

ST MARY'S CHURCH MERTON



Parish Profile October 2025

St Mary's Church Merton is a Church of England parish in south west London, shaped by a rich heritage and musical tradition and with a deep commitment to serving our community. As we look to the future, we are prayerfully seeking a new Vicar to lead us in worship, discipleship, growth and outreach. Our profile offers an overview of parish life, our values and our hopes as we discern together where God is calling us next.

1. About the parish

The parish of St Mary the Virgin is tucked away in a secluded leafy corner of SW19 called Merton Park, characterised by tree-lined streets of Victorian, Edwardian and post-WWI houses. We serve a community of some 3,000 households, with attractive parks, favoured haunts for local people particularly dog walkers. St Mary's is blessed with its own glebe fields adjacent to the extensive churchyard. The church, glebe, several adjacent streets and a nearby park together form the John Innes Merton Park Conservation Area.

We have three state primary schools in the parish (Merton Park, Poplar and Park Academy), along with Rutlish High School. The Old Rutlishians' Club in nearby Poplar Road is a flourishing sports and social hub for many local people, particularly families, offering high-standard cricket, rugby and football sections for young people and adults.

Merton Park is a settled neighbourhood, and many older members of our congregation (70+ years) have been worshipping at St Mary's for decades. Many of the residents are professionals and, like many parts of London, it has become increasingly affluent, making it harder in recent years for lower income younger people and families to move into the area. We continue to be a predominantly white, middle-class congregation.

Merton Vicarage is adjacent to the church, accessed through an original Norman archway relocated from Merton Priory. The nearby '60s Parish Hall, recently renovated, has always been a busy social hub. Merton Park benefits from the excellent public transport links of both Wimbledon and Morden. It is a delightful place in which to live, with its own established character but also enjoying the amenities of Wimbledon and easy access via train and underground into central London and the City.



Historic St Mary's

Although an earlier Saxon building existed according to the Domesday Book of 1086, it was Gilbert the Norman who founded both Merton Priory (demolished at the dissolution of the monasteries) and St Mary's Church in about 1115, and we celebrated our 900th anniversary just ten years ago.

Both the ancient parish of Merton and the church boast significant historic naval links. In 1801 Horatio Lord Nelson purchased Merton Place (now sadly demolished) and he worshipped regularly at St Mary's. 'Nelson's Seat' still stands at the east end of the nave. His only child, Horatia, daughter of Emma Hamilton, was baptised here and a hatchment which flanked his funeral procession to St Paul's Cathedral in 1806 hangs on the north wall. Rear-Admiral Isaac Smith, reputedly the first European to set foot on Australian soil, is buried in the churchyard and there is a fine memorial to the Smith family in the north aisle, funded by Isaac's cousin Elizabeth, the widow of Captain James Cook. The south wall contains beautiful stained-glass windows designed by Edward Burne-Jones.

2. About the church

a) The church and our worshipping community

St Mary's is very much a local parish church. Most of those who attend services or participate in other aspects of our life live within, or close to the parish boundaries. In terms of belief, theological approach and churchmanship they come from a wide range of Christian backgrounds within the Anglican spectrum (and indeed beyond: we have members from Free Church and Roman Catholic traditions). This diversity means that it is not easy to attach to St Mary's one of the standard churchmanship labels, but the one that probably best describes our shared life as a Christian community is 'liberal catholic':

- **Liberal** - in that we welcome all regardless of race, gender, sexuality or any other distinguishing characteristic, and seek to be open to new things that God may be doing in the Church (we have always welcomed the full sacramental ministry of female clergy; the PCC recently expressed its support for the use in appropriate circumstances of the Living in Love and Faith prayers should the incumbent wish to do so).
- **Catholic** - in that we hold to the 'catholic essentials' (to use an expression of a late churchwarden): the centrality of the Eucharist (including reservation of the Blessed Sacrament), dignified liturgy with vestments, servers and robed choir, observance of the Church's seasons and festivals.

Our vision is for St Mary's to be a lively, progressive, inclusive, open-minded, welcoming, outward-looking, sacramental church at the heart of the Merton Park community, witnessing to the Gospel of God's love in Christ offered to all and committed to furthering his kingdom.

Worship

The normal pattern of Sunday worship is:

- **8am Said Eucharist** using Common Worship (CW) Order One except once a month when the BCP rite is used.
- **9.30am (10 am on certain feast days) Sung Parish Eucharist** with choir, crucifer and acolytes, robed lay eucharistic ministers, and a procession on major feast days. We use CW Order One with hymns, sermon and a congregational mass setting, except once a month when the choir sings a choral setting. Lay members of the congregation read the lessons and lead intercessions. Our liturgy is conducted in a style which is dignified but relaxed and unstuffy. Once a month the Parish Eucharist takes the form of a simplified and shorter 'Children First Eucharist' with children's address. Eucharistic vestments are always worn.
- **6.30pm Choral Evensong** according to the BCP with hymns, psalm sung to Anglican chant, sermon and settings of the canticles and preces & responses sung by the Choir. St Mary's is widely valued as one of very few churches in the Diocese to maintain the tradition of weekly choral Evensong. Our Advent, Christmas and Epiphany carol services are also at 6.30pm, as is a special service during All Souls tide.

Midweek there is presently a monthly said Eucharist on a Thursday morning, although some years ago there was a pattern of two weekday celebrations each week. During Advent and Lent there is often an early evening Compline or meditative service of the Word, with a daily evening Eucharist in Holy Week and the traditional ceremonies of the Easter Triduum. Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day are observed with an evening sung Eucharist.



Baptisms are conducted either in the context of the 9.30am Eucharist or as a standalone service later on Sunday morning. During 2024 there were 11 baptisms, all children (13 in 2023). Many baptism families are not regular churchgoers. The church is a fairly popular location for weddings: four during 2024 although, to date, just two during 2025.

Home communion and anointing of the sick are undertaken by the clergy, assisted by a lay pastoral team. When we had authorised persons (Readers and Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries) in post, they also took communion to the sick from the Reserved Sacrament.

"For me, the 8am service is a chance not only to pray and be lost in the ritual but also to be still for a while, to refresh my mental senses"

Attendance statistics

Electoral roll (renewed 2025): 223.

Key figures from 2024 Statistics for Mission return:

- **Worshipping community:** 225 (0-10: 30; 11-17: 19; 18-69: 101; 70+: 75).
- **Easter** Communicants: 151; total worshippers: 271.
- **Christmas** Communicants: 235; total worshippers 911 (mainly explained by two extremely well-attended Christmas Eve afternoon Christingle services).

From the church's register of services, mean average attendance (including choir and clergy) during the first five months of 2025 (excluding Easter Day):

- 8 am Eucharist: 9.
- 9.30 am Parish Eucharist: total 80 (12 under 16; 68 adults); communicants 58.
- 6.30 pm Evensong: 36.

Standing back from these numbers, there are some features worth noting:

- Attendance has not returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- With family and other pressures, for many of our members the culture of weekly attendance at church has been lost. At the 9.30 am, a core of perhaps 20 or 30 (mainly older) adults (excluding the Choir) are present every or most weeks, with a larger group attending church much less frequently.
- Apart from those in the Choir, very few young people over the Sunday Club age (see below) are seen in church. Attendance of Sunday Club children and their families tends to be focused on the two Sundays of the month when either the club meets, or we have our Children First Eucharist.
- We have had relatively few confirmations in recent years.
- In light of the above, it is no surprise that, in common with many other churches, the worshipping community is ageing, and a major challenge is the need to attract an increasing influx of new younger members.

Music

St Mary's is noted for its commitment to music and the excellence of its Choir. In our current Director of Music and his predecessor we have been fortunate over the past 15 years to have enjoyed the services of two enthusiastic and talented young musicians who have cemented the Choir's first-rate reputation.

The Choir currently comprises a back row of adult volunteers and choral scholars (boys with changed voices and girls 14+), with the treble line provided by boys and girls drawn from local schools. At present there are two probationers, six junior (primary-age) choristers, eight senior (secondary-age) choristers and 14 choral scholars. They receive excellent musical training, with vocal and theory teaching, working within the RSCM Voice for Life chorister training programme and ABRSM

"Music at St Mary's encourages the engagement and involvement of young people in a traditional church setting via a rich, sacred musical heritage"



music theory syllabuses. This autumn, two of our chorists will be leaving us to join the girls' choir at St Paul's Cathedral, testament to the excellence of the musical education offered at St Mary's.

The Choir leads the worship each week at both the 9.30 am Eucharist, singing a choral setting once a month, and Choral Evensong, as well as occasional other services. From time to time, they have sung services at cathedrals, and most recently at Westminster Abbey in July 2025. The repertoire spans the full range of church music from 16th century polyphony to contemporary composers.

In addition to the Director of Music, the music team generally includes two young organ scholars at different stages of development, and a Vocal Coach.

St Mary's commitment to music was impressively demonstrated about ten years ago when funds were raised for a new Mander organ, which is recognised as one of the finest instruments in the area. In addition, we have a Boston grand piano.

The music at our services is sometimes led by the Occasional Singers, a group of adults drawn from the congregation. They give the robed choir the opportunity to have a week off on 6-8 occasions per year, often coinciding with school holidays.

Bellringers

We have an active and enthusiastic band of bellringers who ring before both the Parish Eucharist and Choral Evensong. They also ring for weddings and occasional quarter peals for major occasions. We welcome visiting bands from time to time.

Children and youth work

In the past, St Mary's has run a youth club, but currently the two principal planks of our work with children and young people are the Sunday Club and the Choir.

Sunday Club runs once a month, typically on the first Sunday. Previously it was offered weekly, but the gradual move away from habits of weekly church attendance and the growth of competing children's Sunday activities meant that numbers were often low, with little consistency of attendance from week to week. The intention was to encourage regular attendance by focusing on one Sunday per month for Sunday Club and on another for the Children First Eucharist.

Currently around 30 children are registered with Sunday Club, aged between 3 and 11 years, with a regular attendance of 10 to 12 children at each session. The highest recorded attendance in the past year was 15, and the lowest 6.

The programme follows the Church calendar closely, using Roots Online and the accompanying magazine as primary resources to ensure that sessions are engaging, meaningful, and appropriate to a range of age groups. Wherever possible, the activities reflect the themes of the church service and the wider Christian calendar.

Sunday Club is led by a rota of committed parents, with each session run by one leader and one assistant. These volunteers are actively involved in delivering creative and thoughtful sessions.

Each session begins at 9.30 am and lasts for approximately 40 minutes. Afterwards, the children join the service in church at Communion and are invited to share with the congregation what they have created or explored during Sunday Club.



The Sunday Club leaders celebrate the integration with the main service, which encourages the children to feel valued members of the church community, and the way creative activities allow the children to engage with scripture in a fun and memorable way. But they also highlight some challenges:

- running only once a month limits continuity and regular engagement for some children;
- volunteer availability, especially during school holidays;
- the wide age range requires flexibility in planning to ensure content is accessible and engaging for all.



"St. Mary's is at the heart of the local community and interacts in a variety of ways"

As well as leading services, the **Choir** represents the second plank of our work with children and young people. In 2024 a total of 25 young people were involved in the Choir in one way or another. Some of them come from church families but many others arrive at St Mary's primarily interested in singing and music and with little knowledge of Christian faith. The opportunity and challenge for us is to help to integrate them, and their families, into the Church community and to encourage those who wish to do so to commit themselves to Christian discipleship.

In early 2025 it was a joy for the first time to admit a group of eight children to communion before confirmation, of whom five were linked to the Sunday Club and three to the Choir.

Spirituality and prayer and study groups

Over the years, there have been various ad hoc Advent and Lent groups run at St Mary's. At present we have two groups which meet regularly, both lay led.

The **Pilgrim Group**, which meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening over three annual terms and includes participants from our neighbouring parish of St James Merton, originated and took its name from the Church of England Pilgrim study course. Since completing that course some years ago, the group has used other course material (for example from York Courses or Living the Questions) or, more often, has read and discussed a book together. Most recently the group has studied books by C.S. Lewis, Richard Rohr, Stephen Cottrell, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, Timothy Radcliffe and John Pritchard.

A fortnightly **Bible study group** has recently started meeting on Tuesday mornings, studying St John's Gospel.

It is undoubtedly a challenge to get St Mary's people to engage with study groups of this kind. But these encounters between people, often with different perspectives, have proved to be seedbeds of growth and mutual understanding which are greatly valued by those who participate.

The spirituality of **pilgrimage** has been a feature of St Mary's life in recent years. Our first pilgrimage, to Winchester, took place in 2010, followed by Canterbury in 2015 and St Albans in 2023. On each occasion a group, supported by the wider congregation, walked all or part of the pilgrimage route over several days, arriving at the destination on Sunday, with a larger contingent of St Mary's people travelling from Merton by coach to join the walking pilgrims to participate in the cathedral Eucharist and a shared lunch.

From time to time, **quiet days** have been offered in the Vicarage.

b) The church and the community we serve



"St Mary's has a welcoming atmosphere and a sense of practical application of what it means to be a Christian"



"We attend the Children First services and have always loved the perfect blend of it being both traditional and laid back"

St Mary's has, for many centuries, stood as a focal point for the local community of Merton Park, not only as a place of worship but also as a centre of service, support and connection.

A centre of community life

Our ancient, historic and beautiful church, its peaceful churchyard and our glebe fields are woven into the social, and indeed, civic fabric of Merton. A team of volunteers opens the church every day from 9am to 4pm, offering a place of peace and tranquillity and enabling local people to find precious moments of calm and reflection in an increasingly troubled world. This was a service particularly valued and appreciated during the pandemic.

St Mary's is a focal point in the borough each Remembrance Sunday, with a civic service at the Nelson Health Centre attended by, amongst others, the Mayor of Merton and the MP for Wimbledon, followed by services at both the church

and war memorial, where we welcome the uniformed organisations, the Rutlish School Combined Cadet Force and Old Rutlishians. Together we remember with gratitude those who fell in all conflicts, and particularly those laid to rest in the 26 war graves in our churchyard.

Though the number of weddings we host has declined in recent years, our clergy and pastoral team continue to play a central role in life's key moments, providing bereavement support, preparing families for baptisms and couples for weddings, and offering practical help such as transport to church services and related activities.

Our **Parish Hall** is a significant community asset. It offers spaces that not only generate income commercially for the PCC but also helps to broaden our parish life. Activities based at the hall include a wide variety of leisure and fitness classes; 1st Merton Park Scouts (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts); 1st Merton Park Brownies; long-standing amateur dramatics group Parish Players, of which the Vicar is Hon. President, welcoming adults and young people from age 11 as members; Sunday Club; the weekly Wednesday Club for older people; six Fellowship Lunches each year mainly but, not exclusively, for local older people; and the Pilgrim and Bible Study groups. The Scouts also maintain their own



"People accept you as you are, at whatever stage of your journey of faith."

property on the hall's grounds. The hall serves as the polling station for both parliamentary and local elections.

On average, five hundred people use the hall every week. It is almost fully booked by regular hirers. The hall also hosts the St Mary's Summer and Christmas fairs, and we also have close links with other local organisations that hire it for their fund-raising events.

Together with the glebe, the hall offers affordable facilities for people to hold family celebrations, children's parties, weddings and funeral wakes. Generations of families have been coming to the hall, and feel it is part of their own history.

Beyond the hall, St Mary's is a thriving community of interest groups. The regular Sunday Walking Group and Book Club provide opportunities for fellowship and friendship, while our quarterly high-quality magazine Parish Matters reaches more than 3,000 households in the parish, distributed free by a team of volunteers. Self-funding through local advertising, it offers articles about the spiritual, musical and social life of St Mary's, local historical insights, news about upcoming events and interviews with local people. The Vicar is a member of the small editorial team of Parish Matters.

Music and culture

Building on its considerable choral musical tradition, and with the new organ and grand piano, our occasional concerts regularly draw audiences from beyond our congregation. The church also serves as a venue for recordings, taking advantage of its quiet geographical location.



"I value the fact that the church serves the whole community not just the congregation"

churches in our area assist poorer families in the borough of Merton. Similarly, others volunteer at Faith in Action's Merton Homeless Drop-in.

The Vicar holds the role of co-Patron of St James Merton with the diocesan Bishop and is on the Patronage Board for the Merton Priory Team.

Stewardship of God's creation

Our beautiful glebe, a significant open space adjacent to the churchyard, is valued by both churchgoers and the wider public. Our own Glebe Fund supports its upkeep. We also take seriously our call to environmental stewardship and some years ago achieved the A Rocha Bronze Eco Church award, with aspirations to gain Silver in the near future.

We are grateful for the dedicated volunteers who help to maintain our churchyard (although overall responsibility lies with Merton Council), the glebe, the hall front garden and the 26 war graves. Their work helps to ensure that these spaces continue to offer peace and beauty to all who visit.

Website and social media

St Mary's website is a valued source of information and news about the church, its life and community. Part of our ChurchDesk digital platform, the site lists all our services, and users can download the weekly pew sheet and every issue of Parish Matters. We have also recently launched an Instagram account, which posts regularly and is steadily increasing its reach (231 followers in June 2025).

Charitable outreach

We are active in charitable work both locally and globally. Our annual Christingle services, among our best-attended services of the year, have a strong charitable focus. We financially support a range of causes including The Children's Society, the Royal British Legion, and seven other charities to which we donate in total 10% of our planned giving receipts (including Gift Aid and cash donations). We also periodically host benefit concerts, most recently for Faith in Action Merton Homelessness Project and humanitarian relief in Ukraine.

Governance and wider partnerships

Our influence and partnerships extend into the wider community. The Vicar serves as ex-officio Chair of the Richard Thornton Foundation, financially supporting The Priory C of E Primary School in Wimbledon, and of Merton United Charities (which manages almshouses on Kingston Road), while two governors appointed by St Mary's serve at the Priory School. We actively participate in the Deanery Synod. A number of St Mary's people are volunteers with Christian Care, a local ecumenical charity through which the



c) The church – buildings and resources

i) Finance

The annual cost of all St Mary's activities was just over £285,000 in 2024. This included £115,000 by way of Diocesan contribution. For 2025 we have reduced our contribution to £100,000 for budgetary reasons.

Other significant costs include our Music Director and associated costs, the costs of running the Hall, our Associate Priest, work to the church fabric and our parish office.

Our income before investment gains was £274,000, of which £135,000 came in the form of gift-aided regular donations. We have about 120 regular donors. The other principal source of income is our Hall (£62,000).

At 31 December 2024, the net assets of the Church stood at £471,693, including a restricted fund for music purposes of £87,000, various fabric maintenance reserves of £150,000, other music related reserves of £60,000 and other designated reserves of £112,000. Our bequest policy means that 50% of any general bequest received is allocated to the main fabric maintenance reserve.

For greater details, please refer to the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024 to be found on the parish website at www.stmarysmerton.org.uk

Financial updates are given by the Treasurer to each PCC meeting.

We are planning to review our Planned Giving this autumn with an ambition to increase our regular income.



"I enjoy the friendliness and sense of community created through the worship"



ii) Buildings

The church

The core of the current church building was built c1115 but has had many additions and restorations over the centuries. The north and south aisles were added in the mid 19th century. It is Grade II* listed.

The building is well maintained with the vast majority of observations in the reports of the Quinquennial Inspections having been addressed. Following the 2021 inspection, all the external recommendations are now complete. Some of the internal observations, like surface cracks in the plaster, will be addressed when the inside of the church is redecorated within the next five years or so.

The twin gas boilers are of an age where parts are increasingly difficult to obtain and will need to be replaced within the next two or three years.

The church has fixed pews and can seat 269 people. The south-west corner of the nave has a children's play area.

The church has six bells dating from 1450 to 1970, hung in the roof and spire at the west end. They are well maintained by the bellringing team, with the aid of specialist professional help when needed. We are planning to replace the bearings in the near future. There are video observation

cameras in the belfry. The bells are rung from the tower at the west entrance where a large, restored 17th century painting of Christ Falling under the Cross is situated.

The churchyard is closed for burials although remains open for interments, which occur regularly, and is the responsibility of the London Borough of Merton for its maintenance. The wall surrounding the churchyard is generally in poor repair and the money from a successful bid to Merton's Civic Pride was recently used to rebuild an area that had collapsed. We regularly engage with Merton Council officers to encourage repairs to be conducted.

The maintenance of the church building, including regular inspections and certifications is managed by the Churchwardens supported by a PCC sub-committee chaired by the PCC Vice-Chair. A full description of the church is included in the 2021 Quinquennial Inspection report.

The vicarage

The original Georgian house was sub-divided into two dwellings in the 1970s. The vicarage has six bedrooms and a large garden, and is well-maintained. Maintenance and upkeep is the responsibility of the Diocese.

Parish hall

Our hall was built in 1964, with an attached bungalow for a resident paid administrator/caretaker. The building has one large hall with a fully operational stage and separate dressing room. In addition there is a small hall, a meeting room, kitchen, toilets and the Parish Office. The grounds include a car park, storage sheds and surrounding gardens.

An extensive refurbishment of the hall was completed in 2023. The building is in good condition with a planned programme of maintenance, including checks and services of boilers and all electrical appliances. The roof is professionally inspected three times a year. However, the original flat roof will require major resurfacing in the near future. Volunteers play an important role in the upkeep of the building and gardens.

Hall finance

The Hall belongs to the Parochial Church Council. A small Hall Committee is responsible for management and policy but reports to the PCC. Although the Hall is financially self-sufficient, the hall and church work as one entity, as shown in the St Mary's Church Management Accounts. The Hall Committee manages the finances against a budget projected forward over three years. The aim is to achieve a surplus in excess of 20% of the income from hire fees, with these being allocated in part as a reserve to meet future major refurbishment costs (principally the roof) which cannot be met from day-to-day income.

iii) Human resources

Our parish is blessed with a committed team of paid staff and dedicated volunteers who support and enrich the life of our church community. We take seriously our responsibility to foster a working environment that supports the health, wellbeing and professional development of our clergy and lay staff.

Clergy and licensed ministry

Our Vicar is supported by a part-time Associate Priest, whose contract has been renewed until October 2026. This post is fully funded by the PCC, reflecting our commitment to maintaining a strong clergy presence. The Associate Priest plays a key role in liturgical planning and pastoral care, including preparing choir candidates for the RSCM Voice for Life awards. At present, we have no Readers or active retired clergy assisting with ministry.

"St Mary's always feels very welcoming, and inclusive to everyone, even if you don't go regularly"





“We need to encourage new people, particularly families, to come to St. Mary’s”

Parish administration and governance

We employ a Parish Administrator who works four mornings a week, providing essential support for the day-to-day running of the parish. The Treasurer is supported by a paid bookkeeper who also deals with payroll.

Governance is shared across five PCC committees: Faith & Worship; Buildings & Works; Finance, Personnel & Administration; Hall; and Glebe. The Vicar chairs the PCC and Faith & Worship Committee and attends four committees regularly, ensuring leadership and coordination across core areas of parish life.

Music

Leading our robed choir is a small paid music team comprising the Director of Music and a Vocal Coach, and we are currently seeking to appoint a new Assistant Organist.

Parish hall

The hall is managed by a part-time Hall Administrator/ Caretaker who is responsible for bookings and lettings, day-to-day security, cleaning and maintenance.

Lay volunteers

The Occasional Singers is led by a volunteer Musical Director, who is also a member of the robed choir. Two volunteers separately run the Pilgrim Group and Bible Study Group.

Clergy wellbeing

We ensure that all legitimate working expenses are covered, and we support our clergy in taking their full holiday entitlement. There is a genuine culture of care within the parish for the wellbeing and personal development of our priests, with ongoing attention to maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

4. Our hope for the future

At St Mary's we are deeply rooted in a rich history and a vibrant tradition of worship, music and community engagement. As we look to the future, we remain committed to nurturing faith in people of all ages, strengthening our ties with the wider Merton Park community, and responding prayerfully and creatively to the challenges facing the Church today.

At the instigation of the Archdeacon, we have recently had initial discussions with the PCCs of St James Merton, St Saviour's Raynes Park and Holy Cross Motspur Park, with a view to fostering longer-term cooperation.

We have started a consultative process, St Mary's 2030, which aims to review our ambitions and purpose for the next five years and beyond, and how our current financial position may need to be developed to achieve our aims. We hope that our new Vicar will play an active role in taking this work forward to completion.

We now seek a priest who will share our vision for a sacramental, inclusive, and outward-looking church, and who will walk with us as we grow in faith, deepen our worship, and serve our neighbours with compassion and joy.

Together, we hope to build on the strong foundations laid by generations before us and to continue shaping St Mary's as a place of welcome, hope and renewal for all.



3. Our next vicar

The characteristics we are looking for in our new vicar are: Essential

- An approach to Christian faith which is open-minded, non-judgemental and grounded in the sacramental life of the Church.
- A pastoral heart for people of all ages and a particular ability to relate to children and young families.
- Able to communicate the faith with confidence in a way that applies to people's lives.
- Understands and values the importance of the Anglican choral tradition in worship and liturgy.
- An imaginative and visionary outlook, open to new ideas and approaches.

Desirable

- Ability to engage and inspire a congregation through a mix of styles and approaches to preaching.
- Ability to foster links both with the wider community served by St Mary's and surrounding parishes.
- A collaborative style comfortable with teamwork and delegation.
- An efficient administrator.
- Energetic and hard-working.
- Ability to prioritise, to think clearly and to remain focused.



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