstanding group, which now performs as its own support group for the members and is continuing. The format is from Morning Prayers in the Prayer Book.



Discipleship

Alpha

We have run the Alpha course several times at St Mary's over the past four years and have found it both valuable for new and existing members in our parish. The course has been run both online and in person with the Alpha materials provided. We have also run the Bible Course and Prayer Course as follow-up courses after Alpha and for our Home Groups. Some of the Alpha participants have joined one of our two homegroups.

Homegroups

There are 2 evening homegroups which meet twice a month. Each "term" we cover a different theme, studying a book of the bible, following a topic or using some other study material. Currently one group is looking at the Psalms and the other is looking at our Sermon series, based on J. John's book 'Just10' on the 10 Commandments. There are 22 members across the 2 groups who attend regularly. There are also social gatherings within the groups, where partners and others can join us. These groups provide a time for people to get to know each other better, as well as learning more about their faith, and spending some time in prayer.

Confirmation

We hold a confirmation preparation course when there are people interested and a date for confirmation has been set within the Deanery. Members of the congregation assist with the preparation.



Schools

St. Mary's (C of E) School is a voluntary controlled Church of England School for approx. 450 pupils - 3 - 11 year olds, and is to the rear of the church hall. There is a nursery for 3 year olds and the usual intake at reception age.

The Rector is one of the governors of the school. The current Chair of Governors is a parent governor.

There are strong links with the church. The Rector regularly takes assemblies, members of the church run Open the Book sessions and there has been a well-attended, after school, Laser Run activity which was organised by the previous incumbent. The school visits the church for services during the year - Christmas, Easter & Annual Leavers service. These are very well attended. The school also does a project on the church, assisted by some church members, including a guided tour of the church.

In its February 2024 SIAMs report inspectors stated "Collective worship is a beacon of the Christian vision. Leaders plan the pattern with care. It is rooted in biblical teaching and enriched by regular visits from clergy and the 'Open the Book' team" and "The church enriches the school through its welcoming open doors and regular presence in school. Activities such as the 'Laser Run' allows pupils to connect and deepen relationships with one another". They concluded that "St Mary's Church of England School, Byfleet is living up to its foundation as a Church school."

Written by the children from Collective Crew at St Mary's Church of England Primary School:
"We are excited to meet our new Rector! We hope they visit our school to deliver assemblies and attend our special events, like the Harvest Festival and Nativity. Our values of kindness, trust and courage are very important to us, and we would like our new Rector to show these values and lead us in the values of the Church. We can't wait to see them in school - we hope they are good with kids!"

The church also maintains links with the other local school, Byfleet Primary, which also caters for 4 - 11 year olds and is located towards the northern part of the village. We assist them with projects, guided tours, and the occasional service.

"The church enriches the school through its welcoming open doors and regular presence in school."

We are excited to welcome someone who is approachable, confident to lead collective worship in school and invested in building relationships with the families, staff and children of St Mary's. We are a forward-thinking school and would enjoy working with someone who is ambitious and someone who can share and help us to deliver our vision for our school and for the Byfleet community.

The Open the Book team visit both local schools monthly.



Children & Young People

SQuaD

Our congregation has a maximum of 6 children at present. This children's group meets twice a month during our Sunday 10am service for any children attending. They go to the Church Hall early in the service for a bible story, activity & singing, and return after the peace. Three members of the congregation prepare and present the teaching material.

Open the Book

A team from St Mary's church goes into both St Mary's primary and Byfleet primary schools monthly to take assemblies. We follow the Bible Society's "Open the Book" material which involves acting out a Bible story, with help from some of the children. Then they watch a cartoon of the same story, and the children are invited to sing a Christian song with actions. The children always enjoy these assemblies, and we have no shortage of pupils wanting to take part in the drama. We have formed very good relationships with the staff at both schools, and the children and teachers are learning about Jesus and the Bible in a fun and imaginative way.

Youth/Over 18s Church Group

There had been a strong history of work with young people in St. Mary's over the years, built on the Junior Church and youth groups that was built up in the 1970/80s, when some of the local housing were new estates.

There was also a Zone 'nightclub' & Ozone youth club that reached out to those that did not come to church during the 2000s to around 2016.

There was a natural progression from the work with tots and children into their teen years.

During their time in Yuf/AYD (Youth Understanding Faith/Alpha YUF Division), many sought confirmation and played an active role in the life of the church.

During Covid, some link was maintained both with those in Senior school years, and beyond.

This link has resulted in their now being around 10 in our over 18s group, who wish to continue to meet and, in their words, 'not lose their link to St. Mary's & their faith'. This group currently meets monthly both socially and to continue studying material to encourage their Christian faith. The latest material used was the Good Book Company's 'Soul' course, & currently they are setting their own subjects - 'questions they have on the bible'.

Festival Family Services

The services on Good Friday morning & Christmas Eve afternoon aimed at children and their parents are always well attended. They aim to deliver the message of the season and provide a good contact point with the church.



Community

St Mary's has strong links with many aspects of Byfleet Community life, and members of our congregation play several vital roles.

The Rector is an ex-officio Trustee of Byfleet United Charity, a local charity set up to alleviate poverty and need.

St. Mary's has ecumenical links through the local Churches together, covering the 7 churches in Byfleet, West Byfleet, Woodham, Pyrford & Sheerwater. There are usually joint lent groups, and some services, including the annual World Day of Prayer on the 1st Friday in March, which was held at St. Mary's in 2024. A charity coffee morning each year is arranged by the WDP committee in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Stoop Court in our neighbouring Parish of West Byfleet.

Many of our members are involved with local organisations, e.g. Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs, Byfleet Community Action, Bowls Club, etc.

Baptisms Since the start of 2024 there have been 9 baptisms, with 6 in 2023. Parents are encouraged to attend church and are visited at their home prior to the baptism of their child. We also offer adult baptism, often prior to confirmation.

Weddings There were 2 weddings in 2023, 1 in 2024, and 1 already booked for 2025.

Funerals During 2023 there were 8 funerals conducted at St Mary's, 7 of which were followed by burial in the churchyard. Further services were conducted at the crematoria, either Woking or Randall's Park, Leatherhead.

Women's Group meets bi-monthly on Tuesdays with 10-25 people from both church and the local community, attending meetings for fellowship and support and to discuss interesting subjects, some from a Christian perspective. The group invites a variety of speakers including charities, local people and members of the

congregation and runs some social evenings including a pre-Christmas event.

Heritage Weekend St. Mary's is open for tours of our historic building, churchyard & teas available.

Friends of St Mary's Church, Byfleet The focus of the Friends of St Mary's Church has been on helping the church raise funds for repair /refurbishment work needed to be done on the church spire as identified in the diocese appointed architect's quinquennial report.

Foodbank Contributions & Outward Giving The church family collect items for the local branch of the Woking foodbank every week and support the following charities for outward giving: The Children's Society; Tearfund; St Michael's Church, Sheerwater; Vaughan House; Woking Hospice

Village Events There are church members on the committee for the annual Byfleet Parish Day which is an annual event on the third Saturday in July welcoming approximately 2000 people to the village Recreation Ground and St. Mary's has a large stall at the Parish Day with activities each year. The Christmas events on the village green have included church members carol singing and the volunteers from the church have helped with Park Run on specific Saturdays, and in the Big Village Clean Ups on some bank holidays.



Pastoral Care

The St Mary's Pastoral Team comprises 2 Pastoral Assistants and a trained Pastoral Visitor. They work closely with the Rector by getting alongside people of all ages and offering help on behalf of the Church.

What We Do

We carry out several pastoral roles such as visiting the sick and housebound, supporting the bereaved, praying with people or sometimes simply providing a much-needed listening ear.

A great deal of pastoral care happens quietly and gently in the background.

Holy Communion is taken to those who are sick or no longer able to attend Church. This includes regular small group services in people's own homes and larger monthly services in local residential or care homes.

Some of the team run the monthly "Coffee Drop In" which enables people to meet informally in the Church Hall and offers an opportunity for fellowship.

Memorial Service

Working with the Rector, the Pastoral Team plays a major part in the Annual Memorial Service and the Tea which follows. This takes place held on a Sunday afternoon nearest to All Soul's Day and is always well attended. Everyone is welcome and we pray that all who come may find comfort. All families bereaved during the year and known to the Church are sent an invitation.

Church Flowers

There is a definite element of pastoral care and community related to our flowers at St Mary's. Our lovely team of flower arrangers includes people who do not attend Church and we especially welcome them to our festival decorating times at Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

At Harvest, as well as our gifts of non-perishable food sent to a hostel and the local foodbank, we also send out baskets of flowers to people in the parish who are not well or going through a difficult time.

We are extremely grateful for the many beautiful flowers donated by growers at our local allotment as this helps us to reach out to more people.

*"Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you."*



Safeguarding

St Mary's continues to discern what it means to have safeguarding at the core of all we do. The PCC and Standing Committee are aware of their duty of care regarding the safety and wellbeing of the vulnerable in our church community. Our designated Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) works closely with the Parish DBS validator who is also the designated PCC link officer to advise the PCC and Standing Committee on safeguarding matters.

They also work to promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, including seeking to ensure that all those working with under 18s, and vulnerable adults are safely recruited and that activities involving these groups are regularly risk assessed.

The PSO liaises with the diocesan safeguarding team and continues to work closely with the leaders of our groups and activities endeavouring to ensure that national and diocesan requirements are understood and implemented, especially safeguard training requirements.

The parish is on level 3 of the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, the highest achievable level.





The Future

Statement of Needs

What we celebrate

Deep Roots in the Community: St. Mary's has a long-standing history in Byfleet Parish, with many lifelong worshippers who have been part of the church for most of their Christian lives. This fosters a strong sense of tradition and loyalty within the community.

Active Participation from Older Members: The church has a committed congregation, predominantly aged 50-90, who are not only residents but also active participants in the life of the parish. This stable base provides continuity and reliable engagement in church activities.

Cherished Historic Building: The picturesque 13th-century church is a beloved landmark in Byfleet, which helps maintain a strong identity and a sense of pride for the community.

Significant Role in Occasional Offices: The church plays an important role in key life events like weddings, baptisms, and funerals, making it a central spiritual resource for families in the parish.

Successful Services: Well-attended festival services indicate a capacity to draw the wider community during special Christian celebrations.

Initiatives with the Local School: Programs like Open the Book and Laser Run at St. Mary's CofE Primary School are already cultivating relationships with younger families and children, creating opportunities for outreach.

Challenges ahead

Aging Congregation & Decline in Younger Family Participation: With the majority of church members being in the older age group (50s-90s), which may limit its appeal to a broader, more diverse audience, particularly younger people and families. There is a risk of future decline in membership without younger generations to sustain the congregation, which has already been noticed.

Potential Overreliance on Traditions: While the rich history of St. Mary's is a strength, it may also create challenges as we engage with younger worshippers. There will be a need to remain relevant and meaningful to the whole church family & broader community, while adapting to those seeking more contemporary worship experiences and more modern trends.

Competition with Other Churches or Secular Activities: Younger families may be drawn to other churches that offer more contemporary worship styles or to secular activities that compete for their time on Sundays and throughout the week.

Upkeep of Historic Building: The maintenance and repair of a 13th-century building can be costly and time-consuming. Without sufficient funds and engagement from a broader congregation, this could become a financial burden on the church.

Opportunities for Revitalisation of St Mary's

The PCC is excited by the potential to transform and revitalise our Church through:

Outreach to Younger Families: The church has already recognised the importance of reversing the trend of declining family participation. There is significant potential to engage younger generations through targeted outreach, children's programs, and family-friendly services.

Enhanced School Partnerships: Continuing and expanding programs like Open the Book and Laser Run can serve as key bridges to reaching younger families and children, fostering early connections with the church.

Community Engagement Initiatives: Expanding community activities, events, and services beyond festival seasons could attract a wider audience. Hosting family days, community meals, or holiday programs could be a pathway to drawing new families into the church.

Utilisation of Church as a Community Space: The historic nature of the church building can be an asset not only as a place of worship but also as a cultural and community hub for events, concerts, and gatherings, potentially appealing to those who may not yet be involved in regular worship but are drawn to the church's historical and cultural significance.

Diversity and Variety of Services: The church recognises that it has limited number of services and styles of services. It sees that this is an area of growth and revitalisation especially in the area of music.

Person specification

The Parish Priest will serve as the spiritual leader of St Mary's, guiding the congregation in worship, faith development, and community outreach. The ideal candidate will foster a welcoming environment, provide pastoral care, and lead the church in fulfilling its mission to serve God and the community.

- An engaging teacher with strong preaching and teaching abilities with a passion for sharing the Gospel.
- A leader with a pastoral heart; a shepherd able to foster a church culture where everyone feels known, valued and encouraged to contribute.
- A leader that has experience in a range of worship styles to develop services appropriate to congregations.
- A leader that will enable spiritual growth in the church through modelling a life of faith and encourage congregants to deepen their relationship with God.
- A leader with the ability to work collaboratively with staff, volunteers and church leadership.
- A leader that will encourage, enable and develop those with a calling to vocation/ ministry.
- A leader to seek out and engage with families and to develop and enable youth ministry.
- A leader that appeals to all ages with appropriate humour and sensitivity.

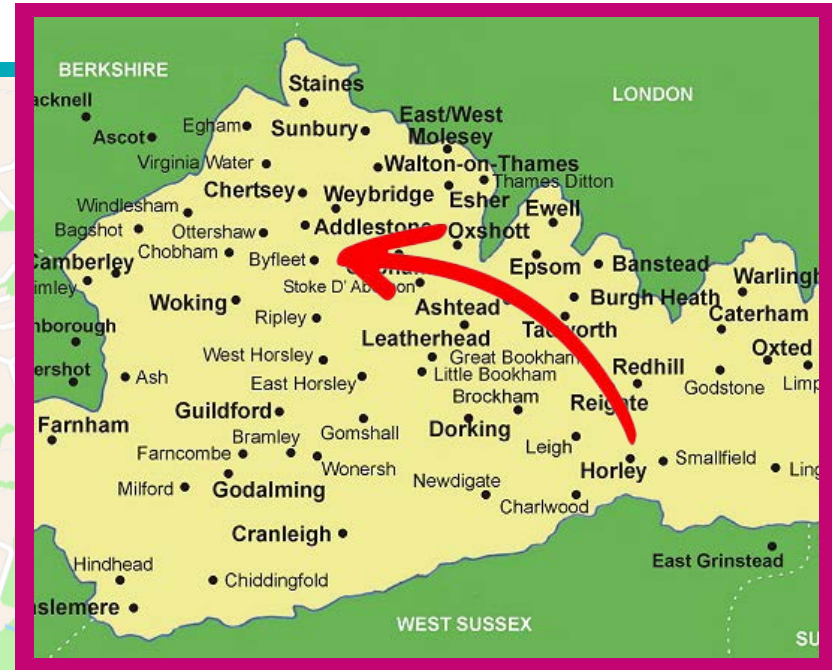
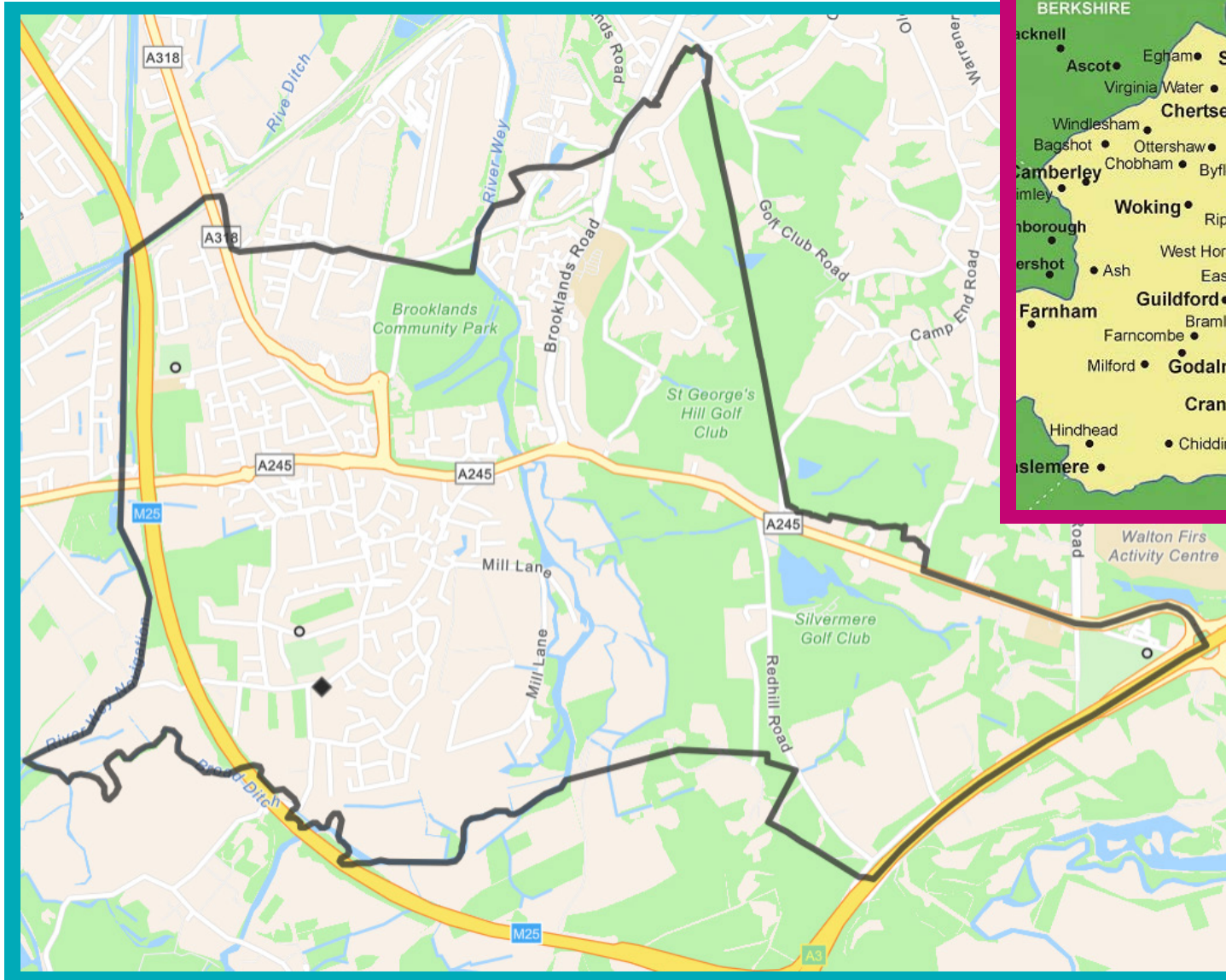
Thank you for your interest in the position of Rector at St Mary's, Byfleet and for taking the time to read our Parish Profile. We hope we have included everything you wished to know about the role, our Church and Byfleet. But, as we said in our introduction, if you would like to have an informal chat, please feel free to email us. We would love to hear from you and sincerely hope you feel called to lead us on this journey. You would be warmly welcomed!

Bernice and Mike



Appendices

Parish Boundary



Our Buildings and Land

The Church

The Church building, a Grade 1 Listed structure, is believed to have begun construction around 1280. It features a late Early English architectural style, complete with a wooden shingled spire. Subsequent additions include Victorian expansions, such as an additional seating area added in 1841, a choir area in 1864, and a small vestry, which was enlarged in 1881. The church has a seating capacity of 200.

In 1999, a Prayer Room was established, offering a serene space for prayer and reflection. Inside the church, you can find remnants of 14th-century wall paintings, a notable brass from 1480, and stained-glass windows dating from the 15th to the 20th centuries. Notably, the colourful pre-Raphaelite mosaic reredos can be found on the East wall behind the altar.

A sound system was updated in 2017, and services can now be broadcast via a laptop.

As is typical for a building of this age, it requires ongoing repairs and maintenance. A £45,000 project to re-shingle the spire is expected to be completed by the time our new incumbent arrives. Additionally, the 20-year-old gas boiler is nearing the end of its service life, prompting the need for strategic decisions regarding heating options that align with the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon objectives.

Church Land

There is a large churchyard at St Mary's which is much loved by parishioners. There has been a regular working group to help maintain the upkeep of the open part of the churchyard, made up of volunteer churchgoers and locals who have an interest in the conservation of the area. There are several significant graves in the churchyard, and it is also the site of some Commonwealth War Graves.

There is a Copse area that was created with the help of The Wildlife Trust and volunteers and is

also maintained by volunteers and laid to named wildflowers, plants and trees as a calm and tranquil area for all, with areas for children and quiet seats.

The original section, covering approximately 3 acres, is closed under an Order in Council and is maintained by Woking Borough Council, although the Parochial Church Council funds regular maintenance of the frontage. The Churchyard extension to the east of the old churchyard is open for burials and there is a Garden of Remembrance within this area for the interment of ashes. Residents of Byfleet and West Byfleet are entitled to be buried here. The field to the south of this area, is also church land.

There is a further 3 acres on the opposite side of Sanway Road, which is currently rented out to Woking Borough Council for recreation purposes. This land was given under covenant for use as burial ground.

View a video
of our church here
search St Mary's Church
Byfleet Aerial Survey:
<https://youtu.be/H2OF8WESvA?si=SBb-v6hsEQHM4uE66>



Church Hall

The Church Hall is located directly across from the main entrance of St Mary's Church. Constructed of brick, it was completed in 1964 and features ample parking facilities.

Upon entering, you find an entrance hall that leads to the main hall, which measures 15 x 9 metres and has a wooden sprung floor. The main hall includes a permanent stage at one end, with storage areas located at the rear. Adjacent to the entrance hall, there is a small meeting room, a cleaning cupboard, and restroom facilities.

The kitchen, which was extended and remodelled in 2016, meets industrial standards. The Church has partnered with the Christian charity FoodWise TLC to source and manage commercial tenants for the kitchen, providing a valuable source of income for the church.

The first-floor was originally designed as a flat for a curate. It now consists of five rooms, a kitchen, and a toilet. The rooms are now repurposed as the Church Office, copier room, two meeting rooms, and storage space.

The main hall serves multiple functions, primarily hosting church activities, including SQUAD and coffee on Sunday mornings, as well as other church events. Additionally, the hall is available for private hire by individuals and local organizations. Our part-time Hall Administrator manages these rentals, which are consistently in high demand, resulting in year-on-year increases in rental income.

Curacy / 118 Rectory Lane

In 1988/9, the Church sold a portion of land to the west of the hall to a housing developer in exchange for a new build four-bedroom house on the plot. Initially intended to accommodate our curate and their family, the house has since been rented out commercially due to the absence of a curate. The current tenant has been in residence for three years. This property generates approximately £20,000 in net income each year and is valued at £525,000.

Rectory

The Rectory is located approximately 150 metres from the church on Rectory Lane. This spacious detached house features a separate garage and is set within a large garden.

The ground floor is double glazed, while the upper floor has secondary glazing. Heating is provided by an externally located gas-fired boiler, with thermostatically controlled valves in every room.

On the ground floor there is a study equipped with bookshelves and a gas fire, as well as a large lounge/dining room separated by a custom partition. The lounge area includes a coal-effect gas fire. The kitchen boasts a generous dining area, ample work surfaces, storage cupboards, and a walk-in larder. There is also a toilet conveniently located off the hall.

Upstairs, there are four generously sized bedrooms, with an ensuite bathroom in the largest one. All rooms include cupboards (built in or free standing), and one has a wash hand basin. There is also, a bathroom with an electric shower and a separate toilet.

The expansive back garden, measuring 20 x 36 metres, is predominantly grassed and features well-established shrubs and trees, along with two sheds. There is a single car garage, and the driveway can accommodate up to six vehicles. A security camera system is also installed for added peace of mind.



Finances

St Mary's finances have remained fairly robust despite the ever-increasing cost of maintaining the church building.

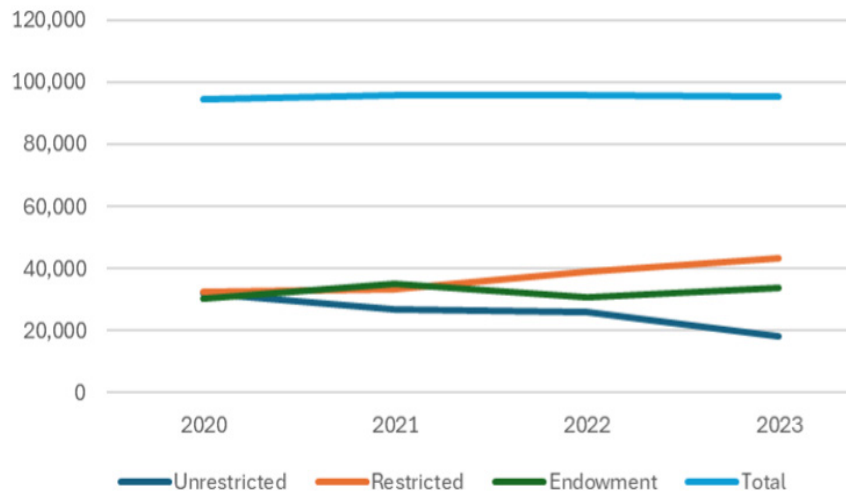
We are fortunate to derive over 40% of our income from the rental of 118 Rectory Lane and regular Hall Lettings.

We have witnessed, though, a decline in regular giving/donations in line with our falling electoral roll numbers.

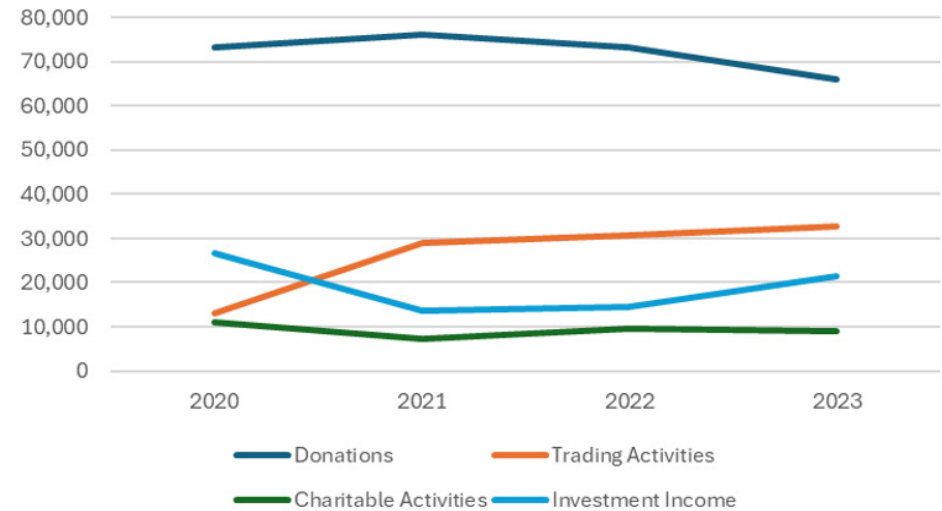
Our Parish Share remains comfortably the largest element of our annual expenditure.

Although our total funds have remained relatively constant it should be noted that the proportion represented by Unrestricted Funds, available for our general use, has declined.

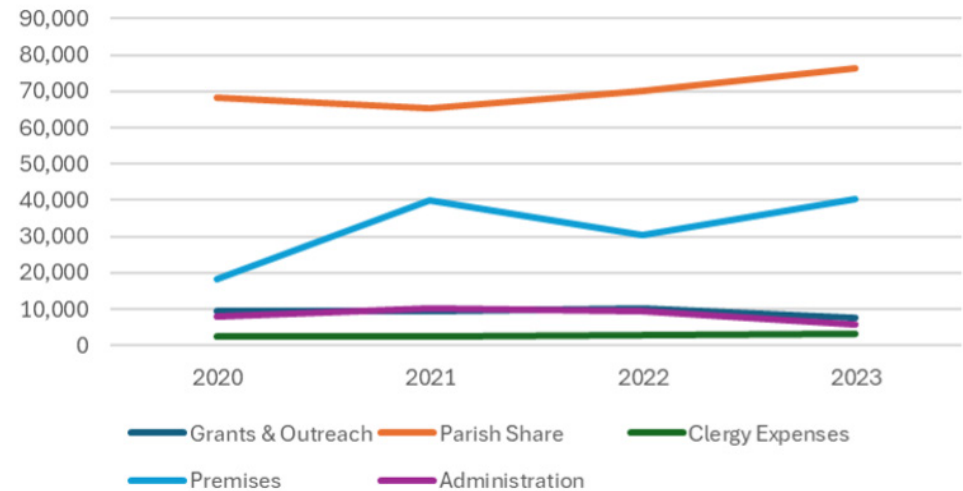
Funds



Income - 2020 to 2023



Expenditure 2020 to 2023



ST MARY'S CHURCH BYFLEET

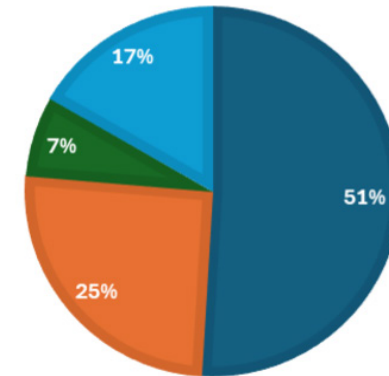
Financial Statement - Unrestricted Funds

	2023	2022		
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations	58,802		66,505	
Trading Activities	32,871		30,780	
Charitable Activities	9,113		9,687	
Investment Income	21,498		14,365	
		122,284	121,337	
Expenditure				
Parish Share	76,479		69,948	
Premises Costs	37,760		30,302	
Administration Costs	5,437		9,219	
Outward Giving	4,436		5,188	
Other Expenditure	6,154		7,659	
		130,266		122,316
Net Income/ (Expenditure)		-7,982		-979
Funds B/F		25,991		26,970
Funds C/F		18,009		25,991
Statement of Funds				
Unrestricted		18,009		25,991
Restricted		43,304		39,161
Endowment		33,838		30,517
TOTAL		95,151		95,669

St Mary's Church Finances 2023

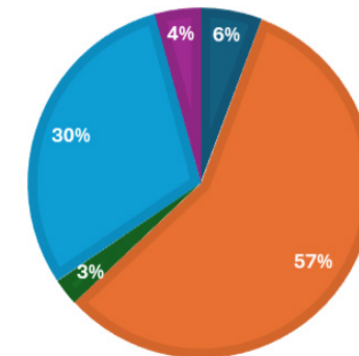
INCOME 2023

■ Donations ■ Trading Activities ■ Charitable Activities ■ Investment Income



EXPENDITURE 2023

■ Grants & Outreach ■ Parish Share ■ Clergy Expenses ■ Premises ■ Administration



Diocesan Support



Transforming **Church**
Transforming **Lives**

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

St Mary's Church, Byfleet
124 Church Rd, Byfleet, West Byfleet KT14 7NF
Email: churchoffice@stmaryschurchbyfleet.org.uk
Tel: 01932 346 605