PARISH PROFILE

2020
As you read through our Parish Profile it will become clear very quickly that it was prepared before COVID-19 prevented public worship from taking place, which means that nearly all of our ministries and activities presented on the following pages look very different at the moment!

Yet our God remains faithful – the same yesterday, today and forever – and our vision as a church hasn’t changed either: helping people come home to God. We have always believed that church is about the people, not the building – so while we’re unable to meet together in our normal space, we are finding new and creative ways of caring for each other as a community, as well as reaching out with love and compassion to our neighbours in need.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF OUR NEXT VICAR**

As we have not yet been able to hold our 2020 APCM, our churchwardens Nessa St John and Steve Smith will continue in post until that meeting is able to happen. In the meantime, our PCC have appointed Nessa St John and Nic Daley (lay vice-chair of the PCC) as St Mark’s parish representatives.

We are very mindful of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic could have on potential applicants’ ability and appetite to relocate parish and church community during this time. Nonetheless, we are hopeful and expectant that God is preparing the right candidate to join us, and ask that you prayerfully consider whether God might be leading you to apply for this role. We are very happy to discuss possible implications, including on timings, with candidates during the interview process.

**HOW WE’RE RESPONDING AS A CHURCH**

Each Sunday we’re meeting ‘together at home’ – releasing video messages and worship sets online. But rather than engage individually, we believe it’s vital to worship in community if we can, which is where our Cell Groups come in – small groups of people meeting each Sunday over Zoom to read God’s Word, worship, watch and discuss the message, and pray together.

We’re also meeting together each weekday morning for a 10-minute Bible reflection and to pray together; creating midweek content for children, families and young people; and linking up vulnerable members of our congregation to others who will keep in touch with and support them.

Looking outwards, we’ve offered prayer and practical help to every household in the parish and are responding to the many requests coming in; Wandsworth Foodbank continues to provide emergency provision to those in crisis; and we have been amazed by the response to our first ever Alpha Online, which is currently running on Wednesday evenings.
In the crowds and bustle around Clapham Junction, many people are on a journey and many are looking for a home. At St Mark’s Battersea Rise we are a family together coming home to God. We want to be changed by His Word, to live in the power of His Spirit, and to be His hands and feet in our community.

33 years ago, Paul Perkin came to lead St Mark’s with a small group from Holy Trinity Brompton. We are so grateful for his ministry, and following his retirement we are looking for a full-time stipendiary vicar to lead us in our next steps. If you read this profile and feel God may be calling you to apply then we look forward to hearing from you!

NESSA ST JOHN & STEVE SMITH
CHURCH WARDENS

The appointment of a new vicar marks the beginning of a significant new chapter in the life and ministry of this parish at the heart of Battersea. St Mark’s is a welcoming, diverse and energetic church community, which makes a vital and much appreciated contribution to the mission and ministry of Southwark Diocese. I look forward to supporting the new incumbent as they embrace the challenges and opportunities of this exciting post, and to working in partnership with them as we seek to equip God’s people to serve the communities of the Wandsworth Archdeaconry.

JOHN KIDDLE, ARCHDEACON OF WANDSWORTH
The Bishop invites Paul and Christine Perkin to lead a group of 49 adults from Holy Trinity Brompton to start up a new phase of life here at St Mark’s, joining a faithful remnant still meeting and praying in the church building. Within four years, 180 people are worshipping at St Mark’s every Sunday.

We build a new two-storey building development attached to the main church which greatly increases our capacity for ministry to the community.

We celebrate 30 years of God’s faithfulness since the graft from Holy Trinity Brompton with a big birthday party!

We are seeking a new vicar who feels called to lead St Mark’s at a key moment in our journey, taking us forward in our continued vision for church growth and planting.

Planted by our Patron, St Mary’s Battersea, St Mark’s Church opens five minutes from Clapham Junction railway station. Before there was a railway the area was rural, but more and more homes spring up around what’s to become the busiest train station in the country.

Our first church graft: around 50 St Mark’s members, led by Andrew White, join a similar number of people already in the congregation at Ascension Balham, a church community based near Clapham South tube station.

Our second church graft: a group of 19 adults from St Mark’s, led by Patrick Malone, join the existing congregation down the road at St Peter’s Battersea.

We set up Junction Community Trust as a charity and resource for people in the local community to find practical help and support.
At St Mark’s we’re all about helping people come home to God. The themes of house and home run throughout the Bible, but one key verse for us appears in Jesus’ parable of the great banquet in Luke 14:23: “Go out... and urge anyone you find to come in, that my house will be full”.

For us, church isn’t an event we go to but a family we belong to. Sundays are a key family gathering and we also meet together during the week to encourage each other in our ongoing journeys home to God.

We subscribe to the Evangelical Alliance’s statement of faith, and we also have a set of values which underpin everything we do as a church.

We commit to being:
• Bible People
• a Worshipping People
• Jesus’ Gospel People
• Holy Spirit People
• Prayerful People
• Connected People in Small Groups
• People with a Ministry for Everyone
• People of our Local Community
• Generous People
• a Diverse People
We meet together at 9.30am, 11.15am and 6pm each Sunday; our three (equally-sized) congregations together attract around 400 adults, 100 children and 40 youth each week, from Battersea and the surrounding areas of Earlsfield, Balham, Tooting and Streatham.

This is from a full membership of more than 500 adults and over 200 children and youth (see the pie chart for a breakdown by age of our adult members).

Our services are lively celebrations with a focus on both Word and Spirit; prayer ministry is offered at the end of each service. Our children’s church (Remarkables) and youth group (Inhabit) run at both the 9.30am and the 11.15am, while the 6pm allows for an extended time for worship, teaching and prayer, and is usually followed by a trip to the pub.

As well as Sundays we have plenty going on during the week and throughout the year, including:

- weekly cell groups
- Church On Wednesday – a relaxed and informal lunchtime gathering, particularly reaching those on the margins
- Deeper – our monthly prayer & worship evenings
- Youth Church & youth weekends away
- men’s & women’s breakfasts and weekends
- marriage & parenting courses

We love the chance to hang out as family outside of SW11 too – last year we took more than 450 people down to Hayling Island for a weekend by the sea.

We also want to equip each other in personal evangelism and to offer lots of easy invitation opportunities for our friends, families and neighbours to explore what the Christian faith is about. We run Alpha three times a year; one-off Big Questions seminars tackling some of the toughest questions people ask; and our Christmas and Easter Trails welcome hundreds of children from nearby schools to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.
Our Mission & Ministries

Local Outreach

We love SW11! Reaching further out into our community is at the heart of our vision as a church. We do this in lots of different ways:

- **Foodbank** – providing emergency food and support to local people in crisis
- **Spear Programme** – helping young people facing disadvantage into work or education
- **Christians Against Poverty** – offering free debt and money advice to anyone in need of it
- **Night Shelter** – in partnership with Glass Door Homeless Charity and six other Wandsworth churches
- **Prison ministry** – we’ve been taking Alpha into HMP Wandsworth for over twenty years
- **Cheer** – for anyone parenting alone
- **Infuse Café** – a place to hang out after school for 11-18s
- **One Stop Shop** – a council-run service hosted in our building for victims of domestic abuse

Wandsworth Foodbank and Spear Clapham Junction are administered through the Junction Community Trust (JCT), a charity set up by the PCC in 2012. The vicar is the chair of trustees for JCT.

We also have several associated ministries on the church site – Wandsworth Mediation Service builds bridges between those in conflict, and Future Skills Training helps children and young people to re-engage with education and employment.

Global Mission

With a passion for the global Anglican Communion, and motivated by our vision to help people come home to God, we are a church that wants to equip individuals who feel called to be a missionary, whether it’s on a short term placement or longer term venture.

We have the privilege of supporting a number of mission partners based in the UK and abroad. Some of these are individuals (from here in the UK to Ibiza and south east Asia), while others are organisations we feel particularly called to stand alongside.

For example we pray regularly for the persecuted church using resources from Open Doors, fundraise for International Justice Mission by cycling to Paris each year, and sponsor over 300 children, including in Mariakani and Mata in Kenya, through Compassion.
OUR FINANCES

We are so thankful for the generosity of members of the congregation on whom we rely entirely to be able to support the whole ministry of St Mark’s in the community.

Our annual finance budget is determined by reference to the previous year’s outturn, the amount of voluntary giving that we expect to receive during the year, and the amount needed to sustain our various ministries. All income received by the church is used to further the ministries of St Mark’s, with reserves being kept at the minimum prudent level.

We have also committed to giving 10% of our unrestricted voluntary income to support other churches, charities and missionaries both in this country and abroad.

THE CHURCH
Built in 1873, the main church building was restored at the time of the church graft from Holy Trinity Brompton in 1987.

In 2007 we moved our hall and offices into a new two-storey building development attached to the main church, which has greatly increased our capacity for ministry to the community.

THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE
The former St Mark’s infant school stands next to the main church building. Southwark Diocese began restoration works in 2019 and these will continue through 2020.

We are hopeful that we’ll soon be able to begin conversations about realising our vision for the space as a hub for our community ministries, once works are complete.

THE VICARAGE
Built in 1850, and a seven-minute walk from the church, the vicarage has 5 bedrooms, a study, space for hosting people, and a large garden.

OUR BUILDINGS

OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Over the years we have grown significant and valued partnerships with a number of organisations, including:

- Open Doors
- IJM
- Compassion
- Tearfund
- Global Leadership Network
- New Wine
- Church Revitalisation Trust
- MEDAIR
- Home for Good
We are five minutes from Clapham Junction, in the heart of a vibrant, diverse, and ever-changing inner-London community.

The population of the parish itself is about 5,900, but the London Borough of Wandsworth has a population of more than 320,000 (the vast majority of whom live within a 15 minute drive of the church).

The parish itself is a particularly young one – 45% under the age of 29, and 81% under the age of 44 – although we only have one school (a private secondary school) within our boundaries. There are a number of primary schools in neighbouring parishes, though, which lots of our children attend.

The local area is a mix of commercial and residential buildings – with some particularly nice coffee shops popping up in the last few years! Just over the road from St Mark’s is a new residential development which has replaced a longstanding social housing estate that we used to have strong ties with.

The parish is around average on the deprivation scale for parishes in the country, although some of our neighbouring parishes have much higher levels of poverty. You can see some more of our demographics in the charts below.

And our congregation travel in from across south west London:
WE HAVE A DYNAMIC AND GIFTED STAFF TEAM WHO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITY AND RUNNING OF THE CHURCH, MADE UP OF 10 FULL-TIME AND 11 PART-TIME STAFF, PLUS 7 EMPLOYED BY THE JUNCTION COMMUNITY TRUST.
AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THIS NEW, SIGNIFICANT CHAPTER OF OUR CHURCH’S LIFE, WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VICAR WHO IS ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THEY HAVE THE RIGHT CHARACTER, CHEMISTRY, COMPETENCE AND, ABOVE ALL, CALLING TO LEAD ST MARK’S AT A KEY MOMENT IN OUR JOURNEY.

We are looking for someone with the ability and appetite:

- to lead our mission, both here and globally, with fresh insight
- to develop with vision our growing community ministries – bridges between our church and the local area
- to enlarge our mission through church planting
- to utilise the regenerated old schoolhouse to expand our reach into the community
- and to face the challenges of secularism and scepticism in inner-city London

We want to remain open to God’s guidance as we look to appoint this person but, in view of our vision, values and DNA as a church, it is our hope and discernment that they should have the qualities and capabilities as set out on the next page.
PERSON SPECIFICATION

CHRISTIAN LIFE

• loves the Lord – as evidenced in life, ministry and a pattern of prayer and daily devotions
• loves His Word – is committed to the full inspiration and final authority of the Bible in belief and ethical practice
• loves His Spirit – experiences and promotes the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the church today
• loves His people – as evidenced in a commitment to the church ministering practically and spiritually to the needs of all in the local area
• loves those who don’t yet know Him – as evidenced in a deep personal conviction and outworking of the gospel imperative to make disciples of all peoples

EXPERIENCE

• ordained ministry – an ordained minister within the Church of England (or recognised Anglican church)
• evangelism – has had the privilege of bringing people to Christ; experience of leading the Alpha Course and of training others in apologetics and equipping them to share their faith
• discipleship – has helped people to spiritual maturity, including through personal mentoring and leading church courses/seminars/weekends
• pastoral care of a congregation – working with varying communities (individuals, families and groups across ethnicities, ages and social classes); experience of bringing about reconciliation between individuals and/or groups within the congregation
• has successfully held significant leadership and management responsibility – including a track record of leading ministries which have grown; and (in church or other contexts) management of employees within a staff team, and experience of developing, training and empowering other leaders
• community-based ministry – active involvement in one or more community ministries, serving the practical and spiritual needs of vulnerable individuals and/or families
• financial management – experience of overseeing the setting and management of budgets

SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

• teaching – a gifted preacher who faithfully handles God’s Word and effectively teaches its contemporary application
• pastoring – a loving and wise pastor to the members of the congregation, understanding the need for effective pastoral care across a large church community
• leadership & management – able to lead others in seeking God for a vision for the church; casting, communicating and delivering this vision strategically; management of self, time and others; able to strategically delegate, direct and inspire to get the best out of a varied and wide-ranging staff team (both of church staff and Junction Community Trust staff)
• communication – a people person; able to communicate and connect across cultures and social backgrounds; able to engage well with other churches in the Battersea Deanery and wider Diocese
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CHURCH, VISIT:

SMBR.ORG.UK