

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Chaldon



Parish Profile

OUR VISION

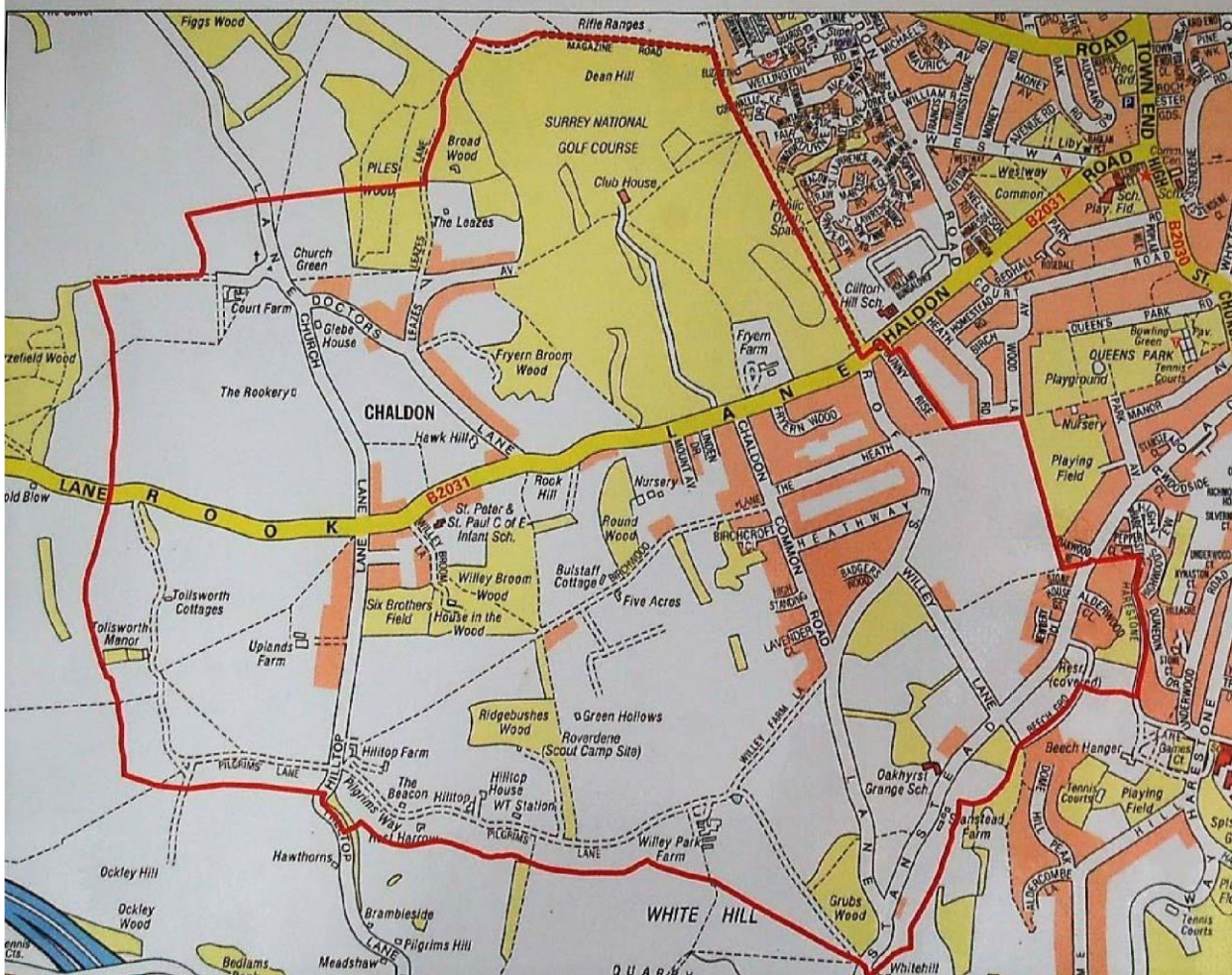
St Peter & St Paul's strives to be an outward looking, hospitable and inclusive church, making the most of the skills and talents of our people and the gift of God's house in this place. We seek to achieve our aims by aspiring to the Five Marks of Mission.

OUR PRIORITIES

- To continue developing an outward looking approach, engaging with the local and wider communities and reaching out to those in need, whilst nurturing our church community across the generations.
- To maintain focus on caring for God's acre and working toward the Eco Church Gold Award
- To move forward with our interior re-ordering project and develop use of our church and parish room so that our building is a living thing, utilised by a wider range of people for a variety of purposes, be they religious, social, cultural or for reasons of historical interest. Being mindful of the significance of our ancient building and the importance of preserving it for future generations whilst making best use of it to fulfil our Christian mission.
- To continue focus on increased regular giving and fostering wider participation and responsibility, whilst recognising the competing pressures of daily life.
- To maintain and support our strong tradition of choral music.

THE PARISH

Chaldon is a Surrey village community of approximately 1800 people. It covers an area of 1.82 miles, the major part of which lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt. Chaldon is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty close to the North Downs and the Pilgrims Way.



The village is a social mix of professional, semi-professional and self-employed residents, 93% of whom describe themselves as white British. Unemployment is low and there is no obvious deprivation. Age groupings are roughly split 20% under 18, 55% 18-64 and 25% over 65.

Ours is the only church in the village. There is also a Church of England (SDBE) Primary School (reception - year 6), a Pre-School, a golf club, a cricket field and a village hall run by a community trust. Children join uniformed organisations such as scouts and guides. 'The Harrow' pub lies on the edge of the village and the church

sings carols there at Christmas. Glebe House Nursing Home is close to the church and strong relationships have been built with residents and staff.

Although there is no obvious centre to the village, the Church, the village hall, the school and the local pub bring points of focus.



Palm Sunday Procession

SOME KEY PEOPLE

The vicar of Chaldon Church is Rev. Helen Burnett and under her leadership our church community continues to flourish. There has been a close working relationship with the previous vicar of St Luke's Whyteleafe and with Rev. Sara Goatcher, Retired Priest with Permission to Officiate, who currently supports both parishes.

Lay people take an active part in various aspects of church life both in the day-to-day management and in worship including, lesson reading, leading intercessions, singing, serving and administering the chalice.

Fiona Tarrant and Lorraine Elliott are our Churchwardens. Derek Carter is our PCC Secretary and Alison Pannett is Parish Treasurer and Administrator to both Chaldon and Whyteleafe churches. In addition, we rely on a dedicated group of volunteers to maintain the life of our church in many different ways.

OUR CONGREGATION

We recognise that although our congregation includes a good number of young families and older members, we do tend to lose older children to other activities. We see a significant increase in attendance for festivals and special services and so thought and work needs to be given to how we capitalise on this.

Among the congregation we have a number of energetic and committed members forming a core of volunteers responsible for the daily life and running of the church. Many of them are now older and we are seeking ways to encourage younger members to become more involved and share in responsibility.

WORSHIP

St Peter & St Paul's style of worship is within the Liberal Catholic tradition with Eucharistic liturgy at its heart.

Services are adapted for seasonal celebrations, special occasions and we hold twice monthly outdoor service. Participation of clergy and laity together across all age groups is positively encouraged.

Our worship is supported by a strong musical tradition with our choir playing an important part. We are supported by a gifted young organist.



A place for prayer

Bible Study and Courses

These are offered every year during Lent and Advent and at other times when appropriate, we often run these as a group of churches.

Pilgrimage

The church has developed a strong practise of pilgrimage and an annual pilgrimage has taken place for the last 7 years. There is a group of 22 regular walkers who also meet at other times across the year and for the annual week long pilgrimage in aid of Christian Aid. The group has also facilitated short and long pilgrimages for the Diocese.

Service	Time	Frequency
Sung Eucharist or Service of the Word (Either indoors or outdoors)	10.30am	1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sunday in month
Choral Matins (1662)	10.30am	4th Sunday in month
Eucharist (1662)	8am	Every Sunday
Said Eucharist	10.30am	Every Thursday

STATISTICS

Number on electoral roll: 78

Average number at Sunday Services: 55

Average number at Thursday Services: 12

Occasional Offices 2024

Weddings: 0

Funerals: 4

Baptisms: 7

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S SCHOOL

St Peter & St Paul's church has a strong relationship with the village Church of England Infant School. Our vicar conducts weekly collective worship at the school and supports the RE teaching. The vicar is a member of the governing body. The school participates in some special services in church.

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES



Glebe House Visiting

This nursing home is close to the church. Very positive and rewarding relationships have been built with residents and staff, led by our vicar Rev. Helen Burnett members of the congregation and herself are able to offer weekly visits

Nightwatch

A group is regularly involved in the work of Nightwatch Croydon, preparing and distributing food to the homeless community in Croydon town centre. Our Harvest collection of gifts also goes to Nightwatch.

Eco Church / Busy Bees

We take caring for the environment very seriously. Chaldon Church has achieved the A Rocha Eco Church silver award and is working towards the gold award. Our Busy Bees group meets to care for our beautiful churchyard, working to make it the best environment possible for flora and fauna to flourish. Advice has been taken from Surrey Wildlife Trust and a new hedge has been laid by volunteers to create a wildlife corridor.

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Butterflies

This group for children meets in the parish room every first Sunday. Activities and teaching follow the theme of the main service.

Mossy Church

Encouraging children and families to love and care for God's beautiful earth as part of their worship. 'Mossy Church' a form of Forest Church, meets outside on the 4th Sunday of each month when Matins is held in church.

Church Family Camp

Church families camp together on the last weekend of the summer holidays building friendships and community.

Servers

Children over the age of 8 are invited to train as servers for our indoor Eucharists.



Admission to Communion and Confirmation

At the end of Yr 2 children are invited to attend Admission to Communion sessions leading to their first communion received in July. Teenage and adult confirmation is offered.

Choir

We have a small but dedicated group of singers led by Rosalie Taylor. They have maintained the strong choral tradition of our church for many years and play an important part in the liturgy. However, more singers are required in all parts in order that this may continue into the future. Our organist, Daniel Pengelly is studying at Guildhall School of Music

Sunday Teas

Tea and cakes are served by volunteers on Sunday afternoons throughout British Summer Time. We welcome a variety of visitors including large groups of walkers and many repeat visitors. This activity is an enjoyable way of engaging with others whilst generating a useful source of income.

Friends of Chaldon Church

The inaugural meeting of the FCC was held in December 2015. The charity was set up to take a wider and more strategic approach to fundraising for the fabric of the church. There is an increasing cost for the maintenance of this 1000 year old building. The Friends have proved to be an extremely committed group, arranging a packed programme of successful fundraising events, including quiz nights, musical and poetry events, talks on various aspects of Chaldon history and bat watches. They have recently paid for an assessment of the current condition of the great medieval mural and have agreed to contribute a significant sum of money to the cost of the current survey of the fabric of the church.

OUR BUILDING

The present church of St Peter & St Paul was built in the late 10th or early 11th century and has features of a Saxon building. There is a belief that the church was preceded by a wooden Saxon building on the land of the Saxon Manor recorded in

the Charter of Fritheswald between 674 and 693 AD. A possible reason for such an early church on this site may have been the course of the Pilgrim's Way along the North Downs.

The fame of the church is centred on the great tempera painting of heaven and hell on the west wall which has been dated with reasonable certainty to around 1170AD. The painting was covered with a lime wash during the Reformation and was not

rediscovered until 1870. It is the largest picture of its type in Northern Europe and represents the salvation of the human soul and the difficult path to heaven which is only achieved after a virtuous life. The whole picture which is based on stories in medieval literature attracts visitors, including many scholars, from many parts of the world and it is also illustrated in many travel and academic texts.

The church is included in "England's Thousand Best Churches" by Simon Jenkins (1999) and features in both 'Britain's Holiest Places' and 'Britain's Pilgrim Places' by Nick Mayhew-Smith. Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers is open to visitors daily.

In January 2012 a new parish room with kitchen and toilet facilities was dedicated by the Bishop of Southwark. This addition presented us with new opportunities which we continue to develop.

FABRIC

The last Quinquennial Inspection was in 2024 during which year major exterior works were carried out, repointing and repairing as necessary so that the exterior of our Grade 1 listed building is now in excellent condition. With our architect we are working through the planning stages for re-ordering and repair of the interior of the building, with the aim of making it a more flexible and comfortable space. In connection with this we have formed grants and fund-raising committees.

FINANCE

As at 31st December 2024 the church held net assets of £ 124000 of which £95000 was restricted in relation to building works. We are up to date with our contributions to the Parish Support Fund and over recent years our contribution has increased. Regular giving is steady but we continue stay work on increasing our number of regular givers.

LINKS TO OTHER CHURCHES

St Luke's Whyteleafe

Our closest relationship is with St Luke's with whom we share members of clergy. Members of the congregations occasionally enjoy shared social and educational events.

Caterham Group Ministry

St Peter & St Paul's is part of the Caterham Group Ministry, which includes the parishes of Whyteleafe, Caterham, Caterham Valley and Woldingham.

Deanery

St Peter & St Paul's is part of the Tandridge Deanery covering an area which includes the most rural parts of the Southwark Diocese as well as suburban commuter areas around Croydon.

Caterham Churches Together

Caterham Churches Together includes leadership representatives from Anglican, Catholic, United Reformed, Methodist, Whyteleafe Free and Caterham Community churches. The group is currently chaired by Rev. Helen Burnett. Morning prayer is held Wednesday weekly and is hosted in turn by each denomination. The group has developed a strong core for co-operating on local initiatives and relations between leaders and congregations provide hope for unity and shared mission to our community.

OUR STRENGTHS

- We aim to be a welcoming, hospitable and inclusive church (the church belongs to Inclusive Church)
- Our church life and worship is enhanced greatly by our dedicated, energetic and creative members of clergy and by the significant musical contribution of our talented choir and organist.
- We have a committed group of volunteers contributing in so many ways to the daily life of our church.
- Our 1000 year old building is of huge local and national significance which brings visitors from far and wide, including many from overseas.
- Outside the church strong relationships have been built with our village school and with the nearby nursing home. There are ongoing initiatives to encourage the generations to come together.

OUR CHALLENGES

- As we look to the future, we will need to engage more of the Church membership to become involved in the work of the church so that we can spread the load and widen participation.
- Our congregation includes a good number of young families, and our challenge is to engage them in the work of the church and continue engaging them when children have moved on from infant school.
- We need to make the most of our buildings and the talents of our people to reach out and engage with the wider community and this may include a specific plan to enhance our mission as a pilgrim centre.
- Our ancient church building is both a blessing and a challenge. It will take a great deal of planning, energy and determination to raise finance and manage our interior reordering project which has been submitted to the DAC and will

require extra time and energy whilst maintaining the ongoing life of the church.

- Our choir makes an important contribution to our worship. Thought and work is required to ensure our musical tradition can be maintained and grow into the future.