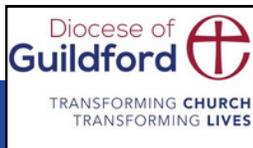


Parish Profile 2024



Building a community where lives are transformed by Jesus

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A NOTE FROM THE BISHOP OF GUILDFORD



The Diocese of Guildford is a warm and friendly place to be, with a strong cohort of gifted and passionate laity and clergy, some excellent church schools, and plenty of beautiful countryside to enjoy on a day off!

Our vision as a diocese is to see lives and communities transformed through the love of Christ; and, to that end, we have recently refreshed our Diocesan Strategy Transforming Church, Transforming Lives, with a particular focus on Growing Disciples, Growing Diversity and Growing Community. Although our congregations are generally rather larger than average, we are all too conscious that we are only reaching a tiny proportion of our Parish populations, and are particularly keen to become more effective in passing on the baton of faith to younger generations.

Our team of Mission Enablers are committed to working with every Parish in fleshing out that vision in an appropriate way, going with the grain of the church's history and tradition, whilst also suggesting new ways to 'proclaim the gospel afresh in each generation'. The pandemic, while presenting many challenges, has helped to forge new relationships between many of our churches, creating a spirit of 'us and us' more than 'them and us', and opening up new approaches to partnership and inter-church collaboration.

If you share our vision for transformation, and have a track record in growing disciples, growing diversity and growing community, we'd love to hear from you!

+Andrew Watson

A NOTE FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF SURREY



St Paul's Camberley wants to build a community where lives are transformed by Jesus – what a wonderful vision! – and it's evident when you meet this church family that they are doing this.

There is a genuine warmth among the people, and a tangible excitement about the things that God is doing among them, both at St Paul's, and at St Barbara's Deepcut and Heatherside.

St Paul's has a long history of church planting, and this continues to be part of their life today. With a huge new housing development in Deepcut, St Paul's planted a congregation under a Bishop's Mission Order in 2019, and within the next few months, a new parish will be formed – an exciting development.

At the same time, the neighbouring Parish of Heatherside, also originally planted by St Paul's, came back under their wing in 2023, after a difficult few years. With support and encouragement from St Paul's, and the able leadership of the St Paul's Curate, the Heatherside congregation is now growing again, and looking to the future with hope. It's important to understand that although this post is advertised as Vicar of St Paul's and Priest in Charge of Heatherside, the person appointed is not expected to be heavily involved in the day to day ministry of Heatherside, but rather to supervise, train, support, and plan for the future.

These developments in Deepcut and Heatherside took place under the able leadership of Tom Darwent, who served as Vicar of St Paul's for 8 years. We are now looking for a person of faith and vision to minister with the people of St Paul's and lead them into the next season, so that more lives will be transformed, for the glory of God. You can find details of the areas where they are particularly keen to grow on page 27.

Please be assured of my prayers as you read this profile and seek to discern whether God might be calling you to this post.

If you would value a conversation, please do get in touch by emailing catharine.mabuza@cofeguildford.org.uk or calling 07785 990208.

The Venerable Catharine Mabuza
Archdeacon of Surrey
September 2024

A NOTE FROM THE CHURCH WARDENS

Welcome to the St Paul's Parish Profile.

We are delighted that you are taking the time to read the profile and to explore our parish.

St Paul's is a wonderful place to be. In a recent survey of the congregation, the most overwhelming response is that St Paul's is a very welcoming and supportive church. We welcome people of all ages and the congregation tries to be imaginative in ways to support everyone in making the love of Jesus real and tangible in their lives. We can both attest to that. Having come from very different backgrounds and arrived at St Paul's at different times, it was the welcome and the opportunity to take part in the varied events and activities which made us commit to being St Paul's members and, in recent years, churchwardens.

We are blessed with great teachers, preachers and a powerful base of volunteers. We enjoy and benefit from well thought-out sermon series. We have fantastic and bold prayer-warriors and much wisdom and many talents among our members. We work collaboratively with other churches, not least our plant congregation St Barbara's and our neighbouring parish in Heatherside.

As St Paul's prayerfully awaits a new incumbent, there is a real sense of positivity and hope for the future. We pray that we will be able to build on the witness and work of our previous incumbents. As a congregation, we are eager to refresh our vision, by leaning on God, listening to the Holy Spirit and going boldly into the future.

St Paul's are looking for someone who will prayerfully listen to and nurture our congregation so that we might be strengthened and empowered to live out our faith and to encourage even more people to become disciples.

If you would like to contact us for an informal chat, please do email us. We would be delighted to hear from you.

We very much hope that you will feel called to come and lead us on our journey. You would be made most welcome!

Gillian Fernandes & Stefan Carl

gillian.fernandes@stpaulscamb.co.uk

stefan.carl@stpaulscamb.co.uk



ABOUT ST PAUL'S CAMBERLEY

Who we are



Building a community where lives are transformed by Jesus

VISION

St Paul's is a welcoming, informal, pioneering, evangelical church. We believe God has called us to share the gospel in our parish and wider community.

Our vision is to build a community where lives are transformed by Jesus.

We depend on prayer and the Holy Spirit to experience and share God's love and grace, growing disciples as we do.

We have planted new ministries and congregations that reach many more people so that we can share the good news of Jesus in our community.

We seek to develop our people and our buildings into the heart of our community, by connecting with each other and those around us.

We long to be a people where prayer, evangelism, discipleship and mission are at the core of what we do.

We seek to continue on this journey and to be bold as we live out our faith in the world.



VALUES



A PRAYING COMMUNITY

We want prayer to be central to all that we do, and we long that we would grow in our prayer life, boldly, extravagantly and honestly. Throughout our lives we actively seek the Holy Spirit, so that we would be led by, and find ourselves responding to the love of God in our parish and community.

A CONNECTING COMMUNITY

At St Paul's we have two Sunday Services and midweek activities where our aim is to connect with our congregation and our community. We long to be connected through the grace and Spirit of God as a community, so that we can be living examples of the love of God.



A GROWING COMMUNITY

We are on a journey of growth in our discipleship, individually and corporately. Our heart is to show Jesus to others as they notice God at work in and through us.

OUR CONGREGATION

St Paul's is blessed with a significant number of committed members who have a deep faith and a desire to participate in the life of the church. From the closely-knit community of worshippers who enjoy the reflective and quieter 9 a.m. service, to the more diverse group of worshippers at the 10.30 a.m. service, there is a sense of family with different generations attending and worshipping in a way which suits their Christian worship styles.

Currently we have 192 adults on our Electoral Roll. On average, 180 people attend services on Sunday. The 9 a.m. service is generally attended by 60 adults and a growing number of people in their teens. The 10.30 a.m. service usually attracts 100 adults and 20 children.

Post-pandemic, like many churches, St Paul's saw a drop in numbers attending church services as some people 'drifted away' and changed their Sunday routine, and a number of young adults moved away or abroad. We also sent a team of people to our church plant of St Barbara's in Deepcut and rejoice that they have gone on to build a thriving new congregation.

Meanwhile, numbers have begun to increase at St Paul's too. It has been encouraging to welcome new families and people who have attended Alpha courses. In the last year 4 children and 2 adults were baptised. Nine people were confirmed during our last confirmation service in 2022. Another confirmation service is scheduled for November 2024. The children's, youth and families' ministry is growing steadily and our youth are being supported by the exciting new developments with our partner church at Heatherside.



OUR CONGREGATION CONTINUED...

The demographic of the congregation has, historically, been largely reflective of the white middle-class community in which we live but we do not wish to be known as a church which serves only one demographic. We welcome all those who wish to come and worship together with us, learning and growing with those around us. We are currently blessed with people of many backgrounds and nationalities and, when people are invited to pray or speak in their native language, or express themselves in their own way, we enjoy an enriching and encouraging outpouring of many languages at once.

We strive to build on this community in line with the diocese of Guildford who are focussing on:

Growing Disciples, Growing Diversity and Growing Community.

We have also been richly blessed by the generosity of those who give regularly to sustain the work of the church and the missions we support. Many people also give generously of their time and talents to plan and run the numerous events and activities hosted by St Paul's. There is a real sense of everyone pulling together to make things happen and to do their best to honour God in all that we do. We are, however, very aware that many dedicated and faithful people are ageing and that we need to address this and to reach out to what many churches also experience as the missing generations. We are conscious that we must explore new ways to engage the middle-aged generation and the millennials in our community.

We are fortunate that St Paul's is very much seen as the community church for our parish. This is evident in the numbers of people coming to Christmas and Easter services and events like Speaker's Corner. In past years, we have run as many as three consecutive packed Christingle services on one afternoon! We would dearly love to welcome more people into our church family and to re-think how we engage with people outside of Sundays.



OUR PARISH

The parish of St Paul's Camberley is situated within an affluent area of Camberley, Surrey. The population of Camberley is roughly 37,000.

With almost 90% of homes privately owned, many people are employed in senior managerial or decision-making roles.

The median age of parishioners is 43 and they are likely to be in a committed relationship with children. A sizeable number of parishioners are retired and enjoy a comfortable lifestyle.

*50% of people in the area profess to be Christian.**

(Adapted from data available on www.gov.uk)*

Whilst these statistics may look 'glossy', the reality of life in 2024 can mask social difficulties, marital breakdown, pressure and stress. Material wealth, as we know, does not always equate to happiness and contentment. The pressure to achieve and maintain status can be huge in communities such as ours.

The parish is divided by the M3 motorway and many people live on leafy thoroughfares behind high gates. Attendance at St Paul's events demonstrates that people are hungry for community and social contact. St Paul's Church is at the intersection of the busy Crawley Ridge and Crawley Hill roads where the majority of foot-traffic is from families going to and from school and from people using the local bus-stop.

A detailed map of our parish boundary is in the appendix section of this profile.



The parish is served by a number of good and outstanding nursery, infant, junior and secondary schools. Crawley Ridge Infant and Junior schools are within walking distance of the vicarage.

Collingwood College is a 15 minute walk away.

Farnborough Sixth Form College is accessible by bus.

There is a train station in Camberley and other local stations offer links to London, Reading, Southampton and Gatwick airport.

The 730 bus line links Camberley with Heathrow airport.

Frimley Park hospital is nearby.

Heatherside Church was originally planted from St Paul's in the 1970s. It is a parish in its own right and the congregation meets in Heatherside Community Centre, two miles from St Paul's Church. In 2023 the church on Heatherside was taken under the wing of St Paul's, following a difficult few years at Heatherside. The St Paul's incumbent acts as the Priest-in-Charge of Heatherside but, on a day-to-day basis, the church is led by Revd Heather Valletta, the St Paul's Curate, who lives on Heatherside with her family. Heather is supported by a capable and motivated team. In addition, Heatherside and St Barbara's share a Children's and Families' Pastor who leads the weekly children's events at Heatherside Church and assemblies in the local Infant School. Collaboration with St Paul's and St Barbara's has been a success and has helped develop a sense of community across all three parishes. The steadily growing numbers and increasing enthusiasm for events are testament to God's Spirit at work on Heatherside. This is an affluent area with many families and there is much scope to continue God's great work.



AT A GLANCE

Sunday service: This is held weekly at 10.30 am and includes a children's group (JAM Club). Once a month, there is an all-age service. Currently around 60 people attend on Sundays.

Seasonal services: Remembrance services, Christmas Carol and Christingle services attract 100-250 people including local uniformed organisations.

Life groups and fellowship: There are now 4 life groups. On Tuesdays, around 15 people aged 70+ join together to worship.

Alpha: In collaboration with St Paul's and St Barbara's, roughly 20 people from Heatherside have attended Alpha and Youth Alpha.

Youth work: The weekly Youth Hub is held at Heatherside Vicarage. Up to 20 teens from local churches attend.

Children's work: Toddlers Praise is held weekly. Monthly and seasonal assemblies are held at the local Infant School.

Family events: Heatherside, St Paul's and St Barbara's collaborate on events like the annual Light Party, Holiday Club, Pancake Party, Easter Show and 'Together'.

Coffee shop: A monthly pop-up coffee shop attracts around 150 people to raise money for local charities.



St Barbara's Church in Deepcut was planted from St Paul's in 2019 into the existing garrison church . A brand new housing development (Mindenhurst) is being built in Deepcut following the closure of a large military garrison. The church at St Barbara's has grown and developed with the support of St Paul's and is becoming integral to life in the developing village. St Barbara's has been a blessing to the growing community. The congregation has been creative and resilient in the ups and downs of planting a new church; from holding services and events in the car park, local schools and even the pub! The original garrison church building is undergoing major renovation work which will continue well into 2025.

The priest in charge is Revd Daniel Natnael. St Barbara's currently operates under a Bishop's Mission Order, overseen by St Paul's. It will become a parish in its own right by 2025.



TEAM & GOVERNANCE



Revd Sophie Lovesmith
Associate Minister



Revd Heather Valletta
Curate
leading Heatherside church



Revd Daniel Natnael
Minister In Charge
St Barbara's Deepcut



Jill Davis
Parish
Safeguarding Officer



Gillian Fernandes
Churchwarden



Stefan Carl
Churchwarden



Helen Vince
Parish Administrator



Bethany Larby
Children
& Families Pastor



Joe Lloyd
Assistant Youth &
Worship Pastor



Grace MacAdam
Children & Families Pastor
St Barbara's & Heatherside



Howard Mason
Treasurer



Lis Ricketts
Lay Minister



Simon Strachan
Lay Minister



Tim Cross
Lay Minister

PCC

We have a very active and committed PCC. The 18 members meet every six weeks. PCC meetings are prayerful and business-like and the members work well together. The agenda is set by the Standing Committee. Each meeting starts with a time for prayer and reflection on what the Holy Spirit is saying to us as a governing body. The PCC always receives contributions from the parish safeguarding officer, the churchwardens and the treasurer.

The Standing Committee meets during alternate months.

Currently the St Paul's PCC governs St Barbara's (Deepcut) but it is anticipated that St Barbara's will elect its own PCC in 2025 when it becomes an independent parish. Heatherside Church has its own PCC which is independent of St Paul's PCC.

Our Governance Structure is outlined in the appendix section of this profile.

MINISTRY AT ST PAUL'S

What we do



Building a community where lives are transformed by Jesus

OUR SERVICES

9am - A reflective service of Holy Communion using Common Worship with organ-led hymns, occasionally with a choir. This much-loved service is followed by coffee and a catch up.

10.30am - A service of morning worship for everyone with contemporary music and teaching. Each month we offer a service for Holy Communion, an all-age service, and a service which offers Prayers for Healing. Children's groups take place during this service. A trained Host Team serves refreshments before and after each service as they welcome and chat to everyone.

Teaching - Each term our preachers and leaders meet to seek God & pray for what the next sermon and teaching series will be, they reflect and fine tune what is happening, feeding back to one another and challenging each other.

Prayer - Prayers for healing happens once a month during our 10.30 service, where special focus is also given to our need for healing. We have a trained team who will pray with those who request prayer.

Worship - We want to encourage our church family to actively participate in worship. Post Covid we have worked hard to ensure all our worship, both spoken and sung, is a mixture of our shared spirituality, that translates into every day life.

Children - Our children meet in three different age groups on Sunday mornings. With our faithful volunteer team, led by our Children's and Families Pastor, they study the Bible and learn to hear from God through prayer.

Youth - Our growing number of youth members are planning on meeting in their own space on a Sunday morning, as we seek to expand the good work of the children's ministry.



PRAYER

Prayer is central to all we do at St Paul's. We seek to be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led people. This is reflected in our commitment to teach on prayer, and to include a variety of styles of prayer throughout our services. We offer a number of different opportunities for prayer. We have a dedicated prayer ministry team who meet to listen to God, discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to us and to pray together. We also have a dedicated prayer room in the church centre that is used for smaller gatherings, or for individual prayer needs.

Pray@7: Mid-week, a group of faithful prayer-warriors gather at 7am to prayerfully listen to God and to pray for the world, our church and our community.

Hour@prayer: Once a month, the congregation is encouraged to spend one hour praying together in church.

Prayers for healing: The 10.30am service regularly offers prayers for healing where, at the end of the service, the congregation is offered prayer with trained members of the prayer team.

Pray for Camberley: Alongside the other churches in Camberley, all members of the congregation are invited to join a community event where Christians gather together to pray for the local community. This happens every other month and is hosted, in rotation, by different churches in the area.

Thy kingdom come: Along with other Christian churches around the world, St Paul's offers the opportunity for prayer in the days leading up to Pentecost. The prayer room is set up with creative ideas for those who wish to spend time with the Lord, to listen and pray for an increase in God's kingdom.



The Prayer Chain: Our confidential e-mail group of faithful prayer-warriors will intercede in situations requiring urgent prayer.

DISCIPLESHIP

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

Discipleship is an area we have discerned that we need to build on and grow at St Paul's. Throughout Covid we were able to develop the capability of our YouTube channel and to meet online, which was a real gift. We have also developed a new church website. We recognise, however, that our social media presence is currently not as strong as it could be, and we would welcome a new vision to breathe life into this area as we know it offers great potential.

Our Life groups also met online during the Covid lockdowns and we have found, since returning to 'normality', that there is a greater hunger for deep discipleship, for growing in faith and living lives all-out for Jesus. In this moment we find ourselves ready and willing to go deeper, and we pray that our new vicar will also have a sense of strong vision in this area.

Life groups: We currently have 10 life groups which meet weekly in each other's homes, online or in the church centre. Our groups tend to follow the sermon series but are also free to explore other topics. We try to cater for different demographics and age groups. We would love to grow our life group community in line with our desire to grow and support new disciples. We are keen to find creative solutions and to add further groups catering for increased numbers of people on their journey in faith. In order to facilitate this, we hope to refresh the co-ordination of our life groups so that they can be re-imagined and re-invigorated.

Alpha: Along with St Barbara's and Heatherside Church, St Paul's hosts the Alpha course once a year. This course has been very well attended. We are keen to build on the success of Alpha and would love to offer even more to those who are developing their fledgling faith and those who would like to go even deeper in exploring their faith. (www.alpha.org)

Hymns We Love: Introduced in 2024, the 'Hymns We Love' series has run successfully at St Paul's. It has been well received by older members of the congregation and the wider community who have enjoyed exploring faith through well-known hymns. (www.thegoodbook.co.uk/series/hymns-we-love)



COMMUNITY & EVANGELISM

Oasis: Oasis is a popular day-time event, open to adults of all ages and a real lifeline to many in our community. It is held monthly. In addition to fantastic home-made cakes, tea and coffee, participants are invited to join in with an array of activities: games, crafts, exercise, tech support and advice from external organisations like our community police and Citizens Advice. We also offer prayer and spiritual support. There is a great buzz and a real feeling of Jesus' love in action at Oasis.

Coffee stop: A weekly event where guests are welcome to enjoy support and friendship in the church centre. It is held on the weeks between Oasis events.

Newcomers' lunches: Several times a year, newcomers are welcomed to the church as they are formally invited to share in a Sunday lunch with others in the church centre. This is an opportunity to meet others and to learn more about how to get involved in the life of St Paul's.

Women's ministry: Our women's ministry events include a thriving Mothers' Union group which meets regularly in the church centre. Other women's groups are in a period of re-visioning.

Men's breakfasts: The St Paul's men's breakfast events have been held on occasional Saturday mornings. Guest speakers are invited to share their interest and faith stories over a hearty breakfast.

Film Afternoons: Friday film afternoons at St Paul's have been a welcome addition to our community. Classic films are selected and shown in the church centre. As many as sixty people in the audience will gather and share a few hours revisiting classic films together.

Games nights: Who doesn't love a board game and the chance to spend time with others? St Paul's games nights with the bonus of a fish-and-chip supper have brought out the community and competitive spirit in many!

Fine Weather Walkers: A group which usually meets once a month on a Saturday. Roughly a dozen people from the community meet to chat and walk.



'TOGETHER' EVENT

As we came out of Covid restrictions we felt the need to re-gather as a community, and so Together was born. Since its inauguration Together has become an annual event where all three churches gather (St Barbara's, Heatherside Church and St Paul's). It is held outdoors in the summer and has a 'festival' feel. The day centres around an open-air service where all ages are welcome to gather together and worship, often hearing from a guest speaker who speaks into our present moment. It is then followed by a picnic lunch, and activities ranging from seminars, walks, arts, disco bingo and other fun activities. The day culminates in a barbeque. Together offers the opportunity for our three communities to get to know one another in a more informal setting, and step out of the routine of the every day, to pause and be.

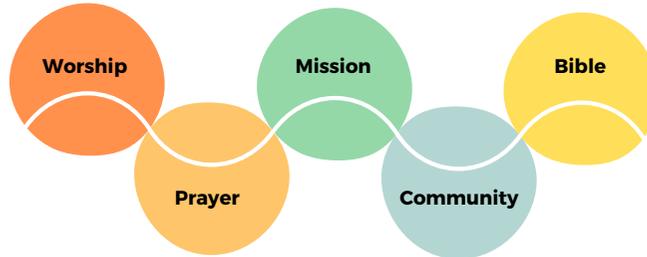


CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

VISION

Rooted in love,
growing in faith,
thriving in life with
God and living out
who God has
called us to be.

DISCIPLESHIP VALUES



At St Paul's we are committed to bringing young people to the centre of our vision as a church. Through midweek groups and regular engagement with seven local schools, our children and youth team engage with a large number of young people every week. Our toddler ministry has grown over the last couple of years to become one of our key points of evangelism, as have our seasonal events. Our schools ministry has increased through regular assemblies, trips and lessons. Positive relationships have been built with all our local schools. Through working together with other churches we have seen an increase of families reached with the Good News across the area.

In our youth ministry there has been a greater focus on joined up thinking and fresh ideas for youth discipleship across the Surrey Heath Deanery. This work has been spearheaded by our youth team and is run alongside a number of local Anglican churches. This initiative has been a great encouragement.

St Paul's is known for its excellent seasonal events for families, and so we run large Light, Christmas and Pancake Parties and Easter Trails as evangelistic opportunities. These events have grown significantly and we have 200-300 people attending each one, many of whom are those we have connected with through schools, toddlers and outreach. We also run an annual Holiday Club where we explore the Bible, prayer and faith through fun activity days, with around 100-120 children attending and a team of around 40 volunteers.



0-11 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



For the youngest children we reach, the focus is on building good relationships with the whole family and on giving them a positive experience of faith, church community and opportunities to meet with God.

Tots Praise runs every week with an average of 25–30 under 5s attending alongside their parents and carers. We start with 30 minutes of led worship through songs, instruments, an interactive Bible story and our guest puppet Derek the Dinosaur and end with play-time and refreshments.

Stay & Play toddler group is also weekly and offers a variety of toys and refreshments for families in the area.

Primary schools outreach is an important part of our local mission. St Paul's runs assemblies and RE lessons regularly in our three local schools: Prior Heath Infant School and Crawley Ridge Infant and Junior schools. All three schools organise trips to St Paul's throughout the year and we also host Christmas and leavers' services for them.

Children's participation in services is encouraged at St Paul's. We have worked hard at enabling children to play an active part in church life. The monthly all age service is led by an enthusiastic multi-generational team. The children are encouraged to contribute their ideas in planning each service. Some of our children have been happy to take on upfront roles during services.

Sunday morning activities are divided into three groups with sessions planned for each group. Our team's main focus is on helping the children connect with God for themselves. We try to enable conversations about faith in their families as the children follow the same sermon series as the adults. There are up to 30 children (aged 0–11) each week.

Our 0–3s group enjoy songs, a Bible story, a prayer tree and a themed activity. The other groups for 4–7s and 7–11s explore the Bible, sing action songs, pray and start a missional activity for the children to complete during the week.

11-18 YOUTH MINISTRY



We have a small committed core of young people. Our vision is that, as we prayerfully seek God for the young people in our area, we will help those in our care to delve deeply into discipleship and we will see more young people coming to faith. In order to support the cohort of young people who are moving into Year 7, we will offer them a cell-style group on a Sunday morning.

Friday Night Drop In is a social setting where young people enjoy their own space to hang out with friends. Whilst playing table tennis or Mario Kart, they are given space to have meaningful conversations about how they are finding life. Despite not having a specific faith focus, there have been lots of healthy and encouraging conversations between leaders and young people on faith subjects.

Youth Hub on Sunday evenings is a collaborative group involving several of the deanery churches. It was formed with the vision of enabling young people to go deeper in studying God's word. The group was launched in September 2023 and meets weekly for worship, Bible study and prayer. Currently around 10-20 young people attend. It has been exciting to launch youth work with a discipleship focus across a number of churches.

As a church we work alongside Camberley Youth for Christ (CYFC), one of our mission partners. With CYFC, our church members and staff regularly volunteer with lunch clubs, Christian unions, RE lessons, mentoring and assemblies within four local secondary schools.

The POINT is a highlight for our youth. It is run by youth workers from different local churches and is overseen by Camberley Youth for Christ. It is run monthly and is designed to help young people make Jesus the Point of their Lives. It is an outreach event/service with around 45 minutes of social time, followed by a worship service where young people are encouraged to serve together on teams.

St Paul's also join CYFC on their yearly Youth weekend-away for young people in Years 6-9. There is also the opportunity to attend the youth festival Satellites.

PASTORAL CARE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Corinthians: 1-4



The pastoral care team at St Paul's supports our congregation and community. We recognise that we are a visible church within our parish, and are called upon by many in times of need. We have the privilege of being there for those who do not join us on a Sunday but who need our support.

Home Communion: We offer Holy Communion to those in two local care homes, and those from our church family who are in other care settings. This is administered by a faithful group from our church, after being consecrated at our 9am service.

Home and hospital visits: The clergy and a team of volunteers visit people at home, or in hospital, should they need pastoral support, or are housebound members of our parish, often with the opportunity to pray with them and share communion together.

Weddings and blessings: We are delighted to host weddings at St Paul's, although we tend to have very few. We also offer a pre-marriage course. The PCC recently passed a resolution stating that St Paul's is not minded to seek to introduce Prayers of Love and Faith at this time. We anticipate our new incumbent will lead the congregation in further conversation around this subject.

Funerals: Although we do not have a graveyard, we do have the privilege of conducting funeral services for those in the local community who wish to have a Christian service. We have good connections with the local funeral directors and can host services and funeral teas in the church centre. On average, the clergy preside at about a dozen funerals per year.

Bereavement service: This service takes place in the autumn every year. It is open to anyone in the community who would like to pause and remember loved ones who have died. It is a moving and gentle service where the deceased are named individually and candles are lit in their memory.

Meal trains: Supporting those who need help following the birth of a baby, following illness or in life's difficult times is really important to us at St Paul's. Often groups will sign up and serve others by providing meals and continuity at these critical times.

Flowers: A dedicated and talented team of floral arrangers decorate the church weekly and at seasonal events. Often the flowers are dedicated to the memory of a loved one.

SAFEGUARDING

St Paul's continues to discern what it means to have safeguarding at the core of all we do. The PCC and Standing Committee are aware of their duty of care regarding the safety and wellbeing of the vulnerable in our church community. Our designated Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) leads a safeguarding team to advise the incumbent, the PCC and the Standing Committee.

The team also works hard to promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, including seeking to ensure that all those working with under 18s and vulnerable adults are safely recruited and that activities involving these groups are regularly risk assessed.

The PSO liaises with the diocesan safeguarding team and continues to work closely with the leaders of our groups and activities endeavouring to ensure that national and diocesan requirements are understood and implemented.

The parish is on level 3 of the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard.



MISSION PARTNERS & ECO-CHURCH

St Paul's has a long tradition of supporting mission on a local, national and international level. The church prioritises missions where members of the congregation are actively involved in that mission. We believe that this enhances accountability and enables us to have a meaningful relationship with those organisations.

We recognise that the landscape of world mission is changing. Our mission giving is currently £30k per annum and we hope that, by building meaningful relationships and learning from our mission partners, our engagement with mission will grow and develop.

We are delighted to welcome mission partners when they are available to come and share to the congregation in person. We schedule Sundays when they can explain what they are working on and how we can support them, and pray for them.

We have a dedicated mission giving team who oversee and coordinate the mission work from our church. The team is being revitalised and they are keen to develop new ways of interacting with our mission partners.



At St Paul's we are keen to build on our Eco Church credentials. We are on the cusp of achieving our silver award. We want to create a culture in our parish of caring for God's wonderful creation, and caring about environmental justice. We are developing our understanding of our corporate and individual responsibility so that we are proactive in making a difference in our community outreach, our lifestyles, our worship and our teaching.



Mission Partners

Local

- Camberley BESOM
- Camberley Youth for Christ
- Connect Christian Counselling
- Frimhurst (ATD Fourth World)
- Frontline Debt Counselling

National

- Acorn Christian Foundation
- Evangelical Alliance
- Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons)
- Parish Nursing Ministries UK

International

- AIM/The Barrys
- Children of the Dump
- Flame International
- Love Moldova
- Military Ministries International
- Samaras Aid

THE FUTURE OF ST PAUL'S

Where we are going



Building a community where lives are transformed by Jesus.

AREAS FOR GROWTH

VISION

Moving into the next phase at St Paul's, we have encouraged our congregation to seek God's direction through prayer in order to advance His kingdom in Camberley and expand our church. The key themes:

As a church we want to pray, connect and grow. We recognise that we are ready for a refresh of our vision, and to move forward together seeing lives transformed by Jesus in our local community led by the Holy Spirit.

We know that a new incumbent will come with their own vision and ideas, and we are keen to explore what that will mean for us as a church community. We also want whoever comes to serve at St Paul's to know we are willing to grow on that journey together.

DISCIPLESHIP

In this season we want to grow in discipleship. As individuals and a gathered community we want a better awareness of, and relationship with God, where we are able to confidently seek His purposes for our lives and our community.

Life groups are at the core of our church community, but are in need of renewing in order that they best serve the discipleship of our congregation. Currently roughly 60% of our membership attends a Life group. Life groups have the potential to grow across all age groups and there is an opportunity for creative reimagining of groups.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

We have noticed that many in our congregation are not confident in prayer. We want prayer to be accessible, visible and modelled everywhere in all that we do, and how we live out our faith. Our heart is that we would see answers to prayer in abundance because we have dared to seek the Kingdom of God in Camberley.

Similarly we want to see growth in our sung worship, and in intergenerational ministry. We would love to see people's talents and gifts nurtured and encouraged so that many more people will feel able to step up and play an active part in worship.

COMMUNITY

Our church community wants to grow, both in depth of faith and numerically. We strive to draw people to the core of our congregation.

This requires diligent forward planning and organisation from all those in leadership. Our incumbent will have to communicate plans and vision with all in the congregation and community so that we are able to grow together.

However, we do recognise that we must be led by the Spirit to lay down that which hinders and to pursue God's heart for our church and community.

Ultimately, we seek to model Christ in the community.

ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR OUR NEXT INCUMBENT

We pray that the next vicar of St Paul's will focus on these five key areas:

Mission and outreach

- Work alongside the congregation to develop an ambitious new vision for St Paul's Church.
- Encourage us by developing a clear discipleship pathway for people of all ages, taking into account differing levels of faith and knowledge.
- Actively engage with the wider community in order to gently draw those on the fringe closer to the core.

Leadership and collaboration

- Lead the church in setting and holding a new vision.
- Inspire, motivate, challenge and empower all members of the church, individually and collectively, to actively achieve that vision.
- Work collaboratively with the staff team, Ministry Coordinators and the PCC to identify talents and to motivate people to step up and use their talents to grow the life and mission of the church.
- Be Training Incumbent for the St Paul's Curate at Heatherside Church to support them as they minister to that congregation.

Worship and preaching

- Lead worship that gives glory to God, prayerfully, competently and confidently.
- Plan, organise and conduct a programme of teaching which supports and nourishes the St Paul's community.
- Reflect, interpret and preach the gospel in a way that will encourage faith development, by adapting content and style for different audiences, occasions and purposes.

Pastoral care

- Identify pastoral care needs and develop appropriate structures and skills to provide this to the parish (whilst recognising the necessary safeguarding requirements for pastoral visitors and other teams).
- Communicate effectively and appropriately in both written and verbal form with people of all ages and situations in society, inside and outside the church.
- Demonstrate active listening and empathetic behaviour.

Stewardship and organisation

- Work with the PCC and churchwardens to ensure that structures and resources for St Paul's are appropriate, including clear boundaries and accountability of all in roles of responsibility.
- Manage their time effectively through personal administration, planning and organisation, working in a team, chairing meetings, interpersonal skills and taking appropriate breaks.
- Care for themselves and their personal relationships, by setting aside adequate time for family life, friendship, recreation, renewal and personal health, by taking time off weekly and their full holiday entitlement.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF OUR NEXT INCUMBENT

Qualifications and training *Applicants for this post must:*

- Be an ordained priest within the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, or a Church whose orders it recognises.
- Have satisfactorily completed Initial Ministerial Education.
- Be able to demonstrate a capability to exercise priestly ministry at incumbent level.
- Be able to teach the Bible and communicate the Gospel to others.
- Be able to demonstrate a willingness to engage in Continuing Ministerial Development appropriate for this post.

Experience *Candidates equipped for the role will be able to demonstrate experience and understanding in the following areas:*

- Developing and implementing strategic plans in collaboration with others.
- Motivating and supporting people in developing their talents.
- Working with and motivating people of different ages.
- Leading and managing a team.
- Developing fresh ways of drawing people into church.

Knowledge, skills and competencies *Suitable candidates will be able to demonstrate that they possess knowledge, skills and competencies as follows:*

- Leadership skills and an ability to engage with church members, demonstrating both authority and empathy in decision making.
- Working with and valuing others.
- An ability to make - and build on - links with individuals and community organisations whose involvement with the Church is limited.

General attributes *Suitable candidates will be able to demonstrate the following:*

- A spirit-led personal prayer life and the ability to encourage this in others
- The ability to relate to non-Christians of all ages.
- An understanding of the wider issues being discussed within the church and the people-skills to empathise with differing views.
- A desire to work towards continued congregational unity, whilst seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit.

What we can offer:

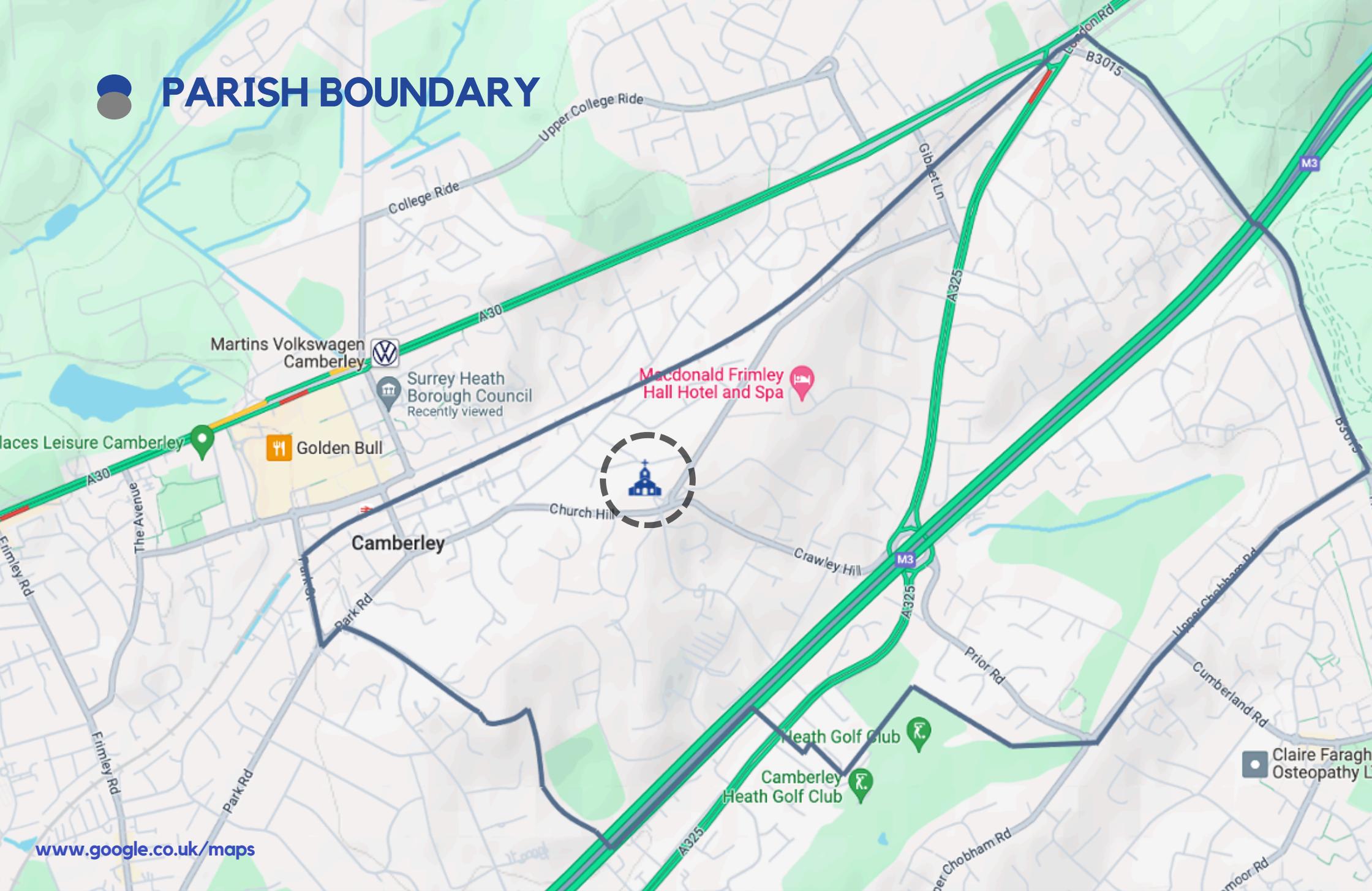
- A caring, engaged and welcoming congregation who are eager to develop a new vision.
- A supportive, capable team of both ordained and lay staff.
- A cohesive and supportive PCC who have signed up to the The Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing.
- A comfortable, private vicarage within walking distance of the church.

APPENDICES

- Parish boundary
- St Paul's buildings
- St Paul's vicarage
- Governance
- St Paul's finances
- Surrey Heath Deanery



PARISH BOUNDARY



ST PAUL'S BUILDINGS

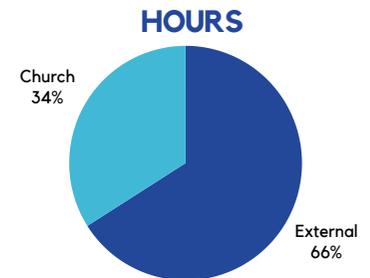
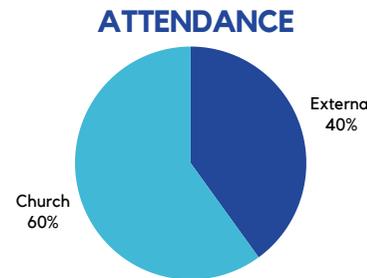
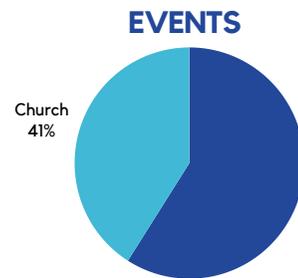
St Paul's is blessed with great buildings and facilities. As the church building no longer has pews, it is a very adaptable space. Not only is the space suitable for multiple styles of worship, it is also available as a community resource.

St Paul's is delighted to open its doors every day of the week, to our local community and our church family.

Our church hall is hired by a local nursery and a dance school. The four other rooms within the church centre are popular with the community and serve as a home to many activities and community events.

As part of our culture of welcome at St Paul's we are delighted to engage with the community and to facilitate events in our well-resourced buildings.

The church centre also has a designated vicar's office, three staff offices and a room for prayer.



2023 OVERVIEW

- Roughly 300 events held
- Run by around 100 different groups
- With 6700 attendees
- The centre was used for 450 hours
- With 60% external & 40% church centred activities

• Mostly hired by:

- U3A
- Health & Hobby groups

• Biggest attendance:

- Christmas & Easter Services
- Charity, family & social events, Oasis.



ST PAUL'S VICARAGE

The Vicarage is located on a quiet 'unadopted' road about 5 minutes down the hill from the church.

The vicarage was built in the 1970s and extended in 1999, providing a study space with its own external access.

There is a gravel driveway with parking for at least 3 cars alongside a double garage.

The Vicarage comprises: entrance lobby, hallway, cloakroom with WC, small additional study, kitchen/breakfast room (refitted 2014) utility room (door to side path and garden) further dining area and sitting room (doors to patio).

Upstairs are the master bedroom with en-suite shower room and WC (refitted 2014) three further bedrooms and family bathroom (refitted 2014)

The rear garden (with side access) has a patio and lawned area, bordered by shrubs and trees.

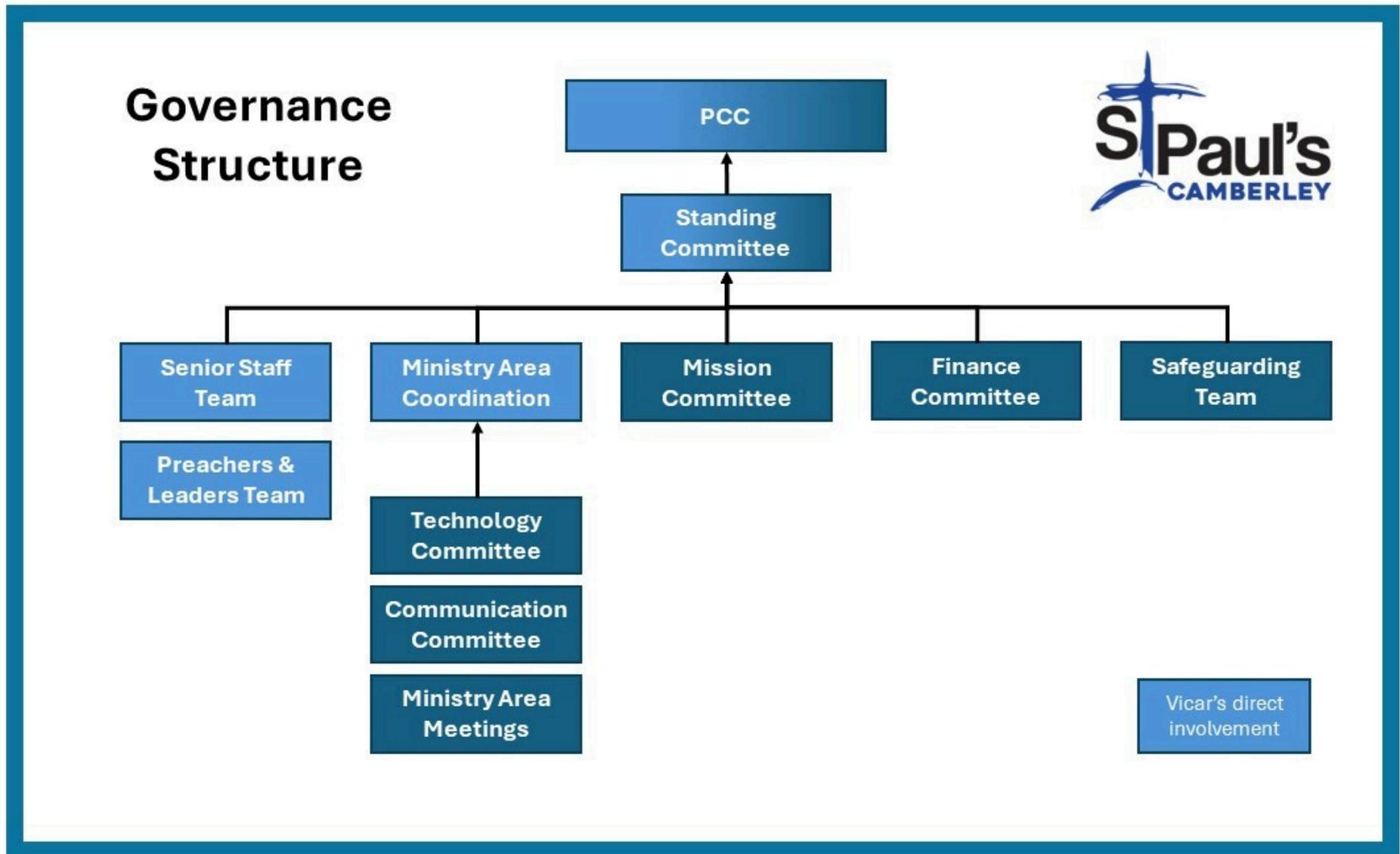
The town centre and the railway station are also a short walk away. A GP practice, a dental surgery and a pharmacy are nearby.

Crawley Ridge Infant and Junior schools and a number of day-care nurseries are within walking distance. The vicarage is in the catchment area for Collingwood College (secondary school) and Farnborough Sixth Form College is accessible by bus.

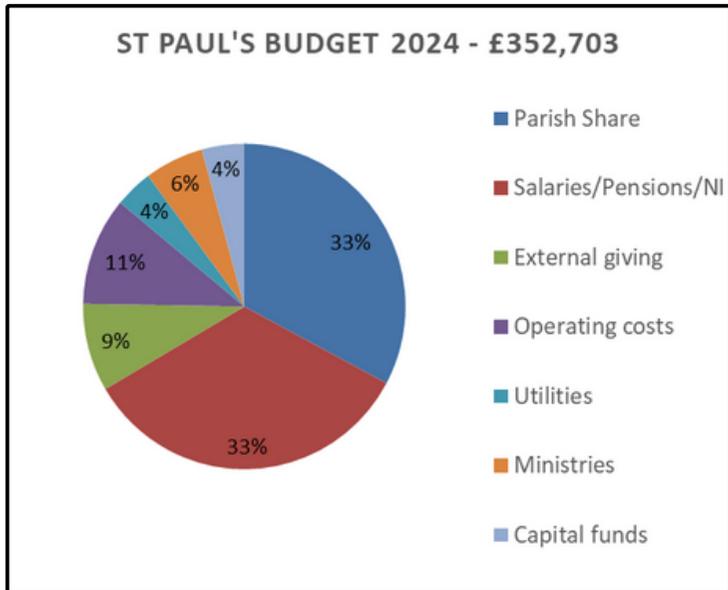
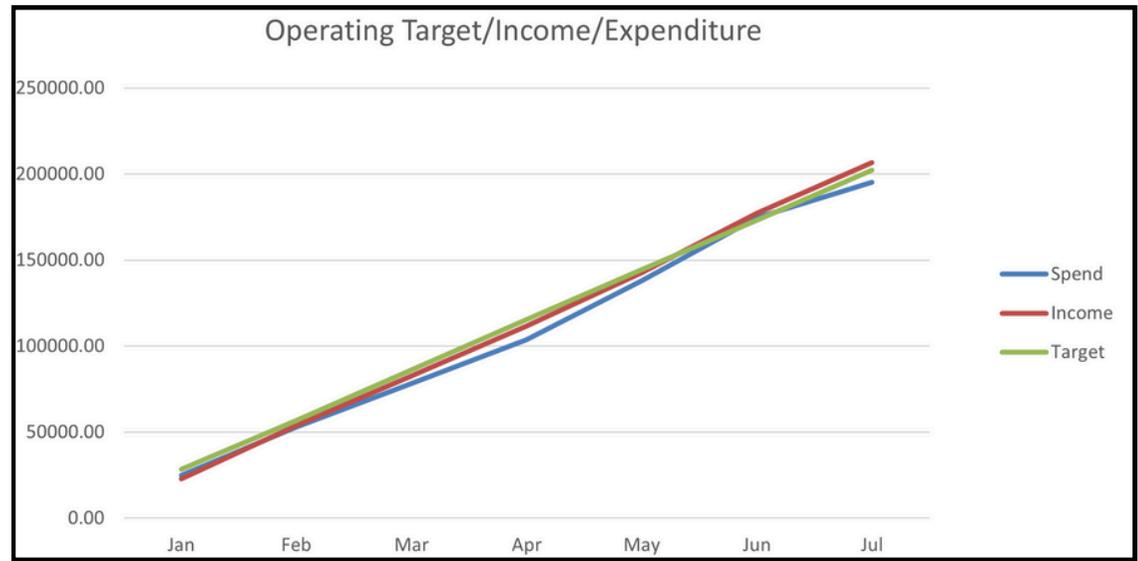
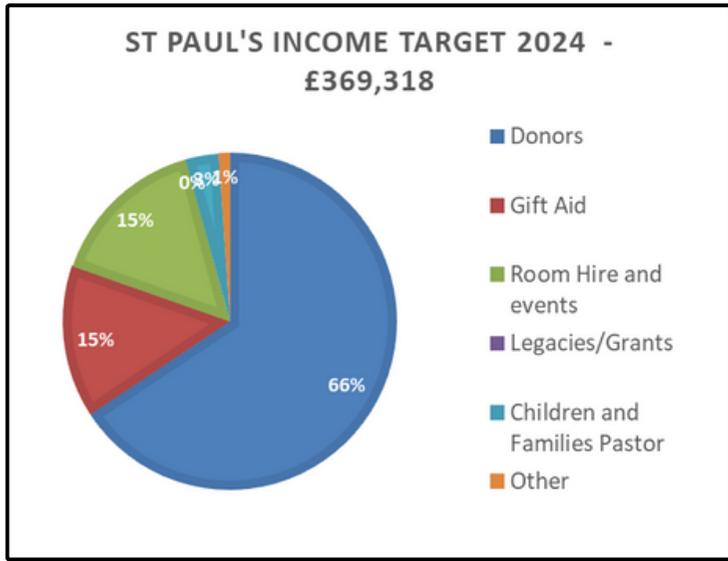
www.crawleyridge.co.uk
www.collingwoodcollege.com
www.farnborough.ac.uk



ST PAUL'S GOVERNANCE



ST PAUL'S FINANCES



2024 - expected income = £369,318.00

2024 - expected expenditure = £352,703.00

Giving at a glance:

St Paul's is blessed with a generous congregation.

We currently have 120 committed regular givers.

Gift aid is reclaimed on over 91% of our donations.

A recent Gift Day raised over £45k to continue our Children, Youth and Families work.

The annual accounts for St Paul's Church are available under the RESOURCES tab of www.stpaulscamberley.org.uk. The 2023 accounts are still under examination.

St Paul's is part of Surrey Heath Deanery, which currently comprises twelve parishes and St Barbara's – the church plant from St Paul's – which is operating under a Bishop's Mission Order. St Barbara's is scheduled to become an independent parish in 2025.

There are good working relationships across the parishes, supported by both an active Chapter which meets monthly, and by quarterly Deanery Synod meetings.

For the last four years, the Deanery has been fostering collaboration between the parishes on matters of common interest, to make effective use of resources in growing the kingdom.

As a result of the recent second round of the Parish Needs Process, the Deanery is actively looking for ways to grow existing areas of collaboration (e.g. the Youth Hub) and to work together on sharing established practices and new ideas. Surrey Heath Deanery is pioneering the creation of a Deanery Development Plan to complement individual Church Development Plans.

St Paul's is actively represented on both Surrey Heath Deanery and Guildford Diocesan Synods. Our previous incumbent was the Assistant Area Dean. St Paul's treasurer currently acts as the Surrey Heath Deanery Lay Chair, the Deanery Synod Secretary and the Deanery Treasurer.

Surrey Heath Deanery has five clergy and four lay representatives at Diocesan Synod. Two of the lay representatives are from St Paul's.

St Paul's is also part of 'Churches Together in Camberley' which meets regularly to pray for the town and to identify and respond to local needs.

www.stpaulscamberley.org.uk

St Paul's Church Centre
Crawley Ridge
Camberley
GU15 2AD

