PARISH PROFILE

St Peter's Church

Streatham

in the Diocese of Southwark

Are you our next Vicar?



Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London SW16 2SD
stpeters-streatham.org | Registered Charity No. 1138040
October 2026












Music Produced by
BOB GAUDIO

1. Welcome and Introduction

Everyone is welcome at St Peter's whether it is your first time or your hundredth, whether you are full of faith or full of doubt, whether you are looking for God, for beautiful choral music, or simply for a friendly chat. That welcome is not just a slogan on our website — it is how our congregation describes itself, week in and week out. When we asked our congregation to describe St Peter's, the same words came up again and again: welcoming, warm, friendly, inclusive, fellowship, kindness, diverse, prayerful, sacramental, and community minded. One member summed up what many feel: "...a very safe and welcoming space – a great energy and purpose here." Another wrote simply of "Love, Peace, Plenty" as what they hoped for the church and its people. We LOVE a party and the opportunity to celebrate our faith and each other.

We are a thriving worshipping community in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England (sometimes described as Anglo-Catholic), and you will find here incense, candles and glorious music alongside a heartfelt commitment to welcoming and accepting **all** people. We are part of the Diocese of Southwark, whose parishes reflect the rich diversity of South London. We wholeheartedly celebrate and affirm the rich ministry of women priests in the Church of England.

This parish profile draws on three recent pieces of listening work carried out with the congregation — a Values Questionnaire completed by people across the parish, 'post-it' note reflections and commentary on our three Mission Action Plan priorities: Welcome, Inclusion & Hospitality; Children & Young People; Serving our community, and a meeting of the congregation to feedback the results. Together they paint a picture of who we are now, our hopes for the future and who we are looking for in our next Vicar!



'Blessing of the Bookbags'

2. The Person We Are Seeking

Our congregation's own words, gathered through the listening process, describe with real clarity the kind of leadership St Peter's is looking for as it begins a new chapter. We hope our new Vicar:

- **Has a strong personal faith, inspiring and leading others to develop and deepen their own faith;**
- **Will celebrate our diversity and relate well to people of all ages, races and backgrounds, encouraging growth in faith and in numbers;**
- **Is fully supportive of ordained women's ministry including to the Episcopate;**
- **Can enable young people to play a full role in the life and mission of the church;**
- **Is a collaborative leader who can work empathetically in enabling, nurturing and guiding teams;**
- **Is a strategic thinker and can help us deliver our Mission Action Plan priorities, engaging and enthusing others to bring plans to life;**
- **Is outward facing with a passion to transform the community around us.**

We hope our new vicar will lead us through this period of transition with warmth and clarity, bring clear, consistent communication and steady, visible leadership as we move forward; honouring what has been built at St Peter's — its inclusivity, its warmth towards children and families, its Anglo-Catholic sacramental life — while helping us discern, together, who God is calling us to be; challenging us where we need it and helping us to continue to grow in God's calling to discipleship and mission and see the opportunities of our wonderful parish with fresh eyes. We do not expect our next vicar to do everything but to be a person who delights in growing others, nurturing gifts, and building confidence.

In return we can offer you a church full of love and openness to new ideas: a wonderful congregation and clergy team, committed and creative volunteers, a talented choir with a vibrant Director of Music. You would be joining a parish that knows its challenges, celebrates its strengths, and is ready to walk thoughtfully and prayerfully into the future with a vicar who will journey alongside us. And don't forget the parties!

Building on our good work so far, our aim is to become a church where all-age worship is at the heart of our mission and ministry, further embedding children and young people into all we do here, where deepening our prayer life and providing greater opportunities for people to encounter God's love underpins our shared spiritual life, and where St Peter's is a vibrant hub at the heart of our community with a building fit for God's mission in Streatham & West Norwood.

3. Our Local Area and Community

St Peter's stands on Leigham Court Road, at its junction with Glennie Road, at the heart of the community that straddles Streatham and West Norwood in the London Borough of Lambeth. Our parish today spans some 5,000 homes and around 16,000 people of all ages, races and religions — a cross-section of South London life. St Peter's serves a diverse urban community in South London. The parish boundaries encompass residential streets with a number of primary schools, two large secondary schools with sixth forms, one of which is an all-through school; independent businesses, and busy urban transport links. The church is served by local bus routes and is within easy reach of Streatham Hill, West Norwood & Tulse Hill train stations, making it accessible for people from Streatham and beyond.

Our congregation holds a strong commitment to the local area – maintaining a regular street-by-street prayer cycle upholding local residents, businesses, and civic institutions in our daily intercessions; working with our local primary schools hosting term-time visits and educational tours; working with the local elderly care home to provide a regular communion service for its residents; and acting as a hub for local civic and cultural events, e.g. Hosting the Streatham Free Film Festival and Streatham Choral concerts. All this has helped bring new people into the space.

Our Values Questionnaire responses repeatedly describe the congregation itself as a community that mirrors the neighbourhood around it.

Several respondents want St Peter's to lean further into this position at the centre of local life and strengthen and build on existing connections: 'Post-it' note feedback echoed this appetite for opening our doors more widely.

4. Our History and Background

St Peter's parish was carved out of that of its overflowing mother church, St Leonard's, Streatham to minister to a rapidly expanding Victorian population. The land was given by George Drew, a local landowner who also built Leigham Court Road, and the founders deliberately chose to build a church in the tradition of the Oxford Movement, with worship and music at its heart.

A temporary tin church was erected in 1865 and dedicated to St Peter and St Paul. The foundation stone of the permanent building was laid in 1868, and the church consecrated on 2 July 1870 by the Bishop of Winchester, Samuel Wilberforce. The building was significantly enlarged in the 1880s to designs by the architect George H. Fellowes Prynne, extending Richard Drew's original nave and adding the distinctive west end. The church suffered bomb damage in August 1944 and the original stained glass was lost during the Second World including the striking east window, replaced in 1955 by Lawrence Lee's depiction of Christ in Glory with St Peter holding a model of the church.

Music has been central to St Peter's identity from the outset: the choir was founded in the temporary tin church in 1866 by our first organist, Benjamin Agutter, and a choir has sung continuously ever since (bar a wartime break).

Our four-manual William Hill organ, built for the church in 1870 and enlarged in the early 1900s, is a remarkably grand instrument for a parish church, supporting both congregation and choir, as well as being used for concerts and recitals. It is in excellent playing form and the next phase of works starts in October 2026 to ensure it continues to be a fine instrument for the next generation.

St Peter's has been served by eleven vicars since 1870, most recently Fr Steffan Mathias who celebrated his last Mass in summer 2026 and it is this vacancy that we are now seeking to fill. As one member of the congregation put it in our recent listening exercise, this is a season for "community building, honouring what has been built while discerning what comes next".

5. Safeguarding

Safeguarding underpins every aspect of our life together - worship, the running of the church and all relationships and is everyone's responsibility. As well as complying fully with diocesan guidelines and instructions, we follow best practice in Safer Recruitment, especially for those with responsibility for children, young people or vulnerable adults. Risk Assessments are carried out for all church activities, especially those involving children, young people and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda and our Parish Safeguarding Officers are known and available to the congregation. Safeguarding training and DBS checks are up to date for all PCC members, volunteers and staff.

6. Our Worship and Liturgical Life

Worship sits at the very centre of life at St Peter's. We celebrate our Anglo-Catholic heritage through ordered liturgy, sacred music, and sacramental teaching. Asked what values feel most important for the church to embody, our congregation placed Worship, Community and Prayer among the most important - values we are already living out reasonably well, not just aspiring to.

Our regular pattern of worship & services:

Monday	9am – Morning Prayer* 9.30am — Said Mass (about 30 minutes), in church **
Tuesday	9am – Morning Prayer**
Wednesday	9am – Morning Prayer** 9.30am – Toddler Church* 12noon — Said Mass, in church & streamed, with refreshments**
Friday	2pm – Care Home Service (monthly, Uplands Care Home)*
Sunday	8am — Said Mass, in church 10.30am — Parish Mass, with Children's Church, sung by our choir, with refreshments afterwards, in church & streamed 6.30pm — Choral Evensong and Benediction, in church

*Lay led during the vacancy **Paused during vacancy

Our **Sunday Parish Mass (10:30am)** is our primary gathering. We take our solemn liturgy seriously, but not preciously. It is a joyful and inclusive service and is supported by our talented choir.

Children are fully integrated into the liturgy: serving at the altar – 8 of our serving team are children and young people - and assisting with duties like reading and welcoming. Our **Said Mass (8:00am)** offers a quieter space for prayer and communion. **Choral Evensong & Benediction (6:30pm)** is a beautiful service held during term time and provides high-quality choral music and space for contemplation.



The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett presides at our Parish Mass

We have identified the liturgical priorities for our new Vicar to be:

- **All-Age Worship:** continuing to develop and refine our all-age services so that children, young families, and long-standing members feel engaged.
- **Daily Prayer:** restoring a consistent daily pattern of Prayer to underpin our shared spiritual life.
- **Service Times & Accessibility:** reviewing Mass times to accommodate modern family schedules, alongside practical upgrades such as sound quality improvements.

See Appendix 1 for our Statistics for Mission and attendance figures for the ten years to 2025

7. Church Activities and Ministries













Alongside our services, a wide range of groups and activities make up the life of St Peter's throughout the week: the robed Choir, our Serving Team, Children's Church, Thursday Club (monthly meal & fellowship with a guest speaker), Toddler Church & play; Brownies, Guides and Rangers, dance groups, exercise classes and a range of other groups who make use of our hireable crypt space.

Over the last three years, St Peter's has delivered a substantial amount of change through its Mission Action Plan, including:

- Launching Toddler Church for toddlers and their parents/carers;
- Developing a new Children's Area within the church;
- Building a new Servery, so we can offer hospitality and refreshments;
- Running welcome courses for those new to, or exploring faith, such as 'Alpha' and 'Being With';
- Launching a regular supper and discussion club;
- Providing volunteers for the Robes Winter Night Shelter initiative;
- Growing our youth provision with an enlarged Youth Choir and Serving Team.
- Working with our neighbouring parish, St. Leonard's, Streatham to deliver year round activities, events and fellowship for older people under the umbrella of, 'Streatham Senior Connections'. An example being the popular *Holiday at Home* event, offered each September, for those in our communities who may be unable to go away on holiday: it is a well-loved and joyful programme with dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

The congregation shows real pride in how children and young people are woven into the life of the church — "very warm and welcoming space for children; I love that they are part of the service" — alongside a recognised need to keep developing this further, particularly through All Age Worship and a revamped youth offer.

Community engagement is a live and growing priority. St Peter's has hosted the Streatham Free Film Festival, supports the Lambeth and Croydon Foodbank and the 'baby bank', Little Village, and offers its crypt for local hire.



Community quiz night in the Crypt

St. Peter's Choir

In addition to supporting Parish Mass, Evensong and special services at St Peter's, the choir get involved each year in worship with neighbouring church choirs on request. The choir hosted a successful Youth Chor recruitment day in March 2026. The choir sang at the Southwark Cathedral Evensong Festival in May 2026, and they were bolstered by choir alumni to sing the services at Truro Cathedral for a week at the end of August 2026. They are booked to sing for a week at Ripon Cathedral in August 2027.



Youth & Adult Choir at Southwark Cathedral 2026

8. Our Mission and Vision



Asked what they believe God is calling St Peter's to prioritise in our next phase, our congregation's answers converged on themes of growth, prayer, fellowship, community and youth. Guided by our Mission Action Plan, St Peter's is focussed on spiritual growth, numerical growth, and deeper service to our neighbourhood.

We seek a Vicar who will work with us on our main strategic priorities:

- **Deepen All-Age and Youth Ministry**

  Build on the real success of involving children and young people in our worship and refresh our monthly Youth Group and lead the development of a regular All Age Worship service, so that families and young people continue to feel this is a church for them.

- **Enrich Our Liturgical and Prayer Life**

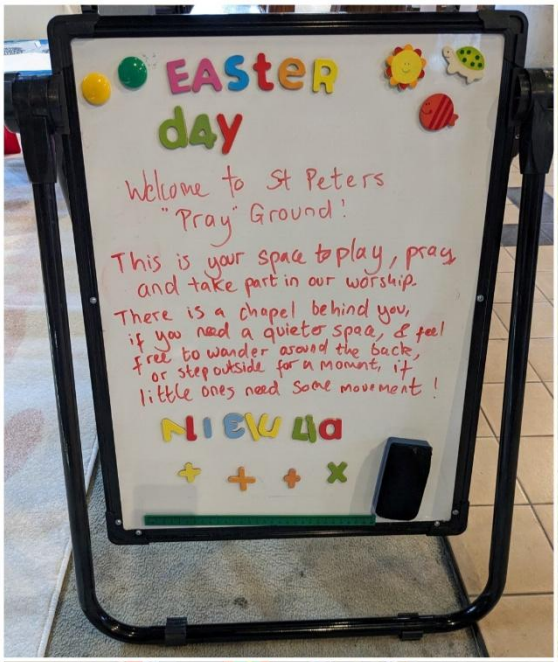
  Guide us in reviewing our pattern of services and continue our progress on our Mission Action Plan, while honouring the sacramental, Anglo-Catholic tradition and choral excellence that define worship at St Peter's.

- **Expand Community Connection and Hospitality**

  Lead us in engaging further with our diverse neighbourhood in Streatham and West Norwood through community events, outreach to local schools and care homes, and continued broadening of access to our wonderful church.

- **Build Fellowship, Nurture and Empower the Congregation**

  Support and pastorally care for members of all ages and backgrounds so that service at St Peter's is sustainable, joyful, and shared, not concentrated on a faithful few.

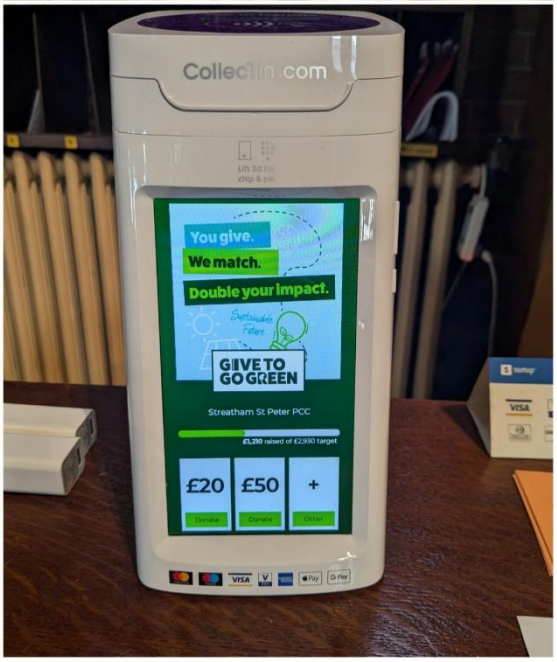

EASTER
day
Welcome to St Peters
"Pray" Ground!
This is your space to play, pray
and take part in our worship.
There is a chapel behind you,
if you need a quiet to space, & feel
free to wander around the back,
or step outside for a moment, if
little ones need some movement!






Simon
become
Peter


NUTRICIA
Nappies


Collectin.com
You give.
We match.
Double your impact.
GIVE TO GO GREEN
Streatham St Peter PCC
£20
£50
+

9. Ministry Team and Lay Support

The new Vicar will lead a dedicated and enthusiastic ministry team and an active PCC including Licensed Lay ministers and the following officers:

Assistant Priest	The Reverend Louise Boulton
Licensed Lay Reader(s)	Alice King Roland Brunner is in the process of formally joining our ministry team
Churchwardens	Anthea Eastoe and Angela Newby
Parish Safeguarding Officers	Maureen Downs, Caroline Johns, Tracey Maduro
Treasurer	Sharon Thomas
Planned Giving Officer	Catherine Chapman
Director of Music (salaried)	James Todd
Website & Clerk of Works	David Chapman
Crypt Manager	Angela Newby

NOTE: We have plans to recruit a part-time Administrator, with funding identified.

St Peter's is, by its own description, a congregation that likes to serve. Volunteers lead our Serving Team, Children's Church, Toddler Church, Thursday Club; and the choir itself, whilst led by an excellent salaried Director of Music, is a significant lay ministry, supported by paid scholarships.

This strong commitment to service, as a living expression of God's generous love, is a strength but comes with a known pressure point that the congregation has been candid about: continuing to encourage and celebrate individual gifts and talents is seen as key to sustaining and broadening lay involvement and avoiding 'burn out'.

10. Finances and Stewardship

St Peter's Church is a registered charity (Charity No. 1138040) and, like every parish church, depends on the generosity of its congregation and visitors for its day-to-day running and its wider mission. **We pay our parish share in full and on time**. We have an amount of unrestricted reserves invested with the CCLA plus restricted funds for the choir and the organ – our Reserves and Investment Policy details the purpose of reserves held. Our finances are carefully and expertly managed by our Treasurer who provides clear and timely reports to enable the PCC to properly fulfil its governance responsibilities.

The congregation's own feedback points to stewardship as an area of continuing focus for the future: several respondents raised the importance of fundraising to support the church's upkeep and mission, and the parish's Mission Action Plan currently includes significant capital ambitions —**renewing the building to make it fully accessible (initial feasibility work including a topographical survey has been undertaken), and working towards Net Zero as part of our Eco Journey**.

Our accounts and Charity Commission reporting is up to date: our latest accounts can be found on the Charity Commission website THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESTIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER, STREATHAM - 1138040

We are proactive in ensuring that our lovely church building and grounds are maintained to a high standard - not always easy for a Victorian building in a busy urban area. We have attended to major infrastructural upgrades, for example, since 2021: works to the guttering and the west façade, upgrades to our electrical infrastructure, new church LED lighting, building a church servery, important garden maintenance projects and maintenance works to the organ. We have an annual cycle of maintenance and professional inspection to meet our health & safety and other statutory obligations.

We have a crypt meeting room that we hire out for a whole series of regular and one-off activities and for use for church functions. This is a very important income stream.

11. The Vicarage & Suspension of the Patron's Right of Presentation

The current vicarage is located a short distance away from the church further down Leigham Court Road. Sadly the vicarage has been found to be suffering from subsidence and cannot be lived in without substantial investment – structural investigation has confirmed that the remedial works required to make the property sound are extensive. The decision of the diocese is to submit an insurance claim to rectify the building issues and to sell. A new vicarage will be purchased that will meet the needs of modern living and better support the exercise of ministry in the parish. **In the interim, a temporary residence has been secured – it's a large, modern house, located at 12a Salford Road, Streatham SW2 4BH, just a short distance away.**

Suspension of the patron's right of presentation was sought for up to three years to allow time for the insurance claim to be resolved, the current vicarage disposed of, and a replacement identified and purchased, enabling a substantive appointment to be made

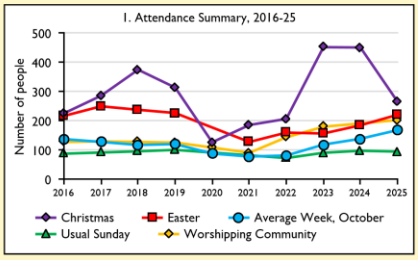
The PCC, as a statutory consultee under S85 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, was duly consulted and agreed to the suspension. This will mean that we appoint a Priest-in-Charge in the first instance who will become our Vicar once the replacement vicarage has been secured.

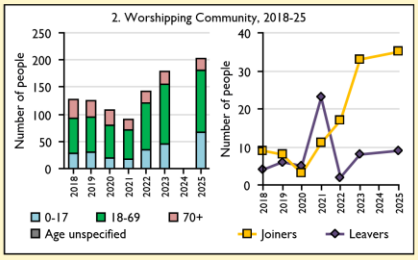


12a Salford Road, Streatham SW2 4BH

APPENDIX 1: Statistics for Mission

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Streatham: St Peter in the Deanery of Lambeth South





Parish Census and deprivation summary

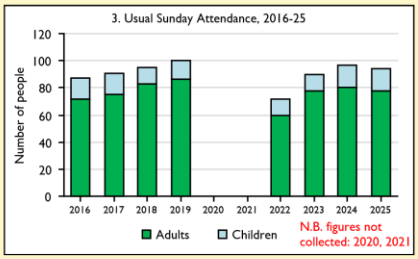
Parish population (2021): 15993

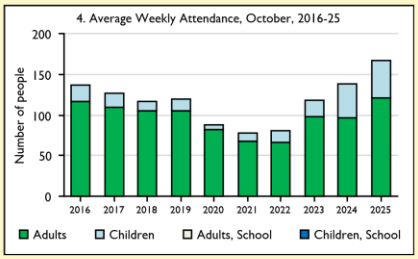
	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	22%	23%	23%
% aged 20-44	45%	41%	33%
% aged 45-69	27%	28%	31%
% aged 70 & over	6%	8%	14%
% Christian	42%	45%	46%
% non-Christian religion	12%	14%	11%

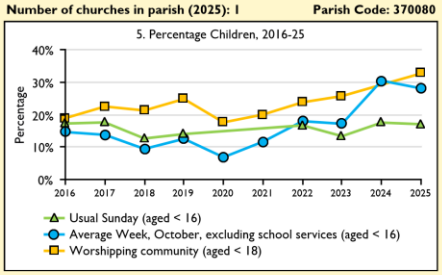
Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2025): 3250
(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,154=least deprived)

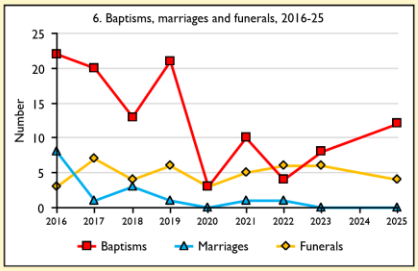
For more detailed census & deprivation info: see https://arcg.is/1Wz GbO https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/ and http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/

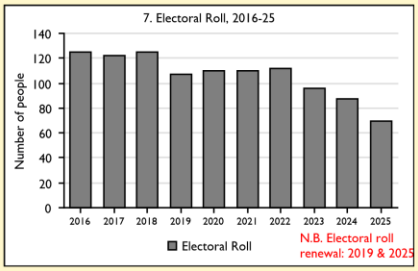
Number of churches in parish (2025): 1 **Parish Code: 370080**











This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the Parish
Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.
Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.
Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.
Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.
Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.
Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.
Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.
Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.
Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Oct 2025.
The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.
For more information, see: https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.
Number of churches included in returns: 2016 1;2017 1;2018 1;2019 1;2020 1;2021 1;2022 1;2023 1;2024 1;2025 1.
Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 17/03/2026.
Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Streatham: St Peter in the Deanery of Lambeth South

Report	Field	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1. Attendance Summary	Christmas	225	285	374	313	126	185	206	451	450	265
	Easter	216	249	237	226	-	127	159	156	184	220
	Average Week, October	137	127	117	120	88	77	81	118	138	168
	Usual Sunday	87	91	95	100	-	-	72	90	97	94
	Worshipping Community	127	129	127	125	108	90	143	179	-	202
2. Worshipping Community	Total			127	125	108	90	143	179	-	202
	0-17			27	31	19	18	34	46	-	66
	18-69			66	63	61	53	86	110	-	114
	70+			34	31	28	19	23	23	-	22
	Age unspecified			0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
	Joiners			9	8	3	11	17	33	-	35
	Leavers			4	6	5	23	2	8	-	9
3. Usual Sunday Attendance	Adults	72	75	83	86	-	-	60	78	80	78
	Children	15	16	12	14	-	-	12	12	17	16
4. Average Weekly Attendance	Adults	117	110	106	105	82	68	66	98	96	121
	Children	20	18	11	15	6	9	15	20	42	47
	Adults, School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Children, School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Percentage Children	Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	17%	18%	13%	14%	-	-	17%	13%	18%	17%
	Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	15%	14%	9%	13%	7%	12%	18%	17%	30%	28%
	Worshipping community (aged < 18)	19%	22%	21%	25%	18%	20%	24%	26%	-	33%
6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Baptisms	22	20	13	21	3	10	4	8	-	12
	Marriages	8	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	-	0
	Funerals	3	7	4	6	3	5	6	6	-	4
7. Electoral Roll	Electoral Roll	125	122	125	107	110	110	112	96	87	70

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND