



St Peter's  
Berkhamsted

# Families at St Peter's Welcome



At St Peter's all people are welcome and have a place, from the very oldest to the very youngest.

Sometimes churches can give the impression of being places which are all about sitting still and being quiet, which doesn't always make them feel especially child-friendly! However, we're not supposed to be anything of the sort. A church which doesn't welcome children (including crying children, chattering children, jumping and dancing children, grumpy children... you get the picture) is getting something very wrong.

This leaflet contains information about some of the ways in which we seek to welcome children and their families to St Peter's, and I'm always happy to meet for a chat if you'd like to know more.

Welcome,

Fr Stuart Owen, Rector

✉ [rector@greatberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:rector@greatberkhamsted.org.uk)

## Jesus said:

*'Whoever welcomes  
one such child in my name  
welcomes me, and whoever  
welcomes me welcomes not  
me but the one who sent me.'*

*(Mark 9:37)*

# Children and Young People at St Peter's

## Children's Corner

We hope that this space allows children to feel welcome and comfortable whilst observing and being part of the service. Some children spend the whole service in this area and others come for parts, whatever works best for your family is fine. Examples of Sunday school activities are also on display in this area and there is a book for children to write in anything they particularly want to pray about.



## Sunday School

Sunday school is an opportunity for children to learn more about the Christian faith. We explore bible stories, Christian festivals and worship in a relaxed and creative way, often including a craft activity. Sunday school takes place during the 9.30am Sunday service throughout school term times. We meet in the Lady Chapel after the Gospel reading. This means that children remain in the church building where they can see and hear everything that happens during worship, alongside their activities. The sessions are aimed at children of primary school age and they are welcome to attend with or without an accompanying adult, whichever they are most comfortable with. Younger children are welcome to come along too (but we ask that they are accompanied). Children are welcome at Sunday school whether they come to St Peter's regularly or are just visiting, it is always great to welcome new faces!

## Little Fishes

The Little Fishes group is a welcoming and friendly group for pre-school children and those who care for them. The group meets every Friday morning during term-time, and the doors are open from 9.30-11.20am; families can drop in whenever they want. The group meets in The Court House (the hall next to St Peter's Church), with lots of toys for the children and coffee and biscuits for the adults that they bring with them!





### **St Peter's Choir**

St Peter's has a strong musical tradition, and the choir is always looking to welcome new members. Open to children aged seven and over, no previous musical experience is necessary just an eagerness to sing and to learn. In addition, being a chorister offers the opportunity of an excellent musical education.



### **St Peter's Serving Team**

The celebration of the Mass each week at St Peter's is supported by a team of robed Servers who assist in preparing for the service and leading the worship. Children in Year Six and above are very welcome to join this team.



### **St Peter's Bellringers**

We are fortunate to have a good team of bellringers at St Peter's and children from the age of about thirteen and upwards are very welcome to join. The ringers do an important job of reminding the wider community that St Peter's is open for prayer, in addition to offering a unique way to exercise and the opportunity to learn important skills about working as a team across all ages.

### **Breastfeeding Friendly**

St Peter's is a breastfeeding-friendly church, and all staff members and volunteers are made aware of our commitment to making breastfeeding mums feel welcome.

### **Safeguarding**

At St Peter's we are committed to the safety and welfare of children and adults, and we take safeguarding very seriously. You can find our safeguarding policies, along with contact information, on our website at:

 [www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/safeguarding)

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## **Want to know more?**

Visit our website to find out more about the activities and opportunities for children and young people:



[www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/youth](http://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/youth)