

# **St George's Church East Worthing Parish Profile**



## **October 2019**

# Welcome

Welcome to our Parish Profile. We hope you will enjoy reading it!

In the following pages, we have tried to give a flavour of who we are, where we are 'coming from' and what we think God may have in store for us. You will find here something of the church's capabilities and aspirations. It also outlines the qualities of the person we believe we need to lead us in facing new challenges and achieving our mission; the person to help us develop our vision, unite us in our purpose and inspire us to take our part in God's work.

St George's is a well-used established conservative evangelical church with good resources in terms of people and buildings.

We remain constant in our belief in the Bible as God's Word to us, relevant to our lives and able to renew, inspire, challenge and comfort us. Also constant is our belief that the good news of Jesus is for all, which motivates our service and witness in East Worthing and our support for mission, locally, nationally and worldwide.

We see there are many in our community who need God's love shown to them in practical and spiritual ways and we want to reach out to them.

We believe we need somebody with a commitment to pastoral care, a gift for teaching God's Word to inspire active faith - a wise leader who will help us to identify and realise the best in ourselves and in others.

We are praying that God will bring us the person of His choice. If you believe that you might be that person, please read on. We would be delighted to hear from you.

The Parochial Church Council of St George's Church in the parish of East Worthing.  
October 2019.

## The Town of Worthing

Worthing has a population of around 100,000\* and is located along the West Sussex coastline, ten miles to the west of Brighton and 20 miles east of Chichester. Worthing is the largest town in West Sussex, with new developments and a growing number of young families.

The seafront here has enjoyed a recent revival thanks to an injection of funds to ensure its successful rejuvenation and is now a proud award winner for its clean and safe coastline. It has a popular pier, two theatres, two cinemas, museum and art gallery and there is a wide range of leisure and sports amenities. The town has plenty of shops, pubs, restaurants, parks and gardens.

Worthing enjoys the benefit of appealing to holiday makers and day trippers. Its close proximity to the picturesque South Downs gives plenty of scope for visitors exploring the scenic countryside.

It has two MPs: Tim Loughton (Conservative) for East Worthing and Shoreham, and Sir Peter Bottomley (Conservative) for Worthing West.

Worthing is one hour and thirty minutes from London by train, forty-five minutes from Gatwick Airport and two hours from Heathrow Airport.



## **The Parish of East Worthing**

The church of St George's stands in the parish of East Worthing, bordering the town centre in the west, Brooklands Leisure Park in the east and bound by the railway line in the north and the sea to the south. It has a population of approximately 8,000\* occupying a mix of individual properties, flats and multi-tenanted houses and social housing, including housing for vulnerable adults. There are several nursing homes within the parish. It embraces three schools, Davison CE High School for Girls (voluntary controlled), Chesswood Junior School and Lyndhurst Infant School. Members of St George's sit on Davison's board of governors. We also contribute financially to St Andrew's CE High School for Boys (voluntary aided).

There is a large Industrial Estate to the north east of the parish. Worthing Hospital is also within the parish.

\*Data based on 2011 Census

## **St George's Parish Church**

The history of St George's Parish Church in East Worthing goes back to 10th July 1868 when the doors were first opened 'for Consecration and Divine Service'. East Worthing was then an area consisting mainly of lush cattle pasture, orchards and smallholdings with property just being erected in Newland Road and Farncombe Road. The parish increased in size over the years, but its pastoral areas were preserved until the 1914-18 war, after which the developers and builders provided much needed housing for the growing population.

Architecturally, St George's is fascinating. It is one of the few churches to be built on a north-south axis instead of the more traditional east-west position. The large open area of the nave crowned by the arched roof trusses supporting such a large roof area is a feature of the church. With its closeness to the sea, (one of the main means of employment used to be fishing), the roof resembles the shape of an up-turned boat and was known by many as 'The Fisherman's Church.'

Being one of the largest church buildings in the town, St George's has often been used for civic services and previous vicars have been chaplain to the town Mayor and the Royal British Legion.

The interior of St George's was re-ordered in 1990 providing a large round sanctuary area which allows a greater variety of worship styles.

There will be further reordering in 2020 with a new 'wood effect' floor to the nave and chapel and replacing most pews with chairs. This will give versatility for seating and utilisation of space to enable a range of worship and events within the building. A new audio-visual system, with a retractable screen, is part of this scheme. This is the first phase of a four-phase project to make the church space more accessible and flexible at the heart of the community.



## **Evangelical**

Right from the start, St George's has maintained a tradition of being a conservative evangelical church. In over 150 years, St George's has only had 16 ministers, all of whom have been led by the Holy Spirit to teach from God's word. This rich inheritance of Bible-based evangelical ministry continues today, with teaching aimed at drawing people into active faith in God and applying the Bible to everyday life.

## **Services and Worship Style**

We aim to have a range of worship styles to meet the needs of our community.

At 8.00am, there is a said Holy Communion (alternate BCP/CW) lasting around 30 minutes with a homily. Average attendance is about 5-6.

The 10.30am service uses Common Worship. Children attend for the first ten minutes before going to Young Followers (Sunday School). The first Sunday of the month is an All Age Service with an occasional Church Parade. On the second and fourth Sundays we celebrate Holy Communion. There is an average attendance between 80-100 adults.

The sermon has been around 15 minutes long. The music is a mix of hymns and worship songs, accompanied by both organ and a keyboard-led worship group.

Celebration services are held at Christmas, New Year, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest.

At Christmas the annual Candlelight Carol Service and Christingle Service are well attended and enjoyed by the local community.

In addition, local schools and nursery schools, hold their Christmas celebration services in the church. Our church school, Davison, also holds a number of different services including: its annual welcoming, leaving, end of term and Easter services in the church.

## **Church Belief**

As an Anglican church (CofE), we accept the 39 articles as the foundation of our belief. We believe that all of the Bible is inspired by God and all the teaching at our Sunday services, fellowship groups and other meetings, is rooted in the scriptural truths found within its wonderful pages.

## **Prayer**

We believe in the power of prayer, and that God answers the prayers of his people. We encourage people to develop their personal prayer life and to attend our regular prayer meetings.

## **Praise**

We believe that God loves to hear his people praising him and that this is one of the joys of Christian life. The full use of a variety of musical skills and styles plays a large part in our worship and praise. We have a long musical heritage for singing and ad-hoc choirs at Christmas and Easter.



## **Small Groups**

There are currently five home groups meeting regularly involving around sixty people. These focus on Bible study, discussion, prayer and fellowship. There is also a women's group and a men's group, Mothers Union and Community Friends who all have a varied programme of activities.

## **Mission**

We actively support missionary work locally, nationally and worldwide. Including, CPAS, OM, Providence World Ministries and Tearfund.

We have run several very successful Alpha courses over the last few years.



## **Children and Young Peoples' Work**

This continues to thrive and grow and includes:

- regular groups; Toddlers, Messy Church, Young Followers (Sunday School), Youth Club and Youth Bible Study
- one off events; Easter and summer holiday clubs, family days and Light parties

- working with schools and the day nursery including: a weekly JAM (Jesus and Me) club, Open the Book, 'Let's do lunch', a lunchtime club in the Secondary school
- uniformed groups of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

## **Deanery and Diocese**

The parish, by attendance figures, is one of the largest in the deanery. The church supports their bishops in the work that they do. The parish elects three members of the laity to the Deanery Synod, where we play an important role in supporting other parishes irrespective of their churchmanship.

## **The Church Hall**

The hall is a separate building on the church site. It has a large, airy main hall with a side hall which can be divided in to two small meeting rooms. It has a modern kitchen. It is well used by both Christian and secular groups and is also hired out to appropriate commercial activities and functions. The income from the hall hire is around £13,000 p.a.



## **The Vicarage**

Situated about 480m (approximately 5-minute walk) away from the church in Pendine Avenue, the vicarage is a 4/5 bedroom extended bungalow, on two levels with a garage, shed and large garden.



## **Other Property**

St George's Parish Council owns a three-bedroom house. The property is let and managed on our behalf by a local letting agent on a shorthold tenancy to private tenants. The rental provides a net income of around £1,200 per month.

## **Financial State**

St George's has historically met 100% of its parish contribution to the diocese until 2018.

For the year of 2018 the PCC offered a reduced contribution, which was agreed by the Diocese because of necessary renovation and structural maintenance.

For the year 2019, the contribution has increased, again with the agreement of the Diocese and this amount will be reviewed on an annual basis.

## **Parish Support and Resources**

The PCC employs three people.

There is a parish administrator three mornings a week. She administers the day to day running of the church working closely with the vicar and church wardens. Duties include correspondence, wedding, baptism and funeral arrangements, hall bookings and printing of the weekly news sheet, (Pews News), etc.

There is a full time Children and Youth Worker.

We also employ an organist two Sundays a month.

St George's has a Ministry team consisting of one retired clergy, three Readers, a Lay Worship Leader and the Children and Youth Worker.

## **Our Aspirations**

- To bring the good news to East Worthing and the wider world – expressing God's light, hope and truth in action and words
- To be relevant to young people and reach out to them
- To grow in our discipleship – vibrant commitment to prayer, worship and learning from God's word, a church that is welcoming, supportive, integrated, broad and growing
- To serve God together – using our talents and resources.

## **Our Vision**

- Continued progress of our church to be at the centre of our community as a beacon of light and hope
- Evangelism to every age group to be at the heart of our activities
- Discipleship; knowing, trusting, following and serving God together
- A Mission Action Plan (MAP) process is used by the PCC as a means of identifying objectives for the Church to achieve each year. This covers initiatives under four categories of Church Growth, Children & Young Adults, Finance, and Buildings.
- A welcoming and growing church where all are accepted
- A dynamic, Bible teaching church open to new challenges from God.

## **Our Vicar Designate**

### **We will be looking to you to:**

- Guide us in developing and living out our vision for knowing and serving God
- Lead, inspire and encourage us in our mission to East Worthing and to the wider world
- Promote youth ministry, building on and developing the broad variety of work in place and the evolving youth strategy
- Encourage and challenge us to grow in discipleship as a body of believers and as individuals with inspirational biblical teaching, corporate prayer, worship, pastoral care and fellowship being central
- Help us to see what is core to our faith and what is a cultural overlay that we should adapt to reach those around us
- Respect diversity (in outlook, ways of doing things) but be united in living for God
- Be team focused sharing and enabling others to be fully involved in the work of the church
- Work within the structures of the Church of England and the Diocese of Chichester in co-operation with other Christian groups.

We are looking for a minister who is a person of prayer with a deep faith to whom the Bible is central.

### **You will be committed to:**

- the Bible's teaching that marriage is between one man and one woman for life
- pastoral care
- sharing the gospel with all.

## **Gifts and Skills**

### **Essential**

- full of energy, drive and ambition for God
- a strategic leader and team player who will work effectively with and fully endorse the ministry of lay people, both men and women
- sensitive to people's needs and fears
- inspiring biblical teacher who is able to relate the Bible to contemporary life and issues and help people apply it to their own lives in a relevant way
- caring, compassionate and ready to listen: approachable and able to relate to the church family and the wider community
- good communicator with all – including those of faith as well as those of none
- a maker and grower of disciples who enable people to develop and deepen their faith and grow in maturity towards Christ and encourage them to share their faith.

### **Desirable**

- a sense of humour
- IT skills: to have basic computer literacy, including e-mail MS Office ability
- a valid driving licence and available vehicle.

**This role is challenging and exciting. We recognise that it is also demanding and we will be fully supportive of our new minister, in partnership, prayer, commitment and practical encouragement.**

## Appendix 1 – Who's Who and What's What

### Officers of St George's Church:

**Honorary Associate Minister** Rev Sue Foster

**Lay Readers** Peter Rhodes, Peter Cole, Hilary Ferries

**Worship leader** Noelle Jones

**Children and Youth Worker** Kathryn Hughes-Burton

**Church Wardens** Keith Calver, Ron Skipp

**Honorary Deputy Wardens** Chris Attwood, Margaret Davey, Jenni Manville

**PCC Members** Chris Attwood, Margaret Davey, Jenni Manville, Hilary Ferries (lay chair), Laura Preston (Honorary Treasurer), Peter Rhodes, Jan Holden, Richard Haigh, John Bridger, Su Skipp, Tracey Geraldts, Robina Edser, Co-opted member, Kathryn Hughes-Burton

**Parish Administrator** Helen Attwood

**Sidespersons / Welcomers** Pat Newman, Shirley Green, Pam Walmesley, Su Skipp, Robert Shawcross, Helen Faulkner-Edwards, Freida Goulding, Jane Cowley, Jeanne Watson, Jenni Manville.

**Sound Desk Team** Bob Jones

### Church organisations and activities:

**Music Group** Meet Friday evenings to prepare music for Sunday services and pray.  
Led by Helen Attwood

**Young Followers** Sunday morning children's worship and classes for ages 3 to teens.  
Led by Kathryn Hughes-Burton

**Youth Group** Sunday afternoon twice monthly. Led by Kathryn Hughes-Burton

**Toddlers'** Weekly term time meeting in church hall open to all pre-school children.  
Led by Kathryn Hughes-Burton

**Messy Church** Monthly meeting in church. Led by Kathryn Hughes-Burton

**Monday Lunch Group.** Led by Barbara Allison

**Men's Group** Monthly men's group for support, fellowship and events.  
Led by Ron Skipp and Bob Jones

**Home Groups** Five morning and evening groups meet across Worthing.

**Community Friends** Monday mornings open to all ages, coffee, chat, games and events.  
Led by Mike and Wanda Tyler.

**Prayer meetings** Monthly women's coffee and pray and monthly prayer breakfast.

**Mothers' Union** Monthly meetings for fellowship and raising funds for local families and worldwide needs. Led by Rev Sue Foster and Noelle Jones.

**Dustbusters** Teams of people work on a weekly rota and clean the church ready for services. Co-ordinated by Laura Preston.

**Coffee Rota** Teams of people work on a weekly rota to provide tea and coffee after Sunday morning services. Co-ordinated by Helen Attwood

## Appendix Two

### Statement from the Bishop of Chichester on the Needs of the Diocese of Chichester

The Diocesan Strategy has three main components:

- Numerical and spiritual growth
- Re-imagining ministry
- Working for the Common Good

It is hoped that clergy will seek to work out in their ministry how best to fulfil this vision.

In particular we are looking for the following qualities in our clergy:

- 1. A deep and confident personal faith.**  
The new priest will have a presence which makes God real. Love of God, humility and a life of prayer will equip the new priest as a godly and courageous leader. Theologically literate and confident in scripture, the new priest will be a clear teacher of the faith.
- 2. A clear commitment to mission and growth**  
The new priest will be committed to leading effective mission and to encouraging new growth. The new priest will work with and build upon existing initiatives as well as offering fresh insights.
- 3. An ability to lead and manage change creatively**  
The new priest will be a creative leader who will seek to inspire and enable and to work collaboratively. The new priest will have the breadth of vision to engage with those beyond the 'walls of the church'.
- 4. A confident and competent communicator**  
The new priest will be comfortable engaging with a wide cross section of people and able to communicate with those of faith as well as those of none.
- 5. A gifted pastor**  
A person of wisdom and integrity, the new priest will be able to get alongside others. The new priest will be able to recognise and utilise the talent and abilities of others, supporting and encouraging vocations to all forms of ministry and service.

July 2019