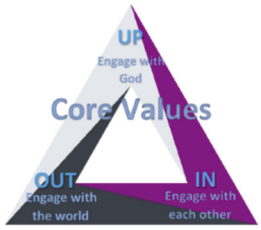
St Bartholomew's
BOBBING CHURCH



# PARISH PROFILE FOR THE PARISH OF BOBBING SITTINGBOURNE, KENT

www.bobbingchurch.org

# OUR CHURCH LIFE




We are a welcoming and inclusive church family. Loving, engaging and serving our community wherever we can, providing both spiritual and practical support in a friendly and relevant way.

Our core values are our love for God/Jesus (UP), our care for one another (IN) and the world around us (OUT). We are part of the New Wine Network.

We have 47 people on our electoral roll and our average Sunday attendance this year (2026) is 39 adults and 6 children. Our congregation is made up of both local residents and those from the wider area, with the age range being from 1 to over 80.

Our informal and family-focused worship on a Sunday is at 11am and aims to finish at approximately 12pm. When volunteers are available, we offer Bible based activities for children and young people during the service. We have to use the ground floor of the bell tower, but this is not sound-proofed or enclosed, so limits the activities we can do. If available, we have hired a room in the village hall across the road for our young people to allow for a greater range of activities.

Holy communion is celebrated during our 11am service once a month.

Our sung worship is contemporary led either by our worship group or digitally recorded music.

Refreshments are served after each service by a rota of volunteers, where the congregation can enjoy a time of fellowship or receive prayer and support where necessary.

Midweek homegroups for Bible study & fellowship are being re-started to expand from the teaching on Sundays.

We normally offer Baptisms as part of our 11am Sunday service, during the previous twelve months the congregation have participated in 9 Baptisms. For adults, we offer full immersion Baptism borrowing the portable Baptistry pool from Holy Trinity Sittingbourne.

Our main Sunday services are streamed through YouTube for our church family that are unable to attend in person or are serving elsewhere to watch at a different time. These links are now only shared with the church family.

Additional services throughout the year include Easter sunrise service, praise evening, memorial service, traditional Christmas carol, Christingle & Stable services, and Christmas Eve Carols and Communion.

We are proud to be an Eco Church, having achieved our Bronze and Silver Award, with our long-term aim of receiving Gold. The church is developing habitats and wild spaces, takes part in local and national community initiatives, and lead community activities. These reflect our desire to care for creation, and to witness to God's love for the whole of creation. Being a semi-rural location, Bobbing provides a unique opportunity to nurture the environment as part of our ministry, and we are excited to continue growing this work.

We long to nurture children and young people, pastorally care for the vulnerable, bereaved, and elderly, support and enable the full participation of those with disabilities, and serve the wider community in person and online, to become an inclusive, outward-looking, and transformative church without walls and barriers, as we sit at the heart of community life in this rapidly changing world.

**CURRENT MINISTRY TEAM**

- 1 Lay Reader
- 1 ALM – Worship Leading & Pastoral Ministry
- 1 ALM – Pastoral Ministry (starting the Worship Leading ALM course in October 2026)
- 1 Exploring Ordination

**PCC & VOLUNTEERS**

- 6 PCC members, 1 Deanery Synod rep & 2 Churchwardens.
- 2 members of the Diocesan ENABLE team for Disability Inclusion.
- Prayer coordinators, Children and Youth leaders, Gardeners, Musicians, Welcome and Hospitality Team, and others!

# OUR BUILDING

St. Bartholomew's church is a Grade 1 Listed Building which is always a challenge when attempting to make any permanent changes.

The oldest part of the church standing today is believed to be the north aisle, in which the organ, toilet, and hospitality area are now situated. It is thought that this was built between 1216 and 1230.

We have a Grade 1 listed organ built around 1845, which was moved to Bobbing around 1870 from Holy Trinity Milton Regis. This is only used at wedding/funeral services when requested and Christmas carol service. The tower has 6 bells. We do not have our own bell-ringing team, but they have been rung by visiting ringers during the year. Following the recent quinquennial inspection, repairs are needed to the rope wheels, so bell-ringing is suspended.

The church was closed in December 2004 for extensive work on the roof and internal re-decoration. A year later, it re-opened for a bi-weekly informal service and occasional services. In 2009, it held an 11am service for Mothering Sunday and Harvest Festival, and then in January 2010 a bi-weekly 11am service was re-commenced. Following prophecies and prayer, the weekly service was re-started in January 2014.

In November 2016, a toilet and running water were finally installed, and the pews from the North aisle were removed to allow for a hospitality area with tables and chairs.

Bobbing Church is open every day between 10am-4pm for people to visit for personal prayer, the architecture, and history. With the church being open and not manned, AV and musical equipment are kept off site and set up for each service.

The pews seat approximately 75-90, and we have 50 chairs which can be set up in the hospitality area for larger services.

Our priorities for 2026-27 are replacing our heating system and a dedicated, active space for our children and young people to meet regularly to grow this part of our ministry.












# OUR PARISH

Bobbing is a historic village on the edge of Sittingbourne. Over time the village has become more connected to the town through new housing developments, but the church and village have been split by the A249 trunk road between the Isle of Sheppey and Maidstone which joins both the M2 and M20 motorways.

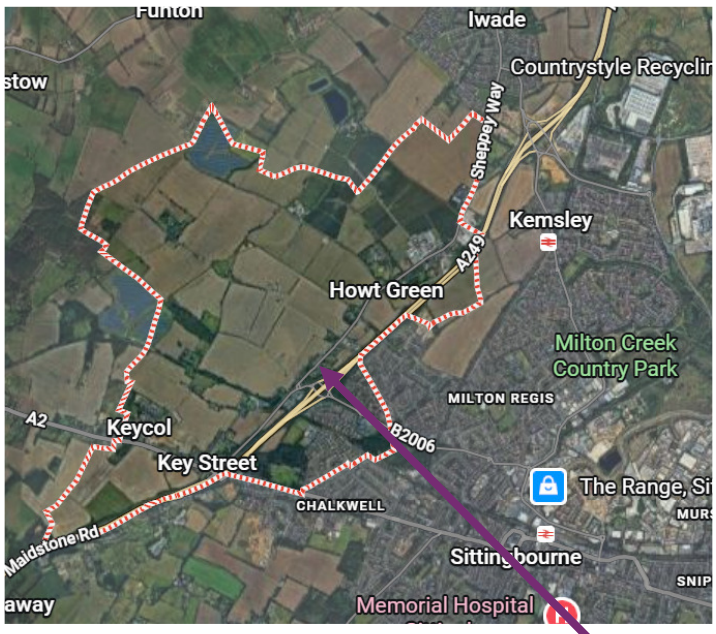
Much of the parish is rural agricultural land but with the road links, housing estates have been built, and there are plans for 2500 new homes in the area. The current main housing areas are:

- Grove Park housing estate built in the 1970s with a small parade of shops. Approximately 550 houses.
- Part of The Meads housing estate (shared with Holy Trinity Milton Regis parish) built in 2000s, which includes a small parade of shops, GP surgery and pub/diner. A mix of approximately 1100 houses and flats.
- Archers Park housing estate built 2020s. A mix of approximately 200 houses and flats.

In addition to these housing areas, the parish also includes:

- Byfield Court, an assisted living home supporting adults with a range of disabilities.
- Bobbing Village Hall, a community hub opposite the church used for local events, groups, and activities.
- Bobbing Crematorium, serving families across Swale and Medway.
- 3 primary schools which are part of the Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust.
    - Bobbing Village School (situated next to the church) is a one-form entry school.
    - Grove Park Primary School (situated on the Grove Park Estate) is a two-form entry school.
    - Aspire School (situated on the edge of Archers Park) is a special free school.

Bobbing Parish




Proposed Housing Development



**St Bartholomew's Church**

# OUR COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

Bobbing is a worshipping, caring community with a longing to reach out to people and to welcome people in.

As a smaller congregation, we aim for newcomers and visitors to be noticed and welcomed. We update & stay in contact with our members by weekly email. To check all is well, we have had a support WhatsApp group (started in Lockdown in 2020) to encourage and help the congregation keep in touch with each other.

Our prayer team offers personal prayer at the end of each Sunday service for those who want this as well as a prayer email and WhatsApp group for urgent requests. There is a weekly and monthly zoom prayer time to seek God's wisdom for our church and to pray for local needs.

Some of our congregation support and engage with parish initiatives including the Friendship Café, Repair Café, Village Hall community projects, and working with the local schools.

**Recent and current events have included:**

**Church Family**

- Bring and share lunches after the service
- Picnic on the church grounds
- Car treasure hunt
- Men's & Women's breakfast & curry night
- Annual church family BBQ
- Coffee mornings
- New Wine Summer Festival/Spring Harvest

**" Being a part of the community is such an important mission, whether we are litter picking, holding coffee morning or putting on community events, they always feel special."**



**Outreach & Community**

- Pastoral / bereavement visits including home Communion
- Monthly Communion service at Elvy Court residential home
- Disability and carer's coffee mornings
- Fundraising Quizzes
- Christmas Fairs
- Hosting Bobbing Primary School in the church at Easter and Christmas
- Assemblies at Bobbing School and presenting the children as they leave for secondary school with a Youth Bible
- Easter, Harvest and Christmas Experiences for 4 local primary schools
- Carol Service, Christingle, Stable Service & Christmas Eve Communion
- Being open to people visiting for personal prayer, architecture and history
- Churchyard maintenance with Community Payback Team
- Engagement with Bobbing Parish Council and Village Hall
- Charity coffee mornings
- Litter picks
- Active social media with over 400 Facebook followers



www.facebook.com/bobbingchurch

**"The shared lunches, picnics, BBQs or pancake days all serve to reinforce the family atmosphere."**

**Joint Outreach in Sittingbourne**

- We have volunteers assisting with a weekly Foodbank session at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall.
- With St Michael's church in Sittingbourne, volunteers from Bobbing help with the weekly breakfast club to provide food and washing facilities for those in need/homeless.
- Working with Sittingbourne Baptist & Methodist churches, we ran a Youth Alpha course in January/February 2026.
- Treasurer & representation on the Street Pastors Management Committee.

# OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and Young People's ministry is a place where children experience the extravagant love of God through worship, prayer, Bible teaching and of course lots of fun! In our groups everyone is loved, valued and their gifts encouraged by giving them opportunities to grow and serve in God's kingdom. We aim to bring them into a relationship with Jesus by modelling Christ-like living and teaching them how to be disciples.

11am Sunday service has Bobbing Children's Church (BCC) who currently meet in the bell tower. They share what they have been learning at the end of each service.

Bobbing Youth currently meet once a month during the Sunday Service and also socially throughout the year for fellowship.

Our Youth "takeover" our Sunday services around 4-6 times a year and cover all aspects from leading the services, talks, prayers, AV & refreshments.









**"I love the youth led services, it's great to feel the adults trusting us and they guide us. Our youth socials are great fun and we look forward to more!"** William, 17

**"I love learning about the Bible and making things. I like it when we sing songs too!"**
Oakley, 7

# OUR VISION

- Become a closer church family who looks out for our local community including around The Meads area that see Bobbing as their church, whilst technically not all the estate is in our Parish.
- Improve our heating system so we can run more events in the colder months of the year.
- Develop effective ministry and space for our children, young people and young families.
- Develop effective ministry for those who are bereaved and in need of support.
- Exploring into Church not just being Sunday morning including more homegroups meeting during the week.
- Live out our Eco Church values by caring for God's creation and helping our community adopt more sustainable ways of living.
- Expand and deepen our commitment to disability inclusion by ensuring that disabled, deaf, and neurodivergent adults and children fully belong, participate, and flourish in our church life.
- School/Village Hall/church – working together for the benefit of the community.
- Expand and develop the children and youth work to allow friendships to form with other Christians their own age.
- Due to growth of these groups, we need to recruit more team especially for the youth work who would like to meet more often.
- To expand opportunities to welcome, engage and sustain young people into Christian fellowship.
- All-age adult and youth led services to encourage discipleship and ministry.
- Expand our seasonal faith experiences into local schools.
- Social and fellowship events for children and young people.



## St Bartholomew's Church Bobbing Statistics

| | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Average Weekly Attendance 11am Sunday** | | | | |
| Adults | 37 | 36 | 37 | 37 |
| Children | 8 | 7 | 7 | 6 |

**Seasonal Extra Services Attendance**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Easter Sunrise | 19 | 26 | 29 | 37 |
| Carols by Candlelight | 117 | 94 | 102 | 85 |
| Christingle/Christmas Eve Stable Service | 100 | 49* | 133 | 90 |
| Christmas Eve Night | 56 | 56 | 85 | 58 |

* No separate Christmas Eve Stable Service in 2024

**Occasional Services**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baptisms | 9 | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| Weddings | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Church Funerals | 3 | 3 | 5 | 6 |

**Parish Finance**

| | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General Unrestricted Fund** | | | | |
| Income (£) | 49,057 | 54,109 | 49,360 | 37,507 |
| Expenditure (£) | 49,322 | 48,568 | 38,531 | 41,909 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) (£) | (265) | 5,541 | 10,829 | (4,402) |