

# PARISH PROFILE



**St Paul's Church, Grove Park, Chiswick, London**



# Bishop's Welcome



St Paul's, Grove Park is a well-established parish church in an attractive part of Chiswick. It is primarily suburban in feel and nature, located close to the middle of the Kensington Area in the Diocese of London, and with excellent transport links. The parish provides an excellent opportunity for a priest who can offer a prayerful vision for renewed mission, with the church seeking to build on its excellent existing connections with the wider community, and wishing to secure its continued place within the life of Grove Park, so as to make the love and life of Christ known here.

As well as responding creatively to the changing circumstances of a post-pandemic world, the woman or man appointed as vicar here will need to be able to recognise and sensitively build on the missional opportunities arising from the congregation's openness to new ideas and inspiration, as they help to take the parish into this next season.

This post is potentially suitable for someone seeking their first incumbency, or similarly well-suited to an experienced priest looking for a fresh challenge in their mission and ministry.

The Diocese of London, and within it, the Kensington Area, is a supportive place in which to live and to minister. The Diocesan Strategy, 'Capital Vision 2030', emphasises the need for clergy well-being, alongside the broad ambitions of Confident Disciples, Compassionate Communities, and Creative Growth, all within a church that is seeking to become younger, safer, and more culturally diverse.

There are good colleagues close by in neighbouring parishes, and Hounslow Deanery and Chapter both operate well with a sense of unity and missional direction, rooted in the church's core purposes of Worship and Witness Together.

**The Rt Rev'd Dr Ric Thorpe**  
**Acting Bishop of Kensington**



**St Paul's** is a **warm and open-hearted** west London church, **within a stone's throw of the River Thames.**

We are known as **a friendly church** where Christians of all backgrounds are **welcome**, as are those searching for God and indeed the simply curious.

**Music is an important element** of both our worship and **our place in the community.** St Paul's has become a place where our **services, recitals and concerts** have drawn in **a wide mix of people** and provided much **solace and joy**, as well as entertainment.

We are now searching for a vicar who will help us build on our position in Grove Park, and **lead us forward.**

We are proud to be a church that is **open to new ideas and inspiration** and our new vicar will demonstrate the same **zeal in leading** the St Paul's family forward in faith with **energy and compassion.**

Our new incumbent will want to continue our aim of making St Paul's **a genuinely intrinsic part of the local community** which will grow our worshippers both in number and **knowledge of God.**

[www.stpaulsgrovepark.com](http://www.stpaulsgrovepark.com)

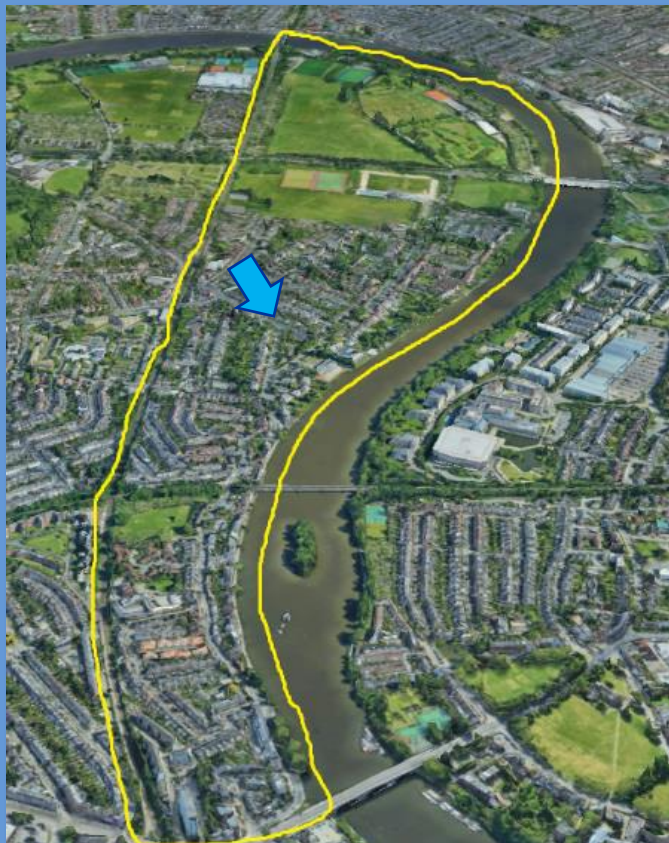


# Our Location

St Pauls Church is part of the Diocese of London within the Deanery of Hounslow and the Archdeaconry of Middlesex. The address is St Paul's Church, Grove Park Road, Chiswick, London W4 3SB.

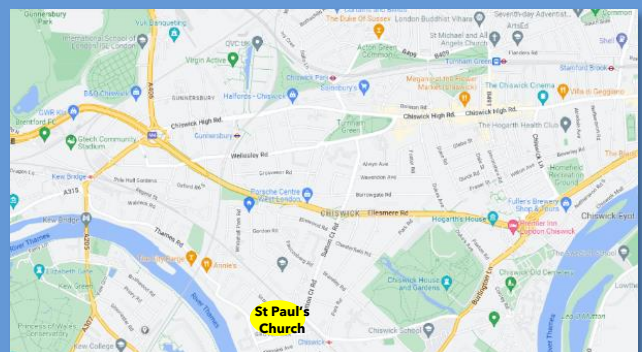


The view above looks south-west. You can see the railway bridge over the Thames between Kew and Strand on the Green and beyond it, Oliver's Island and Kew Bridge at the western end of the parish. The large square building is the National Archives at Kew and the trees beyond it are in Kew Gardens.



The bird's-eye view on the left shows the outline of the parish, bordered by the railway, the river, Barnes Railway Bridge and Kew Bridge.

Chiswick is well served for transport links. To get out of London for family visits or a day in the countryside, the M4 begins a few minutes drive away from here and the A316, which turns into the M3, also runs close by. Travelling around London and visiting the theatres, galleries and shops of the West End is also very easy. Chiswick overground station is a 6-minute walk from the church, and offers easy access with trains to Waterloo taking half an hour and running every 15 -30 minutes. Gunnersbury and Chiswick Park underground stations (District Line) are both a 20-minute walk from the church.



# The Local Area and Vicarage

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**Grove Park is a lovely place to live.** The nearby riverside walks and pubs at Strand on the Green are particularly picturesque, and from here you can stroll along the river to Kew Gardens and onto Richmond Park; or walk the other way into London, passing the grander houses on Chiswick Mall and the historic pubs near Hammersmith Bridge. The famous 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaped gardens of Chiswick House are also close by, as are Dukes Meadows: a large area of green space containing numerous different sporting facilities.

A 15-minute walk takes you to Chiswick High Road, a bustling and thriving shopping street, with flower, cheese and antique markets on Sundays. Chiswick has its own small theatre, The Tabard as well as a cinema, an annual Literary Festival, and many excellent restaurants! And of course, a 30-minute tube ride will take you to all the amenities of central London.



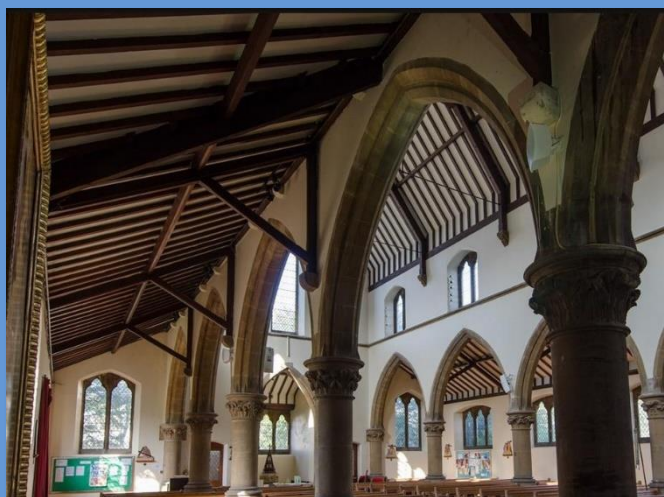
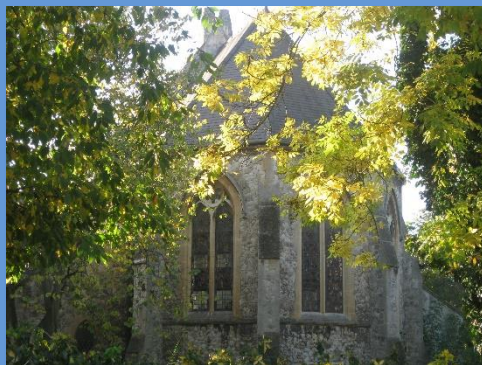
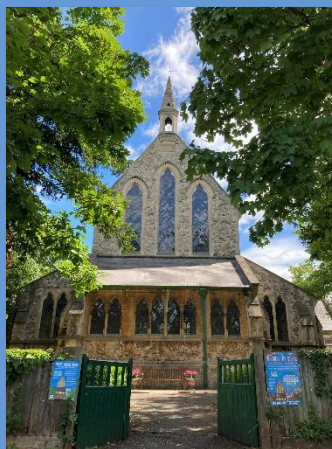
**The current vicarage** stands next to the church in a very large garden but has long been recognised as being too big to heat and viably maintain. The PCC has therefore welcomed the diocese's proposal to replace it with something more suitable for the needs of today's clergy. The diocesan property team is working on plans for its replacement, which is likely to involve a redevelopment of the existing site.



In the meantime, and for this appointment, a house in good proximity to the church will be provided for the new vicar while a permanent new home is found or built. At the conclusion of the project, the incumbent would have the option to stay put or to move into the newly provided house. If you would like to discuss this further, do contact the Archdeacon for an informal conversation.

# Our Church Building

In design and feel, St Paul's is in many ways a typical suburban Victorian church, with a capacity of around 400. It is located in Grove Park, which is to the south of Chiswick; an attractive, affluent and very green area of west London. It is not a listed building.

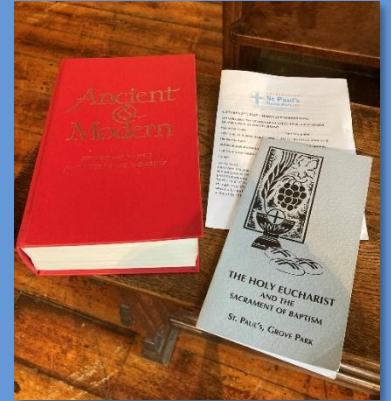


# Our Worship



Our liturgical style could be described as Central Anglican and Eucharistic. Other Anglican churches in Chiswick offer types of worship ranging from Charismatic-Evangelical through to Anglo Catholic, with St Paul's lying somewhere in the middle of these varied expressions. In addition to congregants from within our parish, we attract worshippers from outside the parish boundaries who are looking for traditional Anglican worship that is based on the sacraments. We look forward to working with an incumbent who can embrace this tradition and bring imagination and renewed energy to our worship.

Our weekly Parish Communion is at 10am on Sunday and is our main service each week. Our service booklet uses a range of formats based on Common Worship, and we have been accustomed to a variety of liturgical styles. In addition, we had a Eucharist service at noon on Friday and another on a Monday evening at the end of a Meditation session. Whilst the Meditation has continued during the interregnum, the celebration of Holy Communion has not, and we plan to restart these as soon as possible after appointment. These services are important for those who prefer spoken services or who are unable to attend worship on a Sunday. A new service of Morning Prayer started on Friday mornings from the end of October.



Since 2008 we have had a Licenced Lay Minister, Simon Surtees, who has assisted with services and preaching. He worked with Father Michael to run annual Advent and Lent courses as well as being actively involved with the singing and choir. He will plan and lead an Advent course this year in the absence of an ordained colleague. We have a Sacristan, Sheila White, who prepares for our weekly Holy Communion and a Crucifer, Helen Glover. In addition, there is a rota of adult chalice assistants, readers and sides-people.

Our parish enjoys a close relationship with the nearby St Mary's Convent and our previous vicar regularly celebrated Eucharist for the nuns and residents on Wednesday mornings. Members of our congregation are also regular visitors at the convent.



# Church Life



## Opening Times and Services

Throughout the many years of our previous vicar's ministry, the church was kept open all day, every day both for casual visitors and private prayer. During the vacancy, the church is open only on Sundays (the service is at 10am) and for specific events. It is very much the hope of the PCC that with the arrival of a new vicar, we will be able to return to a an "open church" policy.

## Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals

In 2021 there were four weddings and eight baptisms which is fairly typical for an average pre-pandemic year. There were three weddings in 2022.

The fact that people can use both the adjoining Isis rooms and church garden for a reception after a wedding or christening makes St Paul's a highly attractive venue.



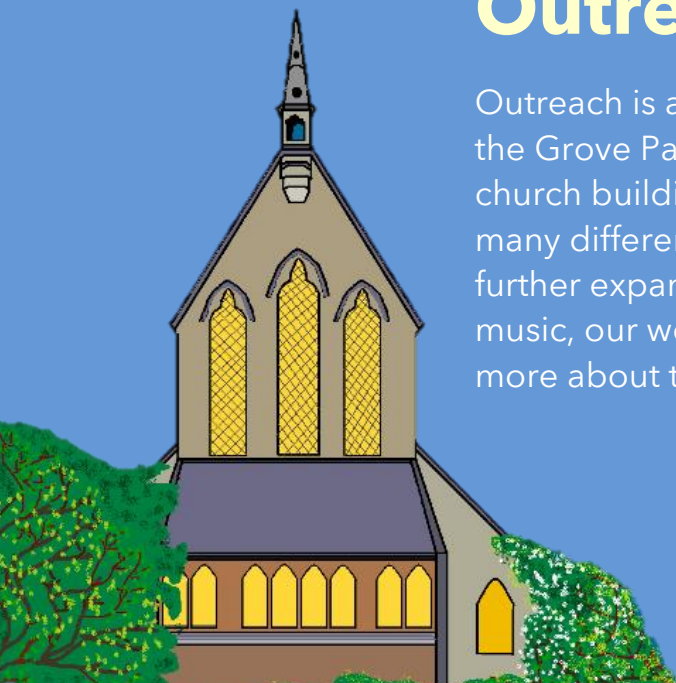
## Electoral Roll

St Paul's currently has 185 members on its electoral roll, with 108 families represented. 58% live within the parish, 42% outside the parish, although most of these are still pretty local.

61% of our members are female and 39 % male.

## Outreach

Outreach is a very important part of our church's identity within the Grove Park community. We are pleased that both our church building and our lovely gardens are regularly used by many different groups, and this is something we would like to further expand. Some of the areas we are most proud of are our music, our work with refugees and our events. You can read more about these in the following pages.





# Church Groups and Outreach

## Friday Welcome

Before the pandemic, we held an afternoon Tea Club in church every month. The feedback was that the afternoons in winter were rather dark, and in order to build up the "regulars" it needed to be weekly. So, we have recently restarted this initiative as a Coffee Club (with tea and cake as well!) on Friday mornings between 11-12.



## Stay and Play

Run by Shelagh Allsop, Stay and Play takes place every Friday in the church and garden between 9:30-11:30am and is for 0-3-year-olds and their carers. It is popular in the community and is enjoyed by a diverse group of families and carers, with around 10-12 children attending at present. The group overlaps for half an hour with our new Coffee Club to encourage mixing between the older and younger members of our parish. Numerous studies have shown that intergenerational socialising has benefits for all, and we are very keen to facilitate this at St Paul's.



## The Pastoral Group

This group is led by Sue Hearn and operates largely by WhatsApp as a group called St Paul's Helpers. The group works on supporting the isolated with friendship and helping those in need both practically and emotionally.



## The Youth Group

Run by Bea Vickers, the Youth Group met monthly and had between 4-14 members. It was a mix of informal chats, snacks and games, a Bible reading followed by a debate on a relevant (ideally controversial) topic prayer and singing. The group is no longer in existence, as Bea has run it for 10 years and her own children are at university. She would be very happy to work with our new incumbent to explore how the group could restart and how we could recruit some new members.



## The Poetry Group

Also run by Sue Hearn, this began during lockdown and has continued to meet every Thursday on Zoom. Participants choose a poem on a prearranged subject, and spend an hour reading the poems aloud and discussing them. There are between 12-20 members each week. This has become an invaluable source of support for many participants, especially those who are elderly and/or housebound. It is also great fun! As a result, this group has inspired several poetry reading events in church.

## Children

We would love to build up the role of children at St Paul's! In the past we have had a well-attended Sunday school, a creche, confirmation classes, children's choirs and a popular "scratch nativity" on Christmas Day. We still offer Easter craft activities on Good Friday and have some links with the local primary school, but we really need a vicar with a genuine passion and enthusiasm for bringing children back into church life.



# The St Paul's Refugee Fund

**The St Paul's Refugee Fund** is an initiative from the membership of St Paul's that was set up during lockdown to support refugees and asylum seekers. It is run by Stephanie White, Rachel Tanner and Shelagh Allsop. It has an ongoing involvement with a household of women asylum seekers and their children living in a hostel in Hounslow. The women are waiting for a decision from the Home Office about whether they can stay in the UK or whether they will be sent back to the country they travelled from. While they are waiting, they are given accommodation and a weekly subsistence allowance by the government, but do not have access to benefits, or the right to work. The fund began by giving a small amount of money every week to each adult woman to help with food and expenses.



We soon found that just that small amount of extra cash was a meaningful way to support the ladies, and the weekly drop-off built a strong bond between St Paul's and the women. Just £5 cash a week has allowed for a transformative degree of flexibility and autonomy, and they have told us repeatedly how much they value the fact that we are thinking of them and supporting them on a weekly basis. A manifestation of the benefit it provided was that the women pooled some of the money and used it to create a vegetable patch in a garden that they persuaded their landlord to allow them to clear and use.

The fund has also covered broadband for the house which has meant that the adults are now able to use the internet and the children were able to use donated IT devices for homework and online lessons. We also provided school shoes for all the children and travel costs for outings such as joining Refugees Welcome Hounslow (with whom the fund has strong connections), social gatherings, trips to Kew Gardens with the RWH community membership, a football match at Brentford Stadium and a lovely trip to the V&A museum to meet Little Amal, the refugee puppet, at her tea party there.

We were delighted that the families in the hostel contributed to our Flower Festival in June. Stephanie helped them build an exhibit called *The Garden of Memories*, complete with potting shed and home-grown plants. The adults in the hostel had written their memories of summer evenings in their home countries, which were incredibly poignant to read. The children had painted the potting shed and had a big hand in growing the plants.



Our Harvest Festival gifts this year went to the women and children in the hostel who let us know beforehand which products would be most helpful for them to receive.



**Refugees Welcome Hounslow** was set up by Rachel, Shelagh and other volunteers in 2017 to welcome Syrian families fleeing their homes as refugees, into our community. In 2021 the organisation won the Community Heart Award for **"the outstanding contribution to their local community, supporting neighbours, creating community spirit and strength."**

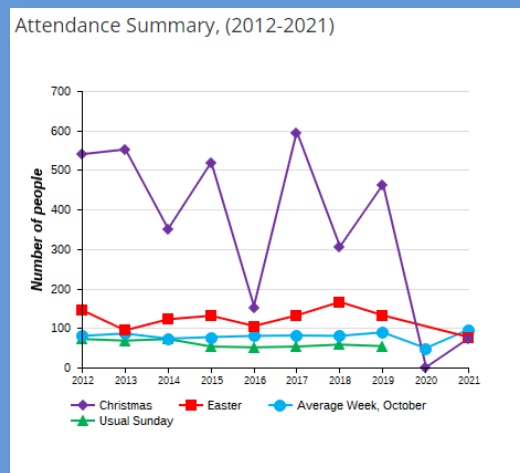
# About Us

St Paul's is a relatively affluent parish. Out of the 12,307 parishes in England, where 1 is the most deprived, it's listed at number 8,478. (In comparison, our neighbouring parish to the west, St Paul's Brentford, is number 2,228) Compared to much of London, the parish is not particularly diverse; 83.5% are white and 53% are Christian (4.3% are Muslim and 38% have no religion or have not stated one). The composition of the parish by age range is close to the national average for all groups although marginally more youthful, as 14.5 % are pensioners, compared to 19% of the UK as a whole.

There is one large primary school in the parish, Strand on the Green Infants and Juniors, which is a mixed community school with a roll of 624 children aged between 4-11. Grove Park Primary is also very close by with a roll of 436 children. Chiswick School, (rated *Good* by Ofsted) is the largest secondary school in the area and there are also several excellent church secondary church schools in nearby boroughs, (Green School for Girls, Green School for Boys and Twyford Church of England High School) which are popular choices for families in the parish.

- **Parish population: 4,385**
- **2,040 occupied households**
- **19.3% are children (0-18)**
- **38.5% are aged between 18-44**
- **27.7% are aged between 44-64**
- **14.5% are over 65**
- **The average house price of a terraced house in Chiswick last year was £1,193,000**
- **Parish size: 0.5 square miles**
- **St Paul's Grove Park is 8.5 miles from St Paul's Cathedral. Members of the congregation have walked this scenic route several times as a fundraiser!**

On Sundays we have 35-45 people at our 10am Eucharist. We are facing up to the fact that, even discounting the pandemic years, Sunday attendance has dropped over the last decade from an average of 72 in 2012 to 54 in 2019. Reversing this trend will be a key challenge for the coming years ahead. Attendance at Easter and Christmas (which comprises three services, two on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec and one on 25<sup>th</sup> Dec) is varied, but encouraging!



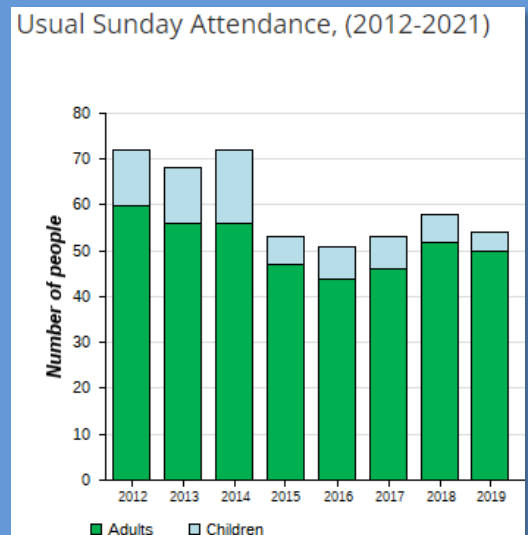
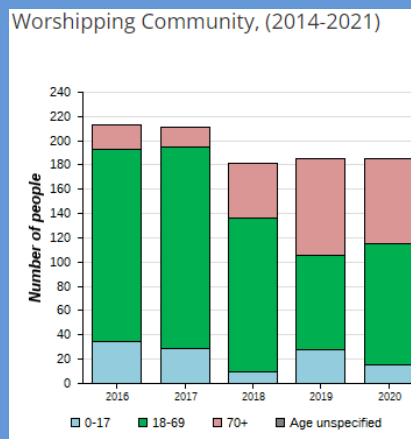
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Christmas	540	552	350	518	152	594	305	462	0	74
Easter	145	94	122	131	105	132	166	132	-	77
Usual Sunday	72	68	72	53	51	53	58	54	-	-

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, or their Easter attendance for 2020

- Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day;
- Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day;

(The massive dip for Christmas 2016 we suspect is due to inaccurate reporting of the data, possibly only recording the attendance for Christmas Day itself. The absence of some data for 2020-2021 is due to the covid pandemic)

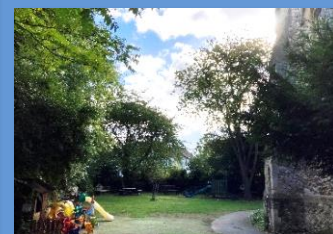
The number of children coming on a Sunday has dropped and this is something that many parishioners would like to see reversed. Currently, our congregation is getting older, with an increased proportion of us now over 70.





## The Garden

Outdoor space plays a large part in many of our community events, and we are fortunate that the church stands on a triangle of land surrounded by mature trees with its own lovely garden.



## Isis Rooms

Adjoining the church are three rooms with their own entrance, known as the Isis Rooms which comprise a large downstairs room, a smaller carpeted space upstairs and a kitchen. The rooms are well used for church functions and are also regularly rented out to local groups.

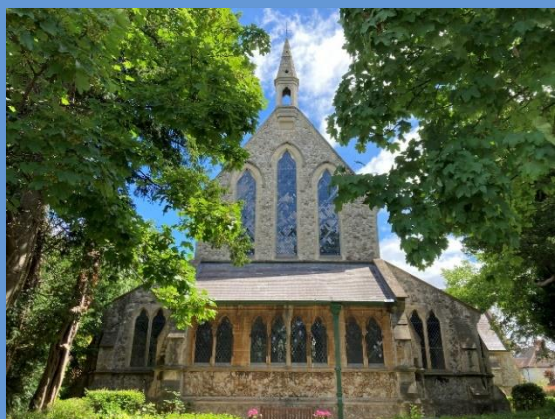


## The Vestry Office

The churchwardens have recently given the Vestry a through clear out and it now doubles up as a very serviceable office space!



# Maintenance and our Quinquennial Report



Historically, the church building has been well-maintained and is waterproof, dry and can be heated adequately. The building is secure with external key access to only two of the five external entry points, the other doors being secured by bolts from the inside.

However, the church probably does not rate very highly on any green measurement and there are a few areas that need attention going forward.

Our last Quinquennial Inspection took place in February 2020 and highlighted a “live” crack on the external wall of the kitchen area as well as unexplained leaks in the roof of the North Aisle. We employed a specialist architect, MRDA Architects of Hammersmith, to plan and supervise the repairs and these were completed by the beginning of this year, with very little disruption to services or church use.

Our current project is the resuscitation of the Church Garden. An initial cutting back and tree trim is planned for this autumn, with more planting next spring. We would like to see this used as more of a community green space as well as a church social area, but are not planning too precisely until after the whole space has been opened up.

Going forward we need to change our halogen lamps in the clerestory for LED lamps. These were fitted historically without any arrangements for high level access, so while the new lights will be both greener and cheaper, the change itself will be an expensive job to complete.



The church is heated by a large gas boiler in the crypt under the organ loft. It is about 30 years old, has been serviced annually and runs reliably. However, it is a space heater and directs heat all over the church rather than at worshippers. In the long term we should consider a greener, cheaper and more directed heating solution.

Finally, but importantly for the long-term prospects of our community, we would like to enclose the south porch so that we can keep the south door open as our main entrance, giving us a better street presence and looking more open and welcoming.



West Porch



South Porch

# Our Finances

St Paul's is in good financial shape. At our last report, we had around £140,000 in our bank accounts and in 2021 our income exceeded our expenditure by around £7,000. Like all churches, in 2020 the coronavirus pandemic meant a reduction in both our collection plate and our fundraising activities. This improved considerably in 2021, and even more so in 2022, when the six weeks of celebrations for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May and June filled both the church and our coffers!

The church owns a nearby premises (previously used as a church hall) which is rented out to a nursery daycare business called Toddlers World, which generates a regular income for us. We also get some income from renting out the adjoining Isis rooms to local groups and for parties. The church has an excellent acoustic, a good organ and a large grand piano, which makes it popular as a concert and rehearsal venue.

## Income

Our total 2021 income was £78,386 (much higher than the £64,484 of 2020). Of this, £44,707 came from fundraising. The total amount given as gift-aided donations from individuals was £28,485.

The decrease in collections during services between 2014 and the present day (shown on the table below) is not matched by an increase in planned or other giving, and this is something we would want to seriously address. We do have card readers, which at present are only used for events and not for services.

## Expenditure

Our expenditure in 2021 was £70,511. A large part of this was the church's contribution to the Common Fund. We also saw vastly increased costs for gas and electricity, something that is going to be an ongoing issue for us this winter. Our Common Fund contribution is £6,000 a month, £72,00 pa.

St Paul's is a registered charity and our Charity Registration Number is 1154 708

Total Income & Total Expenditure, (2012-2021)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Income	-	-	£104,923	£148,048	£110,625	£118,619	£119,184	£106,777	£64,484	£78,386
Expenditure	-	-	£121,298	£107,323	£99,483	£110,794	£108,085	£94,043	£53,311	£70,511

Giving & gift aid recovered, (2012-2021)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Planned giving	-	-	£16,310	£18,875	£19,595	£19,965	£19,725	£17,890	£17,987	£17,005
Collections at services	-	-	£12,471	£10,097	£11,738	£13,273	£12,155	£12,898	£5,487	£8,139
All other giving	-	-	£2,191	£4,120	£4,527	£2,588	£3,149	£873	£747	£1,094
Gift aid recovered	-	-	£10,170	£9,463	£8,194	£8,333	£8,205	£7,907	£8,541	£6,848

Unrestricted & restricted reserves, (2016-2021)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Unrestricted	£91,828	£0	£110,249	£122,083	£134,265	£141,226
Restricted	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0

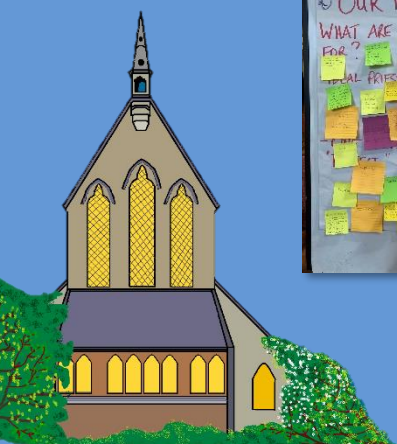


# Listening to the Parish



In a well-attended **Listening to the Parish** session, we asked our parishioners what they felt were the key priorities and aspirations for St. Paul's as well as our church's strengths and weaknesses, what they would like a new vicar to achieve, and how they saw the future of St Paul's. The responders included a number of individuals from the community who support the church but are not regular worshippers as well as congregation members. Where people could not attend in person, they sent in their comments via email.

The wordcloud above pulls out some of the key words used by the congregation when describing their ideal incumbent. The bigger the word, the more times it appeared on the feedback notes.



# Ambitions and Priorities

The most common aspiration of our parishioners was that they would like to grow the congregation, but as our Patron Rev'd Simon Brandes and Archdeacon Richard have reminded us; that would probably be the aim of every church in England! This however does not invalidate the aspiration; the key is how to achieve it.

This then links strongly to the second most stated priority, to see more young people and families in church. Again, this is a common theme in many parishes. It is certainly true that lots of families with young children did worship regularly at St Paul's but those children are now grown up, have gone to university and some have even had children of their own! So, it is a high priority for St. Paul's to start to attract a new generation of families who will then develop in their faith and commitment.

Some people said that they liked things the way they are and didn't want to change anything. However, this was well balanced by the people who said they were open to new ways of doing things and wanted a vicar who could "challenge their ideas" and stretch their thinking through preaching and in one-to-one conversations.

A great many people said it was very important that the new incumbent was tolerant and respectful of different faiths, beliefs, genders and ways of living. Ensuring that the church was an integral part of the local community was a priority for numerous parishioners, as was ensuring the continuation of our strong musical tradition.

## STRENGTHS

- **Core of committed churchgoers**
- **Inclusive, open-minded and friendly congregation**
- **Appeal to secular as well as religious parishioners**
- **Events which generate community spirit**
- **Music - in services, concerts and events**
- **Church space with excellent acoustic and facilities**

## WEAKNESSES

- **Lack of leadership - theological and motivational**
- **Aging congregation**
- **A building which could be used more**
- **Too few children**
- **More energy and vision required**



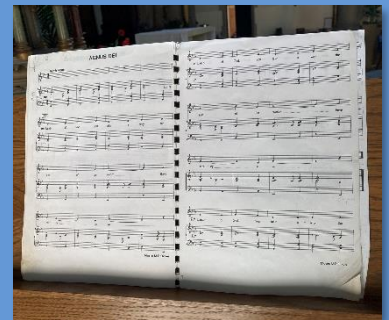


# Music at St Paul's



Music is a very important part of our worship, and indeed a huge part of who we are as a church. We have been fortunate to have a succession of excellent organists, and one of these, Mike Dixon (who was with us in the early 1990s) composed a modern setting for St Paul's of the *Gloria* and *Agnus Dei*, which we continue to sing every week. (Mike is a well-known conductor, composer and musical director as well a regular on BBC radio, and sometimes returns to St Paul's for special events!)

Our current organist Tom Torley joined us in 2020 as a graduate from the Royal College of Music, where he was awarded a scholarship to study both piano and tuba. His brass group and other friends sometimes play with us during services.

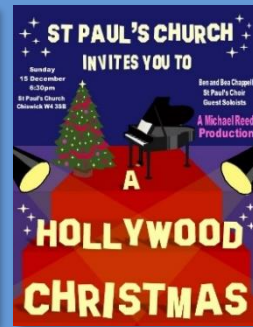
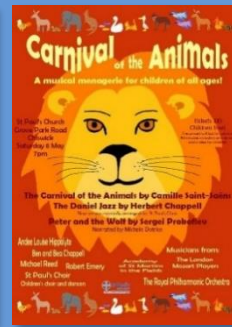
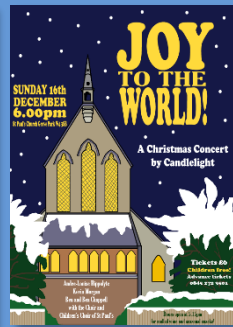
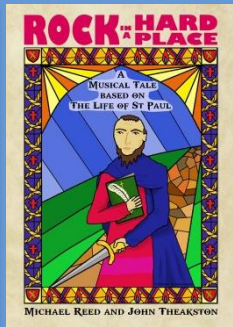
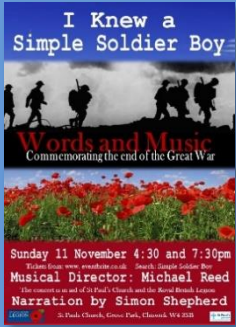


Our choir has 8-12 regular members but many more join us for concerts. We sing a couple of hymns during Communion and sometimes an anthem. We do not wear robes and rehearse fairly informally with Tom at 9:30am on Sundays, just before the 10am service. We very much enjoy working on special music for Christmas, Easter and other major services, as well as occasional Evensongs.



# Our Concerts

As well as being an important element of our worship, music is a vital element of our outreach into the wider community. We are well-known for our concerts, where professional musicians and West End stars frequently perform alongside the many talented members of our congregation! Some of our most notable musical events have been concerts to mark the anniversary of WWI, a new musical celebrating the life of St Paul, A Hollywood Christmas, the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and an evening showcasing 150 years of music in Chiswick.



No auditions are ever required to join the large choirs for our concerts and we have welcomed singers of all abilities from ages 4-90! Some events are full of razzmatazz and some are more low-key, but they are always great fun and a brilliant way to bring parishioners into the church!

A short clip of highlights from our most recent concert which gives a good flavour of what we're all about, can be viewed [on YouTube here](#).

The church has a superb acoustic and a concert grand piano, which means we are also popular as a rehearsal and performance venue for visiting orchestras and choirs, such as the Hounslow Symphony Orchestra, the Kew Sinfonia and the West London Chorus. This is something we are very keen to encourage and expand.

For many years we ran a series of free hour-long concerts every month entitled the Second Sunday concerts, which were well-attended and much loved by local audiences.

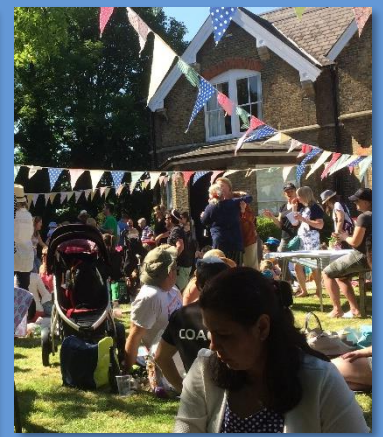


# Events and Fundraising

As well as our concerts, lots of other events play a large part in making St Paul's an intrinsic part of the social life of Grove Park. We have hosted numerous popular events over the years, many of them annually.

## These include:

- **January Quiz Night**
- **Bring and Buy Produce Sales**
- **Poetry Readings**
- **Sponsored Walks**
- **Garden Parties and Fêtes**
- **Grovestock: A Two-day Music Festival**
- **Fireworks Night**
- **Outdoor Theatre**
- **Talks from Visiting Speakers**



# 150 Festival

St Paul's was consecrated in June 1872, which makes us 150 years old! Between May and July 2022, we mounted a 6-week long festival to celebrate.

It was a hugely successful series of events, kicking off with a concert entitled *Hear the People Sing* involving over 100 performers and attended by over 600 people. It closed with a Comedy Night where six of Chiswick's finest young comedians entertained a large and enthusiastic audience over supper in a marquee. In between, we had commemorative services, a History Talk and Exhibition, four concerts from guest orchestras and singers, and a Flower Festival.

It was also an appropriate time to bid farewell to our retiring vicar, Rev'd Michael Riley.

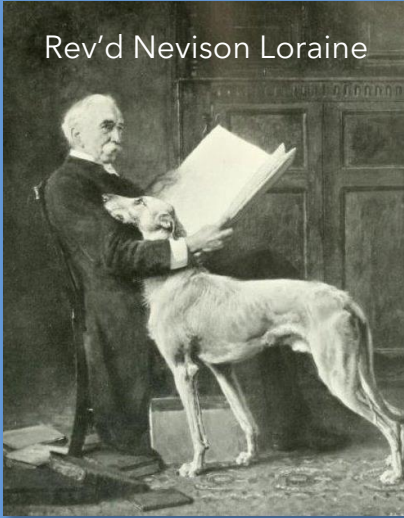


# Our History



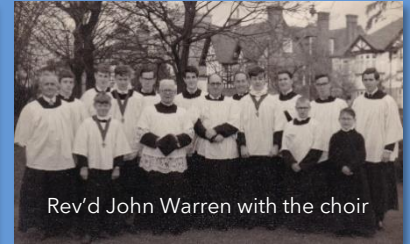
St Paul's was consecrated in 1872 thanks to the patronage of William Cavendish the 7th Duke of Devonshire, who in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, owned more than half the land in Chiswick. He founded the Grove Park estate, intended as a high-class residential area for wealthy merchants, which needed a church in order to become its own parish. The church was designed by the English architect Henry Currey and the *West London Observer* reported in 1872 that:

**"The new parish will be bounded on the North by the railway, and on the South by the line of the river Thames. As it has now in or near its centre an effective church and an able and earnest Pastor, we trust much good will result to the inhabitants of what we may now call the new Parish of St Paul's."**



Rev'd Nevison Loraine

The Vicars of St Paul's	
Rev'd Nevison Loraine	1870-1917
Rev'd A G C Stamp	1918-1927
Rev'd W J Simmons	1927-1940
Rev'd J E Scarlett	1940-1946
Rev'd John Warren	1947-1966
Rev'd M Grime	1966-1988
Rev'd Michael Riley	1989-2022



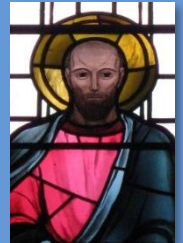
Rev'd John Warren with the choir



Rev'd Michael Riley



In 150 years, St Paul's has had just seven vicars. Some have stayed for a remarkably long time; our first vicar Rev'd Nevison Loraine was here for 47 years, and our most recent, Father Michael, was with us for 33.

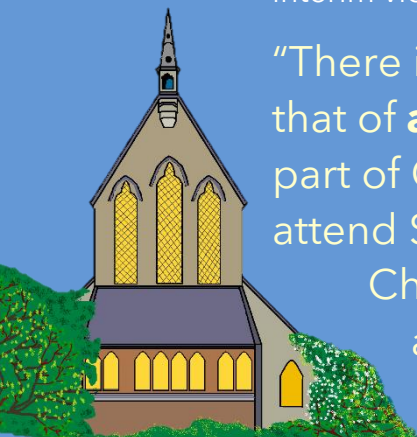


Chiswick suffered from heavy bomb damage during WWII and all the original Victorian windows were blown out in 1944. They were replaced with plain glass apart from those in the apse which were designed in the 1950s by artist Margaret E Aldrich Rope, depicting the figures of St Peter and St Paul and scenes from their lives.



In 1966, before the arrival of Rev'd Grime, the following comment was made by an interim vicar. His words about St Paul's still ring true today:

"There is in Grove Park a **real community feeling**, almost like that of **a village**. Being so secluded and cut off from the busy part of Chiswick gives **a feeling of compactness**. Those who attend St Paul's are the most **loyal and hard-working** band of Christians I have ever met ... their time and talents really are being used to the glory of God."



# Our People

## THE PCC

- Cassandra Barker (Churchwarden)
- Sara Hodson (Churchwarden)
- Cecilia Thwaites (Secretary and weekly e-newsletter)
- Simon Surtees (Licensed Lay Minister and Deanery Synod representative)
- Shelagh Allsop (Safeguarding officer, Sidesman)
- Catherine Jessop (Church website)
- Carolyn Ashford-Russell (Deanery Synod representative, Sidesman)
- Claire Carter
- Timothy Makower
- Cathy Morgan (Sidesman)

## OTHER KEY CHURCH PERSONNEL

- Jackie Rayer (Stewardship)
- Liz Abbott (Electoral roll)
- Sheila White (Sacristan)
- Sue Hearn (Pastoral and Poetry)
- Patricia Mann (Sidesman)
- Sam Hearn (Sidesman)
- Jane Theakston (Sidesman)
- Helen Glover (Crucifer)

The roll of Treasurer for St Paul's is currently a paid position, occupied by Sally-Ann Feldman of Brian Feldman & Associates.



# Our New Vicar

St Paul's is looking for a **godly and spiritual** man or woman, who will bring **energy, enthusiasm and an evident love of God** to their work with our congregation and community.

They will be someone who can **inspire others, demonstrate vision**, and who will be **able to plan** and to work with the PCC and wider church membership to anticipate **numerical growth within the congregation**.

The ability to **engage with families and younger people**, and to draw them into the worshipping life of the church will be a key aspect of ministry here in the coming years.

We are looking for someone who is **skilled in planning services**, preaching and presiding and thereby able to help create **a holy and inspiring environment** for those attending worship at St Paul's.

An appreciation and **an understanding of the creative use of music** in worship is also vital.

The new incumbent will recognise **the importance of both teaching and listening**. They will enjoy sharing the Holy Gospel in sermons and study groups, enabling others to develop in their understanding and faith, and to deepen their discipleship. The ability to **challenge and question** and to **respond and support** as our parishioners explore their faith, is essential.

**Communication is an underlying skill** which links all aspects of the vicar's role. You should be proficient in basic IT, as well as having some social media skills, and should **genuinely enjoy talking to people**.

Leading a parish also requires **skills in leadership, management, finance and administration**. Our new vicar will appreciate the need to care for the building, as well as the importance of **working with the people of the parish**, so that the church can **flourish and thrive**.

We would like to ensure that the many **talents and gifts of the congregation** are recognised, developed and fully utilized to the benefit of both St Paul's and **the wider Grove Park community**.

**Our new vicar will get strong support** from both the PCC and a core of loyal helpers. They will find **a welcoming congregation** who are **intellectually and spiritually curious**.



# In conclusion...

**We believe there is a lot of potential** here in Grove Park. It is a thriving neighbourhood with plenty of young families and a sociable population who are keen to help others and engage in local issues. St Paul's already has a strong presence in the community, partly due to our many events, and we are keen to build on that.

**We want an energetic communicator** who is both technologically and emotionally literate. Someone to lead us forward, who is compassionate of both young and old. We would appreciate a vicar with an imaginative and motivated approach, who will enjoy working in collaboration with both the PCC and the wider church community, in order to reach more of our parishioners.

**If you are an outgoing and empathetic person** who wants to create an environment which encourages people to come and join us in celebrating the Love of God; **we are looking for you and you might be looking for us.**



A packed church for one of our celebratory We Are 150 events this summer



Our patron Rev'd Simon Brandes with churchwarden Sara and regular congregant Alan



Jackie and John, two key members of St Paul's, with our Archdeacon, The Ven Richard Frank



You can find out lots more about us on our website  
[www.stpaulsgrovepark.com](http://www.stpaulsgrovepark.com)

