

We hope that the person called to be our new Vicar will make decisions collaboratively and have the courage to follow them through faithfully to continue to build up the Kingdom of God at St Paul's.

We will support the vicar in looking after their own well-being e.g. holidays, day off and retreats, undertaking their own needs, spiritual and professional development and local clergy structures.

Church website

The updated, new website is currently still under construction.

www.stpaulshamstead.org.uk

Attachments

Accounts

Annual Report

Census information

Map



St Paul's Church Hamstead

Parish Statement 2018



Spiritual

Someone who is led by the Spirit and has a prayerful approach to ministry.

Someone who has a vision of where they want to take St Paul's and is able to communicate this to the congregation.

Someone who will encourage all ages; and deliver both traditional and modern styles of worship, with sermons appropriate to the age group.

Pastoral

A caring Parish Priest who is warm and welcoming. Someone who is focussed on the Parish and has time to listen; who values people's contributions and ideas. Someone who values the voluntary work of parishioners but understands people's time limitations.

It would be lovely to reinstate church weekends away.

Someone who will make time to attend church groups e.g. Mothers Union, Vision Women's Group, Men's Breakfast, Hamstead Housebound Action and the uniformed organisations from time to time.

Practical

Someone who is good with social media and technology.

Someone who works with the organist and Music Group to improve music in Church for all ages and preferences.

Organisational flair.

Business head for church finances.

Someone to give a lead on Safeguarding.

Someone who will work effectively with the Parish Administrator.

A leader with a real heart for parish ministry.

Someone who is prepared to make links and build relationships with the local community and businesses with the support of the PCC and the congregation.

A good time keeper.

A car driver.

- In addition, separate 'Task Forces' look after Children's Society, fundraising, Christian Aid collections plus specific events.

Future mission and ministry

The new incumbent will need to nurture and sustain these groups / individuals:

- A newly formed Pastoral Care Team.
- Increase in numbers of people on the rota for reading, intercessions, and administering sacraments.
- We are working towards achieving all 10 goals within Transforming Church.

Examples of how we are doing this are:

We have good links with local schools including prayer spaces and church visits. We have a well-attended Messy Church once a month. There is a strong uniformed organisation membership with Church Parades 5 times a year. We make every effort to ensure that everyone is made to feel welcomed and valued. We encourage and invite those enquiring about occasional offices to attend services.

<http://www.cofebirmingham.com/hub/diocesan-vision-strategy/>

The new Incumbent

We welcome applications from both women and men.

She / he should be:

- a warm and inclusive person displaying the love of God
- inspirational, a motivator
- someone who will support and encourage our work with children and young people
- a person who will enable, empower and sustain
- energetic, enthusiastic, caring
- open to informal and formal worship
- able to build on the good work of previous incumbents to move us forward
- a good listener and communicator
- outward looking

Description of the parish

The parish straddles two local authorities, Birmingham and Sandwell. It is about 15,000 strong as of the 2011 census. It is densely populated and is largely made up of privately owned three bedroom semi-detached and terraced houses, built between the 1930s and 1950s, with more recent developments off Newton Road mostly 2 bedroom apartments. There are three medium-rise ten storey blocks of flats and houses originally owned by Sandwell Council, some of which are now privately owned.

Within the parish there are no other centres of worship of any other faiths.

There are a couple of sheltered housing communities, three primary schools, one of which is Roman Catholic. There is a sizeable shopping centre near the Church and a smaller area in Hamstead village. At present we have one doctor's surgery left in the parish, a swimming pool and fitness centre and about six pubs / clubs within the parish. There are also several small industrial units.

The community population of 14,970 is a cross-section of all ages and circumstances with around 60% (9,300) covering all age ranges from 0 - 14 up to 45 - 59 in even sections. The number of Black and Ethnic minority groups is growing (currently 33%). For full details follow link below.

St Paul's is 4 miles north of Birmingham towards Walsall, it is well served by public transport with easy access to the motorway system (Junction 7 of M6) and Hamstead train station a short walk away. All census data is attached.

http://cofebirmingham.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/HANDSWORTH_520030_Hamstead_St_Paul.pdf

Pattern of church life

Church services



We share the love of God through an open baptism policy and a concern for children and young people, a loving care for those bereaved, an encouragement of those marrying here and offer support to the local community. We have a broad churchmanship and vestments are worn.

Pattern of Sunday worship

- The main worship at 10.30am at St Paul's is open, lively and relaxed. We have a music group as well as an organist.
- We have an ad hoc choir formed by the congregation and friends at festival times. Other services are quieter and more traditional as appropriate.
- We enjoy a wide range of musical styles, drawing from sources such as: *Anglican Hymns Old and New, Hymns of Glory, Songs of Praise, Mission Praise and other publications.*

9.00am

- Said Holy Communion (Common Worship) using the full range of Eucharistic prayers available to reflect the seasons.

10.30am

- Common Worship Holy Communion three or four times a month using the full range of Eucharistic prayers available.
- Morning Worship with Baptism on 4th Sunday most months and Family/Parade service 4 or 5 times a year.
- Support and provision of activities for young children attending the service.
- Free refreshments available to everyone after the 10.30am service.

Administration and Finance

Financial Situation

The church has consistently been able, through the dedication and stewardship of its congregation, to maintain its share of the diocesan quota and provide a balanced financial framework in which the ministry of St Paul's has flourished. The church supports charities, particularly the Children's Society, Malawi and the Tsunami appeal in India plus other worldwide urgent appeals. The Church takes on various fundraising initiatives, including special events to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Church last year.

All expenses of the clergy are met in full by the PCC. The annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017, attached, shows that we have held our head above water.

Secretarial help

Part-time paid (8 hours per week) secretary to the Church.

Stewardship

We, as the PCC, are committed to raising funds. Our congregation are regular givers by various methods and we do encourage gift aid commitments.

PCC

The PCC is a place where people are comfortable expressing their views and members respect the views of others.

- It is well-attended, collaborative, constructive, supportive and willing.
- It meets on average 8 times a year with the Standing Committee always on hand for urgent matters in between meetings.
- There are sub-committees responsible for Finance, Mission, Fabric, Community Centre, Social, plus SP125 completing matters from our 125 years Anniversary celebrations. All regularly report back to PCC keeping everyone informed and involved.

Community Centre users

Day	Upper hall			Lower hall
	am	pm	evening	
Monday			Dance Club	
Tuesday			Explorers	Karate
Wednesday	Alternate weeks - Hamstead Housebound Action luncheon club		1 st Wed - Townswomen's Guild Keep Fit	Keep Fit (1 st Weds)
Thursday	Exercise Class		Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	Private Tuition
Friday			Rainbows, Brownies, Guides	
Saturday	Occasional bookings		Church functions. Parties/private lets	
Sunday	Mustard Seed Church	Messy Church (1 st Sun)		Flames of Fire Ministry

Weekday Services

- 10.00am Wednesday, Said Holy Communion with Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship on alternate weeks.
- Free refreshments served following the service.

Messy Church



- Meets monthly on 1st Sunday afternoon at the Community Centre and is well attended by families, some of whom are other faiths.

Other

- Range of services at Lent, Easter, Ascension, Advent and Christmas.
- Remembrance Day Parade Service
- Annual Memorial Service.
- Home Communion offered by Pastoral Care Team.



Congregation

We have a cross-section of age groups with a high proportion of the congregation who are 50+. However, we have an increasing number of the very young and their parents who attend regularly.



- Many of the congregation have completed the 3D course (The Birmingham Diocesan Course for Developing Disciples).
- We look to involve the uniformed organisations (Scouts, Guides) regularly in the worship at St Paul's.

- Parish days away for both PCC and congregation for study, fellowship, and relaxation.
- Lively social calendar - family outings, concerts, parties, suppers, lunches.
- Fund raising - for charities eg Children's Society, Christian Aid, Malawi, tsunami and other disaster appeals and for Church.
- The congregation are generous in their welcome of new members. There is a lot of love and energy here.

Average attendance figures

- Average Sunday attendance 18 children, 108 adults
- Number of communicants on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 117
- Number of people attending services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 301
- Number of communicants at Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday 102
- Number of people attending Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services 206

Clergy and staff

- Currently visiting clergy for all services.
- 1 paid part-time secretary working 8 hours per week.

Volunteers

- Sides People
- Safeguarding Team
- Flower Team
- Cleaning Team
- Coffee Rota Team

Vicarage (built in 1906)



- Attractive, large family home on site - well-maintained and warm.
- Beautiful gardens (help given with upkeep).
- A drive with plenty of parking space.



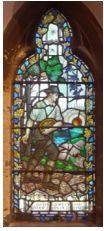
Church Hall (Community Centre) and who uses it

St Paul's Community Centre is well-maintained and well-used. It is administered by the Community Centre Committee, composed of church members, reporting to the PCC. Many of the ad hoc bookings are multifaith. Space is available for rental during week days and Saturdays.

Community Centre Users Membership/attendance numbers

- Uniformed organisations - 180
- Hamstead Housebound - 30
- Townswomens Guild - 30
- Dance School - 20





There are many beautiful stained glass windows, and all around the upper walls of the nave are murals depicting the life of St Paul. These were painted to celebrate the church's centenary, and many members of the congregation had their portraits included in the first century scenes.

There is room for wheelchairs and pushchairs in the main body of the church, and access and a toilet for people with disabilities. There is a voice PA system including induction loop. The Music Group also has a PA system. Heating and lighting systems have been renewed in recent time. The Church was completely redecorated at the end of 2016.



Meeting Rooms

In addition to the main body of the Church there are additional meeting rooms / facilities. These include the Garden Room, the Tower Room, toilets and an office.

Regular users of church premises

- Mothers' Union.
- Lace Group
- Men's Breakfast and Fellowship Group.

Lay ministry and participation

- We have an active, involved congregation - there is a rota for servers, reading, intercessions and administering sacraments.
- We have an imaginative music group, leading modern worship - both lively and reflective.
- We have a newly appointed Pastoral Care Team available to keep in touch / visit as necessary. The team also assist in welcoming new people, baptism preparation, wedding rehearsals, home communions etc.

Number on electoral roll

124

Number of baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals

- Number of Baptisms 15
- Number of Confirmations 4
- Number of Marriages 1
- Number of Funerals in Church 12
- Number of Funerals in Crematoria 25

Church organisations, activities and groups

- Mothers' Union - an international Christian membership movement, actively supporting families and communities in need of support in the UK and worldwide since 1876. Membership is open to all, females and males. The branch at St Paul's is an active group with a good number of regular attenders.

- Vision - a women's group who meet on a regular basis to support each other through the ups and downs of life, studying God's word and praying together.
- Men's Breakfast - a men's group who meet on the first Saturday each month to share in food, fellowship, bible study and speakers.



- School visits - over 300 children a year visit the church. Visits are facilitated by church members who share their faith through story telling and talking to the children.

Community groups associated with the church

- HHA - Hamstead Housebound Association - a fortnightly lunch club at the Community Centre for the elderly housebound providing support, fellowship, entertainment and a hot meal plus transport.
- Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers for boys and girls age 6 to 18 years.
- Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers for girls age 5 to 18 years.

Collaboration with other Christians



- Lent groups and services.
- Open-air act of witness at Easter and Christmas.

- Great Barr Churches Together.
- Nigerian Church meet on Sundays in Church - their minister is currently one of the visiting clergy taking the 9am and 10.30am service once a month.
- Mustard Seed Fellowship and Flames of Fire Ministry meet in the Church Community Centre on Sundays and there is a good relationship with both groups.

Relations with other faith communities

There are no other places of worship in the parish for those of other faiths. Local Muslim and Sikh groups use the Community Centre for events and funerals.

Expected roles for the incumbent

There are many opportunities for community ministry at St Paul's. At present there are no formal roles for the incumbent to fulfil externally in the community, such as chaplain, school governor etc.

Description of church buildings and facilities

Church

St Paul's Church began as a temporary building in 1865, and was mainly a worship place for the miners and their families living in Hamstead village.

The current building was finished in 1892, becoming a parish church in 1894 and is a Grade II listed building.

It is a tribute to the people who raised a considerable amount of

money to build this beautiful place for the people of Hamstead to meet and worship God. The original spire had to be removed in 1969 for safety reasons.

There is a Grade II listed War Memorial in the Church grounds.

