

St. Paul's Church Weymouth



stpaulsweymouth.org



A Parish in the Diocese of Salisbury
affiliated to The Society and Forward in Faith

Parish Profile 2019



The See of Ebbsfleet



Message from The Bishop of Ebbsfleet



All parishes today serve widely diverse local societies. Outreach to children and young people with the joy and hope of the gospel remains a primary task. But for the foreseeable future, and a bit paradoxically, the Gospel must be shared in a society that is in fact becoming gradually older. Add to that the fact, first, that all coastal towns are facing increasing challenges, and, second, that a place like St Paul's attracts laity from many miles around who appreciate its tradition and focus, and one begins to get a picture of the opportunities for experienced priestly ministry in a parish like St Paul's. The mission could not be wider, and our vision has to be broad.

As the congregation looks to that future, and to welcoming the priest whom God will bring to Weymouth, they have, in my experience of them, three great assets. First, they have a genuine sense of invitation and warmth of hospitality; and second, a deeply rooted sacramental life. Third, there's a willing and collaborative attitude with the other parishes in the deanery and beyond, which gives ample opportunity for 'mutual flourishing'.

We need therefore, a confident and motivating priest, rooted in Catholic tradition, who understands that the Church is 'mission-shaped' *because* it is 'sacrament-shaped': that the sacraments *shape* and *inform* the mission strategy of growing and nourishing the Body of Christ.

There are clear signs of the desire of the clergy and people of St Paul's to reach out with that mission more fully to all age groups. Bishop Nicholas and I are praying for a colleague who will be able on that basis to energize and equip the whole worshipping community in their liturgical offering, their discipleship and their mission.

I hope that your reading of this profile will encourage you to apply and continue to discern if God is calling you to serve here.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Jonathan Ebbsfleet". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Introduction to the Vacancy by the Bishop of Sherborne

This post offers an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to bring their own skills and gifts to a varied, developing and welcoming parish.

St Paul's Parish is in an urban setting within a seaside town. The parish has a mixed population with many long term residents, as well as those who have moved into both private and social housing. Ministry is varied: there are excellent opportunities for outreach into the local community as well as with the local schools.

The Church, under the Episcopal care of the Bishop of Exeter and the Society of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda, attracts both a local and gathered congregation. We are seeking a Parish Priest sympathetic to the tradition of the church yet who is willing to become involved in the life of the wider parish, the town and the deanery.

Weymouth has its challenges and St Paul's parish is in one of the deprived parts. Most of the local churches are involved in social action across the town, where food banks, street pastors and CAP (Churches Action against Poverty) are firmly established. There are good partnerships between agencies and the churches of all denominations across Weymouth and nearby Portland.

The parish offers much for those who enjoy being near the coast. Further afield is Dorchester, Bridport, and the Jurassic Coast and in the other direction Purbeck. Road links between Weymouth and Dorset and the West Country are relatively good (this is 'slow Dorset!'). Weymouth station provides regular trains to London and the south coast.

The parish stands in the Weymouth deanery which has undergone some changes of personnel recently following a number of moves and retirements. It is in good heart, with an able Rural Dean and Chapter Clerk. Their aim is to create a supportive environment for clergy and lay leaders of all traditions, to develop local training and to encourage parishes to work together as much as possible for the good of the wider area. There are a number of active retired priests in the deanery who get involved in the life of the local church and offer cover, and their gifts, when required, including two who offer regular ministry at St Paul's.

+ *Karen Sherborne*

Deanery of Weymouth and Portland

The parish of St Paul's lies within the Deanery of Weymouth and Portland which has undergone some changes of personnel recently following a number of moves and retirements. The Rural Dean (Rev. Nick Clarke), Assistant Rural Dean (Rev. James Menzies) and the Lay Chair (Mr Neil Biles) were appointed in February 2018 and are moving forward to a greater sense of collegiality in mission and ministry. The foundations of a deanery Plan are being laid this year with the aspirations to provide mutual support in sharing training resources, encouragement of discipleship and community transformation, careful stewardship in giving and Parish Share contributions and furthermore, in planning a major investment in developing new worshipping communities.

Deanery Synods, which take place three times a year, have covered the themes of Discipleship, the relationship between church and school, and a short exercise in auditing mission and ministry through the Deanery. Deanery Chapter meets every 2 months where clergy meet to share stories and support one another in prayer. The aim is to bring greater substance to the mutual support and empowering of one another's ministry so that all the churches in the Deanery experience being 'greater than just the sum of its parts'.

A quick look at us

St. Paul's is a modern, outward-looking, welcoming, catholic church where mass has been said daily since its dedication in 1900.

The parish was created in 1902 to meet the needs of a growing suburb of Weymouth and has a population of around 8,000 in a mixture of private and social housing. According to the Church Urban Fund It is one of the most deprived parishes in the country: IMD rank 7/448. The boundaries were expanded a few years ago during a deanery reorganisation bringing responsibility not only for extra households but also a school, a care home and a hospital, widening the possibilities of our outreach.

Our tradition is settled. We passed resolutions A and B, and petitioned under the Act of Synod, in 1994 and in 2015 we were one of the first PCCs to pass the new resolution requesting "that episcopal sacramental and pastoral ministry in this parish be entrusted to a bishop who ordains only men to the priesthood" following the House of Bishop's Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests (2013).

The maintenance of this tradition of worship is of paramount importance to us. The Bishop of Ebbsfleet will work closely with the Diocese throughout the process of appointment of our new priest.

It is this tradition that makes us more than simply a local parish church. It attracts laity from many miles away who add to the local members of the congregation and to this end the support for the clergy from the laity is strong.

Our new parish priest will find a church in sound condition with a modern parish centre, a four bedroomed vicarage and secure finances.

Our hopes and priorities

Our aims for the future are to

- Maintain the liturgical and spiritual traditions of this church, to enable us to be an outward-looking centre for catholic mission.
- Grow the congregation and encourage more young families and teenagers to attend, using all the resources available to Society-affiliated parishes to further this.
- Continue outreach into the community and offer pastoral care using the occasional offices and also seek new avenues for this to broaden out the role of the church.
- Continue to play a part in the life of the deanery and the diocese, and to rejoice in the flourishing of others.
- To be open to work with our new priest, who will come with a new vision to work with us to move forward
- Enhance our musical life
- Work with our architect to –
 - a. Repair and re-hang the bells
 - b. Finish the repointing on the front of the church
 - c. Keep the roof in good repair.

The priest we need

We look forward to welcoming a new priest who can bring his own gifts, ideas and skills to help us continue on our spiritual journey. There is obviously a great opportunity for an enthusiastic, hard-working, prayerful, disciplined priest of the Society of St. Wilfrid and St. Hilda.

In addition to having a sense of humour, we hope he will:

- Maintain the high standard of traditional Anglican worship which we all value and depend upon.
- Continue to support develop and value the ministry of lay people, individually and corporately.
- Help us to identify areas of potential growth in congregational life and mission, locally and more widely.
- Have good communication skills to lead and inspire us in our worship.
- Work closely with the schools in the parish, in particular our own church school.
- Encourage young people from across the parish to become involved in church life.
- Become a visible and popular presence in the community.
- Enjoy working with people of all ages.

He will of course be welcomed and supported by the churchwardens, PCC, eucharistic ministers and retired priests, not to mention the servers, choir and faithful congregation.

A more in-depth look at the parish

A. People

Situated on the south coast, Weymouth is only a short drive from the scenic Dorset countryside and Jurassic Coast and the town itself has its own micro-climate which in most years shelters us from the worst of the winter weather.

1. The Congregation

Attendance on a Sunday averages 65 at the 9.30 service and 18 for the 11.15.

We are extremely fortunate to have two retired priests of the Society in our regular congregation who are always willing to help out at any time.

Our sung masses are always supported by our experienced and well trained team of servers.

We maintain close links with our fellow Ebbsfleet parishes and have set up a Society Cell for those individuals, particularly in the west of the county who cannot regularly get to a church in which they feel comfortable. The Cell meets four times a year, usually at St. Paul's for mass, followed by lunch, discussion and Benediction.



The PCC normally meets five times a year and is supported by sub-committees these at present being fundraising, and fabric.

Two members of the PCC are members of the deanery synod and attend meetings regularly.

There are at present 98 people on the electoral roll.

We have a good team of eucharistic ministers (men and women) who administer the chalice at mass and communion at home to those who can no longer attend services or are temporarily unable to get to church.

We sometimes have challenging people in the congregation, and St Paul's copes well with this.

We have close links with our school, Beechcroft St Paul's, a primary school which has recently joined the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust and is a five-minute walk away. They use the church throughout the year for services and concerts. The other primary school, Conifers, is at the edge of the parish and they also appreciate the opportunities they have to use the church.



2. Young People

Sunday School and youth club helpers are as expected, all DBS checked. We have a robust safeguarding programme and two safeguarding officers, for children and adults. For parents and children who prefer to stay in church during Mass, there is the Children's Corner in church with a selection of books and appropriate toys.

1. Sunday School

We have a small but lively Sunday School who meet during the 9.30 mass returning in time for communion and a blessing. Lessons and activities are based around



the Gospel of the day. As the children grow some girls and boys join the servers team on occasions.

2. Youth Club

Our Youth club meets on a Friday evening and is open to young people from Year 5 (9—10 year olds) and above. Some of the children have developed into leaders as the years have gone by.

3. Christian Life

Our Christian Life together is centred on the Sunday (9.30 and 11.15am) and daily Eucharist which is the focal point of parish life and is Gospel led.

- The Sunday Parish Eucharist starts at 9.30 with the children from the Sunday school present until the collect. The children return and remain in church at communion. Refreshments are served in the parish centre following the mass.
- An 11.15 service follows which is successful in providing a Eucharist suitable for members of the congregation who are not used to the formality of the 9.30 Parish Eucharist, or to whom the time set is more convenient.
- Baptisms are conducted at a separate service just after midday on a Sunday. The baptism policy is one of honesty and spiritual growth in the family of God. Baptism preparation is taken seriously.
- Daily Mass is said in the Lady Chapel (with the exception of the Priest's day off) typically at the present time Monday 9.30am, Wednesday 12.30, Thursday 6.00 pm, Friday 10.30am Saturday 9.30 am.
- On Holy Days of Obligation a mass is normally sung at 7.00pm.
- Solemn Evening Prayer and Benediction is on the first Sunday of the month at 5.00pm.
- During Lent our Wednesday mass incorporates several Stations of the Cross and is followed by a soup lunch.
- Stations of the Cross take place on Sunday evenings during Lent.



- On Palm Sunday we process through the streets of Westham accompanied by the Salvation Army band.
- Our Easter Vigil at sunrise is well supported and followed by a parish breakfast.

- At certain times during the year Sunday services join together for a 10.30 combined Eucharist, occasionally followed by a parish lunch prepared by members of the congregation.
- At Christmas, the parish community greatly appreciate and support the Christingle and Carol by Candlelight services. Midnight Mass is also well supported.

We were very happy to assist the Salvation Army and the Roman Catholic parish, Our Lady Star of the Sea, when at different times their buildings were having radical building work undertake and they needed somewhere to hold their services. This practical support has contributed to strengthening our spiritual relationships.

Our Rosary Group meets on a Wednesday morning. During Lent various courses and quiet mornings have been held.

Members of our congregation feel strongly about supporting Ebbsfleet events, travelling to Coventry on two occasions for the Ebbsfleet Lay Congress and also travel to the annual Ebbsfleet Chrism masses in Exeter or Bristol.

One of the highlights of the year is our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham in June. In recent years we have been joined by friends from the other two Ebbsfleet parishes in this diocese and we hope that will continue to grow and deepen.

In 2009 we enjoyed a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, followed by another in 2013.

We are keen for our new parish priest to help us—in the light of the Church of England’s wider commitment to sustaining diversity and mutual flourishing—to explore further how we can as a parish (a) promote appreciation for the Bishops’ Declaration and its Five Guiding Principles in our diocesan family, and (b) share in the diocesan vision. For more information on that vision—‘Renewing Hope’—see www.salisbury.anglican.org/whos-who/renewing-hope.

4. Music

The church benefits from a Walker manual electro-pneumatic action organ. A total refurbishment of the organ was completed in 2002.



The choir, although small, sings at the 9.30 service every Sunday, leading the liturgy and the hymns. At Christmas the choir is augmented with volunteers from the congregation.

We have a rota of excellent organists who take the choir practice on a Friday evening and then play for the 9.30 mass on Sunday. We look forward to this being sustained and developed.

5. Outreach

We publish a monthly magazine, "High Tide" which is available not only to our regular congregation but is also sent to housebound parishioners and others who have moved away but still support and take an interest in St. Paul's.

The magazine is also available from:-

S.P.O.T.



Our nearby charity shop, St Paul's Outreach Trading Company (otherwise known as SPOT) was opened about 18 years ago. It is a trading company of which the Vicar and Churchwardens are the directors. Not only is the shop a valuable fundraising asset for the church but more importantly a very popular outreach centre. In a poor area such as Westham, local people can find a bargain and a sympathetic ear and cup of tea from our manager who is also a member of the congregation.

Westham Benevolent Fund

The vicar is also chair of the Westham Benevolent Fund, a community charity which aids those in need who live in Westham.

Social life

Our enthusiastic fundraising /social team works hard with the support of other members of the congregation to arrange many and varied events throughout the year. A small walking group meets fortnightly, and our Friday "Munch Club" provides affordable hot lunches as well as a social occasion for older parishioners.

In addition to the usual fetes and bazaars, there are two stalls on the seafront each summer, coffee mornings, garden party, themed evenings and afternoon teas. Added to this we have tabletop sales and ironfest! A 200 club also adds to our funds as well as giving monthly prizes.

B. Places

The church, church centre and vicarage are situated on a main road approximately ten to fifteen minutes walk from the town centre, the picturesque harbour and the beautiful sweep of Weymouth Bay.



6. The Parish Church

The church itself is just over 100 years old and is constructed of Portland stone with Bath stone dressing. The interior is light and airy with free standing chairs.

The high altar is set in a chancel up seven steps from the nave and in front of a gilt mosaic reredos which was installed after the First World War as part of a memorial.



In front of the chancel screen there is a modern carpeted dais on which a nave altar is sometimes used.

The Lady Chapel has a Tabernacle set in a sacrament house where the Blessed Sacrament is permanently reserved. This chapel is used for most weekday services and the 11.15 service on a Sunday.

A stone font is set in the baptistery at the western end of the church under a magnificent stained-glass window of the Ascension.

Outside, in front of the church is a grassed area incorporating the war memorial and several flower beds. To the rear of the church is a small patio area with seating for quiet contemplation.

The church benefits from central heating from radiators but in addition the Lady Chapel also has modern ceiling radiant heaters.

The sound system was upgraded two years ago and includes an induction loop.

The quinquennial showed up no major issues but the building is over 100 years old so the usual small problems associated with a building of this age are dealt with promptly by a small band of volunteers, calling in professionals when needed. All in all the church is in very good order.

7 Vicarage

The Portland Stone vicarage was built in 1955 and is immediately next door to the church.



The accommodation consists of:

- Downstairs: a sitting room, study, dining room, kitchen, utility room and cloakroom
- Upstairs: four bedrooms, bathroom and shower, landing.
- An integral garage has access to the utility room.
- Large gardens front and back.
- The house is in good order throughout and benefits from double glazing, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and solar panels on the south facing roof.

8. Other Buildings

Both the parish centre and the curates house are managed by a board of Trustees from the congregation. The vicar is chair of the trust. The Trust is held to manage the centre and the house for the benefit of the church and parish. We are careful to maintain the premises in good order and make sure it is welcoming to all comers. Any surplus money after maintenance is for the work of the church. The Trust is a separate registered charity (271505).

1. Parish centre

The modern parish centre is attached to the back of the church, giving disabled friendly access and consists of a large hall, a smaller conference room, well equipped kitchen, the parish office and ladies, gents and accessible toilets. There is ample parking.

It is home to many and diverse organisations such as,

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Alanon
- Discovery (family reconciliation service)
- Friday Munch Club (for over 50s)
- Gamblers Anonymous
- Keep Fit
- Mother and Toddler music group
- “Recycled Teenagers” (over 55s)
- Slimming World
- St. Paul’s Sewing Bee
- Sugarcraft group

all of which are regular users of the hall.

The hall is also available for one off hire such as parties, and fundraising events for other charities such as Cancer Research, and the RAF Association.

2. Curate’s House

Across the road from the church is a detached house built in 1974 as accommodation for the curate. Nowadays it is let to a local family which brings extra income to support our mission.

9. Schools

Beechcroft St Paul's CE Primary School is a popular school situated in this urban part of Weymouth. It opened 26 years ago as a purpose built Infant School. In 2003 it made the decision to become a Church of England Primary School and over the years the school building has been extended including provision for Foundation 1 children in “Eden”. In August 2017 the school joined DSAT (the Dioceses of Salisbury Academy Trust) as part of the Weymouth Bay Hub with St Andrew’s CE Primary School and St John’s CE Primary School. There are 214 children on roll who often arrive at a starting point well below their chronological age.

Beechcroft St Paul’s is a family and the special atmosphere in the school is often commented upon. Staff and governors work hard to ensure the very best educational opportunities for every child as a unique individual. The Christian ethos of the school, its vision and values form an intrinsic part of school life and are explored and lived out on a daily basis. The school has excellent links with St Paul’s, and the wider community. Four Foundation Governors including the Parish Priest, are recommended by the PCC of St Paul’s to sit on the Local Governing Board.

Over the last fifteen years the school has grown in its spiritual life which has been fostered through the care and time given to the school by the Parish Priest who assists the RE co-ordinator in planning worship themes, leads Worship weekly, teaches RE across the school, chairs the Ethos Committee and offers pastoral support.

The school is an easy five minute walk from St Paul's and the children and their parents/carers take part in worship there at least once a term and more often at particular times in the Christian calendar such as Harvest and Christmas, for example. Lessons take place in church and the Year 6 end of term production uses the space in the nave most creatively.

The role of the Parish Priest is integral to the spiritual health and growth of the school. The very strong links developed between the school and the church over the last fifteen years have played a vital role in mission. In times of sadness and happiness, past and present pupils, their parents and members of staff have often found their way to the Parish Priest (if he hasn't reached them first) for comfort and care.

The strong bonds which have grown between school and church have often been held up as a model of excellent practice by the diocese for other churches and schools to follow.

The Conifers Primary School is a two-form entry community school situated at one edge of the parish also welcomes the Parish Priest to lead assemblies, to lead the Key Stage 1 Christingle and the whole school Carol Service (which takes place in St Paul's).

10. Financial report

The finances are in a good situation due to the generosity and loyalty of our congregation.

Members of the congregation are actively encouraged to commit to regular giving by using the envelope scheme. The Gift Aid Scheme is in full operation to increase our income.

Over 34 members now donate by the preferred method and have set up a monthly standing order to the church. This allows St Paul's to be able to plan for the future.

The church also receives £1200 per annum income from the rental of the parish centre and letting of the curate's house also from "SPOT" our charity shop and we also have an active fundraising team.

Our category D +1 parish share has continued to be paid in full each year through rigorous budgeting and hard work fundraising. St Paul's has no outstanding debts.

The daily book keeping of the accounts are prepared using Quickbooks and the accounts are audited annually by a local accountant.

Informal conversations welcome.

For more details and parish profile please contact

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Parish reps invite you to meet to visit the parish and answer any questions you might have.

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