

Bringing God's love to South Croydon



OUR BENEFICE PROFILE

April 2026



St Augustine's



St Peter's

The South Croydon Benefice is a family of two parishes (St Peter's and St Augustine's) where everyone belongs, is valued, and can grow in faith.

We are Christ-centred and outward-focused; we exist to worship God, making Christ known through teaching and through care for our congregations, communities and the wider world.

Our churches offer traditional and modern worship in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The Eucharist is at the heart of our life.

St Augustine's



St Peter's



WELCOME TO SOUTH CROYDON BENEFICE

Our benefice was created by the joining together of the parishes of St Peter's (1851) and St Augustine's (1881). Both churches are the work of the Scott dynasty, St Peter's by Sir George Gilbert Scott and St Augustine's by his son John Oldrid Scott.

In the bustling landscape of South Croydon, the gardens of St Augustine's and the churchyard of St Peter's provide green oases of calm. Both gardens and churchyard are tended by dedicated groups of volunteers. They not only draw on the energy, enthusiasm and knowledge of church members, they also welcome community members, who enjoy the friendship as well as the connection with nature that gardening brings.

On Saturday mornings both churches are open and welcome all visitors whether to pray, admire the architecture or simply stop for a coffee and chat. Visitors can also join us for our community gardening or special events such as the seasonal fairs, community markets or afternoon teas in the churchyard.

Our churches work closely together in the coordination of worship for major festivals, and in outreach service in the community with support for charities such as Croydon Nightwatch food distribution. Our joint Mission Action Plan is central to providing this unified approach while recognising and celebrating the unique characteristics of each church.

As a benefice we celebrate together at Easter, Christmas and other special events during the year such as All Souls', Pentecost, and choral evensong. We look forward to continuing this and finding further opportunities for joint events as well with our ecumenical partners such as the Aberdeen Road United Church.

As part of our regular outreach our weekly email benefice-wide newsletter details not only our services and events, but also general community events both within and beyond our benefice area. Similarly, our website gives both benefice information as well as links to the individual church websites.

Our Ministry Team not only leads our worship; they also provide information and training to both current and new members using the Pilgrim course, to deepen and grow our faith. We are now focusing on covering the vacancy and the appointment of our new vicar. **We are all looking forward to exciting times and any potential changes ahead for our benefice and community.**



MEET OUR TEAMS



Michael Brockett, LPLM, Lucinda Stevens – CPLM, Fr Michael Nayagam - Assistant Curate, and Andrew Moncrieff – LLM

The benefice ministry team currently includes an Assistant Curate and two licensed Lay Ministers. We are also blessed with two Affirmed Ministers, who primarily serve at St. Augustine's Church, although our intention is to develop their ministry across the benefice.

Meeting weekly, the team coordinates worship, pastoral care and community engagement. Ministry is shared with our Licensed Lay Ministers who regularly lead Sunday services, officiate at weekday Services of the Word as required, and preach. Pastoral outreach is a central priority; the team offer home communion to the sick and housebound and make regular visits to local care homes in South Croydon and lead short acts of worship.

Children's and schools' ministry is a valued aspect of benefice life. The ministry team maintains positive relationships with local schools, including Purley Oaks Primary School, Elmhurst School and Whitgift School, supporting engagement with children, families and the wider community.

Worship across our benefice has a balanced and prayerful rhythm that is rooted in the inclusive tradition of the Church of England. Regular Sunday services include a Book of Common Prayer service at 8am and a Eucharist at 9:30am at St Augustine's, alongside a Sung Eucharist at 11am at St Peter's. Midweek Eucharists are held at 10am on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

We live stream most of our Eucharist services on our [YouTube channel](#), which allows those unable to join us in person to share in our worship.

The ministry team coordinate regular Parade Services with uniformed organisations at St Augustine's and All Age Services at St Peter's. Community Morning Prayer is held both in person and via Zoom (in abeyance during the interregnum) from Monday to Thursday. The ministry team also organise the rotas for readings and intercessions, extending the role of ministering beyond the core ministry team. Vocations beyond official roles are regularly referenced by the ministry team in their preaching.

The liturgical life of the benefice is enriched through services such as Choral Evensong, Compline, and Taizé. Seasonal worship includes the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week, and the Christingle Service at Christmas. During Lent, the ministry team organises a well-supported programme of evening Lent Talks led by external speakers. Pilgrim courses also run during the year.

The ministry team serves with warmth, approachability, and a shared commitment to providing worship that is sacramental, inclusive and pastorally attentive, fostering a spirit of encouragement and belonging within the congregations and the wider community.

The two churches retain their separate PCCs, reflecting the unique contribution each makes to the benefice. There are a number of groups that oversee specific aspects of their parish's life and report back to their PCC. These include Finance, Fundraising, Fabric and Social groups, along with a Centre Management Team for St Augustine's centre and a Hall and Church House Committee at St Peter's. Both PCCs also send representatives to the Deanery Synod.

Our **Mission Action Plan** covers the benefice, and more details can be seen in the annex explaining our priorities for 2025 – 2030.

While each PCC has a **Safeguarding** officer, they meet as a benefice group with members of the Ministry team. Safeguarding is taken seriously in the benefice with the most up to date policies available in "A Safe Church", a document produced by the Diocese of Southwark. Our safeguarding officers' contacts are printed on the weekly pew sheets and in our e-newsletter, which also gives helpline numbers for organisations that can help those in need of support or advice. Our Safeguarding Officers keep their respective PCCs informed of necessary training and updating DBS checks.

ST AUGUSTINE'S PCC



Back Row: Bill Luckhurst, Brenda Mansworth, Julie Hillier, Beverley Josephs, Kate Richards, Michael Brockett; Front Row: Neil Hillier, Fr Michael Nayagam, Lucinda Stevens, Gwyneth Smith, Nikki Aduba, David Wilcox. Additional members (not pictured) are Wendy Boyce, Brian Dineen, Louise Vinicombe.

ST PETER'S PCC



Back Rows: Andrew Moncrieff, Ben Wilson, Jonathan Weller, Gareth Saunders, Sudarshan Desikan; Front Row: Karen Percival, Lucy Dee, Beverley Foulkes-Jones, Michael Nayagam, Stephen Moores. Additional members (not pictured) are David Percival, Jeanelle George and Mikitha Sudarshan.

OUR COMMUNITY

As a benefice we welcome the opportunity to worship together, bringing together not only our church congregations but also those of our ecumenical partners. Together we aim to make Christ known in South Croydon!



St Peter's Christmas Market



Benefice Christingle Service



Knitting group at St Augustine's



St Peter's Summer Fayre



Sandwich making for the homeless, at St Peter's...



... and at St Augustine's

THE VICAR WE NEED WILL...

- prioritise the leading and equipping of both churches in mission, with a focus on growing the congregations and bringing God's love to South Croydon
- be someone who can lead both churches, building on their individual strengths while growing together in faith and building an even stronger presence for the benefice in our community
- encourage and include the contributions of all, young or old and welcome new ideas and diverse thinking
- faithfully and creatively teach the Gospel for our times and context, helping us walk closer to God through high quality preaching
- guide us in meeting the challenges and opportunities that the diocesan vision of justice, peace and integrity of creation presents
- encourage clear and open communication within each church and across the benefice
- provide pastoral care of the housebound
- be able to engage with a neurodiverse population, providing comfort and guidance to those with mental health issues
- embrace the challenges posed by a transient population.



Word cloud based on congregation responses

So, if you have the energy, enthusiasm and leadership skills to guide us in our vision we would love to hear from you!

OUR MISSION

Our Mission Action Plan for 2025-2030 sets out how we are 'Bringing God's Love to South Croydon'.

See Annex 1 for the full plan and summary of progress so far.

**Proclaiming
the Gospel**

1st Mark of Mission: **Tell**

**Provision
for children
and young
people**

2nd Mark of Mission: **Teach**

**Caring for
the
marginalised**

3rd Mark of Mission: **Tend**, 1st Pioneer Minister focus

**Racial
justice**

4th Mark of Mission: **Transform**

Eco-Church

5th Mark of Mission: **Treasure**

**Improving
ecumenical
relations**

2nd Pioneer Minister focus

THE BENEFICE IN CROYDON

The South Croydon Benefice lies to the south of Croydon town centre. Across the benefice larger homes have been converted into flats, and new apartment blocks have also been built. Despite this, there is still a shortage of both social housing and affordable housing for young people seeking their first home. This has in turn led to a growing transient population, with several members of both churches living outside the benefice. Even so, South Croydon is still popular with families and commuters for its mix of Victorian, Edwardian, and modern housing. The area offers a quieter alternative to central Croydon and there are many open green spaces including Purley Way Playing Fields and Haling Grove Park, plus Lloyd Park and Croham Hurst woods close by. It is also easy to access the more rural parts of Croydon by car or public transport such as Farthing Down and Coulsdon Common.

There are a number of small businesses and independent shops in the benefice including a range of restaurants and cafes, specifically in South End, Selsdon Road and the Brighton Road.

Though there are no parish schools, the benefice has strong links with Purley Oaks Primary School, Whitgift School and St Giles' community school for children with complex needs. Nearby church schools include Christ Church Purley, The Minster School in Old Town and Archbishop Tenison in Park Hill. There are also excellent independent schools ranging from Cumnor Nursery and Prep Schools to the Whitgift Foundation Schools, Croydon High School for Girls and Royal Russell.

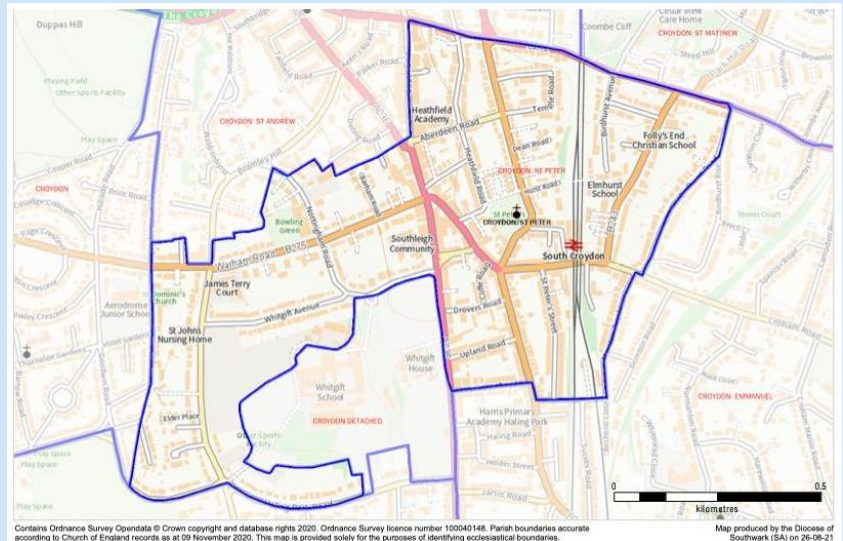
Croydon is a lively and culturally diverse borough, with much street art around the town centre. We are currently hosting "accessible art" from the National Gallery collection, with reproductions of famous works on display around the borough.

Croydon has excellent transport facilities, to and through London to the North, Gatwick airport and the coast to the south, while trams help with transport to the west and east. We are also served by Croydon University Hospital (in the north of the borough) and Purley Hospital (just south of the benefice) where there is a GP hub.

A south London Westfield "mega-mall" was proposed for Croydon, but after delays and the enduring impact of Covid a reimagined scheme aims to deliver a mixed-use, residential led redevelopment of the town centre. The Croydon Growth Plan 2025 and Future Croydon Transformation Plan (2024-2029) aim to regenerate the town centre, address financial challenges and boost economic growth. Key areas of focus include a transformed North End, enhanced connectivity, new homes, and creation of a diverse, sustainable community with improved public services, all likely to attract more people to live in Croydon increasing housing needs, both in the town centre and our benefice.



ST PETER'S



OUR BUILDINGS

St Peter's Church, which is Grade II listed, was finished in 1851, making 2026 our 175th anniversary year. Work to replace the nave and chancel roof started in 2018, and there are some issues still to be addressed with a leak in the Lady Chapel. Previous water damage to paintwork on the walls needs to be repaired and, in the medium term, the spire will need to be re-shingled. The rest of the fabric is in reasonable condition, and the recent Quinquennial inspection has not noted major urgent works.

Funds are currently being raised to install cupboards under the tower for hangings, banners, Christmas decorations and other items, along with a refresh of the coffee area.

Bell Tower – St Peter's is lucky to have a ring of 12 bells, the last two being added at the Millennium. While we have an enthusiastic group of bell ringers and are a magnet for ringers across the country, we would love to have regular ringers for our Sunday services.

St Peter's Churchyard – the church was built just before publicly funded, council-run cemeteries became the norm. The churchyard and gardens now provide a green oasis, and an important wildlife habitat thanks to the many mature trees and shrubs. It is used for events such as the summer garden parties and the Village Fayre.

St Peter's Church Hall in nearby Ledbury Road, built between 1929 and 1931, is hired to Phoenix Martial Arts, providing a regular income to the church. It is used for fundraising events through the year including markets and quiz nights. Spaces in the car park behind the church hall are hired to local businesses, providing a further income stream.

South Croydon Day Centre for the Elderly adjoining the hall is an independent day centre run by the South Croydon Centre Trust. It provides its visitors with a safe environment in which to meet others and make new friends, as well as providing reasonably priced hot meals, and organised activities and outings.

"Scout Hut" at the rear of the hall car park now used as our storeroom for donated books which we sell at many of our events.

St Peter's Church House, across the meadow at the west end of the church, provides a smaller meeting room with kitchen facilities. This is used for meetings of the Tuesday Group and the PCC, and for smaller events, such as coffee mornings and Burns lunches. The garden is also used for summer barbecues. A tenanted flat provides a regular income.

MUSIC

Music plays a key role in the life of the church, enhanced by a small, but experienced four-part choir. The Sunday Eucharist service includes an anthem, motet and sung communion setting. The choirs of St Peter's and St Augustine's combine to form a healthy Benefice Choir, leading Choral Evensong and major festivals about 15 times per year. These services frequently attract friends and past choristers.

While maintaining our rich musical tradition, it has been challenging to attract juniors to the front row since the pandemic. Recent initiatives for the wider church and community have included popular 'South Croydon Makes Music' and 'South Croydon Sings Christmas' events, which have been free to attend.

With recent updates to sound and lighting, the potential to use the church for concerts and recitals remains a priority. The church has an ideal performance area in front of the screen but will need a good piano to attract outside groups.

Although the church is not affiliated to any local school, some nearby schools use the church for services and religious studies trips.

FINANCES

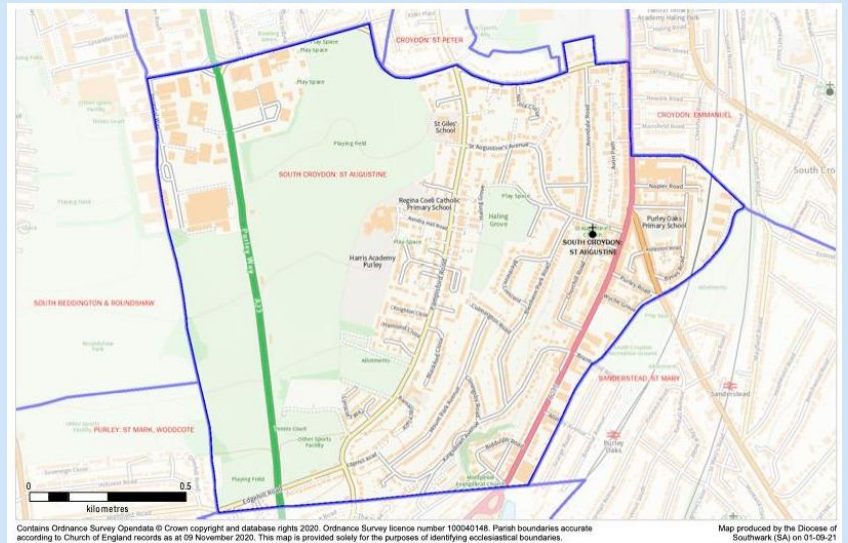
St Peter's fully meets its financial responsibilities, including payment of the Parish Support Fund. There are 28 planned givers who donate through a bank of which 23 gift aid their contributions, the rest not being taxpayers. We also have 3 regular givers who use the SumUp facility.

The hiring agreements for the church hall and car park, along with rent for Church House and income from a range of fundraising events, have enabled us to generate an income of £106,000 and we had reserves of approximately £285,000 as of 31.12.2025. Expenditure last year was £97,000.

Church of England Census demographic data and the Parish Dashboard for St Peter's can be found in Annex 2.



ST AUGUSTINE'S



AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH

St Augustine's is liberal by tradition and is proud to be a member of 'Inclusive Church'. Our congregation is diverse in every sense, and everyone is warmly welcomed to take an active part in worship and Church life. We extend a special welcome to those who feel marginalised and especially those from nearby hotels used by the Home Office to accommodate temporary residents and asylum seekers. We are committed to making everyone feel welcomed and at home in the church, and above all supporting our visitors in feeling valued and included in the wider community. Although the 2025 full review of the electoral roll shows a slight fall in numbers, our congregation is relatively stable, and representative of the local community.

THE BUILDING

St Augustine's Church is Grade II* listed and was built in 1881 as a daughter church to St Peter's, in response to a growing local population. In 1987 the church was reordered to create a modern worship space seating approximately 150 people. The remainder of the building was converted into a Church Centre comprising of a large and small hall, fully equipped kitchen, toilet and storage facilities. Under the High Altar a small basement room for hire includes a kitchenette, toilet and storage facilities.

The church building is well maintained and has undergone several significant improvements in recent years. External works include substantial reroofing and complete refurbishment of all ornate cast iron guttering to the main North front of the church, both works completed with the assistance of grants. Internal works include upgrades to the Centre kitchen and toilets, improvements to the vestry and clergy garment storage, improvements to the heating system and the phased introduction of LED lighting. We are currently progressing a project to remove and repair several of our smaller stained-glass windows. These works have been funded by a small diocesan fabric grant, as well as donations and fundraising.

The St Augustine's Centre is very much at the heart of the local community, located neatly inside the re-ordered church. Our paid part-time centre manager, Keishea Adoo, plays a proactive key role in ensuring its smooth and continued service to the community.

The Centre is available for hire and hosts a wide range of activities from weekend family parties to regular weekday bookings from community groups and local organisations. Regular bookings include the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, Indian Dance, Yoga, Karate, Art Therapy and Mencap and AA support groups.

A recent House of Good (National Churches Trust) social value calculation shows the Social Value of our church and community centre as £1.5 million. This calculator captures and showcases the social and economic value a church brings to the community, using the latest HM Treasury economics. We were delighted with this result, reflecting the crucial role our church and centre play in our local community.

MUSIC

St Augustine's has a long and distinguished musical tradition. The church maintains a four-part choir that sings at the 9.30 am Eucharist and joins with the choir at St Peter's to form the Benefice Choir mentioned further above.

The church is home to a fine three-manual organ built by Hill, one of the great organ builders of his time. Carefully maintained, it produces a rich, warm and versatile sound that enhances worship and musical events. In addition, St Augustine's enjoys the use of our Kawai grand piano which is regularly used to accompany the choir and is available for use by other groups and performers.

FINANCES

St Augustine's is supported by the Parish Support Fund and continues to meet its full financial responsibilities, including payment of the Diocesan Quota. Most parishioners give through the Parish Giving Scheme or by regular direct giving, with only a small proportion contributing through cash collections. Our congregation is generous and committed to stewardship; last year we were able to claim £11,000 in Gift Aid from HMRC, significantly strengthening our income. Prudent financial management has maintained a modest reserve alongside our Offertory Account. Careful budgeting and ongoing vigilance enable us to balance the books each year. The Centre plays a vital role in our overall financial sustainability, with hire income covering a substantial proportion of our annual expenditure, which totalled around £87,000 in 2024. Much hard work has seen Centre hirer numbers now return to pre-pandemic levels, resulting in a positive contribution to our financial stability.

Church of England Census demographic data and the Parish Dashboard for St Augustine's can be found in Annex 2.



SUPPORT FOR YOU

THE VICARAGE

The Vicarage for the benefice is at 20 Haling Park Road, South Croydon. It is a purpose-built house, just over 25 years old, halfway between the churches on the boundary of the two parishes. The house has an entrance hall with seating, two reception rooms with French windows and a separate study with shelving, four bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and two bathrooms, plus storage around the house.

It also benefits from gas central heating, plenty of off-road parking, two garages and mature, well cared-for gardens to front and rear. Further photographs can be found in Annex 3.



YOUR PLACE IN OUR BENEFICE

You will be part of a supportive ministry team comprising an Assistant Curate, two Licenced Lay Readers and one Commissioned Lay Reader, each with their own interests and areas of responsibility.

As part of your ongoing personal development, you will be supported with reading and training.

We expect you to take holidays and nominate one day as week as your day off, in order to maintain your well-being.

Reasonable expenses will be met by the Treasurer subject to PCC approval.

