ST ANDREW'S
CHURCH • COBHAM



PARISH PROFILE 2026

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Introduction from The Bishop of Dorking & Acting Bishop of Guildford

The Right Reverend Paul Davies



It is a great privilege to live and serve in the Diocese of Guildford. Our part of Surrey and Hampshire (including a parish in London and Sussex) combines the stunning beauty of the North Downs with close proximity to central London. This makes it a highly desirable place to live. It has seen a considerable increase in population in recent years which continues to rise with extensive building of new houses.

We are a very friendly diocese with strong relationships across parishes, schools and chaplaincies. In the last five years, we have invested significantly in clergy wellbeing. We launched the wellbeing covenant in 2021 and, since then, we offer spiritual direction, clergy mentoring and pastoral supervision. We also provide clergy counselling when needed. As bishop, I take the love and care of clergy very seriously.

The Diocese has a strong vision rooted in Transforming Church, Transforming Lives. This was the result of considerable consultation in 2015 and was updated in 2023 when we discerned three priorities: Growing Discipleship, Growing Diversity, and Growing Community. Each parish is asked to consider what this overarching vision might mean in its local context and express it in a Church Development Plan.

There is significant support of parishes through the central team in Church House Guildford. In 2020, we launched the Parish Needs Process. This is our unique support system which recognizes that each parish in the diocese is different and it seeks to journey alongside each one of them, supporting in a way that is rooted in particular needs - whilst seeking to build a supportive learning community across the diocese.

Building on training provision that has existed for some time in the Diocese of Guildford, in 2026 we launched St Martha's College. This seeks to support our parishes in equipping leaders for all sorts of ministries (including ordained ministry). Its most exciting recent venture has been the two-year Foundations in Ministry Programme which has seen over 120 people explore calling and formation.

Whilst we have seen considerable growth in many parts of the diocese over recent years, our greatest challenge since the pandemic has been recovery of ministry to children and young people. We are in the process of prioritising these areas – as we currently rewrite our children's strategy and have launched the Youth Catalyst Programme which is providing an exciting platform for young people to explore faith.

We are therefore always looking for clergy with a proven ability - or at least the clearest potential - in leading change, fostering a vocational culture and growing the church younger, so that our vision of a Transforming Church, Transforming Lives might be more fully realised.

The diocese has been blessed with very able leadership for the last decade through the ministry of Bishop Andrew Watson, whose untimely death in March 2026 caused considerable grief for us as a diocesan family. Inspired by his example, however, we are committed to continue to 'run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith'.

Wishing you every blessing in your discernment – and please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of the archdeacons if we can help in any way.



The Rt Revd Paul Davies
Bishop of Dorking & Acting Bishop of Guildford

A Letter from Venerable Martin Breadmore The Archdeacon of Dorking



There is much to celebrate across the parish of St. Andrew's Cobham, not least its being situated in a very desirable part of Surrey, with a diverse and attractive High Street and excellent transport links. The congregation is very faithful and committed to grow in discipleship, diversity and community as they live for Jesus wherever they find themselves every day. In recent years there has been a renewed emphasis on extending community engagement and building partnerships around community provision, a growth in stewardship, turning annual deficits into small surpluses over the last four years, a growth in the number of ministers, lay and ordained and high standards of maintenance of the wonderful church facilities. Leatherhead deanery is also a very supportive and active deanery.

We are seeking to appoint a full time incumbent for this parish, who is outward looking, able to hold difference of opinion well, has a commitment to the Diocesan objectives and embraces the fullness of the parish system. The new minister should have a passion for seeing people come to a living faith in Jesus and growing disciples, have strong pastoral and teaching gifts, have the ability to inspire others to reach out, and have a passion for engaging with children, families and schools, as well as bringing gifts and evidence of vision, strategy and collaborative leadership. The parish is committed to focusing on the development of small groups, working towards being carbon neutral and continuing to serve the community through the recent acquisition of the Cobham Community Hub with other community partners. The expectation is that the new Vicar will also be fully engaged with Deanery colleagues.

This appointment is perfect timing for receiving resources and support from the wider diocese. 2026 marks the beginning of our third cycle of our Parish Needs Process, which is a tried and tested way of working, whereby the diocese will seek to walk alongside each parish to help them with vision and whatever needs they might have arising out of this.

I am very enthusiastic about this post. For the person that God calls, there is so much to offer here: the warmth of a great church family; the opportunity of leadership in a parish, deanery and diocese which offers considerable support and resources; the challenge of discerning with these communities what God is doing and how we might join in; the privilege of living and working in a part of the country with so many opportunities for clergy and families.

If you would value an informal conversation about this post, I would be keen to speak with you, so please do not hesitate to be in touch with me via: archdeacon.dorking@cofeguildford.org.uk

Churchwardens Introduction

Welcome to St Andrew's.

We hope that as you read this profile, you will begin to get a sense of who we are: a joyful, diverse and faithful church family, rooted in our vision, "To know Christ and make him known." We are a church that seeks to grow in faith, warmly welcomes people, serves our community, and plays our part in sharing God's love in all that we do.

St Andrew's is a place with deep roots and a strong sense of history, yet we are also looking ahead with real hope and expectation. There is much to celebrate: a committed and generous congregation; worship that embraces both our rich choral tradition and contemporary music; strong relationships with our Church School and the wider community; and a wonderful team of clergy, staff, lay leaders and volunteers who generously give their time and gifts. This is a time of opportunity. We want our church family to grow and flourish, particularly in our ministry among children, young people and families. We want to deepen discipleship, strengthen our community partnerships, encourage those new to faith or with little experience of church, and continue our commitment to caring for God's creation. We are excited to see how these priorities might develop with the leadership, gifts and vision of our new Vicar.



We are not looking for someone to come in and do everything themselves. St Andrew's is blessed with many people ready to share in the journey. As Churchwardens, our role is to work alongside the Vicar, the clergy team, the PCC and the congregation to support the parish's life and mission. Alongside our Deputy Wardens and many willing volunteers, we aim to be trusted partners, offering practical support, honest conversation, encouragement and prayer.

We are praying for the person God is calling to St Andrew's: someone who will bring their gifts, experience, vision and love for people, and will journey with us as we discover together what God has in store for this church and its community.

If you are reading this and wondering whether St Andrew's could be the place where God is calling you, we would love you to come and discover it for yourself. We would be delighted to welcome you to Cobham, introduce you to our church family, and begin this next chapter together.

Lynn Moreno & Nigel Goddard
Churchwardens

Parish Vision

KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN



At St Andrew's, we are a warm and welcoming church family, bringing together people of all ages and backgrounds through a rich blend of traditional and contemporary worship. We celebrate our community's diversity and want everyone to feel at home, wherever they are on their faith or life journey.

Our core mission is to help people discover and grow closer to Jesus. We continually explore meaningful and inspiring ways to share His message through the spoken word, our rich choral voice and music, and our life and work in the wider community.

Above all, we hope St Andrew's is a place where people feel they belong, are valued, and are always welcome.

Our mission and vision are shaped by the Diocese of Guildford's Transforming Church, Transforming Lives framework. As we look to the future, we want St Andrew's to be a church that grows in faith, serves its community and cares responsibly for God's creation. Three priorities lie at the heart of this journey:

- **Growing in faith and discipleship**

  We want to help people deepen their relationship with God, wherever they are on their faith journey. Guided by the Parish Needs Process and its '5 Cs' (Crowd, Congregation, Committed, Core and Commissioned), we will offer opportunities to explore the Bible, ask questions, learn together and grow in faith beyond our regular services.

- **Serving and reaching out to our community**

  We want to strengthen our outreach to the community, respond thoughtfully to local needs, and find new ways to share the Holy Spirit. We seek to encourage greater youth involvement, as numbers in this area have decreased.

- **Creating a church for the future**

  We hope to develop a more flexible and multifunctional space within the church that serves our congregation and the wider community. Alongside this, we are committed to improving energy efficiency, working towards Net Zero Carbon and creating a sustainable, comfortable and inspiring environment for generations to come.

Above all, we hope to continue nurturing a joyful and inclusive church family, one that is confident in its faith, open to change and ready to grow. We want St Andrew's to be a place where people can encounter God, find friendship and belonging, and be inspired to live out their faith in the wider world.

Things for which we give thanks and praise at St Andrew's:

- **A happy and diverse church family** *with a strong sense of friendship, belonging and mutual support.*
- **Thoughtfully planned, varied and uplifting worship** *that embraces the richness of both our traditional and contemporary life.*
- **A pragmatic and supportive PCC,** *willing to listen, embrace new ideas and look positively towards the future.*
- **A genuine spirit of cheerful teamwork** *among our clergy, ministers, administrators, churchwardens, volunteers and all who contribute so generously.*
- **Our beautiful and historic church,** *together with lovely church buildings, gardens and parking, all cared for and well maintained.*
- **An ethos that recognises and supports different vocations,** *encouraging people to discover and use their individual gifts within the life and mission of the church.*
- **A strong team of lay and ordained preachers,** *bringing different voices, perspectives and experience to our worship.*
- **Good relationships with our wider community and local organisations,** *helping St Andrew's to remain an active and visible presence at the heart of Cobham.*
- **An excellent and enthusiastic choir and music group,** *enriching our worship and bringing joy to church and community alike.*

Opportunities and challenges for the future:

Looking ahead, we recognise both challenges and exciting opportunities. We hope to work alongside our new incumbent to build on the strong foundations already in place and to explore new possibilities for St Andrew's.

- **Growing a younger church** *by developing our children's and youth ministry, encouraging more regular participation and welcoming more young people, children and families into the life of St Andrew's.*
- **Greeting new people into our church family,** *particularly young adults and families, with or without children, and helping them feel that St Andrew's is a place where they can truly belong.*
- **Sharing the Gospel confidently and warmly,** *finding accessible and meaningful ways to engage with seekers and those in our wider community who may have little or no current connection with church.*
- **Building a sustainable financial future** *by balancing income and expenditure through thoughtful budgeting, increased regular giving and good stewardship of our resources.*
- **Keeping our worship fresh and restorative,** *remaining open to exploring the pattern and structure of our services so they continue to nourish established Christians while remaining accessible to newcomers.*
- **Strengthening our relationships with local schools,** *protecting and nourishing our relationship with St Andrew's School, and developing closer connections with other schools in the area.*

- **Responding to the needs of our community,** *remaining alert to those experiencing material, physical, emotional or spiritual difficulties, and considering how St Andrew's can offer practical support, friendship and hope.*
- **Deepening our commitment to creation care,** *continuing to make St Andrew's as environmentally responsible as possible, and progressing towards our ambition of Net Zero Carbon and the Gold Award.*
- **Making the most of our beautiful church** *by pursuing plans to adapt parts of the interior to create a more flexible space for worship, church activities and wider community use.*
- **Deepening discipleship and participation,** *encouraging more people to engage in the worship, fellowship and wider life of St Andrew's, including through small home groups and gatherings beyond our Sunday services.*

We see these not simply as challenges to overcome, but as opportunities to listen, learn and grow together. With faith, imagination and the gifts of our church family, we hope to ensure that St Andrew's continues to be a flourishing, outward-looking church, rooted in Christ and increasingly connected with the community we are here to serve.

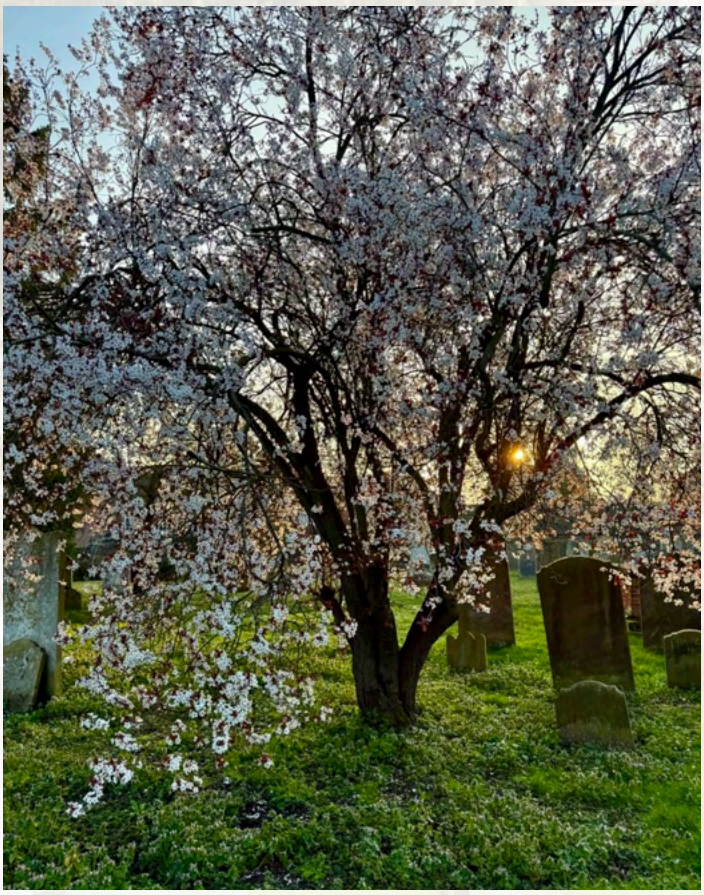
The Parish of Cobham – A Thriving Village Community

St Andrew's Church is at the heart of the beautiful Surrey village of Cobham, about 17 miles south-west of central London. With historic charm, excellent transport links, outstanding schools and abundant green spaces, Cobham is a vibrant place to live, work and worship.

Nestled on the banks of the River Mole and close to the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the village enjoys easy access to London via the A3, the M25, and direct rail services to Waterloo. A network of local buses, together with the community-run Chatterbus, helps residents of all ages stay connected.

Cobham's thriving High Street blends independent boutiques with well-known retailers, artisan delis, cafés, traditional pubs, and an excellent range of restaurants. There is a popular monthly farmers' market, a community garden, a skate park, bowling club, and activities at the village hall and the British Legion. Regular community events contribute to the village's warm, friendly atmosphere and a strong sense of local identity.

Set within beautiful countryside, Cobham is renowned for attractions including the award-winning Painshill landscape garden, historic Cobham Mill, and the extensive commons and woodlands. These treasured green spaces offer opportunities for walking, cycling, wildlife observation and quiet reflection, enriching both community wellbeing and appreciation of God's creation. Around 10,000 people call Cobham home.



The community includes young families, professionals, older residents, and people from many cultural and international backgrounds.

The housing is equally diverse, ranging from affordable housing to substantial country properties. While Cobham is widely regarded as an affluent village, it is also home to people facing financial hardship, social isolation and other forms of disadvantage.

As nearby housing developments bring further growth and diversity, the community's needs will continue to evolve. St Andrew's is committed to being a welcoming church for everyone, offering practical support, friendship, pastoral care, and opportunities for people from every background to belong, flourish and encounter God's love.

Cobham also offers the community a range of educational establishments covering both state and independent schools.

Residents benefit from excellent healthcare through Cobham Health Centre, Cobham Day Hospital and nearby NHS hospitals, while an extensive range of sports clubs, recreation grounds, golf courses and walking trails encourage healthy, active lifestyles.

Community wellbeing is also supported by St Andrew's at Church Gate House, which provides affordable yoga and exercise classes and spaces where people of all ages can meet, learn and build lasting friendships.

Cobham is a village that values both its heritage and its future. It offers an exceptional quality of life, combining rural beauty with modern convenience and a strong community spirit. At the heart of that community, St Andrew's seeks to be a place of worship, welcome, service and hope, sharing God's love with all who live, work and visit here.



THE TEAM



Revd Charleen Hollington
Associate Minister
(non-stipendiary)



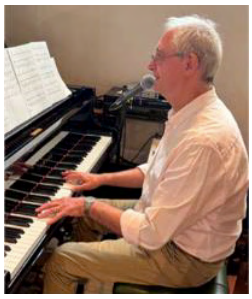
Revd Dr Moni Babatunde
Associate Minister
(non-stipendiary)



Revd Linnet
Frederick-Prasad
Curate



Revd Kelly Morris
Curate



David Fuge
Music Ministry Leader



Shirley Mensa
Children and Families
Missioner



Elaine Bray
Communications and
Administration Manager



David Greenwood
Occasional Preacher



David Taylor
Occasional Preacher



Cathy Whitnall
Occasional Preacher



Peter Kelly
Occasional Preacher



Leonard Beighton
PCC Secretary



Lisa Azarmi
Deputy Churchwarden



Simon Bray
Deputy Churchwarden



James Moreno
Treasurer



Our Church

Patronage

St Andrew's has a long and valued connection with the Combe family of the Cobham Park Estate, who have held the advowson (the right of patronage) since 1852. Our current Patron is Dominic Combe. This historic relationship remains very much alive today. Members of the Combe family worship at St Andrew's and continue to take an active and generous interest in the life of the church. Their longstanding connection is a valued part of our heritage, providing a wonderful sense of continuity from St Andrew's past to its present and future.

Safeguarding

At St Andrew's, safeguarding is not simply something we do — it is part of who we are. We take our responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults extremely seriously, and are committed to developing a culture where safer working practices are embedded in everything we do. We want everyone who comes through our doors to feel safe, valued and welcome.

We have a dedicated Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and a Safeguarding PCC Representative who help to ensure that safeguarding remains a priority across the life of the church. Safeguarding is a standing item at every PCC meeting, helping PCC members to remain mindful of their responsibilities and providing regular opportunities to reflect on safeguarding practice. This can include discussing practical safeguarding scenarios and considering how we would respond to different situations.

We use the SAFE Parish Safeguarding Check to review and strengthen our safeguarding practice. Our most recent assessment, completed in November 2025, placed St Andrew's at Level 3, with a score of over 90%. The report concluded that St Andrew's is "a parish genuinely committed to creating a safe, nurturing environment for all."

All our church leaders receive appropriate safeguarding training and understand both their responsibilities and how to respond if they have a concern. We also seek to ensure that safeguarding is understood as the responsibility of the whole church community, not simply those with designated safeguarding roles. Our annual Safeguarding Sunday provides an opportunity to reflect together, raise awareness and remind the whole church that everyone has a part to play in keeping one another safe.

Services

Our weekly services at a glance:

- ***Sunday at 8.00 a.m.*** *– 1662 Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion*
- ***Sunday at 10.00 a.m.*** *– Parish Communion or All-Age Worship*
- ***Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 9.00 a.m.*** *– Morning Prayer*
- ***Friday at 10.30 a.m.*** *– Holy Communion*

We consider it one of our church's successes that people from a wide range of Christian traditions and theological perspectives feel at home. Our congregation includes conservative evangelicals, those with a more liberal theology, and many whose faith lies somewhere in between.



This breadth of tradition is one of St Andrew's strengths and is reflected in the variety of our services, from the familiar beauty and tradition of the Book of Common Prayer to Parish Communion and the relaxed, inclusive character of our All-Age Worship.

Our main Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with Parish Communion and All-Age Worship on the first Sunday of each month. Our worship is enriched by our choir, small band and Music Ministry Leader, reflecting the breadth of traditions within our church family.

On the second and fourth Sundays, we celebrate a traditional sung Eucharist with our robed choir; the third Sunday offers a less formal said Eucharist, while the fifth Sundays provide an opportunity for a more flexible, non-Eucharistic Word and Worship service. Our choir, small band, and Music Ministry Leader support all of these services. Children from Kids' Church and DiscipleShip join the congregation for Communion and receive either Communion or a blessing, according to their family's wishes.

We continue to explore fresh and engaging ways to worship and reach beyond our existing congregation.

A recent non-liturgical evangelical style Sunday evening service at Cobham Village Hall did not attract enough attendees to continue, but it provided valuable experience as we consider new outreach opportunities within our community.



The local Ukrainian community holds a service in the Church one Sunday a month.

Some time ago, we held a healing service that was very popular, and we hope to resume it on a more regular basis.

There is an annual Time to Remember service where we remember those we have lost.

The main 10am Sunday service is paperless, with words and songs projected onto screens visible throughout the church. This service is broadcast live on the Church's YouTube channel.

Our attendance and occasional offices figures are as follows:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Christmas	776	0	179	583	652	620	650
Easter	236	-	77	190	237	267	263
Ave. weekly, Oct	145	-	131	144	123	136	129
Usual Sunday	125	-	-	100	105	116	108
Baptisms	32	1	5	23	14	22	7
Weddings	10	3	5	8	7	3	2
Funerals	12	28	32	19	27	25	19

Music Ministry

We are blessed with a high standard of music at St Andrew's.

Our Music Ministry Leader is an organ scholar and sound engineer who leads the church in music that blends old and new, energetic and reflective. Twice a month, the Eucharist is a fully sung service, with the robed choir leading the congregation in the setting, hymns, songs, and an anthem that fits the theme of the day.

The St Andrew's Choir features committed members who relish singing a diverse array of musical styles, including early music and worship songs, often with special arrangements.

Our church band provides backing for more contemporary music. The band includes guitar, piano, a wind section, and drums and percussion. Our worship band and choir work closely together.



The church has an excellent 3-manual digital organ and a grand piano. We also have an up-to-date sound system with radio microphones, giving us flexibility for worship, special services and other church occasions.

Home Groups

Our home groups are currently in transition. Three well-established groups have recently come to a natural end as members' circumstances have changed, while three continue to meet successfully, with between five and eight people gathering either fortnightly or monthly.

We recognise that developing and expanding our small-group ministry is an important priority for the future. We hope to encourage new groups to grow organically from courses described in the Faith and Discipleship section as advised by the diocese. We would particularly welcome the leadership and encouragement of a new incumbent to help us create a vibrant network of small groups where people can deepen their faith, build friendships and feel more closely connected to the life of the church.

At the heart of this approach is a simple invitation: "Belong, learn, pray."

Faith and Social Action

St Andrew's is a tithing church, and under the oversight of our Outward Giving Committee 10% of the congregation's voluntary giving is distributed to various charities. Among these charities, St Andrew's supports four principal ones which were specially selected by the PCC. Two are charities operating locally in Cobham, and two are overseas charities. In addition to these, we also support the Cobham Foodbank. Each of these has a 'Project Champion' who manages the church's relationship with the charity, leads additional fund-raising efforts and is responsible for arranging a 'Project Sunday' once a year at which the 10 a.m. service is dedicated to focussing on that champion's charity. The champions and a Committee of the PCC (the Faith and Social Action Committee) meet four times a year, and a Faith and Social action e-zine is distributed three times a year.

Our aspiration is for social action to become an increasingly visible expression of our faith: serving others, building relationships and making a practical difference in our community and the wider world.

Living in Love and Faith

At St Andrew's we ran the course that the Diocese had provided, for anyone to attend, and made the contents available for our small groups to use. It was well attended and brought awareness to people who wished to explore this in more detail.

Families and Young People

We are deeply passionate about cultivating a church where children, young people, and families from every background immediately know they belong. Our heart is in community outreach, and we actively build relationships that extend well beyond our church walls. We have strong, established connections across our community, including our thriving partnership with St Andrew's School and our much-loved Party in the Park, Easter High Tea, and Christmas Lunch. Alongside our regular ministries and seasonal activities, these occasions bring people together, build friendships, and create pathways into church life, where the next generation can flourish, explore faith, and feel truly at home.



Little Fishes Toddler Group

Little Fishes is our thriving midweek toddler group for children aged 0-3, their parents, and carers. Far more than just a playgroup, it has become a vital community hub where families build deep friendships, find mutual support, and experience God's love in tangible ways. Through play, crafts, music, seasonal celebrations, and shared conversation, we regularly see around 30 children each week. It is a joyous, bustling ministry and a massive bridge into our wider community.

Kids Church

Our Sunday Kids Church provides a fun, welcoming, and Spirit-filled environment where children from birth to secondary school age grow in faith through high energy games, creative activities, worship, Bible teaching, and prayer.



While we have a strong number of families on our parish roll (as seen in our buzzing midweek ministries), our current Sunday morning attendance has typically been under 5 children since the COVID lockdowns. We see this not as a setback, but as a massive, ready-made mission field. With 30 children already loving Little Fishes, there is a thrilling opportunity for a new leader to help us inspire these families into our Sunday morning life.

Youth Discipleship

Our youth ministry is centred on helping every young person know they belong, grow in their faith, and gain the confidence to live it out boldly. Our teenagers are already a vibrant and much-loved part of the wider life of St Andrew's. They help lead worship, support our children's ministry, serve alongside local charities, and engage in mission opportunities in the UK and overseas. For some, experiences such as trips to Taizé have been genuinely life-changing, opening their eyes to the breadth of the Christian family and their place within it.



Through engaging Sunday gatherings, honest conversations, deep yet accessible Bible teaching, worship, prayer, and practical opportunities to serve, we create a space where young people can ask big questions, explore their identity in Christ, grow in confidence, and discover how faith shapes every part of everyday life. At present, we have a dedicated and energetic core of 5–9 young people who are eager to grow. We see huge potential for this group to flourish, developing deeper discipleship, stronger community, and a greater sense of their calling and purpose.

St Andrew's Church and School Partnership

Our partnership with St Andrew's Church of England Primary School is central to our ministry among children and families.

The following was written by the Headteacher of St Andrew's School:

St. Andrew's School wishes to serve its community of children and families. It welcomes all faiths and none, embraces diversity and aims to support families as well as children's individual needs. It works closely with St. Andrew's Church to be at the heart of the Cobham Community. The school is keen to make as many links with the church as it can. Our current links include:

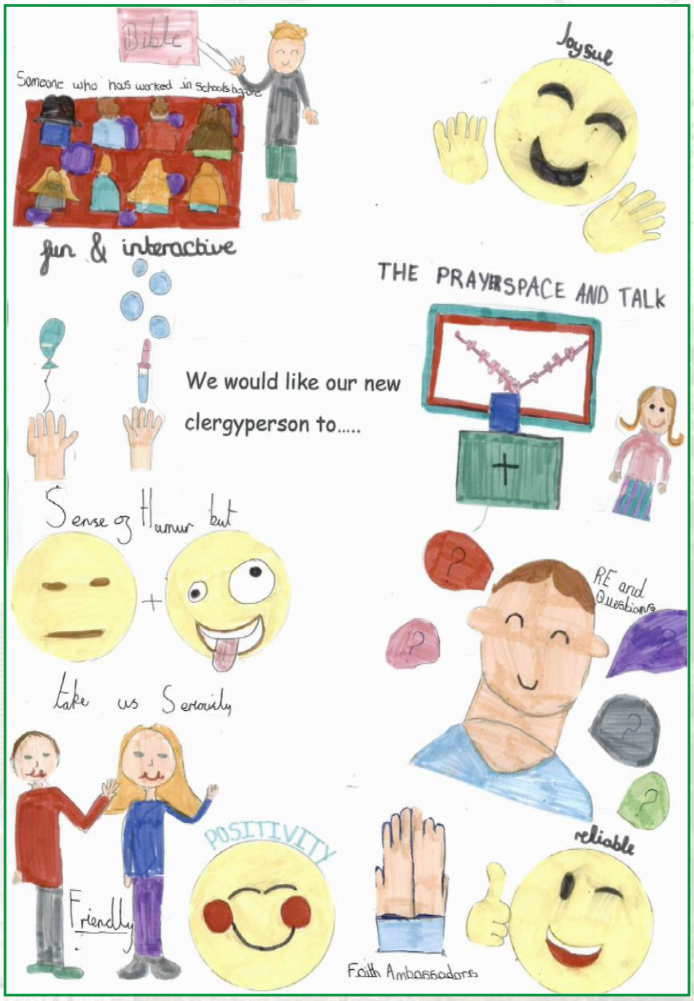
- ***Clergy and other church members leading a weekly assembly at school.***
- ***A Faith Club, who meet weekly, led by church members and school staff.***
- ***A weekly singing assembly led by the church director of music and his wife.***
- ***Trained volunteers from St Andrew's Church representing "Transforming Lives for Good" who work with individual children at school.***
- ***Reading volunteers from the church community.***
- ***The school takes part in six All Age Worship services at St Andrew's Church each year and holds its Christmas and Easter services at church.***
- ***Support from clergy and other church members for some RE lessons at school.***
- ***Church members serve on the governing body.***
- ***The school supports charities alongside the church.***
- ***The vicar is an ex-officio school governor and other members of the clergy are also on the board of governors.***

The school is keen to support the Church of England vision and strategies which put children and families at the centre of its work. It is keen to work with the church to engage young people in a way which reflects the communities it serves.

When the children were asked what they would like in their new vicar, they said:

We would like him/her to:

- ***Be someone who has worked in schools before***
- ***Lead fun and interactive assemblies***
- ***Have a sense of humour but take us seriously***
- ***Take part in RE lessons and answer BIG questions***
- ***Spend time in our prayer space talking to us***
- ***Spend time with our Faith Ambassador Club***
- ***Be Joyful, Reliable and Positive***



The school has seen a decline in pupil numbers since the opening of Cobham Free School. However, exciting developments are underway to secure its future, including a new SEND centre and plans to cover and reopen the swimming pool for use by the wider community. These projects offer fresh opportunities for the school, church and local community to work together to serve local families.



Community Outreach

Bereavement Journey

The 'At a Loss' Bereavement Journey is a caring seven-week course offering support, hope and companionship to those experiencing grief. Held twice a year, with both daytime and evening sessions, it provides a safe and welcoming space to reflect, share experiences and connect with others.

Cuppa and Chat

Cuppa and Chat is a simple but valued weekly gathering attended by both members of our congregation and people from the local community. Over coffee and sandwiches, it provides a friendly opportunity to meet others, build friendships and enjoy conversation in a relaxed environment.

Spiritual Cinema

Once a month, we come together for an evening of film and conversation. We screen films that raise ethical and spiritual questions, with wine and snacks and an informal discussion afterwards, led by a member of the clergy. It is an enjoyable and accessible way to explore some of life's deeper questions together.

Christmas Lunch and Easter High Tea

At Christmas and Easter, we recognise that these important times of year can also be particularly lonely for some people. For a number of years, we have hosted well-attended community lunches and teas, where church volunteers give generously of their time to prepare food and invite individuals and families into Church Gate House. These occasions offer friendship, hospitality and a real sense of community and belonging.

Eco-church

At St Andrew's, caring for creation is an important expression of our faith. We believe the natural world is God's gift, entrusted to our care, and are committed to making creation care integral to our worship, prayer, teaching and community life. We are part of the Pioneer Churches in the diocese and actively work to promote sustainability and Net Zero.

As an Eco Church Silver Award holder, we are working enthusiastically towards Gold. Our churchyard is already being enriched through rewilding, planting native trees and pollinators, and projects that promote greater biodiversity. In doing so, we hope to create a haven for wildlife and a peaceful, beautiful space for the whole community to enjoy.
We have recently been awarded an eco-grant from Elmbridge Council for a Library of Things, which will be up and running for the community by February 2027.



Bellringers

St Andrew's has an active and enthusiastic team of bellringers who ring the bells most Sundays before the 10:00 service. They are an integral part of the life and character of the church, helping to mark our worship and special occasions, and contributing to the wider community life of St Andrew's.

Gardening Team

Our weekly gardening team meets regularly to care for and develop the church grounds. It is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, work together and share fellowship while helping to care for creation. This is a welcoming group where both people and wildlife can flourish.

T4U

This is an informal afternoon tea with cakes and a gentle quiz.

Church Development Plan

Like all parishes in the Diocese of Guildford, St Andrew's has embraced the Diocese's Church Development Planning process. Our current plan is built around three themes: Growing Disciples, Growing Diversity and Growing Community. These priorities provide a framework for much of our mission and ministry and are reflected throughout the earlier sections of this profile.

Faith and Discipleship

We are excited about several initiatives to support St Andrew's spiritual growth and development. A key priority is to offer four accessible, self-contained courses each year, providing regular opportunities for people to explore faith, ask questions and grow as disciples. These include a Beginners/Seekers course such as Alpha in January, a Lent course, a summer course in June and an Advent course. We are exploring using podcasts and other digital resources to make the Advent course accessible to young people and wider audiences.

We also hope to establish regular contemplative prayer sessions, creating space for stillness, reflection and a deeper encounter with God. As relationships develop through the courses, we want to encourage small groups to emerge organically, offering opportunities for people to build community and continue growing together.

The Cobham Hub and Local Community Support

St Andrew's has been involved in an initiative with local charities and organisations regarding the future use and management of the former Cobham Community Centre. The Centre has been transferred by the local authority to Walton Charities, who have leased it to a newly created Community Interest Company.

St Andrew's is excited to have been part of this project and is now prayerfully considering its future engagement with the Hub as a means of extending the life and mission of the church.

Environmental Sustainability

Running through every aspect of our Development Plan is our commitment to caring for God's creation. St Andrew's has worked closely with the Diocesan Net Zero Team and is a Net Zero Pioneer.

Detailed feasibility studies concluded that air and ground-source heat pumps are not viable for our site. A water-source heat pump may be feasible, though this would require significant external funding. We are therefore exploring a combination of grants and community fundraising to help make this longer-term vision achievable.

Alongside this, we continue to make practical improvements. Our floodlighting has been replaced with energy-efficient LED lighting, and all our electricity and gas are sourced from renewable suppliers.

During the vacancy, we hope to begin creating more efficient heating zones within the church and consider installing under-pew heating in the chancel and an infrared heater in the chapel.

This would allow weekday worship and activities to proceed without heating the whole building, helping us reduce energy use while making better use of our historic church.

As with any living strategy, the Development Plan will continue to evolve as circumstances change and new opportunities arise. It provides a strong foundation while leaving space for the gifts, vision and leadership that a new incumbent will bring.

Our Buildings

St Andrew's Church

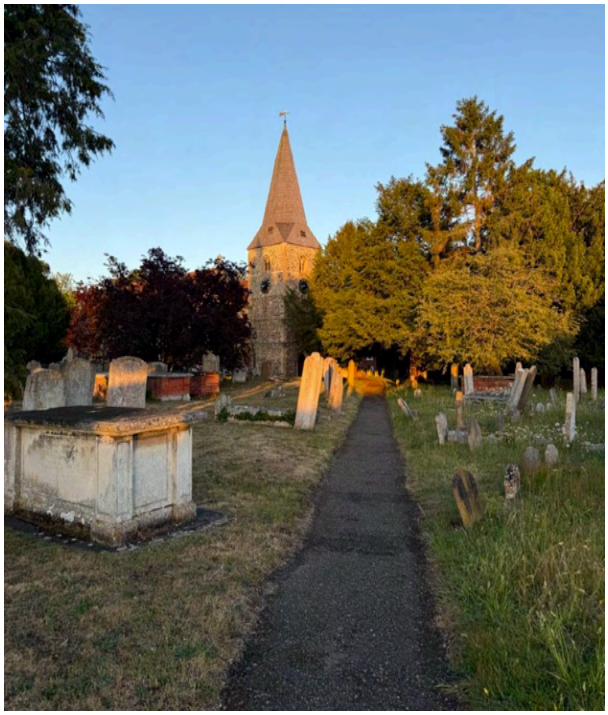
St. Andrew's parish church is a Grade 1 listed building of historic importance that has been at the heart of the community for at least 1,000 years.

The ancient church surrounded by an attractive, closed, churchyard stands close to the river Mole and is a significant building for the whole community. Although greatly restored and enlarged in the 19th century, evidence of the older building can be found chiefly in the tower and South porch. Recent research suggests that the tower foundations might predate the Norman conquest.

19th century restorations and extensions created a Tractarian-style centre for worship, including high-quality High Gothic and Arts and Crafts features.

As the church adapts for 21st century worship and wider community use, the building's historic fabric remains generally in good condition. The tower spire was re-shingled in 2020 and generally the historic fabric of the building is in good order and repair.

A faculty has been submitted for work to be carried out in the bell tower, and a fundraising appeal has been started.



Church Gate House

St Andrew's Church, Cobham, is blessed with a highly regarded and well supported facility in Church Gate House Centre. This consists of a walk-in welcome area open weekday mornings, a hall with capacity for 100 people a smaller lounge for more intimate gatherings and a small meeting room. Both the hall, lounge and meeting room are available to hire and are supported by a fully equipped kitchen for catering. The hall opens onto a child-safe riverside garden and is a popular venue for birthday parties, exercise classes, local club meetings and is fully equipped with audio and projection equipment.

The Flat

Located above Church Gate House there is a 2 bedroom flat which is currently rented out to a Ukrainian refugee family.

Curate's House

In 2022 we used a legacy and reserves to buy a house in northwest Cobham to house trainee curates. The house is not subject to a mortgage and is owned by St Andrew's Church. It is a three-bedroom semi-detached house in a good condition.

The Vicarage

The vicarage is a detached family house with a large garden, located in a cul-de-sac, a five-minute walk from St Andrew's Church. It is within easy walking distance of local shops and amenities. Built in1981-82 it is constructed using brick with a tiled roof. It is equipped with gas-fired central heating and is double-glazed throughout.



On the ground floor is the office, dining room, lounge with patio doors leading to the garden.

There is also a large kitchen plus an accessible toilet.



Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, an accessible shower room plus a separate bathroom/toilet.

Outside there is a garage together with an electric vehicle charging point.

The garden is large and includes a cabin-style shed with heating and electrical supply.

The lawn is managed by a robotic lawn mower.

Our Next Vicar

We are praying for a new Vicar who loves Jesus, loves people and who will be excited about all that God might do through St Andrew's in the years ahead.

We recognise that no one will embody every quality perfectly, but we are looking for someone who brings many of the following gifts, passions and characteristics.

Discipling Our Church Family

- **A passionate follower of Jesus** *who can inspire and encourage others to model the Gospel in their everyday lives.*
- **An engaging communicator and preacher** *who brings Scripture to life and helps people deepen their understanding and faith.*
- **A champion for children, young people and families**, *with a passion for, and ideally experience in, re-energising and growing our ministry among them.*
- **A warm, pastoral heart,** *able to connect with people across our diverse community, wherever they are on their journey with Jesus.*
- **A unifying leader** *who is comfortable ministering across the theological spectrum, from conservative evangelical to liberal, and who values the richness and diversity this brings to our single church family.*
- **Someone who values and enjoys well-crafted music** *and is supportive of both our rich choral tradition and our contemporary worship band.*

Leading and Developing a Growing Church

- **A collaborative and assured leader** *who enjoys working with and developing a team, identifying, nurturing and releasing the spiritual gifts of others.*
- **Someone with a deep personal commitment** *to maintaining and developing our strong safeguarding culture for children, young people and vulnerable adults.*
- **A supportive educator** *who is willing to train and supervise curates as they develop through their training journey.*
- **A visionary leader** *who can help us discern where God may be leading St Andrew's and enable the PCC and congregation to realise that vision.*
- **A capable steward** *with the administrative and financial acumen to help us balance our budget, encourage generous and regular giving, and oversee the care and creative development of our historic Grade I-listed building.*
- **An environmentally conscious leader** *who is enthusiastic about creation care and will help us continue our journey towards Eco Church Gold and Net Zero Carbon.*

Looking Outward

- **A person with a missional heart** *who is passionate about reaching out to people in the wider community, particularly those with little or no experience of church, and helping St Andrew's grow as a welcoming and outward-looking church.*
- **A committed community partner** *who is eager to build strong relationships with local groups and organisations, including Walton Charities, the Oasis Childcare, Trust and Cobham Foodbank, and who will embrace the exciting opportunities presented by Cobham Community Hub. Also to continue the role of ex-officio Chair of Cobham Combined Charities that provides relief in need for individuals experiencing hardship, distress, or poverty within the parish of Cobham.*
- **An enthusiastic educational partner** *who will nurture our close relationship with St Andrew's C of E Primary School, including serving as a Foundation Governor, while also seeking opportunities to strengthen our connections with other local schools.*

Above all, we are looking for someone who will join us as a fellow pilgrim: a person who will listen well, build relationships, share our life and faith, and help us discover together what God is calling St Andrew's Church to become.

Appendices

1. Finances

Our income comes from a variety of sources; from our congregation giving on a weekly and monthly basis, hire fees from the hall and adjoining facilities, plus rental from the flat above. We work hard to keep the expenditure down and are mindful of balancing necessary maintenance versus other costs and over the past 3 years have achieved small surpluses, however the current year is projected to show a significant deficit.

 **The budget currently forecasts a significant deficit.**
 **Planned giving income is budgeted to decrease in 2027.**
 **Expenditure is expected to increase.**

The challenge facing the parish is not the generosity of those who already give regularly, but the need to broaden regular giving across the congregation so that the cost of ministry and maintaining our buildings is shared more sustainably.

We have been blessed with several legacies and were able to purchase a house in 2022 (at the value of £480,000) that we own and provide for our trainee Curate. We also have a recent legacy that has been put aside to fund development projects.

Giving back is one of our core values and as a tithing church we give 10% of our unrestricted voluntary income to charities, each year looking at how we can support both local, national and international causes. Our 2025 Financial Report can be found on our website.

2. Annual Review 2025

Our most recent annual review can be found here.

3. Church Development Plan

The current church development plan can be found here.

