

**PARISH PROFILE**

The Benefice of

Chelsfield with Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom

**Associate Rector**

**Introduction**

We seek an Associate Rector to join our team at a time of change.

In accordance with an approved Pastoral Scheme of Reorganisation the existing parish of Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom will join with the parish of Chelsfield on 1st June 2021 to form the new joint ‘Benefice of Chelsfield with Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom’.

The plan is for the two clergy to work together to create some new patterns of worship, to develop the team of Licensed Lay Ministers, etc, in order to establish effective working relationships across the two Parishes. The Rector is based in Green Street Green but responsible for the two Parishes in what will become a single Benefice. The Associate Rector will be based at the Rectory in Chelsfield.

Every Church seeks a prayerful, Spirit led team player with a focus on mission and growth; a warm, friendly and energetic person to help grow our congregation in faith, in spirituality and in numbers - and we are no exception.

What is different from many roles, however, is that in working alongside the Rector, the successful candidate will be able to have significant input into the development of our new Benefice, both the vision and the delivery.

**The existing parishes**

**Green Street Green (St Mary) and Pratts Bottom (All Souls’)**

The Parish lies in a rural suburb of the London Borough of Bromley combining open countryside, parks and woodland with all the amenities of suburbia. Local stations deliver a speedy service to central London while the close proximity of the M25 provides good road links and easy access to modern shopping centres. The Parish includes a hospital, hospice, numerous nursery and pre- schools, three primary schools, retirement and care homes.

Our Mission Statement is ***“To follow and worship Jesus sharing his love”***. In unity both churches strive to honour this statement locally and in our mission abroad. We provide a wide range of social and outreach events which encompass all ages and are made possible by the generosity of volunteers and the support of the ministry team.

A range of services is provided across the two Churches, with a choir at St Mary’s. Common Worship is generally used with hymns from Mission Praise.

St Mary’s Church is in the more suburban end of the Parish and the vicarage is opposite the church. The church has well equipped facilities with a Parish Office, a purpose built hall, kitchen and meeting rooms. All Souls Church is located in Pratts Bottom village, a more rural setting and there is a

small church centre within the grounds.

**Chelsfield (St Martin)**

Chelsfield parish is geographically large, but one of the smallest by population in Rochester Diocese. St Martin’s Church is a 900 years old listed grade 2\* building surrounded by an extensive churchyard in the conservation area of Chelsfield Village within the Green Belt area of London and situated on the top of the North Downs. Within the parish is Well Hill mission ‘church’ which is 125 years old and was established originally to cater for the itinerant hop pickers who stayed in the area to assist in the hop picking.

Our mission statement is “St Martin’s worships and serves a loving God, reaching out to the community in the name of Jesus Christ”. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and the sacraments.

A range of services is provided at St Martin’s, using BCP liturgy, including sung Evensong and Eucharist. Common Worship is used for the main Family Worship service each week. Well Hill has two services a month.

**Housing Provision**

The Rectory, where the Associate Rector will live, is a lovely house adjacent to fields (including the 2.5 acre Glebe Field) and approximately five minutes’ walk from St Martin’s Church. It is in the centre of Chelsfield village, which also contains a primary school, a pub, Chelsfield Park Hospital, the village hall, a few scattered places of employment, some 17th century cottages in the Conservation Area and rural housing in Well Hill. The Church, Chelsfield station and Chelsfield shops and commuter housing are on the other side of the Orpington by-pass, beyond which is the parish of Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom.

For the time being it is envisaged that the two parishes will remain distinct.

Further details of the two parishes can be found at: [www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](http://www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk) / [www.smasch.org](http://www.smasch.org)

**Social media / current situation**

Although each parish had its own social media strategy and presence, the pandemic has motivated both parishes to engage much more with social media in order to maintain contact with their congregations and the wider community.  New initiatives include using different social media platforms to communicate and putting services online, both live and pre-recorded.

**Current Ministry Team**

The Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom Ministry Team includes five Lay Readers/LLM, two of whom are licensed to take funerals.

Chelsfield has a Lay Reader and a Rector who retires in May and will be replaced by this role as a consequence of the Pastoral Scheme.

A number of the Readers are PTO.

**Our needs**

Merging with another parish can be a challenging prospect but both parishes have been fully aware of this for some time. [*Originally the retirement of Chelsfield’s Rector was scheduled for summer 2020, but it has been delayed due to the pandemic, which also rather slowed our attempts to get the parishes working more closely together*]

The new person will share leadership of the benefice with the Rector, so a cohesive and creative working partnership is vital.

The unity and understanding within the two parishes has grown and we look forward to furthering this with the recruitment of an Associate Rector who can understand the different backgrounds people are coming from and is enthusiastic and committed. As a new position, the role offers immense scope to help define the future.

**We are seeking someone who will be willing to work with the Rector to:**

• lead us through and manage a time of significant change

• encourage and develop work among families and young people

• through prayer and led by the Holy Spirit help us develop and fulfil our strategic vision

• work collaboratively and flexibly to move us forward in worship and outreach

• nurture the spiritual gifts of others so that we may flourish

• lead us into spiritual and numerical growth

• build community links as an energetic and outgoing leader

• work with the Ministry Leadership Team in strategic planning and delivery of worship and teaching

• continue to build a sense of unity and common purpose across the congregations

• develop a teaching programme to lead us all into maturity in Christ

Our congregations include people with a wide range of ecclesial traditions. Traditional styles of liturgy are valued by many within our congregations. However, over the recent past we have sought to include more diverse forms of worship and we would expect this trend to continue.

We value Biblical teaching and everything we do is guided by our understanding of Scripture.

**Applications are welcomed via *Pathways* by Wednesday, 17th March 2021.** [Interviews will be held on Monday, 26th April].

**If you would like to discuss this post with the Rector, The Revd Susan Atkinson-Jones, please contact her initially via the Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley’s EA, Fiona Porter, by emailing** [**fiona.porter@rochester.anglican.org**](mailto:fiona.porter@rochester.anglican.org)