

Parish Profile



The Parish Church
of Rottingdean
St Margaret
of Antioch

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.” John 1:1

Welcome to our Parish Profile

Our aim is to provide an overview of our church, our congregation and our community.
If you are considering applying for the vacancy you will be assured of a warm welcome
and a keen interest in what you will bring to the role.

Dawn Davidson
Churchwarden

Heather Butler
Churchwarden

Our Mission and Our Church

Our Mission

The Parish Church of St Margaret, Rottingdean exists to honour God, and to enable questioning, open-minded people to discover for themselves the significance of Jesus Christ.

We affirm that the Church’s mission, in obedience to Holy Scripture, is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every generation.

We acknowledge this for all people regardless of their gender, race or sexual orientation. We believe that, to strengthen the Gospel’s proclamation of justice to the

world, and for the greater glory of God, the Church’s own life must be justly ordered.

To that end, we call on our Church to live out the promise of the Gospel; to celebrate the diverse gifts of all the members of the body of Christ; and in the ordering of our common life to open the ministries of deacon, priest and bishop to those so called to serve by God.

In 2023 the PCC debated and agreed to support the blessing of same sex couples in church in keeping with the motion passed by Synod.

Our Church

The church is of Saxon and Norman heritage and is grade 2 listed. It sits in a prominent position in the heart of the village overlooking the Village Green. The church is open every day from 9am – 6pm with slightly shorter hours in the winter.

St Margaret’s has recently undergone a major reordering [2024/25] with removal of the pews, new flooring with underfloor heating, new lighting and Audio-Visual system. These changes have resulted in a lighter and more flexible use of the space and enhanced worship and opportunities for community activities.



Permission has been granted by Brighton & Hove City Council for an extension to the church on the north side. This would be to provide a fully operational kitchen, meeting rooms and disabled access toilets. This project is currently on hold during the interregnum.

Church Finances

Overview

It is currently difficult to accurately forecast income for 2026, as the church’s finances are in a period of recovery.

Between March 2024 and March 2025, the church was closed for major development works. This closure led to a reduction in several key income streams, including:

- Burials and weddings
- Candle money
- Donations from weekday visitors

While the Parish Share has continued to have been paid, it was done so on a slightly reduced basis due to these works. In response, costs have been rigorously scrutinized through line-by-line reviews.



Incoming and Outgoing Resources (2024 Data)

The following figures are extracts from the 2024 Annual Accounts:

Category	Amount
Total Receipts (Unrestricted)	£161,947
Total Receipts (Restricted)	£19,075
Legacies Received	£84,348 (Up from £55,063 in 2023)
Contactless Donations	£2,105 (Via a new machine)

Ministry and Staffing Export to Sheets

- **Parish Share:** The PCC’s largest expenditure was **£54,297** paid to the Diocese of Chichester to cover clergy housing, stipends, pensions, and national church support. It is anticipated this share will be reduced again for 2025 due to the closure.
- **Staffing:** The PCC currently employs **no staff**.
- **Clergy Support:** The PCC supported the clergy by paying **£2,951** in Council Tax and **£385** for water. Notably, the Vicar has not claimed expenses since 2021 and will continue this through 2025 to support the parish’s financial recovery.



Our Churchyard

There is a large and peaceful graveyard surrounding the church, managed by a part time gardener. There are a number of well-known people buried in the graveyard and this, plus the War Graves, attracts a large number of visitors.

We run a very successful 'Adopt A Grave' scheme and currently have >60 volunteers looking after graves that were previously uncared for.

Along with the wider village, we regularly enter the South East in Bloom competition and have received a Silver Award on a number of occasions.

Our Worship

We worship in the liberal Catholic tradition with a sung Eucharist every Sunday. We also have a Eucharist service every other Thursday and Bible study every Tuesday run by members of the congregation. The monthly healing service is currently suspended during the interregnum.

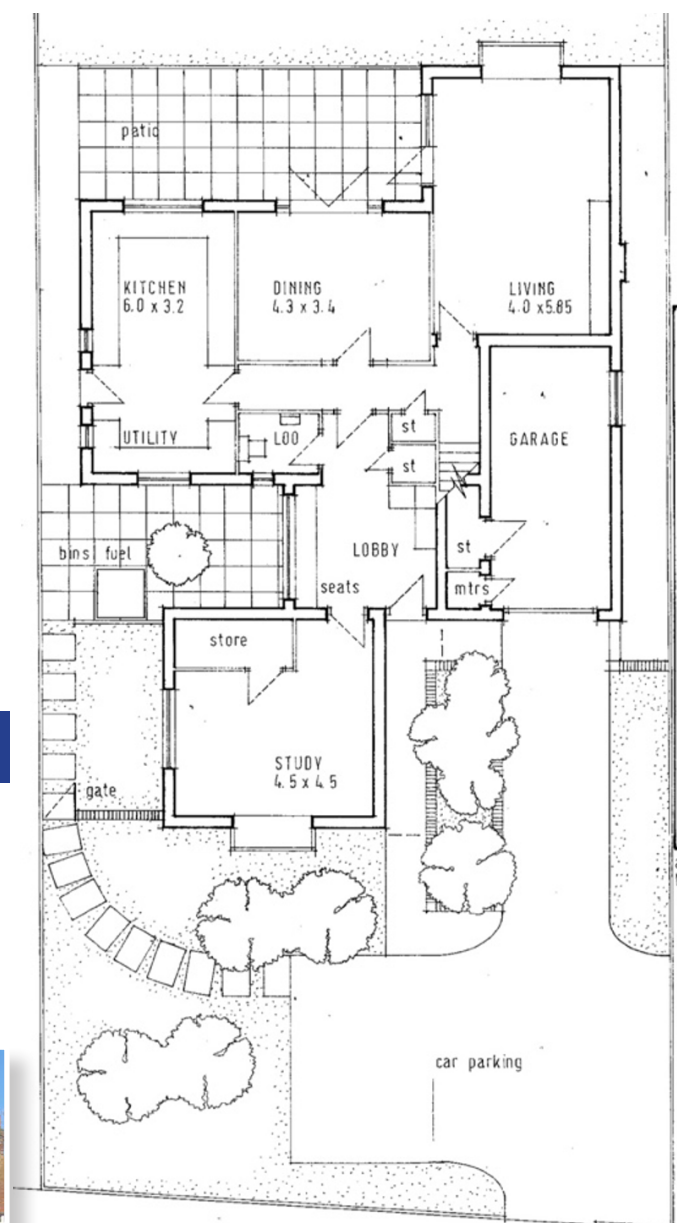
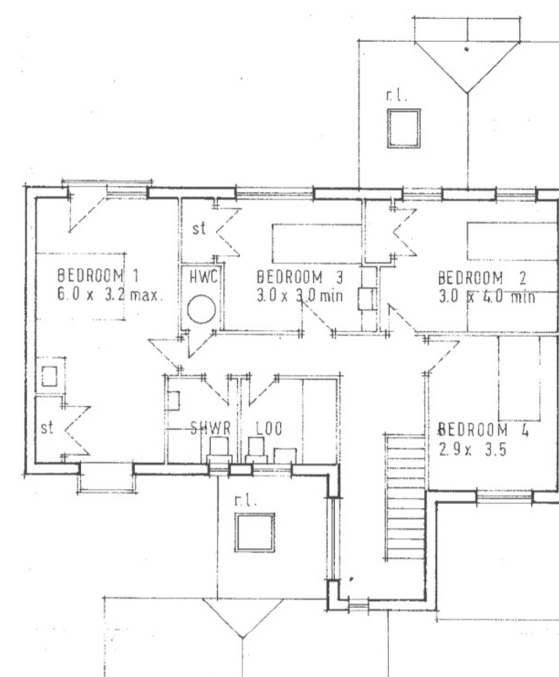
We enjoy Evensong a few times a year and have recently added Choral Matins to our services. Our services are enhanced by our choir and our excellent Music Director.



The Vicarage

The vicarage is a substantial detached 4 bedroom, 3 reception roomed house with a large garden. It has recently been upgraded with a new shower room and improved double glazing.

It is a 5 minute walk to the church and is close to the shops and other amenities in the village. There is an excellent bus service from Rottingdean both west towards Brighton and east towards Eastbourne.



The Reading Room

The church owns in trust a building in the centre of the village, known as the Reading Room. It is currently used as a snooker hall for which the church receives nominal rent.



Our Community

Rottingdean is a large village of approximately 4,000 people situated 4 miles from the vibrant city of Brighton and Hove. Our congregation has 140 on the electoral roll. Attendance at Sunday service is regularly between 60-70. This figure is much higher during the great festivals of the Church, Easter, Advent and Christmas, but as with many churches, we are an ageing group.

As part of our outreach into the community we organise many events which provide entertainment, fund raising and bring non church goers into our church. We work closely with local choirs and the 'Rottingdean Arts Festival' and Brighton Festival, who use the church as a venue for many of their events.



We have film nights with 'sing-a-long' subtitles that have been popular and we are about to embark on a disco evening to help people with dementia. There are flower festivals and Christmas Tree festivals held in alternate years with the participation from many non-church groups. There is a 'knit and natter' group that meets weekly in church.

The reordering of the interior of the church has resulted in a more open and flexible space, the largest in the village and is available to the community.

We have very good relations with our Roman Catholic neighbours at Our Lady of Lourdes church in Rottingdean. We work closely together and share services at Advent and Christmas.



Our School

St Margaret's CE Primary School is a warm, one form entry Church of England school with 172 pupils on roll, providing a nurturing environment where children are supported to thrive academically, socially and spiritually.

Rooted in strong Christian values, the school emphasises kindness, pride and respect, and is described as a community where every child is "nurtured and cherished." As we continue to strengthen our partnership with the parish, we hope the new incumbent will work closely with us—supporting collective worship, enriching our spiritual life, and helping deepen the links between church, school, and the wider community.

Sadly, we do not have any children attending church and it will be a priority for a new vicar to improve relations

with our school. There was a weekly school service, currently suspended during the interregnum. festivals held in alternate years with the participation from many non-church groups. There is a 'knit and natter' group that meets weekly in church.

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Baptism and Weddings

Following the closure of our church during the Covid pandemic and the subsequent move from the church during reordering the interior, we have experienced a falling off in both baptisms and weddings.

St Margaret's was a popular venue for both services, and we hope the new vicar will seek to address this.

The Incumbent

What we are looking for in the incumbent

The applicant needs to demonstrate:

Essential

- A commitment to working closely with our school to increase active participation in the life of the church
- To be a visible and active member of both the church and village community.
- To support the musical legacy of the church.
- To challenge our thinking

Desirable

- Inclusive, open to different forms of worship.
- An innovator who can bring a new perspective and dynamic to our church.

