



The Parish Church of
St Peter Great Berkhamsted

St Peter's Berkhamsted Parish Profile

Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Background.....	5
3. Worship.....	9
4. Music.....	16
5. Team Ministry.....	23
6. All Saints' Church.....	27
7. Activities and Outreach.....	29
8. Support.....	36
9. Finance.....	39
10. Friends of St Peter's.....	41
11. Summary.....	43
Annexes.....	45



1. Introduction





Could you be the next person to lead our thriving, liberal-minded congregation? Following a modern catholic tradition, enjoying a strong musical heritage and with a family-orientated, sociable and engaged mix of Christians, we are keen to develop our faith. We are looking for an individual who can inspire us to explore new approaches to growing our worship community, particularly given the opportunity our 800th anniversary in 2022 brings to deepen our connection with our town.

Are you the person to help us realise our full potential, encouraging us to serve and to make better what we do? If so, read on!

2. Background





The vacancy arises following the retirement of Fr Tim Pilkington. For over five years Fr Tim has led our worship and supported our spiritual development. We have benefitted from his accessible style and enjoyed his dry wit. We are richer for his teaching and leadership. Now, as we are preparing to celebrate in 2022 the 800th anniversary of St Peter's first known priest, we need someone who, while acknowledging and building on our inclusive Catholic tradition, can help us grow into a spiritual community that embraces the future.

St Peter's Church is situated at the heart of the town on the High Street. Grade II* listed, it is one of the largest churches in Hertfordshire with its 85ft tower soaring above the town. It has been a focal point of worship for the local community since the 13th century. St Peter's aims to help people put God first in their lives. St Peter's also promotes active Christian learning, especially through the work of our two Church Schools, Victoria and Thomas Coram.





The incumbent at St Peter's enjoys the assistance of three active retired priests as well as a Reader and a Reader-in-training. Berkhamsted School, a public school (HMC listed), provides a salary and accommodation for an assistant lay chaplain who also shares in the delivery of worship in our church schools, is the sub-deacon at the Sung Eucharist and oversees Sunday Club for the younger members of the congregation. The School Chaplain works in close liaison with St Peter's at various times of the year.

3. Worship



www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/worship

At St Peter's Berkhamsted, we encounter God through many different styles of worship:

Our main Sunday morning (9.30am) Parish Eucharist is rooted in the traditional Anglican style of worship. The liturgy is supported by choral music with the choir leading congregational singing and also singing a communion motet.





We encourage families with young children to attend: we have a soft-play area in the back of the Church and our Sunday Club provides activities for the youngest members of the congregation during the Liturgy of the Word. Average attendance is 120-130 and growing.

There is also Said Eucharist at 8am every Sunday with an attendance of about 15-20 and a similar number attend a Wednesday Said Eucharist at 8.30 am. The offices of morning and evening prayer are said every day. We also have a monthly service of Choral Evensong. This is a special opportunity to use the beauty of our musical skill and tradition to further glorify God.





As well as its musical heritage, St Peter's has a strong liturgical tradition. Within the inclusive Catholic tradition of Anglicanism, we combine contemporary rites (C.W. Order I) with traditional ceremonial. We use congregational settings for the Eucharist designed around the various liturgical seasons in a style that is best described as "a relaxed formality" without losing any sense of reverence and awe. Vestments are worn and incense is used on major festivals and Benediction has been introduced on an occasional basis and has been well-received.

On Corpus Christi Sunday the Eucharist includes a procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the church, concluding with Benediction. There is a similar procession on Palm Sunday. St. Peter's is not, however an Anglo-Catholic shrine but the parish church seeking to minister to the town and people of Berkhamsted.





At the core of our church year we celebrate a full Pascal Triduum. Following careful teaching over the years the numbers have been encouraging and last year were as follows:

Maundy Thursday: 117

The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday: 160

The Easter Vigil: 94
(always followed by a celebratory drink!)

Easter Day: 340

In addition, All Souls was well attended as usual: 120

We hold well attended Lent talks in the Court House which have encouraged lively discussions and learning.

4. Music



www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/music/choir

The Choir

St Peter's has a long and strong musical choral tradition. Affiliated to the RSCM, the choir has recently returned from a successful musical trip to Barcelona and we are lucky that our music staff are distinguished in their own musical careers. In previous years the choir have sung in Venice, Vienna and Santiago de Compostela, and when HM Queen Elizabeth II visited St Peter's in 2016, the choir gave her a private concert.





The Choir comprises some 15 trebles (boys and girls) and 24 adults; the young choristers are paid according to attendance, and work through the RSCM programme of exams. There is a Director of Music, an Organist and an Assistant Director.



Our tradition of high quality church music is important to us and we hope that the new priest would give the musicians every support with the repertoire of music for settings of the Eucharist, for special services with choral settings (Advent and Tenebrae), and in the maintaining of a 'Cathedral style' evensong.

To have a Rector who was happy to contribute to our musical tradition in the singing of the offices would be a matter for the triumphant ringing of the *Zimbelstern*.



 www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/music/organ

The Organ

Our organ was built in 1986 by the English organ builder Peter Collins, using much repurposed pipe work from the previous Walker instrument. It is neo-classical in style and has mechanical action. By 2009 the instrument had developed several serious faults and, in 2011, Vincent Woodstock undertook remedial work to prolong its life for another 20 years. There is an intermittent organ recital series, and the organ is popular with those needing to practise on a mechanical instrument.



 www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/music/bells



The Bell Ringers

The bells, which are also an important element of St Peter's tradition, are rung for Sunday Eucharist, Evensong, and weddings; and peals and quarter peals are rung to mark special occasions, national and religious. Youngsters are part of the lively team of ringers - whose present age range spans some 70 years.

www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/music/concerts

Concerts

St Peter's is at the heart of Berkhamsted's thriving cultural scene, a leading supporter of the arts in the town and able to accommodate an audience of up to 400 people. Our programme of musical events includes a wide variety of concerts from smaller recitals through to full-scale orchestral and oratorio concerts. Local amateur and professional concerts from performers, such as the Berkhamsted Choral Society, Bridgewater Sinfonia, Chiltern Arts Festival, Chiltern Chamber Choir and Chroma, are generally well supported – all in the beautiful setting of our historic church.



5. Team Ministry



 www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/about/parish/



The Berkhamsted Team Ministry serves four villages outside Berkhamsted: St John in Great Gaddesden, St Peter and St Paul in Little Gaddesden and St Lawrence in Nettleden, led by Fr John Russell (Team Rector); Holy Trinity Church in Potten End led by Fr Joe Roberts. Fr Joe assists at St Peter's two days a week in his role as Director for Schools' Ministry and in offering oversight of ministry to families and young people. Both preside and preach in St Peter's monthly (either at the Eucharist on Wednesday or on Sundays) and there is an expectation that our incumbent would lead worship within the team churches on an occasional basis. In addition, we are fortunate to have three active retired priests based at St Peter's who assist as needed within the team.



Our Team Ministry operates more like a Group Ministry and affords complete independence for each of the three incumbents. The Team Rector, Fr John Russell offers wisdom from his long experience of the area, a listening ear and practical support.

Each parish has its own PCC in addition to the Team Council which meets annually or whenever the need arises.

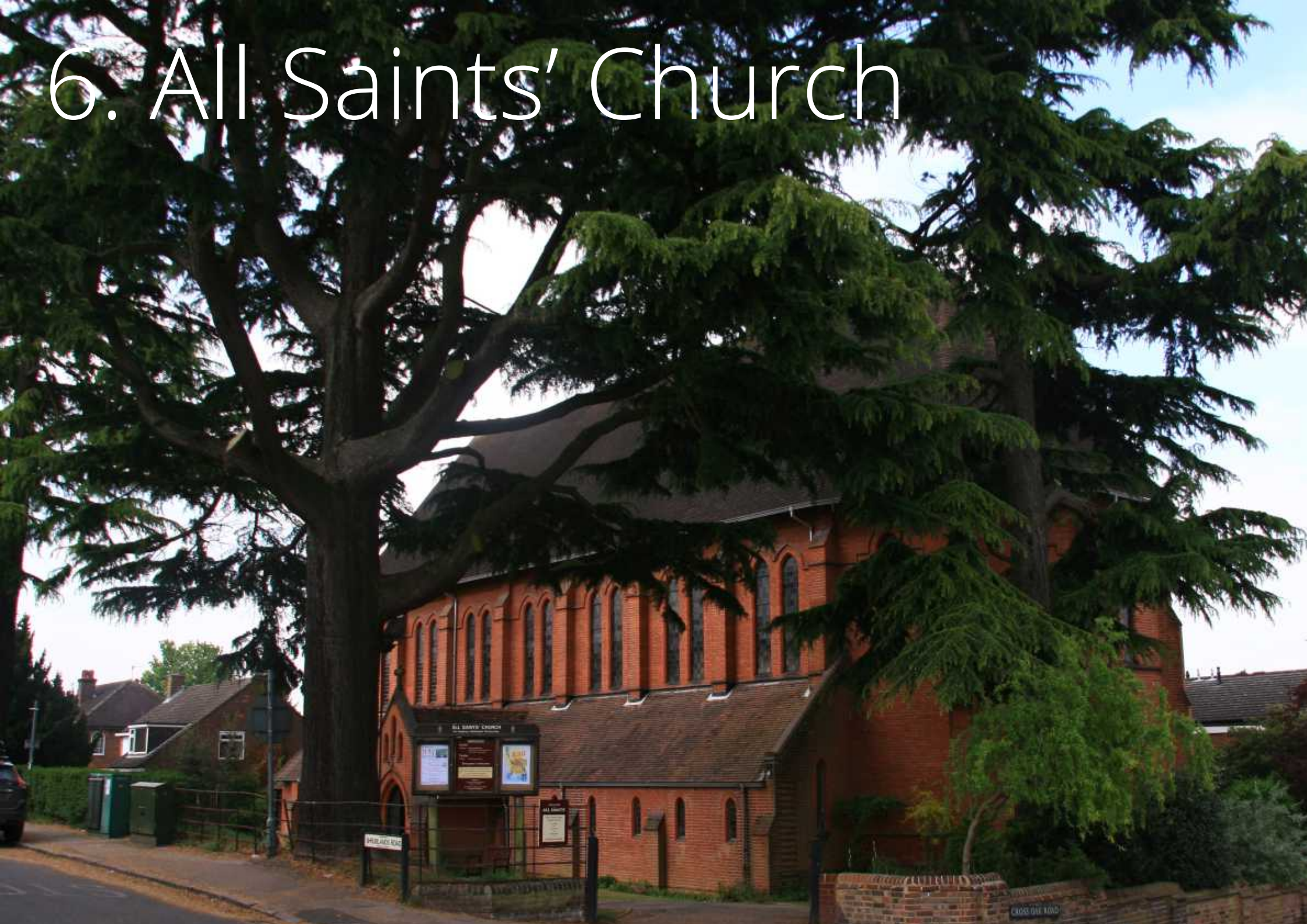
The clergy leadership style is collaborative, collegiate and supportive with the Team Rector as the first among equals.

Readers

St Peter's has one active Reader, Richard Hackworth who is also Deanery Reader Adviser. He works within the Berkhamsted Team Ministry as appropriate to requirements. There is one Reader in training within the parish, Mrs Penny Fray, who will be licensed in the summer of 2020.



6. All Saints' Church





www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk

St Peter's is in a local ecumenical partnership (LEP) with the Methodists at All Saints' Church which is based in central Berkhamsted.

All Saints' is a single-congregation Anglican Methodist LEP. It is part of the Parish of Great Berkhamsted as well as being in the Methodist West Herts and Borders Circuit. It is also part of the Berkhamsted team and is represented on the Team Council.

There is a Methodist Minister in charge, but Sunday services are divided equally between Methodist and Anglican-led. Sunday morning Anglican-led Eucharists are generally taken by retired clergy with the expectation that the incumbent at St Peter's will be able to preside at two to three of those services every year. Anglican-led non-Eucharistic services are taken by a Reader. There is an expectation that our incumbent would continue the

practice of attending Morning Prayer and presiding at the mid-week Eucharist on Tuesday mornings. (Attendance 12-15). The reserved sacrament is usually renewed every few weeks at the Eucharist on a Tuesday morning. We want the excellent relationship between the clergy from the two churches in the parish to continue.



7. Activities and Outreach

Merrymerry!!
**Mulled Wine!
Hot Chocolate!**
£5
Served in a
seasonal mug
with a choice
of mulled wine
or hot chocolate

Hot Chocolate	£5.00
Mulled Wine	£5.00
Hot Chocolate & Mulled Wine	£8.00

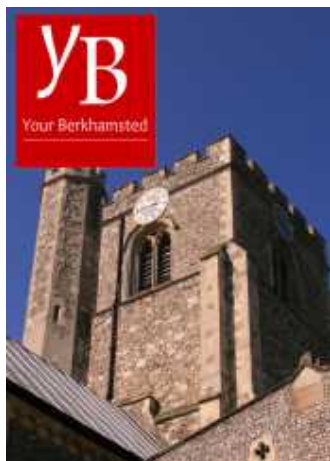


Merrymerry!!
**Mulle
Hot**

 www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/news/magazine/

Your Berkhamsted

Your Berkhamsted is a bi-monthly magazine for the town and parish of Berkhamsted, publishing articles about Berkhamsted life and culture. It includes local businesses, sports, recipes, reviews, interviews. There is a designated page for the Clergy to write each month which has included contributions from the retired Clergy and Reader.



Mothers' Union

The Berkhamsted branch meets regularly to pray together, and takes part in special Eucharists on occasions such as Lent and Lady Day, as well as the annual Wave of Prayer service. Invited speakers cover a wide range of topics. Other activities with the congregations of St Peter's and All Saints include a summer fundraising lunch, the Mothering Sunday project, Christmas Travelling Cribs. Members also attend diocesan and national MU events.

 www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/groups

Sunday Lunches Together

On the first Sunday of the month, volunteers provide lunch for anyone on their own.

St Peter's Ladies' Club

This small, friendly ladies' group meets once a month for a social gathering. They invite speakers who entertain and inform on a wide variety of subjects. They also fundraise for charity, provide pairs of hands, many pints of homemade soups and fruit crumbles for the Christian Aid lunches. Donations are made to the PCC.





Walsingham Cell

St Peter's is a Parish Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham, and a Cell Mass is celebrated each month. Some 15 - 25 of our parishioners attend the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Grief and Loss Support Group

A regular Grief and Loss Support Group offers support and friendship to anyone who has been bereaved, whether recently or a few years ago. The group meets for a friendly, informal lunch on the third Wednesday of the month.

Coffee Bars

On Saturday mornings (except the first Saturday of the month) St Peter's runs a friendly and informal coffee bar in the Court House. Coffee is also served in the Court House every Sunday, after the Sung Eucharist providing an opportunity to meet and socialise.



Little Fishes

The Little Fishes Toddler Group meets weekly in the Court House during the school terms. Each week there is a bible story, told in simple language and once a month a short service in church with song and story. It is well attended and enjoyed by the young children and the adults who bring them. It is a point of contact with church for those who are not presently part of a congregation and provides mutual support within the group and listening ear when one is needed.

Festival of Light

St. Peter's plays a major role in Berkhamsted's annual Festival of Light, when the town gets together to celebrate switching on the Christmas lights and the High Street is closed to traffic and lined with food stalls and children's rides. St Peter's opens its doors to all visitors to the festival and to mark the occasion the Church is gloriously lit with 2000 candles.





Recordings of our choir, interspersed with the playing of our organ, provide the background for people come in to enjoy the beauty and peace of the Church in contrast to the hectic bustle outside. This year over 3500 visitors came into the Church and this event continues to be an important plank in our outreach strategy.

8. Support



THE PARISH OFFICE



Parish Office

Routine parish administration, including bookkeeping, management of church bookings (weddings, funerals and baptisms) and church rotas is carried out by the Parish Office. The PCC employs two Parish Administrators and the office is staffed each weekday morning. The parish has implemented Office 365 systems for routine administrative support and has implemented a contactless donation system in the church. There are opportunities further to develop IT for the benefit of the parish.



 www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/groups/pcc



PCC and other committees

The Parish is blessed with several people who have a range of competencies and expertise, and their advice and practical assistance is invaluable. As a result, the administration of our finances, buildings fabric and governance are in good order. The future challenge is to put in place a succession plan drawing on the next generation.

9. Finance



www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/groups/pcc



We benefit from a gifted and hard-working Treasurer, who stewards our resources well. Berkhamsted is deemed to be a wealthy town and the Parish Share is commensurately high at £133,000. Day-to-day parish finances are currently in surplus. The PCC is responsible for two listed buildings (St Peter's Church and the Court House) which are relatively expensive to maintain and run, and parish finances are likely to remain a continual challenge. Hitherto, the Parish share has always been paid in full, the church is heated and lit and essential maintenance carried out. A more detailed breakdown of the finances is at Annex D.

10. The Friends of St Peter's



 www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk



The Friends of St Peter's

Established as a charity in 2013 that concerns itself solely with the fabric and furnishings of St. Peter's Church, the Court House and the Court House Cottage and the maintenance of the churchyards. It has already successfully attracted nearly £1 million in National Heritage Lottery funding for the improvement of the Rectory Lane Cemetery.



11. Summary





Our message is that:

- **The Parish of Great Berkhamsted is in good heart: active and organised and looking forward to working with its new priest.**
- **There is a wealth of talented support, but succession planning needs attention.**
- **The buildings are all kept in good order, and meet all requirements of archdeacon, architect, and safety checks.**
- **The financial situation is challenging, but well managed.**
- **We are looking for a Parish priest who will help us better understand the scriptures and lead with prayerfulness within an inclusive**

catholic tradition, with the eucharist at the heart of our parish life.

- **We need a priest with a genuine pastoral heart who will take us all forward with vigour, goodwill, and a sense of humour, so that we may come joyfully to an understanding of Christ's purposes for us in the years ahead.**

The new incumbent can have confidence in much of what already exists, but will need to inspire people not just to attend, but to do so regularly and to serve.

Annexes

A. The Town	46
B. Buildings and Churchyards.....	53
C. Schools.....	60
D. Finance.....	63
E. Team Churches.....	65



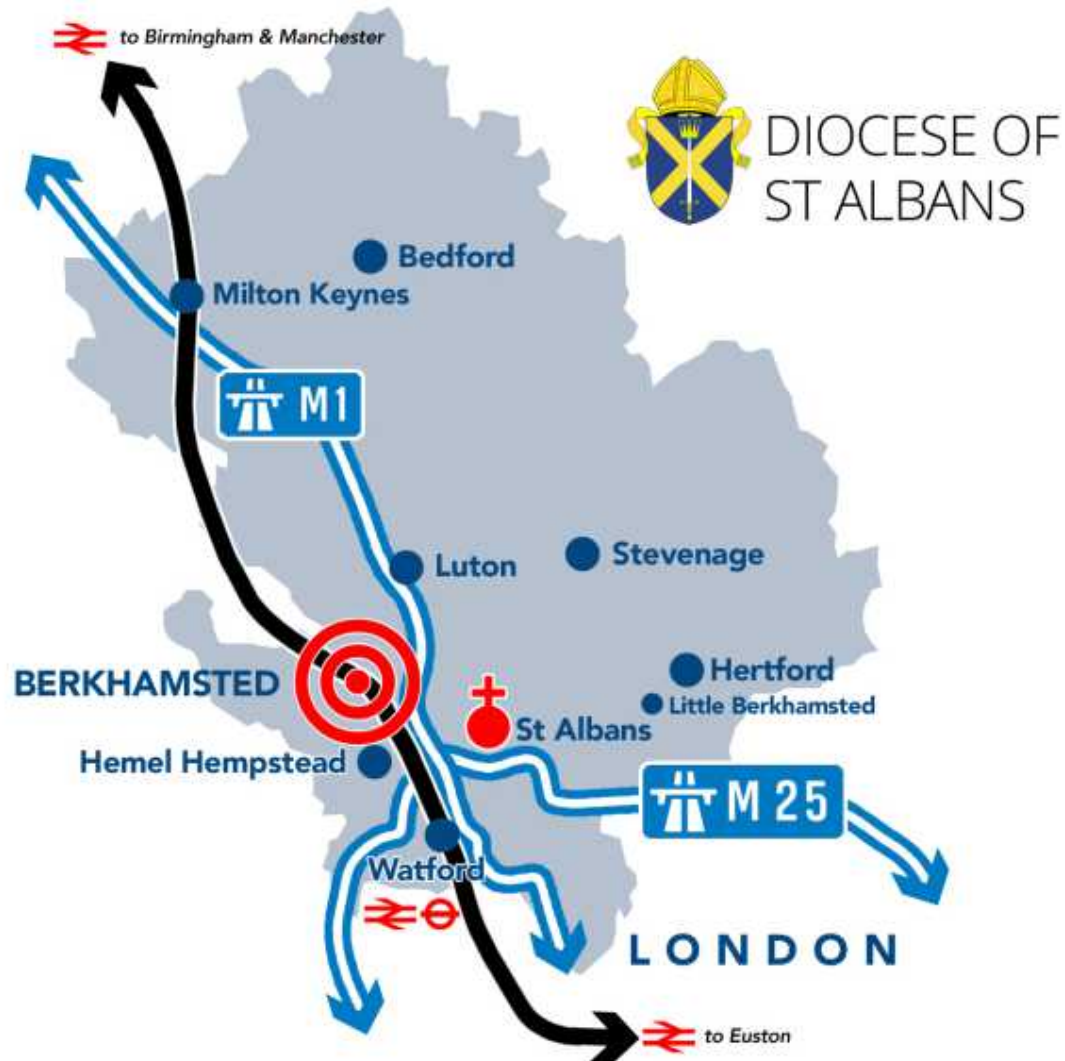
A. The Town



The Parish of St Peter's Great Berkhamsted is in the diocese of St Albans. The name Great Berkhamsted is no longer used to identify the town, but was once used to avoid confusion with a Hertfordshire village, Little Berkhamsted, which lies about 25 miles east of our parish. However, it remains part of our formal name.

Berkhamsted itself is a historic market town with a population of about 20,000 close to the western boundary of Hertfordshire. Situated in the Bulbourne Valley in the Chiltern Hills, it lies 26 miles northwest of London. Over the last millennium it has been an important market town with royal and literary connections; today it is a vibrant, residential and cultural centre. Surrounded by lovely countryside, and close to the beautiful Ashridge Estate, Berkhamsted was recently featured in The Times as the best place to live in the South East.





Berkhamsted has excellent transport links. The main West Coast Line with frequent trains south to London (35 minutes) and north to Birmingham and Manchester runs along the valley, alongside the Grand Union Canal. The M25, five miles from the town, gives access to Heathrow, and there is a regular bus service to neighbouring towns and villages such as Hemel Hempstead, Tring and Northchurch.

Berkhamsted has much to offer in terms of culture and the arts. There are clubs and societies celebrating History, Archaeology, Drama, Art, Film, Jazz, and an annual Graham Greene Festival. Graham Greene's father was headmaster of Berkhamsted School. This is an independent school which is the biggest employer in the town, and has long-standing connections with St Peter's. The town has an outstanding orchestra in the Bridgewater Sinfonia and the Chiltern Chamber Choir and the Berkhamsted Choral Society are fine choirs with notable conductors. St Peter's church itself is the venue for much of the music.





The local cinema - The Rex - is nationally noteworthy.

There are many literary and historical associations. The castle had connections with William I and the Black Prince; Berkhamsted School was founded in 1541 by Dean Incent of St Paul's. Famous historical inhabitants include: G.M. Trevelyan, William Cowper, Graham Greene, Peter Quennell.



Berkhamsted also has much sport on offer including tennis, golf and squash clubs, swimming pools and gyms. Berkhamsted also hosts the 2nd largest cycling club in the country with rides on Saturday mornings. The local



soccer, rugby and cricket teams are so well organised and so popular that they tend to compete with the church for youthful loyalties.

The town is rich in its Christian diversity. The Church of the Sacred Heart serves the Roman Catholics, while the Methodists share All Saints', as an LEP, with St Peter's. There are two strong Baptist churches; one in central Berkhamsted and the other in Northchurch. There is also an evangelical church in the centre of town and a Society of Friends Meeting House.

www.wayinn.com

Relationships are cordial between the churches, and there are some occasions for joint worship as with 'Women's World Day of Prayer' and the 'Festival of Light'.

Christian initiatives important to the life of the town include The Hospice of St Francis and the Post Office. The Hospice is a much loved and supported institution and St Peter's played the leading role in its original foundation. Berkhamsted's Post Office also has Christian origins and combines with a café - The Way Inn – and shop selling Christian literature and artefacts.



B. Buildings and Churchyards



www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/heritage/guide



St Peter's Church

The parish church is a large and impressive 13th century building beside the High Street in a central location in the town. There is a traditional configuration to the interior of the church that requires the liturgy to be conducted with a certain style.



The Lady Chapel is a lovely, light – filled, open space, ideal for smaller week-day services, and for small musical recitals. The Chapel of St Catherine, where the Holy Sacrament is reserved, is a place for prayer and quiet reflection. The St John's Chantry, to the south side,

has historical associations with Berkhamsted School and is nowadays the place of the Choir. A broad balcony area at the west end has potential for development.

The Churchyard

The churchyard around St Peters church is closed but includes a Garden of Remembrance for the burial of cremated ashes, some fine mature trees and is bounded on the north side by the original Tudor hall of Berkhamsted School.



 www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk

Rectory Lane Cemetery

There is a large detached churchyard on the opposite side of the High Street to the church, better known locally as Rectory Lane Cemetery. This is currently benefitting from a three year programme of restoration and improvement funded by a major Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Part of it is closed, part remains the responsibility of the PCC.





The Rectory

The present house was built in the 1950s on the site of the mediaeval Rectory where the poet William Cowper played as a child. An attractive house set in a large garden, it is three minutes' walk from the church. The Diocese of St Albans is responsible for the Rectory. The house has four bedrooms, one bathroom, toilets upstairs and down, study, lounge divided from the dining room by folding screen, kitchen and a separate utility room which (it is hoped) may be more fully incorporated into the kitchen area. The 18th century stables can house

www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/about/courthouse/

two carriages and four horses or two cars and more than enough lawn mowers and bicycles, prams, etc.

The Court House

A listed 17th century, half-timbered building beside the church, this is a valuable asset for the many activities associated with the church. Downstairs there are two large rooms and a kitchen and upstairs is an attractive, comfortably furnished space that can be used for meetings or for youth socials. This gives onto a balconied roof-space and the entrance to the Parish Office (which can also be accessed by steps from outside). The



Court House is let out for functions and charities: book fairs, charity sales, classes, parties, and gatherings for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

All Saints' House

This is currently occupied by the Curate and his family. He will be moving to his own living after Easter and the current aim is to let the house to provide a further source of income.

The Court House Cottage

An attractive Victorian residential property adjacent to the Court House which at present is rented out.

C. Schools



 www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/about/schools

Our parish has two voluntary aided Church schools: Victoria CE Infant & Nursery School and its linked junior school, The Thomas Coram CE School. The schools work formally together under one governing body and leadership team as Castle CE Federation.

The vision and aims of the federation and its member schools is for everyone to “flourish in learning and love, within a happy, Christian family.” Both our schools are “proud to be an inclusive family in which to belong; a place to explore and go deeper in learning; a place to pray, grow and serve.”





The relationship between our parish and our church schools is well established, with the provision of regular collective worship (both in school and St Peter's) and the appointment (as a voluntary aided federation) of the majority of school governors. Typical of other less formal links are the provision of artwork for display in church (e.g., Stations of the Cross during Holy Week in 2019) and performances at the parish summer fair.

D. Finance



 www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk//groups/pcc/

In 2019 total PCC income and expenditure for all purposes were approximately £220,000 and £253,000 respectively, an overall shortfall of approximately £33,000 represented mainly by expenditure of reserves on building maintenance. Within these totals general income and expenditure for the day to day running of the parish were approximately £222,000 and £216,000 respectively. The PCC is expected to finish 2020 with modest surplus on day to day income and expenditure. Our largest expenditure item is Parish Share which in 2020 is £133,035 (60% % of general expenditure). Estimates of Parish Share for 2021 will be available in July 2020.

A separate Building fund is held by the PCC for the maintenance of St Peter's Church and its other properties. This is adequate for currently planned maintenance work but is relatively low to

meet likely long-term needs. St Peter's church is a Grade2* listed building, parts of which date from the 12th century, and the Court House dates from the 16th century. Maintenance costs for these two buildings is inevitably high compared with modern buildings. The Friends of St Peter's was created in 2013 specifically to raise funds for maintaining the fabric of St Peter's church and has already made valuable contributions to the PCC. Nevertheless in 2019 the PCC spent £41,000 on building maintenance against designated income of £24,000

The PCC is a member of the Parish Giving Scheme and promotes maximum use of the Gift Aid scheme. Working expenses incurred by clergy or others are paid promptly on presentation of receipts to the Treasurer.

Full Trustee Report and Accounts for 2019 are available on request.

E. Team Churches



 www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7551



St John the Baptist Church, Great Gaddesden

St John the Baptist, Great Gaddesden is a Grade 1 listed building set in beautiful countryside in the Gade Valley. The parish of Great Gaddesden is geographically spread out covering six hamlets - Gaddesden Row, Jockey End, Bridens Camp, St Margarets, Water End and Great Gaddesden. There are approximately 1,000 residents in the parish.

The church is an important focal point for the parish as there is a lack of any other identifiable centre in the parish other than the two schools.

A church has stood on this site since the dark ages, probably on a pre-Christian site, evident from the massive "Hertfordshire Puddingstones" in the foundation and the Roman brickwork, which some authorities believe come from a Roman Villa near the site. A priest is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. The first priests were Rectors, whose names we know from 1255. In 1382 when the Prior of the Dominican Friary at Kings Langley became the Rector he appointed a resident Vicar. On the Dissolution in 1539 William Halsey became Lay Rector, the priest remaining the Vicar. The Halseys, who have farmed the local land for centuries, have been Patrons of the Living and Lay Rectors since 1544. Mr Nicholas Halsey who is our current Patron attends

church regularly.

Great Gaddesden Church of England Primary School, which stands next to the church does not have a hall so any school events of significance take place in the church. Great Gaddesden Row School is almost two miles distant.

Current Position

There are 49 people on the electoral roll, 12 of whom are not resident in the parish. Two services are held each week, a Parish Communion at 10.45 on Sunday and a Communion service at 9.00 on a Tuesday. The service on the second Sunday each month is a Family Communion. The average attendance at a Sunday service has been increasing and is now 26 adults and 3 children, with about 60 on big occasions and school services. The congregation is predominantly older but we have a growing

number of young people including pre-school children. In addition, during school term time there is a Friday assembly/service for our church village school attended by approximately 60 pupils and associated parents/guardians.

The church is open every day during daylight hours. We do not have a church hall. There is a parish hall some distance away across a very busy main road. The school does not have a hall so it relies on the church for significant events – school assemblies, end of term performances, nativity play, and carol service to name a few. We have recently installed a kitchen in the room at the base of the tower and plan to develop the use of the church for community events.

Two of the Berkhamsted Team Readers, Mrs Gill Moore and Mrs Heather Tisbury live in the parish, and take services in Great and Little Gaddesden and also in Nettleden when

required and also in Potten End and All Saints Berkhamsted from time to time.

The church has six bells and a dedicated band of ringers who practice each week and who ring for all our services including, whenever possible, special school services. When families ask they also ring half muffled on a practice night as a mark of respect when a member of the local community has died.

The Friends of Great Gaddesden, a separate charity, raises funds to maintain the structure of the church through the organisation of village social events – concerts, Summer Fayre, clay pigeon shooting to name a few.

St John the Baptist Vicarage

A four bedroom bungalow in Great Gaddesden provides a home for the Vicar and his wife.

Vision

Our vision is to be a spiritual centre of the community, a growing and active church appealing to all ages, and with the building increasingly used by the community.

Priorities

1. Continuing to make the church and the churchyard an attractive and welcoming place.
2. To review music in worship (use of ipad/CD, organ, sound system, hymn choice etc).
3. Identify how to meet the needs of a growing group of children and young families.

 www.littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Little Gaddesden

Population of Little Gaddesden c.1000
Adults and 250 Children, 4 Electoral Roll
131

History, Location and Community

Little Gaddesden was the home village to the large Bridgewater and Later Brownlow estate. This estate was sold off in parcels in the 1920's and the core of what remains is the Ashridge National Trust Estate. The Village's historic roots are separate from Great Gaddesden and Nettleden and, because of the Bridgewater/Brownlow influence, much closer to Berkhamsted. The Parishes of Great Gaddesden and Little Gaddesden are very spread out measuring approximately eleven miles from end to end covering much agricultural land.

The village incorporates Little Gaddesden stretching along the Green and beyond and the hamlets of Hudnall and Ringshall as well as parts of Ashridge Park. Ashridge House, now Ashridge Management

College, is within the civil parish but outside the ecclesiastical parish. The village is within Dacorum District of Hertfordshire. Berkhamsted, the main shopping area is five miles distant through the park. The Parish Council owns the much used Village Hall, Village Playing Fields and Sports Pavilion on Church Road.

There is a flourishing village shop and Post Office, very much a source and distributor of village news. The Bridgewater Arms provides meals, caters for parties and themed evenings. Little Gaddesden Church was isolated when the population moved during the Black Death and is some 600 yards from the centre of the village up Church Road.

Little Gaddesden Church of England Primary School on Church Road is very successful and has some 90 or more on the roll, most of whom live in the Parish.

Places are keenly sought after from outside the Parish. State Secondary education is mostly nearby in Tring or Hemel Hempstead with some going as far afield as St Albans. Some resident children attend primary and secondary private sector schools in Berkhamsted. There is a flourishing pre-school in the Village Hall.

Beyond the Village Hall is Bede Court which provides local authority sheltered accommodation for 21 senior citizens and their partners. There is a small pre-war housing estate in Hudnall Lane and a much larger post war estate at Cromer Close on the Nettleden Road at the southern end of the village. Many of these houses are now owner-occupied.

Robin Hood House on the Nettleden Road is a retirement Nursing Home now specialising in the care of dementia patients. Visits from the Team Vicar are welcomed.

Since the Ashridge Estate was sold in 1922 the parish has grown from 175 to about 475 residences and the population is now approximately 1000 adults and 250 children. Most of the sites of the original village industries have been redeveloped into residential accommodation. A substantial area of agricultural land is still under cultivation or grazing but few people actually work on the land.

 www.nettledenchurch.org.uk



St Lawrence Church, Nettleden

Population: circa 115
 Electoral roll: 24 (11 non-parishioners)
 Patron: The Bishop of St Albans

Location

The Parish of Nettleden comprising the hamlets of Nettleden, Frithsden and part of the Ashridge Estate and House, (including the chapel) is situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the eastern edge of the Chilterns.

The parish is small with no shops and has very restricted public transport facilities. Potten End and Little Gaddesden, both some 2 miles away has limited amenities. Hemel Hempstead is approximately 3 miles distant.

The majority of houses within the parish are either period or date back over 50 years. A relatively recent development of 4 houses has taken place within 200 metres of the Church at Roman Farm.

The Parish has an active Resident's Association and currently benefits from a

Newsletter which also covers Potten End. The Parish was for many years linked with Potten End as it shared a vicar with that Parish. On the introduction of a Team Ministry this changed and for the purposes of the Team Ministry we are currently linked with the Parishes of Little Gaddesden and Great Gaddesden.

The Church Building

The Church, which is Listed Grade II*, is reputed to date back to the late thirteenth century. The present building was built in 1470 with substantial restoration work being carried out in 1895. The fabric is generally in sound condition with regular maintenance being carried out.

An interesting feature with the Tower are the 3 bells, 1470 (Thomas Harrys), 1636 (Richard Chandler) and 1714 (George Chandler).

There is no toilet or running water or kitchen at the church at present, although plans to change this are in hand. Off-road car parking facilities are extremely limited.

Financial Position

The present financial position is relatively sound and the Parish Share is paid in full. There are regular fund raising activities including the annual Nettleden Festival held over three days at the beginning of June, an open garden day every three years or so and regular jumble sales,

The Friends of Nettleden Church was formed in 2011 to help raise funds for the maintenance and improvement of the Church. It is under the control of the PCC and organises events in and around the church for the benefit of the community in the Parish generally. Since its launch it has raised over £10,000 for the benefit of the Church.

Services

The current format is:

Morning Prayer at 9am on 1st 2nd and 4th Sundays, conducted by a Reader.

Holy Communion at 6pm (or if a priest is not available to take the service, Evensong) on 3rd Sundays.

There is a joint service with Great and Little Gaddesden held in turn at each church on 5th Sundays.

At the major festivals, there is a celebration of Holy Communion at 8am and a Carol Service on the Sunday before Christmas. There is also a joint service on Good Friday at 2pm.

At the regular services, the Book of Common Prayer is used with the Common Worship Lectionary. The Joint Service on the 5th Sunday is Common Worship. At

Communion Services the President wears alb, stole and chasuble.

The age profile of the congregation at regular services is probably between 50 and 90. The number of children in the Parish is small and accordingly no Sunday school facility is offered. Those with children at Primary school tend to attend either Little Gaddesden or Great Gaddesden Churches as there are church schools nearby. The older children normally attend schools outside the Parish and are not regular attendees at church services. The attendance at the regular services is between 6 and 15 for morning prayer services and 5 to 10 at communion services. For special services like the Carol service, we attract a considerably larger congregation.

 www.holytrinitypottenend.org.uk



Holy Trinity, Potten End

"The Church at the Heart of the Village"

Holy Trinity enjoys a prominent position in the centre of the Conservation Area of the Village. The building, which is Grade II listed, is a fine example of an Italianate Norman Church built in 1868. The Church with the adjacent Church Room provides an essential focal point and anchor for the Village and the wider community that it serves.

The Village is situated approximately three miles from Berkhamsted. We have a Church of England Primary School, a village shop/cafe, two public houses and several other thriving businesses. The population of the parish is approximately 1350 and there are 105 on the Electoral Roll.

Our Mission

Holy Trinity is at an exciting crossroads. Our new Team Vicar, Revd. Joe Roberts, was installed in September 2019 and we are looking forward to moving our church forward to further develop our mission under his guidance and strong leadership. One third of his time is spent in Berkhamsted as Associate Priest.

The PCC regularly reviews its commitment to worship, education, evangelism and service to the local community. We have sound finances and are seen as a friendly,

welcoming and inclusive church.

We have made progress in encouraging more families to find a home at Holy Trinity, especially through Messy Church, but recognise there is more that can be done.

Our current priorities for development are:

- To grow as confident disciples of Christ and encourage others in discipleship.
- Attract young people and families to join and participate in the Church community and worship.
- Continue to reinforce and build new relationships with our local community.

Worship and Service Pattern

Holy Trinity has a mixture of traditional and contemporary services, with elements of both catholic and evangelical spirituality. Vestments are worn at Sunday Communion services. Lay members at morning Communion services lead intercessions and approved laity administer the chalice at Communion. Children are encouraged to participate and read when they have the confidence to do so.

There is a Eucharistic Service every Sunday. Services follow a pattern using Common Worship and All Age Worship in the mornings, and BCP Sung Evensong with BCP Communion once a month in the evenings.

Some joint services are held with the other churches in the Berkhamsted Team. Historically there have been close ties with a

Team Evensong Service held in the beautiful Chapel of Ashridge Management College in late Summer, but it is hoped to hold these more frequently in the future.

Celtic Worship

This is usually held at 6.30pm on the first Sunday of alternate months. It is led by a group of our musicians and is planned by the Vicar with the help and input of two of the musicians. The services are reflective and beautifully calming. They are also attended by a following from other churches in the team and attract many who otherwise would not attend our more regular services.

Messy Church

This is held during term times on the second Sunday of the month at 4pm. Activities and a short reflection are followed by tea in the Church Room. Messy Church has been

running for over five years and has been successful in bringing new families into the church. It is hoped it will encourage more children to be prepared to take Communion before Confirmation.

Trinity Kids

This is planned for children up to 10 years old and is currently held in the Church Room on the fourth Sunday of the month. The session is usually structured with an interactive bible reading, reflection/prayer time and a related craft activity.

Music

Holy Trinity has a strong musical tradition and maintains an unusually high standard for a village church. We have a small team of professional organists who play for our Sunday services, weddings and funerals.

We are also blessed with a group of professional musicians who worship at Holy Trinity. This group works together to perform some amazing music from traditional classical and modern worship songs to original pieces and arrangements. These enhance our special services such our 'Nine Lessons and Carols' Service at Christmas. We use the Complete Anglican Hymn Book.

Schools Engagement

The church has very strong links with the Potten End Church of England Primary School (Voluntary Controlled) which maintains a strong Christian ethos. It is a one form entry school with a nursery. OfSTED considered it to be a good school and it was also rated as good in its last SIAMS inspection.

Situated across the road from the church, it

serves the local area and takes many pupils from the periphery of the nearby towns of Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead.

Outreach, Discipleship and Pastoral Care

Holy Trinity has a Worship Committee which reports to the PCC. It reviews services and plans for festivals and special occasions. It also plans the very well supported Lent and Advent courses, which are held in the Church Room.

We have a House Group, which meets weekly and a Prayer Group, which meets in the monthly and is open to all. There is well established Pastoral Care Team headed by the incumbent, which has proven to be an effective means of engaging with the wider village community. The team feels a responsibility for those who are housebound, sick and in need of regular

visiting.

The Churchwomen's Fellowship meets on a monthly basis on a Monday afternoon making it more accessible for the older members who do not like to venture out in the evenings. They enjoy a very interesting programme of speakers.

Outreach

Holy Trinity believes that an important part of its mission is the outreach it makes to others. It recognises how blessed the church in Potten End is and endeavours to tithe 10% of its income each year. The PCC reviews and suggests charities to be supported and the level of giving to be made.

Parish Activities And Organisations

Social & Fundraising

A wide range of well attended social activities is organised by our church throughout the year, helping us to fund church running costs plus local and overseas outreach donations.

Church Room

The Church Room is used for many church activities including social lunches for the whole parish on Tuesdays from April-October and Tuesday Gathering 'stay & play and social'.

It is also let to a wide range of village groups during the daytime and evening.

Parish Newsletter

The Potten End and Nettleden Church Newsletter is distributed free of charge to over 800 households in the village by a team of 37 volunteers. It is well regarded for both its content and editorial style and is well supported by local businesses and advertisers. The editorial team works closely with the incumbent on content, communication and themes. We produce and print 10 editions each year.





The Parish Church of
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