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OF EXETER



SAINT PANCRAS, PENNYCROSS

PARISH PROFILE FOR A PROSPECTIVE TRAINING POST

General Information



Benefice / Parish(es): **Saint Pancras, Pennycross**
Archdeaconry: **Plymouth**

Training Incumbent name: **Lawrence Braschi**
Contact details for incumbent: **66 Glentor Road,
Plymouth, PL3 5TR**



E-mail address (if any): **lawrence.braschi@stps.org.uk**

Date of ordination: **September, 2014**

Length of time in present parish(es): **Eighteen months**

Other responsibilities and duties currently undertaken by incumbent:

**Bishop's Advisor on Urban Mission
Assistant City Dean for Plymouth Deanery
Transforming Plymouth Together, Trustee**

Previous posts and experience of incumbent, including details of experience with previous curates:

2005-2012 **Director of China Desk, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland**
2014-2018 **Minster Church of St Andrew's, Plymouth**
2018-2019 **Anglican Chaplain to the University of Plymouth**
2019- **St Pancras Church Plymouth (incl. training one curate)**

Nature of post

Please tick which are applicable:

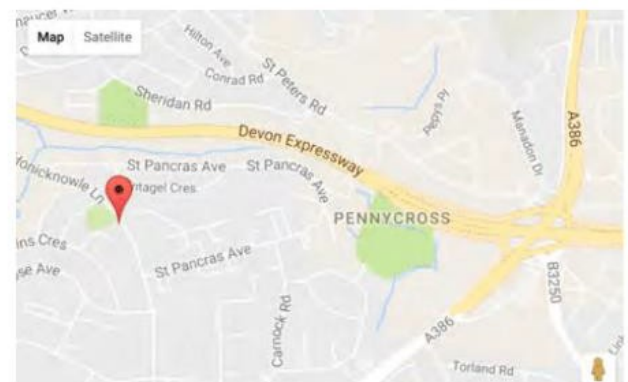
- Training post for deacon who expects to be ordained priest
 Training post for permanent deacon

The context: the parish setting



Originally situated in open countryside with the congregation travelling along muddy country lanes in horse-drawn vehicles or on foot, St Pancras, Pennycross, now stands well within the built-up area of the city of Plymouth. A high proportion of the housing in the parish was established during the 50's and 60's as part of the local authority's efforts to replace housing lost during the Plymouth blitz and to provide homes for returning servicemen and the inevitable baby boom. Some homes are still inhabited by the original occupants, who are now quite elderly, and others by second or third generation occupants with quite young families. Two large new housing developments within the parish have been completed within the last five years, leading to an influx of new families to the area.

The current Parish contains approximately 12,500 people, living in around 4,500 homes. This is around 4.75% of the population of Plymouth (2011 Census). It is an Urban Parish, but with no focal centre to the community. There is a wide social spectrum in the Parish. The housing ranges from an expensive residential area, to pre-war, private, terraced housing (where the curate's house is situated), to areas of postwar Local Authority housing – some now privately owned. Two-thirds of the housing in the Parish is owner-occupied and one-third Local Authority rented or privately rented.



One part of the Parish, the Chaucer Way area, is cut off from the main part of the Parish, by the A38 dual-carriageway (The Parkway). It comprises 29% of the population, and at present, few Church Members live there, but the Chaucer Way bus project is now starting to draw folk to the church. The housing in this area is predominantly Local Authority rented.

There are two schools in the parish, Pennycross Primary School and All Saints (Church of England) Academy. As a church, we have good relationships with both schools, helping to provide chaplaincy care to All Saints, together with

assemblies and after-school activities at Pennycross. There is a YMCA gym and teaching centre in the parish, with whom we have worked on football and faith programmes and have plans to work on adult literacy and education.

There is a library, a large Morrison's supermarket, several local shops, a post office, a pub, a social club and a Range homewares store. There is also a small industrial estate on the western edge of the parish. Alongside these, there is an area of woodland which is a conservation area. St Pancras has been described as the largest parish in Plymouth, though with the smallest church building (built originally as a chapel of ease).

Within the Parish are two other Christian Fellowships: Pennycross Methodist and Hope Baptist. Prior to COVID-19 we have often held joint services and events together. Hope Baptist is a thriving, family church. Pennycross Methodist is focussed more on community outreach.

Please also indicate from the following the main broad category (or categories), as you think most accurate:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Rural | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Urban |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Semi-rural | <input type="checkbox"/> | City centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Country town | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Inner city |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Industrial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Housing estate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Suburban | | |

The Church

St Pancras has a well-established tradition as an evangelical church open to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit. We have a varied style of Sunday worship, ranging from a robed, 9.00am BCP Communion Service through to a more informal 10.30am worship service and an emerging outreach service based around community events.

St Pancras Church has a long tradition of being a Bible-centred fellowship where the word of God has a central role in our worship services, prayer meetings and home group activities. There is a strong emphasis on allowing clergy, lay readers and established members of the congregation to share and preach from God's word at our services. This is a well-accepted approach, supported and appreciated by the wider church family.

St Pancras is a growing, medium sized church with an electoral roll of 79. Most 10.30am services (prior to COVID) would include 50-60 people, with around 10 attending the 9am services. The 10.30 includes Energise groups for pre-schoolers and primary-school age children. Our outreach events regularly brought around 80-100 people into the church buildings. The majority of people live in the parish and surrounding neighbourhoods. Home groups meet every week, with about 50 church members belonging to a group. We also hold a monthly prayer meeting, where attendance can range from about 10 to 25. We have run Alpha and Christianity Explored courses in the past and are looking to run Kintsugi Hope this year as part of our outreach following the impact of COVID-19. We have a handful of baptisms every year, a similar number of funerals, but hardly any weddings.










St Pancras Church Centre now includes a large multi-purpose hall (1960s), an octagonal lounge (1980s, but recently refurbished) and a café area (2000s) as well as the church building (rebuilt in the 1860s from an original chapel dating to the 1530s). Surrounding these buildings is a closed churchyard, which is part of a wider Living Churchyards project. This aims to make the area a haven for local wildlife and a welcoming place for the local community. From the churchyard there are good views across the Tamar valley to Cornwall.

We have a particular mission to the local community, which is a mixture of council estates and privately-owned residences. As a church we are partners with Provide Devon and Transforming Plymouth Together in providing practical care and outreach in the form of community meals, community events, toddler groups, emergency food provision, prayer ministry and friendship. We are a member of the National Estates Church Network and New Wine and a partner church with Kidsmatter and Kintsugi Hope.



People

Team ministry members, staff members, etc.

 <p>Lawrence and Jessica Braschi <i>Vicar</i></p>	 <p>Sarah Sharland <i>Curate</i></p>	 <p>Phil Baul <i>Church Army Capt. (ret.)</i></p>
 <p>Mariska Minter <i>Families and Outreach Worker</i></p>	 <p>Paul Lumb <i>Reader</i></p>	 <p>Marie Fletcher <i>Church Administrator</i></p>
 <p>Mary Davis <i>Church Warden</i></p>	 <p>Peter Dyson <i>Treasurer</i></p>	 <p>Colin McGowan <i>Church Warden</i></p>

Vision and Priorities

St Pancras' vision is to love God, love church and love our local community.

We understand that we can only truly love God because God has loved us first in Jesus Christ. Setting Jesus at the centre of who we are as a church and what we do is vital. Hence the importance of worship and preaching on Sundays, prayer meetings and home groups to the identity of the church. All these aim to place God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ regularly before us. Part of this vision is to play our part in God's mission in our parish and around the world, so we support mission partners in South America and Central Asia, and aim to give 10% of our annual congregational giving toward mission.

In Loving Church we aim to make church a joyful experience of God's self-giving love. At St Pancras we long to love one another as Christ has loved us. That means welcoming people from all different backgrounds. It also means hearing God's challenge to us as we sinfully fall short of being the people Jesus saved us to be. We seek to allow the Holy Spirit to enliven our faith through testimony and witness. In practice, this also means giving priority to pastoral care within the church community, led by a pastoral care team, and in the regular practice of meeting together in home groups, men's breakfasts, women's events, community meals and other church-building activities.

In Loving our Community, St Pancras has increasingly become a hub for local outreach, including responses to local people affected by COVID. The long-term outreach on the Chaucer Way estate is bearing fruit, currently especially among older people. Our emergency hamper provision for fifty families every week in the summer has been continued through ongoing contact and support. We are also seeing increasing opportunities to partner with local schools, the YMCA and Plymouth City Council in reaching out to those in need. Our vision is to see the love of God flooding the communities of Pennycross and Honicknowle.

How does the incumbent understand the role of training?

The curate will join a team of people (lay and ordained) learning together to serve and equip the people of God in faith and mission. Each member of that team will bring their own experience, personality and gifts, and it is the role of the incumbent to enable team members to flourish and grow in their gifts. At St Pancras we do this through fortnightly team meetings, interspersed with weekly or fortnightly one-to-one meetings to reflect, pray and plan together. Opportunities to shadow the incumbent where appropriate will be decided together. Much of parish ministry is caught rather than taught; curates will be encouraged to learn from across the church team – including an active families' worker, an experienced Church Army couple, church wardens, as well as lovely evangelists, prophets and teachers from within the congregation.

Training includes the Diocese of Exeter's IME programme, learning in collaboration with other curates across the city and the diocese, and opportunities to do placements in other churches in different traditions and contexts. I place a high value on this training, and time will be given for continued reading and reflection.

Most of all, we expect that all members of the team at St Pancras will be growing in faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. We are not called to do this as individuals but as a growing community of faith.

What is the likely role of the curate in future plans?

The parish is looking to continue and strengthen outreach to the local community. There will be a large part of the curate's role in facing outward, engaging with local families, schools, elderly people, care homes, etc. The work on the local estates will be a likely priority for the curate, together with other members of the team. There may well be the opportunity of helping to plant cell churches or beginning a new congregation, depending on the curate's experience and strengths.

Areas of particular responsibility for curate in training:

In addition to the regular run of parish responsibilities, see above. The particular responsibilities of the curate will be decided in consultation between the curate and the incumbent.

Accommodation

The curate's house is a large terraced house about five minutes' walk from the church. It has four good sized bedrooms, two reception rooms (incl. one that has been used as a study), a dining room, an upstairs and downstairs toilet and a separate bathroom. It has a garage/external store and small garden to the rear. The house is in easy walking distance of Central Park (the largest park in Plymouth) and two local primary schools. The Range and a great little pastie shop are around the corner, together with a garage, and a fish-and-chip takeaway. (Please note that Sarah Sharland, our current curate, lives in another house.)



Anything else?

Plymouth is a large city of some 250,000 people that over the years shaped the lives of many more who have set sail from her famous harbour. Today, Plymouth's maritime heritage has blended with contemporary culture to create a city with a strong international tradition. It also has good road and rail links to the rest of the country. It has excellent schools, to suit all academic abilities and has three Grammar Schools, (one for boys and two for girls), with several church schools.

The city's modern centre has all the usual high street shops as well as cafes, clubs and restaurants. In contrast, the Barbican area is one of the oldest parts of Plymouth, where narrow Elizabethan streets house small, quirky shops and art galleries. Opposite the Barbican stands one of the best and most modern scientific exhibitions in Europe - the National Marine Aquarium.

Those looking to get away from city life at weekends and holidays will find both coast and countryside on the doorstep. The edge of Dartmoor National Park is less than twenty minutes away and provides almost limitless opportunities for walking amongst tors and over beautiful moorland. For those who prefer sea views, the South West Coast Path provides access to numerous beaches and coves, together with a wide variety of water-based sports.



Contact for more information:

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