



[www.stpeterwoking.org](http://www.stpeterwoking.org)

*The Parish of St Peter Woking within the Diocese of Guildford is looking for a servant-hearted curate.*

### **Our churches**

Our parish consists of three churches, St Peter's Old Woking, St Mark's Westfield and All Souls' Sutton Green to the south of Woking. Our three relatively small churches with an Electoral Roll in 2022 of 139 have one PCC and have become more and more integrated, sharing resources and doing much ministry together, but retaining their own identity and outreach to their areas. Whilst each has its distinctiveness the parish is broadly open evangelical with reasonably traditional worship.

**St Peter's** is the parish church, built around 900 years ago with plenty of history including the original 900-year old door to the church, one of the oldest in the country. We have a good number of baptisms, weddings and funerals from people within the community who consider it to be their church which leads to plenty of opportunities for mission and outreach. We have a good organ and an active group of bell-ringers and a large church centre which houses the parish office and a Christian pre-school run independently.

We have a weekly Sunday morning service with an attendance of about 40 and a twice-monthly Sunday evening Book of Common Prayer service with an attendance of 10-15. Once a month in the morning we have our Energise service just for families in the church which attracts those on the fringe of the church and Energise Plus, an interactive café-style church for every one else. Once a month we have band-led worship. We have a small Sunday school which we are looking to grow post-COVID that meets twice a month.

**St Mark's** is a former school building in the suburb of Westfield. It has a very friendly congregation with slightly more informal, but still reasonably traditional worship with the band leading music monthly. We have a weekly Sunday morning service with a congregation of about 25. The church has a large hall which is used by a number of community groups.

During term time St Mark's runs Refresh Café, a drop-in café for families from nearby primary schools with drinks, games and activities, that attracts 20-25 people and gives us great opportunities for building relationships with families.

**All Souls'** celebrated its centenary this year. It was built as a war memorial to those from the local area who died in World War 1. It is situated in the small, wealthy village of Sutton Green just outside Woking. We have a weekly Sunday morning service with a congregation of 10-15 people. The congregation is very friendly, and although prefer more traditional worship are very open.

### **Our parish**

The parish has a population of approximately 12,000 with a real mix of housing, including a gated estate, social housing, and a large new mixed estate of over 350 houses. There are two good state primary schools with whom we have good relationships including taking assemblies, and running Open the Book with another church. There is an independent prep school, a catholic secondary school, a secondary free school and a sixth-form college in the parish with which we have occasional dealings. We hold midweek services a few times a year at two care homes.

We run a daily morning prayer service on Zoom with eight regulars and have a number of Connect Groups, including a Men's Group which meet weekly or fortnightly for bible study and prayer. We run Connections Café for older folk with refreshments, activities, games and a reflection. We have a small youth group for secondary school-aged children and run occasional outreach events for families in the local area, often working together with a local Baptist church with whom we have good relationships. We support four mission partners through prayer and finance and have a new, active environmental team.

### **Our team**



Your training incumbent would be Jonathan Thomas who has been vicar of the parish for eight years and has had a previous curate with whom he had an excellent relationship. Jonathan is married to Sarah, has two grown-up children and loves Arsenal, golf, running and most sports and is often to be found riding his bike around the parish.

Rachel Johnson is our Licensed Lay Minister who is currently training to be an Ordained Local Minister in the parish and will be ordained at Petertide 2023. Rachel is married to Elliot and has three children between the ages of 11 and 21.

Helen Maguire is our parish administrator who works five mornings a week. We have two lovely churchwardens, Mark and Pauline, four trained pastoral assistants, seven trained leaders of worship and five trained preachers, as well as a retired OLM who preaches occasionally, and many servant-hearted people who serve our churches wonderfully.

### **Our vision**

During COVID we coped very well as a parish supporting everyone pastorally and held creative online services which were hugely appreciated, but many have not returned to church or moved away since then and we have reduced in numbers. A small group from the PCC are working with the diocese this autumn to renew our vision, seeking how we can best grow and reach out to our parish with God's love in light of the challenges of ministry and outreach post-COVID.

### **You**

We are looking for a humble, servant-hearted, Christ-centred, prayerful curate who is willing to grow, learn and develop their gifts. Whilst we would love someone who is missional, especially with regards to young people and families, we value all giftings and have a wide range of existing ministries and opportunities for ministry that will be a good training ground for incumbency and an excellent parish in which to grow in ministry.

The title curacy is for 3 years and 1 month. A stipend will be in line with the diocesan stipend policy, and expenses will be covered. We have a couple of good options for housing you and your family which need to be finalised with the Diocese.

If you would like to be considered for this post, please email [katrina.henderson@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:katrina.henderson@cofeguildford.org.uk), and cc in [DDO@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:DDO@cofeguildford.org.uk). Please include your letter of release, your interim college report, a CV, and a letter as to why you are being called to apply for this title curacy.