

Welcome
to the Bexhill Team Ministry
Parish Profile
we are seeking a new Team Rector

Bexhill-on-Sea:

Bexhill is a delightful seaside town on the south coast of England. It has an excellent promenade graced by the De la Warr Pavilion (a 1930's icon).

It is surrounded by beautiful Sussex countryside (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) with a rich historic heritage and the glorious South Downs National park not far away. While most facilities are available locally, the larger towns of Hastings and Eastbourne are within easy reach. Bexhill has good rail links to both East and West and up to London.



The Parish:

- The parish covers a wide range of housing and population; from the history and elegance of Bexhill Old Town to the 1,000 dwelling new housing development currently being built near St Michael's church, which already serves a ward in the top quartile of deprivation in the county.
- Although Bexhill has the reputation of being a retirement town, there are many young people and there is a mixture of different types of jobs and professions.
- Population: 13,559 (2018)
- Area: 2.6 square miles
- In 2020 307 persons were recorded on the electoral roll (St Peter's 222, St Michael's 85).
- Link to [Church of England parish map](#)
- The Parish Office is located in The Stables which forms part of the St Peter's complex, and includes a meeting room, toilets and a small kitchen.
- The Rector's Secretary works three mornings a week. She deals with much administration including the printing of the weekly service sheets, newsletter and monthly free Parish Magazine.
- There are a number of schools locally including the Church of England Primary that was founded by the Bexhill Churches. Click [here](#) for links to the schools.



Who we are:

Situated on the South East coast, on the east side of Chichester Diocese

Our parish has two very different churches. St Peter's is a Grade II* listed building founded in 772 AD, offering a broad range of worship styles.



St Michael's was built in 1930, as Bexhill expanded eastwards. It has middle of the road churchmanship, which could be referred to as "formal informality".

The Team Rector is also Rector of St. Peter's, and there is a House for Duty Team Vicar for St Michaels (currently vacant).

"To know Christ and make Him known"

The Churches – St Peter's:



There are two main Sunday services at 9.45:
(1) A formal Common Worship Eucharist in Church with bellringers, servers and a choir, which alternates between contemporary and traditional language and occasionally incense.



Click [here](#) for a link to our groups and activities page

Major Festivals if they fall within the week are celebrated on their dates and there is a full observance of the Paschal Triduum.
The church regularly hosts local schools for special services in both the school and church year.

St Peter's Church offers a generous banquet of worship styles. On a Sunday one can worship with the Book of Common Prayer at the early morning Holy Communion or later in the day at Sung Evensong.

(2) An Informal Time For God (TFG) service runs in the adjacent Community Centre. This service tends to focus on one of the readings set for that particular Sunday in an informal and often interactive way, using PowerPoint and supported by a small group playing a wide range of music.

There is a significant and growing number of the congregation going to both services on different days, and we think this is a sign of a healthy church.

Click [here](#) to view a video of the churches



St Peter's Community Centre is owned by St Peter's Church but is run as a separate charity by St Peter's Association with paid staff. It is self-financed by fees charged for hall hire.

We provide a vital link between the church and the community. The centre is an organised, well run, non-profit making charity-based organisation, providing residents with a proactive, effective and invaluable cost-effective community service and social facility. Eighty per cent of hiring is from community groups. In addition to TFG services the centre hosts committee meetings, fundraising events, bible study and fellowship for the church.

The Churches – St Peter's:

"I like attending St Peter's Church because, quite simply, it is where I belong."
Sheila

"The church has managed, with good and caring leadership, to maintain contact and a caring presence to keep us all together in the Spirit of the love of God"
Hilda



"I feel very blessed to be part of this loving Christian family." Michael

"St Peter's is a friendly, welcoming church community with a mixture of worship styles from superb choral singing to a relaxed informal type of worship. Strong lay leadership enables a number of different groups to flourish." Barbara

"St. Peter's is a church of imaginative, meaningful and spiritual services and inclusive fellowship that is provided in sufficient number and variety to suit everyone" Sheila

"St Peter's is one big happy worshipping family that welcomes all within its doors but seeks to spread the gospel to all in its parish." Hilda

"St Peter's has been our family church for almost 40 years. We appreciate the diversity of worship, fellowship and music. St Peter's has always been there for us in good times and bad."
Marion



"No picture of St Peter's would be complete without recognition of its outstanding choir and choral tradition." Diana



"We are a church that wants to grow in reaching out to the marginalised and disaffected." Alan

"It maintains reverent worship, aided by a wonderful choral tradition. It is a very welcoming community and I have always been made to feel at home in all the groups I have joined." Stuart

"St Peter's church is a lovely building with a lot of history and the congregation are very friendly and supportive of all the number of activities going on all the time which cater for everyone. Over the years we have made many new friends." Vivien

"St Peter's Church has responded to the exigencies of Covid with speed, imagination, effectiveness and ever increasing Christian witness." Roger

The Churches – St Michael's:

St Michael's has a reputation as a friendly, welcoming, and supportive church for all ages. It has an open, accessible feel. In addition to our regular weekly communion services, it welcomes local schools for Christmas and Leaver services and puts on a very popular annual Christmas Tree Festival. We have Christmas and Good Friday kids craft workshops, and a summer holiday Bible club. St Michael's is home to the 3rd Bexhill Scout Group which has a very healthy attendance. They parade and are involved in our monthly family services in term time. Our fortnightly AAGHH (All Age God's Half Hour) is a long established, relaxed, interactive and family friendly half hour service. It is generally lay led, has a small music group and welcomes an enthusiastic congregation.



Click [here](#) for a link to our groups and activities page



We have three lively home groups and a strong focus on prayer with a weekly church prayer meeting and a monthly Healing prayer group. The old choir vestry is now a dedicated prayer room. Our vision is to develop more involvement with families and the local community.

The St Michael's Vicarage, (currently let) is immediately next to the church.

There are two well equipped halls and a small field. The halls are well used for meetings and fundraising events, along with the St Michael's Lunch Club, a weekly Parent and Toddler group, and Craft and Chatter mornings. We also host several local groups including Scouts, Line Dancing, Slimming World, and Care for the Carers. Both halls are run by a committee made up of Church and user members. It has its own treasurer and is run as a separate entity to the Church.



"I really enjoy going to church because I get to meet up with my extended family and give praise. I enjoy listening to the stories that I might not have heard before and it gives me time to think." Evie (Aged 9)

Click [here](#) to see Evie and her sister's thought for the day

The Churches – St Michael's:



"St Michael's is a caring church. It's comparatively small, but huge in the sense of Christian purpose."
Edna



"A real sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the loving fellowship of sincere Christians. Home." Ruth

"St Michaels is like an extended family, celebrating the good times and very supportive in the difficult times." June



*"St Michaels Church
Our spiritual home, leading us to God
Beacon on the hill, showing the way to worship
God.....
Fellowship from above extended
and our broken souls mended."
Part of poem by Sandra*



"3rd Bexhill Scout Group has been based at St Michael's for 59 years. Many are from disadvantaged backgrounds. The generous support we get at St Michael's means we can open scouting to all.



The family service helps many of the young members achieve some of the chief scout awards, and the friendly support from the congregation and the Church Hall Committee makes us feel part of the wider community."
Brian, leader 3rd Bexhill (St. Michaels) Scout group

The Church People – A Team Ministry

<i>Lay involvement</i>	28 Eucharistic Ministers, who also assist in home communions to the sick, including Rest Homes. Lay people read lessons and lead intercessions and also share in leading TFG, AAGHH, All Age Worship and Family Services
<i>Lay Readers</i>	2 Lay Readers, one normally based at each church
<i>Retired Clergy</i>	4 retired clergy who regularly lead worship
<i>Parish Children and Families Worker</i>	In 2016 the Parish appointed a Children and Families worker. This extended contract is ending shortly and a handover is being prepared.
<i>PCC/DCC</i>	Each church elects it's own DCC members, from whom each elects their representatives to form the PCC. As far as possible decisions are taken by the individual churches
<i>Church Wardens</i>	Each church has 2 district wardens and from these 2 parish wardens are chosen

The Broader Context:

Deanery and Diocesan Initiatives

As well as being fully involved at Deanery Synod, the Parish is represented at Diocesan Synod, and also on Bishop's Council.

The Bishop has confirmed that “Whilst there are no current formal plans for pastoral reorganisation in Bexhill, this is an ongoing subject for consideration. It is hoped that the appointed person, as incumbent of the ancient parish church in the town would be involved in establishing strategic priorities, and willing to respond to pastoral and mission needs as these arise within the town and the deanery.”

The Rt Revd WPG Hazlewood

The St Andrew's Fund Initiative

This fund is derived from the sale of St Andrew's, Wickham Avenue, following its closure in 2011. The fund is administered by a board on which St Augustine's, St Barnabas', and St Peter's Churches are represented.

In collaboration with the Fellowship of St Nicholas (a Church of England charitable organisation established eighty years ago to care for disadvantaged families and children in this locality) a Youth Worker was appointed in November. This person will work with St Peter's and St Michael's as well as the parishes of St Barnabas and St Augustine. This is an exciting venture.



Bexhill Churches Together

Both St Peter's and St Michael's are members of Churches Together in Bexhill (CTiB).

In a typical year its activities include a Good Friday prayer walk.

It founded and runs the Bexhill Foodbank as a charity.

Perhaps most importantly, it provides a bi-monthly meeting of clergy for prayer and discussion.

“To know Christ and make Him known”

The Broader Context:



The Wider World

Both congregations contribute to a variety of missions and charities locally and abroad, such as CMS, Church Army, Mission to Seafarers, Barnabas Fund, Open Doors, and Beachy Head Chaplaincy.

Children and Families Work

In January 2016 we appointed a Parish Children and Families Worker. During her time within the Parish she has established regular activities, such as:

- After School Club - ACKC (Awesome Cool Kids Club)
- Messy Church
- “Experience Church” at Christmas, Easter and Pentecost for schools to visit the church
- Film and Pizza events
- Pebbles Toddler Service

She has also supported ongoing work, including:

- Churches’ Toddler Groups
- Time for God (TFG) All Age Praise service monthly and AAGHH Family Service
- Junior Church for children and Outdoor Church for families
- Sacramental Preparation: First Holy Communions and Confirmations
- Summer Holiday Club



Open Doors
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide



“To know Christ and make Him known”

Normal Pattern of Worship

	Sunday Services		Weekday Services	
St Peter's	08.00	Communion Service BCP	Wednesday	Eucharist BCP
	09.45	Parish Eucharist CW Time for God (TFG) in community centre	Mon-Sat	Evening Prayer
	18.00	Choral Evensong BCP		
St Michael's	09.30	AAGHH - All age Service (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)	Weds 11.00	Said Eucharist
	10.30	Family Communion (1st Sunday) Sung Eucharist (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)		
		Family service with uniformed youth organisations (3 rd Sunday)		

NB: The pattern of services is currently altered owing to the pandemic

A very significant development since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic has been a great expansion of our electronic and video links within the congregation. There was already a voluntary email group which saved time and resources in distributing the weekly pre-service notes and the monthly Parish Magazine. This project has now been enhanced to offer links to services, including hymns. There are also two informal letters a week, a Thought for the Week by a member of St Michael's, and a Thought for the Day contributed by a rota of clerical and lay persons. It is known that these do not just reach our normal congregation but are passed on to friends and families as well. It is not clear at this stage what part these developments will play in the longer term life of the Parish, but their impact has been positive.



“To know Christ and make Him known”

The Rectory:

Click [here](#) for a link to a virtual tour of the Rectory

The Rectory is situated a very short walk from the north west corner of St Peter's church and is approached on foot along a long narrow path with fencing either side which gives privacy to the garden and house.

The house features secluded gardens, four bedrooms, two bathrooms and a downstairs cloakroom, a large kitchen with laundry room and a separate dining room with double doors to the good sized sitting room.

Patio doors open out onto the patio from both the dining and sitting room. The ground floor also has the Rector's study and the downstairs cloakroom. A door separates this section of the house from the main living area, giving good privacy from visitors.

Stairs lead to the first floor, with a landing midway and an arched window. Ahead of the stairs are two large double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes. Between this is a large storage cupboard with a hot water tank and central heating pump and controls. To the right of the stairs is a medium size bedroom with fitted wardrobes and next to this is the main bathroom featuring bath, shower, toilet and bidet.

As you rise from the staircase and to the left of the stairs is the second bathroom with toilet, bath and shower. Along a short corridor is a single bedroom which overlooks the entrance pathway.

To the rear of the building and along a track is a large double garage with an up and over door. Outside parking spaces and a large barn (The Rector's barn). Access to the rear of the building is along a short narrow lane alongside what used to be the Rectory many years ago.

“To know Christ and make Him known”

The PCC was surveyed and agreed that these are things we do well...

- Music at St. Peter's – wonderful choral tradition and an ancient organ
- Friendly warmth
- A wide offering of styles of worship
- Christmas Tree Festival
- The civic role as the parish church of Bexhill
- Community Centres and their outreach to the people of the town
- Links with other churches in the town
- Children's work e.g. messy church, experience church, craft mornings, school assemblies
- Thought for the Day [click here](#)
- Thought for the week
- Prayer Groups
- House Groups



“To know Christ and make Him known”

What we would like to develop:

- Unite the two churches with a Parish approach
- Celebrate and develop the strengths of both churches within the Parish
- Address some of the loneliness within the Parish
- Expand our offering to young and middle aged parishioners
- Consider how we can become hubs of the community – whether that be through expanding/changing activities or the use of the assets that we have
- Improve accessibility and welcome for newcomers
- Find ways to encourage families with children
- Support our community and any social issues that emerge as we recover from the pandemic

“To know Christ and make Him known”

We are looking for a new Rector and we will want him or her

- 1 To know Christ and make him known**
To live a life rooted in prayer, the sacraments, and the Bible and to be sensitive and responsive to the enlightening influence and liberating power of the Holy Spirit.
- 2 To develop mission, evangelism and parish focus**
To work enthusiastically with us to develop the Kingdom of God in our Churches and beyond. They will be impartial and selfless in their concern for the well-being of all in the parish.
- 3 To possess essential leadership to encourage growth**
To celebrate and support what we are currently good at, but to be eager to spot new opportunities and fresh pastures. They will be a collaborative, transparent, inclusive and generous leader who will embrace support and channel enthusiasm appropriately.
- 4 To promote Christian teaching, nurturing and worship**
To promote and develop a teaching, preaching and nurturing and inclusive ministry. They will be comfortable with, knowledgeable about and affirming of the different styles of churchmanship and worship within the parish, including being supportive of the full ministry of colleagues of either gender.
- 5 To have administrative and organisational skills**
To have proven personal and collective organisational skills and to be administratively competent and computer literate. They will be thoroughly proficient in chairing the Parish and Church committees, where all members are fully engaged, and differing views may be vigorously expressed.

“To know Christ and make Him known”

Finances:

At St Peter's we have long paid our share of the parish contribution in full. Like all churches, finance is a constant challenge to us but we usually just about manage to break even. The Friends of St Peter's (FOSP) exists to assist us in the maintenance of the church building. We support varied charities annually. The proceeds of our annual Christmas Fair are given equally to USPG, CMS and a different charity each year.

Our Treasurer prepares a detailed budget annually in November, using a recently started iCloud based accounts system. We consider it very helpful and necessary for our financial stewardship. After the initial effects of the Covid pandemic the St Peter's Treasurer has, in consultation with the District Wardens, kept our cash flow just in balance, but payment of the full parish contribution may be delayed.

We have regular preaching about stewardship during Lent and often have a particular focus for that year's efforts.

The area from which the majority of St Michael's congregation come is in the first quartile of deprivation in the County. In the light of the available resources, the pattern of ministry at St Michael's will be a subject for early review by the new Team Rector in conjunction with the PCC and the diocese.

Quinquennial reports - because of the virus, the Diocese postponed the Quinquennial due in 2020 to 2021. The reports have only just been received at the time of preparing this profile.



“To know Christ and make Him known”

Safeguarding:

Last year a small committee was formed comprising Safeguarding Officers from St Peter's and St Michael's, the Rector and one of the Church Wardens.

This was to work through and implement *Simple Quality Protects*, the diocesan safeguarding programme designed to resource and improve safeguarding at parish level. Currently level 1 has been completed, with all requirements fulfilled, and we await the roll out of level 2 from the diocesan safeguarding team.

All other aspects of parish safeguarding - DBS checks etc - are in order

All PCC members have undergone obligatory Safeguarding Training



“To know Christ and make Him known”

Schools:

- St Peter and St Paul Church of England Primary School (<https://stpeterandstpaulprimary.co.uk/esussex/primary/stpeterstpaul>) for which the team rector and the team vicar are governors. The Bishop of Chichester comments, *'The parish is fortunate to have in St Peter and St Paul Primary School an outstanding two-form entry Voluntary Aided church school. On recent visits I have been impressed by the collaboration between the school and the church, and by the well-embedded Christian ethos that has been strongly evident in school collective worship.'*
- St Catherine's College is the Church of England secondary school in Eastbourne [St Catherine's College - Home](#)
- Chantry [Welcome to Chantry Community Primary School](#)
- St. Mary Magdalene [St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary - Home \(stmarymags.co.uk\)](#)
- Pebsham [Primary Academy \(google.com\)](#)
- St Mary's School and College [St Mary's School and College - Home \(stmarysbexhill.org\)](#)
- Glyne Gap [Glyne Gap School - a school for physically disabled children in Sussex | Glyne Gap School](#)
- Battle Abbey Prep school [Battle Abbey Prep School – Battle Abbey School](#)
- Bexhill College (which caters for 16+ students). [Bexhill 6th Form College](#)



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Groups and Activities at St Peter's

The Friends of St Peter's was founded in 2002 to raise money for the maintenance and repair of our ancient and beautiful church building. In addition to annual donations from members, the Friends enjoy social events, that raise funds. The FOSP has been highly successful in raising funds, having made £125,200 of grants to St Peter's over the years and currently having £40,000 in reserves.

St Peter's has enjoyed a strong musical tradition with a successful choir and enthusiastic St Peter's Singers, and bands of musicians. Although current musical worship is restricted we are keen to revitalise this important aspect of Church life.

A large team of Bellringers ring our peal of ten bells, visit other towers, and hold well attended fund-raising quiz nights.



The Vestry Sewing Guild has been in existence for over sixty years and makes a variety of beautiful vestments, altar frontals, etc. for the churches. It is currently working on 120 kneelers.

An Alpha course compliant with current COVID-19 regulations is supported by the DCCs and is hoped to start in early 2021.



We have teams of servers, flower arrangers, and sidesmen. There is a team of church watchers who pre-COVID-19 enabled the Church to be kept open for several hours each weekday.

The Toddler Group is a self-funded outreach church group which meets on a Tuesday morning during term time in St Peter's Community Centre, serving families with pre-school children. We celebrate the major Christian festivals. We regularly have 30 - 40 children attending with their parents or grandparents.

On the first Tuesday of the month members can cross the road to the church and join in with "Pebbles", short fun interactive worship with percussion, prayer and singing.

Click [here](#) to return to the St Peter's page

Groups and Activities at St Michael's

St Michael's holds an annual Christmas Tree Festival. It is, well attended by neighbours and local junior schools, and even occasional coach trips. Also something of a local tradition, is our "Big red party" for Pentecost and Ice Cream Sunday at the end of the summer term. We also hold a Summer Fair and various jumble sales and quiz nights. For local children and families we hold Good Friday and Christmas Craft mornings, and a summer holiday Bible Club. The church also hosts various community-based concerts and drama productions.

The Ministry of Healing Prayer is available during the Eucharist Services at St Michael's and there is also a group which meets monthly for this, under lay leadership. A Prayer group also meets weekly to pray for the needs in the church and the wider community.

At St Michael's there are three House Groups, all of which are lay led and usually meet fortnightly. There is often a well-attended centralised Lent Study Group, or people may be encouraged to join House Groups during Lent.

We have willing teams of servers, flower arrangers, church cleaners, readers, intercessors and sidespeople. We also often work together on smaller maintenance projects, decorating, gardening etc.



Click [here](#) to return to the St Michael's page

The local branch of RAFA holds its annual Battle of Britain Service at St Michael's. There is a popular Pet Blessing Service, a "toy" service to welcome St Nicholas to Bexhill, Christmas Eve Crib service, as well as many other outreach/worship events. St Michael's has links with two schools and the Team Vicar is expected to take monthly assemblies at one of these and one per term at the other. The schools also come to the church for their Christmas and Leavers Services

"To know Christ and make Him known"

Useful Links:

- The Parish of St Peter with St Michael and All Angels, Bexhill-on-Sea <http://www.stpetersbexhill.org.uk/>
- St. Michael and all Angels <https://www.stmichaelsbexhill.org/>
- YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvncaFTzZ_gwGA4xMUjarPw
- Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/594076694065968>
- Discover Bexhill <https://www.discoverbexhill.com/>
- Chichester Diocese <https://www.chichester.anglican.org>

“To know Christ and make Him known”