

St. Mary the Virgin, Send

Parish Profile 2024



We are a vibrant, loyal, devoted, and blessed congregation, seeking a new leader to guide us in faith and in life.

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A letter from The Rt. Revd. Andrew Watson The 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!



A Letter from Venerable Martin Breadmore The Archdeacon of Dorking

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

We are seeking to appoint a full time interim priest-in-charge for an initial period of 3 years, which could be extended for another 3 years if all is going well. St. Mary's is not currently sustainable in the long term, and this interim appointment is designed to draw upon the real potential that lies within this parish for further growth, especially with children and families, to ensure health and viability for many years to come. The interim minister 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. I sense that a focus on building relationships with children, families and the school are key to the development of this parish. There is also an openness to exploring new and less traditional styles of worship to increase its outreach to all who live in the community.

This appointment is perfect timing for receiving resource and support from the wider diocese. 2021 saw the launch of our new Parish Needs Process. This marked a brand-new way of working whereby the Diocese of Guildford 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**



Welcome from the Churchwardens - Rachel and Helen

At the end of a narrow lane in Send, Surrey you'll discover our beautiful historic church with a vista across fields to the River Wey beyond.

As you open the ancient wooden door on a Sunday morning you'll step into our award winning church (Visitor Attraction of the year 2008) and be greeted with warmth and smiles and you'll instantly sense faith, friendship and love.

We are a very supportive church family who are keen to help each other and serve those in our local and wider community.

We have been fortunate enough to have the consistency and stability of the same vicar for the past 28 years, but there is a readiness amongst the congregation now to embrace change and a sense of excitement and anticipation of what the future holds.

Our faith foundations are there but in essence we seek:

- Someone to inspire and nourish our faith and who is happy to share their gifts with us.
- Someone who is a Compassionate Leader, offering high challenge and high support and guidance to help further the mission and pastoral presence in our expanding village.
- Someone who is excited to build relationships and engages with all ages within the community to collaborate in the outreach already happening.
- Someone who values the active links with Send Primary school and wishes to develop these.
- Someone comfortable with different worshipping styles who has the vision to use our Church Rooms creatively - our only presence in the village.

If you feel God is calling you to the parish of St Mary's, we look forward to welcoming you!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11

Who We Are

St Mary's Church exists to celebrate the Christian faith, which started 2000 years ago with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God, who made the world, and who was sent to bring forgiveness for sins and the promise of salvation and eternal life.

We believe a church is much more than a building - it is the people who worship there, who lead our worship, teach the young, or who, through service of one kind or another through the weeks, months and years, enable the church to continue its work of ministry.



"May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community."

Numbers 27:16

Our Statement of Needs

A new leader with the following qualities:



- Able to inspire a fresh vision to help us fulfil our potential as God's church.
- Capable of turning vision into action.
- A confident leader.
- An effective communicator able to engage with people of all ages and diverse backgrounds.
- A particular interest in building relationships with children, families, our church school and the local community.
- An enthusiastic, warm personality and a sense of humour.
- Quick to get to know church members to discover our gifts and talents; then enable and empower us to use them in worship and service.
- Flexible and adaptable.
- A compassionate listener, who is able to 'hear behind the words'.

Our new Vicar will help us to increase:



- Our openness to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
- Our discipleship.
- Our outreach to all parts of the wider community.

For our part, we can offer:



- A Ministry team consisting of a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM,) a Pastoral Assistant, and an Ordinand due to be Ordained in June.
- A hard-working and effective PCC.
- To join you in a collaborative ministry.
- To pray for and to support you.
- A church that is locally centred and wants to be more involved in the community
- A traditional and historic church building which is especially attractive for weddings and carol services and a well-kept churchyard.
- A thriving primary school.
- A PCC who have adopted and are committed to the Diocesan Clergy Wellbeing Covenant.

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."
2 Corinthians 9:12

Our Opportunities

- Worshipping in a beautiful historic church.
- The housing developments attracting new people into the village.
- Development of different styles of worship.
- Our longstanding relationship with the school.
- Increasing our Outreach and Mission.
- Exploring ways to deepen and renew our faith.
- Continuing to love and support each other.
- Developing Prayer and Praise Groups.

Our Challenges:

- Attracting new people to church.
- Finding ways to bring back people who used to be involved prior to the Covid pandemic.
- The location of the church.
- Attracting new hirers to the Church Rooms.
- Limited church parking.
- Meeting the Parish Share.
- The cost of maintaining an historic building.
- Fundraising.
- To ensure the children and young people feel really part of our Church Family.

As a congregation we are resilient, enthusiastic and motivated to overcome the challenges and where this is not practicable to 'work with what we've got' and make the most of it. However, we are also keen to pursue the opportunities.



"See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many."

Numbers 13:18

Our Church

The church of St Mary the Virgin is an important medieval building, with a grade II* listing from Historic England. The first mention of a church at Send was in the Domesday Book in 1086. The oldest part of the existing building dates from around 1240, with the nave being rebuilt in the late 15th century and the south porch built in the early Tudor period. The church as a whole was restored in 1901.

During 2000, a toilet, a choir robing area and kitchen were installed. Our toilet has since been twinned with a latrine in Zambia under the Toilet Twinning initiative, which funds global water, sanitation, and hygiene programmes run by Tearfund.

Following the quinquennial review in 2015, a major project of restoration and repair was carried out, mainly focussed on the roof, tower and windows. Work was delayed during the pandemic and was completed during the year ended 31 December 2022. As a result, the most recent quinquennial review in November 2022 has required fewer major repairs.

The church is accessible for all. The 2022 quinquennial review found the building to be 'well-served for a rural church', with good lighting levels and a loop system for the hard of hearing. There are disabled parking spaces in front of the lychgate, a removable ramp on entry and an accessible toilet. A wheelchair is available. At the back of the nave is a child-friendly space with toys.

The church can seat around 160 people, in pews and additional seating on the balcony. Extra chairs can be added at the rear of the nave when occasion demands or alternatively the central pews can be moved away to allow a central space.

There are currently 75 people on the electoral roll, including 19 who do not reside in the parish.

Access to the balcony is via steps to the bell chamber; St Mary's has a ring of six bells, which were restored and rededicated in 2018. The pandemic interrupted regular practices and ringing for services, but the bells have continued to be rung at weddings and tolled at funerals. Visiting bands are welcomed. Plans are in hand for regular ringing practices to restart in April this year. The current ringing band comprises four people, but the full ring of bells will be enabled by regular visiting ringers and new ringers will be welcomed.

There is a well-maintained churchyard. Although no longer open for new burials, it is available for the interment of ashes. There are four Commonwealth War Graves in the churchyard, including that of Flight Lieutenant Robin R Skene, of the Royal Flying Corps, one of the first casualties of the First World War.

The church has a pleasant rural setting on Church Lane, a narrow lane about a mile from the centre of Send village. The church overlooks the River Wey. Parking at the church is limited, but we are grateful to have access to a locally owned field for additional parking for major services, weddings, etc. Some congregants park at the nearby cemetery on Send Hill and walk down to the church.

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Because of its location the church is kept locked for security reasons, but opened up for visiting groups, when it is manned by volunteers.

St Mary's has joined the Eco Church Award Scheme, which provides a framework for taking practical action in caring for the earth. The scheme aims to encourage and recognise churches in England and Wales that demonstrate that the Gospel is good news for God's creation. It is recommended by the Diocese of Guildford. Currently our church has a Bronze Award.

Care and Maintenance of St Mary's

With any historic building - especially one that is formally listed - raising funds for its upkeep is a central focus.

But as a church community we are so blessed to come together to worship in this beautiful and ancient building. God has tasked us with both appreciating and conserving the past and the gift of guardianship for future generations.

We want the wider community to recognise their parish church is not just an old and pretty building at the end of a country lane but rather a living, breathing community of Christian people serving the local area and welcoming all who wish to join them on the journey.

Many people - not all of them regular churchgoers - give their time and energy to help maintain St Mary's, including our cleaning and mowing teams. There are also regular churchyard working parties throughout the year. All maintenance tasks are undertaken by a loyal band of volunteers.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"

Isaiah 41:10

- Extension to create a toilet facilities, choir robing area and kitchen - 2000.
- The gravel path was lowered and replaced with York stone from the lychgate to the entrance to improve access - 2002.
- Loop sound system installed - 2003.
- New organ installed - 2004.
- Restoration of the bells - 2018.
- Roof and tower repairs - 2020 / 2021.
- External lighting work - 2022
- Tree pollarding and removal in the churchyard 2024.

Potential future projects:

- New sound system.
- Wi-Fi connection.
- Card machine.
- Upgrade of heating system.
- Internal decoration of the church.

The Vicarage

The diocese has chosen to sell the existing vicarage and procure a new, more centrally located vicarage, before the new incumbent is due to take office.

Our Services

Currently our services tend to be traditional in style.

During the vacancy we are holding 8am Holy Communion (BCP) services on the first Sunday of each month and weekly 10:30am Holy Communion services each Sunday.

Baptisms are usually part of the 10:30 Holy Communion service - to make the child, parents, Godparents, family and friends feel welcomed into our church family.

The Sunday Club children and YAC teenagers have previously contributed once a month at the 10:30 Sunday morning services leading in the prayers, readings and being welcomers.

We hold special services throughout the year including Harvest Festival, and Christingle.

The annual Nativity is written, produced and directed by our Sunday Club Leaders; the children's performances are amazing. In recent years we have been joined by the Send Primary School choir who sing Christmas carols and songs. The church is packed, and it is a really joyous occasion.

On Mothering Sunday we are joined by the Scouting and Guiding Groups, all the congregation are presented with a posy of daffodils and the Mothers' Union provide cupcakes for all to enjoy at the end of the service. On Maundy Thursday this year we held a vigil and each Easter Sunday we hold a dawn service outside. (Hot cross buns and coffee are shared after the service.)

An Easter Egg hunt in the churchyard follows the 10:30 service for the young and not so young!

We like to celebrate our Patronal festival in September.

A highlight each year is our Stir Up Sunday service. This has evolved over the years from a single stir of the Christmas cake mixture on the way back from taking Communion, to the cakes being mixed from scratch as part of the service. The central pews are moved to make space for 5 large tables and the congregation join around the tables to mix up the ingredients in between readings, prayers and hymns - all of which refer to the ingredients.

The cakes are subsequently baked and iced, for distribution to the elderly in the village, the local women's refuge or sold at the Church Christmas Fayre.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Music at St Mary's

The tradition of music is one of the components that makes St Mary's special and is a pivotal part of our worship.

We have a choir made up of 11 regular members who lead the singing at our services. We also welcome occasional singers who join us for special services.



The candlelit Nine Lessons and Carols service is one of the highlights of the year and we are privileged to lead the congregations at weddings and funerals.

Up until about 18 months ago two organists shared the role of playing for our services (one also took on the role of choir leader for special services). One of the organists has since retired and moved away. We have now found a new organist who is also willing to take on the role of choir leader. With regular choir practices resuming the choir will be able to expand their musical repertoire.



We have been fortunate in the interim that our remaining organist has held the fort and kindly continues to play regularly for Sunday services with visiting organists to support.



We recently purchased new hymn books: Revised Anglican Hymns Old and New. The books will be dedicated and blessed during a service soon.



"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."
Psalms 95:2

Sunday Club and YAC



Sunday Club is for children aged 3 to 12 and meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month in term time in the Church Rooms. We listen to Bible stories and join together in singing and prayer. We use the ROOTS materials and often start the session with a game.

For our secondary school-age children we hold a YAC meeting once a month on a Sunday evening to discuss a Bible reading and share their thoughts. The group was named by the children and teenagers that attend and stands for Youth Alpha Conversation. The leaders have run two Youth Alpha courses in 2019 and again in 2022 and the young people who attended went on to be confirmed on Easter Saturday at Guildford Cathedral.



Both groups come together to put on the Nativity play and contribute to other services: Mothering Sunday, Christingle, Stir-up Sunday, Crib Service, Harvest Festival and "All Together" services either in the local school or in the Church Rooms.



There are 11 children registered for Sunday Club and 9 for YAC currently.

We are fortunate in having 5 regular volunteer leaders, all of whom are DBS checked and undertake Safeguarding training.

"Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation."
Joel 1:3

Introduction to the Parish of Send

There has long been a settlement in Send, which appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Sande, meaning a sandy place. Sand has been extracted in the local area at various times until the 1990s.

The town of Woking lies to the north and the town of Guildford lies to the south of the parish of Send.

As well as encompassing Send village, the parish stretches from The River Wey in the southeast to the edge of Old Woking in the north and takes in Burnt Common and parts of Sendmarsh in the east.

Its close proximity to Junction 10 of the M25 makes it accessible from all parts of the country.

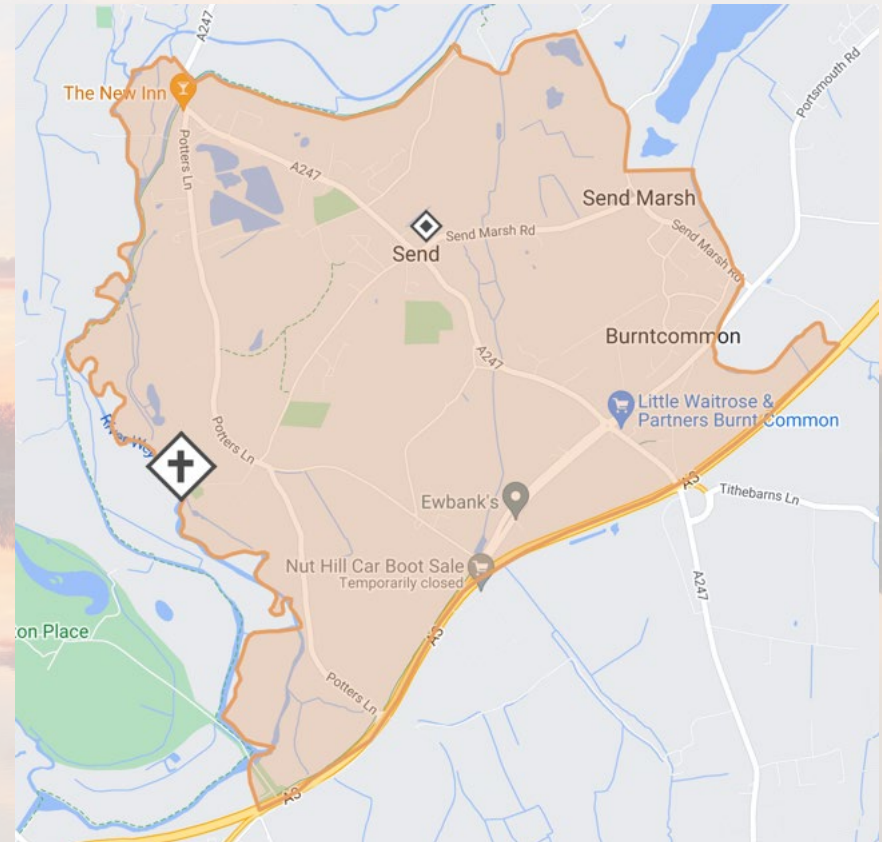
The main A247 passes through the village to cross the River Wey.

Trains are frequent from Woking to London and take under 30 minutes. Despite these connections, Send is largely rural, with significant greenbelt land around it. Send is on the edge of the Surrey Hills, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The village has a population of 4,700 (figure taken from 2021 census records). Considerable development has been proposed under the Guildford plan, including at Garlicks Arch, where construction of around 550 residences is underway. Smaller more recent developments include Weyside Grove, Barns Grove and Send Hill.

The village is served by a GP surgery and a Church of England Primary School. Send has a parade of shops which includes a

post office, convenience store, barbers and cafe.



There are two places of worship within Send: our own St Mary's and Send Evangelical Church.

There is a recreation ground with children's playground, public tennis court and football pitch. There is also a cricket club.

There are two pubs in the Parish - The Saddler's Arms in Send Marsh and The New Inn - the latter of which serves food and local ales and sits on the banks of the River Wey and the National Trust Wey navigation, which provide a picturesque and rural setting for the village.

There is an annual bonfire on Send Marsh Green, hosted by St. Mary's Scout Group

There are many footpaths and river walks.

Interesting places to visit locally include RHS Wisley Gardens, Newlands Corner, West Horsley Place (also home to Grange Park Opera House) and National Trust property Hatchlands.

Send Village facts and figures (from the 2021 census)

- More than 54% of Send residents describe themselves as Church of England.
- More than 82% were born in England.
- More than 54% define their ethnicity as white.
- Over 90% live in a house or bungalow.
- The age profile suggests that more than half the population is over 45 years old.
- 42% of households are considered as deprived in some way.
- Over 57% are economically active and 60% of those are in senior/professional occupations.
- Nearly 20% of young people are in full-time education.



The Church Rooms



St Mary's Church Rooms (effectively the church hall) are located in the centre of Send village, about a mile and a half from the church. They comprise a main hall, upper room, kitchen and toilets. The main hall can be opened into a chancel, to become a village-centre chapel, which is used for occasional services. The main hall can accommodate up to fifty people for social events.

The building dates from 1894. A compact office was added in the 1980s and there is a small car park to the rear of the building.

The main room is where our Church social groups gather including the monthly Coffee Shop and Craft and Chat. The Mothers' Union, Sunday Club and YAC also meet there, as do Small Steps. Traditionally, other social events for St Mary's fundraising have been held here too. These have included Quiz Nights, Fish and Chip suppers, Beetle Drives, Harvest Suppers. In 2023 we held our first Christmas Fayre since the Covid pandemic.



The main room is also let to other groups including community groups such as Send Rainbows, Women's Institute and commercial groups including Pilates and Keep Fit sessions. It is also hired out for social events such as birthday parties.



"Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings."

Matthew 24:1

Our School

Send Church of England Primary School's vision statement refers to each child being precious, each child reaching their spiritual and educational potential and with the Holy Spirit by their side they can achieve anything.

The school's Christian values are rooted in God, aiming to live by and promote these values using teachings from Christian Stories.



The staff try to create an environment based on shared Christian values, where every child is recognised as special and unique.

The school emblem is an oak tree with a cross at the top representing Jesus and faith being our point of reference, showing us the way.

Our links with the school are extremely important to us and are very strong. Classes regularly visit the church during the year for services including Christingle, Lent, Easter and a Leavers service in the summer term.

During the vacancy three of the congregation are taking regular assemblies to maintain and strengthen the connections.



"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it."
Proverbs 22:6

Outreach and Mission

St Mary's church leads a number of Outreach activities within the local community:

St. Mary's Coffee Shop

St Mary's Coffee Shop opens on the third Monday of each month in the Church Rooms on Send Road, and celebrated its 17th anniversary in March. We serve fairtrade coffee and home-made cakes to a regular attendance from the community of between 30 and 40 people. As such it is a popular 'drop-in' for people of all ages to meet and socialise. There is a themed stall each month; also, second-hand books and hand-made greetings cards are available to buy. Everything is donated, from the coffee and cakes to the goods on the stalls, so every penny taken on the day goes to a different charity each month. Since it opened in March 2007 the Coffee Shop has raised over £32,000 which has been given to over 160 different charities.



Craft and Chat

This group has been meeting on a monthly basis for over 10 years and attracts around 20 people from the community, who bring a variety of crafts to the afternoon. There is usually more chat than craft, but the object of the event is to bring members of the community together for companionship in a warm friendly atmosphere. Tea and biscuits/cake are served during the afternoon.

Strollers

This is a fairly new group which has proved popular over the last couple of years, regularly attracting 10 or more walkers. We meet once a month at the gazebo on the recreation ground.

Most of the walkers are from the local community rather than the church and enjoy spending time discovering the very many local footpaths in the company of others, ending up at the Church Rooms for tea and cake.



Small Steps

This group is based in the Church Rooms on Wednesday mornings, having been restarted in 2022 after a break of a few years. It is part of our outreach in the parish to the very young and their carers. Through methods of publicity including word-of-mouth and social media we advertised that this group was restarting, and we now welcome babes in arms and toddlers, together with their parents, grandparents and carers. The sessions, which are led by our Lay Minister and Pastoral Assistant, meet in term time to provide a warm and welcoming place for young and old to socialise and where the little ones can develop skills through having fun.



Send Mothers' Union

Send MU meets monthly and enjoys listening to speakers, taking part in activities and social events. We actively support the local refuges with gifts at Christmas and Easter, as well as helping with their ongoing needs. We are a well-established branch, and our dedicated members fully support the amazing work being carried out by this worldwide organisation of over 4 million members in 84 countries. MU is unique in that members work together to solve challenges in their local communities.

Other Outreach

There are many other opportunities for outreach in the parish where the church and the local community come together such as the May Fayre, the Open Gardens weekend, a collective Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, regular churchyard work parties, and joint worship at the school.

We produce a weekly newsletter and a monthly magazine called "St Mary's Parish Outlook" containing news, events and articles on church and village life. We also publish and distribute a booklet called "Welcome to Send" for new residents. This contains a wealth of local information.

We are lucky to have an excellent Church primary school in Send village. There are strong partnerships between the school, parents, church, and the community it serves. There is an expectation that the Vicar will be a Governor of the school.

We have strong links with the local Scouting and Guiding groups who are invited to services and tell us about their most recent activities.

St Mary's also supports 2 students through the Vision Peoples in Mission scheme in Kenya, called Mary and Livingstone, who are both now in secondary school and doing well.

Other local organisations which regularly receive our help from our community are the Runnymede Foodbank, Send women's prison and the local women's refuge.

Toilet Twinning Scheme

St. Mary's is proudly committed to three separate toilet twinning locations via both The Coffee Shop, and the Church itself. These twinings are located in Afghanistan, Indonesia, and Zambia, with a commitment to improving sanitation in developing countries.

Christian Aid Week

Each year we collect for Christian Aid week. Every household in the Parish receives an envelope through their door.

For the past 40 years this collection has been coordinated by a member of our St. Mary's congregation - Lorna.

Recently Lorna was recognized for this incredible work and commitment at a presentation by the Christian Aid Area Representative.



"They are joined fast to one another; they cling together and cannot be parted."
Job 41:17



A Message from our Lay Minister, Christine

The main parts of my role are teaching, preaching, and pastoral care.

Lay Ministers are licensed to perform all non-eucharistic and funeral services. I have performed all of these duties during my time at St Mary the Virgin in Send.

My Pastoral role has been mainly supporting those affected by bereavement and grief and with sufferers of mental illness. Last year I completed a 9-week course with the NHS on Spirituality and Mental Health. This has increased and enhanced my understanding of mental health needs and how to support those needing direct access to services.

During the pandemic, I was able to facilitate a group of 6 parishioners, to meet outside for group support. I devised a course known as: 'Putting on the Full Armour of God.'

I also produced a Daily Devotion during Lent that was available online. The course material came to the attention of The Guildford Diocese and they published it on their website.

This year I led a Lent course on Sunday afternoons.



A Message from our Ordinand, James

The community at St Mary's warmly welcomed my family and me to the church when I was 'parachuted' into the parish, at the start of ordination training back in August 2021. The congregation and ministers have supported and encouraged my training - both practically and prayerfully - ever since. There is a genuine and wonderful sense of community at St Mary's, which is a huge blessing. It is a special place.



A Message from our Pastoral Assistant, Kate

Pastoral ministry is an important element of our parish life in Send. As part of my role I undertake visits to parishioners in care homes and in hospitals, contacting the hospital chaplains for additional support for the patient when permission is granted. I also visit the housebound and offer prayer support and the reserved sacrament, this is always greatly appreciated and I feel very privileged to be able to serve in this way. Another part of my role is providing bereavement support. I feel I can offer pastoral ministry and encouragement in faith to the young and old alike through my involvement in the outreach groups such as Strollers, The Coffee Shop, and Small Steps toddler group.

We look to increase our pastoral team as opportunities arrive.



A Message from our Deanery Synod Representative, Andy

I have been a representative for St Mary's on the Deanery Synod for the past year. I have attended two meetings and on each occasion I have felt very welcome. I found the discussions interesting and informative and welcomed the opportunity to participate. It is good to get a wider view of the Anglican Church in Guildford and the workings of the various parishes and elements of the Deanery.

The Synod also provides a forum to share ideas with other parishes. I complete a report after each meeting which is fed back to the PCC. This has been particularly useful during our current position of having a vacancy for the Priest-in-Charge.

Finance and Fundraising

All details are based on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022. At the time of writing the 2023 accounts have yet to be presented to the PCC.

The day-to-day running of St Mary's finances is via an unrestricted funds account. There are also several restricted funds, which are available for the specific purposes for which they were created. In addition, the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 show three designated funds.

In that year, over 70% of our unrestricted income of £73,282 was generated from voluntary income, whether through planned giving and collections, income tax recovered on Gift Aid, or via our JustGiving page.

Other income was generated from the use of the church for weddings and funerals, parish magazine adverts, and interest. Recoveries of VAT on building works, under the Listed Places of Worship scheme, totalled £10,000 and we benefitted from Diocesan Financial Support of £2,000.

In 2022 our outgoings in our general fund exceeded our income by £10,600 (as compared with a surplus of income over outgoings the previous year of £3,448). During the five years 2019-2023, the parish share, payable to Guildford Diocese, has more than doubled, from £39,560 to £80,244. This has inevitably impacted on our financial position. However, the full parish share was met in 2022.

The timing of the increase was unfortunate, with the pandemic reducing attendance and therefore giving in church. Regular fundraising social events also decreased at that time, as we could not meet. This, plus the necessity for fundraising for essential building works, resulted in the creation of our JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/sendpcc>. This has proved a valuable addition to income-generating resources, not least through the encouragement provided by the many messages left when donations are made.

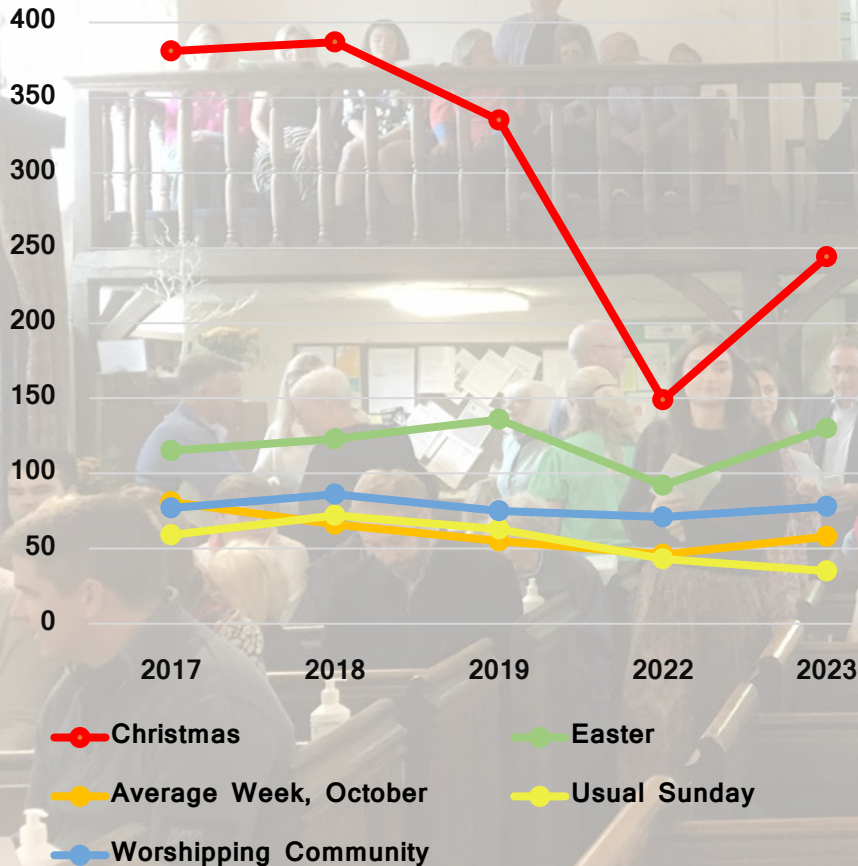
However, we were fortunate in 2022 to receive a substantial bequest under the will of a former parishioner.

Safeguarding

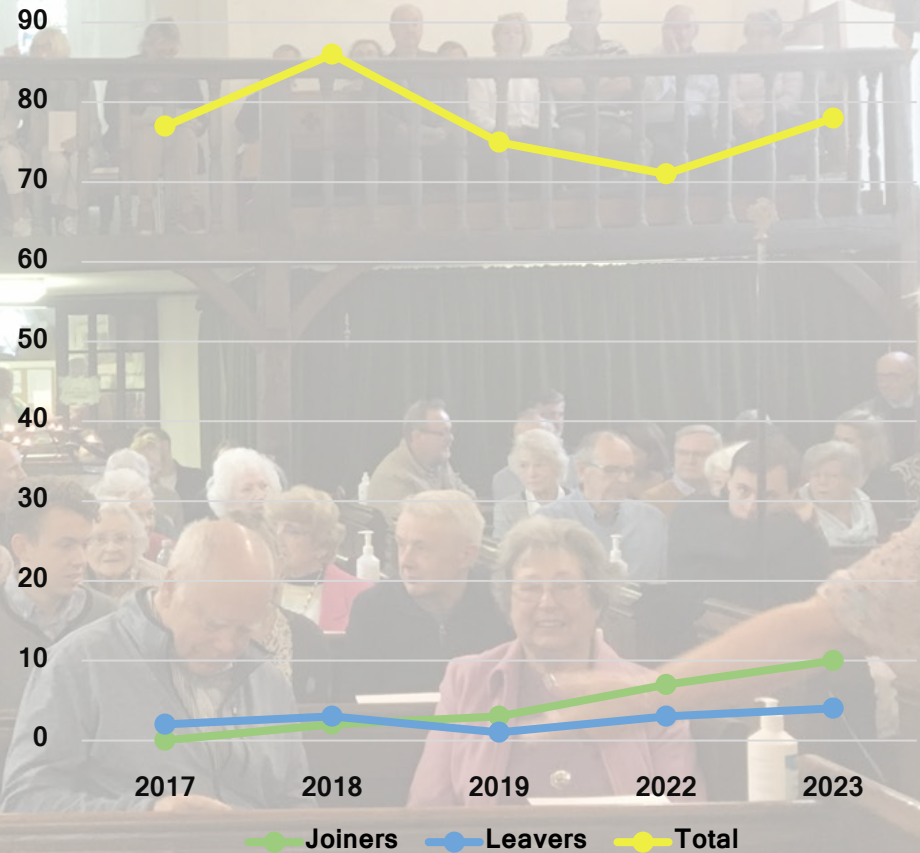
Safeguarding is prioritised at St Mary's, recognised and promoted as everyone's responsibility. We want all who are welcomed to St Mary's to feel safe and supported. We have adopted the guidelines set out in 'Promoting a Safer Church' working within the parameters of the Guildford Diocese and national Church Safeguarding guidelines. We have a Parish Safeguarding Officer who is also the DBS ID validator. Safeguarding continues to be a standing agenda item for PCC meetings and a Safeguarding report is produced for each PCC meeting.

We have a dedicated Safeguarding noticeboard in church and risk assessments are undertaken for church activities. Our threshold for reporting Safeguarding concerns is low. We also use the Parish Safeguarding dashboard to monitor our safeguarding procedures.

Attendance Summary 2017-2023, Omitting Covid Years

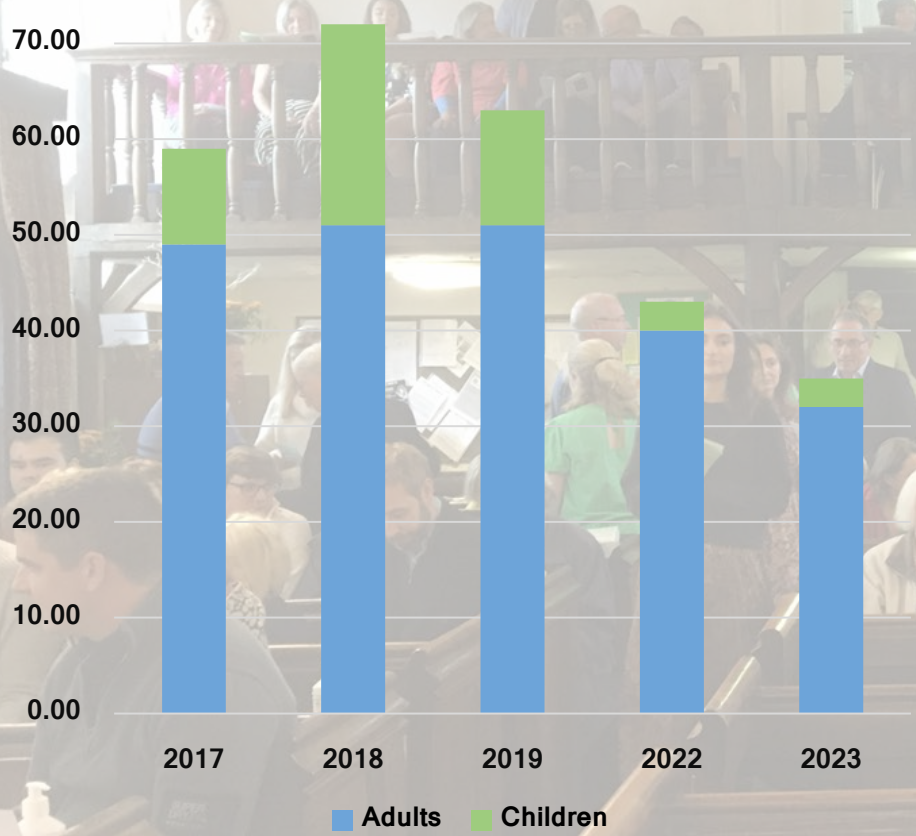


Worshipping Community 2017-2023, Omitting Covid Years

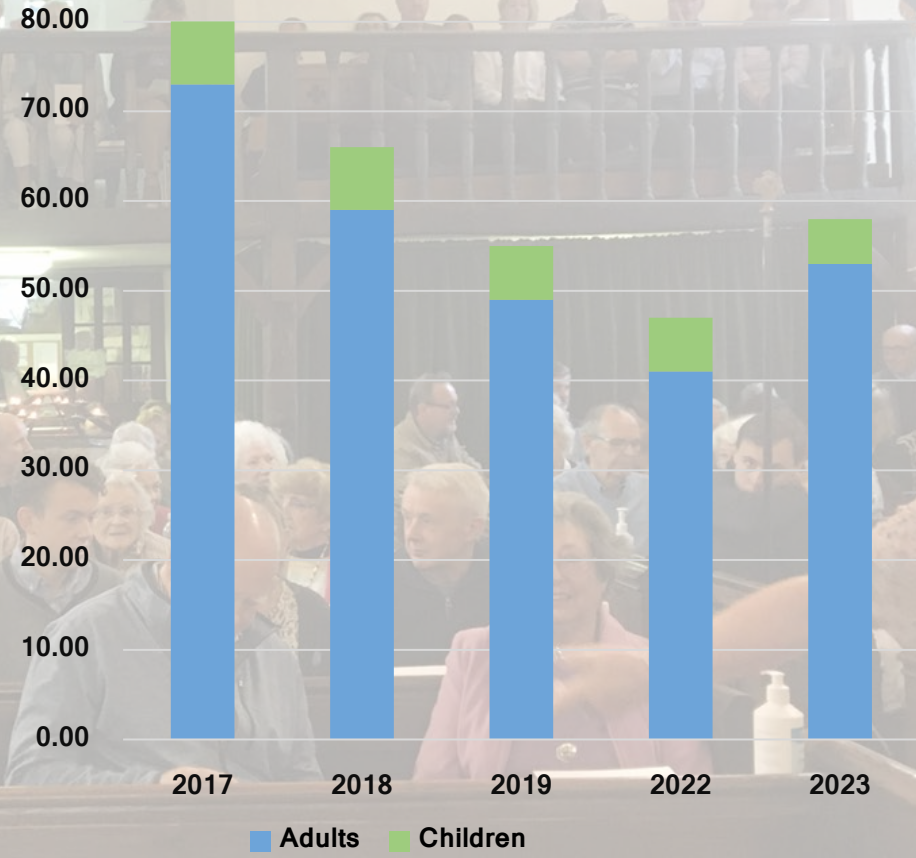


N.B. Because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, churches were not asked to report their Usual Sunday attendance for 2020 or 2021

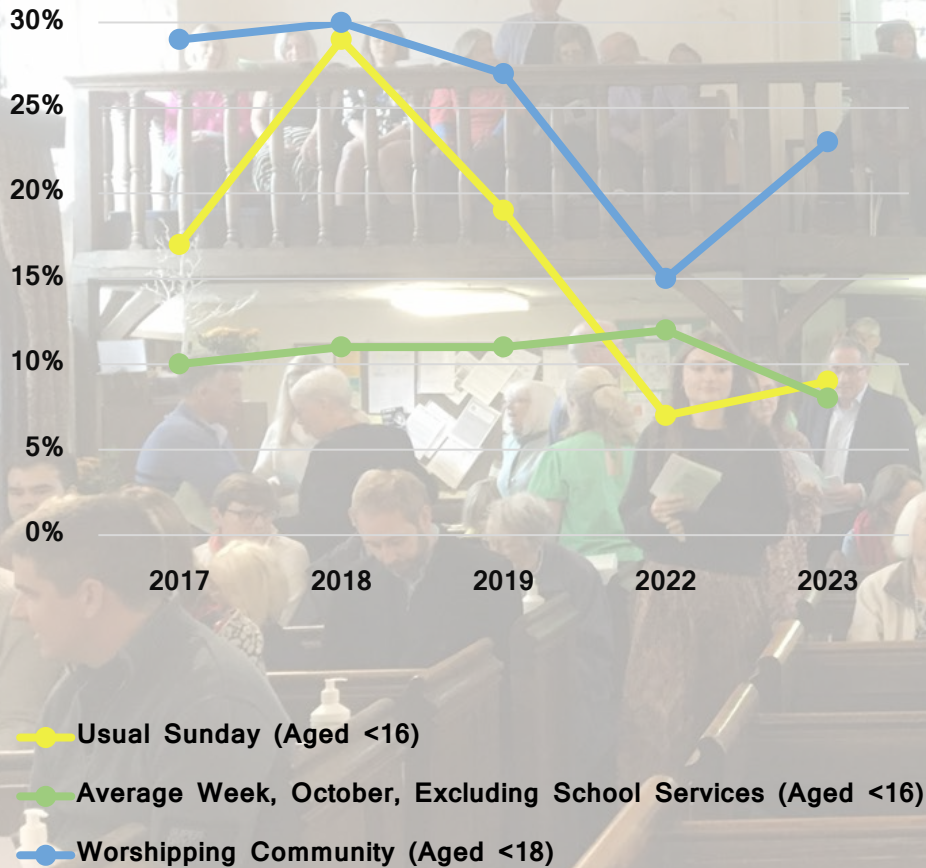
Usual Sunday Attendance 2017-2023, Omitting Covid Years



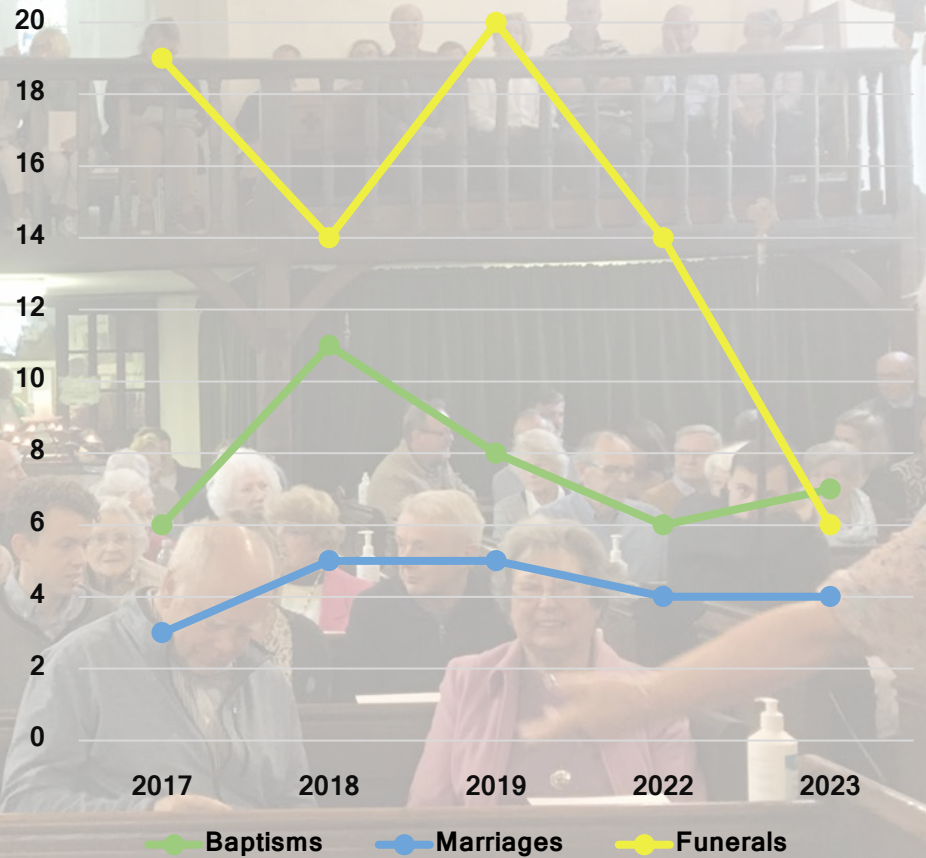
Average Weekly Attendance 2017-2023, Omitting Covid Years



Percentage Children 2017-2023, Omitting Covid Years



Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals 2017-2023, Omitting Covid Years



Comments from our Congregation

Parish Profile 2024

Peace, Friendliness, Kindness, Helpfulness, Enjoy the singing.

An amazing church family at St Mary's. Sundays are a big hug of love and acceptance from this special family.

To honour the Lord Jesus Christ. To give him praise and fellowship with other believers. To hear God's word and pray for transformation for everyone's life.

Friendship especially in later life!

The church is a place that I find very peaceful, spiritual, inspirational, welcoming and inclusive.

The love shared and to be a member of St Mary's church family is one of my greatest blessings.

We are all truly blessed to be part of this church family.

A lovely church which holds great friendly services. Everyone is so welcoming and caring.

The warmth of the congregation.

What a beautiful church which reflects the beauty of God. A feeling of home and light.

A lovely church for thoughtful praise.

As Christ is the centre of our lives, so we pray he will be the cornerstone of our village Send.

We are a very supportive and uncomplicated group of church members who need help to wake up our sleepy village to the love of Christ and all that St Mary's has to offer.

Outreach work is excellent.

I find friendship and my feelings on religion are strengthened.

Time to reflect. Grounded.

It is very special - loyalty and friendship and was very special when Mike was ill.

A beautiful church in a peaceful setting with a friendly welcoming congregation who work hard in being a valuable presence in the wider community. A constant!

It's a very sacred, and precious place to my family.

Coming to St Mary's helped me to renew my faith. The congregation is like an extended family - looking out and caring for each other.

A beautiful place of worship with a loving and caring community.

It holds a very special place in all our hearts.

St Mary's Send has a wonderful welcoming vibe and you feel right at home stepping across its threshold. God is very present in this ancient building. From living in trepidation at our 'vacancy' the way everyone has come together to support each other has been wonderful. We thank God for his presence amongst us.