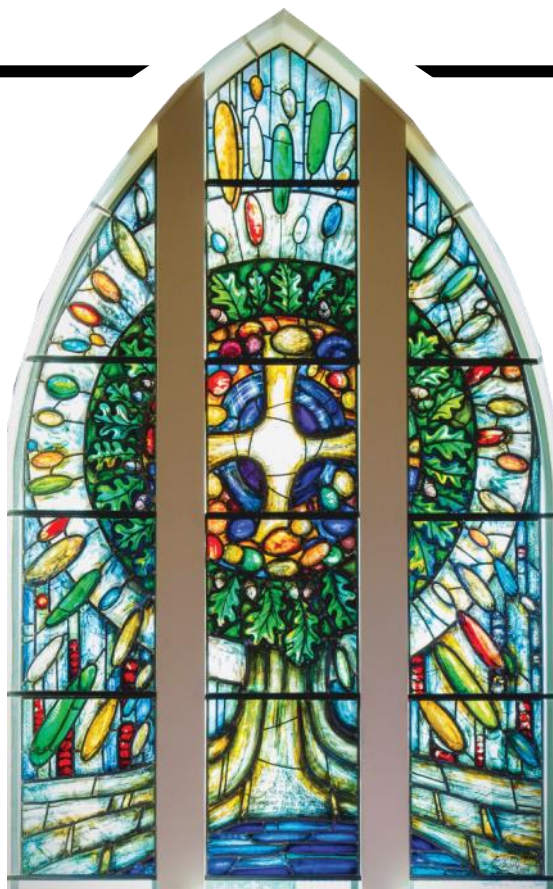


# PARISH PROFILE





# INTRODUCTION

St Mary's is the Parish Church of Wythall and Hollywood, with a mission to serve our community and share the good news of Jesus Christ with those we meet. A loving community of people worshipping, praying and learning together, we are a growing church with a strong evangelical flavour and a diverse distribution of age groups, offering different styles of worship. Welcoming to visitors, we are active in our schools and community.



# A NEW VICAR

## Who are we looking for?

We are seeking and praying for a new vicar who:

- Demonstrates a prayerful and Spirit filled personal faith
- Is an effective team leader who listens and is able to delegate and develop latent potential in others
- Brings experience of both church and secular life to the role
- Is sympathetic to differing styles of worship, both traditional and modern, and open to new expressions of church
- Is a good communicator and a bible based teacher
- Is sociable and fun loving with a keen sense of humour
- Demonstrates a supportive and creative approach towards our Youth and Children's Ministry
- Demonstrates vision and a passion for church growth and outreach into the Community
- Is committed to working sensitively and imaginatively with the Head Teacher and staff of Coppice School.

We asked members of the PCC, Sunday School, Youth group and church congregations what qualities were important in a Vicar. This is what they said:





# A MESSAGE

## From the curate

Hi, I'm Michelle, the curate. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 3 years of curacy at St Mary's. My passions are leading services, community engagement and social action. I have completed all my training and will be looking to move on by June 2019 but in the meantime look forward to welcoming a new incumbent and helping him/her to settle in to Wythall and life at St Mary's.

After 26 years without a church building, St Mary's was a tight-knit family congregation. During the past 6 years St Mary's has turned its focus outwards and is now much more community-facing, enjoying the benefits of a building of our own to aid us in serving the community with joy.

You will find the St Mary's congregation to be warm, friendly, generous, encouraging, and excellent at welcoming newcomers and visitors. There is a genuine desire to see people come to love God. Change is seen as exciting (as long as it is the fruit of prayerful discernment), and we always strive for excellence in all that we do. God's blessings are recognised in the every day, and the people of St Mary's expect to find God active in the world. This expectation, is, I believe, why this is a thriving and growing church.

St Mary's has a good spread of ages in the congregation, valuing elderly members, young children and everyone in between. In recent years it has become very popular with young families, with people choosing St Mary's because of the children's work and family friendly feel.

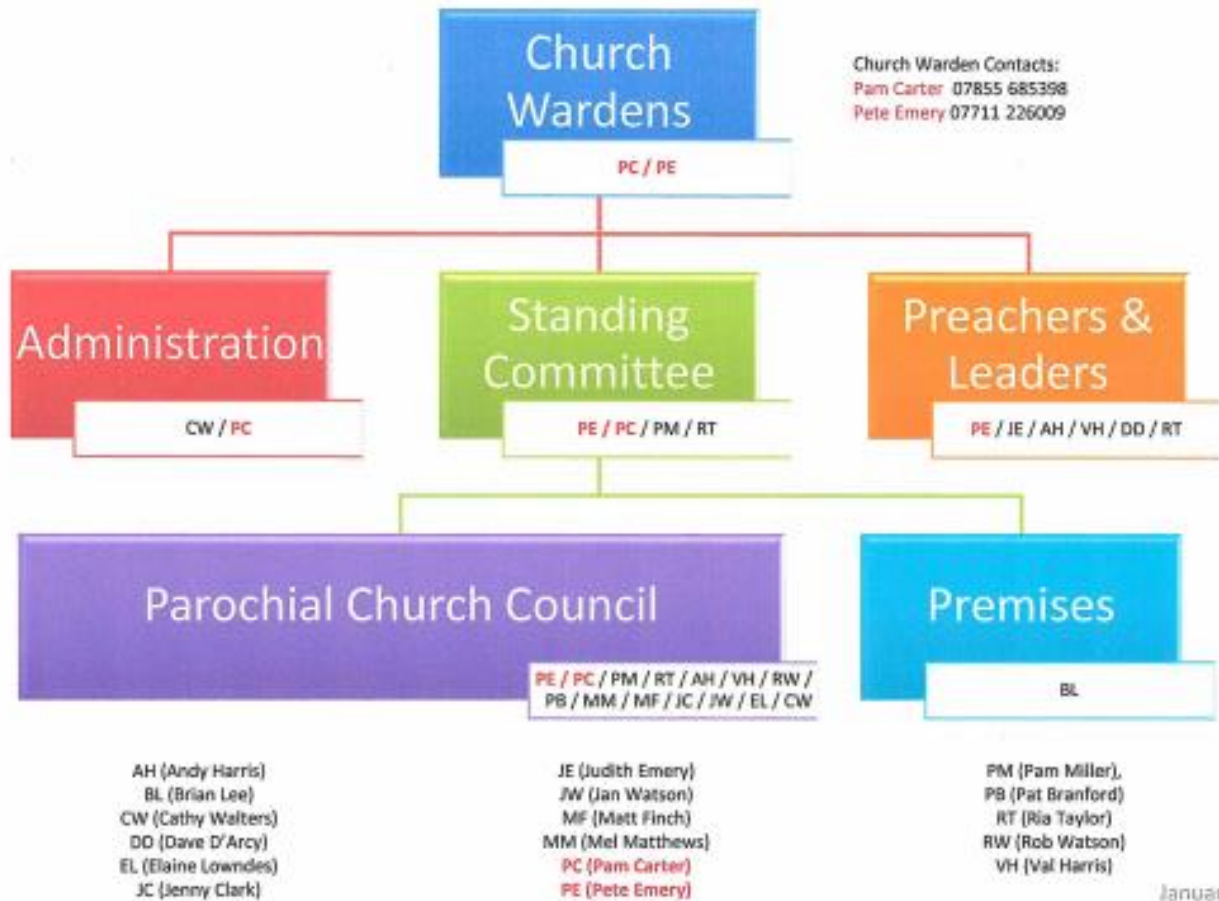
St Mary's is the nicest church I have worked and worshipped in. Any incoming incumbent will find a church in which it is a joy to minister.



# PEOPLE

## Our Leadership Structure

### St Mary's Church Interregnal Structure



January 2018

# PEOPLE

## Our Leadership Team

Our leadership team looks forward to working with our new vicar and consists of:



**Pam Carter and Pete Emery** our Church Wardens



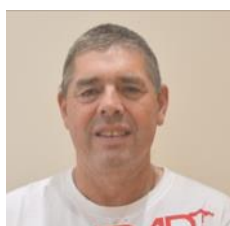
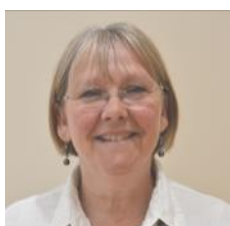
**Cathy Walters** our Church Administrator  
Part time, funded by St Mary's PCC



**Michelle Parton** our Curate whose contract with the Diocese of Birmingham ends in June 2019



**Ria Taylor** our Youth, Children and Families Minister, funded by St Mary's PCC



**Judith Emery, Val Harris and Dave D'Arcy** our Readers.  
We also have a Reader in training and another Reader commencing training in September 2018



**Pam Miller** our Treasurer



**Brian Lee** our Facilities Manager



**Jenny Clark** our PCC Secretary & Safeguarding Coordinator

Our leadership team is supported by a body of people who undertake a wide range of leadership responsibilities and these include: home group leaders, worship leaders, leaders involved with our children and young people and those involved in our Elderly Care Group. A Safeguarding Coordinator leads a safeguarding team and identified leaders are appointed to all of our church ministries.

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

The four strands of our church vision for 2018-19 are Community, Children Youth & Family, Spiritual growth, and Worship Services. All these are built on the foundations of prayer, pastoral care, commitment and financial giving. Within each strand the PCC have identified key themes which are listed under the sections below.

## Community

### **JAM Club (Jesus and Me)**

An after-school club held weekly in the Coppice School for children aged 6 -11yrs

### **Elderly Care Group (ECG)**

We organise a range of activities for the elderly in the community e.g. Holiday at Home and Tea at the Ritz

### **Dennis Potter Court Friendship Club**

St Mary's partner with a group in local sheltered accommodation for the elderly offering monthly meetings, outings and on-site services at Christmas, Easter and Remembrance.

### **Dementia Friends & Short and Sweet**

About five times a year, in school holidays, we have a 'Short and Sweet' service, offered as part of the events held by Dementia Friendly Wythall and we are working on becoming a more dementia friendly church

### **Wythall British Legion Chaplaincy**

Our vicar was asked to be chaplain of the local branch of the British legion and to officiate at the Remembrance Day services in the church and at the war memorial

### **Wythall Carnival and Fun Run**

The church has had a marquee at both the local carnival and annual Fun Run, serving refreshments and meeting the community

### **Mission and Links with overseas projects**

St Mary's over recent years has developed a love for Uganda and its people. In 2013 a group of adults and young people from St Mary's visited Amigos Kira Farm outside Kampala where we currently support a student and we have been blessed in our support of 3 Mission Partners all of whom have worked or are currently working in Northern Uganda.







### **Community Fun Day**

We organise an annual fun day on the Coppice School playing fields which provides a barbeque and family fun activities for the wider church community

### **Special Church Services**

The church offers a range of services for the community at Christmas, Easter and Harvest and an annual 'In Loving Memory' Service

### **Noah's Ark**

The church runs a weekly baby and toddler group which has an average attendance of 30 - 40 children and their carers

### **Create Space**

A monthly evening held for the community to spend time exploring a theme creatively. It offers first steps into spirituality and for some a support for mental health or loneliness

### **Starting Rite**

5 week course of spiritual nurture for babies and their parents, held twice a year.

### **Eco church**

The church was awarded the Eco bronze award this year and is working towards silver. This has been achieved in partnership with the school.

### **Links with Coppice School**

We have the privilege of co-hosting the first day of school coffee morning, as well as story-telling and inviting children into church



The focus points for the ministry to the community in our 2018-19 Vision are:

- An emphasis on meeting the needs in the community especially related to social isolation
- Further increasing our presence in the community through good communication, advertising and attendance at local events.
- Making opportunities for 'First steps to spirituality' such as Create Space
- Relationship building

# Youth, children & families

Hi, I'm Ria, the Youth, Children & Families Minister here at St Mary's. I've been in the full time position for a year but here at St Mary's for nearly 8. My passion is for bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ relevantly to children and young people and empowering them to take on their own role in church life.

St Mary's people are always absolutely brilliant at stepping up to volunteer to support clubs and events as well as making room for children and young people to be fully part of the life of the church. This means that we are able to run a dynamic Sunday School for children aged 3-14 and have children and young people serving in church on a Sunday morning. Different teams help run our after school club, youth group, youth home groups, termly assemblies, and parent and toddler group, as well as an annual JAM Packed holiday club, Soul Survivor trip, termly Create Space Kids and Starting Rite parent and baby courses.

Our connection with the neighbouring primary and secondary schools mean that we are surrounded by opportunities for mission and I'm excited about how we will be able to work together to develop the work, build relationships with people and support them in their journey of life and faith.

The focus points for Youth, Children & Families ministry in our 2018-19 Vision are:

- Grow children and youth spiritually through St Mary's Girls (SMG), Youth Group (SALT), Soul Survivor, Higher, Sunday School, and Lad's Group
- Building relationship with families in particular looking for opportunities to share food
- Equipping, enabling and empowering through faith at home, participation & leadership roles
- Our after school club, JAM (Jesus And Me)



# We asked the young people...

What makes a good church leader?

Passionate Loving  
Brave Sense of humour  
Decision maker Truthful  
Wise Understanding  
Holy Empathy  
Fight for what's right



What makes St Mary's so great?

You can be yourself Holy  
Cake  
Fun  
Real Lots of activities  
Accepting  
Caring Music

What makes a good vicar?

Strong with the Holy Spirit  
Joyful Sense of humour  
Likes children  
Trustworthy Good listener  
Clever Respectful





# Worship



We have two main services on a Sunday - at 9am we hold a shorter service of Holy Communion with more traditional language and two hymns, invariably accompanied by a pianist. The service words are contained in several booklets, drawn from the authorised Anglican liturgy, varying for each of the church's seasons, and our hymnbook is Anglican Hymns Old and New. The priest who presides always robes for this service, one of our Readers often preaches, and the congregation numbers approximately 25-40, mostly of more mature years. The service is fairly informal in tone, and is followed by tea, coffee and a good catch up on the week's news.

At 10.30, the service is either Morning Praise or - approximately every three weeks - Holy Communion. This is much more informal both in structure and tone, catering for a more diverse congregation of families, older folk and young people, averaging about 80-90. Music is led by a band consisting of singers, guitarists, drummer and keyboard player, and is usually modern songs/hymns by such composers as the Rend Collective, Hillsong, Tim Hughes, Matt Redman and Chris Tomlin. Often one traditional hymn is included, again played by the band. We use Easy Worship to project the words, all of which are in modern language, on our two large screens at the front of the church. Both priests and Readers lead and preach on a rota basis. Prayer ministry is offered during the administration of Holy Communion and after all services. We run Sunday School groups for 0-3, 3-7, 7-11 and sometimes 11-14 year olds. When the children return to join the adults towards the end of the service, the leader will always invite them to the front to feed back to us what they have learnt, and to show us what they have drawn or made. There are also regular times of sharing by members of the congregation during services to encourage us all with what God is doing in their lives. Again the service is followed by coffee and refreshments, which once a month are provided by our team of cake makers!

We also have a midweek service on Wednesdays at 11.30, which is a Service of the Word led by a Reader with Holy Communion, always presided over by a priest, on the second Wednesday of every month. The congregation hovers around a dozen, and we use similar booklets to the 9am Sunday service, with hymns from the same hymnbook accompanied by a pianist. This is a small and faithful congregation, attending an oasis of peace in God's presence in the middle of our busy weeks.

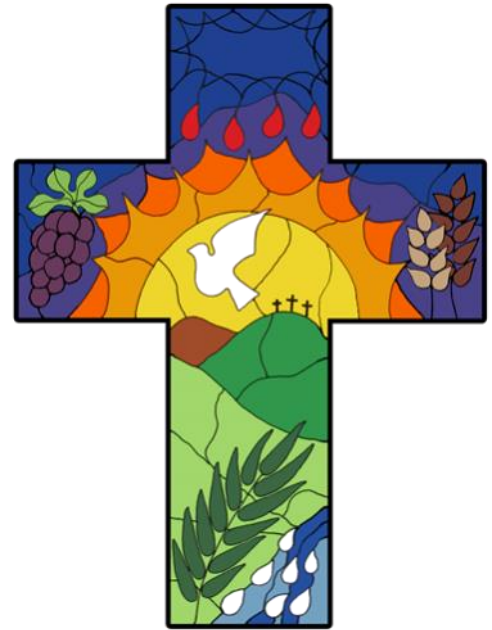
Occasionally there is a Sunday evening praise and worship service. Once a term this is led by the young people and termed Illuminate, on other occasions it is led by one of our four regular worship leaders. The praise service includes longer sections of sung worship, a homily by a young person or a Reader, and time for prayer and reflection. In the past our curate has led Taizé services, which have been very well received.

Our focus for worship services for 2018-19 is to make sure they are:

- Alive with God's Spirit (sung, liturgical & prayer)
- God Centred
- Welcoming & accessible
- The Word – appropriate and relevant
- Authentic



# Spiritual growth, prayer & pastoral



My name is Judith Emery. I am one of the Team of Readers at St Mary's and have been in this role for over 20 years, currently with Permission to Officiate. The team includes my colleagues Val Harris and Dave D'Arcy and two male readers in training. Our gifts are in preaching and teaching, and as such we regularly preach sermons and lead services on Sundays and on Wednesdays. I find great fulfilment in conducting funerals and the pastoral care associated with this. I am also active in other areas –

**Prayer Team Coordinator:** The Prayer Team consists of a very active Prayer Chain of 30 church members, a Prayer Ministry team of 10 who are available at all services, 2 weekly prayer groups, an annual Prayer Day, the monitoring of intercessions during worship services, encouraging prayer couplets, etc. As Prayer Team leader, I am closely associated with Pastoral issues.

**Discipleship:** Andy Harris, one of the Readers in training, and I have recently devised a structure, designed to run annually, where seekers can attend an Alpha Course in the autumn, progress to a Discipleship Course in the New Year, then go onto Baptism/Confirmation if required, and eventually move into Home Groups where they can enjoy fellowship, worship and Bible Study together. I am passionate about helping to bring people to Christ; I lead both the annual Alpha Course and the Discipleship Course which follows it. It is a great privilege and joy to watch God working in the candidates' lives as God draws them close.

Andy has responsibility for Home Groups which involves over 60 people. Together we are exploring ways to encourage continued sound Bible teaching and ministry throughout the congregation. Particularly aimed at those not in home groups, we have started to hold termly evening worship services which could well include ministry from outside teachers.

I regularly take **Holy Communion** to residents in their homes or local Care Homes. Together with another member of the congregation, I hold Services in a Care Home when staff levels allow.

Another venture of mine was to start a support group for people who suffer, as I do, from anxiety or depression. It is called the **Black Dog Group** and meets every 2 months or so. Together we socialise by sharing pub meals, walking together or meeting in our homes for afternoon tea as we air our concerns, pass on helpful information and support each other generally.

Our focus for Spiritual Growth in our 2018-19 Vision are:

- To develop and expand Home Groups
- To further develop the structure of discipleship; Alpha – Green Course – Home Groups – Baptism & Confirmation
- To seek a greater depth in Prayer, Scripture & Worship

# CHURCH STATISTICS

## Membership:

Number on Electoral roll, April 2018: 142

Number of children on Sunday School register: 38

## Services:

(based on 2017 stats)

9am averaged 30, usually all adults

10.30am averaged 86 (of which 21 under 16)

Wednesday service averaged 11



## Community services:

Our **Remembrance Sunday** service with the Royal British Legion: 267

**Community Carols** plus our Traditional Carols Service: 293

**Easter** Day 2018: 127

**Christmas** Eve plus Christmas Day 2017: 408

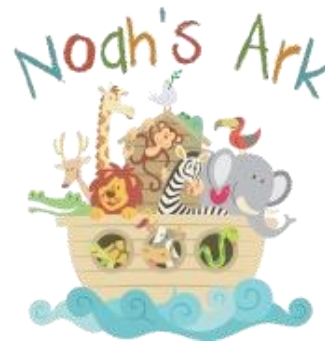


# Affirmations of faith:

9 **baptisms** in 2017 (4 under 12 months, 2 aged 1-4, 3 adults). In 2018 we have had 2 older children, making their own decision with the support of their parents

6 young people were **admitted to take communion** for the first time in 2017, and 3 in 2018.

9 **confirmations** in 2017



**Noah's Ark** average attendance: 40



**JAM** (after school club)  
membership: 27  
running at capacity

# Weddings & funerals



3 **weddings** & 2 wedding blessings in St Mary's since our new building opened in 2014. We have also conducted 5 weddings by arrangement in St Mary Magdalene Tanworth in Arden in 2015-2017

In 2017 we took 15 **funeral services** in Crematoria, 2 in local churches & 1 memorial service in our church



Number of cups of tea & coffee and slices of cake served: Thousands!

# ABOUT THE PARISH

The semi-rural Parish of Wythall is situated approximately 8 miles south of Birmingham City Centre. Our ideal location offers easy access to Birmingham International Airport via the M42 as well as a direct link between Birmingham city centre and Stratford upon Avon from Wythall Railway Station. Junction 3 of the M42 is only a mile away. Our local countryside includes woodland and lakes where fishing and sailing can be enjoyed as well as a park with tennis courts, a bowling green and a children's play area.

The parish is at the western edge of the Shirley Deanery and is part of the Diocese of Birmingham. It is a relatively large parish both in terms of population and geographical area and consists of the two settlements of Wythall and Hollywood. St Mary's is part of an informal cluster of 5 Anglican churches that serve the south western corner of the Deanery.

There are 2 local primary schools, The Coppice School with whom the church shares the building and Meadow Green Primary School. There is one Secondary School, Woodrush High School (Academy) which is immediately adjacent to the church and has a newly opened Community Hub which offers a range of amenities to the local community including the local library, a gym and youth centre, café and soft play area. The area is served by 2 medical centres, a range of small shops and pubs and cafes and by bus and train services which offer access to Solihull, Redditch and Birmingham City Centre. The parish has seen the development of two new housing estates within the last five years.

Our community has the feel of a safe and lovely place to live and there is a strong community spirit.

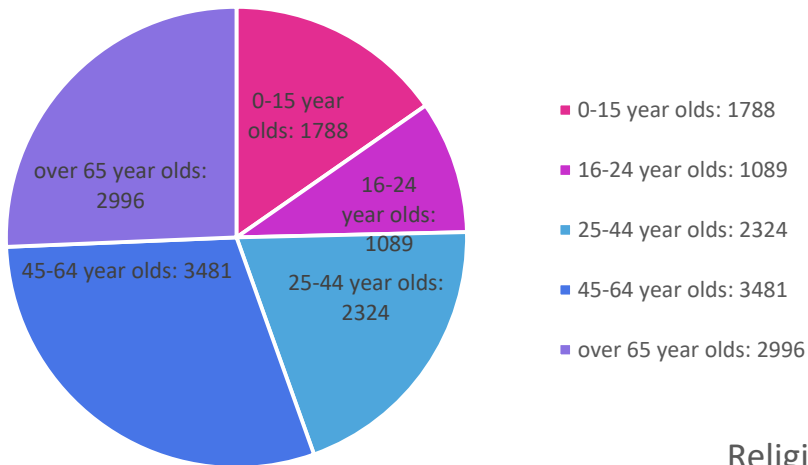
The 2011 census gave the following information about Wythall Parish (this is for the civil parish whose boundaries are a little different from ours but it gives an idea of size and make up). The total population was recorded as 11,678, falling into the following categories for age, housing and religion:



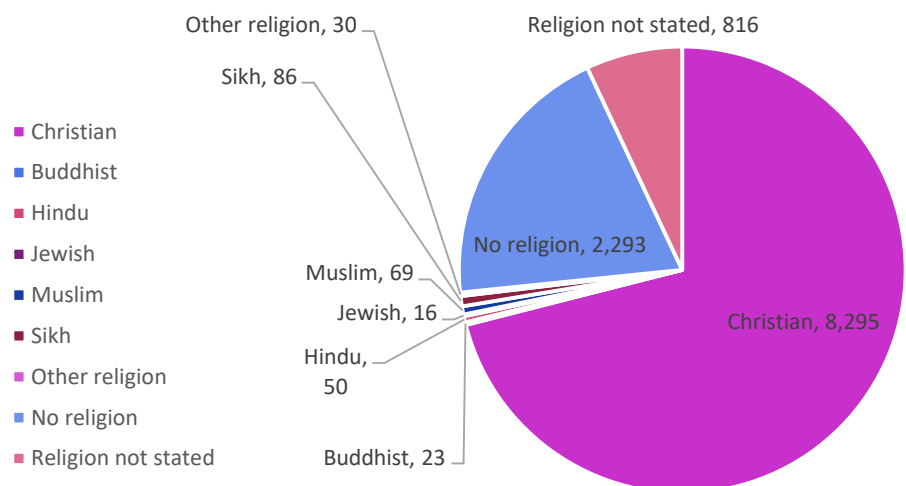
St Mary's, Wythall



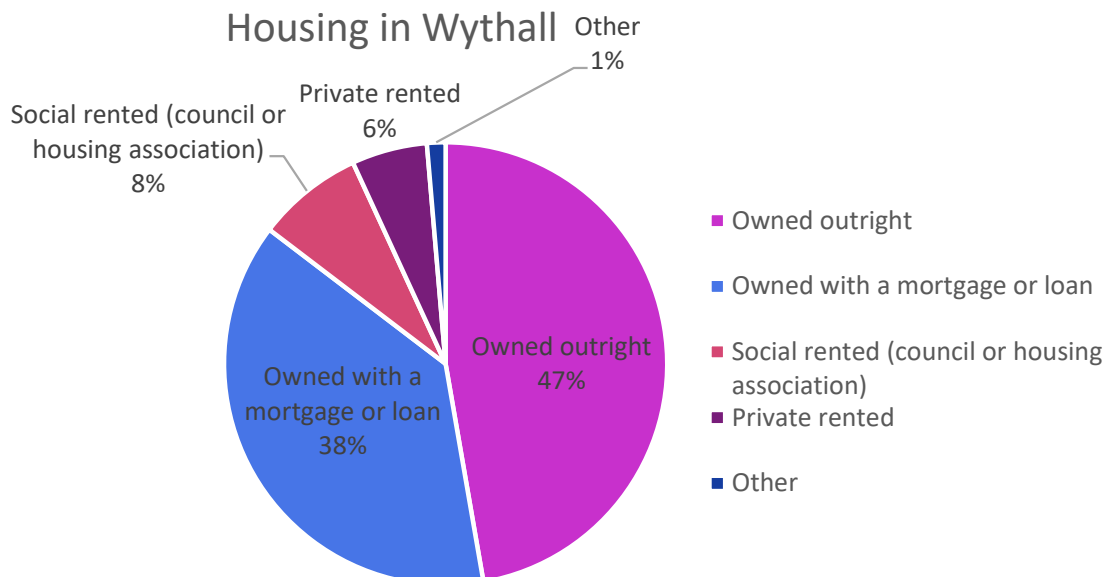
## Wythall Parish Population by age



## Religion as per 2011 Census



## Housing in Wythall



Census data was retrieved on 25.6.2018 from

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=1170219434>

# BUILDINGS, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

## Buildings

The old (19th century) St Mary's church building sits on the outskirts of Wythall village. During the 1980s it became structurally unsound and needed an injection of £1million to restore it. Consequently the Church Commissioners took the brave decision to sell the building. We spent the following 26 years worshipping in a variety of school halls in the area. In 2014 our



prayers for a new church building were answered, and on Easter Sunday we held the first service in our new church.

Although the Coppice is not a Church of England school, the building was jointly funded by the church and school. It is owned and maintained by the school and leased from them by the church. We have full use of the sanctuary, office, vestry, kitchen and meeting room. The hall and some classrooms are hired when needed. A moveable wall at the back of the sanctuary opens into the hall giving a large worship area. A sound, projection and lighting system and energy efficient heating and ventilation create an ideal environment for both quiet reflective services and louder energetic worship.

The vicarage is a 10 minute walk from the church on a modern housing estate built around 30 years ago. It is a 4 bedroom detached house with conservatory, garage and small well maintained garden.



The church owns two houses, both within walking distance of the church which are used by the Curate and Youth, Children's and Families Minister.



### A Word from the Coppice School Headteacher

“The Coppice and St Mary's have had a fruitful partnership for many years, with St Mary's helping the school with their RE curriculum, delivering assemblies, providing an after school club as well as a Noah's Ark play scheme that feeds into our Nursery. It is a partnership that all profit from, with St Mary's even having representation on our Governing Body, and St Mary's Youth Workers taking an active interest in wider school life (even supporting with residential visits at times). In addition, we work in harmony to ensure the best use of the shared premises for the benefit of the whole community.” *Mr. Heptinstall*

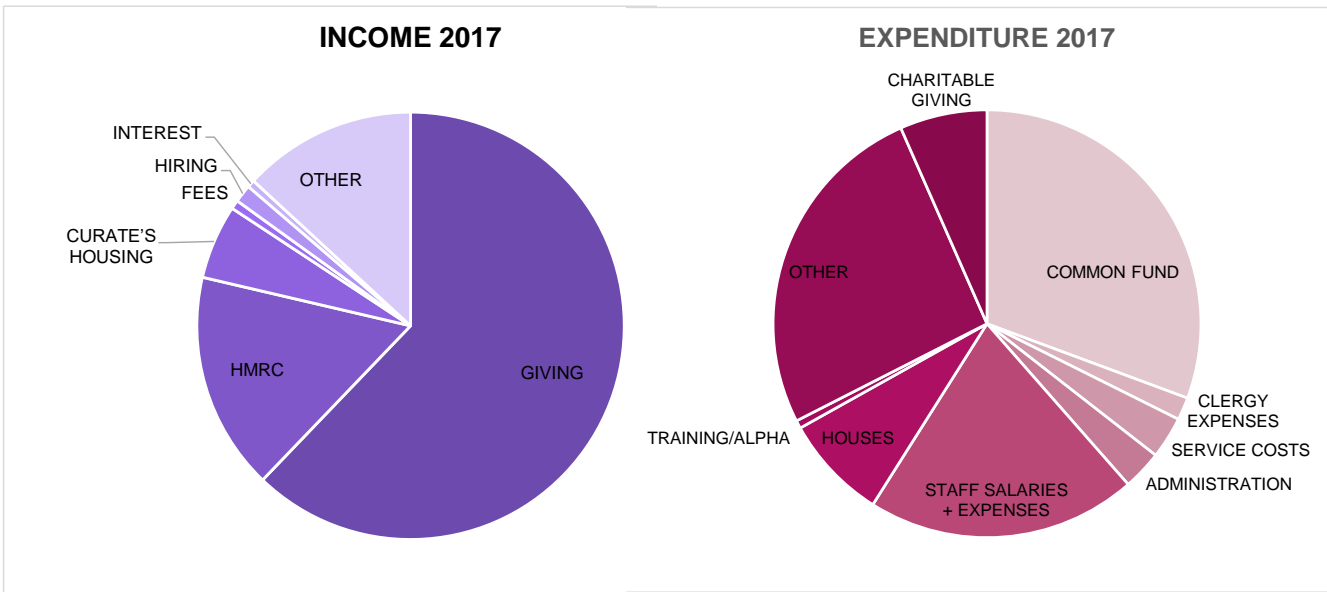
### Finance

My name is Pam Miller. I have been the Treasurer at St Mary's for a number of years and manage the church finances on a day to day basis. I am advised and assisted by a former Treasurer who is an accountant by profession.

St Mary's is blessed to have a generous church family and the cushion of a Reserve Fund from the proceeds of the sale of the original parish church property. Some of the Reserve Fund was used to purchase the curate's house, with the help of a mortgage which we are repaying over 25 years. The running costs of our church building are low and are partially offset by the income we receive from hiring out parts of it to community groups.

Many in the congregation practice tithing and the church also gives a tenth of its annual income to Christian missions and charities. Our other significant spend is on the salaries of our Youth, Children's and Families Minister, and our Church Administrator.

Full accounts are on our website, but the main areas of our income and expenditure are as follows:



## **Administration**

We have a small, modern office upstairs in the church building. Cathy, our Church Administrator, works from the office for 20 hours a week in term time, and around 9 in school holidays; Ria, our Youth, Children & Families Minister, is based there for her administration hours; Pam Carter, Warden, works from the office twice a week and we are blessed to have four office volunteers at different points during the week. The adjacent Peter Thomson room is used for meetings, including a weekly staff meeting and prayer meetings.

The office has a wide ranging remit including news sheets, rotas, publicity (posters, flyers, website, Facebook and Twitter!), admin for baptisms, weddings and funerals, registers for Noah's Ark and JAM club, safeguarding admin, ordering stationery and church consumables, sending statistics to the Diocese, reporting to the Charity Commission and the Copyright Licensing company, keeping an eye on data protection and liaising with school over bookings of the hall. We deal with incoming queries, passing them on to the right person, and any admin requests from church groups such as the Elderly Care Group.

We are grateful to the Coppice staff for making us welcome on site, taking our parcels when we're not here and sorting out any problems as they arise.





# HOW DO WE DESCRIBE ST MARY'S?

## Comments from the congregation

Loving  
Belonging  
Friendly  
Accepting

St Mary's is a warm friendly oasis

My loving caring support in good times and bad

A building made with living stones, a people filled with God's grace and love

St Mary's means friendship, love and family and where there is fun, happiness and growth

Inclusive and welcoming to visitors and a new way of thinking for my life

Togetherness and family. Welcoming and lively

A Family who accepts me for who I am

A gateway to God's kingdom with lots of travellers in the family

Spirit filled worship  
Prayerfulness  
Discipleship  
Faith Affirming and  
Growth

A place to reflect and learn more about God

A place where I have grown in my faith. Help in understanding the bible

A place where I find teaching and discipleship and the opportunity to grow in my faith

A family I can trust to pray for me in confidence and will love me no matter what

Opening your heart and mind, pushing away the structures, regimes and regulations of daily life, open to Jesus, open to God, open to the Spirit. Not being ancient, stuffy or irrelevant

Christian fellowship - family worship - place of learning and weekly renewal

Love, Family, Worship. Kindness encouraging new things. Bible teaching and home groups

Spirit filled worship – Practical powerful preaching – A culture shaped by worship and prayer

Service  
Children Youth & Family  
Parish & Community  
outreach

St Mary's encourages us to give help and friendship to others

Serving God's wider plans with confidence

Supporting one another and giving to others

My church family helps me to engage with God and the community

Love - family life - joy - vibrancy - family orientated- relevant to youth

A church linked to the Coppice School and community aware.

The St Mary's family is my extended family, my friends, my support, my place of Christian service

A church culture that positively embraces outreach into the community

**St Mary's Church**

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