

Parish Profile

 st. mary's
MAIDENHEAD

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OXFORD



Foreword by Rod Thomas, Bishop of Maidstone

'I am delighted to commend the St Mary's parish profile to you, and very much hope you will enjoy reading it. You will find here a wonderful description of a church which has grown significantly under the previous incumbent; it has a ministry which is focussed on the person of Jesus Christ; is outward-looking and gospel-oriented; is lively, creative and youthful; is serious about learning from God's Word; and is also committed to the encouragement of care for one another, so that relationships and community life are built up. It's no surprise therefore that St Mary's has an important place in the life of Maidenhead, in the diocese, and more widely in the Church of England.'

I count it a real privilege to be able to offer episcopal ministry at St Mary's and have really enjoyed getting to know the congregation. I am very much looking forward to supporting the new incumbent in his ministry.'

Rt Rev'd Rod Thomas
Bishop of Maidstone



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Welcome and introduction

We would like to wish you a very warm welcome to St Mary's. We are a large and thriving church family in the heart of Maidenhead. Our aim is to proclaim the timeless message of our Lord Jesus Christ; to know him and to make him known. Everyone is welcome!

We hope you will enjoy reading our parish profile, and that the information provided will equip you with everything you need, as you prayerfully consider whether to apply for the vacant post of Vicar of our parish formally known as St. Andrew and St. Mary Magdalene.

The vacancy has arisen following the resignation of Will Stileman, our Vicar for the past 18 years, who has moved to become Associate Rector at All Souls, Langham Place.

In the following pages we seek to give you an understanding of who we are, what we are doing and our future aspirations. We have sought to describe our church life and ministry in overview. More details can be found in our Annual report for 2021, which can be obtained by contacting our patrons or the church office.

You can also find out more at our website: www.stmarysmaidenhead.org

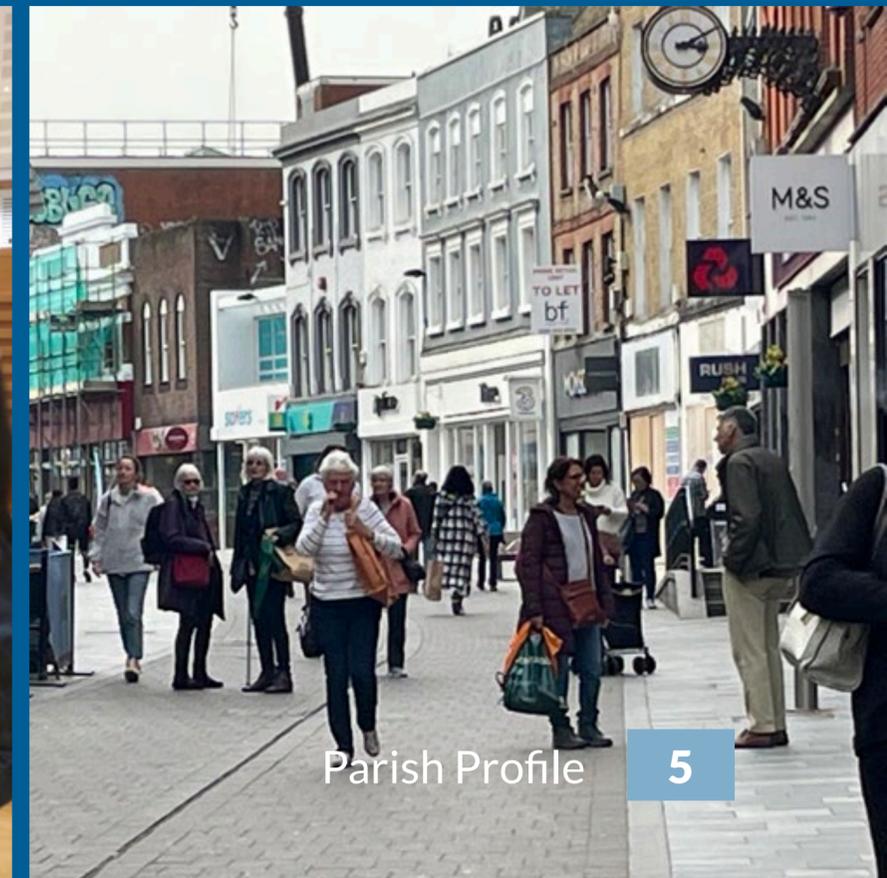


About St. Mary's

St Mary's is a large, welcoming family, with 500 members on our electoral roll. We are a Jesus-centred, Bible-teaching conservative evangelical Anglican church, situated in Maidenhead town centre, in the Diocese of Oxford.

We are a diverse, friendly group, spanning all ages and many backgrounds, including many children and young people, and increasingly international in our make-up. We see ourselves as a 'hospital for sinners, not a hotel for saints': we recognise that as a church we are made up of sinful, fallible people. We need to be honest about our struggles and encourage each other to trust in Jesus our Saviour.

We seek to encourage each other to love and follow Jesus day by day. We take the Bible as our handbook, containing all we need to know God and to live for him. We believe that by his Spirit, God speaks to us today through his word, the Bible.



Our Vision: *to know Jesus and make Jesus known*

To know Jesus is to know the God who made this universe and everything in it

To know Jesus is to be united with God and indwelt by His Holy Spirit

To know Jesus is to become the people we were created to be: holy, enjoying a living and loving relationship with our creator

Our Mission

We realise our vision to know Jesus and make Jesus known through three essential marks of witness and, corporately, by focussing on three priorities:

Three essentials

Dependent prayer: Prayer is the chief mark of faith. We express our trust in and dependence on God as we give ourselves to prayer both individually and corporately.

Biblical teaching: All that is needed for faith and godliness is found in the Bible - the trustworthy Word of God. So we give ourselves to both learning from the Bible and passing on its unchanging truths to our generation.

Loving one another: It is by the genuineness of our relationships of love with one another that we demonstrate that we are disciples of Jesus.

Three priorities

Engaging Maidenhead with the Gospel of Jesus:

It is our responsibility to proclaim the good news about the Lord Jesus in such a way that people have the chance to really engage with Him.

Growing mature disciples of Jesus of all ages and backgrounds:

It is our ambition to encourage everyone associated with St Mary's to be a wholehearted disciple of Jesus.

Partnering with other Churches to make Jesus

better known: We recognise our responsibility to work with other churches for the growth of the gospel in our region, the UK and other parts of the world.

The role we are seeking to fill

- **Vicar** of St Mary's Church, Maidenhead; a full-time stipendiary position
- **Ministering** to a large, increasingly diverse congregation from Maidenhead and the surrounding area
- **Setting long-term strategic direction** for gospel-centred growth and development of the church
- **Leading** by faithful expository preaching to equip the church for works of service
- **Nurturing and developing** the staff team and others, helping them to grow in their service and discipleship
- **Pastoring** the congregation and staff alike in times of crisis as well as the normal seasons of life
- **Outward-looking**, desiring to reach people of all generations and backgrounds with the gospel
- **Sending believers out** from St Mary's to spread the gospel further afield

The person we are looking for *Part 1*

We are looking for a humble man of prayer and expository preaching, who pastors, leads and shepherds the flock, having the following characteristics:

A godly minister

- Is an ordained Anglican minister
- Loves Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord
- Is devoted to following Jesus both in public and in private.

A conservative evangelical

- Believes that Jesus' death in the place of sinful people, taking God's wrath upon himself, is the only way we can be right with God.
- Believes that we are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone

Prayerful

- Leads the flock in dependent prayer by setting an example and encouraging his people to pray

A biblical expository preacher

- Recognises the Bible as God's unchanging and authoritative Word and sits under its supreme authority himself
- Is a diligent and clear teacher and expositor of God's word, teaching it in an accessible way whilst remaining faithful

Continued >

The person we are looking for *Part 2*

A servant leader

- Leads by example with a life of Christ-like love
- Is empathetic, caring, and humble in his relationships

A strategic leader

- Provides prayerful strategic leadership for the entire church family, seeking to grow God's kingdom over many years
- Leads God's leaders by mentoring and coaching his key staff and volunteers, ensuring men and women are supported in developing their individual ministries

A wise manager

- Manages his flock, delegating well and holding to account godly people within the church family
- Makes himself accountable to godly people, and recognises his gifts and limitations

Contending for the truth

- Contends for the truth of the gospel locally and within the Church of England more widely
- Holds orthodox views on human sexuality in line with the traditional teaching of the Church of England

Outward-looking

- Is personable, outgoing, and loves all people, of both similar and different backgrounds and characters
- Has a heart for the lost and promotes making and growing of disciples through the mutual ministry of all believers
- Establishes fruitful relationships with other local church leaders, both Anglican and non-Anglican

Continued >

The person we are looking for *Part 3*

We are asking God to provide us with a conservative evangelical minister, with a complementarian understanding of ministry, who will help us to continue to grow in all areas of our vision and mission.

The PCC in 2016 passed a resolution requesting, on the grounds of theological conviction, that arrangements be made for it in accordance with the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. Currently that allows us to receive episcopal oversight from the Bishop of Maidstone, Rod Thomas, as well

as continuing to welcome the Bishops of Reading and Oxford. The PCC reaffirmed this resolution on 8th February 2022.

We are therefore looking for a complementarian male incumbent. We would also like our new minister to be committed to the flourishing of women's ministry and women in ministry, through supporting and encouraging them whilst seeking grace and unity amongst a church family with a range of convictions on how the Bible's teaching in this area should be applied.

Our ministry – how we organise ourselves

We are one church but organised by congregation

- We share the same 'gospel DNA' – we are recognisably one church
- Pastoral support is first and foremost provided by a congregation for the congregation
- Members of a congregation look for spiritual oversight from their congregational leader (supported by their congregational oversight team) who in turn looks for their oversight from our vicar
- The vicar oversees all the congregational leaders
- Church staff have a 'home' congregation but work across and for all congregations



Sundays at St Mary's *Part 1*

We are one church family, organised pastorally around five congregations, gathering together each week to encourage one another in our faith, to hear God's word and to worship the Lord, who is at the heart of our life as a church.

Our five congregations meet on a Sunday at 8am, 9:15am, 11am, 4pm and 6:30pm. Each congregation is led by a designated minister, assisted by a congregational team, musicians, welcome teams and helpers.



Services are led by staff and members of the congregation, with music for worship, time for prayer, and an expository sermon of around 20-25 minutes. Both men and women lead services and prayers. Most preaching is done by the clergy or congregation leaders.

Most sermons form part of a series, sometimes thematically based but predominantly working through a Bible book, always grounded in Christ's penal substitutionary atonement for us on the cross.

All services celebrate Holy Communion once a month (except 8am which is every week), and meet for coffee and a chat in the church hall after all services (except 8am).



Sundays at St Mary's *Part 2: Congregations*

8am congregation

A small group which meets weekly for a said Holy Communion, following Common Worship Order Two.

9:15am and 11am congregations

These congregations usually follow exactly the same service and sermon, and share a congregational leader; the 9:15am has a very large, bustling children's and youth work section, while the 11am has a generally broader and older congregation as well as children's activities, and hosts the church's civic services.

4pm congregation

This congregation was planted from our other congregations around 10 years ago, fulfilling a desire for a family-friendly service on Sunday afternoons. This enables families with sporty children to be involved both in sports on a Sunday morning and be part of a St Mary's congregation. The 4pm is a flourishing service with a large children's ministry. In recent years, the 4pm has often shared the same sermon as the 9:15am and 11am congregations.

6:30pm congregation

This is a broad congregation attracting significant numbers of older youth and young adults. It is often slightly less formal and more contemporary in style than the other services. The sermon is often shared with the 8am congregation, but longer in duration.

Prayer Meetings

The staff team pray together each weekday. Twice a week they pray cyclically through the church congregation list, making sure everyone is prayed for individually. On a Friday the Staff pray for the forthcoming week of services and events.

Once a month on a Thursday evening, there is a church-wide prayer meeting known as “St Mary’s Evening”, where around 60 to 80 people meet (simultaneously

in person and online) to give praise and to pray with one another on a range of topics. Presentations are given and prayer points provided, focusing on past and future church events, our mission partners, the wider church and the world, often with one of our mission partners joining in person or online. All members of the church are encouraged to come and make this part of a regular prayer discipline.

Growth Groups

Growth Groups are a key component of church family life and discipleship. Everyone at St Mary’s is encouraged to be involved in a Growth Group, in order that the church family can get to know others more closely, care for each other and encourage one another to grow in our love for Jesus. There are currently around thirty groups, meeting both during the day and in evenings, once

a week throughout term time. Meetings comprise a Bible study (following a termly series set by the ministers) and time for prayer. There are usually around ten to fifteen people in a group and each is broadly aligned to a congregation, allowing members to see and look out for one another each Sunday and during the week. To encourage wider fellowship amongst our members, groups are rotated every 4 years.



Children's and youth ministries



We see our children's and youth work as a key growth engine of St. Mary's. Families start coming to St Mary's every year as a result of this work.

We place the highest priority on teaching the children the good news of Jesus in a faithful and clear way. This is done in a visual, interactive and appropriate way for each age group. As the children grow older we encourage them to be able to discuss and debate what they are being taught rather than just listening to the leaders. We aim to make these groups accessible, where all our children can learn the truth about Jesus and learn how to live for him.

St Mary's has members of staff who are dedicated to the Youth



and Children's ministry: two associate ministers, one each for Children's and Youth, who lead the work, supported by a Children's Minister in training, and part of the ministry trainees' time.

These leaders form plans, create teaching material, lead groups and events, and oversee the programme. Much of the work is invaluable provided by a large number of the church family regularly giving their time and support. We have over a dozen teams of people who teach a full programme of groups:

- Sunday mornings and afternoons, for those between ages 0 to 14.
- Mid-week youth clubs during the evening, for those between 7 and 18.

Children's and youth ministries *continued*

Sundays

(140+ children per week)

- Creche (ages 0-18 months)
- Scramblers (18 months – 4 years)
- Climbers (ages 4 – 7 years)
- Explorers (ages 8 – 11 years)
- Pathfinders (ages 11 – 14 years)

Midweek and evenings

- 7up outreach (ages 7-11 years)
- X Focus (school years 6 – 8)
- Shift Focus (school years 9 – 13)
- Youth Growth Groups (multiple groups covering school years 10-13)

Children's school work

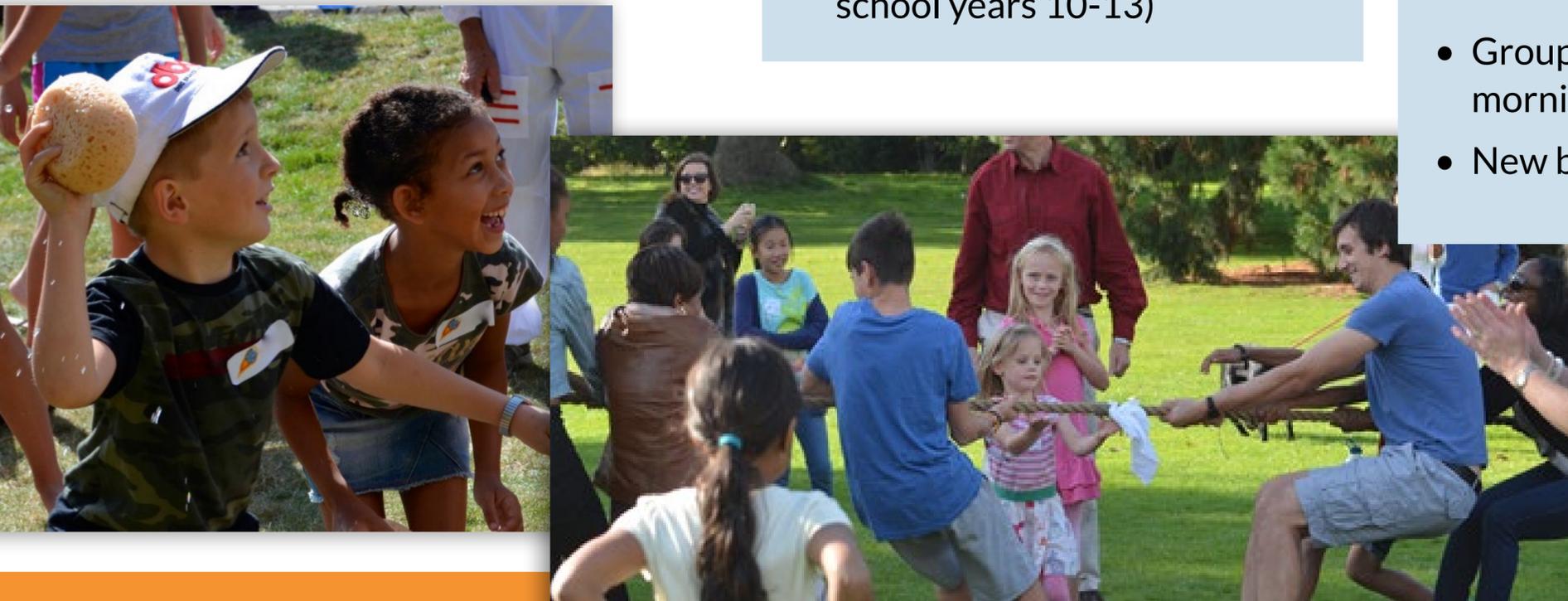
- Regular Assembly visits
- Christmas Unwrapped
- Easter Cracked

Toddler ministry

- Groups run two mornings a week
- New baby groups

Children's holiday activities

- Annual trip away for school years 5 and 6
- Summer holiday club
- Summer camps: 100 young people p.a.



Discipleship and teaching

Every term we run a Christianity Explored Course, where enquirers can investigate the Christian faith in a non-threatening environment. Thereafter, those on the course are encouraged to attend Christian Foundations, which is intended to help nurture and integrate new Christians. Alongside both of these, we run Allsorts, in collaboration with other local churches; a dedicated group for adults with learning and physical disabilities.

Christianity Explored

St Mary's runs Christianity Explored courses on a termly basis. This course provides an opportunity for unbelievers and believers alike to explore the claims of Jesus in a relaxed, friendly environment, whether wanting to listen quietly or to critically discuss. We encourage people to attend to grapple with the gospel – all that is needed for salvation – and it leads some to put their trust in Jesus for the first time and join our church family.

Christian Foundations

Established since 2015, the course aims to provide firm foundations for life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Meeting on Monday evenings over three terms, we model how to study the Bible, and teach some basic doctrines of God and the church. The course also functions as an introductory Growth Group, building friendships over a meal and small group Bible study.

Allsorts

Allsorts is a ministry to adults with learning (and physical) disabilities in the Windsor and Maidenhead area, meeting once a month at St Mary's for conversation, games, singing and a Bible story told or acted out in a visual way worship. This ministry involves numerous churches from around the local area.

Outreach and mission

At St. Mary's we have a strong tradition of supporting those who take the Gospel to others.

We have a significant and growing mission budget (about £95k p.a.) focused on 3 key priorities:

1. Supporting ministry at home and overseas that is clearly evangelical in conviction and practice.
2. Establishing gospel outreach in those places with little or no Christian witness.
3. Strengthening biblical ministry where there is existing evangelical witness, through the equipping and training of pastors, evangelists and Bible translators.

We currently support 17 individuals and mission partners in the UK and throughout the world, including:



International

- Luke & Mary Foster – Crosslinks – Chile
- Tim & Rachel Green – Interserve Asia
- Juan Carlos & Penny Marces – CMS – Peru
- Greg & Jill Vine – MAF – Uganda
- Jo Clifford – SIL/Wycliffe Bible Translators – Germany

The UK

- Glen Scrivener – Speak Life – UK and online
- Angy King – Women's Football Chaplaincy
- Wayne Dixon – Christian Connections in Schools – Maidenhead and Slough

Maidenhead & our Local Community

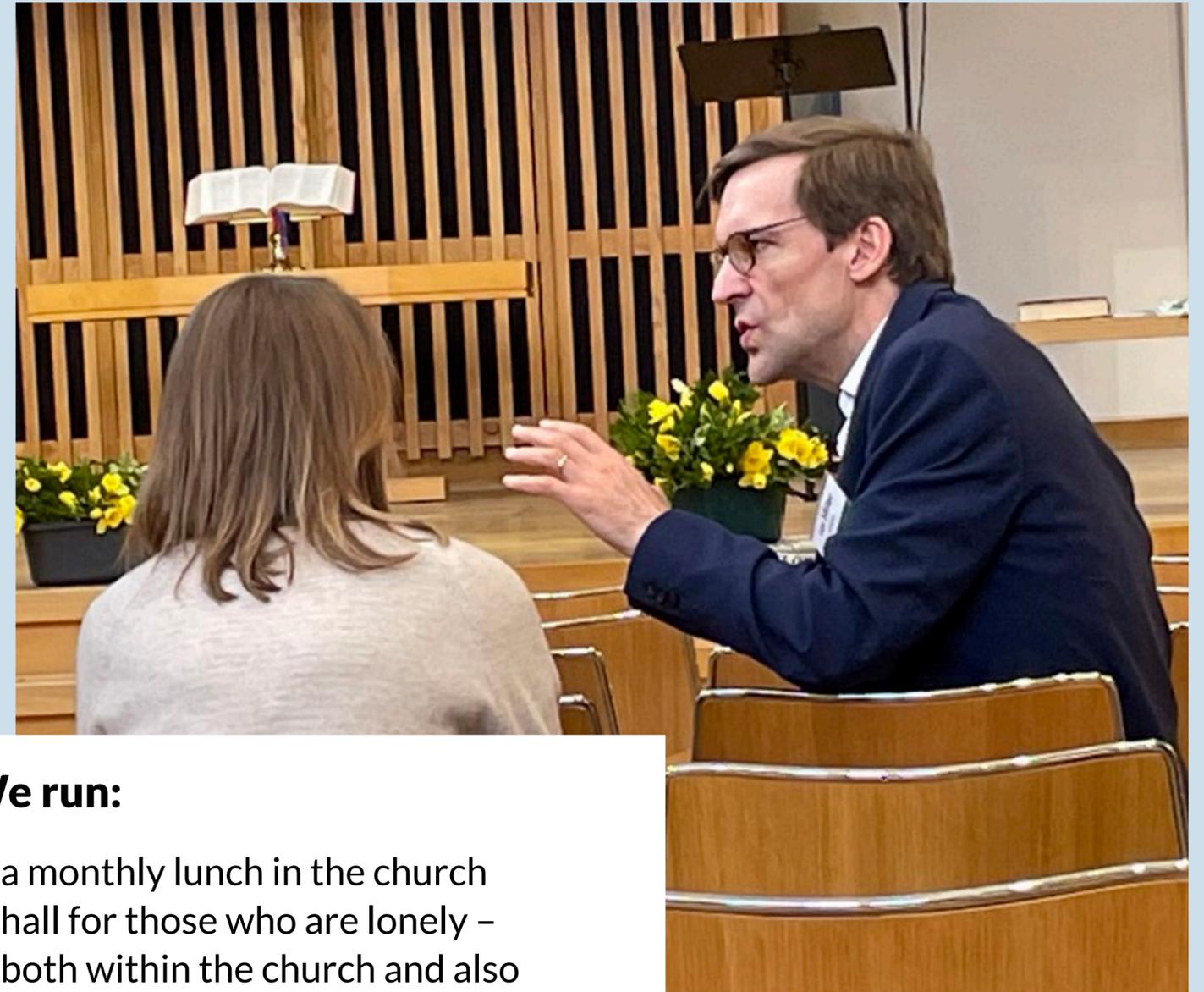
- Real Lives (Feb 2020) – a series of mission evenings featuring testimonial interviews
- Street Angels – a local group running night-time ministry in Maidenhead town centre
- Community Outreach work

Pastoral care

In our pastoral care at St Mary's we seek to care for one another well through the ups and downs of life, pointing one another to Christ in all situations.

The leadership is done by the Minister for Pastoral Care and the staff team, assisted by a pastoral care team (who are all doing the CCEF Biblical Counselling Course), and an intern from Biblical Counselling UK. Our hope and prayer is that each member of the church would see their part in supporting and caring for others.

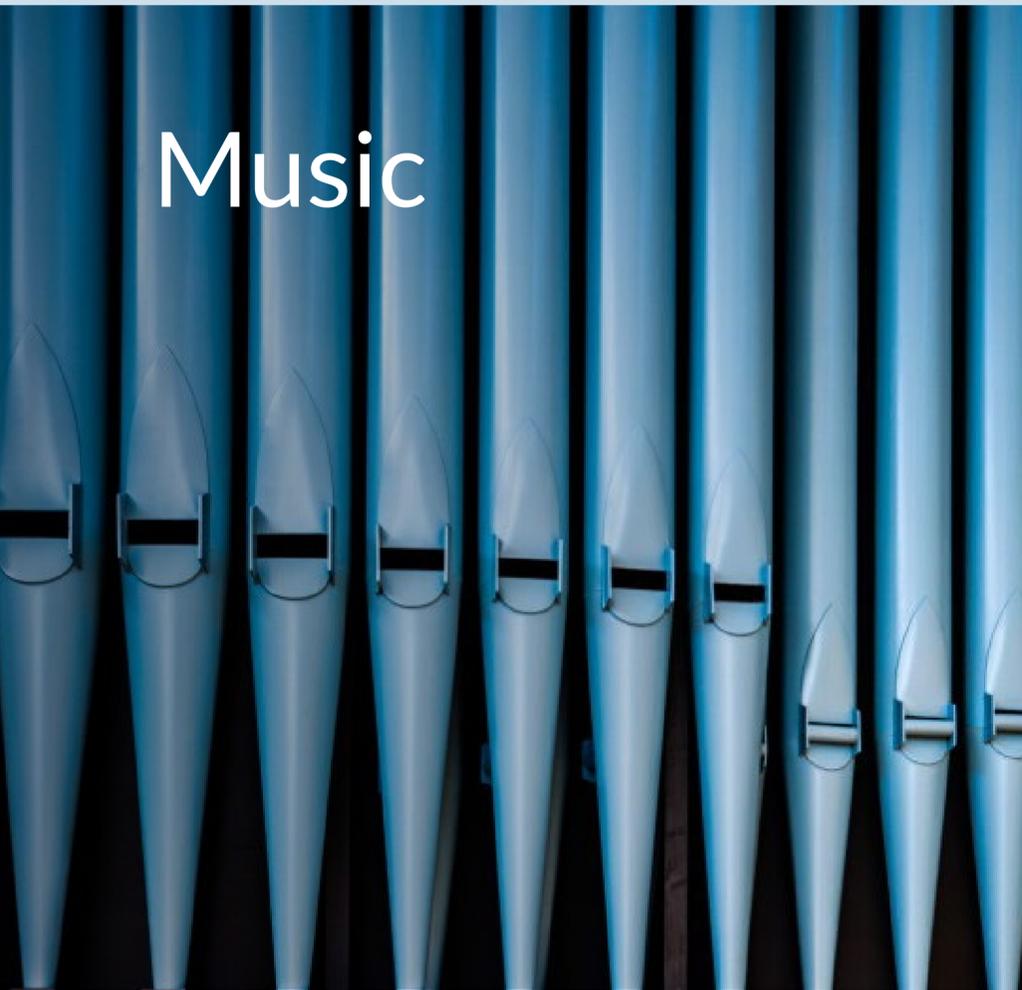
Much of the day to day care is carried out by the growth group leaders and congregational oversight teams. Weekly praying through the pastoral care lists by the staff team also ensures that each member of the church is prayed for, and followed up if necessary, every couple of months. For those who are particularly struggling, we have a small visiting team for the housebound, and some pastoral one to one meetings to offer more specific help.



We run:

- a monthly lunch in the church hall for those who are lonely – both within the church and also as an outreach to the town
- a new parents support group on a Thursday morning, which alongside our toddlers ministry seeks to reach out to and support young families.

Music



St Mary's counts among the church family a number of dedicated and talented musicians, who lead and accompany services and worship with music from a wide range of instruments and in a range of musical styles.

The music ministry across all services is led by a volunteer Director of Music and assisted by a music coordinator for each congregation. A Trainee Director of Music was employed for two years until January 2022 but has now relocated elsewhere in the country.

Much worship music is piano-led and assisted by other instruments, electronic and acoustic (often guitar, violin, flute, drums), and singing is led from the front by vocalists. A new three manual pipe organ was built and installed in the 2016-18 refurbishment and is well used on Sundays.

We value a variety of styles of music in our services. The church's music library is large; more modern devotional songs are the mainstay of our services, but traditional hymns and children's songs also feature prominently.



Minor Key is a band of teenage musicians and singers who lead music in services approximately once a term. For Christmas services, choirs are formed to lead singing and perform anthems to the congregation.

The Music ministry is assisted by a team of Audio-Visual operators, who ensure that music and speech are amplified and heard in the church, and that song words and other visuals are projected.

The general consensus of the PCC is that a full-time Director of Music is necessary for the flourishing of this ministry. However, due to current budgetary constraints, this will be reviewed later in the year

Events

Across St Mary's, we run a range of events throughout the year, including:

- Men's and Women's weekends away, arranged by congregation
- Women's breakfasts
- Cultural events, celebrating diversity and different groups in our congregations
- Teaching evenings and social events for those in their 20s and 30s
- Barbecues in the church garden
- Seminars related to the preaching programme
- A series of seminars called Life Matters, which look at different aspects of life that might be proving challenging to people
- Christmas outreach events
- Concerts and other musical events
- Regular Welcome Suppers for newcomers

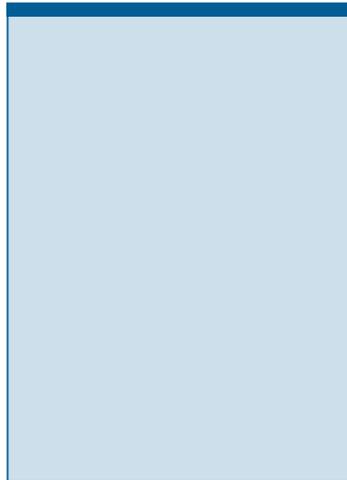
These events build relationships within the church family and can be evangelistic to reach out to newcomers.



Our staff team

The Vicar is supported by an Associate Vicar, a Curate, and a minister for the 6.30pm congregation, each of whom are responsible for one or more of our Sunday congregations.

The church also employs a full time Minister in charge of Women's Ministry and Pastoral Care, a Minister in charge of Children's Work, supported by a Children's Minister in Training, and a Minister in Charge of Youth Work.



Vacant

Vicar

Rev Jon Drake

*Associate Vicar
9:15 & 11am
congregation*

Rev Ian Miller

*Curate
8am & 4pm
congregation*

Richard Crane

*Minister in charge
6:30pm congregation*

Rachel Meynell

*Minister in charge
of women's ministry
and pastoral care*

Kate Wheatley

*Minister in charge
of children's work*

Melinda Stylo

*Minister in charge
of youth work*

Nick McDonald

*Children's minister
in training*

Our staff team *continued*

In operations, there are two Operations Managers, a Facilities Manager and an Administration Manager to oversee the running of the church site, practical matters and site maintenance.



John Blackbeard
Operations Manager



Dick West
Operations Manager



Jan Strydom
Facilities Manager



Jane Thrift
Administration Manager

As a church family we long to be more diverse, and we want to see that reflected in due course amongst our staff team.

For many years we have also run a Ministry Trainee scheme, and currently have two Trainees on the staff team. This is an arrangement that allows young adults to receive training and experience, and explore the possibility of full-time paid Christian ministry.



Patch Crossley
Ministry Trainee



Luke Douglas
Ministry Trainee

Jason Swain is an Honorary Minister working in community outreach. Rev Neil Watkinson (a mission partner with Crosslinks) is an Honorary Minister and is licensed to serve in the parish.



Jason Swain
Honorary Minister and community outreach

The PCC

St Mary's PCC are brothers and sisters in Christ, working collaboratively with the Vicar to direct the church's mission to know Jesus and make Jesus known by:

- Overseeing the spiritual life of the church
- Making decisions and plans for the church's current health and future direction
- Overseeing the church's legal, financial and operational responsibilities, including as an employer.



The PCC consists of about 20 lay members and three clergy members. It sometimes serves as a 'sounding board' for leaders. As a large church, day-to-day operations are handled by the staff team, with the PCC maintaining oversight. The PCC generally meets once per month (except in August), and the vicar usually delegates the role of chair to the churchwardens as Vice-Chairs. The churchwardens help to support the vicar and staff team.

The Standing Committee meets once a month to conduct key operational business. It consists of at least five people including the vicar and wardens. The Finance Committee, IT Committee, AV Committee, Mission Strategy Committee and Mission Partner Support Group are other committees established to help support the church's ministry. (The vicar is not normally a member of other committees.)

Safeguarding

St Mary's takes great care to follow good safeguarding practices to ensure that children and other vulnerable people are protected. We have an experienced Safeguarding Officer. All incidents and concerns are investigated promptly and reported to the diocese or other bodies as appropriate.

We have over 200 people working with children or vulnerable adults. All are DBS checked and are doing the relevant safeguarding courses recommended by the diocese. All staff members, clergy, PCC and growth group leaders are also DBS checked and doing the recommended safeguarding courses. We follow the recommended safer recruitment practices.



Strengths

The PCC consider the following to be current strengths of our life as St Mary's, which we would like to sustain:

Teaching

- Faithful and engaging biblical preaching, including teaching which encourages us to follow Jesus' teaching, including where that is countercultural
- Excellent children's and youth work, both on Sundays and in the week



Discipleship

- Having a range of growth groups that encourage personal growth and development
- Keeping a focus on prayer
- Encouraging people to grow, in particular through training such as the South Central Ministry Training Course



Outwood-looking

- Supporting a good number of missionaries and mission organisations throughout the world
- Running a Christianity Explored course and our own Christian Foundations course every term without fail
- Having a focus on evangelism and run outreach activities
- Being committed to church planting and trying to partner with other churches for the sake of the gospel, most recently with White Waltham

Being a family

- We are a church of all ages
- We are welcoming and look out for newcomers



Challenges and opportunities

Reinvigorating Church Growth

- Post-Covid, we long to attract back those who have drifted or have been slow or anxious about a return to a face-to-face church setting, so that we can regather as a whole community
- We long to grow as a church by reaching out to other communities and new generations in Maidenhead with the good news about Jesus Christ and making new disciples

Race and Diversity

- We recognise the need for racial diversity and have diversity amongst our family, but we do not fully reflect the community around us in this way.

Secular and false teaching

- We see the coming years as a time to contend for the gospel and recognise false teaching that leads us away from Christ, particularly in the areas of marriage and relationships. Every new generation brings us the opportunity to make Christ known afresh.

Communications

- We think we could improve our communications and up our game in relation to social media et cetera.

Music

- We have talented musicians in our congregation but need to work out how best to sustain and strengthen our music ministry, which may include appointing a new staff member to lead music ministry if finances permit.

Partnership with St Mary's White Waltham

St Mary's White Waltham is a parish church in the village of White Waltham, just outside Maidenhead.

St Mary's Maidenhead and White Waltham have been working together in formal partnership for about ten years, and, in particular, since the appointment of the current Priest-in-Charge in 2018 (who was previously a minister at St Mary's Maidenhead). Whilst formal, this partnership has no legal status.

In recent years this partnership has involved helping with events, providing preaching cover, and funding for building work at White Waltham.

Currently St Mary's Maidenhead provide preaching cover and ministerial fellowship for the vicar, prayer support, and regular volunteers to help with Sunday children's groups. Midweek children's groups and special events also involve both churches working together. This is beneficial for both churches.

Both churches would like to continue this mutual support and encouragement in years to come.



Wider church links and affiliations

Wider Church groups

We, the church and/or ministers are actively involved with the Oxford Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship, South Central Gospel Partnership, ReNew and GAFCON.

Windsor Fellowship

Along with other local churches, we helped to plant and foster this new congregation in Windsor in 2014.

Henley: Holy Trinity at 4

We have supported this new congregation, aimed at young families in Henley, since it was established in 2018.

Churches Together in Maidenhead

We are active members of this town-wide church association, leading the annual Walk of Witness through the High Street on Good Friday (attracting hundreds of people).

Oxford Good Stewards Trust

We are working in partnership with St Ebbe's Oxford, Arborfield & Barkham, and St Paul's Banbury.

Community Links

- **Local council** – St Mary's hosts an annual Civic Service as well as a Remembrance Sunday service, and the vicar is often asked to lead prayers at council meetings.
- **School assemblies** – We lead weekly assemblies at two local primary schools and termly assemblies at another.
- **Christmas Unwrapped and Easter Cracked** – At Christmas and Easter, year 6 children from 13 local primary schools come for interactive presentations about why Christians celebrate these events (run jointly with St Mary's White Waltham).
- **Summer Holiday Club** – This annual event is publicised in all local primary schools.
- **Toddlers and new parents groups** – We run two Toddler groups and one New Parents' Support Group each week on weekday mornings
- **Foodshare** – We collect donations to our local foodbank once a month and some congregation members are involved.
- **Care homes** – Before Covid-19, a small team from St Mary's led a monthly service in a local residential care home.
- **Third Thursday Table** – We run a monthly lunch for those in need of companionship.

Our parish and environment

The town of Maidenhead is part of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, with an urban population of around 70,000. It has a substantial town centre, sports centre, cinema, railway station and is a large London commuter town, as well as itself being a part of the Thames Valley corridor with its focus on software and pharmaceutical companies.

The parish of St Andrew and St Mary Magdalene Maidenhead itself covers

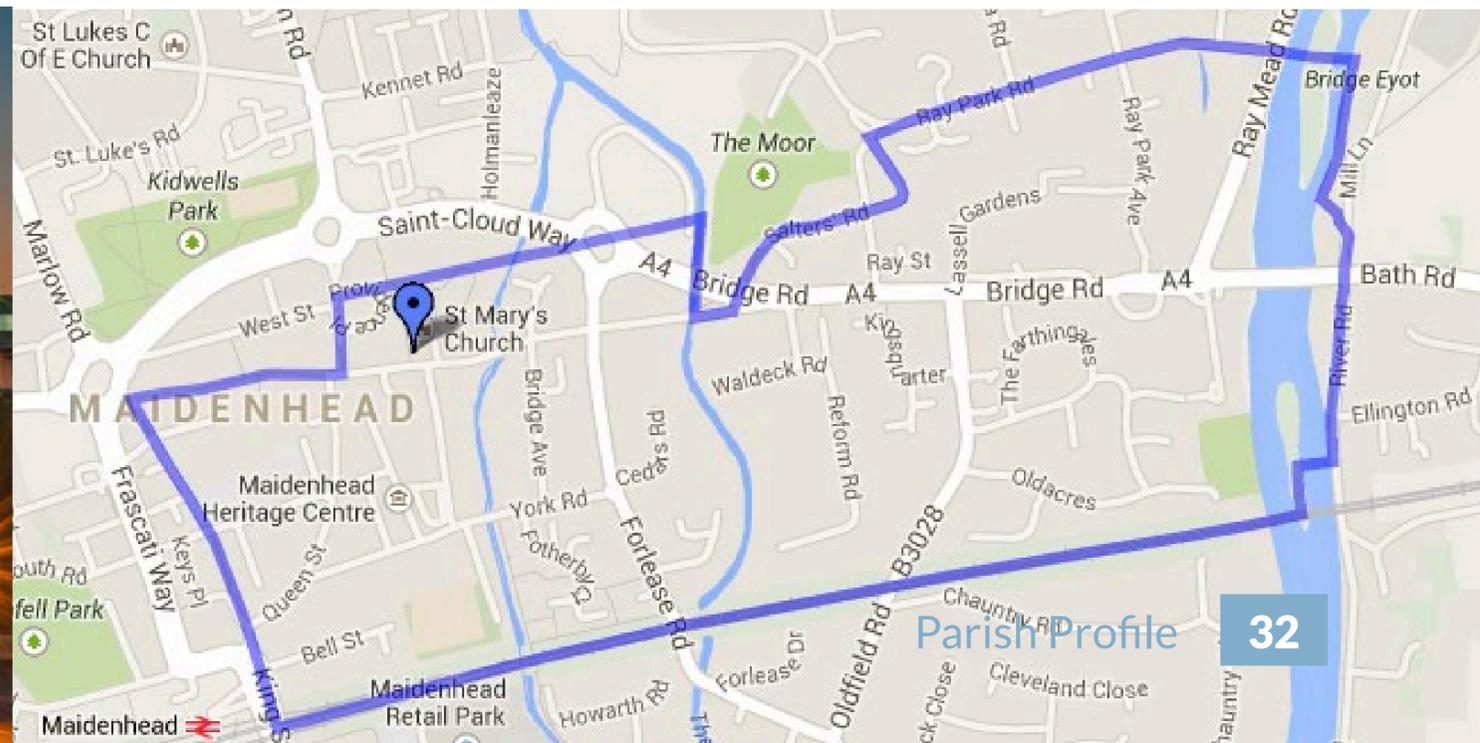
only a small portion of this (see map) but the church family gathers from across Maidenhead and beyond, including many from Cookham, Burnham and Marlow.

The parish includes the High Street with its town centre shops, the Council Offices at the Town Hall, and some areas of housing. The town centre is changing with many new flats recently completed in the parish and more still under construction, giving opportunities for outreach.

There is a comprehensive and well-maintained Wikipedia page for Maidenhead.



This includes details of the town's schools as well as its ongoing physical growth. Further details of the schools are available from the local borough council's (RBWM) website



History

St Mary's stands in the heart of Maidenhead, on a spot that marks the historic western extent of the Thames flood plain. For hundreds of years the area between the church and the river flooded on a regular basis and crossing it could be treacherous.

The first chapel, dedicated to St Andrew, was built in front of our neighbouring pub, the Bear Inn, in 1270. An endowment was left in 1352 dedicated to St Mary Magdalene and this formed the basis of the other half of the church's formal name: St Andrew and St Mary Magdalene Maidenhead.

In 1582 the chapel began to provide a chaplain for civil ceremonies. The Vicar is still the "Mayor's Chaplain" and may be asked to lead prayers at council meetings.

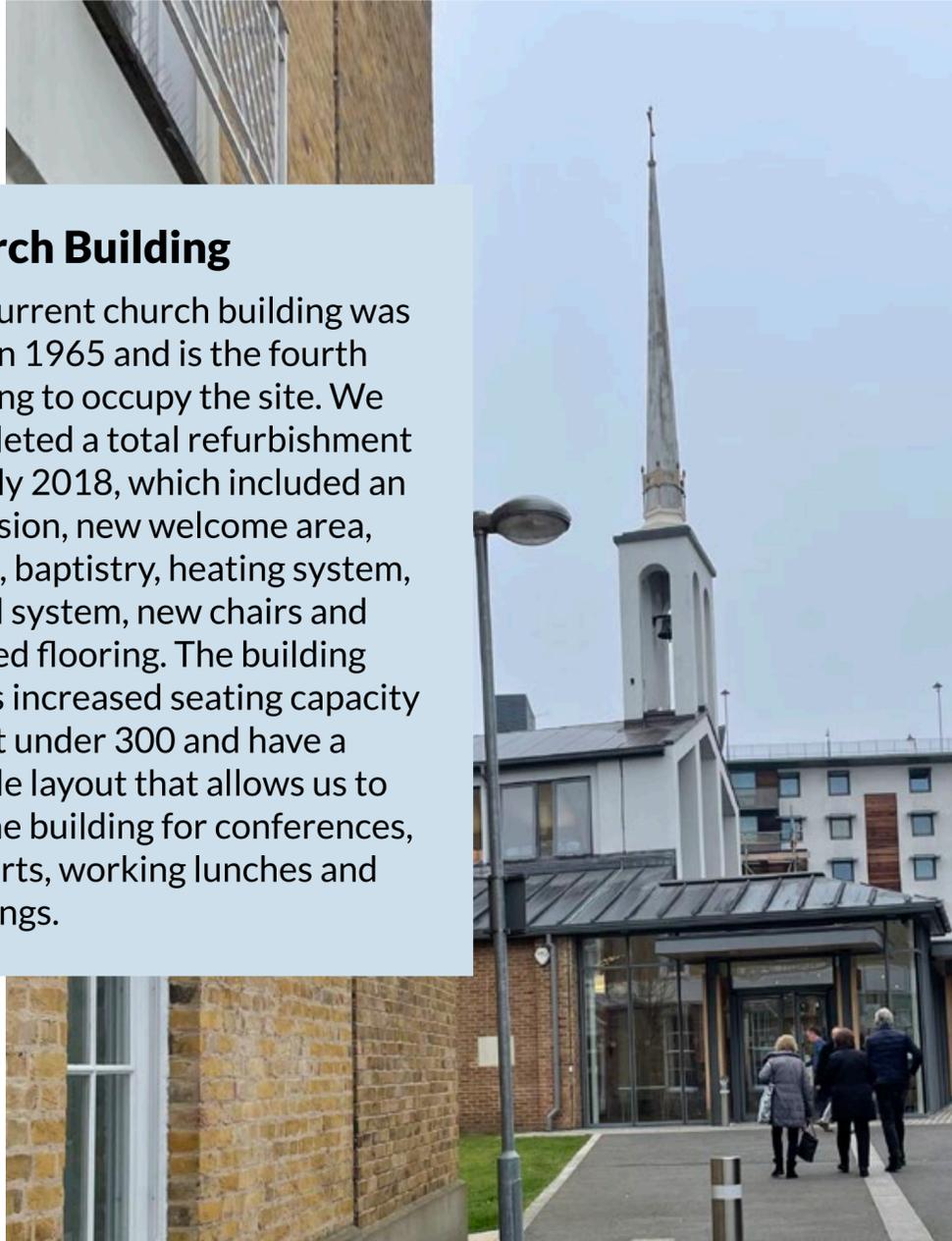
Over the years, our church building has been re-built several times, and today we are a modern, vibrant church in the heart of our town, a stone's throw away from the site of the original chapel, attracting a large congregation from across Maidenhead and the surrounding area.

In 2006 we refurbished and re-ordered the Church Hall and Old Vic buildings on site, providing good facilities for our large children's and youth work. Over the period 2016-18 the church building was fully refurbished, funded primarily by generous congregational giving; the congregations met in a nearby school for 16 months whilst this work was completed.

Buildings

Church Building

Our current church building was built in 1965 and is the fourth building to occupy the site. We completed a total refurbishment in early 2018, which included an extension, new welcome area, organ, baptistry, heating system, sound system, new chairs and levelled flooring. The building works increased seating capacity to just under 300 and have a flexible layout that allows us to use the building for conferences, concerts, working lunches and meetings.



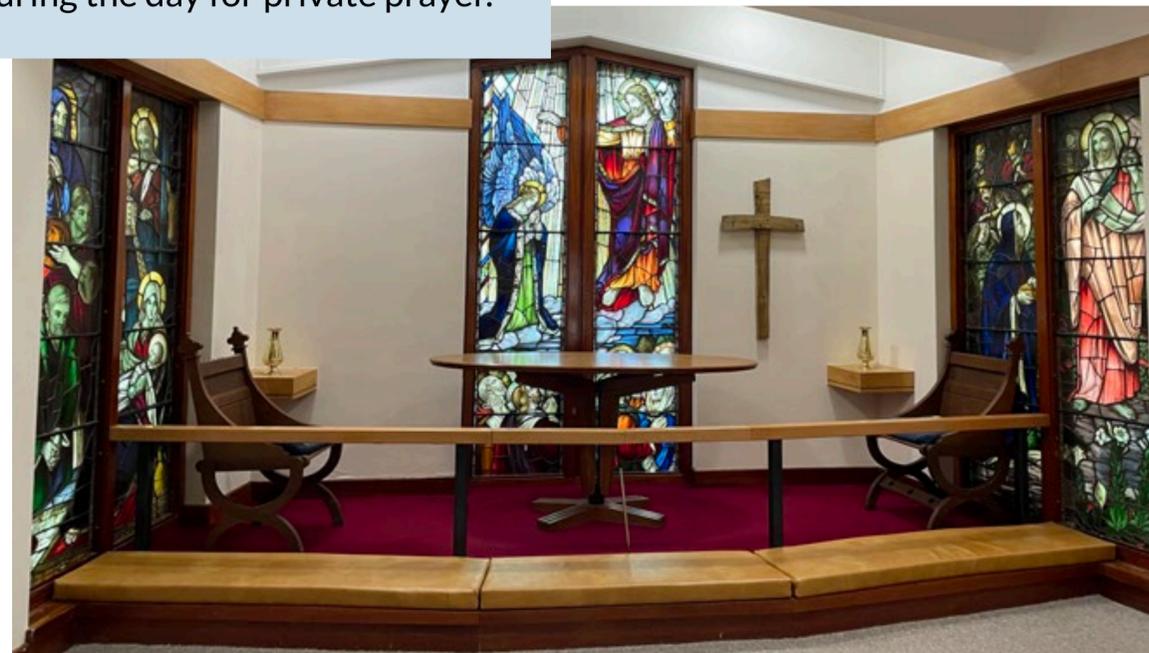
Church Hall

Our hall was originally built in 1907, extended in 1959 and fully refurbished in 2006. It is extensively used during the week for groups of all ages as well as for social events, evangelistic events with a meal, children's groups on a Sunday and coffee after the Sunday services. There are many meeting rooms of various sizes, two kitchens and a large hall with a wall of patio doors that opens onto a large decking area with access to the garden.



St Andrew's Chapel

Our chapel was built in 1984. It has a capacity for about 20 people and is open to the public during the day for private prayer.



Buildings

St Andrew's House

The church owns the freehold for this building but it is leased out on a 125-year lease, which started in 1979. It consists of 10 one-and two-bedroom flats and several commercial office units.

Old Vic *

This was built in the 1960s and was used as the vicarage until 1994 when a more suitable house was found in a residential area of Maidenhead. The Old Vic was converted into meeting rooms in 2006, and refurbished in 2019. It also has a kitchen, toilets and a shower room. It is used for children's groups on Sundays as well as other meetings including a men's bible study and Christianity Explored groups. It also contains some staff office space.



Church House

Church House is part of St Andrew's House, but it is occupied by the church. It is linked to the chapel and contains our main offices, a large meeting room, kitchen and toilets, all of which were refurbished between 2018 and 2019. It also contains 2 two-bedroom flats which are currently rented out to members of our church family and to accommodate the ministry trainees.



Garden *

The church garden is situated between the Old Vic and Church Hall. It is a lovely large green space of around half an acre. It is a safe and enclosed area and is used for children's events, barbecues and for general relaxation. A path around the garden allows access to the adjacent municipal multi-storey car park.



* = owned by the A&M Trust

The Vicarage and other dwellings

The Vicarage

This is a 1980s five-bedroom house with a double garage and garden. It is located in Juniper Drive, just a 10-minute walk from the church. Three downstairs reception rooms provide adequate space for separate family and ministry use. There is plenty of parking for hosting meetings and guests.



Further Dwellings

(owned by the A&M Trust)

Hemsdale

This is a four-bedroom detached house in north Maidenhead with a double garage and garden. It is occupied by one of our staff team and family.

Another residential property is in the process of being bought for our use, which will house another member of our staff team and family.

Finance

St Mary's is funded mainly by voluntary donations through our Regular Giving Scheme, including tax recovered on gift aid donations. This makes up 90% of the unrestricted income. Other income including interest, lettings and rents makes up the balance.

2021 was significantly impacted by COVID, with non-donation income negatively impacted by lockdown and other COVID related restrictions, offset by accompanying lower costs due to building closures etc.

The budget for 2021 had forecast a deficit of £113,559, but God blessed us once again beyond our expectations and we ended the year with a deficit of only £33,737.

In 2021 we contributed £101,946 to Parish Share. The diocese provides a stipend and housing to our vicar and a stipend to our curate.

The PCC has a prudent policy towards keeping appropriate financial reserves.

Unrestricted funds (£)	2019	2020	2021
Income from Donations & Legacies	804,832	588,207	649,659
Other Income	90,177	63,912	50,016
Total Income	895,010	652,119	699,675
Total Expenditure	705,830	752,847	733,412
Net Income/expenditure	189,180	-100,728	-33,737
Net Income after adjustments (see note below)	189,180	-30,331	53,065

Note: one-off donations of £176,000 were received in 2019.

Some of this is being used to develop ministry leaders over several years and this has partially offset subsequent deficits.

Patronage and contacts

The Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) is the patron of St Mary's Maidenhead. Until 2019, the patron was the Peache Charitable Trust which subsequently merged with CPAS.

If you wish to apply, find out more information, or have an informal discussion about the role, please contact CPAS.

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