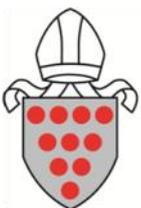




TEAM AND PARISH RECTOR
for
WORCESTER SOUTH EAST
TEAM OF CHURCHES
and
the **PARISH** of
ST MARTIN WITH ST PETER
PERSON SPECIFICATION
and
PARISH PROFILES



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER



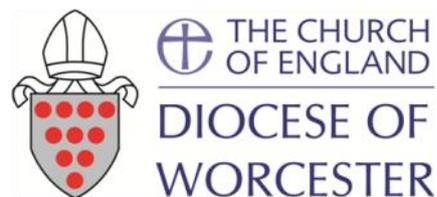
Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom

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PERSON SPECIFICATION

**WORCESTER SOUTH EAST TEAM OF CHURCHES
AND THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN WITH ST PETER
IN THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER**



**The four Churches of Worcester South East Team
are seeking a TEAM RECTOR who will also be the
INCUMBENT of the Parish of St Martin with St Peter**

THE TEAM RECTOR

The role of Team Rector is central to the effective delivery of a Team-based ministry and has been key to its current success. The new Rector will have a vital role in the future development and enhancement of our Christian mission in Worcester South East Team.

The leadership we need

To challenge, nurture and work with us to focus on our Mission and help us to grow as Disciples of Christ, we are praying for a new Team Rector who will:

- ◆ show us what it means to love God, imitate Christ and be a mission-focused Team, embracing the Diocesan vision of the *Kingdom People*
- ◆ help us to spread the gospel of Christ through all of our ministry - pastoral, fellowship, teaching, occasional offices and mission outreach
- ◆ work well with colleagues and be supportive across the Team
- ◆ be able to manage change effectively, possessing good organisational and managerial skills, competent with modern technology and use of social media
- ◆ help, assist and encourage all members of the Team to reach out and to respond with Christian love to the needs of both the community and the world

AS PARISH PRIEST AT ST MARTIN'S

the incumbent will:

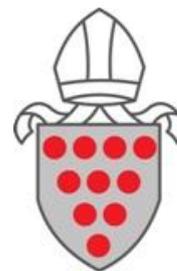
- ◆ build upon our weekly worship to reach more members of our community
- ◆ continue to develop our work with children, schools and young people
- ◆ encourage the important contribution of many forms of music in worship, mission and the community
- ◆ enable us to use our talents to the full

We also pray that he or she will be a:

- ◆ good preacher, with clarity of thought and presentation balanced with an easy relaxed style
- ◆ Team leader who can accommodate and support the different styles of worship across the Worcester South East Team and help us set priorities
- ◆ confident and effective communicator, at ease working with people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures, both inside and outside the church, with a good sense of humour

THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

The Diocese of Worcester covers an area of 671 square miles and includes parishes in Worcestershire, the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, and a few parishes in northern Gloucestershire, south-east Wolverhampton and Sandwell. It has around 170 parishes, 280 churches, around 120 stipendiary and 25 non-stipendiary clergy, and around 150 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers). There are 100 church schools: 97 primary and middle, and 3 secondary. The Diocese is divided into the Archdeaconry of Worcester, with six deaneries, and the Archdeaconry of Dudley, with seven deaneries.



Kingdom People

We are committed to mission, seeking to bring the good news of God's love in Jesus to all who live in our cities, towns and villages, and to show how the gospel is relevant today. We are developing new patterns of ministry for changing times. Growing numbers of people from across traditions are offering themselves for ordination or for licensed and authorised lay ministry, and the diocese has a genuine 'family feel'.



Our Diocesan Synod has adopted an imaginative *Kingdom People* vision. This is a vision for a Church which enables its people to be:

- ◆ deeply rooted in prayer and study of the scriptures
- ◆ renewed and transformed by regular worship
- ◆ equipped to witness to the gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom
- ◆ dedicated to helping children, young people and young adults to belong and be nurtured in faith
- ◆ devoted to growing deeply in discipleship, offering our time and talents and money to God
- ◆ resourced and released to minister to others
- ◆ ready to engage with and serve our community
- ◆ committed to making our buildings fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource

Kingdom People aims to be a gift to the parishes and not an additional burden. It aims to provide a framework in which churches might flourish and grow, rather than impose a blueprint of how every church should look.

Within our *Kingdom People* vision, we have identified four main priority areas which shape our strategic plan to engage with children and young people, strengthen stewardship, deepen discipleship and develop buildings for mission.

TEAM PROFILE



The Worcester South East Team consists of four churches in four parishes:

		Title	Post Holder	Electoral Roll
St Martin's Parish of St Martin with St Peter	London Road, WR5 2ED	Rector Asst Curate <i>Part time, non stipendiary</i>	Vacant Revd Dr Robin Parry	114
St Philip & St James Parish of Whittington	Whittington, WR5 2RQ	Vicar	Revd Andy Stand	50
St Mark's Parish of St Mark in the Cherry Orchard	Orchard Street, WR5 3DW	Vicar	Revd Andy Stand	45
St Matthew's Parish of Holy Trinity and St Matthew, Ronkswood		Vicar	Revd Rob Farmer	36

Associate Priest in the Team: Canon Stephen Buckley

Readers in the Team: Mike Bunclark and Tim Parker

A number of retired clergy assist us, including a retired bishop. Several Diocesan clergy also live in the Team area, and are sometimes able to help.

The monthly pattern of services for the Team is shown in Appendix I [page 20].

Team Organisation

All churches have their own PCCs. Whittington, which was a very ancient Chapelry, became a parish in its own right on 1 May 2017. Part of the parish, including the Church itself, is in Wychavon District. Appendix 2 [page 21] shows the parish boundaries.

Each church keeps its own accounts.

The Team clergy meet weekly for prayer, planning, study, training, and sharing the ministry. The full Staff Team meet once a month. Team policies are agreed on matters such as marriage and baptism. Cross-Team arrangements include Confirmation, Marriage Preparation and Away Days (usually just before Lent and Advent); also Lent Courses, Advent Meditations and Christians Learning Together. There are joint services, eg a Covenant Service at St Martin's, an evening in Holy Week at St Mark's and Team Evensongs in August. All clergy take services across the Team with the Rector visiting all churches regularly.

The Team should be having a Mission Enabler in January 2020 for one year working across the Team. This is part of the *Calling Young Disciples* initiative through the Diocese to encourage the growth of younger generations in churches.

The Team clergy also meet in the Worcester East Chapter every month to deal with Deanery business.

The Team Council, consisting of lay and clergy representatives from each parish, meets to set a budget for the shared resources and to discuss policies and matters of common interest. St Martin's Church houses the Team and Parish Office run by the Team Administrator, who is also the Parish Secretary.

Each church has its own character and church tradition. There is a strong lay involvement, with Eucharistic Assistants, intercessors, readers etc.

Outreach

All church members are committed to reach out to their respective communities and to improve the facilities for the benefit of their local community:

- ◆ St Matthew's will rebuild its church
- ◆ St Mark's Church has improved its disabled access and facilities
- ◆ St Philip & St James' Elizabethan Room would be an exciting new meeting place
- ◆ St Martin's has plans to improve the facilities in the church and its Parish Centre

Parish Magazines and Publicity

Three churches publish their own magazine ten times a year, produced on the Team Office printer. There is good collaboration between the editors, who share some common material - particularly advertising, which is a significant source of income. The magazines are a great outreach to the local community, with printing figures far in excess of the regular church members. Ronkswood produces flyers for the community. All churches have their own websites.

Training

We are proud in the South East Team to be a Training Parish. We have nurtured an interesting and capable succession of curates and ordinands over the years, and provided experience for many trainee Readers. Currently, the Revd Rob Farmer is the Training Incumbent for the Revd Dr Robin Parry, Assistant Curate at St Martin's.

The Area served by the Team

The Worcester South East Team is situated on the east side of the River Severn in the beautiful Cathedral and University City of Worcester. The city has a fascinating history of industry, a wealth of interesting architecture, top class sports teams and venues, a wide selection of shops and a vibrant programme of events. The city is best known for its magnificent Cathedral but is also famous for the world renowned Worcester Porcelain, the piquant Worcestershire Sauce, the most picturesque cricket ground in the country and the Three Choirs Festival.



*Worcester Cathedral on the banks of the River Severn
Photo © Garth Williams*

The area is mostly residential, with local shops and supermarkets. The older part has terraced housing, further out are estates with modern detached housing. St Matthew's, Ronkswood and St Mark's in the Cherry Orchard both have social housing. New housing developments are nearing completion in Whittington, which is a small village just outside the city boundary. There is a multi-cultural population in both St Matthew's and St Martin's Parishes [see Appendix 3, page 22]. Within the Team area there are hospitals, schools, County Hall, Whittington Hall and other offices, light industry and the home of Lea & Perrins. Many people work in Worcester's businesses and retail trade, or commute to Birmingham, Cheltenham, etc.

There are seven Primary Schools, including two Church schools and one for children with additional needs, two High Schools, a Sixth Form College which serves a wide area, and a residential College for blind and visually impaired students. Additionally we have the Worcestershire Royal Hospital and a private hospital, St Richard's Hospice and Acorns Children's Hospice, two Intermediate Care Units together with a number of Nursing Homes, Homes for the Elderly and sheltered accommodation.

Transport links are good, with rail and road links giving access to London, Birmingham, the North and the South West. There is a frequent bus service on the London Road, and two City railway stations. The new Worcestershire Parkway station and Junction 7 of the M5 are within 2 miles of the Rectory.

PARISH PROFILE

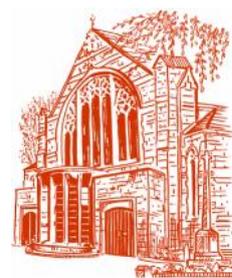
St Martin with St Peter



www.stmartinsworcester.org.uk



www.facebook.com/stmartinsworcester



Key Messages

- ◆ Worship in St Martin's is predominantly Eucharistic - rooted in Prayer and the Liturgy, embracing the Diocesan's *Kingdom People* vision
- ◆ Recently we have introduced an *All-Age Worship* on the first Sunday in the month
- ◆ Our successful *Messy Church* is now in its ninth year and in 2018 we introduced the *JAM (Jesus And Me) Club* for pre-school children and their parents/grandparents/carers
- ◆ We have always accepted the ordination of women - and now, women bishops - having had a Deaconess 40 years ago, and a number of female curates since
- ◆ We have a strong music tradition at St Martin's with a superb organ and choir; the organ is used by students and scholars, while concerts and recitals are held throughout the year
- ◆ We are renowned for being welcoming and friendly to visitors and newcomers, drawing them into the church community
- ◆ We have strong ties to the wider local community, including schools, colleges, hospices and visiting people in their own homes; there is a tradition of pastoral care, particularly of the elderly, bereaved, sick and vulnerable.
- ◆ We have established links with the local Muslim community
- ◆ Our social events are appreciated by the congregation and wider community
- ◆ Our missionary work involves supporting a wide range of local and national charities with prayer, giving and practical action
- ◆ The Parish Centre is used by a Playgroup and many other organisations
- ◆ Our Church is well managed with good support from the laity, thus freeing the incumbent to give time to spiritual, pastoral and congregational matters
- ◆ The church building, furniture and fabric are in good order

Parish History

Prior to 1904, the Parish Church was St Martin in the Cornmarket. In 1904 the Parish was transferred to the 'new' St Martin's in London Road, and the congregation initially worshipped in the Mission Hall (now the Parish Centre) until the new St Martin's Church was consecrated in 1911. In 1972, the Parish Church of St Peter the Great at Sidbury Gate was closed and later demolished. The two Parishes became one in 1974, and we are now St Martin's Church in the Parish of St Martin with St Peter. St Martin's in the Cornmarket is still in use, which can cause confusion.

Parish Demographics

The Parish is largely residential and relatively affluent, but with pockets of deprivation. The housing is a mix of modern estates and older terraced streets along with a range of individual properties. The majority is privately owned or rented. Appendix 3 [page 21] shows the 2011 Census data for the Worcester South East Team. Employment opportunities within the Parish are concentrated in the educational, health and local government sectors. Lea & Perrins is probably the only remaining factory.

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

In July 2018 the PCC endorsed the Five-year Mission Action Plan of Short, Medium and Long Term Aims. This is reviewed annually and amended according to changing needs and the resources available. Finance is required for capital building programmes but other improvements and developments such as introducing differing styles of worship and re-vamping the church website are being implemented. The MAP can be viewed on the website: www.stmartinsworchester.org.uk/our-vision

Rooted in Prayer and the Liturgy

The monthly pattern of Services at St Martin's is shown in Appendix I [page 20].

The main Sunday service is a Eucharist (CW), with service books for all seasons of the year. We have recently introduced an *All-Age Worship* service on the first Sunday of the month. *Prayers for Healing* are included in the Eucharist on the second Tuesday each month, while on Saturday, *Prayers for Peace and Justice* at 12 noon is a time of informal prayer. A *Prayer Circle* meets at 4pm on Mondays.

A full team of servers, readers and intercessors assist the Clergy, with lay Eucharistic Assistants who also take communion to the sick and housebound, and visit care homes.



*The 5th Station
Our Stations of the Cross were commissioned
for St Martin's 75th Anniversary in 1986
Photo © William Jupe*



The Celebrant / President always wears vestments, and incense is used occasionally - on weekday feasts only. We have a robed, 4-part Choir, and use five settings of the Eucharist - by Rawsthorne, Millington, Sumsion, J S Bach and Hall Johnson (specially composed for St Martin's).

In 2018, average Sunday attendance was 104; there were 12 baptisms, 5 weddings, and 26 funerals (8 held in the Church).

St Martin's is a friendly, welcoming Church

"I was a stranger and you made me welcome" is the inscription on our south doors. [See page 12]

It has been said that "people seek us out"- a warm welcome and hospitality are important, and events are celebrated in style. One visiting choir said in surprise, "You live in your Church". Others have said, "You are the Church where so many things are always happening." The Social Committee always rises to the occasion, and we have hosted Diocesan, as well as Team, celebrations.

Our Congregation, Children and Young People

Currently we are an aging congregation and we have formed a *Younger Generations Committee* to develop ideas and initiatives exploring ways to reach out to young adults and families to come to St Martin's and welcome them to our church. Growing the church by involving the whole family is the key.

Within the church there is a carpeted area with toys for under-fives and their parents.



In January 2019 we started **All-Age Worship** to encourage families to bring their young children to church on Sundays. This short and simple service is proving popular with young and old.

JAM Club, for pre-school children and their parents, grandparents and carers, has been flourishing for a year now, and links well with *All-Age Worship*.



Messy Church is well-established and in its ninth year, with a good number of families coming regularly. Helpers include several teenagers who have grown through *Messy Church*. The children's displays stay in church to be viewed by the congregation and visitors.

We are anxious to have younger people join our congregation. *Messy Church* and the *JAM Club*, are successful ventures and now we wish to build on these foundations to engage older children. The nurturing of teenagers remains a Team-wide challenge.

Organ and Piano

St Martin's organ, installed by Nicholson & Co in 1928, has been maintained, and extensively improved, by organ builder Trevor Tipple, who retired as our Director of Music at the end of 2018, after 53 years. He leaves an extremely fine organ which is now cared for by Nicholson's. Trevor was only the third organist in St Martin's hundred plus years. A new Director of Music, John Swindells ARCO [below], has been appointed and takes up his post in October 2019.



As well as Sunday services, the organ is in frequent use for lessons, practices, recitals by Worcester Organists' Association, and recordings for the Royal College of Organists' Exams.

In 2018 a 7-foot grand piano was bought for the church with money raised entirely from local funding and charitable donations. It is used monthly for our *All-Age Worship* and has been much appreciated by musicians and audiences as a recital and concerto instrument.

Community outreach

The Church is open most days from 7.45am to 5pm. Being on a busy main road, people drop in for all sorts of reasons, and are made welcome. The Community Care Committee looks after people who are sick, housebound, bereaved or otherwise in need. The weekly *Pop Ins* coffee morning sessions on Thursdays are popular as are both the annual lunch and summer outing or afternoon tea.

Local schools use the Church frequently - as part of the RE curriculum and for end of term services.

- ♦ St Martin's Church has particularly good links with our Voluntary Controlled Church School, **Red Hill C of E Primary School**. Clergy and lay members of the congregation take Assembly there every Wednesday, and the school writes monthly in the Parish Magazine. There are four Foundation Governors on their Board, customarily including the Rector.
- ♦ **Fort Royal Community School**, which is a school for children aged 2-11, with special educational needs and/or disabilities, also visits regularly and holds very well supported end of term services.
- ♦ **Stanley Road Primary School**, which has a high multi-cultural intake, usually just visits for curriculum work.
- ♦ **Nunnery Wood Primary School** also visits.

All schools hold Christmas Carol Services which are very well attended, and they all take part in St Martin's Christmas Tree Festival. Another important link is with **New College Worcester (NCW)** for blind and visually impaired students from 10-19+. A member of the clergy, currently the Revd Rob Farmer, is unofficial chaplain there and usually takes Assembly once a week. Students from New College Worcester have previously joined the Choir and a number have trained as organ scholars.

Over the years the Church has forged good relations with the local care homes: South Hayes on the London Road, and the Shaw Red Hill Care Home which has a variety of accommodation including an Intermediate Care Unit. Services for residents are held there once a month organised on a Team basis. The Royal Albert & St Swithun's almshouses, located in the Parish, are mainly for people who are independent, but they are visited as need requires. A representative from St Martin's is a Trustee on their Board of Management.

Concerts



live classical
concerts
for babies
and toddlers



The Church has excellent acoustics, and is regularly used for concerts by several local groups. Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra took up residence in 2014 and the musicians rehearse weekly in term-time, as well as holding concerts in St Martin's.

Popular morning *Coffee Concerts* are held every month on the fourth Saturday, bringing in a very wide range of visitors, as well as raising funds for the charity of the musicians' choice.

Tiny Tunes, run in conjunction with the Elgar School of Music, is a short monthly morning concert of classical music for babies and toddlers [see right]. It recently celebrated its third birthday.

St Martin's is proud to have been a venue for the Worcester Three Choirs Festival.



Charities

Alms representing 5% of the Church's annual disposable income are usually divided between 10-12 charities - local, national and international. In addition Lent and Advent Appeals raise on average about £550 each for charities chosen by the Missionary Committee. The annual Plant Sale and the Harvest Produce Sale enable regular donations to be made, currently to the *Education for Change* through USPG and *Embrace the Middle East's* Health Care Fund. Bucket collections are held for emergency appeals. Dry goods are collected and sent to the Worcester Food Bank, also Maggs Day Centre and St Paul's Hostel, both for the homeless.

The Mothers' Union knits garments for premature babies to give to local hospitals and prisons.

In *Christian Aid Week* we raise a substantial part of the City's collection (in 2019 it amounted to £2,247.51). Members of the congregation have Children's Society Boxes which raised £912.27 in 2018. *Messy Church* supports national *Messy Church* with a contribution of £100 each year.

Reports on missionary work and charities support are included in the Parish Magazine. The Committee aims to have at least one speaker on some aspect of mission every year. In addition many members of the congregation volunteer and are associated with a range of local charities.

St Martin's is a recognised Fairtrade Church encouraging the use of Fairtrade goods. Some Fairtrade goods are always on sale, mostly food, and other goods can be ordered from the catalogues.



Christians Learning Together (CLT)

The Team-wide CLT has been running for many years. It usually meets at St Martin's on Wednesdays and covers a wide range of topics. It is open to all - drop in - and has a varied attendance of 12-20 people a session. Recent topics have included:

- ◆ The York Lent Course *On the Third Day*
- ◆ a study on *The Parables*
- ◆ the *Torah*

In Lent the study is always part of the Team-wide Lent Course within several house groups.

The *Bible Reading Fellowship* Booklets are available for study by members of the congregation.

St Martin's role within the Team



St Martin's is recognised as the hub for all four churches, being only approximately a mile from the other three. The Parish Office is also the Team Office, and the Team Administrator is also the Parish Secretary. All the Team Clergy are key-holders. Currently, St Matthew's uses the Church for baptisms, marriages and funerals, while they are waiting for their church to be rebuilt. St Martin's is able to help the Team in other ways, with expertise and a larger share of the Office costs and salary.

St Martin's Church (Grade II listed)

The Church was built between 1909 and 1911. The architect, George Fellowes-Prynne, specialised in churches and favoured High Church styles, ornate and colourful. The exterior is principally of old red sandstone, but the interior is red brick banded with Bath stone. The nave is wide, with a pitch pine barrel-vaulted roof.

It was one of the first churches to be lit with electric lighting.



The west end of St Martin's Church



A generous gift of glass doors, fitted in 2015, has transformed the south porch, and the etching of *St Martin and the Beggar* with the inscription:

"I was a stranger and you made me welcome" MATTHEW 25:35

is eye-catching and impressive.

However, the steps up to the door mean that the west end entrance is normally used as it provides easier access.

The Church was given a Grade II listing by *Historic England* in 2014, and the War Memorial was similarly listed in 2015 describing it as an elegant example of the era.

The interior of the Church is large and spacious. It can seat 230 on linked upholstered chairs, with a further 80 stacking chairs available. The seating is movable so the chairs can be re-arranged as needed.

The area at the back of the nave is used for coffee and refreshments. There is a kitchen next to the baptistry, and toilets on the north side. The Lower (Choir) Vestry and the Office are below the Chancel and Lady Chapel respectively.

The Church was re-wired in 2015, and modern energy-saving LED lights with electronic controls were installed.



The Rood Screen, fine timber roof, traceried east and west windows and the organ casing are now all illuminated. In the Lady Chapel the stained glass, and mosaic floor, can also be appreciated.

The original elegant Edwardian pendant lights were re-furbished and moved into the side aisles where they can still be seen to advantage [left].

Outside, the grounds are landscaped, with bench seats strategically placed on the south side for passers-by to use. There is some on-site parking.

The 2016 quinquennial inspection found the fabric to be in good order and that no major works are necessary.

All photos on this page are © William Jupe

The Parish Centre

The Parish Centre in Victoria Avenue immediately to the East of the Church, started life as a Mission Hall before St Martin's was built. It is a very important resource for the Church and local community, bringing in a regular income from a wide range of users, as well as housing the Harvest Lunch and other social events. The London Road Playgroup is the main tenant and is highly regarded.

There are flourishing Scout and Guide groups. Sporting clubs include Table Tennis, Badminton, Karate, and Tai Chi. Yoga and Zumba cover Keep-fit. Bridge and Origin Arts are for the less energetic.



A new heating system and lighting have been installed in both halls. Behind the Centre there is a row of garages which are fully let and another source of income.

As the Parish Centre was designed to use the sloping site to provide upper and lower halls, there are steps to all entrances. If disabled access is required, meetings can be held in church, or the Lower (Choir) Vestry.

Management and Finance

The PCC meets monthly and, besides the Standing Committee, there are 7 PCC committees.

In general, St Martin's is in a good financial position largely resulting from careful management and income generated from varying sources. The annual 'Giving for Life' appeal receives a generous response. Gift Aid is recovered and the Small Donations scheme is used. A legacy some years ago gave the church an Endowment Fund which provides a steady income. The capital is invested by the Diocese and cannot be used. We aim to maintain a balanced budget but a 30% rise in the Parish Share over the last four years has resulted in a significant deficit in 2018 which is being addressed. However, the Parish Share continues to be met in full.

The full Annual Report can be viewed by visiting the website:
www.stmartinsworchester.org.uk/our-policies-and-procedures

The Rectory, 6 St Catherine's Hill, WR5 2EA



The Rectory is two minutes' walk from Church by courtesy of a private gate. St Catherine's Hill is a cul-de-sac off London Road, and there is ample parking. The house is detached with a generously sized garden. There is a sitting room, dining room, study with fitted bookshelves, good sized kitchen and utility room, downstairs cloakroom and shower, five bedrooms, family bathroom.

PARISH PROFILE

St Philip & St James, Whittington



www.whittingtonchurch.co.uk



Our Parish

St Philip & St James, Whittington became a Parish in its own right within the Worcester South East Team in 2017. The Church is situated on the southern periphery of Worcester City. The Parish is now split into 4 parts by the M5, a ring road and access roads.

There is considerable housing development going on within the parish boundaries which will amount to around a further 500 houses on several sites. Until 2008 Whittington had a Vicar (one third - shared post); this was relinquished to meet Deanery requirements in line with the Diocesan Plan. The Vicar of St Mark's took on responsibility for Whittington. The Archdeacon of Worcester now lives in the former Vicarage.

Church Life

The tradition of the Parish is central Church of England and is open and welcoming to all. We are a small, friendly congregation who enjoy seeing all the Team Clergy and likewise they tell us they enjoy their visits to us.

Our Sunday morning service is at 11am and at present varies from Common Worship Parish Communion, Family Worship, Family Communion, to occasional Morning Prayer. There is BCP Evensong once a month except during the winter. There are no regular weekday services but days such as Ash Wednesday and the days of Holy Week are observed. Intercessions are led by the laity and there are 4 licensed Eucharistic Assistants. Whittington is a popular venue for weddings and baptisms. As the only Team church with an open churchyard, we have a number of funerals, burials and interments each year.



The number on the Church electoral roll is 50. The age of the congregation is predominantly 60+.

The PCC meets regularly and we have a number of committees which oversee all aspects of church life.



The Church Building (Grade II Listed)

Whittington Church can be traced back to the 9th century and has its roots in an Anglo Saxon burial site. The present church, which was built in 1844, is small and considered to be a fine example of the period between early English and Victorian with low box pews and a west end gallery. It benefited from a sensitive re-ordering in 1996/97 which gives the present beautiful open interior. It is well maintained and in good order and has no outstanding repairs. One drawback is that the Church has no ancillary rooms other than a very small vestry (added in 1890).

There is a large open churchyard which lies within the village conservation area and on the north side of the Church is an ancient yew tree which is between 700-800 years old. The churchyard is maintained by a group of church volunteers.

The Church Lychgate of carved oak, which is the Village War Memorial to those who served in the First World War, is Grade II listed.

Church Facilities

A temporary Portacabin was erected in 2002 adjacent to the west end of the Church to provide much-needed toilet facilities and a kitchen area in a small meeting room. Temporary planning permission ran out in November 2015, although we have a limited extension on this until a new replacement, the Elizabethan Room, can be built.

Our original plans, drawn up over five years ago, to build a single storey extension to the north-west corner of the Church, would have provided a meeting room to seat 25-30 people at tables, toilet facilities, a kitchen and much needed storage. Much to our



Whittington churchyard

disappointment this scheme and subsequent revised plans have foundered at different stages. We now have a fourth scheme to rebuild on the existing Portacabin site and are seeking Planning Permission and a Faculty. Our Appeal will be relaunched and grants sought if we are successful this time.

The Church School

Whittington Church has a very good relationship with the C of E Primary School (Voluntary Controlled). The Church Families Group organises workshops in Church for every class during each year and the whole school in two parts comes into Church for a service once a term. There is a joint Church/School Summer Fete and Christmas Fair with the Church receiving a share of the proceeds. Church members also take *Open the Book* into school.

Parish Finances

The Parish pays its Parish Share, although this is becoming more of a struggle. The majority of the congregation takes part in the planned giving scheme (*Giving for Life*). Our charitable giving is maintained at 5% of regular income.

What are our hopes for the future?

We are a congregation filled with hope and expectation and praying fervently that together with our Vicar, the Revd Andy Stand, we can:

- ◆ See our Church grow
- ◆ Develop our work with children and young people
- ◆ Realise our dream of a new room
- ◆ Reach out into our ever expanding community so that we can really say we are 'Church & Community together'

PARISH PROFILE

St Mark in the Cherry Orchard



www.stmarksworcester.wordpress.com



St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

Our Parish

St Mark's Parish, of around 8000 people, is mainly residential and includes approximately two thirds of the large St Peter's estate (the other third is in the Whittington Parish). Within the Parish is Cherry Orchard Primary School, the largest in the county, Timberdine Intermediate Care Unit, Acorns Children's Hospice and South Bank (private) Hospital, as well as shops and small businesses. The Vicarage for St Mark's and Whittington is situated on the St Peter's estate, in St Mark's Parish.

Church Life

St Mark's is friendly and welcoming, and down to earth with a sense of humour!

Our main Sunday Service at 9.30am is Common Worship Parish Communion. There is a weekday Service of Holy Communion (BCP) each Wednesday at 10am. Festival services are well attended and include the Christmas Eve Crib Service, Christingle, Mothering Sunday, Easter Sunday, Harvest, All Souls and Nine Lessons & Carols. Our *Tenebrae* evening of meditation in Holy Week is unusual and moving. We have a number of baptisms and funerals each year but, sadly, few weddings.

The number on the Church electoral role at the last AGM was 45. The predominant age of the congregation is 60+.

The PCC meet regularly and we have several sub-committees which involve more of the congregation in the running of the Church. A group called *In Church Together (ICT)*, a Messy Church style event for children, meets on the first Thursday of each month during term time.



Craftwork from In Church Together

The Church Building

The Church was dedicated in 1903. It is a fairly small building with seating for approximately 150 people and there is space at the back where we can serve refreshments. There is parking next to the Church and a garden fronting the main road (A38) that is maintained by volunteers.



St Mark's is lovingly cared for and regularly maintained. When necessary, grant funding is sought and recent success has enabled the hearing loop in Church to be replaced and a new one, including Bluetooth, to be installed in the Church Hall.

In addition, toilet and domestic facilities have been put into the former vestry in Church so that there is no longer the need to rely on using those downstairs in the Hall.

Several of the back and front pews have been made free standing and they can be moved together to create more space should the need arise, eg when the church is used as a polling station.

Church Hall

The Church Hall is beneath the Church and has a separate entrance. It is a large area, has good facilities with toilets and a well-equipped kitchen. The Hall is hired out for private parties and to a wide range of groups from within and outside the local community and brings in useful income.

Outreach into the Local Community

There are close links with Maggs Day Centre, which provides support to homeless and socially isolated people in the city. The congregation of St Mark's makes regular clothing donations and harvest festival food donations are mostly given to Maggs and Trussell Trust (the Worcester Foodbank), with the perishable goods being distributed to the elderly and housebound people within the Parish.

Finance and support for missionary work

Finances are well-managed with the Parish Share paid in full for the last three years and there is a Planned Giving Scheme. St Mark's currently supports The Leprosy Mission, The Children's Society, Christian Aid, and aid is sent to Peru.

Our Hopes for the Future

- ◆ There is an enormous desire to develop our work with children, young people and families.
- ◆ We are keen to develop links with the local primary school and to reach out into the local community.
- ◆ We would like to encourage some of the uniformed organisations who use the Hall to venture upstairs to the Church more often!



St Mark's Church - dressed for a wedding

PARISH PROFILE

Holy Trinity & St Matthew, Ronkswood



www.holytrinityandstmatthewronkswood.co.uk



www.facebook.com/StMatthewsRonkswood/



[StMatthewRonks](https://twitter.com/StMatthewRonks)



Our Parish

Holy Trinity and St Matthew's is a friendly, inclusive church of people in the heart of Ronkswood estate, located to the east of the City of Worcester. We are a strong core congregation, who support and care for each other's welfare and are travelling together on our faith journey.

We are known as the 'church without walls' as we currently do not have a 'church' building. The former church was demolished in 2014 due to structural problems, and services are currently held in *The Punch Bowl* pub. This is where our new Vicar was recently licensed at a wonderful service led by the Bishop of Dudley. We are a very visible church in our community.

Whilst we have embraced our new 'home', our vision is to occupy our own 'church' again. Our Parish accommodates the Worcestershire Royal Hospital and has a mixture of private and social housing. There are several generations of some families in the area so it tends to have a stable population and a clear identity. The Parish follows the Newtown Road down to Sherriff Street near to Shrub Hill Railway Station and up to the Worcestershire Royal Hospital and surrounding business park.

We have 2,700 residential homes with new housing developments being built, two residential homes for the elderly and several sheltered housing units. Perry Wood Primary and Nursery School is within the Parish and we enjoy a good relationship with them. Clergy normally lead assemblies in the school and other church-linked activities are planned for the future. We also have the *New Hope Activity Centre* close to the church land which supports children with additional needs.

Currently there are 36 people on the Electoral Roll and our average Sunday attendance is between 18-25. We also include in our extended church family those who attend services in sheltered housing units and residential homes. Regular services are held at Perry Manor, Chelmsford Court, Meadow Court, Lincoln Green and Latimer Court.

Our Vicar is the Revd Rob Farmer *[pictured right, along with our Church Warden Phil Welling and Deputy Wardens Penny Welford and Samantha Jauncey]*, formerly the Team Rector, but who has been our Incumbent since June 2019. We also have a Reader, Tim Parker, who is licensed to the Team but with a particular attachment to St Matthew's.



Although we are few in number, lay people are very active and undertake various ministries including: reading lessons, leading intercessions, welcomers, Eucharistic Assistants, sound system operators, and refreshments, to name but a few. We also have an active worship committee and fund-raising committee who report to the PCC respectively.

Services

Each Sunday we have a 10am Communion service in the pub other than a second or fifth Sunday when we have an All-age Service of the Word called 'ATIC' (*All Together In Church*).

Music for services is provided via a laptop and speakers and/or CDs. Once a month, we welcome two friends from All Saints Church in Worcester who support and enliven our worship with live music. Currently baptisms, weddings and funerals are held at St Martin's Church. Communion services are held twice a month at Perry Manor Care Home, once a month at Meadow Court and an Evening Service of the Word once a month at Chelmsford Court.

Mission Statement

Holy Trinity and St Matthew's Church is a community church - here to worship, share the good news of Jesus Christ and to serve this community in love and fellowship.

We endeavour to:

- ◆ Welcome all people
- ◆ Share God's love
- ◆ Teach, baptise and encourage in faith
- ◆ Serve the community with love and support
- ◆ Rejoice and celebrate through creative worship and fellowship
- ◆ Recognise that God leads us into new ways of being Church
- ◆ Respect other faiths and welcome interaction



Members seek to fulfil our Mission Statement through:

- ◆ being a welcoming fellowship
- ◆ pastoral visiting
- ◆ being a visible Church without walls worshipping where people live and meet
- ◆ by providing support for those preparing for Baptism and Confirmation
- ◆ social activities and partnership with other agencies and stakeholders in the community
- ◆ study groups in Lent and Advent
- ◆ creative forms of worship whilst retaining our Anglican identity

We support a number of charities including Maggs Day Centre and Worcester Food Bank, amongst others.

Finances

Parish finances are well managed and have recently been transferred onto *Finance Coordinator* software. There is Planned Giving scheme and the Parish has always paid its Parish Share in full. The recent reduction in numbers has affected our income. Currently we pay one half of the Parish Share monthly by Standing Order and the remainder when we can.

Communication

We do not have a Parish Magazine at the moment but produce occasional flyers for the community and we have a new website which we continue to develop, and a Twitter account.



The Future

We are determined to develop our mission in the community as well as grow spiritually as a Church. We also want to re-ignite our work with children and younger generations. There are many things we can do to help transform lives in our community; a permanent base would help us to realise much of this vision and so our intention is to build a multi-purpose church building, not just for Sunday worship, but to launch that mission from and to use as a facility for community support and events.

Fellowship

Holy Trinity & St Matthew's is a friendly and inclusive church where everyone will find a warm welcome. We hold many social and fundraising events where fun and fellowship are guaranteed. We look forward to welcoming you.

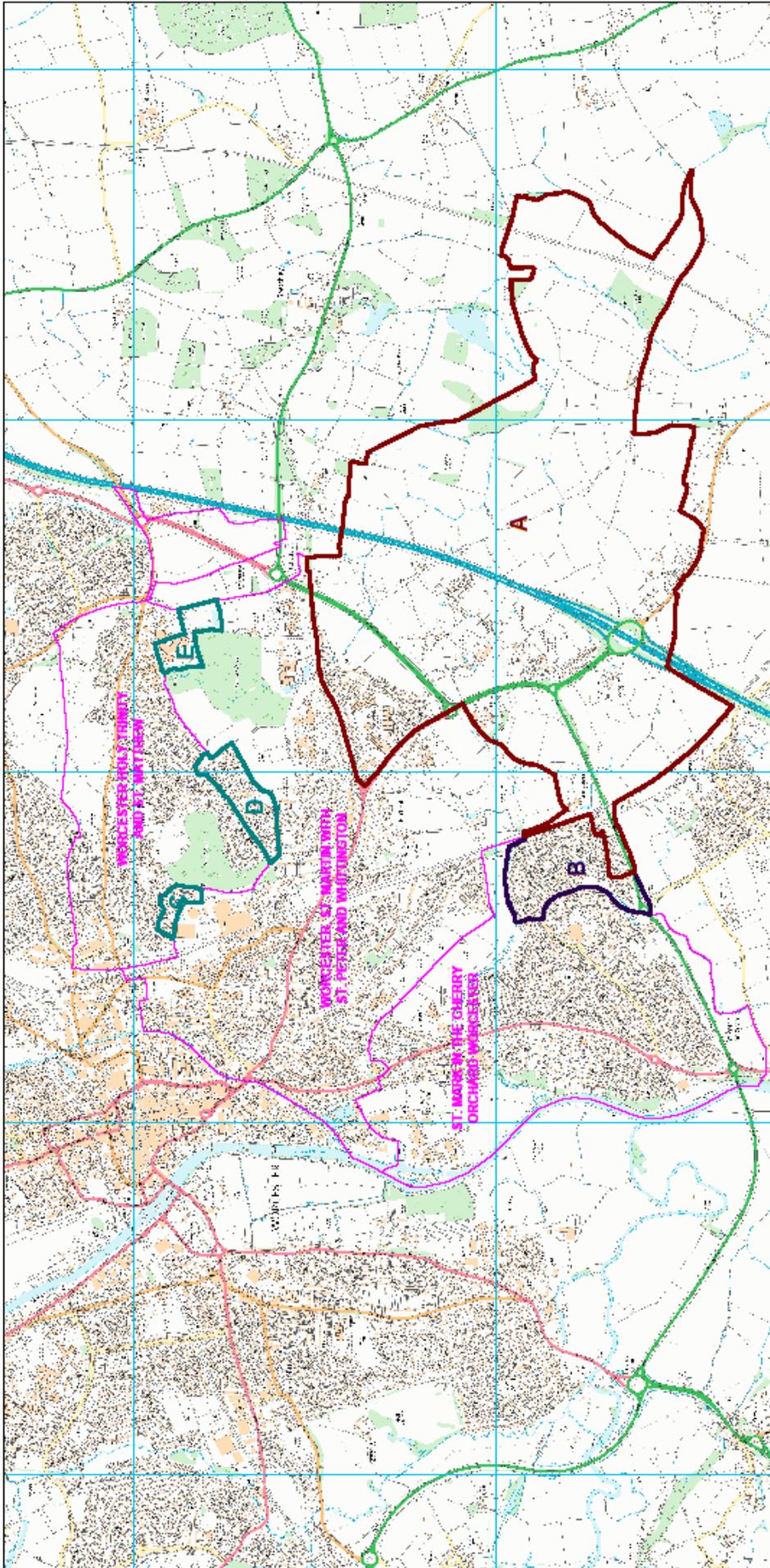
APPENDIX I

WORCESTER SOUTH EAST TEAM SERVICE PATTERN

SUNDAYS				
	St Martin's	Whittington	St Mark's	Holy Trinity and St Matthew
1st SUNDAY	8am Eucharist 10am All-Age Worship 12 noon BCP Eucharist 6.30pm Sung Eucharist	11am Eucharist 1pm & 2.15pm Baptisms	9.30am Eucharist	10am Parish Communion
2nd SUNDAY	8am Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm BCP Choral Evensong	11am Family Service	9.30am Family Service 2pm Baptism	10am All Together in Church (ATIC)
3rd SUNDAY	8am Eucharist 10am Family Eucharist 12noon BCP Eucharist 3pm Baptism 6.30pm BCP Evensong	11am Eucharist 6.30pm Evensong <i>except in winter months</i>	9.30am Eucharist	10am Parish Communion 6pm Evening Prayer at Chelmsford Court
4th SUNDAY	8am Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm BCP Evensong	11am Family Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	10am Family Communion 12.30pm Baptism
5th SUNDAY	8am Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Informal worship	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Eucharist	10am All Together in Church (ATIC)
WEEKDAYS				
	St Martin's	Whittington	St Mark's	Holy Trinity and St Matthew
MON	7.45am Morning Prayer			
TUE	7.45am Morning Prayer 7pm Eucharist <i>with Prayer for Healing, 2nd in the month</i>			<p>Weekday Eucharists are held monthly at Perry Manor Care Home, Meadow Court and Latimer Court, as announced</p> <p>(see page 18)</p>
WED	7.45am Morning Prayer 10.30am Eucharist		10am BCP Eucharist	
THUR	7.45am Morning Prayer 9.30am Eucharist			
SAT	12 noon Prayers for Peace & Justice			

APPENDIX 2

Former and new parish boundaries within the benefice of Worcester South East Team Ministry - as from 1 May 2017



Area A (part of the new Parish of Whittington created from part of the Parish of Worcester St Martin with St Peter and Whittington)
Area B (part of the new Parish of Whittington created from part of the Parish of St Mark in the Cherry Orchard Worcester)
Areas C, D and E (areas of the Parish of Worcester, St Martin with St Peter and Whittington transferred to the Parish of Worcester Holy Trinity and St Matthew)

Worcester South East Team - 2011 Census Data

	Parish code	420136	420140	420141		
	Parish Name	Holy Trinity & St Matthew	St Mark-in-the-Cherry Orchard	St Martin with St Peter + St Philip & St James Whittington	Worcester South East Team	Worcester (Local Authority)
Population count		5340	8310	11880	25530	98768
Percentage born in the UK	Percentage of all people	89%	93%	88%	90%	91.9%
Age 0 to 4		8%	6%	7%	7%	6.4%
Age 5 to 9		7%	6%	6%	6%	5.7%
Age 10 to 15		9%	7%	7%	7%	6.6%
Age 16 to 64		65%	66%	65%	65%	66.6%
Age 65 and over		11%	14%	16%	14%	14.8%
Christian		63%	68%	58%	62%	63.7%
Hindu		1%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%
Muslim		5%	3%	9%	6%	2.9%
Other		0%	1%	2%	1%	0.6%
No religion		25%	22%	24%	24%	25.7%
Religion not stated		6%	6%	7%	7%	6.6%
Married		Percentage of people aged 16+	45%	52%	47%	49%
Households		2030	3530	5050	10610	42042
Home owned or owned with a mortgage or loan	Percentage of all households	61%	79%	68%	70%	64.4%

Data from FINAL PARISH ESTIMATES CENSUS 2011