



**WELCOME TO
ST MARGARET'S
PUTNEY**

**PARISH PROFILE
2026**



Welcome to St Margaret's!

We are a medium-sized church in the central tradition located in south-west London, with an electoral roll of about 120. On Sundays 60-90 adults and 10-18 under-16s attend our main service. Our approach to worship is both traditional and relaxed, we are intentionally inclusive and accessible, and we love music.

Our former Vicar has moved with his family to Bristol where he was recently installed at St Mary, Redcliffe.

This profile describes our Present; who we are and what we do. We have adopted a descriptive and factual approach designed to supplement the presentational content of our recent past on our website; please do visit it to enhance your understanding of the lovely situation of the church building and the Worth Parish Centre in the garden next to the Lane, as well as the variety of our worship and activities. <https://www.stmargaretsputney.org>

St Margaret's is a warm, active community situated in the heart of the community. This document is a product of that community. More than 20 people have contributed to writing it, we had 55 responses to our online and hard copy surveys as part of our consultation process and at the end of January more than 80 people joined in round-table discussions in Church to contribute their thoughts about the Church, our needs and those of the wider Parish.

In describing St Margaret's for you, we have chosen to focus on the positive while at the same time we have tried to infuse our narrative with humility, signposting to areas of future development to build on which have emerged as clear priorities from our consultation process. The priority themes merely listed below will be visible as you read through the Profile;

- Providing good pastoral care to all who need it;
- Developing our ministry to children and young people;
- Helping us to grow in faith; and
- Building our social media presence to enhance our position within our community

There is a lot going on. Some of our resources are stretched. This Profile is also quite long! One of the insights we have gained from our consultation process and in preparing this document is that we need someone to help and inspire us to relate our worship and all our activities to each other. Will you respond to God's call to West Putney and come alongside us in further discovery and discernment to join in with what God is already doing?



ST MARGARET'S
PUTNEY

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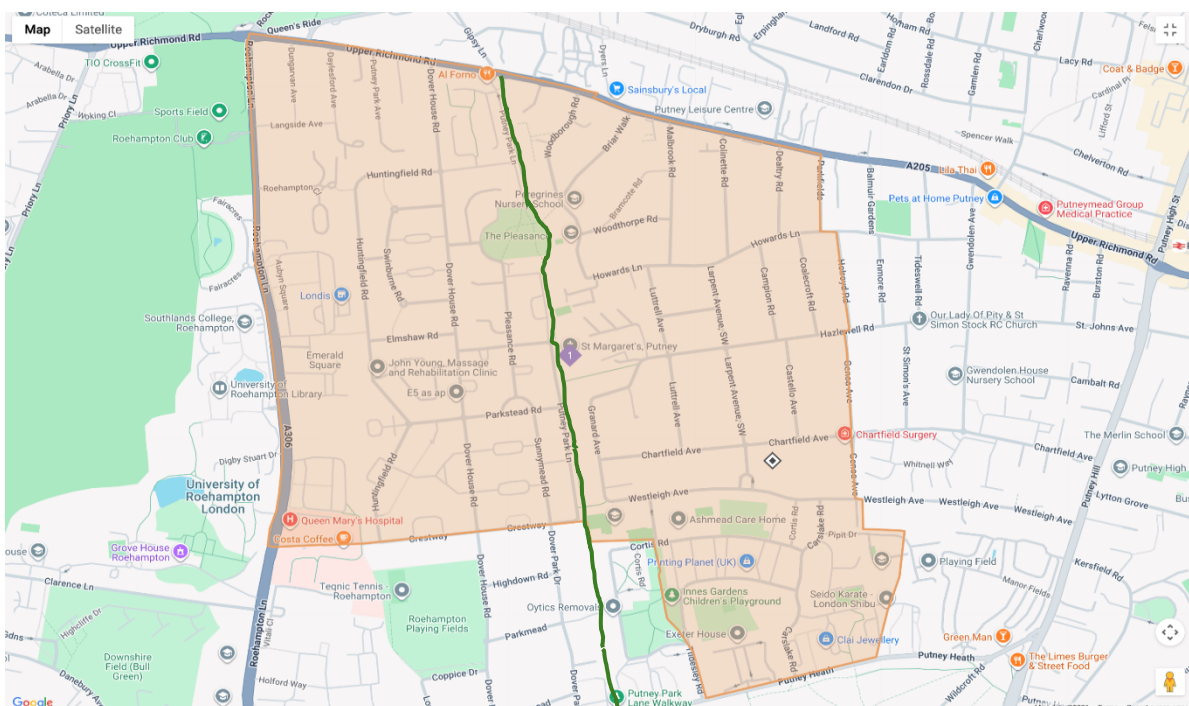


Our Parish

Altogether the parish is made up of around 4,260 households, but although many people come to the church buildings for weekly activities and the Beehive nursery, the passers-by are mainly runners and dog walkers enjoying the freedom of (almost) traffic-free Putney Park Lane. Even though a few vehicles do drive along the lane, none cross it as there is no connection between the east and west sides of the parish, and this historical divide (in green on the map) explains something of the shape of the parish. It also may restrict casual drive-by awareness of the existence of the Church.

To the west is the “Dover House Road Estate”, running from the Upper Richmond Road to Crestway, where there is an architectural divide between the 1920s terraced council housing and the detached private homes built in the same era. On that side the parish extends out to Roehampton Lane encompassing private dwellings and blocks of council flats, with Wandsworth having recently added to its housing stock in that area. On the east side of the parish the housing style evolves from the Victorian and Edwardian villas on the Upper Richmond Road to the Ashburton South Estate, a vast spread of 1950s high-rise housing built on the grounds of one of Putney Heath’s grand houses.

The clear divide between areas of social and private housing has blurred since “right to buy” in the 1980s. For example, the Dover House Estate has council tenants, older people still living in the houses they bought forty years ago, and people who have purchased the houses recently at elevated prices.



History

The history of our church is in keeping with the variety of worshipping traditions within our congregation.

The earliest part of our church building was constructed as a private Baptist chapel in around 1859 on land belonging to Granard House on Putney Park Lane. A shift of denomination to a temporary home for Putney's Presbyterians was followed by a period of disuse.

At the same time, the District Line and the railway was changing the semi-rural village of Putney into a leafy commuter suburb. To help the parish serve this growing population, St Margaret's was established as a daughter church of St Mary's in 1912 in the disused chapel donated by Seth Taylor of Granard House.

St Margaret's had its own vicar by 1920, the year the carved choir stalls were added as a war memorial. The following year the first organ was installed.

St Margaret's became a separate parish in 1923, shortly after the first phases of the London County Council's model housing project had been completed. Construction work in 1926 brought the building to the current size.

The present day

St Margaret's is in an ideal, albeit "tucked away" situation, with good pedestrian access from both "sides" of the Parish and recent work in our garden and the development of the Worth Parish Centre has created a visible and accessible hub for community groups and gatherings such as parties.

There are two primary schools within the Parish boundary, both of which have links with St Margaret's; Granard Primary School where St Margaret's people have long served as Governors and our neighbouring school, The Paddock Primary School for children with special educational needs, whose Joint Chair of Governors is a member of our congregation. There is also a large academy school, the Ark, which is situated on the Ashburton Estate, with which we have no links. There is an opportunity to develop connections between St Margaret's and these schools.



Part of the Ashburton Estate

Our consultation process has identified that the outskirts of the parish, notably the Ashburton Estate, is generally outside the current reach of St Margaret's and as a result we should evaluate developing an intentional missional plan. Our curate has developed close links with the residents, families and staff of the Ashmead Care Home, which is situated on the estate, and in the past St Margaret's has held weekly services in the community centre.

There are two sheltered housing communities in the parish; Glenthorpe and St Margaret's Court. There is also, close to the church, a small military housing estate.



A week in the life of St Margaret's

A typical week reflects all aspects our Parish life together with our community; our doors are open for worship, prayer, pastoral care, and wider community activities, with something happening almost every day. Volunteers are in and out every day, helping with maintenance, facilities, finance, the garden and support.

Each weekday begins with Outdoor Owls, a forest school using the side garden. The halls are also home to Beehive Nursery, Monday to Friday, 8 am-6 pm.

Monday

Ministry meeting every second Monday, monthly finance meeting, deep cleaning, 2 pm Pilates, 5-9 pm choir rehearsal. The halls host Brownies, Guides, Rangers, and Putney Music School at the Crypt (all days except Friday and Sunday). Director of Music and the vicar plan the next services. Children's Choir practises 5-6pm and adult main choir practises thereafter.

Tuesday

Mornings begin with playgroup for parents, carers and toddlers with songs,

tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. In the evening, Thames Philharmonic Choir uses the church for rehearsals. The halls host ballet, modern dance, tap dancing, and Pilates

Wednesday

Features Bible Study and a midweek Eucharist (8-12 attendees), followed by tea, coffee, and homemade cake. The halls host kickboxing, Pilates, and rehearsals for the Dover House Singers.

Thursday

This is the day for Lunch on the Lane, when free lunches are shared with the community - all lovingly prepared by volunteers who arrive early in the morning with their delicious homemade food.



The halls continue to buzz with dance lessons, ladies' kickboxing, Pilates, and yoga. During the second part of each term, free art classes in church are offered.

Friday

Usually a quieter day, often used for recording and preparation. When in use for recording, the church is hired



by singers or pianists to record music, taking advantage of the building's beautiful acoustics and the grand piano.

Saturday

Flower arranging in the church, and the verger arrives to set up the church for Sunday and to welcome Worth Parish Centre hirers. In the halls there are kickboxing and children's parties.

Sunday

BoCP Communion 8 am (with a loyal congregation), the choir rehearses 9-9.40 am, 10 am Parish Eucharist and Sunday school, 4 pm recitals, 6 pm evening prayer. The halls host children's parties.



During the week

During the week, the church building is used regularly for prayer, meetings, and pastoral conversations. In addition, it hosts weddings, funerals, memorial services, and local school services, while baptisms and banns readings usually take place on Sundays.

During our consultation process we have been struck by the volume of activity and the implications on our stretched operational and volunteer resources. We have also reflected that our worshipping life in the Church is separate from our community activity and we are looking for leadership to help us achieve our mission statement by "extending the invitation of God to all".



St Margaret's people

Ministry Team

Curate

For nearly three years we have been supported by Sarah Curl, a curate who completed her training in February 2026. She has shared in the full life of the parish: leading the youth group, running the Marriage Course, and developing and co-leading our bereavement group, *Good Grief*. Sarah is leading the ministry during the interregnum as she seeks her first parish.

Sarah Cooper – lay reader



Sarah was licensed by Bishop Christopher as a Reader (Licensed Lay Minister) at St Margaret's in October 2023, following two years of training at St Augustine's College.

She first came to St Margaret's in 1994, with her young family, and her vocational journey began in earnest in 2015.

Sarah preaches, leads weekly Bible Study, Evening Prayer, has oversight of our Sunday School and is also a Vocations Advisor, working with people exploring both ordained and lay ministry.

Anne East - Reader Emerita



Anne attained Reader Emerita status in June 2025 having been admitted to the role of Reader in the Southwark diocese in 2009. She was born and brought up in Cornwall, and Cornish Methodism is in her DNA. In her professional life Anne was a teacher of the Deaf. Her current ministry, as well as regular preaching, includes Bereavement Support and leading Quiet Days.

Standing Committee

This Committee is responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the church during the interregnum. It consists of the two church wardens, two assistant church wardens and Jonathan

Crane. It supports the ministry team led by Sarah Curl and monitors the financial activities of the church, is responsible for the vicarage and liaises with the Diocese as necessary.

Tony Hawksley: Tony was elected church warden in 2023. A retired Chartered Accountant he has been the Treasurer for ten years but hopes AI will help. He is a mediocre tennis player and erratic golfer.

John Roberts: Having not quite made it as a professional footballer, John became a career police officer in 1969, retiring in 1999. He then took up a career in corporate security and investigations in the City, first with Deutschebank, and then at BNP Paribas – where he met his partner who introduced him to Putney and St. Margaret’s, moving here in 2018. He is currently a church warden.

Hilary Belden is an assistant church warden and edits the church magazine.

Our current magazine began in 2004 and changing technology has made it ever easier and more attractive to produce, in full colour.

Our magazine includes a letter from the vicar and is principally a celebration of recent events in the church and our community, a source of spiritual reflection, and advance notice, with dates and details, of up-coming events.

Andrew Gairdner, an assistant church warden has been at St Margaret’s since 1974. He is a retired Chartered Accountant and now prepares our monthly accounts.

Jonathan Crane managed the building of the Worth Parish Centre and now manages all aspects of the building and equipment in the church and halls.

Operations Team

Mor Gartner

Mor was appointed as the parish administrator in June 2024. Mor works five days a week, and she lives very locally. Mor has three children, all at the local schools, with the younger one at the Beehive Nursery in our Parish Centre.

Guy Murgatroyd – Director of Music

Guy was appointed in 2026 and is settling in well. He is known for his virtuosic playing and imaginative programming. He is Musical Director of the award-winning Rogue Opera, leading innovative productions and tours across the UK. He is committed to developing the junior choir and looking forward to working with the new vicar.



Sarah Witney

Sarah is a very long-established member of the church cleaning operation. Besides cleaning the Church, she sets up the Toddlers' Playgroup on Tuesday and sets up all the chairs and tables and everything else for Lunch on the Lane on Thursdays.

The Verger family.

Hadi was appointed verger in December 2025. Hadi and his wife Razieh and his young son came to England from Iran in 2025 and all the family are now part of the St. Margaret's community. Hadi and his son come in at 7:30am before the 8 o'clock communion service on Sunday and Razieh carries the verger's wand for the 10 o'clock service.

Jaqueline Noel and Mark Melchioni

Jackie has been a long-term cleaner in the halls, now the Worth Parish Centre. She is also a teacher at the Beehive Nursery. Jackie recently cut down her hours from 12 to six a week. Mark works the remaining six hours a week cleaning the Worth Parish Centre Mondays to Fridays.

Safeguarding

St Margaret's Parish is deeply committed to creating a safe, caring environment where children, young people and adults can worship, learn and grow in faith with confidence and dignity. Safeguarding is woven into the rhythm of parish life, strengthened through regular "A Safe Church" reviews held across the year to monitor safeguarding practice, training and DBS compliance, and to ensure continued alignment with the Church of England's *Promoting a Safer Church* guidance and the Southwark Diocese *A Safe Church* manual.

The parish completed a Southwark Diocesan Safeguarding Audit and Action Plan in 2025, demonstrating its commitment to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement in safeguarding standards.

This culture of care is reflected in up-to-date Sunday School safeguarding procedures, safer recruitment processes, regular DBS checks, and careful attention to the needs of vulnerable adults, as well as consistently maintained risk assessments for church activities and community events. Safeguarding is visible and accessible through weekly service sheets, noticeboards, the website and parish magazines, reinforcing its central place in the life and mission of St Margaret's.

Serving the church

There is a large group of people who carry out "invisible tasks" such as washing and ironing the tea towels, and trimming the candles, with gleaming silver and floral displays appearing every Sunday.

Members of the congregation volunteer as intercessors (9), readers (23), servers (3) and chalice assistants (11), and sidespeople (10). For each 10 am service we have one server, four chalice assistants, one intercessor and two readers (for the Old and New Testament lessons). Rotas are compiled approximately three-monthly and names entered on the Master service spreadsheet so that clergy and service planners are kept informed.

Our Worship

In this section we describe our approach to, and preferences for, worship using insight gained from our consultation process. The role specification and person specifications (page 28) describe what we are hoping for in our new vicar.

At St Margaret's, community is at the heart of everything we do, worship included. It is important to note that, whilst a significant number of the congregation have roots outside of the Church of England, we come together and appreciate worship at St Margaret's, because the style of our worship is welcoming and consciously accessible. Our congregation describes our approach to worship as family-friendly, where tradition is balanced with an open-minded approach and newcomers find an immediate connection in a relaxed, non-judgmental environment.

We maintain a traditional approach to worship, while ensuring inclusivity and variety. Our current pattern of Sunday services allows for those seeking quiet reflection and traditional BoCP language to come together for a service of Holy Communion at 8am and, for those looking for hymns and Sunday School for children, our main parish communion takes place at 10am. A mid-week Eucharist is preceded by Bible study (with coffee and cake!) and offers a relaxed opportunity for learning and growth.

Evening services on a Sunday cycle between Evening Prayer, Compline, and Taizé-inspired worship. Lay readers and other members of the congregation

are sometimes invited to be involved in the creation and running of these short services.

Since the Covid Pandemic, we have maintained online access to our main services on our [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#), ensuring we remain accessible to those unable to attend in person.

Preaching and Spiritual Growth

Our congregation values thought-provoking and concisely delivered preaching that is intellectually rigorous and explores scripture themes from angles that might surprise and educate. Recent feedback suggests a desire for: A Spiritual Balance: Sermons that balance intellectual analysis with personal spiritual faith and the experience of the Holy Spirit. Practical Guidance: Teaching that is linked with the scripture and at the same time relevant to global affairs, providing guidance on how to live out faith in daily life, the community and beyond.

There is appetite for increased focus on supporting spiritual growth and suggestions of new opportunities, including: More short courses/quiet days: Interest in short courses on the Bible and more spiritual quiet days to deepen our personal growth. Home groups have not existed at St Margaret's for some time now and there is a desire to either rebuild home groups or find a way to create more spaces in church to fulfil this need. There are many working-age people in our congregation and we hope that our new vicar can identify compelling and practical ways to include them in such groups.

Continued development of alternative evening worship

We have benefitted from a collaborative and inclusive approach to additional cycles of worship, such as a Creationtide Evening Prayer series put together by a small group and a series of Compline, exploring vocations with a number of different voices as well as a series of Taizé-inspired evening worship. Members of the congregation have been invited to share their spiritual journeys and thoughts in these settings and as part of main services when appropriate (e.g. as part of the cheerful giving campaign) and this opportunity has been enriching and inspiring for all. This is something there is an appetite to continue and to build upon.

Music and Tradition

Music is a defining feature of worship at St Margaret's. We value the Anglican choral tradition and appreciate our talented Director of Music and choir.

Musical Style: There is a strong commitment to keeping a traditional musical style while exploring a variety of worship songs at appropriate times. There is a wide range of preferences, and the church is exploring how to balance the musical offering to remain inclusive.

Youth Choir: We are actively looking to develop and expand our burgeoning youth choir.

The Power of Ritual: Some find that the relatively recent introduction of voluntaries, robes, ceremony, and procession provides a sense of otherworldliness and spiritual uplift, but

as a congregation, we are wary of the theatrical element. We understand the fine line between ritual and artifice and wish to avoid performative displays, which detract from the connection with God that is found in simplicity and sincerity. Alongside the musical elements of the 10am service, the congregation values periods of liturgical space and silence.

Music is a major part of our 10 am services, and our new director of music hopes the vicar would be involved in developing this with him.

An Inclusive and Evolving Tradition

While our worship is described as traditional and formal, we are far from stuffy. We may use vestments and candles, but we avoid being overly high church or Anglo Catholic in our practices. Our community is:

- **Intentionally Inclusive:** We are committed to being an “Inclusive Church” that engages with social issues, including LGBT acceptance, the ordination of women, environmental care (Eco-friendly), and opposing racism.
- **Family-Focused:** We celebrate a growing Sunday School and the fact that children are admitted to communion (after preparation and a service). We aim to make every child feel welcome and valued within our worshipping life. The congregation enjoys hearing from the children. We are aware that our provision needs to continue to evolve to support all our young people, from toddlers to teens.

- **Open to Change:** While we value our traditions, we are not resistant to change and are willing to try new things that enhance our spiritual engagement. There is a collective desire to deepen our faith through guided reflective or meditative services, structured teaching or home groups.

Festivals and Life Events

We are known in the wider parish community for our wonderful festival services at Christmas, Easter, and special occasions such as baptisms and St Margaret's Day. These moments are marked by a sense of humour, fun, and joy, reflecting the vibrant life of our church family.

Weddings and baptism are a good opportunity for us to become closer to our local community, and we believe it is important for the vicar to keep in touch with the baptism families and wedding couples after the event.

Creation Care

Early in 2025, the Church's Mission Action Plan committed St Margaret's to putting "Care of Creation at the forefront of the whole life of St Margaret's".

In Creationtide (September and leading up to the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4) we focus particularly on what our commitment to Creation Care looks like, including special Creation Sunday, Animal Blessing, and Harvest celebrations. In 2025 we held a series of Sunday Creationtide Evening Prayer services based around St Francis's *Canticle of the Creatures*.



Creationtide Evening Prayer

St Margaret's, Putney
Sunday 14th September 2025, 6pm



Our Children and Young People

We have a real desire to grow St Margaret's younger! The development of our ministry to the children and young people in the parish has emerged as a dominant theme from our consultation process, whilst celebrating the resurgence of our Sunday School and youth activities following the Covid period. This ministry is highlighted in the [role description](#) for our new vicar.

Embracing the young in our Parish is a key challenge for our new Vicar. Much has been done recently but further involvement with our children and a possible relationship with the Ark Academy in the south of our Parish would be very rewarding.

Sunday School

Sunday School is thriving, with two age groups: a senior group of early secondary school age and a junior group of primary age, both groups being held in our church halls. Parents of nursery aged children are always welcome to

bring their children in to join the younger group and there is a dedicated area for them just to play or colour, until they are old enough to join in.

Ministerial oversight is provided by our Reader, Sarah Cooper, who plans all the sessions in line with the lectionary cycle, so that children and parents are hearing the same scripture each week. The sessions involve prayer, singing, the main bible story, an exploration of the scripture through crafts, games, chat. The sessions are led by two parents each time. The older group will often take the discussion further or develop ideas on a scriptural theme through projects. For example, in creation time, they got dug in, literally, in our church garden and local allotments.

Southwark YMIC activities are shared with this older group as well.

All the children who come have families in church as well. Being in the choir as well as Sunday School has really cemented the attraction for many children (and their parents!). And the role of acolyte was introduced recently



with two children eagerly lining up each week to be chosen to carry the candles in and out.

Once a month there is an All-Age service with the children involved in reading, singing and leading the intercessions, and more if there is a special festival service, such as Epiphany, Nativity, Pentecost.

The Inbetweeners (our younger Teenagers)

The Inbetweeners are our young people in Years 6 to 9. They are a confident and close-knit group, with around eight to ten attending most Sundays. Many have known one another since infancy, and this long-standing sense of connection shapes the way they relate both to each other and to the wider church. The church is a place where they feel relaxed, they can be themselves and consume vast quantities of biscuits.

They gather each Sunday during the service for a range of activities including Bible study, planning and contributing to church events and gardening. Around half of the group sing in the choir. They have a visible presence and play an active part within the life of the parish. Most have received their First Communion, and some have been confirmed.

Children's Choir

Supporting the Main Choir every week and leading their own service once a month.

Our Youth Group

The curate runs a small youth group for school years 10 – 13; numbers have fluctuated as members go off to university, currently there are five young women, four of whom have been confirmed in the last 18 months. The group meets fortnightly in the curate's home, and is supported by another member of the church. It is informal, pastoral and is a balance of growing faith, building relationships and having fun over food and games.

Our Youth Club

This group for over 18s meets monthly in the home of the curate or vicar for friendship building and relationships, it also includes social events like going to the pub or having a meal together.

Creation Care

Recognising the importance of including our children and young people in our commitment to Creation Care, we are ensuring that Sunday School work includes it as a theme underlying much of the work there, and with the Youth Group.



St Margaret's insect hotel

The Inbetweeners speak

Before preparing our parish profile the worship community had an opportunity to discuss their experience and hopes in roundtable discussions at the end of January. This is a record of the input from our Inbetweeners, which the PCC has decided to include verbatim to demonstrate our confidence and hope in the future of St Margaret's.

How they describe St Margaret's

The Inbetweeners describe St Margaret's as a welcoming multigenerational, community-focused church with a strong sense of inclusion, something they value very highly.

Music matters at St Margaret's. Sermons are relevant to modern life and them.

They recognise St Margaret's as a place where children have a voice and where family life, particularly for the youngest children, is prioritised. It is a place where children enjoy being involved and are given opportunities to contribute. However, it is not a place where they feel they have agency and are trusted to take the lead.

They describe the church as prayerful and calm and enjoy opportunities to play in the garden and halls.

What matters to them when they worship

What matters most to the Inbetweeners in worship is participation and recognition. They want defined roles and not to feel like they are simply "the inbetweeners" who do not quite belong. Being consulted about forms of worship and having real influence is important to them, as is being active participants rather than passive observers.

They value taking communion. They enjoy worship that is brought to life through drama and creative presentation. They would like shorter services, more modern hymns, and greater variety, such as different settings of the Gloria, including more physical or interactive forms. They want worship that feels relevant to contemporary society.

Outdoor services appeal to them because they allow engagement with the environment. They also express a desire for newer, age-appropriate books in the church library to help them develop their faith and understand it more deeply.

How they would like to see St Margaret's grow

The Inbetweeners imagine a future for St Margaret's where young people have a clear and valued role, rather than feeling that church is somewhere they are expected to leave as they grow older.

They would like to be more involved and better connected to the wider congregation, in a church where everyone knows each other's names and one that has grown across all age-groups.

They hope St Margaret's will be a place they can return to after university and eventually bring their own babies and children. They want it to continue being welcoming to all and to be known as the centre of the community, "the hottest place to be". Their vision includes a variety of services with more progressive, lively music.

They picture a place full of friendship, love, energy, and activity, functioning as a true community hub, actively involved in local life, hosting a wide range of events, and even having its own podcast.

Beyond Sunday

Bible Study

There is a small, dedicated group who meet on Wednesdays at 9.45 for an hour before the mid-week Eucharist. This is led by our Reader Sarah Cooper. Recent explorations have included the Parables, the Book of Revelation and Isaiah. Currently we are reading the letters of Paul, in the order in which it is believed they were written. In Advent and Lent we usually follow a group course specific to the season. We have had some lively discussions!

Wednesday communion

The communion service on Wednesday morning has a regular attendance of between 6 and 14 people. It is highly valued by this group, and part of its appeal is that the service has wider participation; for example, sermons and talks are given by respected fellow worshippers as well as the ministry team.

Quiet Days

For more than a decade St Margaret's has offered the opportunity for a Quiet Morning of reading, reflection and prayer in Advent and in Lent. Led by our licensed lay reader these usually take place on the day before Advent Sunday and the day before Palm Sunday. There is a mixture of lectio divina, poetry, art and music, with a brief introduction leading into silence. Participants may journal, colour, draw, paint – according to individual preference. Beginning with a small group of eight people these have grown in popularity are now attended by a regular group of around twenty. People

have become familiar and more confident with the format and see it as a way to deepen their faith and take time to listen to God.

Topics in recent years have included:

- The Motherhood of God (Julian of Norwich)
- Betwixt heaven and Charing Cross (Angels)
- Feather on the breath of God (Hildegard of Bingen)
- How the light gets in (brokenness)
- Journey (the poetry of R.S. Thomas)
- A place at the table (Rublev Icon)

Pastoral Care and Support

The parish consultation has shown a strong desire for leadership, interest and compassionate involvement of our vicar in the provision of pastoral support.

For the past three years, the curate has overseen the pastoral support provided by herself, the lay readers and a small team from the congregation.

We have excellent relations with local funeral directors and funeral ministry is strong at St Margaret's including an annual service on behalf of funeral directors and their clients. The curate, along with one of the lay readers, provide individual bereavement support as well as running the regular Good Grief group.

Much of the support provided by members of the congregation is through individual relationships – having a person that they visit (in their home, care home, or hospital room), accompanying on GP visits and taking shopping, and with whom they form or deepen

friendships. The team of people who provide lifts to church enables members of the congregation to attend services as long as possible.

The curate and lay readers take communion to members of the congregation who are no longer well enough to come to church. Some of these are at St Margaret's Court (supported housing) where one of our congregation provides pastoral support to her fellow residents.

The curate also holds a fortnightly Eucharist service in Ashmead Care Home which specialises in dementia care. Numbers vary but usually between 10 to 15 residents attend. During the year there is also a service of Remembrance, an Easter Service and a Christmas Carol service supported by our choir. The curate also goes to Ashmead during the week, including evenings, and at weekends to visit residents for end-of-life services and supports their families and loved ones.

'Good Grief'

Bereavement care has long been part of individual pastoral support at St Margaret's.

Since September 2024 we have offered a monthly group meeting at the Green Man pub, Putney Heath, on the first Tuesday of the month. This is open to people of all faiths and none, and is led by our curate and one of our lay readers, both of whom are trained and experienced in this work. From an initial group of six, all of whom were members of the congregation, our January 2026

meeting had 12 attendees of whom half were from outside the church. We focus on sharing and supporting each other in a confidential and safe environment. The loss may be recent or many years ago, as we know the pain of grief persists. We have not actively advertised these meetings outside church, yet outreach has happened; talking at the bus stop, sharing at a friendly lunch, referral from a GP, telling a neighbour. In this group we do not talk about the Christian faith, but seek to be alongside and show the love of Christ in action.

Creation Care

The '[Eco-Church](#)' webpage and new banner in Church have spelled out how this commitment is being carried out in practice. In recognition of the Parish's work, we have recently gained the A Rocha Silver Eco Church Award.

We now have a Green Champion on the PCC and a detailed Environment Policy and Land Management Plan (see the webpage). Briefly put, we are developing and building on previous work in the areas of Worship, our Building, our Garden/Land, Lifestyle issues, and Community educational encouragement.

The banner in church encourages us all to 'think about, discuss and discern what an ethical lifestyle looks like'. We have in recent years held small groups to provide support for people within the congregation and beyond as they contemplate how the Climate and Biodiversity Crisis could increasingly affect our community.



**St Margaret's Putney
A Rocha Eco-Church
Silver Award Holder**

Land

At St Margaret's we are blessed with a beautiful and peaceful garden. We seek to use this as a place of community, spirituality, beauty and education while supporting, encouraging and protecting our plant and animal life. We have created a Land Management Plan, record our species, and plan the use of our space with our gardening team. We have put in new benches and want everyone to enjoy our space, so that it serves our community as a place for reflection and adventure.



Worship

At St Margaret's we understand worship as an act in which we engage with all creation in honouring God. Through our readings, hymns, the times and seasons of the church, festivals and in small groups, we contextualise our worship in our embeddedness in, dependence upon and relationship with Creation.



Building

We recognise that there is a climate crisis and that tackling this is a matter of urgency and a matter of justice. We are committed with our diocese to reducing our carbon footprint. We monitor our energy consumption and have improved our sustainability with solar panels, and the use of heat pumps and infrared panels, water butts, recycling and LED lighting.



Lifestyle

We are working to create a more sustainable church in harmony with nature, but we are also called as individuals to love, protect and honour our world. As a church we want to encourage people in thinking about, discuss and discern what an ethical lifestyle looks like.



The needs of our environment require action by everyone. We aim as a church to lead on this moral issue in demonstrating publicly by example and as a strong voice in our community.

Community



The banner also publicises our desire to provide a strong moral voice on these issues among the local community/parish, and our commitment is expressed within the context of Southwark Diocese's Environment Policy and our links with local churches.

St Margaret's sees Care of Creation as a continuing journey of faith, learning, and community engagement. As we look to the future, the parish is keen to deepen and develop this work in ways that are pastorally sensitive, theologically grounded and locally relevant.

Possible areas for future development include:

- Deepening education and formation, offering age-appropriate teaching for children, young people, and adults that connects faith, creation, and everyday life.
- Strengthening community engagement, exploring how the church can support local awareness, resilience, and care in the face of environmental change.
- Developing practical leadership, supporting parishioners to make sustainable choices without judgement and pressure
- Exploring further steps in eco-church practice, including progress towards the A Rocha Gold Award where appropriate.

We would warmly welcome a new vicar who is willing to encourage, shape, and guide this work, helping the parish to discern how best to respond faithfully and creatively to the challenges and opportunities of our time.

Gateway activities and wider reach

[Our description of the parish](#) illustrated how the physical location of the church, the Parish Centre and the garden provides a community space which is valued by all. There is opportunity for the vicar to meet people passing through, or pausing or children playing, every day (weather permitting!)

Our green spaces

The Garden has been transformed in recent years with Creation Care in mind, to use as a space for education and adventure for children, for reflection and for prayerful contemplation as well as for remembering past church members in the new Memorial Garden. Our aim is to preserve and nurture this space with varied planting and measures to attract wildlife as well as provide a beautiful place which is a joy for local people to share.

Little Maggie's Playgroup

Running on Tuesday mornings throughout the year Little Maggie's Playgroup provides an informal session

to approximately 30-40 children and their parents each week. The focus is to provide a well-resourced play space, good coffee and tea and snacks for adults and children. It is an unstructured group, with the curate or the vicar providing a singing time towards the end of the group. The families with their children pack away and clean up afterwards. This is a successful and popular group, and the curate and vicar are able to provide pastoral care, and a listening ear to all who attend, this often leads to requests for baptisms, weddings and extending a welcome to messy church sessions which take place three times during the year.

Lunch on the Lane

Lunch on the Lane is a weekly event at St Margaret's that came about during the pandemic with soup and cake taken to parishioners. This is one of the most rewarding aspects of how a church can envelop a community. It is a free lunch held in church with donated soup, sandwiches and cake, and the setting up, the waitress service and the clearing away are entirely run by volunteers. Our guests number 15 to 40, and because of



the voluntary nature of the provision of food and hosting it is currently a source of weekly stress and strain. Despite that, we hold it as a jewel in St Margaret's crown and there is a real opportunity to both develop it and make the weekly offer of a free lunch more sustainable whilst achieving a closer connection with our worship and mission.

Churches Together in Putney

St Margaret's takes a lead in the local ecumenical activities facilitated by Churches Together in Putney and Roehampton. There is further opportunity to extend and develop our friendships and collective worship and witness.

Parish support for other initiatives

Our Curate visits Wandsworth prison, and has taken books for prisoners, including Parenting books for fathers in the prison.

In a wider context, we have also provided space and fundraising for Christian Aid, and for Aid for Ukraine.

We recently raised money for the building of the belltower for our sister-church in Kunnam, near Chennai in India, which some years ago we had provided financial support for its original construction.

It is important to us that we maintain an external focus, in gratitude for our resources and with awareness of deep needs around the world. In recent times this external giving has been de-prioritised although we have sustained consistent support for Christian Aid week which is delivered collaboratively with Churches Together in Putney.

On a Sunday afternoon the Director of Music organises a series of free music recitals which has become a regular and welcome fixture for both members of our congregation and a group of local people who do not otherwise participate in the life of the church.



The church community in Kunnam

Mission Action Plan 2025 to 2028

Our Mission Statement was agreed by the PCC early in 2025.

“WE BELIEVE IN EXTENDING THE INVITATION TO GOD TO ALL”

Our three main priorities are:

- To achieve the Silver Eco Church Award by the end of 2026.
- Communicating the work of our church with the local community.
- Deepening faith engagement.

During our recent consultation process there was a noticeable lack of engagement by the respondents arising from a lack of awareness of the plan. Therefore, this is an opportunity for the new vicar to lead us in further discernment as to what we should prioritise.

Silver Award

The church received the Eco Church Silver Award at the end of 2025, and this is shown clearly on a banner in the church doorway. A very successful start to achieving our main plans.

Communicating our work

We need to develop our physical presence and relationships with the local community through our website, social media, and our presence and practical activity both in the community and inviting members of the community to our events in the church.

Deepening Faith

As a means of deepening faith engagement our 10 am Sunday service currently is our main opportunity to learn about all aspects of our relationship to Christ. Further opportunities that have been already identified through our consultation process are described in the Our Worship section.



A recent PCC

St Margaret's material resources

Over the past few years there has been a physical transformation of the estate, enabling a much-improved experience for members of and visitors to St Margaret's, as well as significantly increased commercial income.

Our church building

Recent improvements:

- Modern chairs have replaced the pews, resulting in more flexibility, more comfort and a more contemporary aesthetic.
- Improved audio, with new loudspeakers and sound system, provides a better experience for congregants.
- Improved lighting, with spotlights highlighting the altar area, pulpit and lectern, focusses attention on the clergy during services and performers during concerts.

- The introduction of online streaming of services reaches people who cannot attend in person.

Future expenditure:

The church fabric is mostly sound, but the roof will require significant expenditure at some point in the next 5-10 years. A reserve fund for this work has been started.

Our halls

Recent improvements:

Our Worth Parish Centre project has transformed our halls, through:

- A direct connection between the halls and the church
- Additional space and much more flexibility
- A new kitchen
- Additional toilets

The result is increased commercial activities which have led to a near doubling of commercial income, as well as more community activities.



The Worth Parish Centre was built to modern insulation standards, and although at the moment the Church itself uses gas, we have an efficient condensing gas boiler. When the Parish Centre was built, we installed solar panels on its roof, reducing network electricity usage by nearly 50% there.

Future expenditure:

Again, the roofs of the halls will need work in the next three years.

Our garden

Our garden has been extensively improved with additional herbaceous borders, newly planted trees, the creation of a memorial rose garden, a resurfaced path and better lighting.

Our Vicarage

This substantial five-bedroom semi-detached Edwardian house with a well-tended garden has had a new kitchen installed and the living area modernised.

Church House

This three-bedroom 1960s house is adjacent to the church halls and is let out, providing a substantial income.

Live streaming

We began live streaming of our services during the pandemic and have continued to do so.

Music

The church owns a Yamaha CF6 Concert spec Grand piano (C. 2010) and a Lammermuir Baroque-style Tracker Pipe organ (1992) with 13 ranks. There is a well-stocked music library. The excellent quality Yamaha Stage light system used for performances in the church. All the equipment is regularly used and very well maintained.

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for St Margaret's Putney. The channel name is "St Margaret's Putney" with the handle "@stmargaretsputney", 300 subscribers, and 591 videos. The channel description is "Services and Events from St Margaret's, Putney ...more" and includes the website "stmargaretsputney.org" and 3 more links. The channel is subscribed to. The video list shows four recent live-streamed videos:

Video Title	Duration	Views	Streamed
11:30 am - Funeral of Loletha Thorne Monday - 2nd March 2026	52:26	66 views	Streamed 2 days ago
16:00 pm - Recital - Flautist Liz Meyer Sunday - 1st March 2026	48:50	14 views	Streamed 2 days ago
10:00 am - Parish Eucharist - 01 March 2026	1:24:05	26 views	Streamed 3 days ago
8:00 am - Holy Communion - Penitential Seasons - 1st Of March...	48:55	23 views	Streamed 3 days ago

Financial Position

St Margaret's is able to sustain its positive financial position by a combination of committed stewardship giving, commercial rental income, fundraising activity and diligent management and oversight of expenditure. We are thankful for the resources in our Parish.

We have a part-time bookkeeper, and monthly financial records are produced for periodic review at the PCC.

The key features of our finances

- Our current target is to breakeven matching annual income (£320,000) with expenditure including a transfer to a Fabric Fund (see below).
- Our main income streams comprise Stewardship £85,000 and rents receivable £165,000.
- Our main expenditure comprises Parish Support Fund £92,000 (paid in full), upkeep of services £76,000, Church Running £36,000 and Management £35,000.
- In 2025 we incurred repair costs of £31,000. This included one off costs for re-surfacing the church path and steps of £20,000, which were offset by £21,000 generated by a fundraising Gala.
- In each of the last three years we have made transfers to a Fabric Fund which now comprises £45,000. This is to build up a reserve to pay for future roof expenditure.

- We have cash balances of £100,000, which we aim to maintain or grow over time. These include restricted funds.
- To finance further expansion of our mission we aim to increase rental income by continuing to market our facilities to the local community.

Cheerful giving

in the last few months of 2025, we ran a "Cheerful Giving" campaign, to address a gradual downward trend in regular giving by encouraging newer members of our congregation to commit to regular giving and to stimulate raised giving levels recognising the impact of inflation on our costs. We used the Generous Church material published by the Diocese and the National Church and the main morning service on four consecutive Sundays featured preaching, teaching and personal testimony about giving. The results were encouraging; 10 additional monthly givers registered taking the total to 52. The PCC will review Stewardship and Gift Aid receipts regularly.

Elizabeth Worth legacy.

It's worth noting that the replacement of pews with chairs and the Worth Parish Centre project were mostly enabled by an extremely generous legacy from Elizabeth Worth, a member of St Margaret's. Successful grant applications and fundraising campaigns and events provided the balance.

Demographics

We aim to be a welcoming, parish church for all parts of our diverse community. During our consultation process we have reflected on whether further racial and economic diversity of our congregation could be achieved.

The perception of the parish of St Margaret Putney as predominantly white is borne out by the responses to the 2021 census. However, other statistics give a more nuanced picture than the trope of middle-class West Putney. Although half of households have a mortgage or own their homes outright, 45% rent and 25% are social renters.

The census data available can only help us give an overview of the demographics of the parish (and the slightly larger West Putney Ward) but do indicate a large core of adults with real restrictions on their “disposable time” as they are in full-time employment and/or are parents of young children.

About a fifth of the parish is younger than 20: the under-fives account for 5% of residents and 5-15-year-olds around 15%, with 16-19-year-olds – statistically working-age but could be students – c3%. About a third of households are families with at least one dependent child (lone parenthood is 7%) and in 10% of households parents are living with non-dependent children. People of pensionable age make up 15% of the total.

The majority of people in the parish are of working-age at nearly 70%. Of that group 17% do not participate in the workforce, 78% are in employment (about three-quarters working full-time) and about 5% are unemployed.

Because 2021 was still the “post-pandemic period”, it is unsurprising that over 50% of people were working from home. Although that statistic is probably out of date, it does indicate a high proportion of people whose jobs can be performed remotely, supported by a similar percentage working in higher or lower higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations. These positions may, in turn, reflect the general level of education in the area, with about 60% of adults having higher-level qualifications, and the 11% without any qualification likely including the 16-year-olds taking their GCSEs a few months after the census date.

The parish is predominantly of white ethnicity at 68%, with a fairly even distribution between Asian ethnicity (10.3%), black ethnicity (8.6%) and mixed ethnicity (7.3%), and 5.7% of “other ethnicity”. Among this population, nearly 50% described themselves as Christian, 30% as ascribing to no religion and 8% declining to answer the question. Muslims made up 10% of the population, with Hindus the only other group to account for more than 1%. (In 2011 there were a few self-defining Jedi.)

On the Deprivation scale, St Margaret’s lies around the middle for Southwark: 55% of Parishes in the Diocese are “more deprived” than our parish. The measures on which the parish is most deprived are affordability (14% more deprived) and income (20% more deprived) and the outdoor living environment, which includes air quality and road traffic accidents, is the most

deprived category – only 4% of parishes are more deprived on that measure despite West Putney’s green spaces. In contrast, the parish has a medium score

on quality of housing (57%). The Church Urban Fund’s statistics also shows our parish falling mid-range for the Southwark diocese.

The Church Urban Fund’s measures of deprivation

	Parish	Range averages	
		Diocese	UK
Child Poverty	15%	18.00%	29.50%
Pensioner Poverty	19%	25.00%	37.50%
Working age poverty	12%	13.50%	29.50%
Life expectancy (boys)	81 years	81.50	79.00
Life expectancy (girls)	86 years	84.50	84.50
No qualifications	13.50%	15.55%	22.45%
Social housing	25%	32.90%	38.05%
Lone parenthood	7%	9.30%	10.90%
People living on their own	29.40%	30.65%	44.20%
Older population	14.60%	18.50%	33.10%

Source: <https://cuf.org.uk/parish/370348>)



Job Description and Person Specification

Job description

Our hope is that with our new Vicar we will all flourish in every respect.

In practice this would involve:

- confident grace-filled leadership of our worship with strong Biblical teaching, leading and supporting the Ministry Team, bearing in mind how we value balanced liturgical expression and celebrating the Eucharist.
- finding and implementing ways to help us grow in faith; for example:
 - small group meetings; study groups, discussion groups, Bible study
 - intentional development opportunity for working-age people
 - drawing in wider participation and service to the church from the congregation
 - building vocations to lay and other ministry
- encouraging and developing the existing activities of the Church (see Parish Profile) and oversee the refinement and development of all that we do to connect more meaningfully with our mission.
- celebrating and enhancing our Sunday School and work with teenagers, and, in consultation with

the PCC, to explore the possibility of employing a Youth Worker, or other measures, so that all our young people can grow in faith and take a full part in our church life together.

- leading and developing pastoral care for all, developing a structured approach to include all members of the congregation and to reach out by developing relationships with families who come to us for baptisms, marriages and funerals.
- maintaining and further establishing links with residents of the Ashburton Estate via our existing connection with Ashmead Care Home
- finding ways, in consultation with the PCC, to develop further our Mission Action Plan including how to bring it alive for the congregation – what it is, and why these particular themes have been included; to listen to and take on board people’s responses and to involve everyone
- developing a proactive and impactful communication and social media strategy to enhance our presence in the Parish.

Person Specification

We are seeking a Vicar whose leadership and teaching flows from a deep faith and a desire to share with us their love of God.

We are conscious of the wealth of gifts within our Church and our community. We are looking for someone who notices them, makes space for them

and draws them in, so that God works in and through all that we do in His name. In practice that is likely to be someone;

- who is a good communicator, who can enthuse us with a vision after engaging in dialogue with parishioners about the future direction of St Margaret's.
- who can embrace a broad churchmanship, neither 'high' nor 'low', but who can effectively lead simple, beautiful and heartfelt worship whether eucharistic or otherwise, respecting and upholding with grace our diversity of traditions.
- who readily embraces the inclusive church stance.
- who thinks deeply about life's most important questions, and their relation to the Bible and the long tradition of theology and other spiritual writing and witness ; and who is willing to bring these insights to bear on the dilemmas of the 21st century, be they personal, local, national and global, in insightful and helpful sermons, connecting worship, personal faith and action.

- who has had life and work experience, who is aware of their impact on others, who can be empathetic, and has the resilience to bring God's blessing into every situation.
- with servant-hearted leadership and emotional intelligence.
- who is happy to trust people and to delegate responsibility, and is happy to both lead and work within a team as required, respecting appropriate processes and good governance.
- has familiarity and competence in missional use of online streaming platforms and social media.

Also highly desirable is energy, imagination and a sense of humour!

What we can offer in return: the Parish's commitment to supporting and encouraging our Vicar in line with our adoption in 2026 of *The Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing*.