

Saints Philip & James Parish Church Up Hatherley Cheltenham

Parish Profile



December 2018

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Introduction

Our church has a history of traditional Anglo-Catholic worship with full ceremony. Two years ago, the PCC voted in favour of the Resolution under The House of Bishops' Declaration. However, as a Parish Church, our congregation inevitably encompasses a wide range of theological viewpoints.

We want to be a church that:

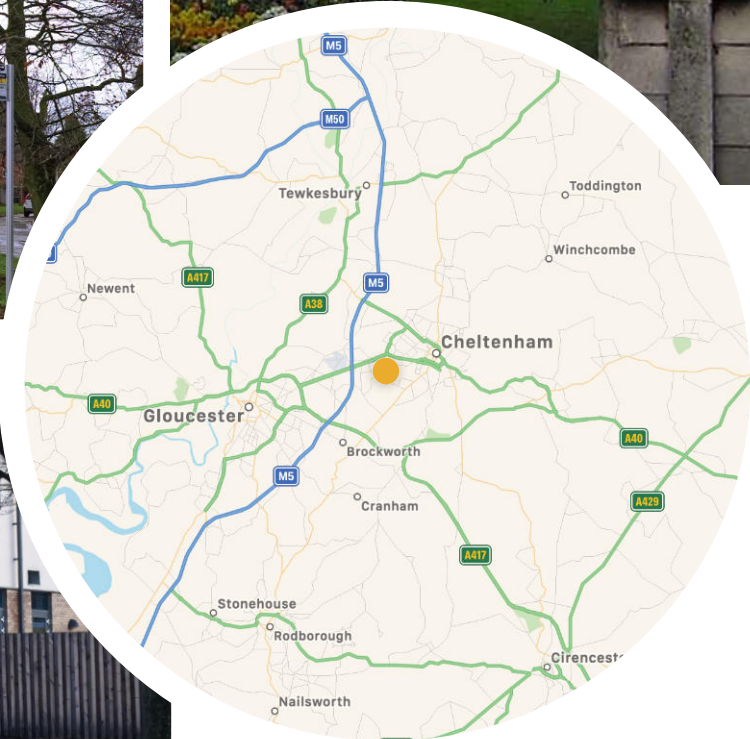
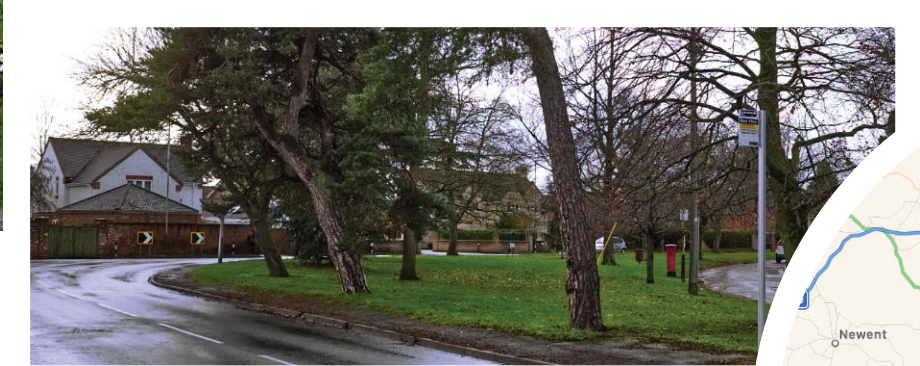
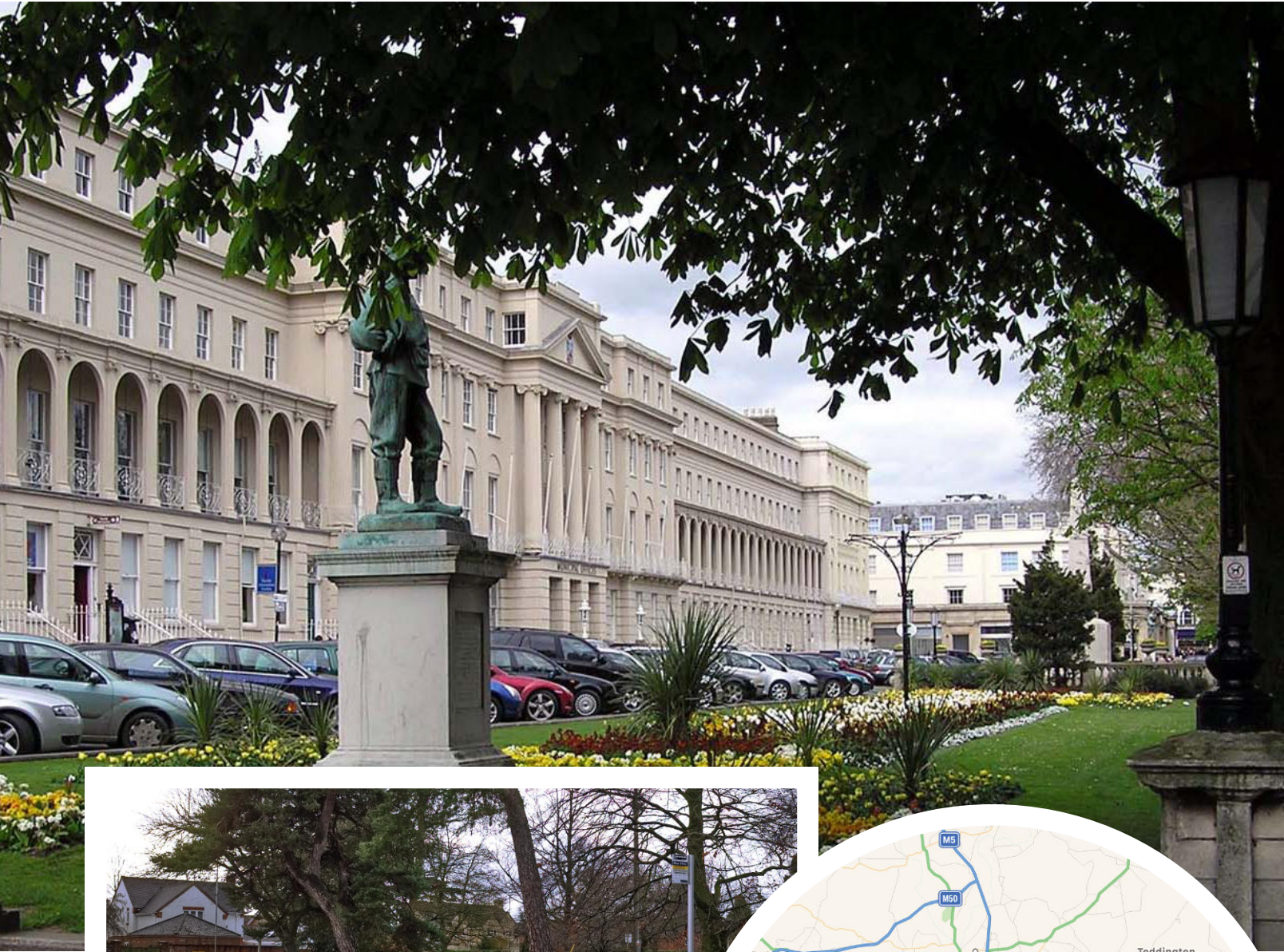
- enables people to grow in their Christian faith;
- shows love to one another and to the community;
- has a wide range of forms of worship, and a variety of music;
- is effective in outreach and mission in the Parish.

We are praying that God will send a priest who will support us as we move forward. We would like someone who is fully committed to the parish and invested in its growth. We are an Anglo-Catholic church and we are also a Parish Church. We place importance on both of these and would like a priest who can do the same. While secure in his own faith and belief, we hope he will accept the differing viewpoints of others and support them as we grow together in faith.

We invite you to read our Parish Profile, and we pray that you will seek to discern God's will as you consider the possibility that you are being called to be our priest.



Our Area



Cheltenham and the Parish of Up Hatherley

Cheltenham came to prominence as a spa town in the early 1800's. It is an attractive town with tree-lined streets, Regency period buildings and many parks and gardens. It is the centre for the Cotswolds, and tourism provides a major source of employment. There are many hotels and events throughout the year to attract visitors to the town, such as horse racing, including the Cheltenham Gold Cup, and a succession of major festivals: classical, folk and jazz music, literary, science & technology. There are three theatres in the town plus a multi-screen cinema.

The largest employer in Cheltenham is GCHQ (the Government's Communication Headquarters), with around 5,000 staff. Several banking and insurance companies have their headquarters and call centres in Cheltenham. There is also some high technology manufacturing. Cheltenham has three public schools and three of the four campuses of the University of Gloucestershire. However, Cheltenham also has some areas of high deprivation including some of the top 10% most deprived wards in the country.



Until about 60 years ago, Up Hatherley was a small hamlet surrounded by farmland, situated to the west of Cheltenham. The expansion of Cheltenham between 1960 and 1990 resulted in Up Hatherley and the adjacent parishes becoming engulfed by new housing estates. Most



of the 3,500 houses built here at that time, (and the further 350+ since), are privately owned, giving the parish a predominantly "middle class" population. Up Hatherley now marks the outer limit of Cheltenham: the countryside is only a few minutes' walk from the church.

As part of the building development in the area, two primary schools were built within the parish. Neither is a church school, although we have good links with both. A small shopping precinct was built about 100 yards from the church, but the main supermarket and local amenities in Up Hatherley, while still in the parish, are about a mile away, at the centre of the new housing. The shops and amenities in Cheltenham town centre are within easy reach, as are out-of-town shopping complexes and superstores. There are excellent road and rail links and a small local airport.

This expansion of Up Hatherley significantly changed the character of the parish. The influx of young families with professional, managerial and technical occupations contrasts with the original, now-elderly, population of a rural village. However, there is still a sense that we live in a local community with its own identity.

Our Church

Our Church and the Church Centre



From ancient documents there appears to have been a Church in Up Hatherley as far back as Saxon times. Kelly's Directory of 1885 refers to Up Hatherley as an ancient chapelry and states "the Church was destroyed in 1640 and the inhabitants for many years attended Shurdington" (a neighbouring village). A new church was not consecrated until 1886, when the building costs were entirely paid for by a Mrs. Laura Gretton. This small church was a good example of late-Victorian/pseudo Gothic architecture. The chancel is decorated with Pre-Raphaelite-style murals and there are fine stained-glass windows. There is a vestry and storage room.

Originally intended as Mrs Gretton's own private chapel, she soon opened the doors to the people of Up Hatherley so that they no longer had to make the long journey on foot to Shurdington.

After she had built the church in Up Hatherley, Mrs. Gretton personally appointed and paid the incumbents. Following her death her family, who had moved away, agreed to transfer the family patronage to the Church Union.

In 1980, the appointment of Fr John Heidt as Priest heralded a new era. In 1985, and in response to the growing local population, he initiated the major building project that has given us our present facilities.

The Church was extended by removing the entire south nave wall, adding a large bay, and re-orientating the seating to a north-south axis. This light and spacious sanctuary accommodates about 180 worshippers.



The original high altar is still used for weekday services, with the congregation sitting in the choir stalls. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in an aumbry in the chancel.

In the last few years we have purchased an Allen digital organ and have beautified the Sanctuary with bespoke furniture; Altar, sedilia, credence table, candlesticks, baptistery and Lady Shrine. All of these were installed through faculties and financed by gifts and bequests. The final item of the re-ordering to be completed will be a Chantry Book cabinet.



It was also decided to include a Church Centre as part of the building project, to provide a large hall and other facilities for the church and the new local community. The Church Centre has an octagonal main hall that can accommodate 100 people. It has toilets, a recently refurbished kitchen, a bar and storage room.

The Church and the Centre are separated. An office was created between them, with a meeting room above it and a glass sound-proof partition was installed between the sanctuary and the lobby. The Church Centre is widely used for church activities and let



throughout the week for clubs, groups and events e.g. Monkey Music, Jo Jingles, Slimming World, Singing, Dancing, Yoga, Pilates.

It is a popular venue for children's birthday parties etc.



The Churchyard

The churchyard is on three sides of the building, with the largest area at the rear. It is open for burials and it is envisaged that it will remain open for another 5-10 years. We have about 6 burials a year and a similar amount of interments of ashes.

There is a garage for storage of lawn mowers and other maintenance equipment. On the fourth side of the building, adjacent to the Centre, there are areas of grass and tarmac that can be used for outdoor activities, and wooden sheds for storage. The car park is between the church and the vicarage.



The Vicarage

The Vicarage is an attractive detached house, 22 years old, and adjacent to the Church. It has four good-sized bedrooms, a lounge, dining room, a large kitchen/breakfast room and study. There is a sizeable rear garden, which is mostly lawn and easily managed. There is parking for several cars and a detached double garage at the front of the property. The Vicarage is close to local bus routes and a walkable distance to schools, shops and the pub!

Our Tradition

The Tradition of our Parish and Recent Developments

Our church has a history of traditional Anglo-Catholic worship with full ceremony. We are also a Parish Church and recognise the diversity of our congregation.

It has always been our wish to play a full and constructive part in the Diocesan and Synodical structures of the church. Several of the laity have held significant roles at Deanery, Diocesan and National level, and to this end we feel we have made a considerable contribution to the life of the Diocese. We would like to move forward with the 'LIFE' (Leadership, Imagination, Faith, Engagement) vision of the diocese, which the PCC has adopted.

Two years ago, the PCC voted in favour of the Resolution under The House of Bishops' Declaration, although this was not a unanimous decision. With the agreement of Bishop Rachel, our Diocesan Bishop, we asked the Bishop of Ebbsfleet to be our pastoral and sacramental Father in God.

Our Involvement with the Wider Church

Some years ago, Bishop Michael allocated all the parishes in the Cheltenham Deanery into Mission Areas under Pastoral re-organisation. He suspended the living of Up Hatherley and hoped that it would be possible for us to be combined with four other churches into 'The South Cheltenham Mission Area'. The other four agreed to form a single benefice called 'The South Cheltenham Churches', leaving Up Hatherley as a single parish. It was eventually agreed that it would be difficult for our parish, having a different integrity, to be part of the new benefice and that we should remain a single parish. Bishop Michael subsequently restored the freehold. We do, however, want to work closely with neighbouring parishes and collaborate in mission.

There are no other churches in our parish. However, there are two other churches which include our parish in their catchment area: the C3 (Free Church) and the Cheltenham Network Church (C of E).

Worship

Our Services

Sunday Worship

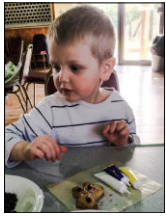
On Sundays, at the 8am Said Mass there is a congregation of about 8, and at the 10am Sung Mass there are around 60 adults and 12 children.

Our main service is the Sung Mass with vestments, servers, incense and bells. The usual mass setting is by Gregory Murray; in Advent and Lent we use the Salisbury Setting; at Christmas and Easter we use seasonal hymns; at Family Mass, the setting is based on modern worship songs. The Family Service is on the 1st Sunday of the month and, on this day there has been no 8am service during the interregnum.

We sing both traditional hymns with organ accompaniment and more modern worship songs accompanied by guitar and electric piano.



On most weeks the children (Starters) have separate worship and teaching groups during the 'Ministry of the Word' and then join the adults at the offertory to share in the Mass. The first Sunday of every month is a Family Service when the children are present throughout. Young people (Evangelists) follow a similar pattern and have their own worship and teaching once a month.



We are fortunate in having three retired priests in our congregation. They are available to support the priest. They have 150 years' experience between them!

We have a rota of servers, readers, leaders of intercession, sidespeople and Eucharistic ministers.

The Anglo-Catholic liturgy is important to us and we do not wish to change the core of our services. However, we do have a real desire to broaden the range of services on offer by providing a variety of non-sacramental services at other times.

Weekday Services

It has been our tradition that the Daily Office be said every morning and evening, and the Angelus rung noon and evening. We have had Eucharist, twice a week.

During the interregnum, Morning and Evening Prayers are being said daily by the laity, and we have one weekday Eucharist on Thursday mornings.

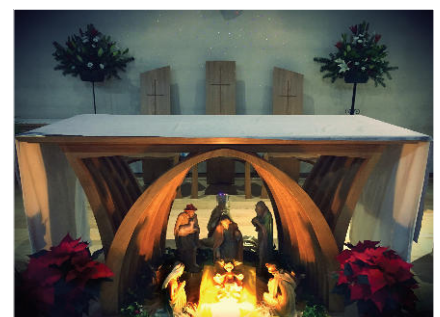
We would like to retain the liturgy we currently use for the midweek services, i.e. the Roman Lectionary for the Eucharist and 'Celebrating Common Prayer' with the Revised Common Lectionary for the Daily Office. We also hope that our new priest will give encouragement for the Daily Office to continue as a public act of worship.

Occasional Services

We hold about 12 baptisms each year, most of which are for families that do not regularly attend church.

As a Parish Church we provide funeral services for the local community, typically about 12 each year. In addition, the incumbent is requested to take services at the crematorium.

We have the occasional wedding. Each Christmas we hold a Christingle service, a Carol Service, a Crib Service and Midnight Mass. During Lent and Easter, it is our tradition to





hold Stations of the Cross each Friday. During Holy Week we celebrate Mass on Monday to Wednesday and all the services of the Triduum.

Parochial Activities

We emphasize that the Church building is a place of holiness and a quiet haven. It is open every day for anyone to come in for a moment of peace and quiet, to pray and maybe light a candle. It is well used.

Holy Communion is taken to the housebound and to two residential homes by a team of lay Eucharistic Ministers. During Lent we have typically held weekly house groups and Lenten Lunches.

Parish Organisation

The PCC has a maximum size of 18 and currently has 10 serving members. It meets six times a year. Any urgent business is conducted by a Standing Committee, which also prepares the agendas for the PCC meetings.

Almost all of the everyday work involved with the running of the church is undertaken by volunteers.

Starters and Evangelists Leaders meet to plan and prepare the activities for the children and young people on Sundays.

The Under One Roof Steering Group is aiming to raise £150,000 through charitable grants and community fundraising. The project will enable us to make vital repairs and improvements to the church building as identified in our last two quinquennial inspections.



Cleaning and Maintenance: We employ a cleaner for 6 hours each week. The church grounds are maintained regularly by paid grass-cutters and volunteer working parties.

Group Leaders: There are a number of volunteers who lead groups for certain events or ongoing activities such as: the parish magazine, Young at Heart, Toddlers, Knit and Natter, God and Chips, Sunday Lunch and flower arranging.



Finance

Our Finances

The finances of the Church are reasonably sound, and are administered by a small team of volunteers who assist the treasurer in the day to day administration. There is a separate Finance Committee which meets when necessary to discuss policy and strategy, prepare the annual budget, and review the rolling Five Year Plan.

It would be fair to say that it is becoming more difficult to do all that we want to do and balance the books. It took 15 years to recover from the debt we incurred when we extended the church back in 1985 and a further 18 years to complete the re-ordering. Happily, this is now completed, mainly due to two or three timely bequests/ gifts. Running alongside these activities has been a programme of building up a fund to meet the repairs necessary to the church roof, gutters and water outlets and to redecorate the interior of the church. Fundraising efforts have resulted in a Building Fund which now stands at around £40,000. This forms the basis from which we have launched the Under One Roof Appeal for £150,000. We are in the process of applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £70,000 and hopefully, if successful, we will commence the work in the spring of 2019. When completed we will have a firm foundation from which we can consider moving from 'maintenance' to 'mission'. Within our grant application is a Heritage Project which should provide us with considerable opportunities to engage with our community in many practical ways.

Total income this year is in the region of £90,000, but £12,000 of this is required to cover the expenses of our income-generating activities, leaving a net income of £78,000 to meet church expenditure. The Parish Share is £61,300. Our objective of meeting most of our day to day expenditure from pledge-giving and using the income generated from the Church Centre and the Magazine for outreach work is yet to be achieved but the desire remains.

We have a policy of paying the Parish Share in full, and to do this we need to raise £1,800 a week to balance the books. About 50% of this is raised by personal giving and the rest from our income generating and fundraising activities. Compared with many churches we do exceptionally well with the finances and help that we have available, but it is getting harder each year. We try hard to ensure that nothing is wasted in meeting our housekeeping costs.

Our Social and Fund-raising Activities

Our fundraising activities raise approximately £6000 a year. We hold two Saturday evening socials, a Summer Fete, an Autumn Craft Fair, four jumble sales and a fashion show. In addition, we hold a Cake Stall every month, a monthly Sunday Lunch, and run a 100 Club with prizes each month. We have in the past held BBQ's, Cream Teas, and a Car Wash. Our

social events are enhanced by the fact that we have a fully licensed bar in the Church Centre.

In 2019 we are attempting to hold extra events as part of our Under One Roof Appeal which will include a silent auction, a number of concerts in the church, 10/12 house parties in the form of coffee mornings, afternoon tea or wine and cheese evenings.



After our Sunday Mass, we socialise in the Centre over tea or coffee, where we have a collection for different charities, nominated by people within the church. Once a month there is a roast Sunday lunch, typically for about 30 people.

Our Mission and Outreach Activities

We wish to improve our mission and outreach and see this as our main task for the immediate future.



We run a Toddler Group one morning a week during term times. Approximately 20 children attend with their parents, grandparents or carers.

Our Young at Heart group for the over 55's meets each month. It is open to anyone in the parish and has a core group of about 12. This meets during the afternoon on a Friday.

The 'God and Chips' group meet monthly for a fish supper, a film and discussion. This has an average attendance of 15.

The 'Knit and Natter' group meet twice a month and usually has at least 20 attendees, a number of whom are from outside the congregation.

The Starters Leaders have been running quarterly Family Activity Afternoons.

Our programme of social events throughout the year is effective in bringing local people into contact with us. At Christmas, we hold a carol service at the local sheltered accommodation for the elderly, lead carol singing around the village Christmas tree, and also sing carols at Morrison's superstore.



Priest

The Priest We Need

A Good Shepherd:

We would like a Priest who can lead us on to greater things. We have many good initiatives and links that, with the right leadership, could be brought to excellent fruition. A priest who will help us to be confident to work together in achieving the LIFE vision.

Proven ability to reach out to the local community:

We are very conscious of the fact that our congregation is an ageing one! We would like a priest who can inspire us to build our congregation. We need a priest with proven skills in engaging with people outside of the church and encouraging them to explore the Christian faith.

An excellent communicator:

We need a spiritual leader who can inspire us to grow in faith: someone who is sensitive to those who are not of the Anglo-Catholic tradition and to those who are. A communicator who can engage with a full range of ages and viewpoints.

Heart in the Parish:

We would like someone who is fully committed to the parish and invested in its growth. We are an Anglo-Catholic Church and we are also a Parish Church. We place importance on both of these and would like a priest who can do the same.

An Enabler:

There are some great skills within the laity. We need someone who can encourage us to use these wisely and to their full potential for the good of the church and the surrounding parish.



We need a Priest who can enable others, see the potential in people, nurture their skills and then encourage them to use them in and around the church. We would all like to feel that we can contribute to the growth of the church and assist the priest in any duties in the church and the community.

Understands the importance of Music:

We need a priest who understands the importance of using a variety of music within services. Music could be a way to engage with people outside the church. A number of our congregation have musical skills that they are happy to use within services and other events.



Exploring different types of service:

Our Sunday Morning Service is a sacramental one. We understand that it can be a little daunting for someone coming to church for the first time. We would like someone who is open to exploring worship in both sacramental and non-sacramental services at other times.

We fully expect that our priest will be a member of The Society (SSWSH).

Conclusion

We are seeking to discern God's will for us. We want our new priest to support us as we adapt to our new situation; to inspire, motivate and encourage us as we move forward. We pray that God will send us a man of prayer, who will live the faith by example and love the people of our Parish. It is vital that our priest is both sympathetic to our Anglo-Catholic heritage and also fully committed to being part of the Anglican community. He will be secure in his own faith and beliefs, and yet accept that others may have differing viewpoints. We can see great potential for growth and outreach.

We pray that, after reading our Parish Profile, you will reflect on the possibility that God's intention might be for you to be our priest.



