

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWELL & NOTTINGHAM

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ST JAMES PORCHESTER

PARISH PROFILE



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WELCOME

We are delighted you are interested in being our Vicar at St James Parish Church. An original 'Barn Conversion' with its quirks of windows in the middle of the church and carvings representing the farming traditions. Our creator God is preparing us for your ministry, and we look forward to many conversions to faith and growing deeper in a rich love for God, each other and the world.

We are sharing the leadership and pastoral ministries while we are in vacancy and ready to give the new minister our love, prayers and practical support. We feel great positivity from our committed congregations of 60 plus weekly worshippers and team of volunteers covering many roles. There is lots to hope for in our children's and family ministry together with good connections in our community.

We hope this profile will help your discernment of calling to this Parish and we welcome any further questions or to arrange a visit to see us.

Susan Day and Steve Harrison
Church Wardens



OUR VISION

St James is a welcoming, committed church family entering a season of real possibility. We are a gathered community of around sixty weekly worshippers with strong lay leadership, deep pastoral care, and a renewed sense of unity. During the vacancy, we have grown together through a single blended Sunday service, discovering fresh energy in worship.

We are a church with strong foundations and significant potential for growth. Our thriving toddler groups, Messy Church, school connections, and flexible worship space give us a vibrant platform for ministry among children, families, and younger adults. We hope to expand this further through youth groups, holiday clubs, deeper school partnerships, and a culture that welcomes, disciples, and encourages young people to serve.

Our mission priorities are clear and full of opportunity: inspiring worship that helps people encounter God; intentional discipleship pathways; reaching unreached areas of the parish, including new housing developments; strengthening diversity and inclusion; and growing confident leaders of all ages. We want to be recognised as a centre of prayer, a hub of welcome, and a visible Christian presence in our community. We are ready for a vicar who will help us build on these foundations with imagination, courage, and joy – someone who loves mission, values collaboration, and can help us discern God’s vision for the future. St James is a church full of hope, expectancy, and opportunity, and we are excited to journey into God’s next chapter with our new vicar.

OUR PRIORITIES

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- Growing the church, particularly among children, young people, and those under 45 through inspiring worship, clear discipleship pathways, and intentional engagement with younger generations.
- Reaching and serving the wider parish, especially unreached communities and the expanding new housing developments, building meaningful relationships and a visible Christian presence.
- Deepening faith and discipleship across the church, helping people grow in confidence, prayer, and understanding of faith.
- Growing and releasing leaders of all ages, equipping and supporting people across church life to serve with confidence, wisdom, and sustainable rhythms of ministry.



OUR NEXT VICAR

We are prayerfully seeking a vicar who is excited to lead us into the next chapter of our ministry. We long for someone spiritually mature and rooted in prayer who will inspire us, lead us into new places with faith and imagination, and help us discern God's vision for the future. We seek someone who appreciates the strengths, faithfulness, and commitment already present at St James, and who will build confidently on these foundations.

We are looking to appoint someone who:

Has a heart for mission and younger generations

- Brings energy, imagination, and enthusiasm to helping St James connect with children, families, younger adults, and those under 45, inspiring younger people in faith and enabling us to share the good news of Jesus with creativity and warmth.

Is outward-facing and engaged with the wider community

- Builds strong relationships across the parish, is attentive to local needs, and is eager to engage unreached parts of the parish, including new, large, housing developments.

Provides wise, collaborative, and courageous leadership

- Offers clear vision and spiritual direction, guiding the church through change with wisdom, clarity, and hope. A diplomatic and compassionate communicator who listens carefully, respects differing viewpoints and builds trust.

Nurtures and develops others

- Encourages, equips, and supports lay and ministry leaders so that gifts can flourish, confidence can grow, and people are empowered to serve and encourage one another within a shared culture of leadership.

To support you, we have a wide and committed network of people who share in the ministry of St James, from Readers, retired clergy, and an Office Administrator to the Mothers' Union, ministry teams, and leaders across children's work.

You will be joining a church where collaboration and shared leadership are already woven into our life together. If this inspires you, we look forward to meeting you!



OUR DIOCESE

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The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham incorporates the City of Nottingham, the whole County of Nottinghamshire and five parishes in South Yorkshire. The population is 1.15 million—51% live in the greater Nottingham conurbation, 31% in ex-mining areas and 18% in rural. There are 305 churches (252 parishes), served by 119 stipendiary clergy and 228 licensed lay ministers.

In 2024 we launched our refreshed vision of Living Hope for the city, towns, villages of Nottinghamshire and beyond. We believe the presence of thriving, growing churches across the diocese is vital for people to discover Living Hope and make the best decision anyone could ever make for their lives – to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. To enable this vision, we are committed to the mission of: “**Growing disciples of Christ with compassion, confidence and courage.**”

To support both parishes and the diocese in implementing our mission we have identified seven areas of focus: inspiring worship, reaching younger, enhancing diversity, growing leaders, enabling commitment, encouraging generosity and nurturing prayer. This vision is set out in more detail on our website.

It is my hope that each worshipping community in the diocese will develop a compelling picture of its own future in God’s purposes, with an expectation of growing numerically and in the scope of its mission. It is my prayer that the new vicar of St James



Porchester will have the creative leadership and imagination to develop discipleship, plan for growth and reach out to the unchurched of all ages in its locality.

I look forward to welcoming the new vicar of St James Porchester to join us on this faith-filled journey.

**The Right Revd Paul Williams,
Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham**

St James' Porchester is full of exciting opportunities to grow disciples of all ages in different contexts. Nestled in the midst of the residential area, and serving as a focus for the local community through the groups that meet at the Scout Hut and Church Hall, it has many opportunities for mission that the parish are keen to embrace to grow the church and bring the living hope of Jesus to Porchester and beyond.

You will be supported by a strong lay team of leaders and collaborative deanery colleagues as you lead the parish in reaching out to the community, growing the church younger and deepening discipleship and developing leaders for mission and ministry. The profile reflects where they are now and where they want to be; can you help lead them into this next season and use your gifts, aptitudes and experience to enable this to happen?

Please be in touch with me if you'd like further information to help you consider this opportunity.

Revd Canon Dr Richard Richard Kellett, Associate Archdeacon

richard.kellett@southwell.anglican.org



OUR VISION

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We have prayerfully reflected on where we are now and where we feel called to grow. This reflection provides a strong foundation as we look forward with hope to welcoming a new vicar to help shape our future journey.

INSPIRING WORSHIP

Where we were

- Before the vacancy, our worshipping life was shaped by three distinct Sunday services. At 9am, a weekly Holy Communion was held. This was a robed service with a paid organist, rooted in the richness of Common Worship liturgy. At 10.30am, a Contemporary Service provided an accessible all-age gathering with contemporary worship music, weekly Kids Church, and Holy Communion once a month. At 6.00pm, a Reflective Service offered a quieter, prayerful space. On fifth Sundays, Café Church in the Church Centre replaced the morning services. A Thursday 10am Holy Communion provided a valued midweek opportunity for worship and fellowship.

Where we are now

- We now gather as one congregation for a single 10am Sunday service, blending traditional and contemporary worship in a way that honours both. Our monthly pattern includes two Holy Communion services (using Common Worship) and two all-age Services of the Word, enabling the whole church family to worship together. Kids Church meets twice a month during Communion services. This shared pattern has brought a renewed sense of togetherness, deepening relationships across the congregations and helping us to grow as one worshipping community.

- Services are shaped collaboratively using a mix of music, technology, and worship styles to encourage participation and accessibility. Café Church on fifth Sundays provides a relaxed, creative, lay-led space for conversation, faith and community.
- The Thursday 10am Holy Communion remains a valued midweek service, typically led by retired clergy.
- We share in seasonal worship and outreach, especially during Christian festivals.

Where we want to be

We long to deepen and develop our worshipping life so that it is even more effective in helping people encounter God, belong, and grow in faith.

- Spirit-filled worship that is accessible to all ages, rooted in prayer and Scripture, drawing on the strengths of both our traditional and contemporary heritage.
- Undertaking a thoughtful review of our worship pattern, helping us discern a rhythm of services that strengthens unity, and ensures space for different styles of worship so that everyone can find a place to belong and grow in faith.
- Ongoing development of the Café Church vision as a lay-led, invitational space for faith, conversation, testimonies and community.

REACHING YOUNGER

Where we were

- St James has a long history of being a welcoming family church where all ages are valued.
- Parent/Carer Toddler Groups run Monday and Wednesdays in term time with new families joining weekly and a weekly average of 55 children. A committed group of volunteers supports this ministry which has enabled the relaunch of Messy Church.
- The church is large and flexible, with a welcoming children's corner at the back and a spacious, adaptable area at the front that supports creative worship and teaching. Both spaces are used dynamically for gatherings such as Messy Church and school visits, helping families and children feel fully included.
- Kids Church currently meets twice a month for a small group of 4- 13-year-olds, with all-age worship on alternate weeks.
- There are five primary schools in the parish. There is a special school who have regular visits to St James and carry out their community service here.
- Thriving Scout and Guide groups are located on our site, where we have built positive relationships.

Where we want to be

- We have obtained feedback from Church Centre users and would like to respond by re-introducing youth clubs, after school activities and holiday clubs.
- We would like to deepen our relationships with local schools and grow the opportunities for ministry and engagement with pupils and staff.

- We want to continue building a strong team of volunteers and leaders trained and supported in ministry to children and youth.
- We want to develop a culture that warmly welcomes children and young people, where they are intentionally disciplined and supported to grow in faith.

ENHANCING DIVERSITY

Where we are now

- Our current congregation does not fully reflect the diverse ethnicity and age of our community.
- The parent /carer groups bring together families from a wide range of nationalities, many of whom share a Christian faith, and who engage and support one another within a welcoming community.
- Our services offer a variety of worship styles, and our liturgy has become more accessible and contemporary, helping new members and visitors feel at home.

Where we want to be

- We want to see the love of God experienced by people of all ages and backgrounds where all are welcome, all feel involved, and all are sent in the ministry of Jesus Christ.
- We would welcome further training and vision for developing an inclusive church.

Where we are now

- St James has a growing pattern of shared leadership across the church, including two committed churchwardens, a PCC with a mix of experienced and newer members, a paid administrator, two Readers, and a retired vicar. During the vacancy, a widening group of lay leaders has stepped forward, including a Worship Team, a tech team, and a team leading seasonal worship in a care home.
- Lay leadership is strong across areas such as Events, Messy Church, toddler groups, Drop-in for Coffee, and pastoral care through the Mothers' Union.
- A small number of older teenagers have begun to volunteer within existing teams.

Where we want to be

- A supportive and clearly structured leadership culture that equips, encourages, and releases people of all ages into leadership.
- Strengthened leadership for pastoral care, children and youth ministries, building on the legacy of our former Church Growth Enabler and Children, Youth and Family Team Leader.
- Intentional development of Café Church and all-age worship leadership, nurturing younger people and older teenagers as emerging leaders with clear pathways into leadership.

Where we are now

- We offer several entry-point activities, including toddler groups, Drop-in for Coffee, craft club, school visits, community events, pre-baptism courses and Alpha courses. This has resulted in participants becoming regular worshippers and volunteers.
- Through Mapperley Churches Together, we take part in public Christian witness, including the Walk of Witness and the local Christmas tree light-up. This visible presence in the community has helped seekers form deeper connections with the church.
- Several house groups meet weekly, offering fellowship, Bible study and prayer, with occasional united sessions for shared teaching.

Where we want to be

- To encourage new believers and enquirers to grow in their faith by taking intentional steps in following Jesus at St James, including through Christian commitment and discipleship courses that help them develop understanding and a strong foundation.
- To strengthen our ministry among young and middle-aged adults, youth and children, helping them find a place to belong, explore and commit to a life of faith.
- To create stronger connections with our community.
- To ensure our commitment-building activities support the long-term sustainability of St James through growing disciples, volunteers, and generous givers.

Where we are now

- We encourage giving as an essential part of worship. St James supports local, national and international charities on a three-year cycle.
- We teach that generosity includes time, skills, gifts and prayer as well as financial support.
- We are a Silver Eco-Church and are actively working towards Gold.

Where we want to be

- To encourage new and older members into regular giving of time skills and finance to deepen understanding of generosity as part of Christian discipleship.
- To strengthen and expand our volunteer base, and enabling succession planning for roles currently carried out by a small number of people.
- To develop clearer financial planning and communication so the congregation can see how giving supports mission, ministry and sustainability.
- To continue progressing towards Gold Eco Church, embedding generous care of God's creation.

Where we are now

- Prayer is central to our worship, with intercessions and time for reflection and prayer included in every service. Personal prayer is offered by the leadership team whenever needed, and we visibly model prayer when leaders and worship teams pray together before services.
- We provide accessible ways for people to request prayer. We have introduced a prayer box on the outside of the Church Centre for everyone in the local community to use, and a congregational prayer folder at the back of church, used both by those leading intercessions and anyone wishing to pray. We also have an active Facebook prayer group.
- We have prayed street-by-street across the parish, delivering a leaflet to each household introducing who we are and inviting people to our services and groups.
- Mothers' Union and our pastoral visiting team offer prayerful support to many, both within the church and across the wider community, including those connected to us through social activities and friendship groups.

Where we want to be

- For St James to be recognised as a centre of prayer for the whole community, with prayer embedded across all ministries and increasing prayer for the mission partners we financially support.
- To equip more people in prayer, including training and growing prayer-ministry teams, reintroducing prayer ministry before and after services, and helping the congregation grow in confidence in praying for one another.
- To strengthen our corporate prayer life by establishing a regular (initially monthly) prayer gathering, creating space to listen to God, share answered prayer, and seek His guidance for the growth and mission of the church.

OUR PEOPLE

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At St James we have –

- Office Administrator – A paid Office Administrator who provides reliable administrative, organisational, and communication support across the whole life of the church.
- Lay Readers – Two trained Readers who contribute regularly to preaching, teaching, worship leading, and pastoral ministry, and offering support to clergy.
- Retired Clergy – A retired member of clergy who has played an active role in leading services throughout the interregnum, ensuring continuity and stability.
- Home Group Leaders – Committed home group leaders who nurture discipleship, fellowship, and prayer across weekly groups, strengthening pastoral care within the congregation.

- Mission and Ministry Teams – We have teams focusing on mission and ministry, events planning and delivery^{1,9}, finance, and fabric, providing practical and strategic support for the vicar and PCC.
- Children's Work – We have dedicated leaders for toddler groups and Messy Church who create welcoming, creative, and faith-building spaces for families and young children.
- Café Church Team – A growing team who shape and lead Café Church, offering a conversational worship environment that encourages participation and community.
- Mothers' Union – Mothers' Union serve as prayer warriors and provide pastoral care across the congregation and wider community, offering strong spiritual and practical support.



OUR BUILDINGS

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The Church

St James is affectionately known as The Barn Church, a name rooted in its origins. The church began life as an 18th-century barn belonging to the old Marshall Hill Farm. The land and outbuildings reflect their agricultural heritage. The church opened in 1935, and an extension completed in 1956 granted it full parish church status. Matching red brick was used to blend old and new, and wood carvings of country tradespeople were added to the pillars supporting the barn wall. A small re-ordering later removed the choir stalls, creating an open and flexible space at the front of the church.

The church building is in reasonable repair, supported by a planned maintenance programme funded by legacy gifts. Two generous legacies enabled significant upgrades in 2021, including a new heating system and roof repairs. Attached to the church are two rooms: the vestry and The Den, used for meetings. There is ramped access to the vestry and an easy-access toilet facility.



THE CHURCH CENTRE

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The St James Church Centre (the church hall) opened in 1971 and was extended in 1994. It is used extensively by church and community groups and is available for private hire throughout the year, generating a profit overseen by a volunteer booking secretary. The Centre comprises the main hall (the Lindsay Morgan Hall), a side room (the Jack Evans Room), a kitchen, and the church administrator's office. Toilet facilities include an easy-access toilet.

Recent improvements to the Centre include upgraded windows and the installation of LED lighting, funded through congregation fundraising, contributions from Centre users, and a lottery grant. These upgrades support our ongoing commitment to becoming a Gold Eco Church.



THE CHURCH OFFICE

We have an administration office within the church building, and we employ an administrator for two days a week. The administrator provides essential support to the life of the parish, including liaising with volunteers, producing rotas, and preparing the monthly news sheet with information about upcoming services and events. They also assist with the financial activities of the church, helping to ensure smooth and reliable day-to-day operations.

LOCATION & AMENITIES

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Our parish is situated in a growing suburban area on the north-eastern edge of Nottingham, within Gedling Borough. It includes parts of Mapperley, Carlton and Gedling, and has significant potential for engaging with new families.

The parish is approximately two miles from Nottingham city centre at its western edge, while its eastern side borders rural villages and open countryside, including Gedling Country Park. The main shopping area lies to the west and serves as a lively hub for community life, with supermarkets, restaurants, takeaways, a library and other local businesses. The surrounding area also includes at least three small farms, one of which runs a growing farm shop just beyond the parish boundary. The population of the parish has been estimated to be around 11,000.

Within the parish are four primary schools, a school for pupils with special educational needs, three sheltered housing complexes for older people and a nursing home. A local secondary school is situated just outside the parish boundary.

The population is predominantly white, with many residents employed in skilled and semi-skilled occupations and a relatively low level of unemployment. Most homes are privately owned, while only a small proportion of residents live in council-owned accommodation. Porchester is largely built around a pre-war housing estate and former mining land. New housing developments and further construction are bringing continued growth and change to the area, creating opportunities for the parish to build relationships with an expanding community.

THE VICARAGE

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In 1988, the old vicarage was demolished to make way for a house more suitable for the needs of a modern parish. The new vicarage, completed in 1989, is a well-appointed four-bedroom home. Downstairs it includes a lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, toilet, and an office accessible from the front entrance. The property has a walled garden to the north and part of a former orchard to the south.



ECO CHURCH

St James is deeply committed to caring for God's creation, and this is reflected in our long involvement with the Eco Church movement. We hold both the Bronze and Silver Eco Church Awards and are working towards the Gold Award. We are blessed with committed Eco Church leaders who continue to guide this work with energy and vision.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is a core priority at St James. We follow the Church of England's House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and have a dedicated Parish Safeguarding Officer who oversees our practice. Our DBS Administrator manages safer-recruitment checks and keeps records up to date, ensuring that all volunteers and leaders are appropriately vetted.

FINANCES

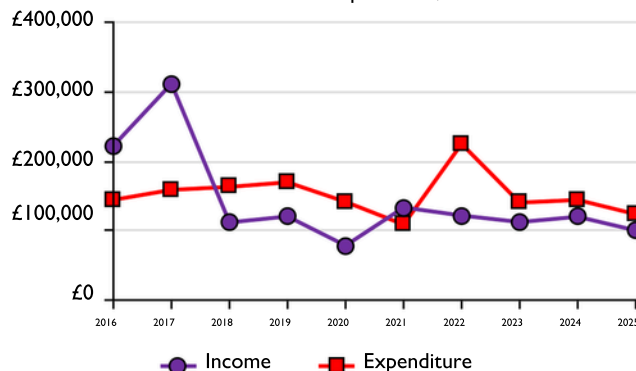
View the 2025 financial report for St James Porchester ***here***.

APPENDICES

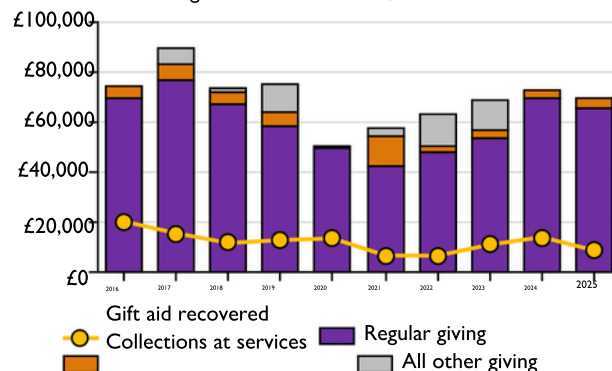
See the next page for the stats for mission.

Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Porchester in the Deanery of GEDLING

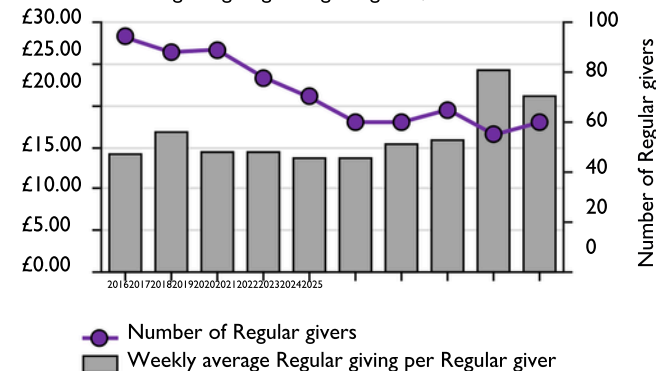
1. Total Income & Total Expenditure, 2016-25



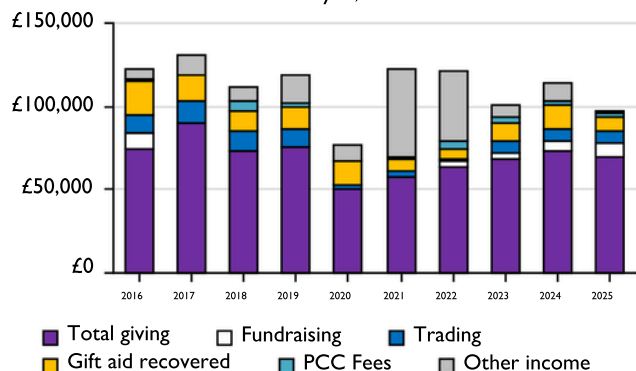
2. Giving & Gift aid recovered, 2016-25



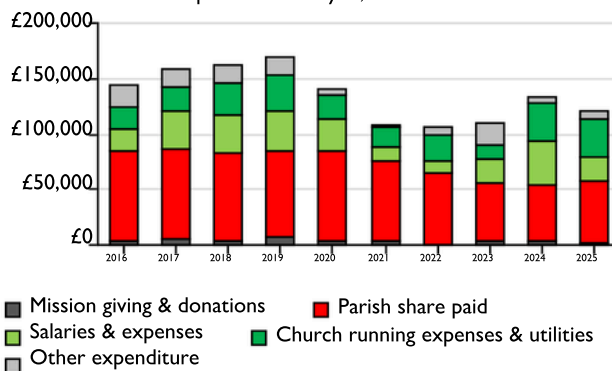
3. Regular giving & Regular givers, 2016-25



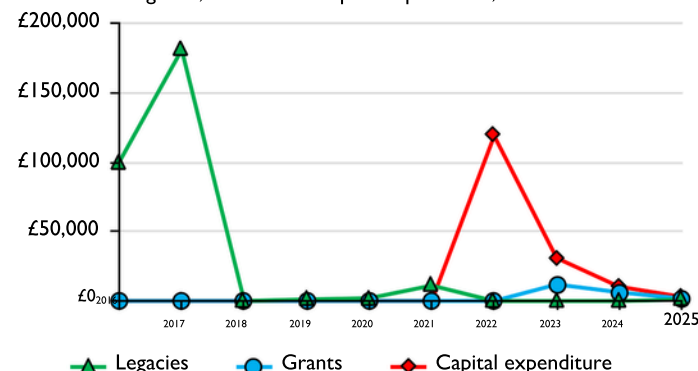
4. Income Analysis, 2016-25



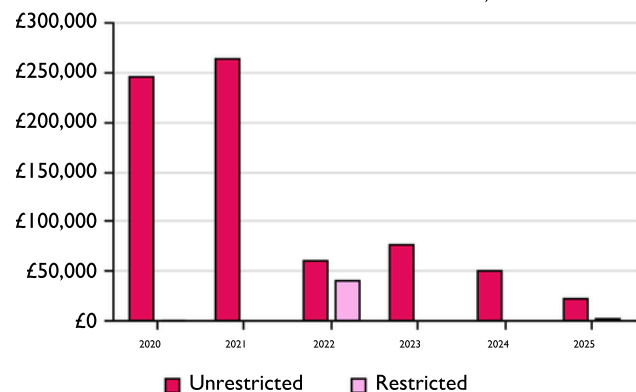
5. Expenditure Analysis, 2016-25



6. Legacies, Grants and Capital expenditure, 2016-25



7. Net Current Assets and Investment Balances, 2020-25



Weekly average Regular giving per Regular giver (2025)

Parish: 21.06
Diocese: 15.34

Number of churches in parish (2025): 1

Parish code: 380279

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 4 shows income other than grants and legacies.

Graph 4: **Total giving** = Regular 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.

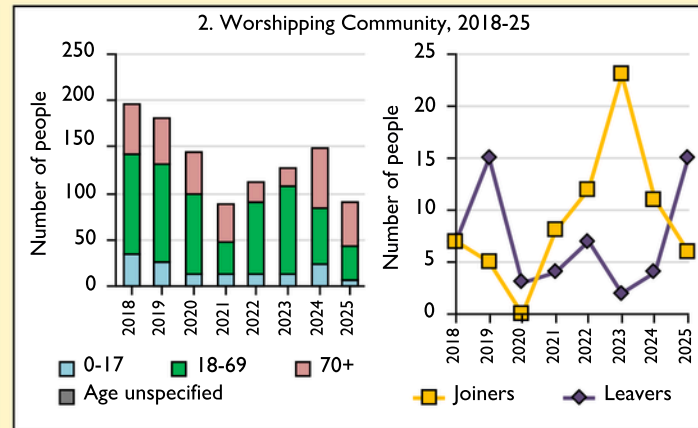
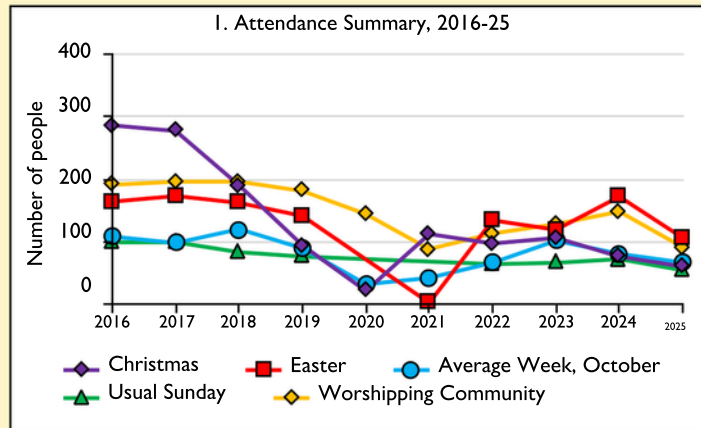
For further definitions please see the guidance notes attached to the Return of Parish Finance:

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: 2016 1; 2017 1; 2018 1; 2019 1; 2020 1; 2021 1; 2022 1; 2023 1; 2024 1; 2025 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 23/09/2026.

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



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 11613

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	21%	23%	23%
% aged 20-44	31%	33%	33%
% aged 45-69	32%	30%	31%
% aged 70 & over	15%	14%	14%
% Christian	40%	43%	46%
% non-Christian religion	5%	7%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2025): 11242

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,134=least deprived)

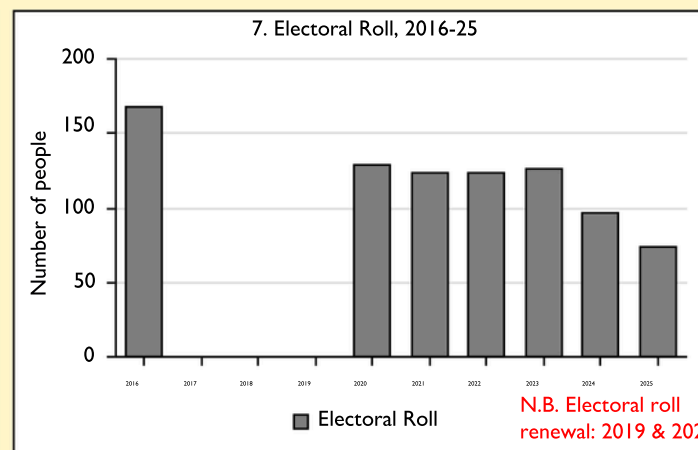
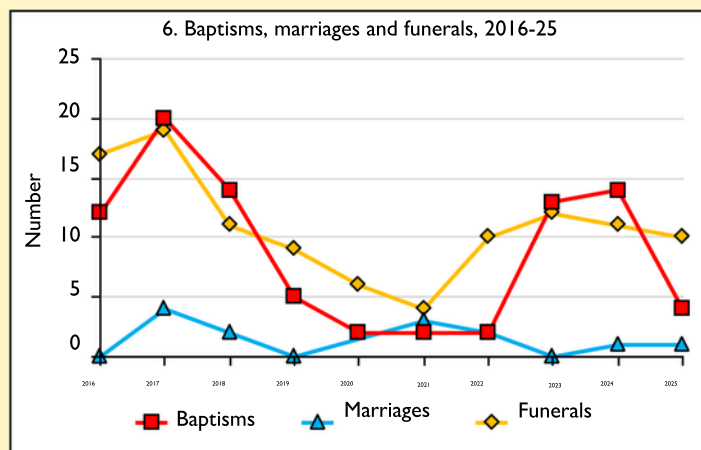
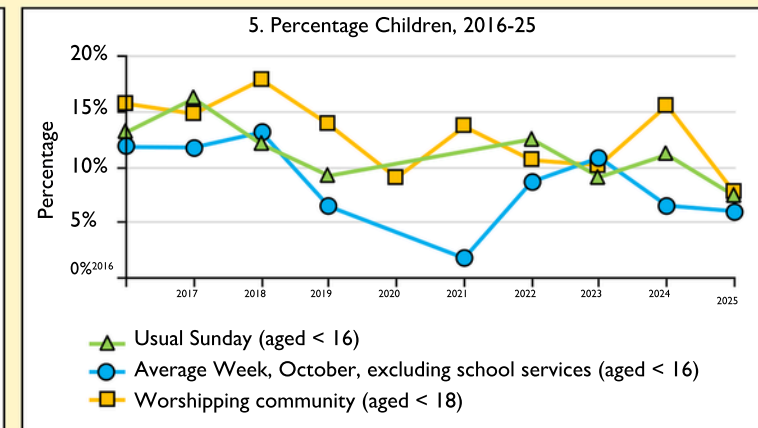
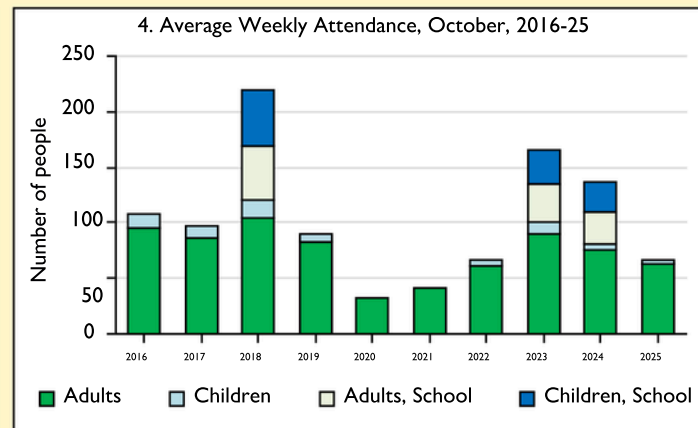
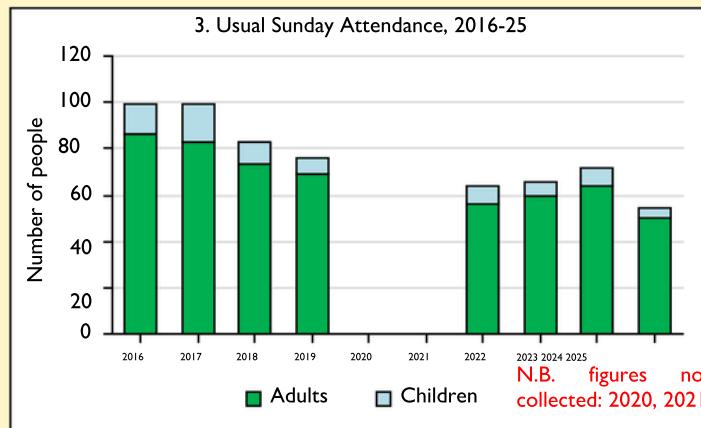
For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <https://arcs.org.uk/>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and

<http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2025): 1

Parish Code: 380279



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 2021 national Census.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published

by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Oct 2025.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations. For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

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.

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