

DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH
THE PARISH OF ST MARK PETERBOROUGH



ST MARK'S PETERBOROUGH

PARISH PROFILE

2022

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Our Vision Statement

Our vision is to grow St Mark's, making a MARK for Christ in our community and the city of Peterborough by:

Making Christ known

Acting in love

Reaching out to care and serve

Keeping Christ central



Our traditions are firmly rooted in bible-based and Christ-centred ministry whilst at the same time serving the whole of our parish, not just our church congregation, through outreach into our community. Our vision of Making Christ known within our parish is the driving force behind all our current and future aspirations of setting up St. Mark's as a community hub to cater to the various needs within our parish and engaging with other faiths in the spirit of the love our Saviour showed to all.



Welcome to St Mark's Peterborough

Name of Parish	St Mark, Peterborough
Diocese	Diocese of Peterborough
Address	82 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2SN
Church Website	www.stmarkspeterborough.org.uk

St. Mark's church was the first Victorian church to be built in the city. It was built in 1856 and has a central location in close proximity to the bus terminal and mainline train station. It sits within an inner-city urban Parish with an estimated population of 8500-9000. The population comprises a high proportion of Asian British of Pakistani heritage with a fair number of white British, other white populations (mainly Eastern European), and minorities from the Caribbean and African heritage. This urban parish – largely residential but with a substantial commercial element – lies at the heart of the city of Peterborough, a vibrant, diverse city with a growing population. St Mark's is one of three Anglican parishes in Peterborough Diocese which together cover the centre of the city to the north of the River Nene. It would be fair to say that the three churches provide distinctive but complementary ministries to this highly multi-cultural and varied population.

It is important for St Mark's to make its own contribution to the developing relationship of all the city centre churches with those involved in the life of the city, and there is a strong desire to see theological and practical insights into the role of the church within today's secular, multi-faith, economic and political climate.

The Parish constitutes a fair portion of Peterborough's inner city's Central and North Wards. There are two primary schools in the parish: The Beeches (600) and Gladstone with a new second site bringing their capacity to 800. In both schools, fewer than 5% of children speak English as a first language and in The Beeches there are more than 40 different first languages. St Mark's has links with The Beeches through the immediate past vicar being a community governor, taking occasional school assemblies, and welcoming pupils and staff from The Beeches to the church for Christmas and Easter services. This coming Christmas 2021, we will be welcoming pupils from Gladstone primary school to the church to learn more about Christianity.



Our Traditions

The tradition of St Mark's is low church, with a valued tradition of preaching from scripture, sometimes following sermon series and not always using the lectionary.

The congregation is ethnically diverse with a broad age range and many live outside the Parish. Average Sunday congregations number around 20 - 30 adults. The service pattern is holy communion (Common Worship) on odd Sundays and informal worship on even Sundays.

Clerical dress, where worn, is cassock and surplice; vestments and stoles are not worn.

Musically, a careful balance is maintained between traditional hymns and modern worship songs, seeking to select the best (both theologically and musically) from both. We have a very good quality organ. The church is equipped with full audio-visual aids and services are normally projected onto screens.



Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993

The PCC has not passed resolutions A or B under Section 3 (1) or (2) of this Measure.

Parish and Surrounding Area

The Parish

The parish of St. Mark's is a multicultural community in central Peterborough in the deanery of Peterborough. It covers 0.4 square miles right in the heart of the city, minutes from the cathedral, Queensgate shopping centre and railway station.

Character

St. Mark's parish has a constantly changing, diverse population. Young families move in and out of the area - for many this is their first home after arriving in this country, others are part of the long-established Pakistani community in the city. There is a small but significant older population, some of whom experience high levels of pensioner poverty. There are three sheltered housing communities within walking distance of the church. If you were to go on the statistics you would see only the poverty and deprivation across all ages and cultures in our community and overlook the richness and diversity that make up our urban society in inner-city Peterborough.

St. Mark's church is at the heart of the city - for example during the pandemic the Soup Kitchen served from our carpark 9 times a week, and the church hall was used for rapid testing by the local city council until the end of September 2021. As a church we wish to also be the spiritual and community hub too (see below for more about the reordering project which seeks to use our beautiful church building seven days a week for the benefit of all of our neighbours). As a congregation we are actively involved in Churches Together in Central Peterborough, and have developed strong links with our Muslim brothers and sisters through Mahabba; a regular round-table meeting in which we explore similarities and differences (but mostly similarities) in our faith, and through our close involvement with Community First (Peterborough), a small charity with the vision of the flourishing of community life in our part of the city (see below



Our community in statistics:

- Population: 8,973 (2018 update), consisting of c. 2300 households (13.7% in social housing, 13.1% lone parent homes), giving a population density of 18,837 people per square mile.
- Age distribution: 10.0% aged 0-4, 20.3% aged 5-17, 24.2% aged 18-29, 23.4% aged 30-44, 15.1% aged 45-64, 6.9% aged 65 and over (2011 census).
- Socio-economic make-up: ranks as 460 out of 12382 parishes for deprivation, making it one of the most deprived parishes; at 23.2% and 12.8% respectively, levels of child and working age poverty rank in the worst 15% nationally while pensioner poverty, at 48.5%, is the worst in the diocese.
- Ethnic make-up: 32.7% of White ethnicity, 57.9% Asian ethnicity, mainly Asian British of Pakistani heritage (2011 census); 28.6% Christian, 56.3% Muslim (2011 census), at 89.5% the ethnic diversity is the highest in the diocese and close to the highest nationally.

Commerce & Industry

The parish is largely residential but with substantial commercial elements, especially retail and hospitality. The UK headquarters of Parish Nursing and Hope Into Action are in the parish. There are also many small shops, restaurants, hotels, businesses and professional offices, as well as the city's only department store. The plans for the redevelopment of the North Westgate quarter will substantially repopulate and change the character of the southern section of the parish. There are several sheltered housing complexes within the parish.

Schools & Education

There are two primary schools in the parish, The Beeches and Gladstone Street. St. Mark's has links with The Beeches through membership of the governing body, volunteering and welcoming pupils and staff from the schools to the church for special services.

Health Care

Boroughbury Medical Centre, situated 100 metres from the church, provides a wide range of general practice services. The City Hospital is two miles away.

Other Places of Worship in St Mark's Parish

St. Mark's is one of three Anglican parishes covering Peterborough city centre. Other churches in our parish include the Park Road Baptist Church, Westgate URC/Methodist Church and All Souls' Roman Catholic Church. These churches provide distinctive but complementary ministries to this multicultural and varied community.

Six of the mosques in Peterborough are located in St. Mark's parish.

Future Direction

The new vicar will not be expected to fundraise in support of the future direction of St Mark's.

St Mark's location at the heart of a largely diverse multicultural community with a largely Muslim religious background places upon us the needed incentive to be outward-looking and evangelical in our ministry to grow our congregation by connecting with our wider parish community and bringing the knowledge and love of our risen Lord to those around us.

How do we set about achieving this? A very big question one might say, but one which we hope we can answer by maintaining our current connections and building future connections to our parish community.

As part of our vision to re-order the church, we recently embarked on a research survey called Peterborough4You whose findings revealed the top priorities of activities to support wellbeing and problems to be addressed in the community and suggestions on how to serve the community better.

Based on that research and the findings, we are currently embarking on a major project to reorder the interior layout of parts of the church which will make it a multi-use facility open seven days a week, accommodating multiple groups and activities. Additionally, we are looking to employ several paid positions:

1. Community Engagement Manager – to lead St Mark's community engagement programme and to promote and manage the church estate as a community hub and safe space.
2. Family and Children Worker – to lead and help develop action plans coupled with activities for St Marks in support of our church and community work with children and families
3. Youth and young people engagement worker – to lead the task of helping St Mark's meet the needs of the young people within our community. The services of a youth engagement specialist will help St Mark's put together initiatives that will have long term benefits for the youth and young people in our community and their connections to our proposed community hub and safe space.

These roles, together with wider church congregation, will make use of the reordered church building and church hall in making St Mark's the community hub and safe space we intend it to be.

St Mark's is a member of a group of seven Churches Together in Central Peterborough. The recent past incumbent is also a Trustee, together with the leaders of three other churches, of a charitable donation trust called The Paten Trust. The recent past incumbent was co-founder and chair of Trustees of Community First (Peterborough) working together with local Muslims on a range of community improvements for the local area that roughly coincides with St Mark's Parish. We would like this link to grow further and deeper as this will enhance our reach into the community even further as the years grow. There is an active interfaith community in Peterborough, currently led by the Bishop's Chaplain, with friendly relations with many Mosques, a Hindu temple, 2 Sikh Gurdwaras and a Buddhist temple. Within St Mark's Parish are the two largest Mosques in the city, of which Faizen e Madina is the largest in East Anglia, and four further "house" Mosques meeting the needs of smaller Islamic groups. Roughly half the 8,500 population of the Parish are of Pakistani heritage with the older folk speaking Urdu or Mirpuri as a first language. Until Covid hit, St Mark's helped to lead "Round

Table " cordial discussions with local Muslims at a monthly Sunday afternoon gathering. Again, we hope to keep this engagement moving forwards. At the two primary schools in the Parish (one LA one part of an Academy) over 40 different languages are spoken by the children. St Mark's welcomes these children to church visits and assemblies and regularly takes assemblies in one school with an invitation to do so in the other.

Our recent achievements, in spite of the many challenges we face, should not be taken as indicating that there is nothing new to attempt or discover; on the contrary, there is much more to build on especially with the capital project of the reordering we have embarked upon. Furthermore, our community is calling out for our Hub and Safe space, therefore, the stage is set for a lot of growth and change in the coming years. St Mark's is well placed to have a key role in that growth and change, and we seek a priest and pastor who will embrace wholeheartedly the opportunities that will be presented.

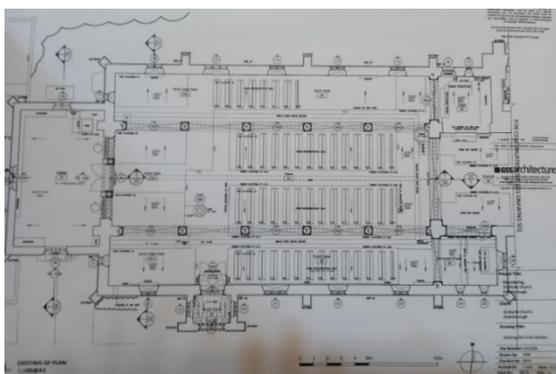
The new vicar will not be expected to fundraise in support of the future direction of St Mark's. There already exists a dedicated Fundraising Team working with a professional fundraising professional to carry out any fundraising activities required for the Community Hub & Safe Space project.

Church Buildings

The church building is a well-maintained Victorian church located on Lincoln Road, sitting in the heart of its bustling parish, only a short walk from Peterborough Cathedral. The church building has evolved since it was opened in 1856 to ensure that it was meeting the needs of the congregation and surrounding community. One key alteration to the inside of the building was the removal of the rear pews to create a level, carpeted area which allows for refreshments and alternative layouts during services. The remainder of the nave remains virtually unchanged, the original font and pews lining the centre of the church, with only a couple of minor alterations to incorporate audio visual equipment. There are two large projector screens mounted on the wall either side of the chancel steps, with speakers mounted along the walls.



Over the last decade the need and desire to further reorder the church has grown, with plans being submitted to the Diocese in 2021. The plans have been accepted and will now need the support of a new incumbent. The plans include the removal of the remainder of the pews in the nave and the addition of meeting rooms, extra storage space and a more accessible space which can be used by the community. **A dedicated fundraising team has been established to support the efforts to fund this new transformation, with grants being actively looked into.** The reordering of the church will allow for a more varied layout during worship but also allow

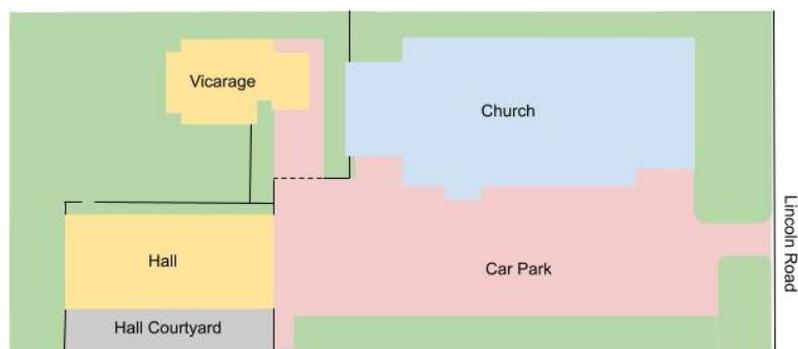


the space to be used by the wider community during the week. We believe that the demand for this has been demonstrated through the use of the church hall and a community questionnaire that has been carried out.

The church hall is located adjacent to the church and was built in 1955. It is a large open space with a curtained stage at the front, which prior to the coronavirus pandemic was used all through the week for a range of activities. The hall has been used to celebrate birthdays and weddings, for shows and music performances and to host church services such as cafe church when these outgrew the church. The hall also provides two smaller rooms to the rear, one of which was used as a parish office however a provision of a parish office within the church has been included in the new reordering plans. Since the coronavirus pandemic began, the hall has been able to serve its community through becoming a rapid testing centre, which has brought many people onto the church grounds - somewhere they may not have previously visited. The hall is a key part in the running of St Marks. For many years this has been managed on a voluntary basis by a member of the congregation, however moving forwards a new person will be required.



Aside from the hall, the church grounds also contain a carpark which can hold over twenty cars. This was the most recent addition to the church grounds, being developed from a garden in 2006 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the church. Not only does the car park provide valuable parking to the congregation on a Sunday, it is let out during the week to local workers providing extra income for the church. Recently the Peterborough Soup Kitchen has used the car park to distribute food.



St Mark's vicarage was built in around 1960 but was totally refurbished and redecorated in 2012, with a new en suite off the main bedroom, a new bathroom, separate toilet, 3 further bedrooms, upstairs, and downstairs a newly fitted kitchen and utility room, separate dining room, lounge, small conservatory and a separate reception room for Parish work. There is parking for two cars. The large gardens mainly to the rear, much laid to lawn surrounded by mature trees and perennials, and an extra allotment section with a variety of fruit trees and growing beds. The vicarage is located to the rear of the west end of the church, accessed via the church car park and as it lies well back from the main road provides a haven of peace in the midst of a busy inner-city area.

Services

Monthly Service Structure

As we are in unusual times, we want to provide you with three service structures:

- pre pandemic
- during pandemic
- temporary structure to meet post pandemic and vacancy needs

A significant proportion of the congregation have expressed a strong desire to return to the pre-pandemic service structure, although they appreciate that this may not be immediately possible.

Pre Pandemic

This is what members of the congregation would consider to be the 'normal' pattern of worship, and what many would like to return to.

First, third, fourth and fifth Sundays	9:15am Holy Communion Common Worship	<i>Between services tea, coffee and fellowship between both congregations</i>	10:45am Worship Service Informal worship with music group
Second Sunday	9:15am Holy Communion Common Worship	<i>Between services tea, coffee and fellowship between both congregations</i>	10:45 Cafe Church

During the Pandemic

This pattern of worship evolved during the pandemic. During lockdown the online service was the only one and included communion (during the first lockdown there was also a daily morning prayer delivered via St. Mark's YouTube video channel).

All Sundays	9:15am Holy Communion Common Worship	4:00pm Worship Service	10:30am (release time) Online service on YouTube channel
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Current Temporary Structure

This pattern of worship has been designed by the immediate past incumbent in consultation with the PCC and congregation to meet a variety of needs.

First, third and fifth Sundays	10:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Second and fourth Sundays	10:30am Worship Service (Informal worship with music group) (Cafe Church on 2nd Sunday when it is safe to share food and drink)

Average attendance at services

Service	Children & Youth (0 – 16 yrs)	Adults
Pre-pandemic 9:15am (CW)	1	24
Pre-pandemic 10:45am (informal worship)	3	17
Pandemic 9:15am (CW)		10
Pandemic 4:00pm (informal worship)		10
Pandemic online service (during lockdown)		25 views
Pandemic online service (no lockdown)		7 views
Temporary 10:30am service	1	30

Electoral Roll

There are currently 50 on the electoral roll. Of these, 42 live outside the parish.



Other Services



Lent

- Ash Wednesday evening Communion service with imposition of ashes

Easter

- Maundy Thursday service with washing of hands
- Participate in churches together walk of witness through the city
- Good Friday service
- Easter Saturday Vigil
- Participate in churches together sunrise service in Central Park
- Easter Sunday Communion
- Contemplation and Night Prayer
- Easter Egg Hunt

Christmas

- Open church to decorate
- Advent Cafe Church
- Fellowship Supper
- Carol Service
- Nativity Service
- Christingle
- Evening Prayer
- Christmas Day Communion

Other special services

- All Souls memorial service
- Harvest Festival



Support Available

The new vicar will not be expected to fundraise in support of the future direction of St Mark's. There already exists a dedicated Fundraising Team working with a professional fundraising professional to carry out any fundraising activities required for the Community Hub & Safe Space project.

- There is ministerial support from a lay pastoral minister. Through the past few years there has been a steady flow of new and trainee ministers, with the most recent curate departing in December 2020, an ordinand until September 2021 and a new ordinand who commenced theological college in September 2021.
- Lay involvement with services includes reading lessons, leading prayers, leading informal worship, the music group, stewards, servers, sound and projection, sacristan, flowers, refreshments, etc.
- We are looking to grow our children's work. We are currently seeking to employ a children and families worker and to welcome more children into our church family.
- There are well-established churchwardens, and a church administrator and the PCC is well served by an experienced secretary
- Other support by members of the congregation includes safeguarding officer, hall manager and car park manager, treasurer and a giving officer. We are looking to employ a community engagement worker and have strong links with the local community, especially through Community First (Peterborough).
- For the Community Hub and Safe Space project, there is an established Fundraising Team (of 5 members) together with the support of a fundraising professional.



Church Groups and Activities

During the pandemic many Church Groups and activities have not taken place. There is a strong desire within the congregation to return to the pre-pandemic version of the normal life of our church. We asked everyone to tell us what they are involved in, and have sorted the wonderful range of responses we received into categories below.

We have identified two case studies to provide more depth to activities central to our vision.

Spiritual Growth: Home Group (evening); Bible Study (daytime); Lent courses;

Faith and Fellowship: Tea For Free; Tuesday afternoon fellowship; Annual BeerFest outing; Fortnightly online newsletter (St Marks Miscellany); Fortnightly online quiz/social event;

Pastoral Care: Prayer Triplets; Prayer and Healing; Wedding support for bride and groom; Home visits and communion;

Ecumenical Links: Churches Together in Central Peterborough; representatives with CROPS, Hope into Action, Peru Children's Trust;

Interfaith Links: Round Table; Mahabba;

Community Activities: Tea For Free; Community First (Peterborough); Carol Singing in sheltered housing and Christmas Choir; All souls service; use of church hall and car park by community; School governors and reading buddies;



Volunteers: Church Hall Manager; Car Park manager; Lay worship leaders; Verger; Servers; Sound and Projection; Music group; Reading Lessons; Leading intercessions/prayers; Stewards/welcomers; Refreshments between services and for cafe church; Flower arrangers;

Case Study: Interfaith Links

At Round Table meetings practising Christians and Muslims meet to discuss an aspect of their faith and to explore similarities and differences. Every month the conclusion is basically that we have more in common than different. We also have an active Mahabba group, a fellowship of Christians who pray for Muslims.

Community is an important part of our mission as a church, and as we worship in a predominantly Muslim parish, sharing our faith with Muslims and understanding theirs is a vital element of our work. Work, for example, with Community First (Peterborough), a charity that grew out of a residents' association. As trustees and active members of the charity, we provide youth activities, women's groups, advocacy, food packages in lockdown, tuition, gardening etc.

Finance

We consistently pay our Parish Share in full, and have done so satisfactorily over many years. We run two bank accounts, a current and savings with Multiple funds with 3 restricted funds available from the past. As a church we had a deficit of 6K in 2019 due to Covid-19. We pay clergy expenses which are submitted using a general form by cheque which are submitted to the treasurer. We have recently appointed a Stewardship & Planning Giving Officer.

We are in process of recruiting two staff; A Community Engagement Manager, who will help facilitate our growth and in making St. Mark's the Community hub which is the aim of our reordering project and a Children & Youth worker who will also be a liaison officer with the wider community. Currently the position of the office administrator is done voluntarily by a member of the church congregation. We pay two other staff: our music coordinator, and our church hall cleaner.

Each year we pay 10% of our tithing to 8 charities which we select, because of their links with our church; this is in line with our Mission Support that is set at 10% of general giving in line with PCC policy. Our revenue comes from General giving, standing orders and other one-off donations and legacies. We recover tax, through Gift Aid on 98.4% of standing orders. We let out our car park and church hall and this has continued to be an important source of income to cover the deficit which we incur each year.

We have 'designated' funds which we choose to allocate from the general fund for specific purposes; legacies, mission, building. Our 'restricted' funds are solely for defined purposes; the children work, music and projects like Little Ark.

Last financial year is available on request by potential candidates.



Organisation

The Parochial Church Council meets regularly. The meeting includes a break for prayer, and the first meeting of each year includes Holy Communion. There are five teams that support the work of the PCC in leading the Vision, Mission and Growth of St Mark's, with each Team Leader represented on the PCC. The teams are: Discipleship & Worship; Prayer & Pastoral; Estates; Business; Outreach. Also included are those that have been set up to manage the major projects described earlier in the profile.

Person Specification for St. Marks

We surveyed our church family and wider community, asking what qualities and attributes they hope that the right candidate will have. The following came up again and again:

- prayer-focused with Jesus and the bible at the centre, open to a range of worship styles within the low church tradition
- a 'people person': kind, fun, sensitive, listens to people
- committed to bringing in young people and families and sensitive to the needs of older members
- a vision of how you see St. Mark's growing and the ability to take it forward and strengthen our connections to the community.

Here are some things people in our congregation said:

"A committed Christian with a strong faith"

"We need a vicar who is committed to maintaining a distinctive Christian presence in this diverse city centre parish, promoting the Christian faith at every opportunity. We need a minister who will become part of our church family and stand alongside us as ambassadors for Christ in this demanding area, helping us to put our faith into practice."

"A person who can bring the church community / congregation together and make St Mark's known in its community and who has vision to see the reordering through and what this can do for St Mark's as a beacon for God within the community."

"Someone pastoral who can relate well to all, including teens and children and recognises the talents of all so that everyone can play their part in the church community."

"A person who has a wide experience and love of different styles of churchmanship, including ways of approaching worship for the unchurched and for all ages."

"A person who believes in community and is open to all regardless of culture, class or any other difference."

"Someone who really believes that the church is the people - not the building."

"No vicar can be good at everything so, crucially, someone who is aware of their limitations and makes allowances for them (e.g. by keeping an open mind, listening to feedback and involving others as appropriate)."

"Ability to get the message across in a succinct way."

Members of our wider community in our parish said:

"I think it would be useful if the Vicar has good understanding about other faiths in particular Muslim, Hindu and Sikh who account for significant number of the local population. It would be important for the Vicar to understand the needs of residents who are of EU heritage. The role requires highest standard of respect and sensitivity in dealing with the needs of very deprived communities with limited English language skills."

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3: 12-14

The new vicar will not be expected to fundraise in support of the future direction of St Mark's. There already exists a dedicated Fundraising Team working with a professional fundraising professional to carry out any fundraising activities required for the Community Hub & Safe Space project.

A position for you?

If you feel that God is calling you to apply to come and join us in building His kingdom here at St. Mark's Peterborough, then please contact Inneh Aig-Imoru, Churchwarden (innehaig@hotmail.com) or Michael Moore, Rural Dean (revmikemoore@gmail.com) for an informal conversation.

An application form for this post can be obtained from:

The Archdeacon of Oakham

Tel. 01733 887017

Email: archdeacon.oakham@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

