



BURPHAMCHURCH
SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS



*God's family, living and sharing
the good news of Jesus*

PARISH PROFILE

ENTER DOCUMENT





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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!

Bishop Andrew



WELCOME FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF DORKING & ACTING ARCHDEACON OF SURREY



Burpham is one of Guildford's most desirable suburbs. It combines high quality housing; great accessibility (both to the main line railway station in Guildford and the A3 dual carriageway into London); a good range of amenities (including two large supermarkets and a small parade of shops); and a very attractive environment – with the Sutherland Park and St Luke's Church forming the village green at the heart of the community.

For all these reasons, the recruitment of a new leader to this parish is a key appointment for the Diocese of Guildford. In our vision to become a more diverse church (and particularly with a renewed focus on children and young people), Burpham is an important centre of mission. The parish is full of family housing, with great schools – not least [Archbishop] George Abbot School which is one of Guildford's thriving secondary schools.

Burpham Church has been a strong outpost of Christian life and witness in this community since the building of St Luke's Church in 1859. In the 1960s, the numerical growth of the parish, combined with a new missional energy, led to the building of the Church of the Holy Spirit on the eastern side of the parish. Since this time, the church has benefited from some strong leadership and has been blessed with vibrant life and growth.

That said, the last few years have been challenging for this church community. In 2021 a complaint was made against the incumbent, who stood aside from ministry for a significant length of time to allow for this to be resolved, before making the decision to resign. This was a painful and unsettling time for the church which put increased responsibility on many officers during the already challenging period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

When the parish became vacant in Easter of this year, the PCC, with the support of the senior team of the diocese, decided not to rush to the appointment of a new incumbent. Under the interim leadership of Mark Woodward, vicar of Stoke-Next-Guildford, it has been through a process of listening (with the help of the Acorn Foundation); a strengthening of its operational foundation; and a prayerful consideration of what its priorities might be in the journey ahead.

All this has led to an increase in confidence and faith as Burpham begins to look upwards and outwards again in seeking to refocus on God's mission to the community it longs to serve. The next incumbent will find a church which is in good heart and ready to work with a new leader in sharing the good news of Jesus in this parish, and joining with the diocese in Transforming Church and Transforming Lives in Guildford and beyond.

If you'd 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



Jane

We are delighted that you are considering the role of vicar of Burpham. We consider that being the vicar here in Burpham is an exciting opportunity for the person that God is calling to our church and community.

We've been through a period of change but have taken time to build some solid foundations and we are looking forward to welcoming a new vicar, with leadership experience, to lead us forward. In this period, after asking questions of both our congregation and our local community we have found a hunger for spiritual growth and a clear sense that Burpham Church is the church for Burpham.

Our aspiration for Burpham church is:

- To have a deeper connection with God and one another which inspires service: to God and to our community.
- To increase the number of children, young people and families who are part of the church with authentic integration across all ages and backgrounds and ethnicities.
- To be a vibrant Christian church fully part of the local community - looking outwards and meeting people where they are.

Now that we reach the point of recruiting our new vicar there is a genuine sense of excitement as we look forward to what God will do in our community.

Throughout this time of vacancy this verse from Isaiah keeps coming to us.

***See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.***

Isaiah 43:19

If you sense that God might be calling you to a new ministry here with us in Burpham we encourage you to have an informal conversation with either the Archdeacon, or one of us to find out more about our church and community.

We look forward to meeting you,

Jane and Lewis

Email

Jane: warden1@burphamchurch.org.uk or **Lewis:** warden2@burphamchurch.org.uk

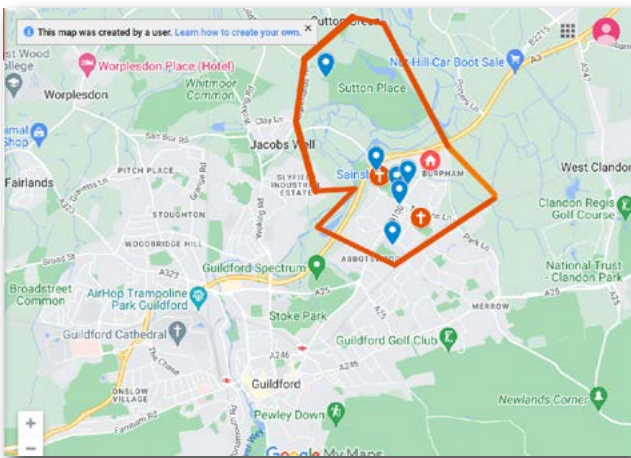


The parish of [Burpham St Luke's with the Church of the Holy Spirit](#) is located on the edge of Guildford and benefits from easy access to both the town centre and the countryside. The parish has two ecclesiastical sites, each with a church, the first St Luke's dating from the 1850s, and the second, the Church of the Holy Spirit (CHS), dating from the 1960s where there is also a hall and other facilities.

Note Church of the Holy Spirit is referred to as CHS throughout this document.

This map shows the location of the parish of Burpham; click to go to an online map.

[Parish of Burpham sketch map - Google My Maps](#)



Inside CHS



Inside St Luke's

According to the 2021 census, the electoral ward of Burpham had a population of 5839 people. Burpham ward and the parish are largely contiguous with parish being slightly the larger. The population in the parish is estimated to be 6005 in 2018.

You can find out more about the demographics of our parish with the Church Urban Fund Look Up Tool [Burpham - Parish Data - CUF](#). Although the boundaries on the ONS census map do not align with the parish boundary, the zoom tool will enable you to find out more about the population of Burpham in 2021 [Religion - Census Maps, ONS](#)

There are two highly regarded state schools in the parish: Burpham Primary School and George Abbot School; neither is a church school. Families move into our parish in order to be in the catchment area for these schools. We would love to develop our existing links with both Burpham Primary and George Abbott School and see working with local children and families as a very real and exciting opportunity for mission in our parish.

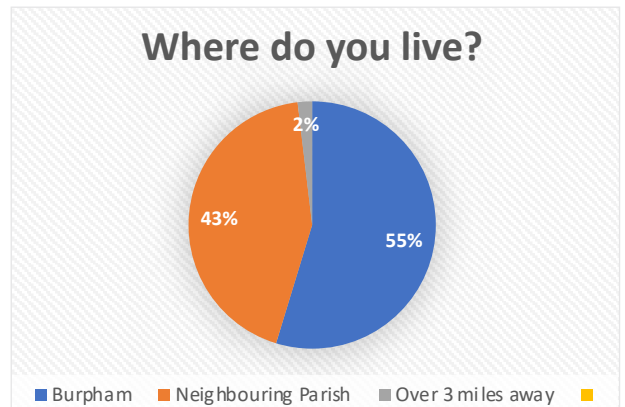
There are four nurseries / pre-schools in Burpham we are fortunate that Burpham Preschool operates in the hall at CHS and is affiliated to the church. We know that there is tremendous potential for developing links with the families and the staff who are come into our church building four days a week.



OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Burpham Church is the only church of any denomination in the residential part of the parish. There are many other Christian churches within easy travelling distance of Burpham, we know that some Christians who live in the parish attend these churches. People who choose to attend Burpham Church are Christians who want to be part of a local church community, or who have come to faith through the church. So Burpham Church has a strong local and community base, providing worship for members from a variety of backgrounds or no previous church experience.

To write this profile we asked the congregation where they live. Of the 53 households that responded 98% were local, the 2% represents one of the clergy seconded from St John's Stoke!



When we asked the congregation why they attend Burpham Church rather than one of the many other churches in the Guildford the top word used was local, followed closely by the word community.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2023 membership of the Electoral Roll was 107.

We asked the congregation how they would describe Burpham Church to someone who had not yet visited, here are some of their responses.

“The church in Burpham. Welcoming to all offering an unfussy traditional service and something lively for families and the young at heart. “

“Community church with loving church family and strong relationships.”

“Friendly, welcoming and community focused”

“Friendly, welcoming, non judgmental and supportive. A place to meet with God.”



OUR RECENT JOURNEY

The last few years have been challenging and some people left the church. But the congregation is looking forward to welcoming a new vicar to lead us into the future, you will find a congregation that is warm, welcoming and very excited to support you and work with you in ministry.

Burpham Church is still fragile - some people have returned after the events mentioned by the Archdeacon, but not everyone. In tandem with the decline in numbers due to the pandemic and a vacancy this means that membership is down. However new people are joining us as they move into the area, or wanting to explore faith and we are starting to see numbers recover. At present we have reduced the number of services and activities we offer but are longing to be able to provide more services and activities in future. A new vicar and new youth and children’s minister will make this possible.

Recently we have benefitted from support from our friends in the neighbouring parish of St John’s Stoke. Rev Jo Lamberth and William Lowries LLM were seconded to us from October 2022. In June 2023 Rev Mark Woodward joined us for one day a week as interim minister. Mark and other clergy from St John’s join us to lead and preach at services on a regular basis. The congregation at St John’s support us in prayer we have benefitted from joint prayer events and occasional services.

We are actively preparing, with excitement and optimism, for the arrival of our new vicar who will lead us on the next stage in our journey. We are looking forward to working with you, sharing in ministry and having great fun together! In recent months, we have made significant improvements in our operations, administration and church office, service planning and leadership, better support and line management for our church office, financial decision making and advertising and are making headway with the backlog of maintenance issues. We know that there is still some way to go, but we are positively moving forwards.

These are some of our hopes for Burpham Church over the next few years.

“Vibrant Christian community fully part of the local community -looking outwards and meeting people where they are.”

“To fill the seats ! To have vibrancy diversity energy and joy. To feel that the church is the absolute hub and centre of the whole community - a place where people want to come into even for a coffee /chat.”

“To be filled with children, young people and their parents.”

“To know and love God more. 2. To love our neighbours more. 3. Faith and courage to step out as God leads us.”



GROWING DISCIPLES AT BURPHAM CHURCH

The following section is not in order of importance.

SERVICE	FREQUENCY	STYLE	MUSIC	CHILDREN	USUAL ATTENDANCE
9.15 Communion Service	Weekly	Traditional communion	Hymns from 'Sing Glory' Keyboard or organ.	No children attend regularly	25-35 adults
10.45 Contemporary Worship with children's groups	Weekly	Informal family friendly service.	Contemporary songs led by a keyboard, ukulele and singer.	Children's groups two Sundays of the month	30-45 with up to 8 children under 16
Midweek Communion	Weekly	Simple communion service with a short sermon	None	None	6-8

At the 10.45 service we are joined by a group of up to a dozen residents and their carers from the neighbouring [Mallow Crescent](#), a supported living care home for people with learning disabilities. We welcome their enthusiastic contributions to our worship, there is no such thing as a rhetorical question when some of the residents are with us! We hope that you will enjoy their contribution to the life of our church as much as we do.

We asked some of the residents and the carers what they like about our church and what they would like in the future. These are some of their ideas.

"They love our music."

"They would like the opportunity to study the Bible. Most residents don't read and they would love someone to read to them."

"The carers value the opportunity to attend worship."

CHILDREN AND COMMUNION

The PCC have agreed that children may take communion from the age of 7 with their parent's or carer's permission, and after following a programme of preparation.

MUSIC

We are fortunate to have a gifted music leader and team of musicians who lead us in traditional hymns at 9.15 and contemporary worship songs at 10.45; we might be a small church but our worship through music is a joy and a strength.

This is what some of our church members say about the music at Burpham Church.

"Amazing music, led by amazing musicians and the singing is always very powerful even if a small congregation."

"The service last Sunday was contemporary with uplifting songs and a good sermon which I could recommend to an outsider."

MESSY CHURCH

We ran this monthly for a number of years until we went into vacancy. We feel this is a valuable ministry which attracted families and helpers who did not come to other services. We are very open to exploring something similar as soon as we can.

OUTSIDE CHURCH

The pandemic encouraged us to experiment with church outside in different ways; forest church, an Easter trail for all ages and our successful allotment church which ran for eighteen months. We would hope that some form of outside church could be reimagined and possibly restarted in the future.

SEE MORE >



GROWING DISCIPLES AT BURPHAM CHURCH (CONTINUED)

SMALL GROUPS

We currently have five small groups meeting weekly or fortnightly for Bible study, prayer, and to support one another in their Christian journey. Currently 29 people attend a small group. For those who are part of a small group it is an important part of their spiritual life; while we recognise that small groups don't suit everybody, we hope that you will nurture existing groups and encourage new ones.

During Lent we run a Lent course this is usually held in the church. In 2023 we hosted friends from St John's Stoke, and Christchurch to follow the 24/7 Prayer Lectio Course.

ALPHA

We offer the Alpha course annually, usually run jointly with our four local partner churches. Every year we have a few local people attend the Alpha course and come to faith or revitalise their faith. In January 2024 we will be joining with St John's Stoke as we run a joint Alpha Course together.

PRAYER

We know that prayer is at the heart of a growing church; seeking God and his will for the future growth of Burpham Church will be at the forefront of our life as a church going forwards. We would love you, as our new Vicar, to lead us in prayer and seeking God first and foremost.' There is an appetite to strengthen, grow and explore different ways of enhancing the prayer life collectively and individually.

We have a core of faithful praying members of the church; they have been praying for you for some months now. We hold a weekly prayer meeting in the church on a Tuesday morning, this is attended by 6-8 people. In addition, we hold some longer days, or half nights of prayer. We are looking forward to re-establishing a Sunday evening worship and prayer opportunity.

CHRISTIAN EVENTS OUTSIDE BURPHAM

Each year a small group of church members attend New Wine and others attend The Big Church Festival. Other church members attend a variety of events and retreats run by organisations such as Acorn Christian Listening, Lee Abbey or St Columba's Retreat House in Woking.



Small group Bible study



Prayer station in our Hope Space



Allotment Church



GROWING DIVERSITY AT BURPHAM CHURCH

Our wardens say

'We love children and youth in our church and our vision is that, in the near future, we will look to employ a new Children's and Families' Minister. We would love you to guide us through this process of re-building our ministry with children, youth and young adults. We know there is some way to go in growing our work with young people, but you will find a congregation that is willing, supportive and passionate about reaching young people for Jesus Christ.'

Our full time Youth and Children's minister left to go to a new role in September 2022. Being in vacancy we have been unable to appoint her replacement, but with your help and leadership we would love to appoint a new person to a similar role as soon as possible. Having no-one in this role leaves a big gap in our church life. We are therefore looking for a new vicar who is passionate about children and youth ministry and has the skills to appoint a new Children and Youth Minister and the ability to mentor, support and develop them in their role and ministry.

CATERPILLAR CAFÉ

This is our toddler group that runs in the church on Friday mornings during term times. Attendance is 15-30 parents or carers and 20-40 children. Parents that attend are often on maternity leave and know very few people in the local community. The opportunity to welcome these parents to our church community has tremendous mission potential.

We asked the Caterpillar Café parents and carers what they would like from the church. These are a few of their ideas.

"Not to stop activities in the school holidays."

"The church to tackle loneliness."

"Messy Church later in the day on a Sunday."

SUNDAY CLUB

Our children love coming to Sunday Club and we love being with them. We have approximately eight children who regularly join us when they attend church with their parents. They range in age from

18 months to 10 years. One teenager attends with her family and often helps at Sunday Club.

Sunday Club is currently offered on two Sundays of the month during the 10.45am Sunday service, although we intend to return to having children's groups three Sundays a month when we have the resources to do so. When we are unable to run Sunday Club, we provide activities for the children at the back of the church.

HOLIDAY CLUB

Burpham Church Holiday Club is amazing! We run a popular holiday club in the February half term, it went online during the pandemic! This is for children in reception to year 6, many of the teenagers who are linked to the church join as young leaders and this has been an important step in their faith journey. We were unable on our own to run holiday club in 2023 so we joined with St John's Stoke to offer a holiday club together. We are keen to offer a holiday club or similar activity once we have someone to lead it, and you will find a committed and energetic team of volunteers to support this outreach ministry. We believe you will be excited about this opportunity to reach local families and children.

We will join with St John's Stoke for a joint Holiday Club in the Easter Holidays 2024, as we did in 2023, to continue this ministry.

YOUTH CAFÉ

In conjunction with St John's, Merrow, we hosted a weekly after school youth café at CHS for pupils from George Abbot School. Numbers varied but it has potential, and we would be excited to see how this might develop as part of a renewed vision for youth work which you would lead us in developing. We are unable to host this at present because we do not have a youth and children's minister in post.

ROOTS BIBLE STUDY

A small group of teenage girls were meeting weekly to study the Bible together led by our youth and children's minister. We have tried to find someone else to run the group without success we are very sad that we can't offer this. The group have joined with some activities led by St John's Stoke, including attending Satellites in the summer.



GROWING COMMUNITY AT BURPHAM CHURCH

Burpham Church is the only church in the residential area of Burpham. We are a local church with and for the people in Burpham. We are passionate about reaching local people for Jesus Christ and being a very visible presence and clear and engaging voice in the parish and community of Burpham. We are looking for a new vicar who will be highly visible in the parish and community, prepared to meet with and engage local people, schools, businesses and organisations. We are looking for a new Priest for the Parish!

There are many children and families living in our parish and we want to reach them. However, the census data shows that approximately a third of our parish live in single person households, we would like to be relevant to these people. We are seeking God’s direction as to how we might do this, bearing in mind that this group is made up of people in a variety of circumstances: young single people, separated parents and older people.

DROP IN – This weekly coffee morning has been running for more than 40 years mainly attended by older members of the church and local community. Lifts are provided for those who require them. Drop In is run by a church member but the team are not all church members. We see further potential for older people’s ministry here. Two church members are Diocese-approved Hearing Champions running ‘Hear Here’ Clinics at Drop In and in a local retirement development for their residents. [Hear Here](http://cofeguildford.org.uk) - Diocese of Guildford (cofeguildford.org.uk)

We asked some of the attendees what they are hoping the new vicar will be like. These are some of their ideas.

- “Someone who can relate to all ages.”*
- “Friendly and easy to talk to.”*
- “Won’t change things for change sake.”*

SCHOOLS AND PRESCHOOLS

BURPHAM PRESCHOOL

Burpham Preschool is important to us as a church, it runs in our church premises on four mornings a week. You can find out more about our Preschool on their website Burpham Preschool. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, whose Trustees are nominated by Burpham Church PCC or appointed from the parent body. As vicar you may lead simple celebrations for the children at festivals and on mothers’ day.

The current Preschool Manager, who is a member of Burpham Church, is leaving in March 2024, so summer 2024 will be a time of change and an opportunity for new ways of working for both Preschool and the church. We know that having our own pre-school is an amazing opportunity to reach local families, children and parents, and to build bridges into our community in exciting ways. We want our new vicar to be excited with us about these possibilities and take every opportunity to get to know the local families and staff team.

We asked the Preschool parents and carers what they would like from the church. These are few of their ideas.

- “More children’s activities – messy church, allotment church.”*
- “More things in school holidays – child focused.”*
- “Mums and children’s activities for older children ages 3-9”*
- “Youth groups”*





GROWING COMMUNITY AT BURPHAM CHURCH (CONTINUED)

BURPHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Find out more [HERE](#)

Our vicar and youth and children’s minister led school assemblies approximately once a term until we went into vacancy. The school visits St Luke’s to support their RE curriculum on an occasional basis. At Christmas the school holds a carol service for one year group at St Luke’s and we host Christingle services for two year groups at CHS. Many children from Burpham Primary School attend our holiday club. We would like to rejuvenate our links with the school and want a new vicar who would relish this opportunity.



GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL

Find out more [HERE](#)

The Christian work at George Abbot is led by The [Matrix Trust](#). When we had a youth and children’s minister in post we had some links with this work. The school has an active parents’ and carers’ prayer support group that is supported by church members. Our after-school Youth Café was attended by students from George Abbott. We want a new vicar who will help us develop a strategic vision for our relationship with George Abbott School.

In addition there are three other nurseries in the parish [Christopher Robin Nursery](#), [Peter Rabbit Nursery](#), [Sunshine Nursery](#).





OUR CLERGY AND STAFF TEAM

We have one employed member of staff, Lisa, our Church Manager who works eighteen hours a week on a term-time contract. She is based in our church office at CHS and provides invaluable support to clergy and the wider church family in all our administration.

We employ Liz to provide IT support on an ad hoc basis as required.

Rev Darlene McCarley has PTO, she leads and preaches usually at the 9.15 and mid-week communion services. She also does pastoral visiting and takes funerals. You will find Darlene to be a very experienced and supportive clergy colleague.

Rev Jo Lamberth, an OLM curate at St John's Stoke, is seconded to us, Jo leads and preaches at both Sunday services, she provides pastoral support and is involved in Caterpillar Café. She also works for the Diocese. Jo is also our church treasurer. It is anticipated that Jo will continue to support our new Vicar in ministry and as treasurer but will return to St John's Stoke when she steps down as treasurer at the APCM in April 2025.

William Lowries is an LLM seconded to us from St John's Stoke, William preaches at both services and takes a lead on prayer outside of the services. It is anticipated that William will step back from Burpham and return to St John's Stoke in July 2024.

We have two active Pastoral Assistants

Revd Mark Woodward, Rector of St John's Stoke, is acting as our 'Interim Minister' for the moment, just to give us a hand in the vacancy. Mark will step back from this role when our new vicar is appointed.



Rev Darlene McCarley



Rev Jo Lambeth



Lisa Scott



William Lowries



GOVERNANCE AND PCC

Our Parochial Church Council can have up to 12 lay elected members but the number of people willing to stand has always left the PCC short of this number. There are two co-opted members, the Safeguarding Officer and the treasurer.

Clergy representation stands at two during the vacancy. There are two lay representatives of Burpham Parish on the Guildford Deanery Synod who also attend the PCC. The PCC has been meeting once a month (August and December excepted) for two hours on Tuesday evenings for many years.

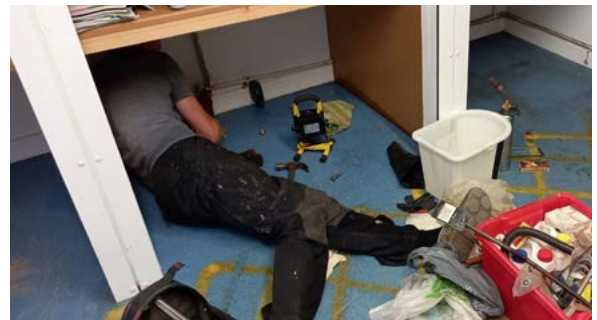
The PCC has also established the following Action Teams (ATs) which report to the PCC and some of which have a very limited ability to spend:

- Buildings AT
- Finance Administration and Stewardship Team,
- Mission AT
- People AT (deals with employed staff),
- Environmental AT
- Pastoral Team.

Each AT has members of the PCC, but other members of the church are also included. Apart from the advantage of including people with experience and enthusiasm that do not wish to join the PCC, these ATs are small enough to discuss and draft recommendations for PCC and get simple matters actioned. Each AT has Terms of Reference approved by the PCC.



Our PCC



One of our wardens



Church members getting involved



OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Support for mission partners, both local and global, is important to Burpham Church; we give 10% of our income to mission. Each of our partners receive a monthly donation.

Some years ago, when we were deciding which partners to support, we agreed that the partner must have a champion within the church congregation. When this personal link has stopped, we have reviewed that partnership. The Mission AT (MAT) oversee this area of church life.



Click on the logos to find out more





GROWING DISCIPLES

To have a deeper connection with God and one another which inspires service: to God and to our community.

GROWING DIVERSITY

To increase the number of children, young people and families who are part of the church with authentic integration across all ages, backgrounds and ethnicities.

GROWING COMMUNITY

To be a vibrant Christian church fully part of the local community - looking outwards and meeting people where they are.

This vision can be built on the following foundations here at Burpham Church. Some of which are long standing some of which are more recent developments.

GROWING DISCIPLES

To have a deeper connection with God and one another which inspires service: to God and to our community.

THE FOUNDATIONS WE HAVE ARE	WHAT THIS MIGHT INCLUDE IN THE FUTURE
Gifted music leader and team of musicians	Intergenerational worship that is more than a traditional family service
A change of culture from being on the rota to fill a gap to 'serving one another' which has led to things being volunteered!	A growing number willing to serve one another.
Five small groups which meet weekly for prayer and Bible study	More people committed to studying the Bible in small groups, or through short courses.
An arrangement with our partner churches to share hosting, planning and leading services, Alpha and Lent groups.	Partnerships with other churches for mission.
Up to date church accounts and new systems for financial administration.	Greater financial awareness leading to a balanced / surplus budget. Finance Team members who share the load and responsibility of parish finances.
Church members who have done the Acorn Prayer Ministry training.	Prayer ministry as part of services Vibrant opportunities for prayer in differing styles
We have two active Pastoral Assistants.	Strengthened and equipped pastoral support
A monthly Thursday communion linked to Drop In.	Spiritual care for older people such as Anna Chaplaincy
Great quality and specification tech, sound system live stream kit	To be using these AV systems more effectively



GROWING DIVERSITY

To increase the number of children, young people and families who are part of the church with authentic integration across all ages, backgrounds and ethnicities.

THE FOUNDATIONS WE HAVE ARE	WHAT THIS MIGHT INCLUDE IN THE FUTURE
Our recent survey showed that those who attend the church find it friendly and welcoming.	To truly represent our local community so all feel welcome irrespective of age, background, ethnicity, no faith or full of faith.
A history of strong youth and children's work	Rejuvenated, relevant youth and children's work
A good response from church members to a single Sunday service with everyone together during August and December.	Quality intergenerational worship, and social activities
Existing links into Burpham Primary School, Burpham Preschool, local nurseries.	A partnership with these groups to serve the spiritual needs of the children and families.
Carried out some maintenance and minor improvement to make the church buildings more welcoming	Further improving our buildings to support ministry
We have some idea what local people are hoping for because we have carried out a consultation of children, young people and families in the Burpham community.	The employment of a youth, children's and families minister or similar role. Reimagining of some of things we have done previously: holiday club, Messy Church, Youth Café, Youth Bible study, outside church.
A group of young people who went to Satellites with St John's summer 2023	Targeted work with other churches
A regular group of residents and carers from Mallow Crescent attending our 10.45 services	Stronger links with the residents of Mallow Crescent





GROWING COMMUNITY

To be a vibrant Christian church fully part of the local community - looking outwards and meeting people where they are.

THE FOUNDATIONS WE HAVE ARE	WHAT THIS MIGHT INCLUDE IN THE FUTURE
An improved relationship with Burpham Preschool.	A flourishing partnership with Burpham Preschool.
Maintained links with Burpham Primary School during the vacancy	Flourishing partnerships with all the schools and nurseries in the parish.
Contributed a regular article to Burpham Pages about our church that includes a personal reflection throughout the vacancy period.	Developing mid-week opportunities for worship and social contact for people who work from home
Consulted neighbours and groups in the Burpham community about what they would hope for from the church and our new vicar so that they feel involved in the future of Burpham Church.	The church to be at the centre of the community of Burpham
Been part of Burpham Wellfest in Sutherland Memorial Park & the Great Big Burpham Yard Sale	Being the church in Burpham at community organised events
As part of the process of writing this profile initiated a cultural change from what Burpham Church wants to what the Parish of Burpham needs.	Being church in the community, going out, not expecting people to come into our building.
An Environment AT of the PCC. Our stewardship of the environment: our air source heat pump at CHS, our work so far in St Luke's churchyard.	To be good stewards of the planet and to involve others in the Burpham community in developing St Luke's churchyard as a habitat. Gain an Eco Church award.
We have a significant donation which the PCC have designated for repair and improving our buildings.	Decision about the use of St Luke's. Renewal of the front of CHS as a priority.





PRIORITIES FOR OUR NEW VICAR

- To feed a spiritually hungry church.
- To get to know church members to discover our gifts and talents; then enable and empower us to use them in worship and service.
- To discern how our buildings, both St Luke’s and Church of the Holy Spirit fit with our vision for our ministry in the community of Burpham.
- To be visible in the Burpham community, taking Jesus into the community not expecting the community to come to the church buildings.
- To use the existing opportunities to bring Jesus to those who do not attend church but enter our buildings regularly. E.g Preschool, Caterpillar Café, and Drop In.
- To revitalise our work with children, young people and families. This may well include the recruitment of a youth and children’s minister.
- Burpham Church have not yet engaged with the Living in Love and Faith materials. We know from the surveys that we carried out to write this parish profile that we have church members who hold views that differ widely. We are looking to our new vicar to help our church to engage with these issues in a way that enables us to live well together.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO IS:

- **Rooted in, and renewed by, their daily walk with God.**
- **Who meets God in their reading of the Bible, constantly discovering new truths and challenges.**
- **Who delights in worshipping with God’s people.**
- **Who will be excited to be part of the Kingdom of God in the community of Burpham.**
- **Is able to identify and value people’s gifts and talents.**

WITH MANY OF THESE QUALITIES, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES

- Is a visionary, experienced leader to take our church forward.
- Will bring love, humour, humanity, humility and approachability to the role.
- Is comfortable with people of different ages, perspectives, cultures and backgrounds.
- Is collaborative and comfortable with delegating tasks to others and empowering them to fulfil them in worship or service.
- Is a compassionate listener, who is able to ‘hear behind the words’.
- Is willing to explore difficult situations and complex views of faith and modern society.
- Is a leader who understands the challenge of being a church with lots of opportunities so needs to be strategic about the use of our limited resources.
- Wants to grow our church and build strong ties to our community.
- Has good administration skills, comfortable communicator and works with modern technology.
- Is a leader who is resourceful, resilient and disciplined in maintaining a realistic work life balance and will help us achieve that balance too.



We asked the congregation what qualities do you think are most important in a vicar who will lead us for the next few years? This is what some people said.

“A person who can express the love of Christ for all ages and makes sure all ages are cared for.”

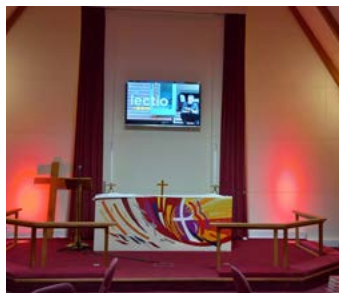
“A person comfortable in their life with God, a mature Christian.”

“Someone who will be at the heart of the community, whether or not churchgoers, so that Burpham Church is seen as a vital part of the local community.”





- A church that is locally centred and wants to be more involved in the community.
- A church manager to support the administration.
- A PCC that all those who have known the church over the last decade and have commented upon have described as supportive.
- A church where we have done the groundwork of setting up modern systems for administration, using cloud-based services.
- Good office equipment including a laptop, printer and church/ work mobile phone to enable you to have good boundaries in ministry.
- An experienced Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- Money in the bank for a future project.
- Our onsite Burpham Preschool.
- A church building (CHS) that is flexible so can accommodate a variety of styles of worship and events.
- A traditional church building (St Luke's) which is attractive for weddings and carol services, but has potential for much greater use.
- Churchyard at St Luke's which is only open for interment of ashes.
- Group of four local churches which work together – Burpham Church, St John's Stoke, St Peter's Bellfields and Christchurch Guildford.
- A comfortable spacious vicarage. The Diocese is doing works to the fabric of the building and we understand that they will be providing a new kitchen. The PCC will pay for internal painting and new carpets on the ground floor.
- Well regarded local schools.



HOW THE WARDENS WILL SUPPORT YOU

- The current Churchwardens undertake to be available to pray with you and discuss your workload and priorities.
- Consider carefully with you any training and/or development you need for your role.
- Encourage you to keep good boundaries and take regular Sabbath time.
- Encourage, and pay for you to take regular retreat time including an annual retreat.
- Burpham Church fully supports the principles and practices commended in The Diocese of Guildford Clergy Wellbeing Covenant.



As we are praying for you, we invite you to pray for us and consider whether the Lord is calling you apply to be our vicar.





1. SAFEGUARDING AT BURPHAM CHURCH

The PCC fully recognise that good safeguarding surrounds and underpins all that we do. Everyone who encounters Burpham Church is a precious person in the sight of God and needs to always remain safe.

The parish safeguarding officer is a member of PCC and there is a standing item for safeguarding on every PCC meeting agenda. We follow all the advice and procedures recommended by the Diocese of Guildford and the Church of England.

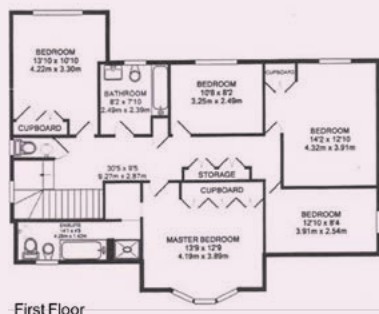
All involved in leadership understand they are the 'eyes and ears' around church and good communication exists between them and our PSO. All involved in helping with activities for children, young people and vulnerable adults are recruited and trained in accordance with current advice. We use the Parish Dashboard to monitor our safeguarding procedures and currently we are rated 'Good'.

2. THE VICARAGE

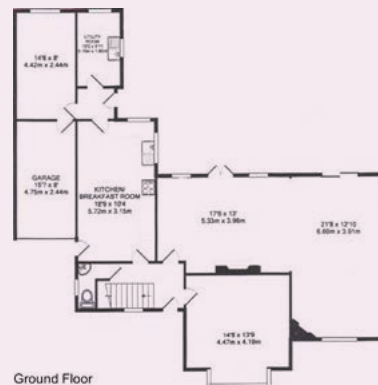
Burpham Vicarage is a comfortable five-bedroom family house on London Road. It takes about 12-15 minutes to walk from the vicarage to either church or less than 5 minutes to drive. The vicarage was bought by the Diocese about thirteen years ago. It offers a helpful division between domestic life and ministry workspace. It has good provision for parking at the front of the house. There is a large back garden with plenty of grassed areas for playing or holding parties.

The diocese has inspected the property and agreed to undertake any necessary works prior to the new vicar moving into the house. This is anticipated to include a new kitchen. The church will pay for, and arrange the redecoration and carpeting of the ground floor of the house after consultation with the new vicar before they move in.

This map shows the location of the vicarage and the two church buildings.



First Floor



Ground Floor



3. CHURCH BUILDINGS

The church buildings present some challenges but great opportunities for improvement with approx. £¾ million has been invested in buildings, mostly at CHS, in the last 15 years. The parish was in the early stages of initiation of further serious improvements at the beginning of 2021, probably to both buildings, but it was felt that an incumbent is vital to help us formulate a vision for the parish, designing buildings to match that vision. While the parish is able to draw on a substantial sum following a generous gift it is expected that serious fund-raising will also be required, but having been very successful in recent years there is optimism this is achievable.

St Luke's

This is the original parish church and a Grade II listed building which has much character, with a very traditional appearance both externally and internally. It is particularly appreciated as a wedding (and sometimes funeral) venue but is without toilets or running water within the building. It can only accommodate about 100 people at any service. Until the pandemic the only regular service at St Luke's was 8am communion, but post pandemic numbers were so low that the decision was taken to stop regular services in St Luke's.

The electrics and gas heating were renewed at the end of 2016 but otherwise the building has had little investment for at least 30 years. It has stood up to the tests of time remarkably well with such little expenditure on its fabric, but for many years now quinquennial inspections have been indicating the need to renew the roof. They have, however, more recently indicated the rate of deterioration is remarkably slow, and so it has not been a top priority.

The PCC in considering a potential project for St Luke's have been keen to increase its usage and links to the local community if they are to make the necessary investment to rectify the roof, (and provide other important facilities).

The St Luke's churchyard

The churchyard is now only used for the burial of ashes but creates a great setting for the church building itself. It contains the memorial for those from Burpham who fell in the two world wars and is therefore a local focus point on Remembrance Sunday when a service is held in the churchyard.

Church of the Holy Spirit

When the village of Burpham expanded eastwards in the 1950s and 1960s it was decided that St Luke's was neither big enough nor in the centre of the enlarged residential area. Initially what was called the Chapel of the Holy Spirit (but really a not very attractive hall) was built on New Inn Lane with the intention that in due course (and with more funding available) a proper church building would be created in front of it. Unfortunately by the time the parish could afford to build a new church the local authority had decided they wanted to make New Inn Lane a dual carriageway (although this never happened in practice), and there was no longer space in front of the buildings already there, and so it was decided to build a

new church behind what were frankly not very attractive buildings with effectively prefabricated toilets and a kitchen in front of the hall.

The church building was much more attractive than most 1960s buildings, and big enough to accommodate more than 200 in a service, but largely hidden by the buildings in front. By the early 2000s the buildings were showing their age and had deteriorated much more than their 100-year older sister church. After a significant review it was determined that it would be very difficult to meet the needs of the parish if activities were focused at St Luke's given the limitations of the site and the constraints that the local planning authority had made it clear would be applied. Investment should therefore be focused at CHS, it was decided to adopt a phased plan for improving the buildings. The first stage being improvement of the hall, including creating good kitchen facilities and improved storage, and the area between the hall and the church.

The next stage would have been replacing the single storey area at the front, which had probably already exceeded its design life. A planning consent was obtained for enhanced meeting and other facilities, and a much more attractive frontage. Unfortunately, before the project could begin there was a fire in the church, which effectively wrecked the interior but not the main structure or external elevations. It was therefore decided to focus on renovating the church. Of course, there was significant funding from insurance, but it was decided to make further investment both to the worship space and to the entrance to the building, including creating an office for our staff. The worship space is now (we think) very good, being both flexible and with good visual and sound systems.

Soon after this we also created a good-sized meeting room, the Barnabas Room, above the kitchen and store in the hall, which has proved useful in many different ways.

The most recent quinquennial showed up a few relatively minor issues to address apart from the single storey area at the front which we wanted to replace over ten years ago, and which is overdue for reconstruction in a more attractive design. This area and the hall are used for much of the week by the Preschool, making things right for the Preschool will be an important part of our considerations. We are very keen to initiate a project soon for both them and the church family.

The one other investment that has been made very recently is to resurface the car park and driveway at CHS which had become of great concern to many members of the church family, but now is of the standard we would all hope for.

In conclusion, whilst most of the buildings at CHS are of good quality, with a useful variety of spaces, although they will always need minor repairs and improvements, there is one obvious area at the front which must be improved soon, but we still need to work out what we will want from the facilities, especially in terms of meeting community needs as well as church requirements.



4. BURPHAM

Burpham is set on the edge of the historic town of Guildford, the town centre is easily accessible with a wide range of shops, restaurants and entertainment venues. The University of Surrey, the Academy of Contemporary Music and The University of Law ensure that there is a significant and lively student population. These in addition to the cathedral, Guildford Borough Council (population 143,000), the Royal Surrey County Hospital and businesses located on the nearby Research Park provide employment for local people.

Burpham benefits from easy access to the town centre but equally easy access to the countryside. You can enjoy a gentle stroll along the River Wey, or a more challenging ramble, or bike ride on the North Downs without the need to get in your car.

There are excellent transport links to the A3 for road travel north and south, good mainline stations – Guildford and Woking linking to the southwest. Many people commute to London and around the southeast from Burpham.

Housing in Burpham is high in value and the majority is owner occupied. The older housing in the parish is being bought by young families as older residents downsize. There are three sheltered accommodation developments for older people within the parish and Mallow Crescent, a supported living care home for people with learning disabilities. Of note is the high local cost of living, especially housing, which means a disposable income can be low.

The major employers in the parish, other than the schools, are Sainsbury's superstore located on the edge of the Weybrook Park estate and a smaller Aldi supermarket. On Kingpost Parade opposite Aldi there are small local shops including a post office.

The parish includes Sutherland Memorial Park which is owned and operated by Guildford Borough Council. There are football and cricket pitches, tennis courts, all weather surface areas and it is the home of the Burpham Bowling Club. The two play-areas are popular with children of all ages. The facilities are further augmented by a modern communal hall and kitchen in the pavilion, currently for the sole use of a pre-school. There is also

a thriving village hall which hosts a lot of local groups. E.g. WI, Burpham Community Association meetings and social events and the WI. On the north side of the A3 is the River Wey and the riverside has been developed as a nature reserve with pleasant walks or bike rides.

Pre pandemic the church held 'Free and for Nothing' a summer holiday community event and more recently Carols in the Park in the Sutherland Memorial Park. These both generated significant engagement with local families, people in the community often ask if we will run 'Free and For Nothing' again. Several families suggested that they would love Carols in the Park to be an annual event. We would love to prayerfully explore offering similar community events in future for mission, evangelism and engaging with local families in a positive way.

Some of our congregation are members of the following local clubs and groups.

[Brownies and Guides meet in CHS](#)

[Burpham Wellfest](#)

[BURPHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION](#)

[Burpham Bowling Club](#)

[Burpham Gardening Club](#)

[Burpham Allotments](#)

[Burpham WI](#)

[Burpham Pages](#)

Bi-monthly magazine in print & online



5. FINANCES

We are grateful to all who give to Burpham Church and usually end each year with a surplus. We were blessed with an extremely generous donation of around £370k which we received over two years 2019 and 2020. This money has been designated for building refurbishment and has also been used to fund a Youth and Children’s Minister (although currently that role is vacant).

Following a period of challenge for the church, regular giving has dropped and in 2022 we saw a deficit of around £19k and the accounts for 2023 are likely to show a deficit of around £40k but this is due to the resurfacing of the car park at CHS and building repair work completed at St Lukes.

We are confident that we can get our regular giving back to pre-pandemic levels with a new and exciting vision for the future and some teaching on stewardship.

To enable the efficient running of the church finances, we are looking to appoint to our Finance and Stewardship Team (FAST) to share out the responsibilities of the Finance function. Our book-keeping and payroll are contracted out and we also pay a local accountancy firm to complete the Independent Examination.

The table below shows our income and expenditure for the last 6 years.

Burpham Church Finances	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Income	202,395	214,150	399,538	389,562	219,211	173,174
Expenditure	178,296	187,329	223,419	215,087	189,778	192,039
surplus/(deficit)	24,099	26,821	176,119	174,475	29,433	(18,865)

6. DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

We use Microsoft 365 as a hosted platform solution (cloud service) to run all our IT services for Burpham Church. We have a free charity license that gives us

- 10 Business Premium accounts
- 15 Business Basic Licenses

These accounts are all managed through email addresses specific to our church and independent of personal email addresses.

The Burpham church IT system provides:

- Our desktops and laptops use Windows 365, for free and it is automatically maintained
- Data files and documents can be shared using SharePoint
- Church staff and officers no longer use personal email addresses for church business
- More compliant to GDPR and data protection
- Security managed by Windows Defender (also maintained)
- Group admin function (currently through Liz Turner IT support and Lewis Williams Churchwarden)

Each of our working groups such as PCC or Finance for example can have their own content hosted on this platform and members of these groups can see the material on the device of their choice reducing the amount of paper that we use.

We also use OneDrive from Microsoft to help local sharing between two or more contributors.



7. SOUND AND VISION SYSTEMS FOR WORSHIP

Some years ago, we had a fire at CHS and as part of the rebuild process we acquired a fully digital sound desk a [Behringer X32](#). We have a set of 4 radio microphones, handhelds and desk units. The amps are also fully digital. For our contemporary service usually have someone managing the sound desk system.

More recently in 2021 during Covid Lockdown we bought live streaming 'TV studio' equipment. This is a fully digital IP streamed system that is linked to our sound desk and can live stream to our YouTube channel. We have one HD digital camera and a high-performance laptop that provides the control. Using this system, we can live stream services and switch between laptop Easy Worship content, the camera and video material. More recently we have stopped live streaming to encourage people to return to church. However, some funerals have been live streamed to include relatives unable to attend in person.

The Easy Worship content is assembled by the Church Manager. During the service we have one person dedicated to driving the AV system (Easy Worship), and they can, if required, livestream. We have licenses for church music and video content in line with Diocesan policy. We update which songs we use online.

The sound system is used also for traditional services, and many of our other functions held in the church, usually just with one or two microphones. There is a hearing loop in CHS.

We also have less complex sound system at St Lukes and one in the church hall.

