



pray



grow



serve
with joy

Plymstock and Hooe Parish Profile

For the post of Interim Priest in Charge



A Message from Bishop Mike, Bishop of Exeter



Rt Rev'd Dr Mike Harrison
Bishop of Exeter

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age"
(Matthew 28:19-20).

Our vision in this diocese is that of Jesus in His Great Commission. We aspire to appoint leaders of our Christian communities who practise the presence of our Lord and enable others to do so; leaders who witness, act and relate in ways which make disciples and enable others to do so; leaders who serve in ways which intrigue, attract and engage the wider community, and enable others to do so. In short – pray, grow and serve!

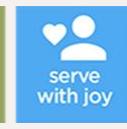
So, we are looking for ministerial leaders who:

- are intentionally missional, helping their Christian community to discern who God is sending them to, and who God is sending them;
- are developing missional habits and confidence in the faith for members of their congregations, enabling them to be invitational and ambassadorial;
- invest in their own discipleship and well-being, and that of those in their care;
- cultivate vocations, lay and ordained, actively recruiting for initiatives such as the Foundations course and the Exeter Ordination Pathway;
- place children and young people at the heart of our mission, orienting churches to be ever-more welcoming spaces for young people, using existing resources and networks, but also being pioneering in outlook;
- experiment with ways of being and doing church that engage the unengaged – we encourage ambitious plans such as creating two new worshipping communities in the first three years of a new ministry;

You can expect to find:

- support from senior leaders committed to enabling this mission and ministry;
- an outstanding diocesan team, second to none in terms of training provision and opportunities, comms understanding, finance expertise, buildings experience and care for our ministers;
- opportunities for personal and professional development in alignment with the vision of the Great Commission;
- a warm, relational diocese, where diversity is welcomed and honoured;
- a good-humoured, joyful, energetic culture grateful for the privilege of being called into ministry and supportive of missional experimentation, risk-taking and 'having a go';
- If you're still reading then I suspect we might be on the same page and I pray that the Holy Spirit might inform, shape and direct your discernment concerning this post.

+Mike Exon





Plymouth 2035

Now is an especially good time to be considering a post in the city of Plymouth. It is a great city: in 2024, in separate studies, Plymouth was recognised as one of the most underrated travel destinations in the world and the UK's best city to live and work in. As if that weren't enough, during 2025, we are launching Plymouth 2035. This is our vision and strategy for the next decade for Anglican mission and ministry in the city.

One of the key aspects is that we want to see 2035 more new disciples belonging to our churches in the city. This will roughly double our attendance. We also want to commit to having churches across the city which offer life in all its fullness – practically,

emotionally and spiritually - to every parishioner, not predominantly those who faithfully attend. We are hoping to secure national funding to make the vision a reality, but we will pursue it whatever. As part of this we are looking for clergy and laity to be bold and willing to step out in faith for what can be, without abandoning what has been. We are praying for greater unity and partnership across the churches and communities.

In the coming months, 12 stipendiary posts will be vacant, which opens up all sorts of possibilities. That means if God is calling you to this post, you will be part of a wave of new ministers joining as we begin this next chapter for the city and God's kingdom. You will also be joining with wonderful, committed lay people and priests, who have been faithfully serving and preparing the ground over the years.

Plymouth 2035 is centred on some Bible verses and a prayer. The verses are from Acts 20:32-36 – with 20:35 at the centre.

"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified... **we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'** When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed."

Prayer for Plymouth 2035

Our prayer is bold and disruptive and is that of Sir Francis Drake, one of Plymouth's most famous people:

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.
Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.
Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wilder seas where storms will show Your mastery;
Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes;
And to push back the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.

This we ask in the name of our Captain, who is Jesus Christ.

Amen

Thank you for taking the time to read this profile and please do get in touch if you would like to chat to me further about this post or Plymouth 2035.



Bishop of Plymouth
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**Venerable Jane Bakker
Archdeacon of Plymouth**

Archdeacon's Foreword

Plymouth 2035 is an ambitious project to bring transformation to the Church of England across the city. Spanning the next decade, it will bring new life to mission and ministry in Plymouth. This role offers an exciting opportunity to be a part of reshaping the church in the east of the city.

The parish of Plymstock and Hooe are discerning the shape of their next season of ministry, community engagement and growth. As part of that discernment, this Common Tenure Interim Post plays a crucial role. For an initial three-year period, the new Priest in Charge is tasked with reorienting the church towards being missionally and financially viable. The parish is not currently able to meet its Common Fund request and focus needs to be given to teaching on generosity, giving and mission to the wider community.

The committed and hardworking leadership team offer significant support for the incoming Priest in Charge. The congregation is missionally minded, welcoming and ready for new challenges. They are praying for an Interim Minister who will bring dynamism and creativity to the team with a heart for mission.

The parish spans a large area to the east of Plymouth. It encompasses several different communities and a wide variety of possibilities. Each area has its own identity, opportunities and challenges. This full-time stipendiary role makes real the possibility of reaching the range of communities across the parish.

We aim to be a diverse and truly representative diocese, and particularly welcome applications from women and those from black and minority ethnic groups. Not only is Plymouth a great place to call home, but the Diocese of Exeter is a great community of which to be a part.

Archdeacon of Plymouth
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Welcome

We hope you find this profile and appointment pack informative as you learn about our Parish. **Plymstock and Hooe offer a wonderful environment to live and work.** There are many opportunities for a new Priest in Charge to develop their ministry and strengthen and grow the Christian presence within our community. If you appreciate variety and creativity, enjoy collaborating with colleagues and local groups, are rooted in the rhythms of suburban church life, and are committed to exploring and responding to the questions of mission, helping people find faith in Jesus, placing the Christian community at the centre of local action and care, then we invite you to consider whether God is calling you to join us. We offer our prayers as you reflect on this journey of discernment.



Our prayer for your discernment

God our Father, help us to put our trust in you to send your chosen person to lead us on to where you would have us to be
Amen

Introduction



The parish of Plymstock and Hooe is bordered on one side by the southwest coastal path, just east of the City of Plymouth. We are seeking a full-time Interim Priest-in-Charge to become part of our current Ministry Team. Your role will involve advancing the parish's mission and fostering growth within our church family and wider community.

The Parish includes three churches: St Mary and All Saints in Plymstock; St John the Evangelist in Hooe; and the Church of the Good Shepherd in Oreston. A single PCC manages the activities and responsibilities across the entire parish.

Our PCC and ministry team are working towards a new and outward looking vision. We are communicating with our community to find out what matters to them and taking into consideration the Five Diocesan Strategic Priorities as we work towards new growth in the church in Plymstock and Hooe.

We hope you will enjoy reading our profile as you discern whether you have a calling to share the Good News of the Gospel in your ministry with us here.

Role Description and Person Specification

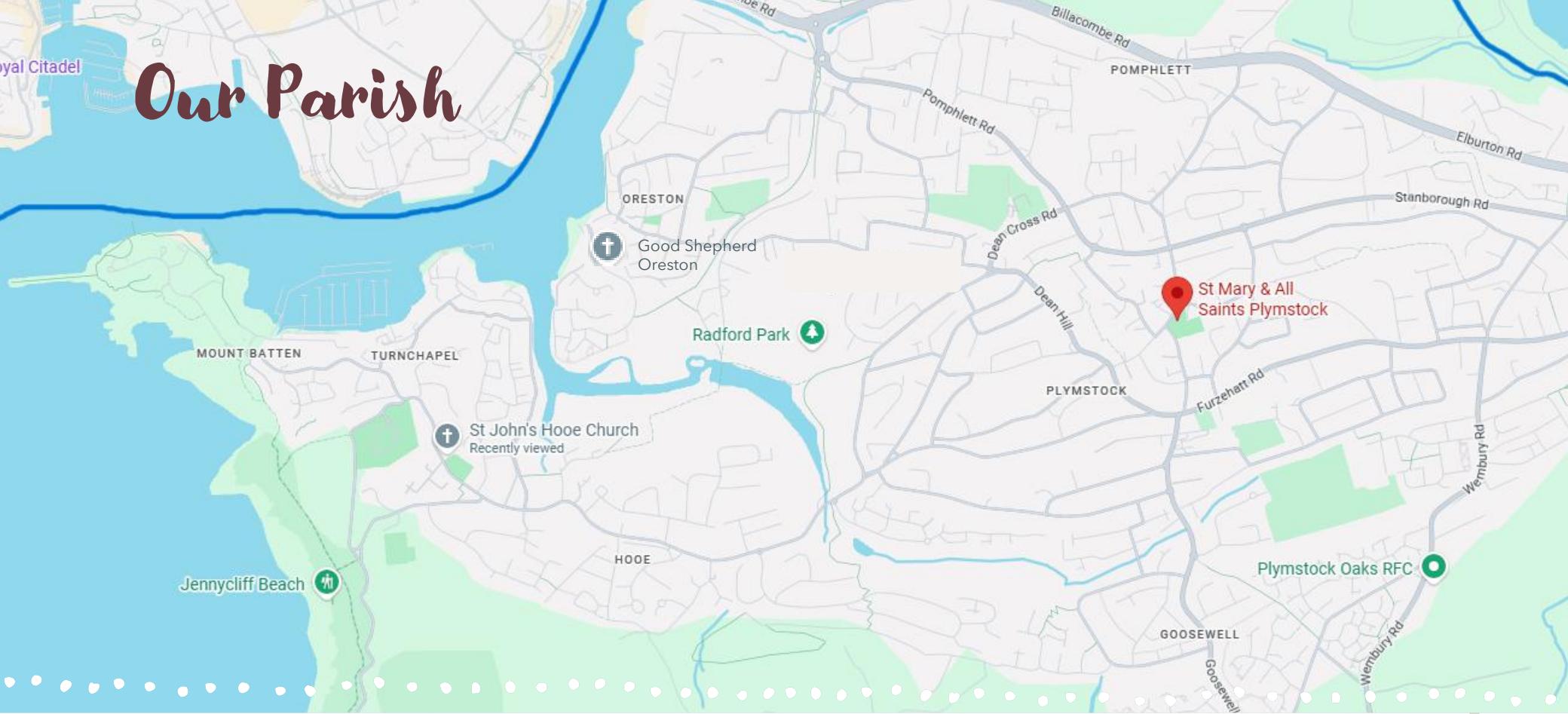
Qualities Sought in Our New Priest-in-Charge:

- Deep faith and spirituality that inspires others to follow Jesus
- Attentive listener eager to share Christ's love and the Good News of the Gospel
- Connects with all ages, supports family challenges
- Engaged in community life, values inclusivity and growth
- Embraces progressive theology and diverse worship styles
- Collaborative team player, empowering others toward parish mission

The Interim Priest in Charge will lead the entire parish of Plymstock and Hooe, guiding the development and clear communication of our developing vision in line with the 5 Diocesan Strategic Priorities. They should have proven experience and dedication to growing the church in size, depth, and capability, along with a passion for fostering generosity to enhance our financial health.

Our new minister will be firmly rooted in the Church of England, embracing progressive theology and comfortable with diverse worship styles, able to lead and preach in both traditional and contemporary styles.

Our Parish



The eastern parts of Plymouth are often considered the area's most affluent, yet Plymstock and Hooe feature a diverse population and housing mix, including private homes (rented and owned), military family quarters, and local authority or housing association properties. Long-term residents coexist with newcomers drawn by military postings or recent housing developments.

The parish includes Plymstock, Hooe, Staddiscombe, Oreston, and Saltram Meadow—one of the largest new housing areas aside from the Sherford development—and spans areas governed by Plymouth City Council and The South Hams. While some neighborhoods thrive, others face pastoral and financial challenges, affecting families, elderly, and isolated individuals, underscoring the need for ongoing support for vulnerable groups.

Our story so far...

- Originally, we were two separate parishes: Plymstock and Hooe.
- In 2006, we merged into the parish of Plymstock and Hooe.
- The transition was challenging due to complex governance, stretching resources. In 2019, just before lockdown, we voted to operate as a single parish under one PCC.
- Although the change was difficult and caused some hurt, our congregations' resilience has helped us grow as one worshipping community across three church buildings.
- We now hold a unified communion service at 10am on Sundays, rotating among the three churches, and remain eager to explore new initiatives as we continue to grow.

What we need now...

We are still adjusting to our 'One Parish' identity and need someone who can unite us further. This person should extend love to those who feel the changes have taken something away and support those embracing the change to develop their gifts for the parish's growth. We are learning to live as one parish, strengthening our bonds, witnessing new growth. Now, we need someone to listen to our story, nurture our ambitions, and strengthen our mission and developing vision using the 5 Diocesan priorities as guiding principles.

Come and help us to make Plymstock and Hooe a place where the Love of Jesus shines as a beacon of hope on the eastern side of Plymouth.

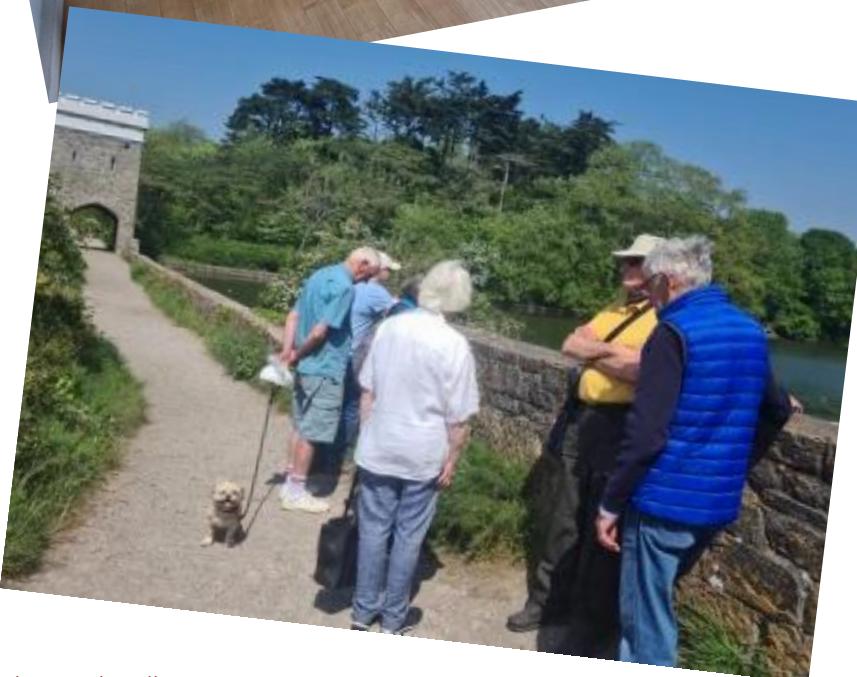




We asked people: What defines us?

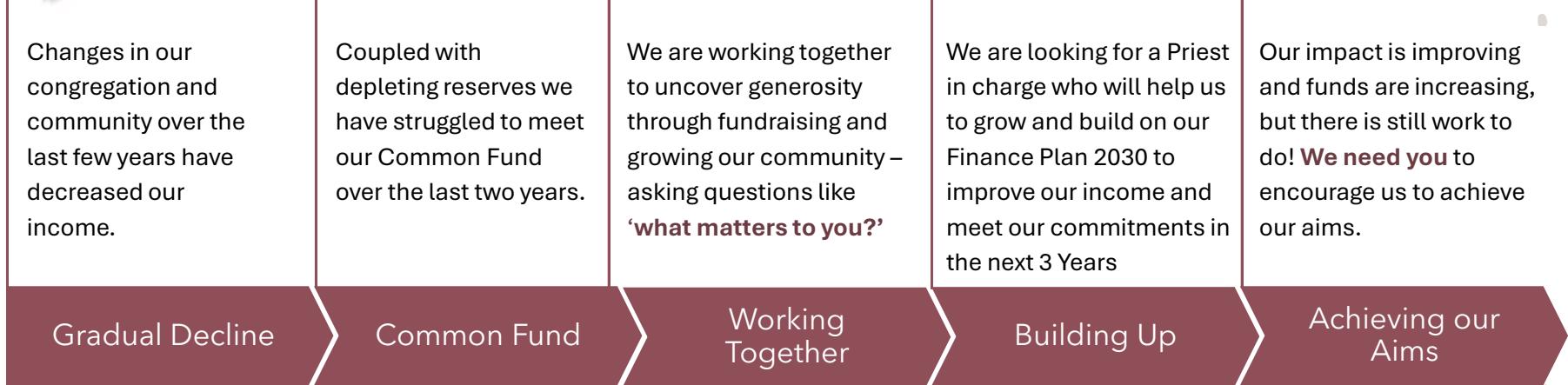
The main themes that came through were:

- A parish with a growing congregation.
- A welcoming and encouraging family.
- Open and empowering leadership.
- Come and try mentality.
- Enjoys offering hospitality.
- A family of fellowship and friends rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.
- Motivating, compassionate, supportive.



As a parish we espouse inclusivity in all its forms and our PCC supports clergy to conduct same sex blessings in our churches.

A Big Challenge – Finance and the Common Fund



We need to get back to a position of meeting our Common Fund request in the next three years... Our PCC has committed to our Finance Plan 2030. We need you to help us achieve our goals.



Exciting opportunities growing our Vision

Our parish serves a large community and aims to grow its ministry, especially reaching those involved in the community but not yet part of church life.

We asked our community, starting with regular worshippers, then moving beyond into our community: schools, hall users, community outreach groups etc.

'What matters to you?'

*The best visions come out of the community
and are bespoke to the community*

Margaret James author

What matters to our community: Emerging themes

- ✓ Hospitality
- ✓ Fellowship
- ✓ Encouraging lay leadership
- ✓ Caring for community
- ✓ Improving our fundraising
- ✓ Growing faith in younger people
- ✓ Inclusive thinking and actions



Pray, Grow, Serve 2035

A 5-priority parish



The Ministry Team and PCC are focusing on key themes based on the results of our 'what matters to you' survey and linked to the 5 Diocesan priorities



1. Missional Leadership

Our work so far demonstrates our new priest will need a heart for mission, leading as part of our team to grow through missional leadership

2. Missional DNA

Our parish has a heart for mission we would like you to help us realise our missional potential through encouraging and empowering us to reach further.

3. Vocations

We are keen to help people use their gifts for mission through discerning where God wants them to flourish.

4. Children and Young People

Our parish is full of families, schools and youth organisation, we would like to see growth in the faith of young people through a partnership of home, school and church.

5. Mixed Ecology

We are considering how we reach out to our broader community, through fresh expressions and alternative provision to promote learning about Jesus and how he would want us to live well in community.

If you are passionate about expanding God's kingdom in Plymstock and Hooe, this is your opportunity!

Our Current Offer

Sunday:

10 am **Parish Communion** (at one of our 3 churches)

3 pm **Informal Prayer / Worship - Good Shepherd** (3rd of each month)

Winter Sundays:

Warm Welcome Parish Hall, 12-2 pm

Monday: 9.30 pm, Compline online

Tuesday: 10 am **Communion and Coffee** at St Mary's

Wednesday: Community Coffee at Good Shepherd (3rd of each month)

Thursday: St John's on the Hill Café at St John's Hall (1st and 3rd each month)

In addition:

Regular book groups, seasonal courses, Christmas and Easter Services including quieter offerings as there is a need, bereavement journey course.



Occasional Offices

We see the Occasional Offices provided by our Parish as an important offering to our broader community and we seek to maximise our contact with those we meet in this way:

- Funerals
- We invite the bereaved to attend our Memorial Carol Service
- Bereavement Journey: A seven-session course to gently guide groups through the most common aspects of grief and bereavement.

Along with funerals, we see baptisms and weddings as a vital bridge between church and community. Although the number of people reaching out to the church for these offices has declined in recent years, each offers a unique opportunity to reach out and connect with a broad cross section of our community, across the age range, to proclaim the Gospel and give them a glimpse of the Kingdom of God.



Meet the Team



Kerry Churchwarden

Kerry has served as a churchwarden in the parish since 2018, with a brief break in 2024. Currently, she chairs the House of Laity in the Diocese of Exeter and holds several roles on diocesan committees. She supports inclusivity and diversity in the church.



Mary Churchwarden

Mary is new to being a churchwarden - joining the team in February 2025 - but she is learning fast. She is also a member of the WI and an active member in the fundraising and hospitality teams.



Carl SSOM

Carl was licensed to the Parish in 2019 after serving his curacy at St Edwards Eggbuckland at the other side of Plymouth he works with the parish as a self-supporting minister on a part-time basis.



Tony LLM

Tony was Licensed as a Lay Minister over 55 years ago! He has served in Devonport as well as in our parish. Tony was a headteacher at one of our local schools and has a real interest in growing the faith in our local area.



Graham LLM

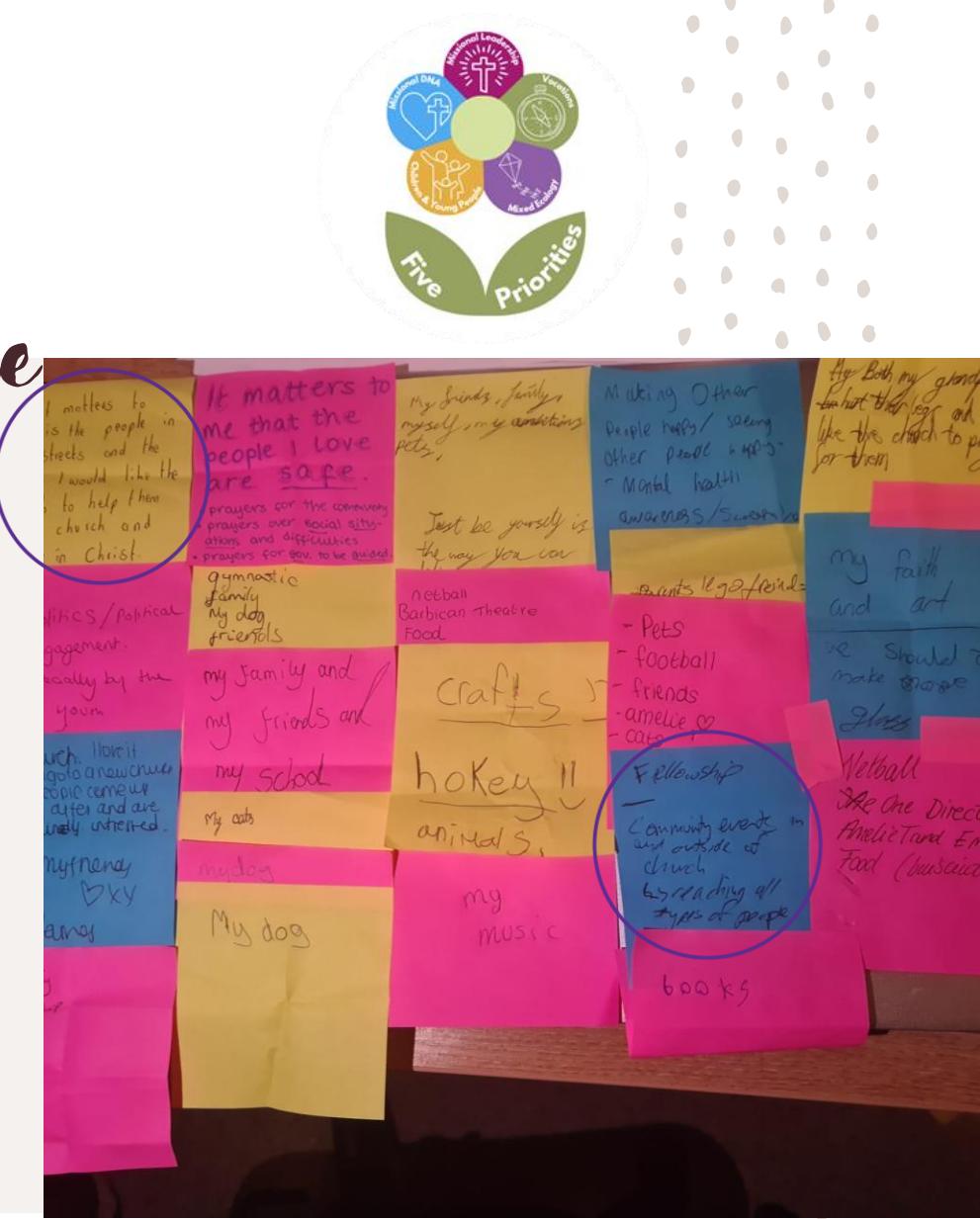
Graham has recently completed a PhD in end-of-life care and works as a chaplain at St Luke's Hospice. He is also a chaplain for the naval cadets at HMS Raleigh.

Children and Young People

Schools: The parish has several primary and two secondary schools, none affiliated with the Church of England, but we maintain strong ties with them through outreach. Clergy visit regularly for assemblies and events, and many schools hold Christmas services in our churches. Church members also support pastoral activities like Christian Union and mentoring. We asked Christian Union members what mattered to them...

There were a lot of personal concerns about family and friends as well as some wider areas for us to think about, e.g. :

- *“Community events both inside and outside the church, reaching all types of people”*
- *“The people in the streets and the hungry: I would like the church to help them to go to church and believe in Christ”*



Pastoral and outreach

Care Home Ministry: We have great connections with people in several care homes in our community. In two of them - Furzehatt Care Home and Selkirk House we hold monthly communion services, and we regularly visit several housebound church members in their homes. At Christmas we have an annual carol service at Selkirk House.

We are in the process of setting up Anna Chaplaincy in the parish. We have just commissioned 3 Anna Chaplains and 3 Anna Friends, who will continue providing ministry for those no longer able to come to church.

Hospitality: We host popular community cafés twice a month at St John's on the Hill, serving hot drinks and homemade cakes.

Monthly, the Church of the Good Shepherd Hall in Oreston also holds a Community Coffee morning.

During winter, we offer a Warm Space at Plymstock Parish Hall with soup, drinks, and cake, reflecting our parish's commitment to hospitality.



Ecumenical Connections

Our parish has a vibrant multidenominational Christian community, including Baptist, Methodist, URC, Chapel, RC, and Church of England, whose leaders collaborate regularly as 'Churches Together in Plymstock' to promote Christianity locally, by introducing people to the love of Jesus and the Good News he offers.

What we offer:

- Carols: Broadway and local pub
- Easter activities for children
- Ecumenical Re:Fresh worship
- Family fun days
- Building youth and family work
- Local schools' visits
- Puppets on the Broadway





In Summary

We need a Priest in Charge to:

- Prayerfully help us grow and develop our vision considering the 5 Diocesan Priorities.
- Introduce people to faith in Jesus to grow new disciples through targeted mission and evangelism.
- Encourage growth to foster generosity and improve our financial health.
- Empower the laity to use their gifts and skills.
- Love and pray for those who struggle with change and feel hurt by the past.
- Help to diversify our offering of worship to improve our appeal to our broader community, e.g., services for younger people.
- Join us as a loving and loved member of our family fellowship in growing God's Kingdom in this corner of Devon.



Accommodation - Hooe

The Parish has two parsonage houses, this one in Hooe, close to St John the Evangelist' and one in Plymstock, close to St Mary and All Saints Church



The Vicarage - St John's Road Hooe

This property is close to St John the Evangelist Church in Hooe. The house is detached and is situated in a smaller plot of land with enclosed gardens to the front and a courtyard with patio to the rear. There are four good-sized bedrooms upstairs, one with an en-suite bathroom. There is also a family bathroom and separate WC upstairs. The ground floor comprises a kitchen with separate utility area, separate dining room, living room with access to the rear courtyard/patio. The study is downstairs at the front of the property in its own lobby area, and there is a separate downstairs cloakroom adjacent. It is possible to lock this area off from the rest of the house, which allows it to be used as a meeting place for parish business.

Accommodation - Plymstock



The Rectory, Cobb Lane, Plymstock:

This property is close to St Mary and All Saints Church in Plymstock. The house is detached and sits in a large plot of its own land, which extends to the front, rear and sides of the property. It has 4 good-sized bedrooms, a family bathroom and separate shower and a separate WC. Downstairs there is a good-sized kitchen with large pantry and utility, separate dining room and living room with access to the garden. There is a large integral garage with access from inside the house. The study is downstairs at the front of the property and there is a separate downstairs cloakroom opposite, it is possible to lock this area off from the rest of the house, which allows it to be used as a meeting place for parish business.

Both properties have housed clergy families over many years and have different qualities to offer. You would have the choice of either house, according to your choice and needs.

St Mary and All Saints

St Mary's is a Grade II* listed building with a square embattled 3 stage tower with parapet. It is thought that there has been a place of worship on this site for over 1000 years, although the current building of mainly local rubble with granite dressing, dates from the 15th and 19th Century. The dedication to St Mary and All Saints is thought to date from about 1742. Of note internally is the circular Norman font, although it is not known whether it is original to the church. Also of significance, is the 17thC. pulpit with tester sounding board and the carved oak rood screen with parts of it dating back to the 15th century. The font and rood screen are thought to be the oldest in the region. There are numerous monuments inside the church dedicated to notable historical families in the region including the Harris family of Radford. The church has a large, closed churchyard, maintained by Plymouth City Council, containing monuments dating back to the 17th Century. The Tower features a peal of 8 bells, which are rung for services and to mark special events by our local team of bellringers, who serve ours and other churches in the area.



St John the Evangelist

St John's is a Grade II listed simple early mid-gothic building. Originally built as a parish church in its own right in 1855, it has been a part of the parish of Plymstock and Hooe since 2006. The church is built from local limestone rubble with limestone dressings and forms part of a complex with the church hall, a link between the church and hall was added in 1986. Church House, adjacent to the hall was originally part of the buildings complex but is now privately owned. The nave of St John's was 'cosified' by linenfold panelling by Violet Pinwell in 1916. The date is verified by the existence of a faculty to pave the nave walls with oak. The main church building has a double bell turret housing two bells located at the West end of the roof. St John's has a large, closed churchyard, which has a large area dedicated to Commonwealth war graves.



Church of the Good Shepherd



Good Shepherd is a small, dedicated place of worship located on the South-West coastal path in Oreston village. Originally built as a seafarer's mission and community hub, it also served as a resting stop for animals shipped via the river to Cattedown and Plymouth. Unusually, the church is oriented roughly North-South, with the chancel at the North end. Licensed for public worship in 1858 by the Bishop of Exeter, it served Oreston's 1,200 residents following a petition by the Vicar of Plymstock. The chancel was added and dedicated in 1886, with the first Saint's Day celebration (Candlemas) was held in 1887. Currently, Holy Communion services are held on fifth Sundays, and the church is frequently used for informal Sunday afternoon services followed by refreshments in the hall.



Thank you

Thank you for taking time to read our parish profile, we hope you found it interesting, and you are eager to know more and maybe come and join us at this exciting phase of our parish's Christian journey.

With our love and prayers



Our prayer for your discernment

God our Father, help us to put
our trust in you to send your
chosen person to lead us on to
where you would have us to be
Amen

