





### Contents

**One Parish-Two Churches** 

Mission Action Plan Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds

The Person we seek

St Michael and All Angels

St Paul's Roundshaw

One Parish-Two Churches
Two Houses

Parish of South Beddington and Roundshaw







### **One Parish-Two Churches**

# Michael & All Angels St Paul's

South Beddington and Roundshaw

t Michael & All Angels – a welcoming, friendly, inclusive, traditional anglocatholic church with vestments, servers, incense, a robed choir and a long-standing musical tradition. Located in Milton Road, the surrounding area is a surprisingly leafy part of London suburbia, in the South London diocese of Southwark, comprising mainly owner-occupied properties dating from the Edwardian period and the 1930s.

St Paul's – a modern/liberal catholic church, located in Mollison Drive, with a more relaxed and informal style of worship. Most of the congregation live on or close to the Roundshaw Estate which has been significantly regenerated and rebuilt since it was originally constructed in the 1960s.

With a Bishop's Mission Order in place, we also have a joint mission plan with Springfield Church who worship at St Paul's in a modern charismatic style.

Add to that a highly developed lay involvement, annual pantomimes at St Michael's, a large Scout Group, Bible Study Group, a foodbank, a Lunch Club and much else besides - we offer any new incumbent an exciting and varied parish.

And our Mission Statement? It's "Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds."







### **Mission Action Plan**

## **Open Doors**

- · Two very inclusive churches
- · Two equally welcoming church congregations
- · St Michael's Players
- · "Open Church"
- · Monday lunch club...

## **Open Hearts**

- Venue for the local foodbank
- Support for St Michael's, Kwekwe
- Roundshaw Community Network
- Christian Aid...

## **Open Minds**

- Bible studies
- Lent Courses
- Quiet days
- Springfield Church...





## The person we seek

We are looking to appoint a vicar for the parish who will:

- Support the Anglo-Catholic worship of both our churches and the musical tradition of St Michael's;
- Encourage our collaborative approach to lay team leadership;
- Nurture our work with children and young people;
- Help us develop our relationship with our local community and schools;
- Relish the challenge of working across a very diverse parish;
- Be a good communicator and listener; and
- Enjoy being our vicar.







# St Michael & All Angels

ur main Sunday service is a 10.30am Sung Eucharist. The first Sunday of every month incorporates a healing service within the 10.30am

Eucharist. Every Saturday there

is a said Eucharist. In addition we have Stations of the Cross during Lent, services nightly during Holy Week and evening Festival services as appropriate. Daily Office is said during the week; on Wednesday mornings that office takes place at St Paul's when we are joined by the clergy from Springfield Church. Choral

Evensong takes place on the third Sunday in every month. And once a month there is a service at Dymond House, a local authority residential and care home. But the narrative does not end there as there have always been Lent Courses, Bible Study Groups, Quiet Days and other similar activities.

On land originally part of the ancient parish of St Mary's Beddington, designed by

William Douglas Caröe and built in 1906/7, the building of St Michael's has been described as outstanding amongst Caröe's suburban churches.

It is described as "a good example of freely-

treated Gothic church building in the early years of the twentieth

century with both exterior and interior displaying subtleties of design" and is a Grade II listed building. But to the congregation it is seen as a warm, spacious, light building that itself draws in anyone visiting. With no fixed pews and a moveable nave altar the church provides a large

In 2020 much work was done externally, at high level, to ensure that the church remained water-tight. The next project,

space which can be easily

which is already at an advanced stage, is to repair the drains which, having endured over 100 years of silt, now require significant attention

reconfigured.

of silt, now require significant attention.

The church hall, now known as The Centre, is run by a husband-and-wife team who are leading stalwarts of the church. They lease The Centre from the church and operate it as a stand-alone business. But the church connection remains and







they ensure that The Centre is used by the church for various fund-raising events throughout the year as well as providing a base for the Scout Group. The Centre is used by several non-CofE church groups,

including one which meets on Sunday mornings.

#### St Michael's Choir - present

t Michael's has always had a strong musical tradition with a robed choir. The choir is a long-standing member of the RSCM. The mixed choir is made up of adults and children, all of whom are encouraged and trained by the Director of Music, Peter Reeve, to participate in the RSCM training programme "Voice for Life".

The choir rehearses every Thursday evening to prepare music for the Sunday services and upcoming Festivals. At the weekly sung Mass the choir leads the hymns and the settings of the Mass, sings the Psalm and provides an anthem during the communion. Additionally BCP Choral Evensong is celebrated monthly.

The choir has good links with other local adult choristers who often attend to swell the numbers at Evensong; one or two of our adult members equally also sing elsewhere. Prior to Covid the choir had sung Evensong most years in cathedrals outside the diocese.

#### St Michael's Choir - the future

As the choir grows, we will continue to develop the choral tradition. The Director of Music does sterling work to keep our rather elderly organ going but it will not go on for ever. A committee of church members has been working hard for some years to raise money towards the cost of a replacement







instrument. To date the church has raised £46,000.

The church has a good acoustic. We are working towards exploiting this good acoustic by making the building available as a resource for local groups to use for concerts or as a rehearsal space.

The congregation of St Michael's

adults and 7 U16s) the

congregation is an

people with many

teams led by the

laity looking after

functions such as

arranging, acting

as welcomers or

servers, readers,

sides people,

the flower

active group of

(the Average Sunday

Attendance is 43

ith 72 members on the Electoral Roll,

team of dedicated volunteers.

Visitors have often commented on how welcoming the church felt to them. We welcome everyone whatever their age, background, sexuality or relationship status and regardless of how much or how little faith they may have. We encourage everyone to have a real sense of mature freedom in which to develop a deeply dependent trust in God.

Conscious that the church should not be open just on Sunday mornings,

> another team of volunteers ensures that the church is

> > quiet reflection every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning. That same team kept the church open every day during the period of mourning following

the death of HM Queen Elizabeth.

open for prayer and

intercessors, manning the after-church coffee rota and so on. Cleaning and maintenance both of the church and of the grounds is also handled by a

Whilst lockdown intervened, the Pastoral Care Team is now being revived offering those who cannot attend church on





Sunday the option of home communion administered by a member of the laity. We also live-stream our Sunday services.

Looking after the finances we have both a Stewardship Team and a Finance Committee working across the parish as a whole.

The work of the latter committee is self-

fund stall, in good spirits

explanatory. The former is working towards a position where, in terms of the Parish Support Fund, we as a parish achieve selfsufficiency. Originally we had intended to reach that target by 2025. Covid threw those plans off course but our PSF pledge for 2023 is £62,700 as against the indicative total ministry costs for 2023, as stated by the diocese, of £83,500. So we are 75% of the way towards our self-

sufficiency target.

In the wider community, some members of



3<sup>rd</sup> Beddington(St Michael's) Scout Troop

> stablished over 60 years ago, the Scout Troop still maintains its close links to the church; the Troop Scout Leader and others who help him remain active members of the church congregation. And despite

the interruptions of Covid

and of the various lockdowns

the Troop has continued to grow. At the moment there are 12 in Squirrels (for those aged 4+), 26 in the Beaver Colony, 25 in the Cub Pack and 40 in the Scout Troop





meeting regularly
every Friday
evening. Camps
are happening
again now and the
annual Group Camp
in 2023 will involve not
only the Scouts and Cubs
sleeping over and the
Beavers experiencing a night

David leading assuting activities

Beavers experiencing a night Paul leading scouting activities away but also the Squirrels visiting for a day.

#### The challenges we face at St Michael's

and upwards. Not only

are the performances

all those attending, but

about £7,000 has been raised each year for the church

great fun for all involved,

and thoroughly enjoyed by

thriving Sunday School, held during the Sunday morning service, came to an abrupt halt with Covid and lockdown. Sadly it has not proven possible to revive it since,

itself.

although there are eight under-16 members of the choir. The major challenge we face as a church is

starting up our children and youth work again. Space, however, is a limiting factor – in the past the Sunday School has used the choir vestry but that space is now used, during the sermon, by the junior choir as a space for their RSCM training. We have therefore started to think about a mobile room behind The Centre to provide the necessary additional accommodation.

Another major challenge is building up our links with the local community.

The clergy conduct about eight funerals a year but in the last three years we have

#### St Michael's Players

rom small beginnings, with occasional shows in the church hall, St Michael's Players has grown into a hugely

popular group performing in the church itself every year. Having

in recent years put on performances of 'Aladdin', 'Dick Whittington' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk', St Michael's Players will be putting on nine performances of 'Sleeping Beauty' in January 2023 in St Michael's which will be transformed beyond all recognition from a church into a theatre. With a cast of 50 and about another 30 either backstage, working on

those involved range from 4 years of age

the costumes or front of house,



had just one wedding in the church. Whilst we host the local foodbank, the clergy go into the local schools and we have worked hard to increase our on-line presence, the church building itself is off the main road, behind a row of shops, and that physical separation from the community has proven very hard to bridge.

Add to those challenges the reality of a failing organ and drains which do not work and we cannot say that we are a church without our challenges. But we have a congregation who are alive to those challenges and who will always enthusiastically do what they can to overcome them. With the right incumbent in place, we and St Paul's are confident that we can continue to do the Lord's will in the parish for many generations to come.



Corpus Christi tradition at St Michael's

St Michael's Players, Jack and the beanstalk







## St Paul's Roundshaw



#### St Paul's Church, Roundshaw

The Paul's is the second church within the parish of South Beddington and Roundshaw. Currently services held at St Paul's include a more relaxed and informal Sunday 8.30 am Said Eucharist, attended by 13 / 14 people, as well as a Wednesday 10.30am Said Eucharist. During St Paul's annual patronal festival, the St Paul's congregation is joined by the worshippers of St Michael's for a joint Sung Eucharist service. Bible Studies and other courses are also held at St Paul's throughout the year.

Additionally, the building is utilised for the benefit of the local community with a Lunch Club for the over 55s on Mondays between 12 noon and 2 pm and 'Auntie Connie's Nursery' every weekday – with a holiday club outside of term-time. The latter of these is particularly useful for the community given the several primary schools within the parish and the

large number of children living on the Roundshaw estate. The estate also has a number of community rooms, including one on Vanguard Way which houses a drop-in lunch club, craft sessions and other activities connected to Springfield Church and the Roundshaw Community Network which is currently chaired by the curate of Springfield Church. The Phoenix Centre contains a library, fitness centre and leisure centre.

## The origins of St Paul's Church: a community approach to faith

St Paul's Church is nestled within the diverse Roundshaw community of 2,400 residences and around 4,500 residents. Built on the historic site of Croydon airport (remembered in the propeller-shaped cross on the outside east wall of the church) and situated amongst the estate's local shops, doctors' surgeries, and The Phoenix Centre, it is a congregation that grew up from a sense of neighbourliness. Indeed, the very first iteration of the church in the mid-1960s met in peoples' homes and it has continued to serve a very local purpose.





The first church building opened in 1981. This building was later redeveloped in 2003 and this second construction now forms the current church building. Within its walls the church has seen four different denominations worshipping and this ecumenical approach continues today, with the building being rented by Springfield Church, Zion Church, and the Seventh Day Adventists. These churches deliver their own services on site; Springfield worships at 10.30am on a Sunday as well as having other activities and Zion holds a Sunday afternoon service, whilst the Seventh Day Adventists worship from 2pm to 5pm on Saturdays.

Springfield and St Paul's - a working relationship

he leadership of Springfield Church, comprised of clergy, PCC and senior lay people, work in communion with St Paul's to complete their mission, in part through the Roundshaw Community Network, while respecting the St Paul's building they rent. There is a Bishop's Mission Order in place for

embedding Springfield within the parish, and so the curate of Springfield usually presides at St Paul's at the 8.30am Sunday service once a month. Springfield and St Paul's work together to engage children from the local Wallington Primary Academy school, delivering assemblies during term-time, Holy Week and Christmas.

Springfield Church ministers across
Wallington as a whole and for this purpose
has a house on Stanley Park Road for their
senior minister and a house on Vanguard
Way for their curate.

St Paul's congregation members after the 8:30am Eucharist









Worship in St Paul's, Springfiled congregation

East end of the new building, showing the famous propeller cross.







#### **One Parish-Two Churches**

#### Two Houses

Church, starting as a house church and then an ecumenical church, which was eventually absorbed into the Church of England as the other denominations dropped out, the parish found itself with two churches, two houses and four churchwardens. Nevertheless, for about the last fifteen years, the two churches have happily shared a single PCC and, whilst the two churches have their distinct congregations, the parish operates as one organisation, sharing its resources and working as a single whole. In 2022 the PCC registered itself with the Charity Commission under number 1197967.

The vicarage is next door to St Michael's in Milton Road. The other is in Waterer Rise and was formerly the vicarage for St Paul's dating back to the time when it had its own incumbent. Whilst the property in Waterer Rise is owned by the diocese and does not belong to the parish, it has from time to time been rented by the PCC as a curate's house.

Both properties have four bedrooms, a large kitchen, dining room and lounge, a spacious office, a large garden at the rear and other facilities. The property in Waterer Rise is in a very good state of repair but the vicarage in Milton Road will be the subject of some repairs and renovation during the vacancy, particularly to the lounge floor and the roof.



Above: Vicarage of St Michael's next door to St Michael's church

Below: Waterer Rise property, former vicarage of St Paul's







## The Parish of South Beddington & Roundshaw

#### Some facts about the parish

- Whilst located in the SE corner of the London Borough of Sutton, the parish still retains a close affinity to its Surrey postal address.
- The population is about 15,000 with roughly a third living on the Roundshaw estate.
- The housing stock is mixed, some close to St Michael's having been built in the late Victorian and Edwardian eras and being largely owner-occupied, whereas much of the original 1960s Roundshaw estate was rebuilt in the subsequent regeneration. The "Right to Buy" legislation has seen some homes on the Roundshaw estate pass into private ownership.
- There are a number of churches in the parish belonging to other denominations, the most obvious being St Elphege's RC church located on Stafford Road and more or less opposite St Michael's – the two are often confused.
- There are five primary schools in the parish and one boy's selective grammar school, Wilson's, which uses St Michael's for its Year 7 Founders' Day service. Across the borough there are several other single-sex grammar schools, both mixed and single-sex comprehensive schools and several special-needs schools.
- Most of the shops in the parish are to be found along Stafford Road offering a range of convenience stores, ethnic food shops, hairdressers,





dry cleaners, takeaways and restaurants alongside some more specialist shops, including an excellent florist regularly used by our team of flower arrangers. Most of Wallington's shops, however, are to be found in Woodcote Road between its junction with Stafford Road and the railway station. Sutton and Croydon, both about three miles away, offer larger town-centre facilities.

- ....but there is no public house in the parish!
- Transport links up to London are good, if not the fastest. Trains from Wallington / Waddon stations to London Bridge take approximately 25 minutes (which is convenient if you are going to Southwark Cathedral) whilst other trains service Victoria station. East Croydon station offers access to a wider rail network.



