

The Parish of
St. Mary and St. John the Divine
Balham London.



The Church on the High Road

Tooting Deanery
Wandsworth Archdeaconry
Kingston Episcopal Area
Diocese of Southwark

PARISH PROFILE

Summer 2022

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St Mary's Balham is a diverse, inclusive Christian community sharing and growing in the love of God through worship, hospitality and service.

1. THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE,

We aim:

- To be a place of welcome by opening our doors to everyone
- To nurture people of all ages in the Christian faith, with a particular emphasis on children and young people, including our adjacent C of E Primary School
- To deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ through the sacraments, prayer, learning and social engagement.
- We are a member of the Inclusive Church network.
- We are a thriving, liberal-catholic, diverse congregation, set in a prominent location with excellent transport links and at the heart of our inner-city Balham community.



Our mission priorities are:

- social outreach;
- being an open church;
- our ministry to our church school, children and young people; and
- spiritual growth.

We have adapted our church building to include multi-function spaces to enable engagement with our community whilst providing a spiritual environment in which to grow in faith.

(The congregation has been deeply involved in the preparation of this Profile and quotations from them are included throughout.)

*“What has been transformational for me at St Mary’s?
The warmth of the whole community.”
(Feb 2022)*

2. PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are seeking a new vicar, who, in addition to the basic spiritual and pastoral qualities expected of vicars generally:

- Has a track record of team-building, attracting and motivating volunteers, working collaboratively and delegating - without which all other aspirations are at risk;
- Is community minded, with a passion for developing the network of relationships locally, able to strengthen existing community links and to forge new ones;
- Has a demonstrable gift for, and deep commitment to, working with children and young people, their families and teachers;
- Is from the liberal-catholic tradition of the church, who is attentive to the dignity of liturgy and worship, but also willing to diversify imaginatively to meet the needs of particular groups;
- Is passionate about inclusivity, accepting people for who they are and with a gift for making very different people feel valued and welcome;
- Appreciates the Anglican tradition of church music and the importance music plays in worship;
- In order to make the most of the many opportunities and demands of this church’s mission, has significant prior experience of ministry at the parish level.



3. WE OFFER

We look forward to offering our new vicar:

- An inclusive, friendly, diverse congregation of all ages with a mixture of long term and newer members;
- A congregation, many of whom have found St Mary's welcoming, family atmosphere transformative, helping them feel valued and supporting each other in the joys and difficult times of life;
- An adjacent Trinity St Mary's C of E Primary School (TSM) with a warm, strong relationship with the church;
- Extensive lay involvement in parish life;
- Sound and carefully-managed finances, even after the effects of COVID (and a Giving Group to give leadership in stewardship and fundraising);
- A grade II listed church in good structural and decorative repair in a splendid location.
- A modern four-bedroom town house purpose-built, eco-friendly vicarage with study next to the church and school;
- A musical tradition and robed choir;

- A parish office with administrator two mornings per week;
- A track record of substantial involvement in inter-church initiatives such as Love Balham (pre COVID) and discussions about Living in Love and Faith.

4. SOME CURRENT CHALLENGES (OPPORTUNITIES?)

Because we aim to be open and realistic, we identify current challenges (opportunities?) as follows:

- COVID depressed the numbers attending our church; they are climbing back but have not reached pre-pandemic levels;
- Our previously vigorous junior church and nascent toddler group were also knocked sideways by the pandemic plus interregnum (although a regular, informal Saturday afternoon group meet, supervised by adults with suitable safeguarding training);
- There is currently no settled Ministry Team, and so the next vicar will need to build a new one;
- As a result of this and the interregnum, groups for bible study and spiritual exploration have not yet fully revived since the pandemic (though some continued online during the lockdown);
- There is a vacancy for our Director of Music, awaiting attention from the new vicar. Interim arrangements are working well, but the choir has dwindled and needs a fresh lease of life;
- The potential expectations and ambitions of the church exceed the capacity of clergy and laity to deliver, so rigorous priorities must be set and the new vicar must be able both to delegate, say no, and strengthen the administrative infrastructure of our church;
- Although many of the congregation participate in church life in many different ways, a disproportionate responsibility falls on a few shoulders, especially during the vacancy, and if we were to lose them we would be vulnerable;
- Before COVID, lettings formed about a quarter of our parish income. The pandemic removed some longstanding, steadfast tenants and it has become labour-intensive even partially to replace them.
- It is recognised in the congregation that, although we feel we are good at welcoming and orientating people once they enter our church, we are less good at attracting people from outside the church.
- These specific challenges will need to be addressed in order to advance the four main mission priorities set out in Section 9 below. Thus, we believe that, under the guidance of the right vicar, such challenges can be turned into fruitful opportunities for increasing our social outreach, our openness as a church, our school and youth ministry, and our spiritual growth.

*“I was made to feel so welcome here by the vicar and parishioners,
encouraged to be part of a BIG FAMILY!”
(Feb 2022)*

5. LOCATION AND COMMUNITY

The Parish is situated in the thriving community of Balham in south west London. Balham has excellent schools, shopping facilities and fast transport connections into the centre of London. The local authority is the London Borough of Wandsworth.

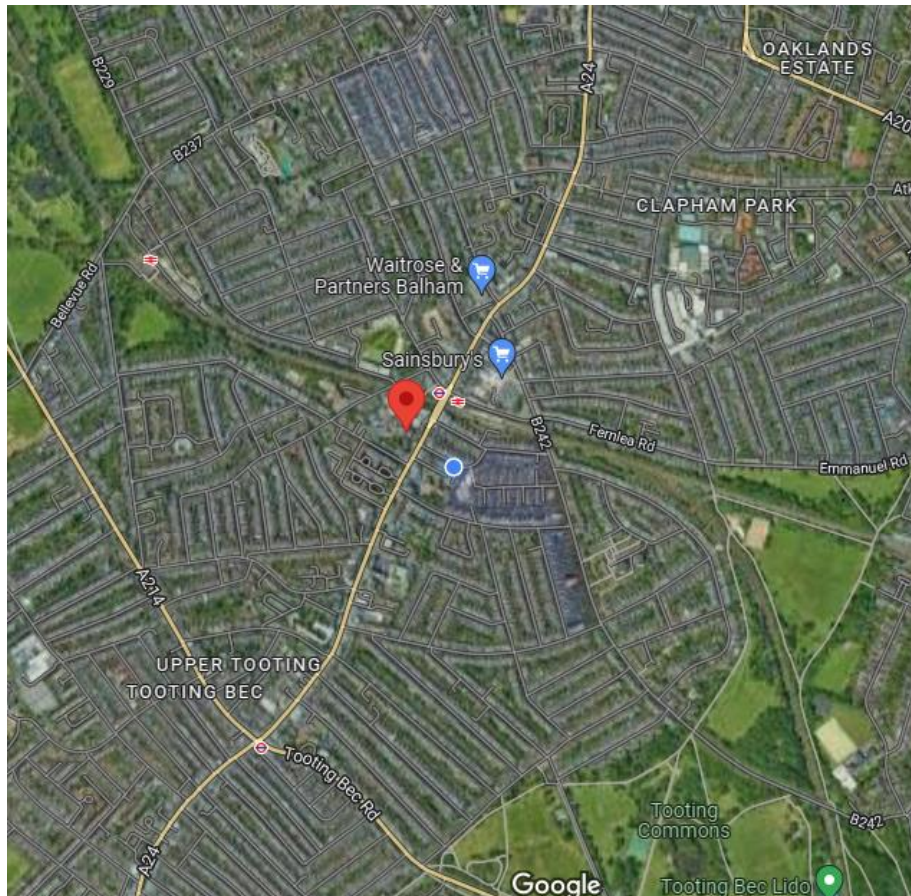
Until 200 years ago Balham was a hamlet of farms and a few large country houses. The expansion of the railways and later the underground system made Balham a major transport hub for the area. During the 19th century the population grew swiftly with the development of a number of large Victorian estates. Expansion continued during the first half of the 20th century and a number of 1930s developments including the iconic



Du Cane Court, built in the Art Deco style. The parish church was at the centre of that growing community and during that time also underwent a number of transformations to create the impressive building we now enjoy.

Over the past 50 years the community has seen further significant changes. Many of the large Victorian properties were converted into flats providing homes for a range of new arrivals. These people have helped to create a vibrant multi-cultural community with a population comprising white English, Afro-Caribbean, West African, Asian and Polish peoples and spanning across the wealth spectrum including high income young professionals, students and elderly long-term residents.

Shops and businesses were originally built along the High Road to service the growing housing developments. Balham Town Centre has since expanded to become a thriving shopping centre and boasts a Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Aldi, Boots, and TK Max as well as a number of banks, coffee shops, independent shops, estate agents and charity shops. Improvements, such as the refurbishment of the Hildreth Street market, have boosted the area's attraction. An influx of bars and restaurants has made Balham a destination for young people from a wide catchment area.



Attractive local facilities include the well-stocked library and the Balham Leisure Centre with its swimming pool and gym facilities. The extensive Tooting Bec Lido, with the second largest pool in the UK, and the Tooting Bec athletics track and gym are nearby.

The large green South London Commons of Wandsworth, Clapham and Tooting provide further outdoor leisure and sporting facilities, whilst Balham is also within easy reach of Wimbledon Common, Mitcham Common and Richmond Park.

Transport links in Balham are excellent, with frequent trains running north into Clapham Junction and Victoria and south to Gatwick Airport and Brighton. The Northern Line underground runs to Waterloo, the City and the West End. Many of Balham's residents commute into Central London. Bus routes also criss-cross the area. Balham is on the Cycle Superhighway 7 route from south west London into the centre of London.

There are a number of schools in the area:

- Our “own” Trinity St Mary’s C of E primary school next door to the church
- Ravenstone School; a state primary school
- Rutherford House; a Free primary school
- Hornsby House; a private primary school
- Chestnut Grove Academy; a state secondary school which has recently undergone extensive rebuilding and expansion
- Balham Nursery School: a well regarded state nursery
- In addition there are several independent nursery and infant schools.



There are a number of Christian churches, a Mosque and a Hindu Temple in the area.

Other large institutions nearby include St George’s University Hospital (one of the UK’s largest teaching hospitals). Wandsworth Prison and the substantial Springfield University Hospital mental health facility (now being substantially re-developed to include a new public park), are quite near.

“The church does help me to confront the problems of life”

6. THE CHURCH BUILDING

Seen today, St Mary's Church is an impressive structure set back from Balham High Road (A24) just 100 yards south of Balham Railway and Underground stations. It has more modest beginnings.

As the early population grew, a chapel-of-ease was built in Balham. This began as a simple preaching box by Hurlbatt in 1907 and opened for worship in April 1808. The chapel was extended in 1824, and in 1855 was consecrated the Parish Church of St Mary.

In the late Victorian era the church was extensively re-modelled when transepts were added, followed by the spectacular Byzantine apsed chancel, sanctuary and reredos with elaborate decorations and fine mosaics. By 1903 a new west front with a domed baptistery by W Newton Dunn, a clock tower and porches were added giving us the building we see today.

In 1973 the rear pews were removed and a screen installed under the front edge of the raking gallery to create a separate narthex space. This served as a much-needed community space until the structure was destroyed by fire in 1998.



The fire presented an opportunity to do more than just restore what was destroyed. Following an extensive fund-raising programme, exterior reinstatement work began in 2002 with the restoration of the roof and stonework. Internal remodelling works

followed with the rebuilding of the gallery to create rooms on the upper floor with a new dedicated parish office, community spaces and toilets. The Narthex was completely refurbished with the addition of kitchen and further toilet facilities. This space is actively used as a multi-purpose entertaining and reception facility for the church and by a number of community groups.



In 2007 we created the much-loved Oasis garden to the south side of the church to provide a quiet sanctuary, used by members of the school and local community as well as church members.

In 2015 the restoration work continued when the Byzantine apsed chancel, sanctuary and reredos with their elaborate decorations and fine mosaics were refurbished, finally removing years of smoke and water damage.



The restoration works and the internal re-ordering have given St Mary's new and attractive spaces for church and community use. Other facilities within the building include vestry rooms, a separate music room on the south side and a block of toilets off the south transept. The whole complex has become an attractive and well used venue for concerts, parties, and conferences as well as a group of much-loved worship spaces.

A recent resurfacing of the outside area has provided improved access and parking spaces, some available for letting.



7. PATTERNS OF WORSHIP

The life of St Mary's is centred on the Eucharistic worship. Our present pattern of worship (excluding additional special services at Christmas, Easter, anniversaries, occasional offices, services for children etc) is:

Sunday

08.00 Holy Communion (Traditional language)- said.

Attended by a small but dedicated group seeking a quiet Sunday reflection.

10.30 Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)- sung – our lively, main service for congregants of all ages.

Monday to Thursday and Saturday

12.00 Midday Prayer (Common Worship)

18.00 Evening Prayer

Wednesday and Saturday

12.30 Said Eucharist (Common Worship)

Wednesday and Saturday

10.00 – 12.00 Church Open for Quiet Prayer



8. LAY INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

Lay involvement is central to the life of St Mary's with members of the congregation extensively involved in all aspects of parish life, supporting the acts of worship, providing pastoral support and care, and undertaking acts of mission within the community.

The church is prepared for worship by our team of sacristans who ensure the vestments, candles, readings etc. are all in their appropriate place for the coming service whilst the congregation are met and greeted by our welcoming team alongside the sides-persons.

At our main acts of worship, we have a robed serving team consisting of youngsters and adults coming together to provide acolytes, crucifer, sub-deacon (and lay deacon where required) with the addition of a thurifer and boat at major festivals. In addition, there is the robed choir.

During the service the younger members are involved and supported in the creche. Readings and intercessions are led by members of the congregation.

Away from our acts of worship lay involvement continues with members dedicated to undertaking home visits to distribute holy communion, to bring fellowship to the sick and comfort the bereaved. Our lay members have also undertaken dedicated follow-up visits after baptisms.



In addition to the elected school governors there are also volunteers assisting in Trinity St Mary's School and local groups such as the Balham and Tooting Community Association (BACTA) and our local Churches Together organisation which fosters closer links with Balham Baptists, Methodists, and St Anselm's Roman Catholic Church.

A lay group produces a church newsletter, "Grapevine", not to duplicate information in our pew sheets but to share knowledge about activities and individuals and enhance our sense of community.

"I love meeting people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures at St Mary's and being valued with my own background".

9. MISSION ACTION PLANNING

St Mary's last Mission Action Plan was signed off in May 2019. We look forward to developing a new MAP with our new vicar. In the meantime, the PCC has reviewed what has gone well and not so well in delivering the May 2019 MAP and identified some learnings for the future. These will be made available on request to shortlisted candidates, but our four Mission Priorities, which the PCC considers still fully relevant, and learnings, can be briefly summarised as follows:



1. Social Outreach.

We do much better when we build on known relationships and people, including our church school TSM, where there are many children from disadvantaged families, than sending out emails to local organisations with a general offer of hospitality and welcome. We can be a welcoming church by welcoming local organisations who use our rooms, offering volunteer support to them and to others (such as the Gateway Club for learning disabled people) who use the facilities of TSM. Our active interest in the environment has grown markedly since 2019: we formed an Eco Group, achieved the Bronze La Rocha award, and mounted an Eco Day at St Mary's with other churches and a host of local organisations.

2. An "Open Church".

Plans for major changes to the church's frontage were developed to the stage of architects' drawings for inspection in the church, but have been put on hold since COVID and are not now front of mind as a priority. But the church is now open at regular advertised times each week for prayer and meditation, attracting a steady trickle of people otherwise unknown to us, and both our signage to people passing the church and social media presence has been greatly enhanced.

3. School and Youth Ministry.

We recall the promising activities that were in place before COVID and the fact that 16 young people from TSM and the congregation were brought to confirmation in later 2019 before the pandemic struck. The work with children and

young people is diminished since the pandemic but by no means insignificant, and there is a Brownies and Guides group with about 22 children. A group of children and young people meeting informally on most Saturday afternoons, supervised by adults with appropriate safeguarding training. Good progress has been made in fostering closer relationships with TSM children, parents and staff, for instance by creating volunteer opportunities for parishioners, organising joint parish/school worship, running coffee mornings for parents, and welcoming many of the children into the church for group work as well as regular worship. The great potential for further service to the community of TSM on our doorstep now rates as a higher priority than it did in 2019.



4. Spiritual Growth.

The range of reading and prayer groups was affected as a result of the pandemic and the diminution, for various unconnected reasons, of the clergy Ministry Team, though some continued online during the lockdowns. Some such as Lent groups re-emerged, and we see this as an opportunity for the new vicar to take the lead in diversifying and signposting the opportunities open to our church community. The potential for joint work with other churches on spiritual growth and understanding is also promising (as demonstrated by our experience of the Living in Love and Faith discussions among others).

10. TRINITY ST MARY'S SCHOOL (TSM)

Trinity St Mary's (Church of England) Primary School, whose motto is "Kindness, Unity and Courage", will be an integral, very important part of the ministry of our new vicar. It abuts the church building to the west. The school currently accommodates about 150 pupils and is single form entry. The latest SIAMS Report rates it as outstanding for distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England school. Its main challenge is the combination of falling demand for primary school places in this part of London and excess supply of places in the area, so the number of pupils is well below maximum capacity, placing strains on finances.



The vicar is ex-officio governor of the school, and an effective working relationship with the Head Teacher is of great importance. There are two diocesan governors, four PCC elected governors along with local authority, parent and staff governors.

The school has an established pattern of collective worship, including regular Thursday worship in the church with the vicar, and there are opportunities for teaching RE and other interactions with staff and children. Our former vicar would often be at the school gate to welcome children and parents as they arrived for school. The children have been highly appreciative of, and responsive to, the friendly presence of the vicar.

The school uses the church for curriculum activity including RE, art and history. Groups of children visit the church to explore and learn, and there is a Friday coffee morning for parents together with the Head Teacher and a representative from a mental health charity Place2Be.

TSM is a multi-cultural community based on Christian values and principles, with a high proportion of children who are on Pupil Premium or have English as a second language. Children, parents, staff and governors work together to promote a happy, supportive and secure learning environment by:



- Creating an environment where positive behaviour, self-discipline and honesty are expected;
- Promoting an understanding of everyone’s rights and how to respect these rights;
- Celebrating Christian distinctiveness as a Church of England school;
- Valuing and strengthening the partnership between the school and the Parish Church of St Mary’s;
- Dedicated teaching of Christian values and morals, respecting the diversity of the school community;
- Ensuring that all pupils have equal access to learning by means of a broad and balanced curriculum, enabling them to achieve their full potential in a safe and secure environment.

“The one word that always springs to mind about TSM is it is one big family. The Head and teachers go above and beyond in all that they do not only for the school but the work with children and their families. TSM may be a small school compared to neighbouring schools, but it has a massive heart!”
– a parent, April 2022.

11. REGULAR STUDY/DISCUSSION/PRAYER

Up to the pandemic, St Mary's enjoyed a variety of groups for bible study, theological reflection and prayer. These dwindled of late both because of COVID and the departure or illness of the previous Ministry Team. Groups have continued to meet for Lent courses and prayer, whilst a strong representation from our church took part in Living in Love and Faith discussions with people from other churches. The appetite for different kinds of study, prayer and spiritual exploration is there, and it is an opportunity for the new vicar to build up a ministry team and diversify the kinds of group experiences and discussions available, both within St Mary's and with other churches, and by direct provision and signposting.

12. OTHER CHURCH GROUPS

We have a robed choir whose numbers currently vary from a core half dozen at 10.30 Sunday services to a dozen or more on special occasions such as Christmas and other Feast Days or celebrations. There is a vacancy for Director of Music pending the arrival of the new vicar, who will have the opportunity to help shape the thinking about priorities, select a new Director and build the choir up again. The church has an excellent new organ and a high regard for music as a vital part of worship. This is mainly traditional church music but we are open to diversifying some hymns and to different music for children, to possible musical collaboration with TSM and to joining in (including hosting) ecumenical musical events organised by Churches Together in Balham and Tooting.

"I feel called to minister through music".



There is a fully robed serving team currently made up of 3 youngsters and 8 adults which provides acolytes, crucifer, sub-deacon, thurifer and boat as required at main services and festivals. There is a dedicated small team of sacristans. Our dozen or so stewards are organised on a rota to meet, greet and assist our worshippers.

*“There is joy in serving!”
– one of St Mary’s robed Servers*



Regular Sunday School has been in abeyance since the pandemic and during the vacancy, but has been a traditional feature of St Mary’s life. There is a small team dedicated to work with our children and young people, and they currently organise participation of children in particular church services, or occasional special children’s services, and work with a group of youths who meet regularly for relaxation and company. There is a well-used creche with toys for toddlers in one of the transepts of the church. Our company of Guides and Brownies currently number 22 and join in some of our church services.

Regular Committees include:

- A Lettings Committee, responsible for attracting and liaising with regular and one-off users of our facilities
- A Fabric and Buildings Committee
- A Giving Committee, overseeing stewardship and fundraising.

A gardening group looks after our Oasis Garden and the planting to the front of the church, keeping it tidy and beautiful and undertaking a myriad of gardening tasks, adding

of late an ecological dimension and work that involves children from TSM. The garden attracts some community as well as church users.

A dedicated group organises our musical concerts open to the public.

As a church family there are different needs to be met, some sad, some happy, so support is offered as required. Acknowledgement is given to each person as necessary. For example, within the 10.30 service if a member has a special event such as a birthday or anniversary and wishes to share it with the congregation, this is acknowledged and celebrated (so most Sunday mornings there will be a special birthday prayer and loud singing of Happy Birthday and applause for one or more of those present).



St Mary's has an active social life when the congregation meet informally to thank God for this church family and enjoy each other's company, and often raise funds for the church or other charities. Recent examples include garden parties, an Auction of Promises, Quiz nights, Beetle Drive, Harvest Supper and Anniversary or Jubilee celebrations, and a joint Charity Challenge with Trinity St Mary's School to walk round the boundary of our parish. The 10.30 service is always followed by coffee and snacks where we try hard to make visitors feel welcome as well as enjoying our friends and families.



Following some successful online talks organised during the lockdown, St Mary's is currently running a series of eight online talks by varied, distinguished external speakers on issues of contemporary concern, some local (like the development of Battersea Power Station or a local mental health hospital site), some national (like Broadcasting Religion by a former BBC Religious Affairs Correspondent, or the role of the Church Commissioners), attracting a wider audience than church members alone.

Other quieter informal conversations happen after the Wednesday lunch time service and other events during the week. Every now and then larger numbers gather to give the church a good cleaning ready for festivals such as Christmas and Easter.

“At St Mary’s I am reminded He loves us infinitely.”

13. THE VICARAGE

Built in 2010, the vicarage is an attractive modern four-bedroom town house designed in the style of the adjacent Victorian villas. It has gated off-street parking at the front and a secluded courtyard garden at the rear. The house was purpose built as a modern vicarage with all of the features necessary to create a comfortable working environment and a secure home.

On the ground floor is a study with adjacent cloak room at the front and a guest room with separate kitchen/utility room and ensuite bathroom at the rear. On the first floor is a spacious reception room and the main kitchen/dining room. On the second floor are three further bedrooms and a bathroom.

Eco-friendly features include solar roof panels, a wood burning stove and an efficient boiler. Security features include a video entry system, external lighting and CCTV cameras



14. OTHER SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INCUMBENCY

The incumbent is ex officio governor at TSM and likely to sit on two sub-committees of the Board.

The incumbent has traditionally been the link with

- Local schools
- Local scout groups and air cadets
- Local refugee organisations
- Other churches and faith institutions

These posts have also been filled by other parish representatives.

15. USERS OF OUR BUILDING

We encourage the use of our building by our community as a means of expanding our community outreach and as an additional source of income.

The church was regularly used by external groups and organisations before COVID, and usage is building back slowly and partially so far. Current users include a number of children’s organisations: Tappy Toes, Minijam, Monkey Music, Popchoir and Perform Music. We have recently welcomed back an independent church, “The United Church of Messiah” that meets for worship once a week.

Our narthex has been popular with a variety of self-help groups.



We also host a series of concerts on a Saturday evening throughout the summer and autumn months. This lively programme often features professional musicians who have recently completed their training or seeking to build their profile. The concerts have a regular following and are usually free entry (with donations to the church warmly invited!)

*“How has St Mary’s transformed me?
Being accepted for who I am.”
(Feb 2022)*

16. FACTS AND FIGURES

THE PARISH

Our parish is ranked right in the middle of the Church’s deprivation index for the whole country. But this masks great inequalities. Right on our doorstep, at TSM, is a community of families, many of whose children attract pupil premium or have English as a second language or Special Educational Needs. The spectrum in this part of London runs from very well off to poor or homeless. Please note that a significant proportion of our congregation (and of TSM children and families) comes from beyond our parish boundaries.



The 2011 Census showed that our parish

- Had a population of about 13,300
- 15 per cent were 0-17 years
- 77 per cent were 18-64+
- The largest group (32 per cent) were 30-45
- 8 per cent were over 65
- Just over half identified as Christian, 5 per cent as Muslim, 33 per cent as claiming no religion
- 64 per cent were White British
-

OUR CHURCH

There were 143 people on the electoral roll at the 2022 APCM. The average number of Sunday communicants is 71, and has been gradually climbing back to its pre-pandemic level of 88. In the period to May 2022 overall Sunday attendance has been between 70 and 125.

The church can elect 4 Deanery Synod representatives.

The PCC has 12 ordinary members, who are elected for three-year terms.

Two Churchwardens, and currently two deputy Churchwardens, are elected annually.

Baptisms were running at 17 per year before the pandemic and are climbing back: 2020:8; 2021:7; 2022:10 in first 5 months

Confirmations had an exceptional bumper year in 2019: 25 candidates from parish and TSM. In 2021 there were 2, in 2022, 4.

In most recent years there has been one wedding per year, and between 5 and 10 funerals.

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17 PARISH FINANCES

The parish annual income dropped by 10 per cent from 2019 to 2020 but has since fallen only slightly (2021: £129k, 2020: £131k, 2019: £145k). This is mainly due to the Covid pandemic lockdown and reduced lettings income (2021: £11k, 2020: £15k, 2019: £40k) offset by an increase in fundraising appeals/events. Stewardship has moved mainly from cash in envelopes to online giving as a result of Covid and congregational giving has stayed more or less stable since 2019.

Ignoring large one-off expenditures, the cost base has dropped from around £140k in 2019 to around £125k in 2021 as we try to manage the reduced lettings income. This included a reduction in our parish share (2021: £50k, 2020: £65k, 2019: £60k) which we are raising to £55k this year. The PCC considers the financial position and future expected cash flows regularly to confirm we are a going concern. Our general reserves at over £30k are above our target of 3 months' expenditure. Currently we hope to replenish our additional designated reserve for non-routine building maintenance from its current level of £20k to a more desirable £31k after re-surfacing our parking area.

The Annual Report and Accounts are available from the Charity Commission website.

The PCC is a separately registered charity under Charity Number 1139488.

*“I come here to worship our amazing God
whom I have come to embrace as my personal Saviour”.*





St Mary's is the Church of England parish church in Balham.

Like the community it serves, our congregation is made up of people from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives.

Our worship is centred on the Eucharist (Holy Communion), which binds us together in Christ and empowers us to share his Gospel with the world.

As part of the Inclusive Church Network, we welcome and affirm every individual as a child of God, regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexuality or background.

We nurture people of all ages in the Christian faith and deepen our relationship with Christ through the sacraments, prayer, learning, and social engagement.

2022