

St Saviour's Raynes Park Parish Profile



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Introduction

St Saviour's, Raynes Park is in the Southwest London Borough of Merton, located close to the A3 road, with easy links to the M3 and M25, and served by commuter bus routes, frequent city trains at Raynes Park and Wimbledon, and tram connections from Wimbledon to the southeast.

Our Vision is to be a place where all are welcome and lives are enriched.

Our Mission is to be a vibrant, inclusive, and prayerful community, rooted in the sacramental life of the Church and committed to serving our parish and beyond. We aim to engage with our community including families, support the elderly, and foster spiritual growth through worship, fellowship, and outreach.

Our full Mission Statement is on our website (<https://www.stsaviour.net>: About Us / Mission Statement) as is our 5 Year Mission Action Plan

Worship and Community

According to the Diocesan Parish profile the population of the St Saviour's Parish was about 10,000 in 2021, though this figure will have increased following significant house building on local green spaces.

Our worshipping community is ageing, and a major challenge is the need to attract new and younger members. Our recent efforts to attract younger families have resulted in four now attending and actively participating, though we are at risk of losing them because they move away for various reasons.

We have 42 souls on our Electoral Roll, and during 2025 we had 3 baptisms and 3 church funerals.

Our worshipping community averages 30 attendees each Sunday, with a diverse age range and a welcoming ethos. Quite a number of our congregation live a distance from the parish, so it reflects positively that they are willing to travel to attend our services. We have good links to the surrounding community, but have not yet converted these into new congregation. In common with many other churches, attendance has not fully returned to pre-pandemic levels.



Our Sunday Eucharist Service at 10am follows the Common Worship Lectionary, and music is supported by our historic William Hill organ and three regular organists. We are mainstream Anglican tradition, valuing the Eucharist and dignified liturgy, but no longer using incense or Stations of the Cross as when we were Forward in Faith (1998-2015).

Our key weaknesses are that we do not have a parish primary school, and over half our congregation live outside the parish and

so struggle to support our events, and ageing members, some with limited mobility with little appetite for Fellowship/Christian Study groups that we would love to initiate. To support our Pastoral Care during our current vacancy, we have created an internal directory of contact details and a WhatsApp group as addressed in our Mission Action Plan.

We would like our church to be more active, not just on Sundays, so we are looking for a dynamic, energetic, motivated and pro-active priest that can inspire us, whilst delegating and empowering lay people. Hopefully, together we can fulfil the opportunity that our beautiful church, in a high density residential area, with a dedicated lay team, presents for a strong Christian community that serves its wider community.

Facilities



St Saviour's offers a light, spacious, and accessible building with flexible seating, a sound system with hearing loop, and Zoom streaming capabilities.

Alongside the main church, our Lady Chapel seats up to 60, ideal for smaller services, Sunday School, and private prayer. It is also used regularly by a junior Drama group and for guitar recitals.

Our church hall, which has disability ramps, one disabled toilet as well as two unisex toilets, hosts many local community events and serves as a local polling station. We also benefit from well maintained grounds with a large grassed area and parking space for several vehicles.

Our office, vestry and sacristy are less accessible, with steps to negotiate.

The vicarage, located opposite the church, is a four-bedroom detached house that is currently vacant.

Environmental Commitment

St Saviour's is committed to caring for God's creation by working towards carbon neutrality. We aim to reduce our environmental impact through sustainable practices in our worship, buildings, and community activities. This includes improving energy efficiency, minimising waste, and encouraging our congregation to adopt environmentally responsible habits. Our goal is to ensure that our parish life reflects our responsibility as stewards of the earth. We have just been granted £9K for LED lighting in the church and a more efficient heating timer. We are also initiating a feasibility study to examine eco-friendly replacement of our ageing heating systems and the addition of solar panels on our large south-facing roof.

Our Next Priest

We seek a priest who is caring, grounded in the sacramental life, and able to inspire and engage the congregation. Key qualities sought are:

- A vibrant faith with the ability to communicate the Gospel clearly and relevantly, and to teach and inspire others to grow spiritually.
- Empathy, humility and a desire to serve the congregation and the wider community.

- A dynamic, energetic, motivated and pro-active leader, willing to delegate and empower lay people.
- The capacity and ability to grow the church, develop a vision for the future and fundamentally increase church attendance.
- A desire to develop ministry among children, youth, and young families.
- A good understanding of encouraging generosity and supporting the financial sustainability of the parish.
- Strong interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate using modern online platforms and social media.
- Good basic organisational and IT skills to manage parish business.
- A working knowledge of, and commitment to, Church of England safeguarding requirements.

We are an inclusive and equal opportunities parish and welcome applications from priests of all backgrounds. Although our main building has disability ramps and toilets, there would be practical challenges for wheelchair users to access the church office, Vestry, Sacristy or Sanctuary because of numerous steps.

In return, we offer a supportive and welcoming environment. We will encourage our new priest to take time for personal reflection and development, nurturing their own gifts and vision alongside those for the Church. A team of volunteers will stand alongside our new priest working together to fulfil St Saviour's mission and help God's Kingdom flourish throughout the parish.

Community Engagement

Our parish actively participates in local initiatives which are the bedrock of our mission. These have included the restoration of our War Memorial; on Remembrance Sunday we have an outside service which is attended by many local people. Partnerships with local schools have led to larger numbers in our Children's Nativity

Service, and we support organisations such as Christian Care Merton, where our Uniformed Youth Groups support the congregation in food parcels at Harvest and Christmas. Also at Christmas, for many years we have prepared shoe boxes full of small gifts for the charity 'Samaritans Purse'.

We have just started a project where our church is a local collection point for used wax candles for Ukraine. They will be transferred to a local charity in Putney where they will be melted down by volunteers to produce trench candles for heating and lighting, which are then transported to Ukraine with other humanitarian products.

We also have links with neighbouring parishes through Churches Together in West Wimbledon, and several of the congregation attend Lent/ Bible Study groups at local churches.

We have benefitted from a strong relationship with the local Scouts and Guide groups, strengthened over the last few years, and we would like this to be continued with our new priest. We aim to expand our outreach to younger generations through events and hall bookings.



Remembrance Sunday 2025



Celebrating May Day Fair

To help our parish link with the community, both young and elderly people, our church hall is regularly booked for a range of activities:

- Uniformed youth groups
- Pilates, yoga, tai chi and meditation classes
- Children's ballet, dance and drama groups
- A local choir, and a local music society
- Indian dancing, line dancing
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- A children's playgroup and a German playgroup
- Frequent private parties

We also host around ten recitals and performances each year, including organ and guitar recitals, a local choral society, and children's dance and drama performances.

Organisation

Our PCC meets around 6-8 times a year. We occasionally establish committees to address specific matters, such as social events or fundraising, with each committee reporting back to the PCC.

The church has a small core of volunteers who undertake a range of responsibilities including Sunday School classes, refreshments

after church services, production of weekly service booklets, flower arranging and several periodic fund-raising events.

Appendix 1 contains a list of our Church Officers, with contact details. For more details, please visit our [website](#):

<https://www.stsaviour.net>

or contact our Administrator in the parish office on [020 8540 9406](tel:02085409406) or by email.

Appendix 1: Church Officers and contact details

Churchwarden	Heather Aldridge	SSRPchurchservices@gmail.com
Project Manager	Steve Vinton	stsavioursofficesw20@gmail.com
Treasurer	Mark Nicholson	
Administrator Sacristan	Ann Fellowes	stsavioursofficesw20@gmail.com
Hall Bookings	Ann Fellowes	stsavioursbookingsw20@gmail.com
PCC Secretary	Ann Fellowes	stsavioursofficesw20@gmail.com
Sunday School Leaders	Elaine Cowie / Wendy Cannon	
Safeguarding Leads	Grace Ikomi / Sharon Siwoku	
Electoral Roll Officer	Chinyelu Obi	
Web Manager	Shola Ikomi	
Planned Giving Officer Lay Communion Visitor	Wendy Cannon	
Catering Manager	Ann Fellowes	
Church Flowers	Sonia Paine / Heather Aldridge /Judy Horsford	

Appendix 2: Finance

Our income and expenditure over the last 2 years (actuals for 2024 and 2025, and budget for 2026) are set out in Table A overleaf.

The key points to note are as follows:

- We have incurred a deficit in each of these three years, increased in 2025 due to some urgent unplanned repairs to the main church roof.
- We are over-reliant on lettings income from our Hall (which have been in decline in recent years): our voluntary income from donations is too low.
- Our contribution to the Diocese has not been increased in this period, given the deficits, and is reduced in our budget for 2026 pending the actual financial effect of the current vacancy.
- Apart from a part-time paid Administrator, all our positions (including clergy) are voluntary: our finances are not strong enough to afford salaried clergy.

Table B overleaf shows the effect of the deficits in recent years on our year-end current, operating reserve, and capital fund balances (actuals for 2024 and 2025, and projected for 2026). The key points to note are as follows:

- Our total balances have reduced by some £17k in recent years.
- We have held our Capital Fund steady at the level (approximately £46k) established by the end of 2024, achieved through surpluses in earlier years, with these funds being required for imminent renewals (e.g. our boiler, church flooring and a lift).
- The result of this is that our Operating Reserve has absorbed the deficits, reducing from £60k to £42k: by the end of 2026 it would provide for 7 months of operating expenditure (excluding capital costs) vs. the intended 9 months.

Table A: Income and expenditure

Description	2024	2025	2026
Voluntary income	£18,865	£20,337	£19,114
Gift Aid tax recovery	£4,631	£4,604	£4,904
Hall lettings	£41,434	£39,188	£38,933
Investment, fund raising and other income	£12,086	£10,702	£11,041
TOTAL INCOME	£77,016	£74,831	£73,992
Contribution to Diocese	£20,805	£20,805	£13,805
Salaries, wages, staff and expenses	£12,918	£11,138	£13,825
Utility bills	£16,503	£15,878	£17,250
Capital expenditure	£2,655	£18,455	£5,000
Other expenditure	£25,946	£21,505	£25,172
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£78,827	£87,781	£75,052
DEFICIT	-£1,686	-£13,789	-£3,157

Table B: Account and reserve balances

Account/reserve	End 2024	End 2025	End 2026
Current/buffer accounts	£22,481	£23,692	£23,000
Operating Reserve	£59,696	£44,696	£42,231
Capital Fund	£45,821	£45,821	£45,821
TOTALS	£127,998	£114,209	£111,052