

St MARY'S
FETCHAM

† KNOWING JESUS
∞ SHARING FAITH
♥ LOVING SERVICE

PARISH PROFILE

www.stmarysfetcham.org.uk



WELCOME

Welcome to St Mary's Fetcham

Welcome and thank you for prayerfully considering whether God is calling you to serve here. We hope this Parish Profile communicates our excitement to see where God will take us next.

Our vision

Our vision is clearly defined in our Mission Statement:

† KNOWING JESUS
∞ SHARING FAITH
♥ LOVING SERVICE

St Mary's Church agreed to a new vision statement in 2019 to encapsulate our aspirations to be growing disciples who make disciples, serving and loving our community.

Our 'Church Development Plan' can be found in the application pack.

Knowing Jesus

We are a church of Word and Spirit; deepening our relationship with God through study of the Bible, worship and individual and corporate prayer. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to demonstrate His fruit and use His gifts in His service.

Sharing Faith

We want to improve how we communicate our faith in the Lord Jesus, in ways which are relevant to our whole community and our church family; meeting the needs of different age groups; providing opportunities for people to ask the big questions and explore what that means to them personally.

Loving Service

We want to lovingly serve our church family and the wider community of Fetcham through practical action, demonstrating Jesus' love for us and making a positive difference to people's lives in our local community and beyond.

“Coming to St Mary's is like coming home.”



WHO ARE WE?

We are a church of Word and Spirit, wanting to grow in the depth of our understanding of what it means to be followers of Jesus and to live Spirit-filled lives.

We are a well-established church aspiring to make our services and other church events as relevant, helpful and accessible as possible. Good foundations have been laid, with a strong volunteer base and many people are encouraged to use their gifts and talents, including in a range of leadership positions. We have a real desire to reach out to our local community with the love of Christ and would like to build upon the promising seeds that have been sown over the last few years.

Our congregation is warm and welcoming. Members find friendship and support in the ups and downs of daily life through our services, weekday meetings, pastoral care and our network of home groups. We have a generous congregation, and with careful stewardship, the church is in a sound financial position. We are members of the New Wine network of churches. Dedicated teams of coffee makers keep the drinks flowing each Sunday between the two later morning services, giving the opportunity for two congregations to mingle and welcome new people. Any St Mary's special event is always an occasion for celebration with tea and homemade cake!

“We love how the church reaches out to the community in practical expressions of Christ's love.”

OUR STRENGTHS & CHALLENGES

While we recognise and celebrate the great things about St Mary's, for which we thank God, and have made progress in realising our vision, we know there is much more we need to do.



This is a friendly church where people greet you and try to include you.

We believe our strengths are:

- A growing heart to follow and engage with God through prayer, worship and the Word.
- A loving, generous, and hard-working community, which cares for one another; with strong safeguarding policies and practices embedded throughout.
- A clearly expressed vision backed by a church development plan.
- A range of worship styles: traditional, contemporary, and reflective.
- The Ministry Team has good relations with other local churches, and members of the congregation embrace opportunities to work together. For example, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, through The Community Fridge and creativity afternoons.
- Strong links with local schools, local organisations (including our neighbours at Fetcham Park House) and local and international charities.
- Our work with young people and the local community is developing, led by a full-time paid Youth Minister, a part-time paid Families and Children Worker and a part-time paid Pioneer Community Worker assisted by a group of committed volunteers.
- The church building is of local heritage interest. Our well-appointed church hall, widely used by the community, has good parking space.

The key challenges we see at present are:

- To find new ways to develop and grow personal discipleship within our congregations including the further development of home groups.
- To grow in confidence to share our faith, so we can better engage with the unchurched in our community and, by God's grace, lead them to Jesus so that they might have hope in Him.
- To continue to grow a sense of togetherness and unity of purpose, praying and working as one church; despite having multiple congregations, varying age groups and diverse ministries and interest groups.
- To increase our volunteer base to enable our existing ministries to be sustained and new ones to be developed.
- To be relevant to people of all ages: children, young people, men and women at all life stages. We need to find ways to include and encourage the 18-45 age group who are underrepresented in our church community.
- To be at the heart of the life of Fetcham village, continuing to develop our understanding of people's needs within the village, so we can respond by lovingly serving them in different ways.

We would encourage you to thoroughly explore our church website:

www.stmarysfetcham.org.uk

WHO WILL OUR RECTOR BE?



We are seeking a Rector with a heart for prayer and love for God's Word, who will encourage communication with God as the starting point for everything. The new Rector will bring their own unique gifts, take up the baton, and provide strategic leadership for our next chapter, helping us turn vision into practical action, encouraging and equipping the church family to build relationships, exercise their gifts, and share life and faith with others beyond the church. We are excited about where God will lead us. Given our current strengths and the challenges we face, we are praying for God to lead us to a new Rector who understands the importance of the qualities below and aspires to integrate them into their ministry.

- A **servant-hearted collaborative leader**, Spirit-led and biblically-based who will inspire, release and challenge us
- An **engaging preacher** who can build a firm Scriptural foundation for our witness and service, and respect for the various worship traditions in our church
- A **prayerful disciple** who will help us deepen our relationship with God and support us to lovingly share Jesus with others so that they may encounter Him for themselves
- A **good communicator and compassionate listener** with a pastoral

heart, committed to building strong relationships across our church, other local churches and the wider community

- Someone with the **ability to turn vision into practical action**, helping us find new ways of engaging with the whole community in mission and service.
- A **leader with management skills** who can encourage and inspire paid staff and volunteers alike
- An **encourager** who loves to enable and empower the identification and use of God-given spiritual gifts and talents, for the benefit of the Kingdom of God
- An **enthusiast** with a heart for young families and young people
- A **people person** with a good sense of humour, who can create a joyful environment

We love and support our Rectors and want to bless them in their ministry amongst us.

We want to ensure that they feel valued and encouraged, and are able to strike a good work/life balance, knowing that the life of ministry is shared with the team around them.

We are fully supportive of the Diocesan Covenant for Clergy Care and Well-being.

MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP



A message from Rt. Revd. Andrew Watson, 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 is 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!

**Rt. Revd. Andrew Watson,
Bishop of Guildford**

“ *Such a warm and welcoming church filled with love and support for one another* ”

MESSAGE FROM OUR ARCHDEACON

A message from Venerable Martin Breadmore, Archdeacon of Dorking & Acting Archdeacon of Surrey



Fetcham Village, which is a popular place to live, is situated in the Mole Valley, close to the M25 and 13 miles from Guildford. It has a small shopping area with some good local amenities, with the beautiful Surrey Hills

on the doorstep.

There is so much to rejoice over at St. Mary's with a growing committed core of people who are eager to engage in the mission and ministry of the church in the area. This is a community of faith that seeks to hold together the values of Word and Spirit.

The previous incumbent has worked hard to develop collaborative ministry and to empower lay teams to be involved in the different areas of church life, resulting in a ministry team of over 20 people with five employed members of staff. The church has been considering discipleship and prayer more intentionally than before, which has led to the development of their small groups which encourage belonging, believing, serving, and journeying together.

A redefining of the church's vision as "Knowing Jesus, Sharing Faith and Loving Service" has led to a general move to be more focused on outreach and mission, particularly in engagement with the local community and initiatives to engage with it through non-church channels (e.g. carols and Alpha at the pub, and increased activity with local schools etc..).

As a result of engaging with the Parish Needs Process this parish has a good Church Development Plan. I believe there is real opportunity to build on the excellent existing work amongst children and young people.

The new Rector must have a desire to continue to "empower and release" people; allowing them the freedom to explore, develop and deploy their God given talents and gifting. With a sizeable ministry team, the next Rector needs to have experience of managing others well, needs to be committed to collaboration, have the ability to be strategic, as she/he leads the implementation of their Church Development Plan and to be a missional leader with a pastoral heart.

This appointment is perfect timing for receiving resource and support from the wider diocese. 2021 marked the launch of our new Parish Needs Process. This marks a brand-new way of working whereby the diocese will seek to walk alongside each parish to help them with vision and whatever needs they might have arising out of this.

DORKING



MESSAGE FROM OUR ARCHDEACON

I am very enthusiastic about the opportunity that this post offers to build on the excellent work of previous Rectors. For the person that God calls, there is so much to offer here: the warmth of a great church family and wider community; the opportunity of leadership in a parish, deanery and diocese which offers considerable support and resources; the exciting challenge of discerning with this community what God is doing and how we might join in; the privilege of living and working in a beautiful part of the country with so many opportunities for clergy and families; and there's a very lovely Rectory!

If you would value an informal conversation about this post, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me at archdeacon.dorking@cofeguildford.org.uk, so that we can arrange a time for us to speak.

**Venerable Martin Breadmore,
Archdeacon of Dorking & Acting
Archdeacon of Surrey**

“ *Ten years ago, I moved from London to Fetcham. I arrived at St Mary's on my first Sunday here and received the warmest welcome. I was apprehensive about whether I had made the right decision, but my new St Mary's friends left me with no doubts. Their friendship made me feel I belonged. Worshiping our Lord amongst friends is wonderful.* **”**

OUR PARISH



“The church offers services for those who prefer traditional worship and for those who prefer a more informal worship.”

The village of Fetcham is a great place to live. It is surrounded by Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with fantastic opportunities for exploration and outdoor pursuits for people of all ages. Fetcham has easy access to London by road and rail, is close to the M25 and equidistant from Heathrow and Gatwick airports. The local schools are excellent. Not surprisingly, that makes Fetcham a very attractive place to live for many commuters. The village has a population of around 8,800. In the 2021 Census 54% identified as Christian. House prices are high and young people find it increasingly difficult to afford housing in the area, resulting in declining numbers aged between 18 and 45 and a low percentage of students compared to the national average. The biggest age cohort tends to be those between 46 and 65+. The local community is active and, with over 23% of the population over 65; there are numerous clubs and organisations for those who have retired. The area is wealthy with a high percentage of homeowners (about 50.1% own their homes outright, 39.7% have mortgages or loans) and there are very few obvious areas of financial deprivation. However, there are a significant number of isolated, lonely and vulnerable people including children and young people, who are still recovering from the impact of the pandemic.

There are two excellent schools (Fetcham Village Infant School and Oakfield Junior School) and two good preschools in the village; all are within walking distance of the rectory; these cover preschool to year 6.



FETCHAM VILLAGE INFANT SCHOOL



OAKFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

There is also an excellent choice of secondary schools nearby, both state and independent in Bookham, Leatherhead, Dorking, Ashstead and Cobham.

The church has strong links with both primary schools, and good relationships with a number of other organisations including our pub (The Bell), local shops and Fetcham Park House (which is adjacent to the church and acts as a business centre/events venue). We also have close links with the Scouts and Guides.

DIOCESE AND DEANERY



The parish is part of the Guildford Diocese and the Leatherhead Deanery where we play an active part. As this profile hopefully makes clear, we are totally supportive of the Diocesan vision, 'Transforming Church, Transforming Lives' with a particular focus on 'Growing Disciples, Growing Diversity and Growing Community' mentioned by Bishop Andrew in his introductory letter.

There are two other churches in the Parish, The Church of the Holy Spirit, (Roman Catholic) and Cannon Court Evangelical, and we also have links with other local churches, in our neighbouring village.

Appendix B includes additional statistics from the Diocese about the parish.

Leatherhead Deanery

The Area Dean, Rev Renos Pittarides, meets with local clergy approximately once a month and as well as discussing a range of topics, the Chapter offers prayerful and practical support to each other.

Deanery Synod meetings take place three times a year and are usually well supported.

“We are new here, but we very much appreciated the super-friendly welcome from so many people. We love how the church reaches out to the community in practical expressions of Christ's love. We desire to grow in our personal walk with God and learn more from God's word through Bible-focused preaching and teaching.”

OUR RESOURCES



“There are lots of opportunities to learn more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus.”

Our People

You can find more information with photos of 'our people' on our website, stmarysfetcham.org.uk/new-to-st-marys/meet-the-team

We are a welcoming and friendly church which enjoys getting together socially, as well as for worship. We are comprised of Christians at many stages on their journey of faith. We firmly believe that every Christian has a calling to serve God, and everybody in the church is encouraged to get involved in different areas of church life.

We have a large **Ministry Team** comprising the Licensed Ministry Team and lay members of the church who have responsibility for different aspects of our church life.

Members of the **PCC** have a wide range of useful skills and are responsible for the overall well-being (practical as well as spiritual) of the church, the church members, and the church buildings.

During the vacancy, the Churchwardens, Corinne Braid and Richard Furze, alongside the PCC are supported in particular by the Ministry Team and the Pastoral Team.

The Licensed Ministry Team

- Julie Partridge - Ordained Local Minister (will complete her curacy in July 2024)
- Nathan Ghinn - Licensed Youth Minister
- Corinne Braid - Licensed Lay Minister
- Roger McKinlay - Licensed Lay Minister
- Iain Whitlam - Licensed Lay Minister

The Preaching Team

There is a dedicated preaching team made up of licensed team members (above) and occasional preachers. We are fortunate as two members of our congregation are ordained so can assist and support us. Rev Jon Prior is a chaplain at a local school who occasionally takes services and works with our young people on Sundays, the other is a retired priest who lives in the parish.

The Staff Team

- Jo Evans - Operations Manager (from Autumn 2023)
- Nathan Ghinn - Licensed Youth Minister
- Hannah Hossain - Families and Children's Worker
- Karen Jordan - Parish Administrator
- Rev. Julie Partridge - Assistant Minister / Pioneer Community Worker

The Pastoral Team

This team currently has two trained Lay Pastoral Assistants and four trained Lay Pastoral Visitors. They are especially involved in pastoral ministry to the older members of the church as well as the wider community. This includes pastoral care in our local care home, Bells Grove. More recently we have recognised the importance of supporting the mental health needs of both adults and children in our community.

OUR RESOURCES



Our Facilities

St. Mary's Church is a beautiful and much loved old Church with a long heritage going back well over 1,000 years from which we can draw inspiration. It is sited towards the edge of the village and is not very visible as a village landmark. It is Anglo-Saxon in origin, rebuilt by the Normans and constantly added to and changed, down the centuries. In 2014 it was redecorated, rewired, and equipped with new lighting and AV systems (including an improved hearing loop) and a raised platform in the chancel to support a variety of worship styles. This area also has a pipe organ. The capacity of the church is 220.



We are working with local organisations on the conservation of a 400-year-old oil painting on wood, hung in the church, which celebrates the restoration (coronation) of Charles II.

St Mary's has an open burial ground, surrounding the church and its other buildings. This reached capacity for new burial plots in 2022, but there are still areas where ashes may be interred.

The Church Hall is sited close to the church and comprises a sizable hall; a well-equipped kitchen; side rooms, one used as a creche and the other as a store room for our community fridge facility; a Parish Office. There are toilets off the hall entrance lobby. The hall is widely used by a number of church and village groups. The AV systems have made this space very suitable for outreach events; including film nights and to show large sporting events.



'The Bothy' is a small, brick-built building situated at one end of our long driveway. Most recently this has been used for youth activities and as a 24/7 prayer room during prayer weekends.



Fetcham is a lovely friendly village with a growing community spirit.

OUR RESOURCES



Accommodation

The purpose-built Rectory is sited off the church driveway and is a modern, well-maintained and recently recarpeted, four-bedroomed family home. It has a family bathroom and an ensuite shower room, kitchen, dining room, living room and separate study. The rear garden is private, terraced, and well-stocked; and there is a generous-sized driveway with a garage and carport.



Finance and Fundraising

In the recent full year up to 31st December 2022, the church had an operating income of £196,000 and an operating expenditure of £215,000. In addition, we received a legacy of £50,000, which following a legacy received in the previous year has increased our available reserves to £208,000. The church encourages generous giving through annual stewardship campaigns, and these have generated an increase in regular giving as well as single donations which have enabled us to meet our costs. We have always had adequate funds to meet our Parish Share (currently £103,000) and to pay our staff and bills on time. We employ a part-time parish administrator and a full-time youth minister which cost £49,000 in 2022. The full accounts for 2022 are available on our church website stmarysfetcham.org.uk

In 2023 the employment of a Pioneer Community Worker, a Families and Children's Worker and an Operations Manager has increased our staff cost by £60,000 per annum. These roles are being supported by funding of £50,000 per annum from a local charity initially for a period of 3 years; two roles from December 2022 and one from August 2023. The church has a policy of tithing 10% of its income sources, splitting this giving between local and overseas charities with whom we have a connection.

OUR RESOURCES



Communications

We have a number of different ways to communicate with our church family and beyond. Over the last few years, we have invested time in improving our church website and communications system. We now use Churchsuite to share news and events, update the website, build rotas and more. In recent years we have grown our media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, to reach out to the local community about forthcoming events.

Policies

Safeguarding: we fully comply with the House of Bishops' policy on Safeguarding and follow the Diocesan guidelines. An annual church service with a safeguarding theme keeps safeguarding in focus, and regular reports are submitted to the PCC.

We have two well-qualified officers - one with responsibility for children and one with responsibility for vulnerable adults. All who have regular contact with children and/or vulnerable adults are DBS checked and are encouraged to undertake regular training; mandatory training is required for some roles. Our parish dashboard enables us to see the progress the church is making in terms of safeguarding practice.

Health & Safety: Our Health and Safety Policy has been recently reviewed and the majority of the items in our quinquennial survey have been actioned.

Hall letting: a policy is in place to ensure appropriate use of the hall.

“We value the diversity of spiritual expression and the widespread commitment to serve. We quickly grew to love and respect the people and never visited any other church!”

KNOWING JESUS

Church Services

Our services are offered in a variety of styles. All include Bible-based preaching, led by a team which includes clergy, ministry team members and trained occasional preachers, each of whom bring their personal style and personality to expound God's word.

Music plays an integral part in enhancing our worship. At our Sunday 9.30 am Common Worship Sung Holy Communion, our choir sings in four-part harmony under the direction of our organist and choir trainer. The choir robes for special occasions. At our 11.15 am Contemporary Service, a worship band leads contemporary worship, and a youth band has been formed recently to occasionally lead this service.

We have a team of people trained to assist with the distribution of communion. The church is beautifully decorated by a committed team of flower arrangers.

The services we offer:

Sundays

- **8.00 am Holy Communion** – This Book of Common Prayer service has an attendance of around 20 people.
- **9.30 am Parish Communion** – This sung service is based on Common Worship with a usual attendance of 50 plus.
- **11.15 am Service** – This is a contemporary worship service suitable for all ages which is based on 'Worship, Word and Response'. Communion is shared once a month. It has a usual attendance of 50 plus. A creche, Activ8 (for primary-aged children) and Sunday Youth (Secondary age) meet during this service, leaving after the first part of our worship.
- **6.30 pm The Well** - An occasional Sunday evening service with a quiet, reflective style.

3rd Thursday of each month

10.00 am monthly Holy Communion – This Common Worship service is a said service with a Bible-based sermon. It has a mainly older congregation.

2nd Friday of each month

3.30 – 5.30 pm Messy Church is our monthly service for children up to 11 years old and their families.

I am very proud of St Mary's being able to conduct three different forms of worship every Sunday – catering for all tastes and needs.

KNOWING JESUS



Other Significant Services

- **Remembrance Sunday Service** – A Service of Remembrance starting at the War Memorial and ending in church. The British Legion and uniformed organisations take an active part in this service.
- **Harvest at the Farm** – an open-air service held at a local farm and followed by a barbecue.
- **Bereavement Service** – An annual service held around All Souls Day to remember those who have died and to support those in our community who are grieving.
- **Business Carol Service** – St Mary's, in partnership with Fetcham Park House, has hosted a Carol Service for the business community over the past few years. This supports a nominated local charity.
- **Carols at The Bell** – A wonderful community event in the local pub. Usually held on the last Sunday before Christmas, the band lead a lively carol singalong to a packed house.

We provide a full range of services in church for all ages at Christmas and Easter.

*The 11.15 service is the least boring church service I have ever been to.
- A young person 12yrs old*

Bible Study

St Mary's holds fast to the Bible as the Word of God, trusting it together with the Holy Spirit for our direction as disciples of Jesus.

As well as our preaching programme, we normally offer a Bible-based course during Lent.

Each year, members of the church are encouraged to attend a Summer conference. In recent years a group has gone to New Wine and our church is now a member of the New Wine network.

Prayer

Praying and listening to God underpins our church life and the decisions we make. A prayer group, which is open to all, meets every Monday morning at 8 am.

This year a large group comprising the Ministry Team Leaders and the PCC has met once a month to follow the 24/7 Prayer Course, which has been very encouraging and uplifting. We hope to disseminate this course throughout the whole congregation.

The church is open every day for private prayer. Some people pray together in church or in home groups at other times during the week. We are involved with other local churches in the World Day of Prayer and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

A small team from the congregation has been trained in prayer ministry and this is regularly available at the 11.15 contemporary service and through pastoral support.

KNOWING JESUS



“*In my home group, we delve into the Bible and marvel together at how God speaks to us today.*”

Home Groups

Home Groups are the beating heart of a church, where discipleship and community take root. We have 10 active groups that link over 80 members to regular worship, prayer, fellowship and study, with a variety of expressions of spirituality. Our most enduring groups formed many years ago. Home groups play a vital role in pastoral care as the members travel through life together. Our newest group is in its second year, with members using The Bible Project and Community Bible Study (CBS) resources.

Within the current framework, we have little capacity to welcome newcomers into the groups and so we are looking at how to create new groups and do things differently. To address this we plan to introduce a large open group in the autumn, running for 6 weeks each term, following the 18-week CBS study of the gospel of Mark. From this we pray new relationships and new groups will form, inspired by the story of Jesus and the delight of engaging with scripture together.

Life Events

Baptisms

We are delighted to welcome in baptism young children whose parents would like to bring them up in the Christian faith, and adults who wish to join the Church. We understand the importance of baptisms being held within our regular Sunday morning services where possible, so the congregation can support and welcome the baptised and their family. We were delighted to have two adult baptisms by full immersion last year.

Baptism statistics: 6 in 2021, 15 in 2022 and 4 so far in 2023.

Weddings

The number of weddings has declined significantly in recent years to only one or two per year. There have been insufficient numbers to hold a marriage preparation course, so clergy have had meetings with each couple concerned.

Wedding statistics: 1 each year, in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Confirmation

We encourage and support those wishing to be confirmed. An annual confirmation service is held in the Deanery by one of our Bishops. Sadly there are very few requests for confirmation.

KNOWING JESUS



Funerals

Our funeral ministry has been a way into church for a number of people following our support to them in the preparation for a funeral and afterwards. This is an important part of our outreach to the local community. Funerals, memorial services and interments of ashes are conducted by clergy and members of our licensed team.

Funeral Statistics: 12 funerals, including interments of ashes, in 2021.
17 in 2022 and 7 so far in 2023.

“As an old-aged newcomer to St Mary's, I was made welcome and soon everyone knew my name and gently encouraged me to join in a familiar and congenial worship environment.”

SHARING FAITH



Children, Youth and Schools Ministry

We have various groups and activities on offer for children and young people. Some are outward-facing, community-focused groups and others faith focused discipleship groups. All our outreach to children and families is supported by a committed Families Team.

We have good relationships with our local schools. They hold lessons and special services in the church and invite our children's leaders to go into school to hold assemblies and take RE lessons. Three church members are part of the Governing Body of Oakfield Junior School; one is the Chair.

Our Youth Worker

- Visits local schools regularly.
- Co-leads the weekly Christian Union at Howard of Effingham Secondary School.
- Leads events such as Youth Nights, the Drop-in and Youth Band.
- Regularly takes assemblies and RE lessons at Oakfield Junior School.
- Supports Y6 transition
- Works with 'The Way', an after-school club run by church members on the Families Team. This club focuses on teaching life skills e.g... how to tie laces, travel safely to school, make a sandwich, and work as a team.

Our Pioneer Community Worker

- Liaises to support vulnerable children and families at Oakfield Junior.

Our Families and Children's Worker

- Visits local schools regularly.
- Takes assemblies and RE lessons at Fetcham Village Infant School and Oakfield Junior School.
- Coordinates Messy Church and Coffee Stop for parents of young children as well as fun activities for families during the school holidays.

Acts Puppet Assemblies

This group, which includes a member of our congregation, goes into many of our local schools to tell bible stories in an engaging way.

Walk Through Easter

Walk Through Easter is a popular event, timed for the last week of the school term before Easter. Children in Years 2 and 5 from the village schools come with their teachers and Teaching Assistants. The St Mary's team dresses up and takes the children through the Easter story with stations set up in the church and grounds.

SHARING FAITH



The Drop-In and Board Games evenings

The Drop-In is an open-access youth club for all young people from different backgrounds in year groups 7 – 13 to come and hang out with friends whilst enjoying baking, board games, table tennis, computer games and much more in a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment.

A Youth Weekend Away is planned for the autumn term and is for secondary children in school years 7-13. This will bring young people together from various groups.

Footprints Baby and Toddler Group

Footprints, for preschool children and their parents/carers, meet on Friday mornings with crafts, games, stories, songs and refreshments, which are provided by church members. A number of local childminders as well as parents and grandparents, attend and share together, building supportive relationships. We hope that this can be an initial step into church life. Some have had their children baptised at St Mary's, a few of whom now come to Messy Church.

Messy Church

Messy Church meets once a month on Fridays from 3.30 – 5.30 pm. The afternoon starts with games and craft activities linked to a chosen theme. This is followed by a service in the church which includes Christian songs, bible stories and a message, again linked to a theme. Afterwards, children can share a

simple meal together. Around 10-15 children and their parents regularly attend. It is open to all ages, but predominantly attracts children of 3-11 years old; children aged above 8 tend to become young volunteers, helping with an activity under a leader's supervision. Families usually attend together so this is an all-age outreach. Some adults regard this as their 'church'.

“Fetcham is such a good place to live that people moving here rarely leave.”

SHARING FAITH



“ I have found love and support,
at difficult times, in the Church family,
particularly in my home group.
Such a blessing! ”

Alpha

In 2023 we ran our first in-person Alpha Course since Covid. We were delighted to be able to meet in the stunning surroundings of our neighbours, Fetcham Park House.

Welcome Breakfasts

A welcome breakfast is held every three months for all newcomers from all three services. We hope that this will enable new members of our Christian family to get to know one another.

Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry aims to promote friendship, fellowship and discipleship amongst the men of the church. Some recent feedback from the group highlighted the desire for social and networking-type events – although we always try to include a Christian message in our meetings and events. Over the past year our events have included a meal and film evening (environment and social justice themes), and a thought-provoking talk from two authors based on their experiences and a new book about their life-changing accident which included themes of resilience, hope and forgiveness. More recently we held an enjoyable golf afternoon with a meal. The group meets every few months and events are led by various leaders.

Who let the Dad's out? meets monthly on a Saturday morning and offers a space for dads and their children to have fun, along with a bacon sandwich (or veggie option).

SHARING FAITH



Women's Ministry

The Life Group is a group for women of all ages. We meet fortnightly in term time to encourage each other through friendship, faith discovery, prayer and fellowship. All are welcome to join. Discussions are often of a practical and topical nature and include exploring the bible together. We laugh and cry together but also have lots of fun. We try to delve into challenging questions that affect our lives. A great example of this would be a series where we recently explored sustainability and God's creation. Thoughtful reflections led to practical impacts such as reducing our carbon footprint and recycling clothes. More widely we all support other areas of St Mary's church and are involved in all aspects of the Women's ministry working with other churches in the local area.

Women's breakfasts are held twice a year on a Saturday morning, with a visiting speaker. These started seven years ago and have been very popular, each attracting up to 80 local women, many of whom have no affiliation with St Mary's.

Creativity & Craft sessions

Our Creativity Leader inspires a group of 12 parishioners and non-parishioners who decorate the church on a weekly rota. Apart from bringing colour to a stone building, the flowers reflect both the liturgical and natural seasons as well as celebrating events such as the Queen's Jubilee and the King's Coronation through flower festivals. Flowers for weddings and funerals help us to celebrate and commemorate life events in the wider community. The Leader also organises 'Crafternoons' and craft evenings which have been popular over the last couple of years, encouraging members of the congregation to come and share their talents and teach others. The idea of the sessions is to try different crafts in a relaxed atmosphere and leave with handmade gifts, whilst making new friends. Hanging Christmas arrangements, jewellery, cards, star garlands and Easter chicks have been made to name a few. Plans are already underway for Christmas 2023!

“ Looking through the server at those who had attended the 9:30 service as they mingled with those arriving(early) for the 11:15 it struck me strongly how much love and laughter there was in the room. The words that came clearly to me were “See how they love one another!”



LOVING SERVICE

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care for the church family and wider community is an important part of our vision of Loving Service. We offer practical and spiritual care to the elderly, the bereaved and those who are sick, in hospital and at home; and support for those struggling or in need in any way.

We currently have two Authorised Pastoral Assistants, four Authorised Pastoral Visitors (one of whom is the Safeguarding Officer for Vulnerable Adults) and one LLM who assists the Pastoral Assistants in taking Home Communion to the housebound on a regular basis. We also hold regular simple services at Bellsgrove Care Home, offering Holy Communion every six weeks. The Pastoral Team meets monthly with the clergy for regular updates and to pray together.

Bereavement Café

Our bereavement café has a team of trained listeners and is run in association with the Princess Alice Hospice. Bereaved people are invited along to chat with others who are experiencing loss, in a friendly and understanding environment. The support offered to our community through the café, has been greatly appreciated. The café is held monthly in the church hall.

Monthly Coffee Morning and Hearing Aid Clinic

St Mary's provides a happy social occasion offering support and friendship to the church family and wider community at our coffee morning on the third Thursday of each month, following the mid-week church service. We organise special annual events such as a Strawberry Tea and Christmas Lunch which are enjoyed by everyone.

The Hearing Aid Clinic runs alongside the Coffee Morning. It is a service offered to those with NHS Hearing Aids and provides general maintenance and batteries. Those offering this service have been trained by the Diocese in association with local hospital audiology departments.

Monthly Afternoon Tea Party

Once a month on a Saturday afternoon the church hosts a tea party for people who may be lonely and don't have the opportunity to socialise much. About half of the attendees come from outside the church and all appreciate the time spent with friends over tea, scones and a slice of cake.

“It is a lovely, friendly, worshipful church, serving the parish I live in.”

LOVING SERVICE



Community Fridge & Café

In late 2021 St Mary's was approached by a local charity, The Meeting Place, asking if we would host a community fridge. This initiative was launched in January 2022 and is run in the church hall weekly. Community fridges prevent supermarket food from being wasted, and we see an average of 55 people attending each week. In May 2022 we launched a small coffee shop that runs alongside the community fridge. This has been a great place for people to come along to meet friends and make new ones. We are very grateful for our loyal team of local volunteers (both church members and from the wider community) many of whom collect from seven supermarkets in the locality on a regular basis.

Coffee Stop is an outreach to the community which takes place weekly and explores ways we can support the local community. It is held in Fetcham village hall, directly after school drop-off and will be offering a toy library in the autumn.

Family Fun supports families during the school holidays, providing activities and a safe place for community relationships to grow.

Love Fetcham Week

This is an annual event where we encourage people to show some extra love to our community by getting involved in one of our community projects. This initiative is led by St Mary's Church, but people do not have to be a member of any church in order to volunteer. Love Fetcham '23 was held during the week leading up to Easter and involved a working party painting all the playground benches at the Infant School, gardening at the Junior School and a community litter pick.

St Mary's has good and growing links with the Fetcham Residents' Association and many local charities. Here are a few examples where church members are actively involved:

- The church provides trustees for **Fetcham United Charities**, an Almshouse Charity with the Rector as titular chairman.
- **The Meeting Room** deals with issues including homelessness, poverty, loneliness, addictions and mental health problems.
- **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** - St Mary's is one of seven churches that have formed a partnership to support the CAP Mole Valley Debt Centre. One of our church members is the Manager of CAP Mole Valley.
- **Besom** is a Christian charity which collects second-hand furniture for distribution to those in need.
- **Epsom and Ewell Foodbank.**
- **Transform Housing.**

LOVING SERVICE



- **B@titude** – a local Christian charity which supports young families in need.
- **Leatherhead Community Hub**; through the provision of both financial and practical hands-on support.
- **The Community Fridge and Café** (partnering with **The Meeting Place**).

Each Christmas we are overwhelmed by the generosity of the St Mary's congregation who give presents for the guests at the Village Hall Christmas Lunch: the children of our local CAP clients; Surrey's most vulnerable teenagers; and provide gift cards for needy families through B@titude.

The Bothy Garden

This is a community group made up of people from the church and the wider community who came together over ten years ago to transform the Bothy Garden. They are a small and enthusiastic local group, keen to promote the benefits to the community of gardening together. The group also supports others in the local community by offering at least two outreach projects every year.

Linking with the Church Mission Society and Nairobi's Informal Settlements

St Mary's has been supporting the Church Mission Society (CMS) for over 20 years. This was originally supporting mission partners who have since returned to the UK. However, St Mary's continues to support the work they initiated through the Centre for Urban Mission (CUM) in Kibera. The church continues to provide financial support for homework clubs and an apprenticeship scheme in Nairobi's slums as one of the main beneficiaries of our formal/planned/PCC giving each year. We also run a monthly homemade stall and a second-hand book stall to raise further funds. We supported CUM financially throughout the pandemic, as they provided over 1,000 of the neediest families in Nairobi with food parcels and thereby prevented hunger for over 5,000 people.

LOVING SERVICE



Eco Church

Eco Church at St Mary's is led by a small core group. A wider support group gets involved with specific events. Our target audience is the whole church since the carbon footprint of the St Mary's congregation is dominated by the lifestyle choices of its members.

A permanent Eco Church board in the hall, offering information and practical tips, is refreshed monthly with a new topic. The youth and children's work often discuss care for creation and each year one Sunday is devoted to the Environment, covering all three Sunday morning services, and with displays in the hall. One home group has centred its Bible studies mainly on environmental issues.

We are registered with the A Rocha Eco Church scheme and have attained the Bronze level. The major challenge in the coming months is to develop and agree on a plan to meet the General Synod's target for churches to be net carbon emitters by 2030.

Fairtrade Church

St Mary's is a Fairtrade Church which encourages the use of fairly traded goods on all occasions.

“ I am inspired and encouraged by the number of people who gather at The Well on Sunday evenings as a place of peace and restoration. ”



LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU



and finally...

- As a church, we want to continue to discern what God desires; to follow His vision and deliver it in practical ways.
- We want to encourage an increasing passion for prayer and immersion in Holy Scripture so all will grow in discipleship and faith.
- We would love every member of our church family to be united in taking our vision forward, using their unique God-given gifts and talents.
- We would love to continue growing our pastoral care network, so nobody is overlooked or excluded.
- We want St Mary's to be at the heart of village life, and take full advantage of all the missional opportunities we have to be a community where all feel welcome.
- We desire to be a church that takes bold steps for the benefit of the kingdom, appealing to our whole community, pioneering new ways of being church, and forming faith pathways to move from social to spiritual engagement.
- We deeply desire to connect with more young people and young families and see more people of all ages seeking to explore faith and start a relationship with our Lord Jesus.

In all of these things, we want to place Jesus, the true vine, at the centre of all we do, so that we continue to bear good fruit and grow in the use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the service of His Kingdom.

If this excites you, as it does us, we would love to hear from you.

Contact our churchwardens with any questions. Please email them in the first instance:

Corinne Braid and Richard Furze would be delighted to chat with you.

corinne@stmarysfetcham.org.uk or
richard@stmarysfetcham.org.uk

Appendix A

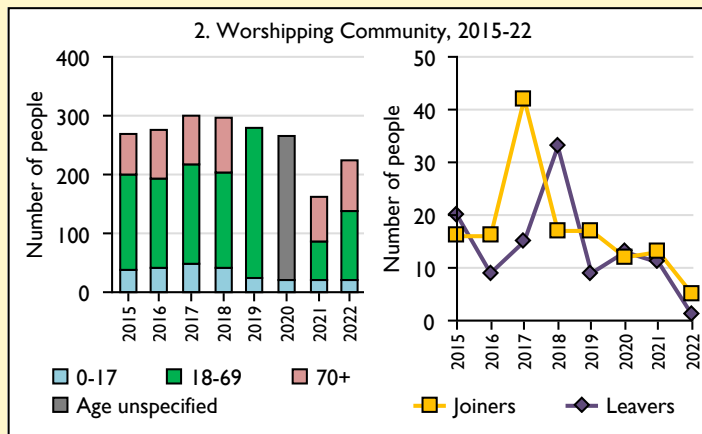
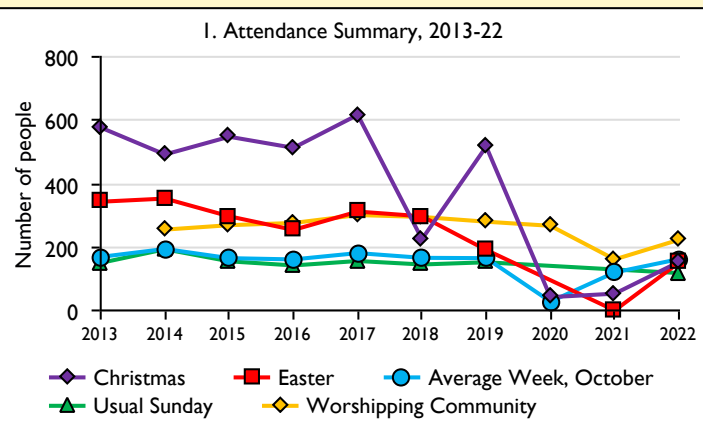
Useful websites:

- St Mary's Online stmarysfetcham.org.uk
- Facebook facebook.com/stmaryschurchfetcham
- Instagram instagram.com/stmarysfetcham
- Youtube youtube.com/channel/UCkKzgTUUI-uxq0095LRY_A
- Twitter twitter.com/StMarysFetcham

- Guilford Diocese cofeguildford.org.uk
- Surrey County Council surreycc.gov.uk
- Mole Valley District Council molevalley.gov.uk
- Fetcham Residents Association fetchamresidents.co.uk
- Fetcham Village Infants School fetcham.surrey.sch.uk
- Oakfield Junior School oakfieldjunior.com

Appendix B - Mission and finance statistics from the Diocesan dashboard (see attachments)

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Fetcham in the deanery of LEATHERHEAD



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2018): 8593

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-17	22%	22%	21%
% aged 18-44	26%	35%	37%
% aged 45-64	31%	26%	25%
% aged 65 & over	22%	17%	16%
% Christian	67%	62%	59%
% non-Christian religion	33%	38%	41%

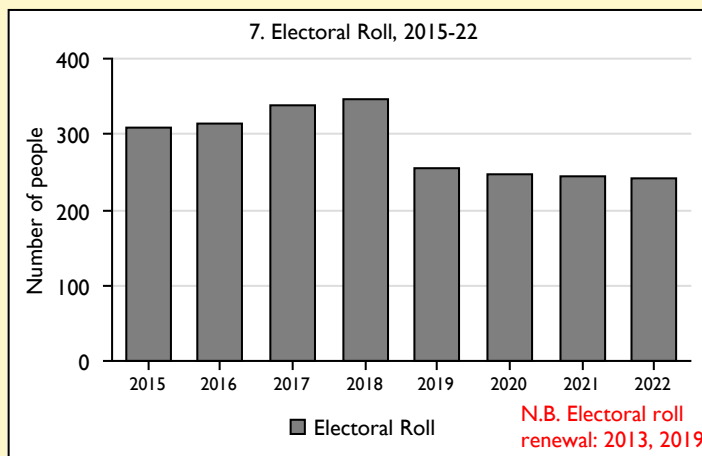
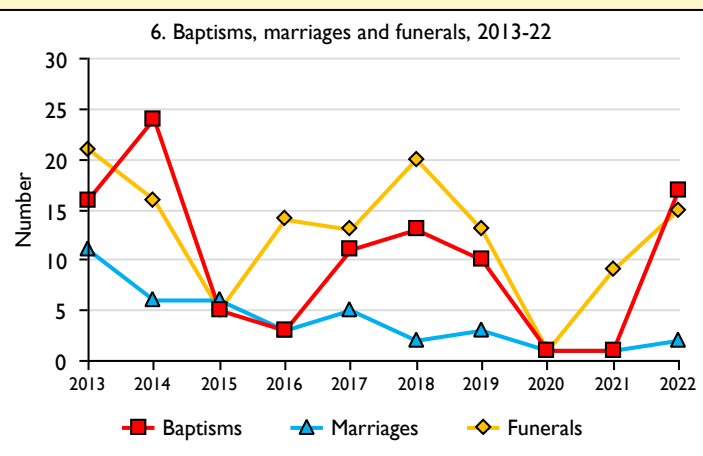
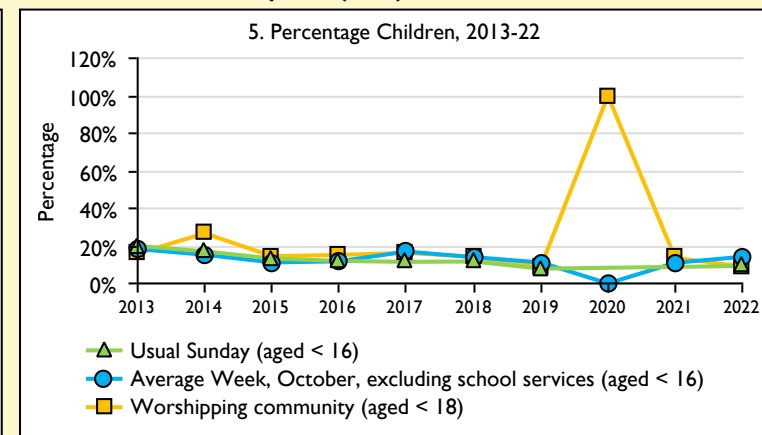
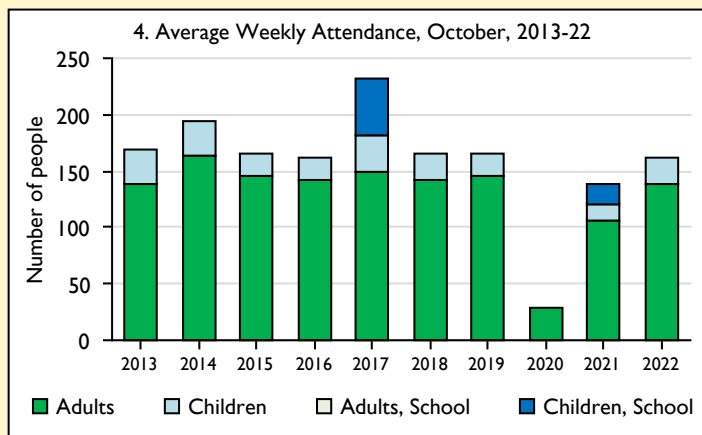
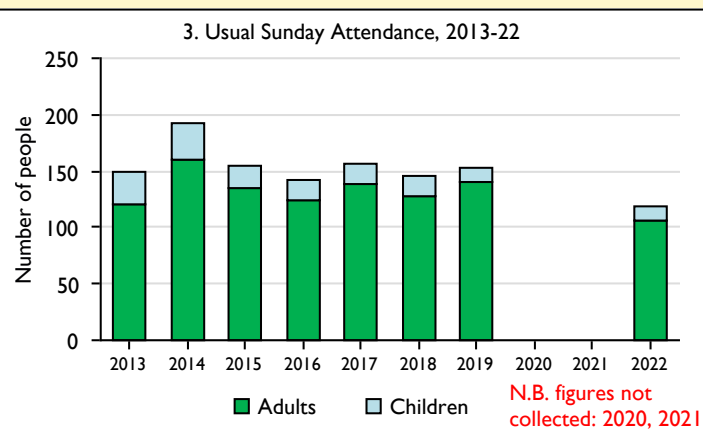
Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 12220

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,307=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcgis/IRaS4CS>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats> and
<http://www2.cuf.org.uk/poverty-england/poverty-map>

Number of churches in parish (2023): 1

Parish Code: 170176



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish

Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; **Christmas:** Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2011 national Census and the 2018 population update.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2013 1;2014 1;2015 1;2016 1;2017 1;2018 1;2019 1;2020 1;2021 1;2022 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 25/07/2023.

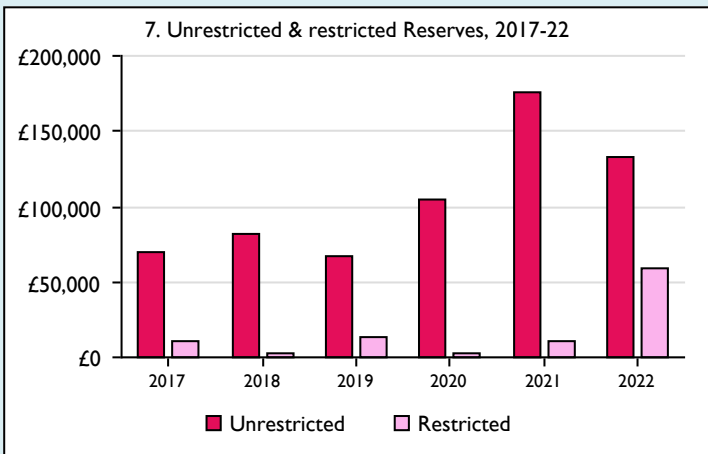
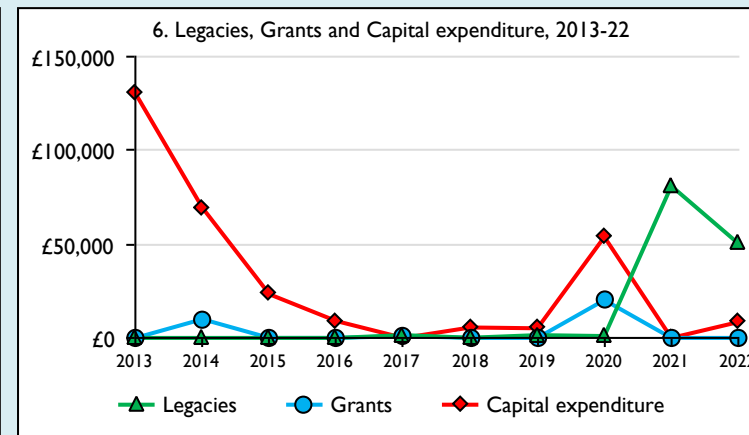
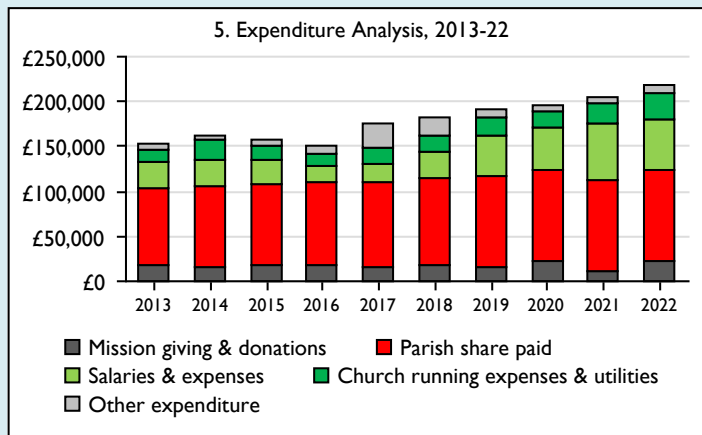
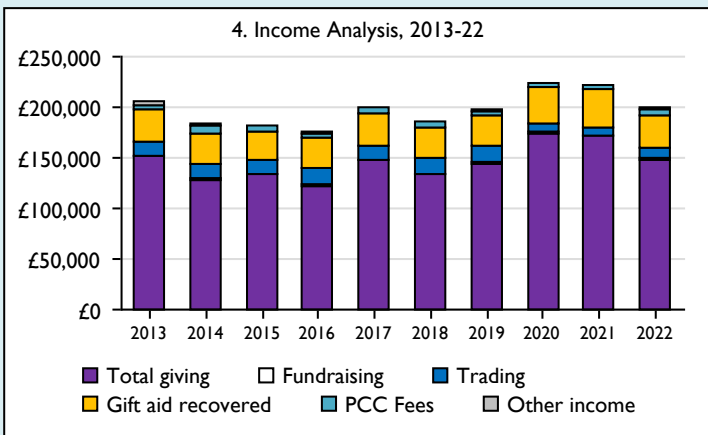
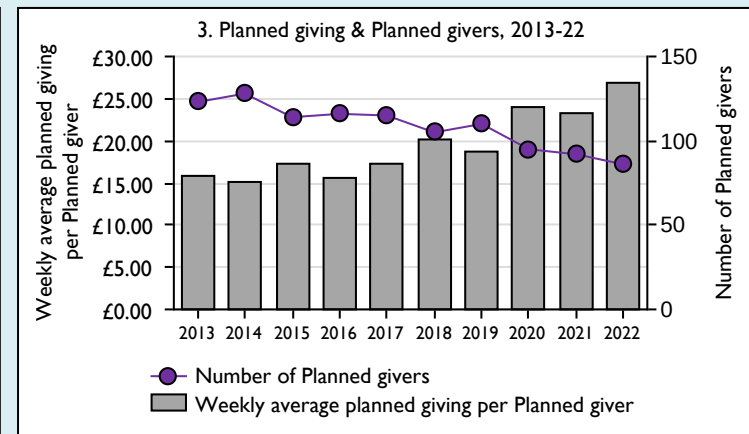
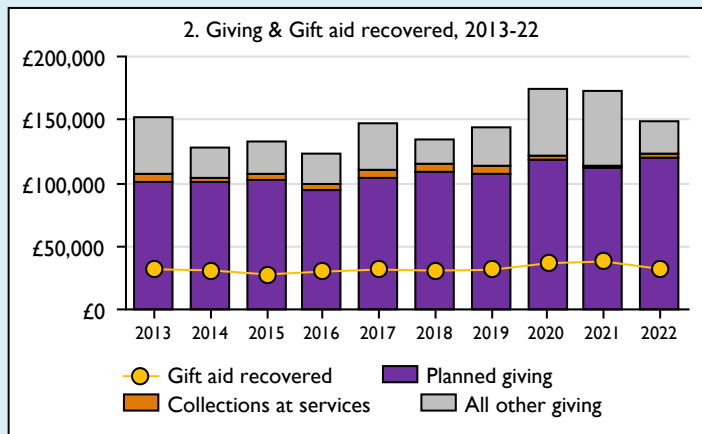
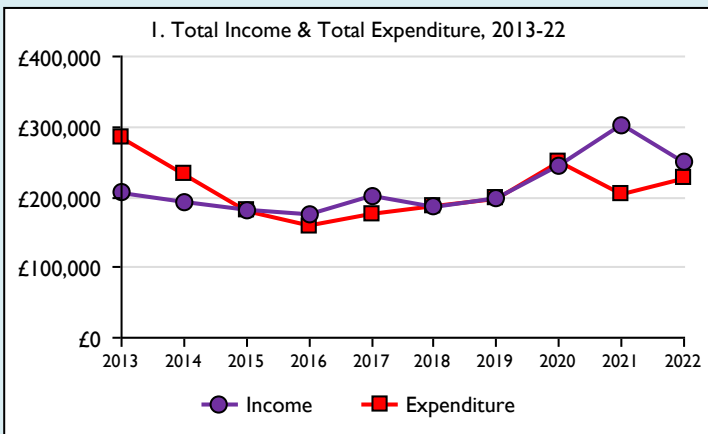
Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org



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Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Fetcham in the deanery of LEATHERHEAD



Weekly average planned giving per planned giver (2022)
 Parish: £26.98
 Diocese: £22.87

Number of churches in parish (2023): 1
 Parish code: 170176

Notes & definitions

This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish; gaps may be the result of missing returns.
 Graph 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the **Total giving** figure in graph 4.
 Graph 3: **Planned giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving; **Planned givers** = Tax efficient planned givers + Other planned givers.
 Graph 4 shows income other than grants and legacies.
 Graph 4: **Total giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving + Collections at services + All other giving, including special appeals.
 Graph 4: **Other income** = Dividends, interest, income from property + Any other income.
 Graph 5 shows expenditure other than capital expenditure.
 Graph 5: **Other expenditure** = Fund-raising activities + Mission and evangelism costs + Cost of trading + Other expenses.
 Graph 5: **Running expenses & utilities** also includes governance costs.
 Graphs 1-6: Unrestricted and Restricted amounts have been combined.
 For further definitions please see the guidance notes attached to the Return of Parish Finance:

Variations from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2013 1; 2014 1; 2015 1; 2016 1; 2017 1; 2018 1; 2019 1; 2020 1; 2021 1; 2022 1.

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