



Worthing Christ Church

Grafton Road, BN11 5ER

Our Profile



WORTHING CHRIST CHURCH

Do you like a challenge?

As the Parish Church of Worthing, knowing, loving and following Jesus, we want to develop as the spiritual centre of our vibrant town by the sea. We are a diverse community, reflected in the many shops and businesses, civil authorities, a vast new medical centre and the majority of the many entertainment venues. Our parish also includes many nursing and care homes, as well as many people living alone.

Who are we?

Visitors, church family and supporting retired clergy recognise us as a friendly, welcoming church.

‘Warm, welcoming and accepting, the Parishioners/Congregation enable me to feel an essential part of the Universal Church.’ Church family member

“A lovely blend between informality and easy fellowship as well as a strong regard for traditional worship and thought-provoking teaching”

Retired supporting clergy

What can we offer?

A prayerful church family; committed volunteers, a well-resourced office and support network, and a place where food, fellowship and fun are cherished.

Does this all sound too perfect?

We recognise that all parishes face particular difficulties:

We have recently come through a traumatic time with the arrest and subsequent imprisonment of our former vicar. For some of our members, this has left them feeling let down, especially those who placed their trust in him.

The church family is blessed with many willing retired clergy who have supported us, as we have each other. We are determined to see our church through to a brighter future that God has prepared for us, trusting fully in the Holy Spirit.

(Isaiah 40: 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.)

There are those in the church family who believe that nothing should change, and there are equally others who strive for change, so holding **all** the family will be a particular challenge facing any woman or man who joins us as our incumbent.

Like most parishes at this time, we face a diminishing income and this next year (2024) will be the first in many years when regrettably, we will be unable to meet our full ministry share. Whilst this will now be a House for Duty post, we very much hope and trust that as our parish grows, and our ministry increases, that God willing, this could change over the coming years.

Lord, our mission is to extend our 'Tent curtains' (Isaiah 54:2*) embracing all those who live, and work, and wander through the centre of our beautiful town. **[Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.]*

A broader context

Introduction from +Martin

Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith

In 2025 this diocese celebrates the 950th anniversary of witness and evangelisation from a mission base in Chichester, building on the earlier mission founded by St Wilfrid at Selsey.

2025 also marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea with its reminder of the formative claim upon us of the catholic creeds.

These anniversaries are more than historical footnotes. They speak powerfully about the richness of faith and mission that is our inheritance locally and universally.

Inspired by that inheritance, we seek to be a household of faith that is endlessly curious about how the Holy Scriptures and the sacraments of the New Covenant enable us to know, love and follow Jesus Christ in today's noisy and distracted world.

If God is calling you to join us in the task of proclaiming the mystery of faith in some part of this diocese, we pray that the contribution of your gifts and experience will enrich our witness and deepen your own discipleship.

We take very seriously the call to diversity and radical inclusion as characteristic of the Church's mission. For this reason we welcome applications from ordained women and Global Majority Heritage clergy, who are under-represented in those who serve this diocese.

+Martin

As a church, financially, we have made significant efforts to save money, encourage smarter spending and maximise all the resources that bolster our funds.

- We have the majority of givers signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme
- We maximise Gift Aid on all donations, as well as the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme
- We have a machine always available to take any card donations
- We have a page on our website that enables people to donate directly to the church, online
- We raise money throughout the year through Outreach events and social gatherings
- We have recently refurbished the west end of our church into a beautifully finished hall area with a full servery, with opportunities to hire out or use for receptions, parties, meetings

[Link here](#) to the Charity Commission webpage with 2022 Annual Report and Accounts

Is this you?

Are you able to journey and develop the church family with a deep and generous faith, to work with us to understand our missional priorities?

Are you someone who values the sacramental and liturgical worship of the Church of England and who has the courage to lead change, proclaiming a never changing gospel to an ever-changing world?

Are you prepared to be a visible presence in our town, who can also reach out to the needs of the housebound in the many care and nursing homes, and to encourage church family members to support you, as a pastoral team, as this is one of our most urgent needs.

Alongside our full programme of Outreach events, are you able to advise and help us to widen and deepen our presence in the town?

Are you able to restore confidence and credibility to the leadership of our church, exercising a joyful, enthusiastic and compassionate ministry, whilst encouraging and supporting gifts in others?

Will you support music as an integral part of our worship and outreach?

Finally, will you laugh with us?

So, what about Worthing?

Worthing is a large seaside town in West Sussex, within the historic County of Sussex, forming part of the Brighton, Worthing, Littlehampton conurbation. It is beautifully sandwiched between the South Downs National Park and the sea. 10 miles (16 km) west of Brighton, and 18 miles (29 km) east of the county town of Chichester. The borough covers an area of 12.5 square miles (32.37 km²) and has an estimated population of 113,000. It sits on a flat, coastal plain, enjoying a 'microclimate' of clement weather for the majority of the year. Several of our members swim in the sea, just a few minutes' walk from the vicarage, which sits approximately 150 yards from the church.



Modern Worthing has a large service industry, particularly in financial services. It has a large outstanding teaching hospital, a state-of-the-art gym facility and indoor swimming pool, bowling alley, three theatres and one of Britain's oldest cinemas all in or near the town centre. Writers Oscar Wilde and Harold Pinter lived and worked in the town.



Worthing's main civic centres, the Town Hall, Assembly Hall, Library and Magistrate's Court, all fall within the Parish boundary.



Worthing Central is still in the top 10% of most deprived areas in England. Worthing has more people living in flats than the average in the UK, and over 25% are one person pensioner households. Just under 90% are white British, 10% higher than the average in the UK, and 6% are non-white. Within the population in the parish 60% live alone, and the majority are in private rented accommodation.

Within a mile of Christ Church, there are four Church of England churches, and three of other Christian denominations.

Historically, Worthing has been a popular retirement area, however, we are experiencing an upsurge of younger families settling in the area post-Covid.

Living in Worthing is great because...



It is a healthy place to live, - “Worthing Rocks!!”

What does our church offer?

We currently offer:

Holy Communion at 10.30 am [Common Worship] every 1st, 3rd and 5th weeks

Morning Prayer at 10.30 [Common Worship] every 2nd & 4th weeks

BCP Evensong at 6pm every 1st and 3rd weeks:

10.30 am BCP shortened BCP Holy Communion every 2nd and 4th Thursdays:

Parishioners routinely read lessons and lead the intercessions at all services. We have three trained Ministers of Communion, who assist at every Communion service, and one more who takes communion to a church family member who is housebound.

In the past 5 years, we have had 3 adult baptisms and 1 child baptism, 1 wedding in 2018, and over 7 funerals.

We have two House Groups that study the Bible together, and there is a need for more.

There are several PCC committees empowered to make decisions for the PCC to ratify: The Worship Committee; Outreach Committee; Social Committee and Fabric Committee.

We are also alert to the need for a healthy culture to enable everyone to flourish, fully supported by the PCC including our Safeguarding Officer.

What about the Church Building and activities within?

Christ Church has a closed burial ground and sits in the heart of the town, between Grafton Road and Portland Road, built in the gothic revival style. Christ Church was built by subscription between 1840 and 1843. It is Worthing's most conspicuous flint building and still retains the original cobbled flint wall surrounding the church yard. The present organ was installed in 1970, made in 1892 by J.J. Binns of Leeds, and was purchased from a Methodist Church in Rochdale, an excellent three-manual instrument.

Christ Church began a fully costed 10-year plan of reordering in 2014. We have already installed a suite of modern toilets, with disabled and baby changing facilities, with wheelchair access and self-opening doors to the North side. There is also a fully fitted, commercial modern kitchen used for church events and groups. The PCC had new boilers fitted in 2016, and so now has an efficient heating system.

The doors leading into the church are now infilled with glass to welcome everyone in.

In 2021, the PCC obtained a faculty to remove some pews from the west end of the church, creating a much-needed space for community activities, welcoming visitors and parishioners,



serving coffee and tea, as well as a knit and natter club and fund-raising activities and is consistently 'manned' by our parishioners two mornings and one afternoon a week, and every Sunday after services. The hall has a fully equipped servery, and is fitted throughout with stunning oak, able to accommodate 50 people seated and 120 standing.

There is also an additional upright piano for entertaining in the hall space, and a successful small, free library, where books are loaned, donated and bought for a small donation. There are various meeting rooms, where local Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Cocaine Anonymous groups meet weekly, and also where church committees and groups assemble.

The building and roof is sound for its age. The last Quinquennial in 2019 reported no urgent category 1 issues to be addressed.

There are modern computers and office space, which also is home to the choir on Sundays. Our office has a modern photocopier that produces black and white or colour booklets for every service weekly, and a monthly magazine.

Currently, the nursery across the road from the church use our building to hold their annual graduation ceremonies, their Christmas Carol Concerts and all other celebrations. They take part in our Christmas Tree Festival and sing Christmas songs to the church family in the first week of December. There is an opportunity for much more outreach with them, with the help of our new incumbent. *(In a recent email from them, the manager said “we have been very excited to get a partnership going with you and the children loved the church at graduation!”)*

There has long been a desire to promote our beautiful church offering small weddings and receptions for couples who find it hard to afford the cost of hotel ‘package weddings’ or a church wedding and hotel venue reception and who would love to marry in the presence of God.

We host monthly high-quality concerts in the church from April to November, with regular attendees from outside the church family. Our full calendar of social events for church members and visitors alike is advertised on our website.

As a congregation, all the missions we support have a particular link to members of the church; we support Mission to Seafarers, Care for Veterans, Mothers’ Union with the Diocesan Family Support Work, the Worthing Food Bank and the Christ Church Discretionary Fund.

Some members of the church visit local care and nursing homes to offer haircuts/styling, and to sing.

We print all the service sheets for our neighbouring church, we pray for each other and occasionally support each other’s social events.

As the town centre church, many of our regular visitors drop into Christ Church for company, for advice and very often just for a listening ear. Many have now joined us and some are yet to join us in worship. Sometimes, homeless folk meet in the church yard, where members of the congregation will chat and offer a hot drink.

We see this as vital work for God - *“Whenever you do this for the least of your brothers, you do this for me”*.

Finally, the Vicarage.....



The Vicarage at 5, Christchurch Road Worthing, BN11 1JH is situated on the south corner of Abbotts Close and Christchurch Road, opposite to the newly built Central Medical Centre within several yards of Christ Church and has been refurbished and expanded to meet Incumbent status. We also have good junior and senior schools locally.

If you feel this interests you, please come and see us, and chat over coffee, the machine is always on, with biscuits at the ready!

THE TEAM:

Church Warden: Kenneth Hobbs

Parish Treasurer: Kenneth Hobbs

PCC Secretary: Janine Hobbs

PCC Minute Secretary: Jenny Stead

Administrator: Janine Hobbs

Verger: Lorraine Roberts

Sacristan: Sylvia Anning

Organist: John Collins

Pianists: Jenny Chandler, Andrew Eggleton and Tony Tournoff

PCC members:

Sylvia Anning; Janet Atkinson; Andrew Eggleton; Dorothy Foan;
Valerie Grubb; Janine Hobbs; Anthony Stead and Sally Turley

Deanery Synod Reps: John Bull & Lorraine Roberts



And finally.....

*We asked the clergy who minister regularly at Christ Church how they see us.
This is what they said....*

“As a retired member of the clergy it has been my privilege, and pleasure, to conduct services (viz Holy Communion & Morning Prayer) at Christ Church Worthing on a reasonably regular basis. Christ Church might reasonably be described as a 'Middle of the Road' Anglican Church. There is a choir of some 5/6 ladies and two gentlemen who attend and contribute - wearing Choir Dress – to the regular Sunday Services. This compliments the role of the Organist and the input of the congregation in supplementing the musical/singing enhancement of the services.

The congregation are further encouraged to participate in regular involvement through contributions of reading lessons and intercessory prayer.

The administration of Christ Church as an 'organisation' can only be described as 'First Class'.

The PCC, as exemplified by the Church Warden, is observably committed to the highest order and the administration of church affairs could not be questioned.

The fact that I am 'older than Father Christmas' precludes me from applying for the post - but were I not... I most certainly would.

Should any applicant wish to discuss any aspect with me I would be happy to make myself available. Either by 'phone or a meeting at church. My contact details can be accessed by contact with the PCC secretary”.

The Rev Maurice Slattery

‘Christ Church is a town centre church and a place of welcome to all people and it supports those who need help, for whatever reason. It provides a place of encouragement and refreshment to those who have fallen on hard times and, on many occasions, a hot drink and something to eat to those in need. Above all, it is a centre of prayer and worship in central Worthing.’

Revd Nancy Ford

“ I have been made most welcome by the friendly congregation at Christ Church where there has been a lovely blend between informality and easy fellowship as well as a strong regard for traditional worship and thought-provoking teaching”

Revd Andrew Cunningham

We also asked church family members to tell us what Christ Church is to them. Here are their answers....

- 'Warm, welcoming and accepting, the Parishioners/Congregation enable me to feel an essential part of the Universal Church.' I need to feel rooted and being part of Christ Church affords that facility.
- As well as nourishing me spiritually, this is my "second home" where I can enjoy fellowship, fun and support with my Christ Church family.
- You feel the Love as you walk through the doors, every time; for me, it represents safety, acceptance of everyone, regardless of who we are and what we individually believe.
- Christ Church means everything to me, I consider Christ Church to be part of my family, a place of sanctuary and peace.
- Christ Church is my petrol station- when life gets too much and drains my tank, it's where I go for God to help lift me back up and give me the strength to keep going.
- Christ Church is a community, inspired and filled with the love of Jesus, drawn by a faith which stands strongly for his inspiration in our lives today.
- A building of architectural beauty which puts one in mind of a mini cathedral, awaiting a warm and welcoming church family within
- This beautiful church is a place of sincere and uplifting worship; I much appreciate the regular BCP services
- I need to be here
- Christ Church is my spiritual and family home where, through the mutual love, I can be myself, the person God created me to be, into the fullness of life.
- Christ Church is a family under the guidance of God our Father, Jesus our Saviour and the Holy Spirit our comforter; supporting each other and open to welcome all who come.