

St Faith's and The Hub Church

Parish Profile





Welcome

This is a rare and inspiring opportunity to lead a church community that is both rooted in tradition and alive with innovation. The role spans two complementary expressions of church life: St. Faith's has stood as a beacon of prayer and tradition in Walsworth for over 130 years, and The Hub Church, which is a mission-shaped community passionate about reaching new people and exploring fresh ways of following Jesus.

In addition to seeking a joint leader, The Hub Church is seeking a permanent home at St Faith's as we believe God is calling us to a 'Mixed Ecology' - a partnership where liturgical depth and contemporary passion don't just coexist but sharpen one another.

The move to St Faith's opens up valuable space and opportunity for The Hub's mid-week gatherings and events, and both congregations are excited about the opportunity to connect with residents moving into the planned 700-home development within the Walsworth area of Hitchin.





St Faith's

We are a Broad/Anglican Church of England congregation with a strong sense of faithfulness, service, and belonging. We have recently navigated a shared arrangement with Holy Saviour and previously enjoyed a long (almost 50 years) Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) with local Methodists. Sadly, that arrangement ended in August last year after the last of our methodist congregation left for worship elsewhere. Today, we are hungry for stability and a regular Sunday Eucharist.

There are 44 people on our electoral roll, and on Sundays, we normally welcome around 35 adults and four or five children. Our demographic ranges from young parents to retirees. We are a loyal, welcoming community that deeply values the sanctity of our worship, our choral music, and the "beauty of holiness." To accommodate our new partnership with The Hub Church, our Sunday service is moving to 9:30 AM.

Our Church Life Today

Our congregation is rich in commitment. People care for one another, value worship, and want the church to flourish.

Our current life together includes

Leadership and Management: The PCC includes 2 Church Wardens, 1 x Lay Leader of Worship; the Treasurer, the Sacristan, a Safeguarding Officer and a Health and Safety Representative.

The small choir is lead by a choir master.


We are blessed with volunteers for cleaning rotas, coffee and flowers.

Finances

The financial commitments of the church for building maintenance, general running costs, parish share, etc. are supported by an active fundraising team with events.

Worship & Music

During the current vacancy, we rely upon visiting clergy for our Eucharist services, We hold Morning prayer on alternate weeks. Our small but dedicated choir supports all Sunday services. We gather for a peaceful session of Silent Prayer every Monday evening.



In Holy week, we have a special service for Palm Sunday, a service of Compline on Monday evening, Maundy Thursday Service, Good Friday Prayers before the Walk of Witness, Tenebrae – and the Service of Light.

Remembrance Sunday is important with Prayers at the War Memorial.

At Christmas we hold a Carols Service and on Christmas Eve, we have a Crib Service.

Mothers' Union & After Eights

Our Mothers' Union (formed in 1959) holds monthly meetings, usually preceded by a Corporate Communion. It has a varied annual programme ranging from the meditative to the informative, trip out and Christmas Dinner.

Mothers' Union is rooted in prayer, powered by love and led by faith. St Faith's Mothers' Union shows this by faith in action in the community and by supporting Diocesan, national and worldwide MU charities.

Our branch of Mothers' Union is one small part of a worldwide Christian organisation numbering over 4 million members in 84 countries, celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

Closely associated is "After Eights," which began as a Young Wives group in 1958 and is now open to all for fun, friendship, and fellowship, featuring guest speakers and social activities.

Community Roots & Hospitality

We are a familiar face in Hitchin, hosting stalls at the Hitchin Market, participating in the annual Walsworth Festival, and holding popular Summer and Christmas Fayres. We also host a monthly Coffee Morning for neighbours and newcomers.

Book Club

Originally started at Hitchin Girls School, this thriving group of like-minded book lovers recently relocated to St. Faith's, meeting every 4 to 6 weeks.

Looking Ahead: We are currently working to relaunch "Small Talk" for parents and carers of under-5s on Thursday mornings and look forward to welcoming local families back into our hall very soon.





Challenges & Opportunities

We do not see ourselves as a church in decline, but as a parish with genuine potential. However, we recognise that honest challenges and genuine opportunities often sit side by side.

Our Challenges

An ageing core congregation and the resulting pastoral demands.
Limited volunteer capacity, with a small number of people carrying many tasks.
Building our confidence in outreach, invitation, and visibility to connect with those who do not currently engage with church life.

Our Opportunities

Capitalising on the growing population from the 700 new homes at Highover Farm.
Developing ministries that connect different generations over time.
Building a culture that is both pastorally caring and gently evangelistic, shaping the next chapter of parish life with realism and hope.







The Hub Church

The Hub Church is a growing community in Hitchin focused on being “a safe place to explore faith, grow as family, and follow Jesus.” We serve a diverse group – from people new to church to those committed to Christian discipleship.

We want to be a community that truly lives life together, and therefore our values are central to all that we do:

Be Social - we know that human beings need connection to survive and thrive. We also believe that church is something we are and not just a place we go to. So spending time with each other, hanging out and getting to know one another is vital.

Embrace mess - Life is messy, chaotic and often unpredictable. But we believe church should be a place where you can come as you are, no matter how you're feeling or experiences you've had. While we don't want to create mess, we do want to embrace it.

Create debate - This world would be very boring if we were all the same. We learn from each other and church should be a place where we can disagree well and talk about tough topics. This means that creating a space where we can debate is part of who we are.

Challenge injustice - We believe that each person has incredible value and should be treated that way. We want to be a community that notices and stands up against situations that are unjust, whether that is local or on a global scale. There is always something we can be doing.

Become disciples - Following Jesus is our number one priority. This is what it means to be a Christian and why we exist as a community together. We believe that when we follow Jesus we get to experience life in its fullness.

We all come with different experiences and backgrounds and we want to celebrate the diversity of God's people. This means that everyone is of equal value and importance at the Hub, no matter what age, gender, ability, ethnicity or sexuality. Whether you're single, married, single again, with or without children – and no matter where you've been or what you've done in your life – we extend a welcome and we're part of the Single Friendly Church Network.

Sundays

Sunday mornings

A space for people of all ages to hang out. We run activities for children and young people, space for adults to explore faith and a chance to meet new people. Sung worship is led by a band each week drawn from the Hub's worship team.

Sunday evenings

Sunday evening is mainly attended by young adults, and is all about hanging out together, making space to meet with God and discussion. We then head to the pub together. As we move the community to St Faith's there is a strategic opportunity to refresh and re-think our mission here.





In the week

At The Hub, we believe that church doesn't just happen on a Sunday. Here is what we do live out our vision - to truly become a family of disciples rather than just Sunday consumers:

MiniHubs

Our small groups - MiniHubs - are the engine room of our community. These are intentional spaces where we share life, seek God, and grow deep in faith. Over the years, MiniHubs have done everything from deep-dive Bible studies and running Christian courses, to watching films about faith or simply gathering to pray. It is in these living rooms that we get to create debate, ask the big questions, and authentically embrace the mess of real life together.

Socials

Being social is one of our values - we love to host fun, low-pressure gatherings. Whether it's going for a run, bouldering, or catching up over coffee and craft - these are easy spaces to build friendships, have a laugh, and warmly welcome everyone into our church community.

Alpha

We run a termly Alpha course currently running in a local pub led by a small team of volunteers. Alpha has been at the heart of the Hub from the beginning.

HubFest

HubFest is our annual church weekend away, which is the highlight of our calendar. We believe there is something profound about stepping away from the noise of everyday life to be community together and share life in the field intentionally. It is the place to make space for the Holy Spirit and accelerate our friendships.

Running through all of these is a deep commitment to mixing and sharing lives. We purposefully bring together people of all ages, backgrounds, and stages of faith, intentionally mixing our morning and evening congregations. Because true discipleship thrives in diversity - we learn from each other, challenge one another, gain wisdom we simply couldn't find on our own, and get to see a much fuller, more beautiful picture of God's family.



Children and Youth

Children and young people are a vital and growing part of the life of The Hub Church Hitchin (representing over 50% of attendance in the Sunday morning service).

We want to be a church where children and teenagers feel known, valued, and able to explore faith for themselves, not simply observers of adult church. For example, members of the youth group will frequently play as part of the worship band on Sunday mornings and join in with socials during the week. We also host missional activities for children and families, such as Christmas and Easter trails.

We are currently recruiting for a Children's, Youth and Families Worker role to further support and grow this ministry.

Youth ministry

Year 6 upwards - currently this is a group of around 15 young people who meet regularly during the Sunday morning service, between year 6 and year 10.

Children's ministry

On Sunday mornings children are encouraged to be part of the church family, beginning together in the main gathering before moving into age-appropriate groups (we have in the past run 1 group for reception - year 2 and 1 group for year 3 - year 5, although we currently just have one group due to room constraints in the building we use).

These sessions combine storytelling, games, discussion and creative activities to help children engage with the Bible and develop their understanding of God's love in ways that are meaningful for their stage of life.

We are excited by the opportunity to further develop this ministry by building stronger links with families in the community (particularly given the large new housing estate near St Faith's Church premises), creating more opportunities for children and young people to explore faith, and supporting and growing our volunteer base.

The Hub Church



Football

Bridge the Gap Herts

Every Tuesday evening we run an open-play, mixed ability, football session for adult men at The Arena, Baldock called Bridge the Gap Herts - partnering with the national charity Bridge the Gap.

It's an hour of fast, fun small-sided football with an atmosphere of encouragement and inclusivity. We encourage conversations about football to evolve into conversations about mental health and faith through the friendships built on and off the pitch. We've seen men join us on Alpha and church and we seek to see more of this as the community grows.

Hub Church FC

We are currently finalising the acquisition of a Sunday League team in the Hitchin Sunday Football League, a large FA three division league in the surrounding area, at present called All Saints United. From the 26/27 season this team will be called Hub Church Football Club and will continue playing in the Hitchin Sunday Football League. The club is fully FA Affiliated (Registered) and is working towards Accreditation as part of the renaming.

The whole team currently joins us on a Sunday morning for prayer before home games and next season the club will be chaired by the current Assistant Pastor supported by a volunteer committee and the church treasurer. This is a fantastic opportunity to reach the wider community and be present in a different space.





Finances

The Hub Church is currently financially stable. Our finances are governed and overseen by the trustees, ensuring appropriate accountability and transparency. Regular reporting and prudent budgeting support the ongoing life and mission of the church. We hold an annual AGM where we present a summary and analysis of the church finances.

The congregation contributes generously through regular giving, enabling us to support our ministry and work within the community. It is always an aim to be responsible with our resources so that the church remains sustainable and able to grow its mission.

The Team

The Hub is a bishop's mission order, and is powered by an incredible community of volunteers and staff. Whether it's the team stacking chairs on a Sunday morning or the creative hearts singing worship songs - we are one team with one vision to see lives and communities transformed by Jesus.

The Staff Team

Looks after the day-to-day life of our church family, ensuring everything at the Hub runs smoothly.

We currently employ an Assistant Pastor (two days a week) who leads the staff and volunteer teams, provides oversight of our operations and assists in the pastoral, missional and liturgical life of the Church.

They are currently supported by a volunteer administrator (one day a week) and an ordinand (shared with St Mary's Hitchin)

Volunteers

From worship, children's and youth work, setup and welcome, to outreach, socials and football, our volunteers aren't just "managing" tasks; they are encouraging and cheering everyone who calls the Hub home.

Safeguarding

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is a vital part of our life together, overseeing recruitment and providing support to ensure every person is protected and valued.



Key Purpose of the Role

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We are not looking for someone to do everything alone. We seek a collaborative leader to affirm lay ministry, draw out the gifts of others, lead us faithfully and help both Churches' grow and flourish 'as we seek to represent two traditions under one roof'.

The leader will need to provide spiritual, pastoral, and organisational leadership providing guidance in fulfilling the churches visions, missions, and values in Hitchin.

We are praying for someone with the following experience and skills:

- Ordained minister with the Church of England or Anglican tradition.
- Leadership experience (either within ordained ministry or elsewhere)
- Proven track record of commitment to and delivery of church growth.
- Understanding of and commitment to safeguarding principles.

The leader will be part of the Hitchin Team Ministry which comprises several churches: St Mary's (the ancient parish church in Hitchin), St Mark's (Hitchin), St Faith's (Hitchin), Holy Saviour (Hitchin), The Hub Church (Hitchin), St Martin's (Preston) and All Saints' (St Paul's Walden). The leader will be supported and encouraged by the wider team.



Core Responsibilities

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Strategic Leadership and Vision

- Articulate, uphold and embody both churches' visions and values in all aspects of ministry.
- Work collaboratively with the PCC, trustees, staff team, volunteers and leadership groups in discerning the vision and shaping the future of the parish.
- Lead and mentor the staff team, volunteers and leadership groups.
- Sensitive in leading change e.g. knowing how to honour St Faith's past while helping the church move forward.

Worship and Teaching

- Comfortable inhabiting and providing direction for both traditions and worship contexts — wearing a cassock leading a dignified Eucharist and also leading alongside a contemporary worship band.
- Preach and teach regularly in Sunday gatherings and other teaching environments.
- Inspire and develop others to lead worship, teaching and community gatherings.
- Willing to reinstate a midweek Holy Communion service.


Community Building & Mission

- Identify opportunities for mission to grow the church.
- Encourage deep relationships within the church through small groups, socials and community activities.
- Able to build relationships across the wider parish, confidently welcoming new residents from local housing developments.
- Support and grow initiatives such as Alpha, football outreach and other contextual mission activities.
- Committed to collaborating with others to develop a flourishing children and youth ministry within reach of every young person.
- Build positive relationships with local schools.

Pastoral Care and Liturgical Presence

- Provide pastoral leadership across the parish, offering care and encouragement to the congregation, volunteers and wider community.
- Offer steady leadership to our older, faithful congregation.
- Take home communion to the sick and housebound.
- Build a culture where care, prayer, discipleship and spiritual growth are prioritised.

Core Responsibilities



Team Development

- Recruit, train and inspire volunteers and team leaders.
- Foster a collaborative environment that encourages growth, leadership development and shared responsibility.
- Ability to empower others by recognising, encouraging and developing the gifts and confidence of lay people across the life of the church.

Governance, Stewardship and Administration

- Model and teach good stewardship of time, money and energy, encouraging the church community to use its resources faithfully in support of worship, discipleship and mission.
- Work collaboratively with St Faith's Church PCC, The Hub Church Trustees and leadership teams in overseeing the parish's responsibilities for buildings, finances and governance.
- Organised and reliable in parish administration, ensuring that systems and processes support the smooth running of church life.
- Able to prioritise effectively and manage a varied workload, balancing pastoral care, worship, leadership and strategic responsibilities with good time management.
- Comfortable using digital tools and communication platforms to support ministry, administration and engagement across the church community.
- Strong listening and communication skills, able to communicate clearly and pastorally in person and in writing, and to respond appropriately and in a timely manner.

Safeguarding & Compliance

- Ensure safeguarding best practice is implemented and followed across all church activities.
- Work with the safeguarding team and trustees to maintain safe church environments.
- Understanding of and commitment to safeguarding principles.

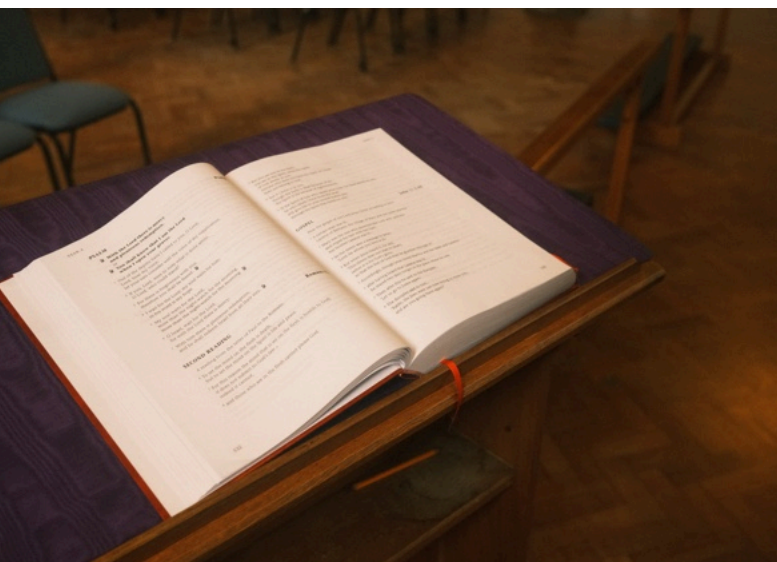
Person Specification



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Key Behaviours

- A committed Christian, with a strong personal faith and deep biblical knowledge, who models Christlike character and spiritual maturity.
- Prayerful, grounded in scripture and at home in the broad Anglican tradition.
- A strong communicator who has a passion to preach clearly, teaches faithfully and connects easily with people from all backgrounds.
- Passionate for people, caring, informal, authentic, inclusive, genuine and compassionate and approachable, able to connect with people from different age groups and backgrounds, especially young non-Christians.
- Visionary leader with the ability to inspire and mobilise others.
- A team player with humility who will "appreciate the value of everybody" and the contributions of volunteers. A motivator and encourager.
- Track record of relational leadership that builds trust, demonstrates emotional intelligence and brings people with you when discerning vision and leading change.
- Creative around opportunities for mission and growth
- Capability to lead teams and foster volunteer engagement.
- Equipped with the emotional intelligence, resilience and humour to navigate tensions, such as the practical realities of two traditions sharing one building.



Welcome to Hitchin

Hitchin: A Market Town with a Modern Soul

Regularly voted one of the "Best Places to Live" in the UK (by The Sunday Times and Muddy Stilettos), Hitchin is a historic market town that feels both deeply traditional and incredibly trendy. It is famous for its narrow medieval streets, independent boutiques, and a vibrant café culture.

Hitchin provides excellent transport links including proximity to the M1, A1(M) and direct rail connections to several London stations including London Kings Cross, providing access for commuters and visitors.

Local schools

The area is served by a range of high-quality primary and secondary schools, including several rated Outstanding or Good by Ofsted.





The Parish: Walsworth

Walsworth offers the attraction of a parish with a small-town feel, while also being part of the wider Hitchin community. It is a lovely area in which to live and minister.

Our Boundaries

The parish is bounded to the South by the main London to Edinburgh railway line and to the West by the Hitchin to Cambridge railway line.

Our Neighbourhoods

St. Faith's covers the old village of Walsworth, Highover and Purwell Estates, Rose Hill Estate, and St. Michael's Estate (known locally as the Poets Estate).

Community Growth

Walsworth is changing rapidly. A new estate of up to 700 houses is currently under development at the former Highover Farm.

Local Infrastructure

The parish is home to three primary schools (Highover, Purwell, and Mary Exton) and a campus of North Herts College. We have two community centres (Walsworth and St. Michaels), a large playing field (Walsworth Common), and a beautiful nature reserve (Purwell Meadows).

Youth Support

In nearby Hitchin, we benefit from the presence of Phase, a small charity with a big heart dedicated to working alongside youth and supporting them through the challenges of growing up and school life.

For a priest who values both pastoral presence and local mission, this setting offers the best of both worlds: an established community where relationships matter, alongside a changing population that brings significant scope for outreach.

The Vicarage



The Vicarage is a well situated four bedroom house in the parish set next to the large playing fields of Walsworth Common. It has just undergone work following the quinquennial inspection and is a couple of minutes walk from St Faith's and 20 minutes walk from the Market Square of Hitchin.

There are local amenities within walking distance including Sainsburys Local, two pubs and Hitchin station along with primary and secondary schools within easy reach.

