HOLY TRINITY LAMORBEY Parish Profile



We seek to worship God, grow in faith and spirituality, connect with others, and live God's love in our community. Holy Trinity is an open, friendly, and community focused church in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England. Welcome

Contents

Foreword from our Patron	4
Welcome from Ven. Allie Kerr, Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley	4
Who we are	5
Worship & Services	6
Our Community & Activities	10
What are our ambitions?	14
What is our vision for the future?	15
How will we support you?	18
Buildings	20
Finances & Fundraising	21
How to Apply	22
Appendices	24



Foreword from our Patron

My name is Helen Malcolm, and I am the Patron of Holy Trinity, Lamorbey.

As you will see in 'Our church's history', my family built the Church together with the house nearby now the Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance. The patronage was for many years held by the head of the family in Argyll, but George Malcolm passed the patronage to my father Dugald Malcolm on his retirement from the Foreign Office in the late 1970s. My father retired to East Sussex and was able to visit Lamorbey often. He took a keen interest in the Church and Parish, and he bequeathed the patronage to me when he died in 2000. I have sought to continue the family links, and although I live near Oxford I try and attend the Remembrance Day service in November and the Patronal Festival in June whenever possible. I hope that having a private patron provides some interest (as a historical anomaly if nothing else); and more importantly, an element of outside support for the Parish when needed. I have known several generations of churchwardens and many of the parishioners; and my son (now aged 31) took his first steps in the porch of the Church.



Welcome from Ven. Allie Kerr, Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley

Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to be the next Vicar of Holy Trinity, Lamorbey. This is an exciting time in the life of Rochester Diocese as we reflect on how we as a diocese, and in different ways in each of our parishes, might Change and Serve and Grow so that God's Kingdom can be increased, and more people can come to know the love of Christ. Our diocesan strategy prioritises and supports parish ministry and clergy well-being.

As you read this profile you will discover a church community who are committed to working together to share God's love with their community. This is a great parish, with engaged and enthusiastic volunteers and a warm and welcoming community. There is lots of potential for growth, in particular through the excellent links with the local schools and college.

We are looking for a prayerful priest, who will value and develop the rich sacramental worship, encourage the congregation to grow in faith, build on the strong connection with the local community, and is at ease sharing faith with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Holy Trinity has a visible presence on a main road just outside Sidcup town centre, and is close to many shops, cafés and restaurants. There are good transport links, with regular trains to central London.

Please be assured of my prayers as you discern whether you are the person the Holy Spirit is calling to join us in this next exciting stage of mission and ministry at Holy Trinity.

Who we are

Holy Trinity is a warm, welcoming, and friendly church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. We welcome ministry from both men and women. Everyone is valued and we have a great sense of friendship and belonging.

Our congregation demographic is broad however leans towards an older age group.

Various ages from families, including those with young children, single people, and local college students, are regular members of our congregation. Congregation attendance is generally in the region of 70-80 for Sunday Sung Mass. Whilst we are a healthy working church, this however is an area we are keen to develop further for all ages.





We asked our congregation what they thought were our foundations and guiding principles.

- Welcoming, all ages and backgrounds
- » Friendship, a sense of belonging
 - A church that values the catholic tradition
 - Sacramental worship at the heart of who we are
 - Strong choral tradition, music is important
 - Sense of community, being active and present
 - Supporting people, through activities and groups
 - Guiding and teaching children, through uniformed groups, local schools & colleges

The previous incumbent set **strong foundations** during his tenure.

Strong links with local schools, colleges, uniformed youth groups, and local businesses have been forged. Families with younger children are increasingly present at our weekly services. Our church congregation aspire to build upon these further to the benefit of both increased congregation numbers.

Community is at the heart of who we are, what we do, and what we mean to people. From our links with many local schools, care homes, and our Mothers Union, we play an active part in the community.



Worship & Services

Sundays

Our first Mass is *Said Mass at 8.30am* with a regular but small congregation (currently paused during interregnum).

Sung Mass at 10.00am is the main Sunday worship with incense, cross, and candles.

This is supported by our committed robed choir, talented Director of Music/Organist, and dedicated team of servers (including two junior members), using Order One (Traditional) and the usual mass setting of Mass of St Thomas (Thorne).

Other services

Mid-week Said Mass is held on Wednesdays at 10.00am and is well attended.

Evensong (BCP) and Benediction are held several times a year, in addition to Healing services, held by our small healing ministry team.

All Souls Service of Remembrance for departed loved ones takes place where families who have been bereaved during the year are invited. Many return each year.

All Age masses held at Harvest and Remembrance Sunday, are attended by our uniformed organisations, where our previous Incumbent was Chaplain to the local Air Cadet Squadron and Royal Naval Association who also join us for some services.

Christmas Services

Nine Lessons and Carols service is usually on the 4th Sunday of Advent.

Christmas Eve

- » Crib Service 4.00pm
- » First Mass of Christmas 8.00pm (long established & popular timing)

Christmas Day

» Sung Mass 10.00am

During our Advent Carol Service, we are joined by St Lawrence's Roman Catholic Church who share in the readings, with a joint choir.

Across our main services (Crib service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) we welcomed over 350 people. Throughout Advent, the church is used by local schools to hold their carol services, and in total we welcomed over 2,500 children, parents and staff.





Holy Week and Easter

Holy Monday to Wednesday - said evening mass.

Maundy Thursday – mass followed by watch.

Good Friday

- » Stations of the Cross at 1.00pm
- » Good Friday Liturgy at 2.00pm

Congregation members also join in the 'Churches Together' in Sidcup Walk of Witness.

Easter Eve - Easter Vigil with lighting of the fire and paschal candle.

Easter Day

- » 6.00am Morning Prayer by the lake in the Glades
- » 10.00am Sung Mass

Sunday School

'The Ark' welcomes children of all ages and their parents. 'The Ark' takes place in the vestry during High Mass, where they learn, pray and play.

We teach stories and parables from the Bible, to help the children understand and apply what they are learning. Our main focus is on using tailored crafts, with the hope that these activities will help to reinforce the message and children to remember the story in the future. Like the parable of the farmer sowing seeds, we aim to cultivate fertile minds so these seeds can grow strong and tall in their spiritual development. With this in mind, we want to explore the opportunity for the Sunday school to have a small area in the church grounds.





Worship & Services

Deepening our faith

Alongside our regular services, other events are held, which are well supported by the congregation.

Lent Courses are held on Thursdays (two meetings on each day - morning & evening), giving people flexibility to attend around their other commitments.

Historically, some parishioners take part in a three-day annual pilgrimage to The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham.

Parish Quiet Days at The St Benedict Centre at West Malling also take place.

The congregation have been very supportive of our Curates, including a successful female curate, and many have attended their Ordination Services as Deacons and Priests in the Cathedral.

Important local and national events are marked. On our '*Festival of Title*' this year, Trinity Sunday, a special Mass was held to mark the 75th Anniversary of the rebuilding of the church's west wall following bomb damage in the Second World War. This was accompanied by an exhibition of photographs, letters and other artefacts connected to the rebuilding.

Music plays an integral part in many of our services, led by a robed choir of around ten experienced singers at its core and directed by a professional musician who also plays the two-manual pipe organ. The unusual position of the choir stalls alongside the congregation in the Nave enables the choir to lead the congregation in mass settings, psalms to Anglican Chant and various hymns. Often these are chosen from the New

English Hymnal and New English Praise. A wide range of anthems are also prepared and sung as part of the worship.



Alongside every Sunday morning, the choir contributes to the worship at most other sung services, including all festival celebrations throughout the year and many of the weddings and funerals.

Service Information	2022	2023	2024
Baptisms	20	34	20
Weddings	4	2	1
Funerals	35	49	20
Average attendance/ Sunday Mass	70	70	75
Electoral Roll		95	95





Our Community & Activities

HTL school

Holy Trinity Lamorbey Primary School has very close links with the Church. Former and current pupils, former teachers, and governors attend church regularly.

The school has over 300 pupils from nursery through to year six, in a single form entry model with some mixed year groups (several smaller double entry years having merged with a year above or a year below).

There is a relatively well-established pattern of a year group coming to church on Wednesdays at 11.00 am after the midweek Mass. Pupils usually prepare a bible reading and intercessions and will learn a song, hear a story, ask many questions, and receive a blessing. Whole school services with all pupils, teachers, and parents are held at Harvest, Christmas, Pentecost, and also a year six leavers' Mass. On these occasions, an organist attends, paid for by the school.

Clergy are always very welcome to attend or lead any school assembly with an excellent working relationship with the current principal, Mr Winstone, and deputy principal, Ms Edwards; who is the main school contact for coordinating worship. Several members of the congregation are also Foundation Governors at the school.

Each classroom has a holy table with sacred items on it and with liturgical colours being changed to reflect the season. The church and school have worked closely together to prayerfully discern and embed a new theological focus throughout 2023. At Easter 2024 a psalm was chosen, particularly the metaphor of us being the trees fed by stems of living water that do not wither and produce their fruit in due season. This focus underpins everything at the school.

Other Local Schools

Local schools and colleges extensively use the church for special events such as Harvest Festivals and Carol Services. Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School hold their annual Remembrance Concert with their orchestras and choirs. Several local primary schools visit to learn about what happens in a church.

Uniformed groups

Holy Trinity Church Hall is the base of our uniformed groups, with a history between the church, scouts and guides spanning over 75 years. The groups run a variety of activities including indoor challenges and games, camping trips, crafts, day trips, and evenings out.









The Scout group has approximately 100 young people aged between 4-17 years old. One of the largest and oldest groups in the Bexley District, the group is divided by age group into a Squirrel Drey, a Beaver Colony, Cub Pack, Scout Troop and Trigon Explorer Unit. 4th Lamorbey Brownies and Guides have regular attendance each week of between 40 and 50 girls aged from 7 to 15.

The Church currently holds three youth and family services a year (St George's Day, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday) and an area where we would like to encourage more frequent attendance. All sections support these parades, taking part by writing and leading the prayers, reading the lesson, taking collection, and handing out the orders of service to the congregation. Flags are also paraded at the youth and family services for each section.

The uniformed groups support the church fundraising team with two leaders forming part of the team. All sections are involved in running stalls at the summer fete and organising other events throughout the year such as skittles, competitions, family days and games nights.

Our Community & Activities

Mothers Union

The Holy Trinity MU branch was formed in 1901 and currently has 34 members and is involved in the life of our church in many ways. Meetings are held monthly and everyone is welcome. In 2024 the MU concentrated particularly on raising awareness of Domestic Abuse both worldwide and locally. It has also generously supported Womens' Refuge, both families entering Refuge and those families settling back into homes of their own. We have received a Bronze Award for this work and are now working towards the Silver Award. In addition, MU fund raises for our other ongoing projects such as 'Away From it All' which provides holidays for those in desperate need of a break and the 'Literacy, Numeracy and Parent' and 'Support the Prison' projects. Our membership of Mothers' Union is a very fulfilling way of putting our faith into action.

Social Club

As a club for over 60's from the local community, it has been run for over 48 years by church volunteers. Club members do not need to attend church and can enjoy the regular visiting entertainers who encourage them to join in with the songs and dance if they wish.

Despite numbers dwindling, we would like to review this as an ongoing outreach.



Rose Bruford

Rose Bruford College of Drama and Performing Arts is a world-renowned and worldclass centre. The church and college share the same parkland, with the college itself being the former home 'Lamorbey House' of the Malcolm family, the main Church benefactor. In 2024, the college began hosting its graduation and gala events at the church, which has proved both delightful and lucrative, with 2025 already booked again. It has been wonderful to see students attending HTL, dropping in for quiet space, and continuing to worship with us during their time at the college.

Care homes

We have good links with two local care homes. Anna Staple, Pastoral Assistant (and Anna Chaplain), visits the local Northbourne Court to take in-house communion.

Funeral Directors

We have good working relationships with several local funeral directors. Our ministry team regularly take services at both our church and the crematorium.



What are our ambitions?

Continue doing the things we do well

- » Welcoming
- » Providing friendship, safety, and belonging
- » Worship and teaching following the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- » Music
- » A sense of fun
- » Being a space for all
- » Being up for a new challenge

Increase our reach in the community

- » Continued focus on our existing activities, youth groups & community
- » Reaching new congregation members and demographics
- » Building further new relationships with local businesses
- » Further collaboration with local churches

Enhance our finances

- » Increase the fund-raising activities
- » Explore new events
- » New collaborations with local businesses









What is our vision for the future?

'HTL church is here for our community. For spiritual enlightenment, catching inspired fragments of Gods will from prayer and Bible, trying out new ideas, whether by helping someone or singing a song'



We aspire that HTL church can be welcoming for anyone in the local community. To worship, to enjoy our music and choir, to be inspired and also to inspire us, to feel safe, to find friendship, to have fun and feel they belong, for children to grow and learn about God.

Sidcup is thriving; from a growing community spirit to new faces coming into our congregation and even our new local Marks & Spencer! HTL church has a wonderful spirit and a great openness to exploring new opportunities to grow and develop in the future. Be part of our evolution. Be part of our journey!!

Our next vicar, our aspirations...

Again, we asked our congregation for their thoughts on the qualities of our new vicar...

Key important qualities we seek from our new Vicar...

Personal Characteristics

- » People person kind, loving, patient, empathetic, pastoral focus, nurturing, energised, good sense of humour, inspiring
- » Have a breadth of experience and good communication skills
- » Prayerful/spiritual the ability to encourage faith in the congregation

What is our vision for the future?

Team & Parish Management

- » Ability to relate to and work well with all ages and genuinely care for people
- » Willing to visit and work with all existing church and community activity groups
- » Well-organised, strong interpersonal, leadership, and motivational skills
- » Support of lay workers/teams within the parish
- » The ability to embrace and grow a culture of acceptance and welcome allowing people the space to experience God in their own way

Managing Change

- » Inspire, ability to take people with you
- » Tolerant, non-judgemental, diplomatic, able to guide and nurture change considerately
- » Respect existing liturgy, music, and traditions

Wider Community

- » Relate, be willing to visit and pro-actively work with our community organisations, schools, colleges, societies, and businesses
- » Encourage the congregation to share fellowship and engage with the wider community
- » Invest time to develop/broaden wider engagement & relationships with local business

Growing for the future/Future

- » Continue our legacy of rich Worship following the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- » Teach & inspire others to grow spiritually, showing how to apply the Bible to modern life
- » Have experience of/desire for growing existing congregation and to reach new age groups
- » Inspire with new ideas for exciting activities, fund-raising events



How will we support you?

Ministry Team

Our ministry team comprises of...

- » The Vicar
- » Sarah Blew (Licensed Reader/Head Server. Annual Walsingham pilgrimage organiser)
- » Morwenna Semos (PTO Reader + Bishop of Rochester's permission to conduct funerals)
- » Lynne Buckley (Pastoral Assistant and Spiritual Director for Rochester Diocese. Parish Quiet Days organiser & leader)
- » Anna Staple (Pastoral Assistant and Anna Chaplain).
- » Churchwardens, Sue Knight and Doreen Pitcher
- » Church Administrator, Pat Payne

Each member of the team is DBS certified and has completed training/certification for all required safeguarding levels.

The Readers share in preaching at the Parish Mass, officiating at Evensong, and other seasonal services. Morwenna shares in the funeral and bereavement ministry, and we have a very good working relationship with the local Funeral Directors. Anna, along with the Vicar conducts services at one of our Care Homes. Lynne assists at weekly services for our Church School and runs workshops for local infant and junior schools in Church. The Vicar, Morwenna, Anna, Lynne and Sue are trained members of the Healing Ministry Team. The Clergy and Lay Ministers offer pastoral and spiritual support for members of the congregation, and the local community. This includes visits and Home Communion to the elderly and housebound as well as seasonal services in our Care Homes.

The Ministry Team meets monthly for prayer, mutual support, catch-ups, and planning ahead.

Volunteers

A long-established rota of very committed volunteers is in place with welcomers and sides people, servers, sacristans, choir, lesson readers, intercessors, and sound desk operators, all of whom are key to the smooth running and wider worship experience at Holy Trinity.

Members of the congregation welcome at the door, read the lessons, prepare and lead the intercessions, and administer the chalice.









Additional volunteer teams clean the church and take care of the grounds, including grass cutting and maintaining the flower beds.

Safeguarding

Holy Trinity is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The House of Bishop's Safeguarding Policy statement has been adopted by the PCC and is a standing item on the PCC's agenda. We aim to ensure that all parishioners understand the importance of safeguarding and how to respond to a safeguarding disclosure.

The role of Parish Safeguarding Officer ("PSO") is combined with that of Lead Recruiter. The PSO uses the online Parish Dashboard to provide the PCC with regular safeguarding action plans. The incumbent has access to the dashboard and both the incumbent and wardens meet with the PSO on a regular basis to discuss safeguarding issues and policies.

We maintain links with the Diocese safeguarding team through regular Diocesan PSO meetings.

Employees

There are three employees at Holy Trinity:

- » Parish Administrator Produces the weekly pew sheet and any other order of service and hymn sheets that are required throughout the year. She also manages the hall lettings and attends the Hall Management Committee and Ministry Team Meetings.
- » Hall Caretaker Maintains the building, car park, and looks after the hirers. He also attends the Hall Management Meetings.
- » Director of Music He is professionally qualified and has served Holy Trinity for many years. He plays the traditional organ and Clavinova digital piano. He rehearses and conducts the choir each week and arranges professional cover when he is on holiday.

Buildings

Church

HTL church today is a beautiful stone-built church, with a vestry, sacristy, and toilet facilities, situated within large lawns, woodland, adjacent vicarage, well-kept gardens, and church hall. The building is well maintained and we are up-to-date with the last quinquennial report and all annual checks.

Church Hall

Positioned opposite the Church, it was originally built as a church school to meet the growing educational needs of the poor, however, it became our church hall when the school relocated to Burnt Oak Lane.

Comprising of two halls (large/small), a large kitchen, storage areas, and our parish office upstairs. Outside there is a small garden and a large car parking area.

Regular income is generated in several ways...

- » Further office space in the hall, with separate access, is let out to local businesses
- » Parking spaces are let to and utilised by local businesses during the week
- » Regular hirers and one-off events

It is also used by the community, our uniformed youth groups, the Social Club, and for church events/ fundraising.

This hall is more than a church building, it serves as a centre for the parish community and has been recently refurbished.

The Vicarage

Built in 1980, the purpose-built vicarage has 4 bedrooms and is a modern spacious, warm and welcoming, comfortable house, with well-maintained large private grounds. Last decorated in 2019, when the upstairs bathroom and kitchen were also refurbished, the last incumbent installed a shower room downstairs and left good quality woollen Ulster carpets and a multi-fuel stove in place. Double glazing was installed around a decade ago.







Finances & Fundraising

Finances

Church annual income is mainly derived through congregation giving, fees, and the rental of our church hall, totalling approx. £100,000 per annum. This has increased year on year during our last incumbency.

Exploring other ways to diversify and increase our income stream is a key part of our ambitions. It is our desire to further our commitment to outreach and charitable giving.

Fundraising

A dedicated Social and Fundraising Committee is in place that organises various social events during the year. This includes our main fundraising event, the Summer Fete, which is held on the church lawn with a live band, and various church and private stallholders from the community.

Additional fundraising events such as quiz nights, raffles, and cake & vegetable sales take place throughout the year.

We are working to increase our fundraising program throughout the year.

We seek to worship God, grow in faith and spirituality, connect with others, and live God's love in our community.

Could you be the person God is calling to us?

How to Apply

If you believe God might be calling you to join us in sharing the love of God with the community of Holy Trinity, Lamorbey and to play your unique part in building the Kingdom of God in this community we'd love to hear from you.

Application details are available on the Diocese of Rochester website at: www.rochester.anglican.org

If you'd like an informal conversation about this vacancy please contact Fiona Porter (EA to the Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley) on:

fiona.porter@rochester.anglican.org





Appendices

Our Church's history

Nestled in the South-East of Great Britain near London, settlers around a thousand years ago in the area we call today Lamorbey, created the hamlet of Halfway Street. This lay within the Manor of Bexley, then owned by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas Sparrow, deputy reeve of the Manor of Bexley in 1455, first owned the original medieval manor house here. A new house, named Lamienby-Goldwell, was built by his daughter following her marriage, hence the modern name Lamorbey House. Today's house is home to the world-renowned Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performance and sits near to the church.

During the coming centuries, the estate was owned by a number of families, latterly owned and occupied by the Malcolm family in 1797. In 1838, as there was no church at the time, John Malcolm arranged for the Reverend William Peart to come to Lamorbey to conduct services in the laundry room of Old Farm. With the laundry room not being entirely satisfactory, John Malcolm provided the hamlet with a permanent chapel, consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1840, with the first incumbent being the Reverend William Bilton.

As the local population grew over time, it became clear that the chapel was inadequate for the needs of the local people. Again, the Malcolm family gave generously towards the cost and building of the new Holy Trinity Church which opened in October 1879 and was consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the 21st of June 1880. The original design had included a Tower and North Aisle but these were deferred due to lack of funds, however, the North Aisle and Vestry on the south side were added in 1908. Today it remains that the tower was never built.



As well as the new church, when a new larger school was required, the foundation stone for the school was laid on the land opposite the church in 1881, again heavily supported by John Malcolm. This building is the Church Hall that you see today with the school having relocated in 1969. In 1904, Edward Malcolm, son of John Malcolm, gave the land adjacent to the current church for building of a vicarage.

The population continued to grow steadily and the area changed beyond all recognition in the early 1930's with the building of the Marlborough Park and Hurst Road estates, bringing many families with young children, buying their first houses in the area surrounding the church.

It was at 5.30am on the 16th October 1944, during WW2 that a flying bomb landed in an elm tree in the grounds of the church, causing severe damage, in addition to damaging the school, cinema and postal office. The damage to the west end of the church was significant with a major structural collapse occurring in the subsequent days. An appeal was launched almost immediately under the name 'Lamorbey Rebuilders' and work began on the repairs in July 1946.

Eight stained glass windows were destroyed but only one was replaced, the present East Window, designed by Martin Travers. Additional structural changes were made including a new garden of remembrance facing Halfway Street and on May 25th 1949, the former Bishop of Singapore conducted a service of re-dedication.



Appendices

Sidcup and what it offers today

Sidcup is a vibrant and thriving town in the London Borough of Bexley in the historic county of Kent. With a population of 15,400, it borders the London Borough of Bromley and the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Sidcup flourished when the railway arrived in 1866. The southern part of Sidcup is predominately late Victorian and Edwardian houses. The parish of Holy Trinity Lamorbey sits within a conservation area, north of the railway line, and is mainly residential houses built in the 1930s.

Transport

The Church is located approximately 0.1 miles from Sidcup Station with 4 trains an hour to London with an average journey of 30 minutes. There are also many buses including the new Superloop bus which links Thamesmead to Bromley North stopping at Abbey Wood for the Elizabeth Line.

Shopping

Several bars, restaurants, and shops are within a few minutes walk of the Church including a large new M&S food hall by Sidcup Station. Sidcup High Street is a 7-minute walk with many more shops, a new Library and a Cinema.

Healthcare

In addition to local doctors and dentists, there is an urgent care centre at Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup. The hospital offers over 50 services including cancer treatment, dialysis, and a rehabilitation centre.



Schools

There are various infant and primary schools in Lamorbey including our church school, Holy Trinity Lamorbey CE School, Chatsworth Infant School, and Burnt Oak Junior School. Also in the parish are Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School, Hurstmere Boys School and Marlborough School (a secondary special needs school). The area also has 3 independent schools, several nurseries, and two world-renowned colleges, Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance and Bird College for Dance and Musical Theatre.

Parks and Leisure

There are many open spaces and parks in Sidcup including Lamorbey Park, 140 acres set around a Grade II listed mansion and lake. Sidcup Leisure Centre is very close, offering a gym, a 24m swimming pool, a sports hall with a crèche and Sidcup Golf Club.





Holy Trinity Church 1 Hurst Road Sidcup Kent DA15 9AE