Great St Mary's
The University Church Cambridge Parish Profile
Great St Mary's is a thriving, inclusive and outward-looking church at the heart of Cambridge, standing between the Market Square and the Senate House in a rapidly growing city and University.

Through the continual renewal of the depth of our common life and our openness to the Holy Spirit, we seek to engage with Christ, to grow in holiness and to know the love of God, such that it overflows to our neighbour in service and mission.

We are in the liberal catholic tradition with a wide variety of worship, providing a warm welcome and wide outreach to build the family of Great St Mary’s in friendship and fellowship. As an Inclusive Church, we actively seek to serve the needs of everyone in our diverse and ever-changing city, and promote ecumenical and interfaith collaboration.

Conscious of our role to serve and preserve God’s creation, we are actively involved in social initiatives and in the care of the planet.

The diverse and dynamic activities of Great St Mary’s are currently grouped in four ministries, for which we have strong support teams, including a full-time Manager.

**Congregational Life**

We have a rich congregational life supported through worship, music, study, pastoral care, and local and international mission partnerships.

**Michaelhouse Centre**

Formed by a spectacular church conversion, it is just 100 yards away, offering an award-winning café attracting some 2,000 people each week, with a chancel which is a wonderful setting for children's activities and experimental worship, as well as an exhibition space enabling a programme of art exhibitions and concerts throughout the year.

**University Chaplaincy**

Working in partnership with many groups, Great St Mary's contributes its own Christian tradition to the new Multi-Faith Forum, participating in community and faith support on the West Cambridge Site and now on the new Eddington site. We are also developing initiatives for student activities in collaboration with the Colleges.

**Heritage**

Celebrating and interpreting the Christian heritage of Great St Mary's and Cambridge, this is the focus for our wide outreach enabling us to engage 2,000 pupils from local schools in the last two years, connect with the community and welcome 300,000 visitors a year from all over the world. There is the potential to become a Cambridgeshire hub for Christian Understanding for schools, in collaboration with the Diocese and Church Schools of Cambridge.
Congregational Life

"Church music and liturgy are very important to us, we decided to come to Great St Mary's where we were given a wonderful welcome and have enjoyed being part of the Great St Mary's family ever since. We are so fortunate to have such excellent choirs and enjoy the diverse range of music and liturgy."

Member of the congregation

Worship

Worship takes many forms and expressions at Great St Mary's, with a focus on the Eucharist, celebrated twice on Sundays and on other occasions throughout the week. We are proud to be able to offer cathedral-style music and worship through our Sunday services, with 9.30am Common Worship Parish Communion and Choral Mattins and Evensong, complemented by our 8am said Eucharist all following the Book of Common Prayer.

During the week, there is a rich variety of styles of worship, with the informality of the Ark (an innovative Service of Holy Communion for carers, babies and pre-school children), the intimacy of Monday morning Holy Communion, Morning Prayer on Tuesday and Thursday, and fellowship in the Thursday lunchtime table Eucharist.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Matthew 18.20

This regular programme of worship is enriched by frequent special services and events, such as the energy of a Beacon Service praying for the renewal of the Holy Spirit (following Thy Kingdom Come – the Archbishops' week of prayer for Evangelism), and the moving commemorations for those who gave their bodies for medical research.

We seek to respond to and address the needs of the individual, the community and the whole of creation through our worship. Recent examples include the poignant celebration of All Souls with poetry and music, and very
successful services for the Blessing of the Animals and a Blessing of Bicycles (a thoroughly Cambridge form of outreach!).

In addition, Great St Mary’s responds to national and international events with pastoral sensitivity. Recently we have supported vigils for the Manchester Bombing and Orlando Shooting, events to raise the profile of the refugee crisis and to respond with compassion to the referendum outcome.

We believe worship should engage critically with the Christian faith, providing both intellectual stimulation and spiritual nourishment for all who attend our Church. Visitors are drawn to Great St Mary’s from across the city and beyond by the warm welcome we offer, by friendship, fellowship and support; by the liturgy and music; and by the depth and breadth of theology and variety of preachers.

In its role supporting both civic and university life, Great St Mary’s hosts major services throughout the year. These include the civic memorial for Remembrance Sunday; Harvest Festival; Commemoration of University Benefactors; and six University Sermons. Our location at the centre of Cambridge also allows us to welcome 1,200 people to our Carols by Candlelight and other significant events throughout the year.

**Congregation**

We are a city centre Church, with a very small parish, and our congregation is drawn from across Cambridge and beyond. Many commute in for church, drawn by our musical tradition, our forms of service and our diverse activities. We currently have 220 members on our electoral roll.

With a strong emphasis on fellowship, we hold regular social events to share fun and laughter and build our spiritual family. Each month we have a men’s and a women’s breakfast, each held on a Saturday morning. We also have an active pastoral team who work with the clergy and the licensed lay minister to visit the sick, house-bound and those in hospital, to administer communion and keep them connected to our community.

At Great St Mary’s we seek to grow our congregation in discipleship, following Christ’s call for us to be active and faithful followers. In addition to a Bible Study group and themed seminar series, we also run Advent and Lent study groups and offer Quiet Days which help us to grow in the knowledge and love of God. We seek to equip our members to take leadership roles in the ministry and life of the Church, as well as to be witnesses to Christ in the wider world.
Music

Music is a distinctive and vital feature of our ministry at Great St Mary's and an integral part of the liturgy. We offer a diverse range of musical activities, including a 75-strong Cathedral-style choral foundation of boy and girl choristers and adult volunteer singers who sing at the three choral services each Sunday. The Choirs are directed and supported by a Director of Music, Assistant Director of Music, a Music Administrator and a Voice Coach. Their contribution to our community enriches our worship and provides a telling earthly reflection of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives through music.

Alongside the regular choirs, music at Great St Mary's is a focus for community and outreach. Our Junior Choir introduces children aged 6 to 8 to singing twice a month and we have a community singing group, the Michaelhouse Chorale. This group meets in Michaelhouse once a week, having originally been set up to foster well-being through music for people with mental health problems.

Great St Mary's also boasts a symphony orchestra, which gives four major concerts a year and a number of other chamber performances. We also have a lively programme of lunchtime recitals throughout the year, welcoming performers from around the world, with a diverse range of traditions and styles.

"The excellent music of Great St Mary's plays a major part in its ministry, worship and education. The choirs contribute to the strong sense of community at Great St Mary's. The education for young singers, particularly in music reading, is of great value. I also imagine that a number of Great St Mary's singers would consider going forward to ordained or lay ministry in the future. The inclusion of such a large number of young singers in the choirs encourages their friends and families to attend services. My three children have benefited from the musical tradition at Great St Mary's, and I am very grateful for that."

Director of Music, St John's College Cambridge, University Organist

Bell ringers

Our tower has the only ring of twelve Bells in the Diocese, and the Society of Cambridge Youths, our bell ringers, organise ringing for Communion, Mattins and Evensong each Sunday, as well as events of University, civic and national importance. The Monday night practice session provides time to prepare Sunday service ringing, allows teaching for new ringers and develops our ringing; regular peals give extended opportunities to improve the Society's ringing as a band. Our bell ringers are members of the Church, particularly through weekly clergy visits to the ringing chamber on Sunday mornings which keep them updated on the Church's week. The Vicar is also traditionally the President of Cambridge Youths.
Children in Worship

We offer exciting Christian and Liturgical Formation for children from birth. Children are a welcome and integral part of our life and worship; each child's faith journey and spirituality are valued and respected. Each child is facilitated in the worship through 'Christian Faith and Liturgical Play Materials' for Scripture, Seasons, Elements of Worship and Baptism and Holy Communion.

During the Sunday Parish Communion children are present in the service and are free to play and create as they wish. We have a Prayer Tree where children and adults hang prayers. Children are free to engage in group or individual Creative Response using a wide variety of craft materials. As we play and create together we 'wonder' together about the Scripture. Children who remain in the pews are offered 'Pew Art Packs' to reflect, draw and write. Children at Great St Mary's are admitted to Holy Communion from the age of six. Children can minister in the worship through the Offertory, Reading, Praying, Welcoming and Serving. We have a regular core group but also minister to a large number of visiting children. We have a dedicated Children's ministry team with two leaders on each Sunday throughout most of the year.

"The Ark has been a wonderful way to introduce my son to worship from a young age - it has also been wonderful to have such a child-friendly place to worship myself"

Parent

The Ark

This is an innovative Service of Holy Communion for carers, babies and pre-school children on Tuesday mornings in the Michaelhouse chancel where the children are free to engage in the worship and to move, talk and play. During the service everyone uses crosses, ribbon-rings and maracas, children choose 'Prayer Pictures', we sing and sign and everyone shares the Peace, children included. Children bring the elements and vessels, lay the table and pour the water and wine then gather around the low table for the Eucharistic Prayer. They are engaged in active participation, they play with miniature chalices, patens, jugs, bread and grapes; they watch, imitate and share play elements. We have the Bishop's dispensation to communicate baptised infants at The Ark with a parent's consent. Together we experience awe, wonder and the Presence of God. We then have refreshments, often with celebration cake, and occasional luncheon picnics. Friendship and support are an important part of Ark life.
"When I had my children I thought a lot about how I wanted to introduce them to matters of faith. I wanted them to feel comfortable in Church. The Church community has always been welcoming ... and I think that the inclusive approach offered is striking a chord ... My 11-year-old is now able to help with activities and my 9-year-old sings in the choir. ... Whatever life holds for them, I think that their experience at Great St Mary's means that faith will always be there for them."

Children's Church Team Member

The rich liturgical and symbolic landscape of The Ark and Children in Worship have been transformational in liturgical and Christian formation and we look forward to continuing to grow and develop this approach in the coming years.

Safeguarding

We are committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people, and ensuring staff and volunteers are DBS checked. We have a Parish Safeguarding Officer who is working to ensure that the church is fully compliant with diocesan policies and all who come into contact with children and vulnerable people are appropriately trained.

Inclusive Church

We are an Inclusive Church uniting together with other Christians as signatories to the statement of belief:

"We believe in an inclusive Church - a Church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."
Michaelhouse Ministry

The Michaelhouse Centre is just a few steps from Great St Mary's in St Michael's church. Still fully consecrated it is a beautiful setting for the visual arts, private parties, music concerts and offers space for community use. It is home to acclaimed food writer and restaurateur Bill Sewell's award-winning café, serving dishes created from local produce.

The chancel and chapel, deeper into the building, provide a quiet space for thought or prayer, offering a spiritual space open to all. There are regular services in the chancel welcoming people of all faiths.

The building has wide access and ramps making it a comfortable choice for wheelchair and buggy users. This access is being further advanced with plans to create one level for the chancel. There is also a children's corner offering a break-out space for young visitors. A hearing-loop and free Wi-Fi access are available.

Going Forward: Faith, Arts and Community Experience

Building on the foundation of Michaelhouse as a place of artistic expression and community connection, a recent exciting development has been the creation of a new Pioneer Minister post, initially for a year. This experimental role involves praying, listening and responding to the needs of the community. It will build on the events and activities which have already taken place and develop new approaches which emphasise the connection between faith and arts while growing community. During the year the role and work will be reviewed and a case for continued funding prepared.

This Pioneer Minister is developing our communication of the Christian faith, especially to people who are not members of any church, through a wide variety of means and especially through the arts. Through this we are deepening our exploration of the relationship between the Arts and Christian faith.

Relationship of the Vicar to Michaelhouse

As one of our four current areas of ministry, Michaelhouse is integral to the life of Great St Mary's. Beyond this, it also enjoys its own identity and expression within the wider community as a separate Trust.

The role of the Vicar within this is to maintain the balance which supports Michaelhouse as integral to the community, but allows it to flourish and develop as a space for alternative explorations of faith. The Vicar provides appropriate leadership and sits on the Board of Trustees for the Centre.
University Church and Chaplaincy Ministry

Great St Mary's is the University Church, and plays host to six University Sermons each year, preceded by a procession of Heads of Colleges from the Senate House to the Church, as required by a 1303 University Statute.

More recently, our relationship with the University has been enriched by the founding of a Chaplaincy to University Staff twenty years ago. This service supports post-doctoral researchers and other University staff not attached to colleges. A conscious decision was made to focus here rather than seeking to develop a ministry particularly to undergraduate students, who are largely well supported by their college chaplains. However, following an expansion in the number of postgraduate students, who may have a looser, non-residential tie to their own college, there is evidence to suggest that these students may well be attracted to the style of worship and debate at Great St Mary’s. Exploring this is a potential opportunity for the future.

Cambridge is a changing and rapidly expanding city, and now home to families from all over the world, of all faiths and none. An exciting new initiative in which Great St Mary’s is involved is the University of Cambridge Multi-Faith Forum. Working in partnership with many other groups, we will be contributing from our own Christian tradition and encouraging the engagement of others. Our vision is for a co-ordinated, multi-faith team that enables the voices of all traditions to be heard in the University community.

Merton Hall Farmhouse, currently a focus for multi-faith activities on the West Cambridge site, will be replaced by a space in a central building on the site next to the Cavendish Laboratory, following the demolition of the Farmhouse in the redevelopment of the site.

Discussions are underway to replace the former University Chaplaincy post with a part-time House-for-Duty post, which will continue to be based at Great St Mary’s. This post will provide the important Anglican Chaplaincy support to the Multi-Faith Forum.

We look forward to responding to the Colleges’ Deans and Chaplains Group’s invitation to explore with them the potential for Great St Mary’s to be a focus for student Christian activities across the colleges, for example, for confirmation classes and study groups.

Training and Ordinands

We very much welcome and value the participation each year of several ordinands on placement from the Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges, and on occasions to students from the LLM course. We offer a structured training programme so that they gain experience of the whole range of our services often including involvement in our children’s activities.
Our Heritage Ministry celebrates and interprets the Christian heritage of Great St Mary's, the University and the city of Cambridge over 800 years. It is a key focus of our outreach to schools, the local community and some 300,000 visitors each year from all over the world, and supported by our part-time Heritage Officer.

Over the last three years, with funding from the Heritage Lottery, we have been excited to create a dynamic heritage education centre and programme at the heart of Cambridge. We are now looking to the future, and developing the programme on an ongoing basis in collaboration with the Church Schools of Cambridge. We are embarking on a joint three-year project to bring alive the rich Christian history of Cambridge to enhance an understanding of the Christian faith and contribute to spiritual growth, with wide outreach to schools both in Cambridge and across the Diocese.

The Heritage Education Programme is overseen by a management committee including representatives of schools and community groups, and the Church Schools of Cambridge. The Diocese is very supportive of our plans to become a Cambridgeshire hub for Christian Understanding which will complement the new schools’ RE syllabus. Both church and non-church school visits will offer opportunities to learn about key Christian concepts in the context of a living church. The County Council RE Co-ordinator is also keen for us to do a training course for primary school RE co-ordinators about this initiative.
We have a formal association with Park Street Church of England Primary School as well as engaging more widely with schools in Cambridgeshire through our heritage outreach and by providing space for school carol services and events.

Park Street School

Park Street School is a Church of England Primary School of 120 pupils in central Cambridge which recently celebrated its 140th Birthday. It is a member of the Church Schools of Cambridge Trust.

The school has developed and cemented its relationship with Great St Mary's over the last decade. Members of the clergy team offer weekly assemblies, and the children, staff and families come to the church for four services a year: Harvest Festival, Carol Service, Easter and the Leavers' Service in July.

Members of Great St Mary's also serve as Foundation Governors for the school. Previously the Vicar has served as a governor and as Chair of the Foundation and Admissions committees. The recently appointed Head Teacher is very committed to continuing the relationship with Great St Mary's and was recently welcomed by members of the congregation at our Patronal Festival.

All of us at Park Street School, Governors, staff and children, place high value on our relationship with Great St Mary's. The clergy have become part of our school family through their regular assemblies and presence on the governing body and we all enjoy special services and events in the church.

Chair of Governors

We also engage widely with schools in Cambridgeshire through our heritage outreach and by providing space for school carol services and events.

Welcome to visitors

Placed at the heart of a historic city and University, our ministry to our many visitors is very important to us. Many come to explore the beautiful church and its rich heritage as well as to climb the tower which offers panoramic views of Cambridge and the colleges, and many to rest in a quiet space away from the busyness of the market square.

St Andrew’s Chapel is set aside as a peaceful and tranquil space for prayer, where we hope many may find comfort and meaning for their lives. Outside the chapel there is a votive candle stand where visitors may also write a prayer. These prayers are included in services in St Andrew’s chapel and at Parish Communion. We also provide a prayer corner for children.

We are developing welcoming teams for both midweek and weekends to engage sensitively with visitors. We have a new welcome leaflet and there are trained guides to show groups round the Christian heritage of the Church.
We very much enjoy welcoming families! There are explorer trails round the Church (with binoculars and magnifying glass) to engage children with the Christian heritage and a range of other activities too. We are developing the gift shop with attractive niche items and featuring hand-crafted gifts by charity organisations.

Partnerships at home and abroad: bringing new life and hope

An important aspect of our ministry is developing partnerships in mission with people abroad as well as in the UK, raising funds and awareness and ensuring that the congregation feel a real resonance and interest in our projects. We pray for each of our partners regularly at our Sunday Parish Communion. This brings a global dimension to our work and is led by the Wider Concerns Committee.

We focus on supporting a relatively small number of ongoing projects, particularly those with a strong Cambridge connection, and where we can make a real difference. Our emphasis is on partnership with local communities, supporting them to take the lead in what they consider is best for their community.

Internationally, we support a range of projects including homes for street children, family support for orphans, skills training to enable independent living, medical training, and income generating schemes. The projects we support are doing pioneering work for change in their local communities. Currently we support projects in Ethiopia, India, Darfur, the Middle East and Romania. Each year the congregation contributes around £13,000 a year at four major festivals. We receive regular newsletters and updates from our partners, enabling us to engage with their hopes and aspirations and build a real relationship.
Locally we play an active part in a range of social initiatives. As a city centre parish we particularly support those working with the homeless, marginalised and vulnerable. We actively support the Cambridge City of Sanctuary initiative for refugees and have collections for the Cambridge City Foodbank.

The Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project

Each winter we participate in the Cambridge Homelessness Project. This is an ecumenical initiative with seven other city centre churches and a synagogue. Working on a rota system, we offer space for sixteen homeless people a night over the winter, providing supper, hospitality and overnight accommodation. This is a special time with the guests, supported by volunteers from our congregation who offer support and community.

Environment Group

The Environment Group’s members are active in raising awareness of environmental issues and providing information on climate change and sustainable living within the church community and beyond. They have hosted several joint events on Eco Church with other churches across the city, and collaborate with groups such as Cambridge Carbon Footprint. They are spear-heading our efforts to improve our stewardship of God’s creation. In spring 2018, as part of the repairs to the South Aisle roof, we will install solar panels to produce clean, renewable energy for the Church. Over the last year, we have celebrated a Green Communion, conducted an Eco-Mattins with a biodiversity survey of the churchyard, hosted a climate-themed piano recital and are pursuing efficiency measures in the use of energy and recycling. We are working towards Eco Church status.
Opportunities and Challenges

- Undergird the life of Great St Mary's through prayer, study groups, and spiritual development, and to review the pattern of midweek worship.
- Continue to attract people of all ages and backgrounds, and grow disciples.
- Develop the skills and gifts of the Church family.
- Strengthen and nourish pastoral support to draw together the diverse congregations within this gathered Church.
- Respond to the rapid growth of Cambridge and the associated challenges.
- Develop our ministry to the University in the context of the new Multi-Faith Forum and grow our relationship with postgraduates and postdoctoral researchers.
- Respond to soundings from the Deans and Chaplains Group to explore with them the potential for Great St Mary's to be a focus for student Christian activities across the colleges.
- Integrate and further develop the four ministries in the life of the church and their interaction with each other.
- Develop our ministry of welcome to our many visitors.
- Explore the potential for re-ordering parts of the Church building to enhance worship and other activities.
History

The Church of St Mary the Great dates back to the 12th Century, and has played a central role in the life of both the city and the University since then. Great St Mary's was the first home of the University; when scholars first arrived in 1209 they established themselves in the Church. Here lectures were given, disputations held, degrees conferred and celebrations hosted. Great St Mary's played a leading part in Cambridge in the Reformation period. Erasmus and other influential figures preached here, many of whom were subsequently martyred. Over our history we have been privileged to receive many Royal patrons and benefactors, including Richard III and Henry VII. Today Trinity College is our patron and the lay rector of Great St Mary's.

Michaelhouse

In 1908 the parish of St Michael was merged with Great St Mary's, and in the mid-1960s the nave was converted to serve as a church hall for the parish. In 2000 work began on a major £1.3 million conversion, and the Michaelhouse Centre (full name The Michaelhouse Centre Cambridge Limited) opened its doors in November 2002.

Michaelhouse's founding charter states its main objectives as being to advance the Christian faith, and to advance education, particularly in the arts. Michaelhouse has become a trend-setter for church conversions across the UK and remains one of very few 'conversions' where regular services take place.

The Parish

The parish of Great St Mary's is very small. It covers most of the market, a small section of Green Street and Rose Crescent with some 19 residents, but not the houses immediately opposite the Church in St. Mary's Passage. Part of Gonville and Caius College is included in Diocesan estimates of parish numbers, to bring the total to around 700. This means that the clergy do not have the responsibility of ministering to the institutions and people of a fixed area.
Our team

We are fortunate at Great St Mary's to have an extensive and dedicated team of both lay and ordained staff. The Vicar will be supported by:

Clergy and LLM:
Associate Vicar (half time): Revd Devn McLachlan
Michaelhouse Pioneer Arts Minister (part-time): Revd Helen Orr, this post is co-funded with Michaelhouse
Associate Vicar, University Chaplaincy (part time, House-for-Duty): under discussion
Licensed Lay Minister (voluntary): Shirley Holder

We very much appreciate the wonderful support of four retired clergy who are now members of the congregation and enjoy leading services from time to time. We also greatly value the involvement of ordinands on placement with us and the excellent leadership of the Children's Church by Carolynn Pritchard.

Staff:
Church Operations Manager (full time): Richard Summers.

This new post has replaced the Church Administrator post, to provide the overall co-ordination of the day-to-day management of the Church and its staff. This change reflects the significant development in the whole range of activities carried out in the Church both mid-week and on Sundays, and as part of our outreach to the community.

Director of Music (part-time): Sam Hayes
Organist and Assistant Director of Music (part-time): Benedict Todd
Parish Secretary (4 days) and Music Administrator (1 day): Emma Dunn
Facilities Manager and Head Verger (full time): Robert Smythe
Business Systems Support Manager (IT and Contracts) (2 days): Paul Hammans
Finance Manager (2 days): Alistair Barry
Heritage Education Officer (2.5 days): Anna Lovewell
Facilities Officer, Assistant Verger, Retail and Shop Marketing (part-time): Alexandra Smaridge
Assistant Verger (part-time): Philip Hensman
Shop Staff (part-time): Maureen Dwyer, Roger Hall, Jane Abbott, Helen Long, Katherine Haslam, Callum Brittain

Michaelhouse Centre Staff:
Michaelhouse Centre Manager (full time): Rosemary Barrett
Michaelhouse Assistant Centre Manager (part-time): Sarah Knox
PCC and committees

The PCC is formed of the:

Vicar Very Revd Peter Judd (Priest-in-charge for the vacancy at present); Associate Vicar Revd Devin McLachlan; Churchwardens Margaret Johnston and Joye Rosenstiel; Treasurer Patrick Brooke; Secretary Sarah de Mas; Licensed Lay Minister Shirley Holder; 12 elected congregation members; three Deanery Synod Representatives, one of whom is PCC Lay Vice-Chair Arvan Pritchard; Director of Music Sam Hayes (ex officio). Church Operations Manager Richard Summers and Minutes Secretary Jennifer Houghton also attend.

Statutory Committees: Finance and General Purposes; Property.

Other Committees: Worship; Youth Forum; Pastoral Policy; Wider Concerns; Christian Heritage Management Committee; Environment; Safeguarding; and Communications.

The Foundation Group: co-ordinates the work of the four ministries.

Ministry meeting: Clergy, Churchwardens, Director of Music and Children’s Church leader.

Michaelhouse Centre: Managed by the Michaelhouse Trustees, including the Vicar and two PCC members.

Volunteers

Members of the congregation are actively involved in the following:

Administering the Chalice  Children’s Church  Foodbank & charity collections
Sacristry  Welcoming at Services  Welcoming visitors
Serving  Coffee and Hospitality  Pastoral visiting
Lesson reading  Flower arranging  Singing in the Adult Choir
Leading Intercessions  Bell Ringing

Vicarage

We have a well-appointed detached Vicarage, a mile from the Church on Madingly Road, to the west of the City centre. It is an attractive five-bedroomed 1930s house, set back from the road with parking on the forecourt for six cars and a garage. Further plans and details can be found in the supplement.
Finances

Income: £396,000
Expenditure: £358,000
Parish Share: £85,000

40% of the income comes predominantly from the congregation, a further 40% from tower and gift-shop revenues, with the balance of 20% coming from property letting, church hire and fees, events revenue, a maintenance grant from the University and other donations.

The University contributes to the maintenance of the Church and half the salary of the Head Verger.

As Patrons of Great St Mary’s, Trinity College maintains the chancel (and has done since 1342).

Property: We own a 3-bedroomed house in north west Cambridge and a 2-bedroomed flat near the railway station, both of which are rented out and provide an excellent income and investment in the buoyant Cambridge housing market. There is a mortgage of £100k being taken out against the flat to help fund the south aisle roof repair, repayable over six years.
A word from the Bishop of Ely

"We pray to be a generous and visible people of Jesus Christ."

Further information

You can find more about Great St Mary's on our website: http://www.gsm.cam.ac.uk/

If you have any further questions about any aspects of our life and ministry please contact Margaret Johnston, Churchwarden, e-mail: margaretj222@gmail.com
Person Specification

Essential

• A rich prayer life and commitment to personal spiritual growth.

• Sound theological formation and biblical knowledge communicated in preaching and teaching both for the growth of the congregation and reaching out to the 'public square'.

• Passion for communicating the word of God engagingly to people with different levels of knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.

• Inspiring and collaborative leadership of teams both lay and ordained, and nurture of the gifts of others

• Sensitivity to ministry with children and parents and developing children's spirituality, and to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

• A gift for pastoral ministry to people from a range of backgrounds, in collaboration with a wider pastoral team.

• Sensitivity to liturgy, appreciation for, and engagement with, church choral and musical traditions

• A commitment to sustaining Great St Mary’s as an Inclusive Church.

Desirable

• Experience in interfaith collaboration and ecumenical cooperation

• Experience of other forms of institutional ministry and chaplaincy.

• Experience of developing, managing and completing projects - bringing together diverse teams, and awareness of financial processes.

The Diocese of Ely is committed to safer recruitment practices for people working or volunteering with children and adults and therefore this position is subject to an enhanced disclosure from the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service).