



St Peter's, Broadwater, Stevenage

Parish Profile

Table of Contents

Index	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Introduction.....	2
What we value about our church	3
Our Vision.....	4
Things we would look for in our new Vicar.....	5
Our Community	5
Churches.....	7
Schools.....	8
Public Houses	8
Services	9
Pastoral	10
Leadership	10
Ministerial Team	10
Electoral Roll.....	10
Finance	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Expenses	11
Communications	11
Church Groups	12
For the children and youth.....	12
For the Adults	13
Buildings.....	14

Introduction

St Peter's is an evangelical charismatic community based church whose heart is to outreach and serve the people living in the community and beyond. The person who God calls to the post of vicar will find a friendly and supportive team of volunteers who are keen to put their gifts to use. The church membership has a good cross section of age, gender and socio-economic backgrounds and displays a rich cultural diversity. We are a church which places a high value on prayer and we hold firmly to the foundational teachings of the Bible.

Please read on for a more in depth view of our church.



St Peter's Church

The Willows

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What we value about our church

We believe we are a welcoming church – a diverse family made up of very real people who can be themselves and we are very ready to admit that we can at times make mistakes. Visitors regularly comment on the warmth of the welcome they receive.

We have a free style of worship which allows hearts to be open to the Holy Spirit – Gifts of the Spirit are encouraged.

We are a church that reaches out to the community through our church groups showing God's unconditional love to all.

Scripture and prayer is our bedrock – through which we feed our longing to go deeper into God and learn to support and minister to each other.

We build fellowship and support through home groups by bible studies and prayer.



Our Vision

Our hope is:

- to be a missional church – to show the Love of God to the community – to be a relevant and visible presence and thereby form pathways by which people can come to seek and know God.
- to be a church that goes deeper into God – allowing the Holy Spirit to work so that people can be healed and set free and lives changed.
- to continue praying for Revival and be part of encouraging discipleship with those who walk through our doors as well as in the community.
- to be able to meet the needs of the brokenness in our parish - including the broken relationships, debt and addiction.
- to support the youth who prefer to hang around the streets as a preference to being at home.
- to combat the darkness of the spiritualist centre situated opposite our church.
- to be part of the bigger picture in what God is doing in the Nation and the World.



St. Peter's 60th Birthday Celebrations

Things we would look for in our new Vicar

Someone who is Spirit filled, who is committed to deepening their own relationship with the Lord, rooted in prayer and scripture.

Someone who is confident and comfortable with themselves, a good communicator and leader who can discern people's gifts and allow them to be used for the good of all.

Someone who is approachable and has good listening skills.

Someone who has a strong pastoral heart and will relate to the people in the community.

Someone who is comfortable with Charismatic worship.

Someone who has a heart for church unity and will continue to support the community of Churches in Stevenage.

Churches Together – Easter 2016



Someone who sees their vision in our vision and feels that they can thrive in our area with its problems of broken relationships, debt and addiction.

Our Community

Stevenage is a town in Hertfordshire situated to the east of junctions 7 and 8 of the A1M between Letchworth Garden City to the north and Welwyn Garden City to the south. It is roughly 30 miles north of Central London and has a population of around 87,000. Stevenage was designated a New Town in 1946 and the pedestrianised town centre was the first purpose built traffic free shopping area in Britain, opened by the Queen in 1959. Unfortunately, it is now showing signs of age and plans are in process for regeneration. Stevenage is still growing and is set to expand west of the A1M.

The town was originally planned with six self-contained neighbourhoods and Broadwater, where St Peter's is situated, was built in 1953/54. It is divided into three communities: Roebuck, Longmeadow and Marymead each with their own parade of shops. Stevenage Football Club's ground is situated within the Parish boundary as are three retail parks with the usual named shops covering DIY, furniture and computer needs. The church and Vicarage are adjacent to The Marymead shops.

Marymead circa 1960



Broadwater is situated approximately 3 miles to the South of Stevenage town centre. The population of the Parish is around 13,700 and they live within approximately 5,000 homes. The housing consists mainly of terraced and semi-detached homes and flats with approximately a third of them being let to council tenants or through housing associations. About 54 per cent describe themselves as being Christian with around 33 per cent stating they are of no faith. The average household income is probably below the national standard.

The Church of St Peter was designed by N.F. Cachemaille-Day and Partners in 1954 and constructed in 1955. It has a Church hall adjoining it which is hired out to groups for community use. The Vicarage is a four bedroomed, detached house situated on the corner of The Willows and Broadwater Crescent, opposite the church. It has a garage and driveway. It was constructed in 1956/57. The kitchen was modernised when the present incumbent moved in six years ago.



St Peter's Church



The Vicarage

Churches

There is an active network of Christian Churches in Stevenage of several denominations, many of them work together for town wide projects under the banner of "Churches Together In Stevenage". There is also a Mosque, a Liberal Jewish Synagogue and a Kingdom Hall in the town.

There are three other churches within the Parish;

St Paul's Methodist Church in Roebuck – this also houses the offices for Bridge Builders, a Stevenage wide church led organisation that works with the schools.

Longmeadow Evangelical Church – with whom we share community projects

The Egyptian Orthodox Coptic Church and centre which houses the Cathedral of Archangel Michael and Saint Anthony.

Opposite St Peter's is a Spiritualist Centre which many local people are aware of.

Schools

In Broadwater there are four schools:

- Roebuck Primary School and Nursery
- Longmeadow Primary School
- Shepalbury Park Primary School
- St Margaret Clitherow Roman Catholic Primary School

St Peter's has good relationships with these schools through speaking at school assemblies and inviting the children to the church for the Christmas and Easter journeys.

Public Houses

There are three public houses within the parish:

- The Mutual Friend - Roebuck, Broadwater Crescent. Our men's group occasionally meet here for drinks (it has really good ale).
- The Willows - adjacent to the Marymead shops, Broadwater Crescent.
- The Pied Piper - Oaks Cross.

Open Space

Around a hundred yards from St Peter's is Shepalbury Park a large open space where children can play, amateur football matches are played and dogs are walked.

Services

We hold the following services on a weekly basis:

Sunday 10.30am – Communion/Morning worship services - sermons are recorded for those that cannot attend. After the first 20 minutes the children and young people go to their own groups:

- Bubbles walking to age 5
- Splash/Extreme age 6 - 10
- The Grid age 10 - 14

The average weekly attendance is around 100 (80+ adults and 20 children) the age range of the congregation is from babes in arms to 90+.

We have readers, intercessors and sides persons who regularly participate in the services. Our worship is led by a band, (guitars, drums and keyboard). We have no organ installed in the church.

Vestments are not worn by the priests for our weekly services but are worn on special occasions e.g. funerals, weddings.

Six times a year we have Celebration (all age) services on a Sunday morning. There are often dramas, action songs and different zones with study, craft and games for children and adults to participate in.

The prayer team are on hand at the end of all services to pray with those who want their support.

Sunday 6.30pm Prayer Meeting for an hour with an average attendance of 10 people



Thursday 9.30am Communion

The average attendance is 20 adults

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are held by arrangement.

Pastoral

St Peter's has a Pastoral Visiting Team led by members of the congregation. This group makes home visits to those who are unable to attend church through age or illness and tries to support those that are vulnerable.

We also have a Prayer Ministry Team who regularly meet to pray for the church, community and the world and are always ready to pray with those that need support especially during and at the end of the Sunday morning service.

Leadership

The Church Wardens' role in St Peter's is to act on behalf of the Bishop, to have a duty of care for the Vicar and to allow for the smooth running of the work of the church. To this end the wardens have a close working relationship with the vicar, one based on trust. They also keep the structure of the building in good repair, deal with queries from members of the congregation and in general try to support the vicar and ease his work load in a supportive way.

They do this with the help and support of 13 PCC members.

Ministerial Team

We have 3 Readers...one of whom is paid as our Pastor to the Elderly holding regular meetings in local warden controlled housing.

Electoral Roll

At present our Electoral Roll stands at 135 members. Of the people who are registered there are 47 male and 88 female, 66 live inside the parish and 69 reside outside.

Finance

	2014 / £	2015 / £
Total Income	89,874	130,390
Total Expenditure	114,329	108,935
Parish Share	52,254	55,904

We presently regularly support The Living Room (an addiction recovery centre), Bridge Builders (Christian Organisation working in partnership with schools) and Cornerstone (working with young people in the town). We are, at present, considering areas to increase our giving in overseas mission.

Expenses

St. Peter's has a paid Administrator who works for 12 hours per week and a Reader who is paid an Honorarium. A cleaner is also employed for 8 hours a week.

Communications

We have a weekly notice sheet to update members of the congregation – this is also sent out via email.

Church Groups

For the children and youth

We hold the following groups during term time:

- Stepping Stones baby and toddler group - weekly on Friday mornings - this is extremely well attended
- Launchpad, school years 3 – 6 - Wednesday evenings
- The Bridge - a group of non-churched young people meet to have breakfast at a local café on Saturday mornings and who also meet on Wednesday evenings in the Church Hall.
- Messy Church - the third Tuesday of the month after school - a time for families to have fun, explore faith and enjoy a meal – 60+ children plus accompanying adult



For the Adults

Tea & Co - every Monday afternoon in church - time for tea, cake and chat - as well as board games, knitting or sewing.



Home Groups - for Bible study, prayer, discussion and social events.

Sunday Evenings - prayer meeting or a time for courses such as Alpha, Freedom in Christ and The Bible Course.

Buildings

The church is brick built with a central pitched roof section over the Nave and a pitched Tower section over the Chancel end. There are flat roofs over the entrance porch, boiler room and the ancillary rooms either side of the main body of the church. There is a recess shared with the Church Hall which runs in parallel with the body of the church.



St Peter's Church



St Peter's aspires to be a welcoming, accessible and inclusive church that is a beacon to the community in which we live. In light of this we have been reviewing how our buildings can reflect this aspiration.

A building project is in progress to make the church more welcoming and accessible. This involves converting a room into an accessible toilet, making the hall more accessible with a new push button door, new path and removing the step between the church and the hall. This is currently out to tender and we are looking at grants to add to the funding and completing a faculty.

In due course we want to make the main entrance more welcoming and accessible. This project will be reviewed once the new incumbent is in place.

The works identified in the last Quinquennial Inspection (2013) have all been completed apart from a couple of minor issues and those that will be implemented at the time of completion of the projects referred to above.

Members of the congregation up keep the surrounding grass area and flower beds.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Parish Profile. We hope you have found the information you require. Our contact details are printed in the document if you have any queries we would be glad to hear from you.