

BENEFICE OF PAGHAM



**Church of St Thomas à Becket
Pagham, West Sussex**

PARISH PROFILE



**Church of St Thomas à Becket
Pagham, West Sussex**



www.paghamchurch.org

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This Profile is approved by the Parochial Church Council

Welcome!

This Parish Profile is to enable us to seek a new Priest for the Parish, and it enables us to set out aspects of our life together in Paghham. We believe that the Holy Spirit will bring us and a new incumbent together to further His work in the parish.

We are seeking a Priest who will continue to lead us in the Spirit and to enable us to explore further what that means.

First and foremost, therefore, we are seeking someone guided by the Holy Spirit and willing to encourage that freedom of expression and exploration which builds us up personally and as a church community, which then reaches out to the wider parish.

We try to avoid 'labels' but we are seeking someone who will respect a wide spectrum of spirituality, 'broad church' or 'liberal catholic' however that may be described.

We are praying for a priest who is:

- Prayerful
- A good leader and communicator
- Has a consensual style
- Is participative and consultative
- Well organised and encouraging
- Able and willing to work with a lay team
- Able to delegate, and with a sense of humour!

We need a priest who:

- Cares about people
- Is concerned about outreach to all ages
- Includes ministry to the sick and housebound
- Who is committed to take the parish with them
- Wants to be part of the community
- Willing to participate in Village life

Things we do well:

We recognise within our community some of our strengths:

- In our worship there is a welcoming congregation, who are caring and friendly, with a good attendance
- The Church has a sense of spirituality, peace and prayerfulness
- Fulfilling the need for services during the week to cater for those who cannot always attend on a Sunday, allowing some people, particularly young families, to grow in faith
- Financially we have a relatively affluent population, who give generously
- The upkeep of the fabric of the church does have an impact on our finances, but we are able to keep the building in good repair
- There is willing and able lay leadership
- There are healthy signs of growth through prayer, bible study and spiritual exploration
- There is a good relationship between the church and its parish
- There is good communication through the church Pews News, through the website and social media
- We keep our Church open everyday, and have many visitors during the summer months

Opportunities for Development:

There are areas where we could be stronger:

- We have a good number of children, but the facilities to nurture them could possibly be improved
- There are uniformed organisations within the parish, with whom we have good relationships but we could have better contact
- We have a pastoral team who could be more actively involved in pastoral situations.
- There is scope for more lay involvement in Baptism preparation.
- We have growing numbers of men in the congregation. The Men's group has been a good way to encourage their involvement and development, but the challenge remains to sustain this and encourage commitment
- We have an ever-increasing population, with little affiliation to the church, with 3,500 proposed new homes being built in the parish, offering opportunities for engagement
- During the summer months we have a large influx into the parish, through the holiday village, but with whom we have little direct contact, apart from attending occasional services and visiting the Church during the day
- Whilst we have good representation with all ages, we are not fulfilling the needs of teenagers or young adults. There is an ecumenical opportunity to reach out and engage with this group

Pressures on us:

We exist in a society which is largely indifferent to the Christian faith. We face ever-increasing demands financially. We are custodians of an ancient church, with inevitable demands for maintenance and repair, which need to be met whilst still ensuring that the church meets its day-to-day running costs, and honours its pledge to the Parish Share.

Opportunities:

Nevertheless both the 'weaknesses' and 'pressures' do present opportunities for continuing development, as well as the possibilities arising through our 'strengths'. These can be addressed through the ongoing life of mission and stewardship - not necessarily as huge drives or initiatives - but as part of the continuing life and witness of our Christian faith. Examples of this have been Cursillo within the Diocese and the parishes engagement with the 'Great is thy Faithfulness' initiative which emphasise that through spiritual renewal our life together is naturally and practically growing.

Priest in Charge

For the past four years the Bishop has suspended the Benefice of St Thomas A Becket, Pagham and St Richards, Aldwick and they have shared a Priest.

Each parish maintains its own PCC with full responsibilities for the upkeep of the church buildings and payment of the parish share to the Diocese, with the Priest responsible for the oversight of all church services and pastoral duties for both Parishes. The proposal for pastoral reorganisation, creating a united Benefice of two parishes, is something that will need local leadership from a new priest in charge and the ongoing support of the wider Diocese.

However the Priest will need to be aware of the requirements of each Parish, and their individuality in terms of traditions and church families.

Pagham's History

Excavated Bronze Age artefacts suggest that people lived in Pagham at least three and half thousand years ago. During Roman times Pagham was a primary seaport for Southern England, and remained of importance, trading wool to Europe, until the early 14th century. However following serious flooding of the area, which resulted in the loss of the hamlet of Charlton, the harbour gradually silted up and Pagham's wealth dwindled. The harbour area is now the local Nature Reserve, incorporating 700 acres of inter-tidal saltmarsh with associated shingle banks and 400 acres of surrounding farmland, providing a refuge for migrant birds.



The Parish contains a number of ancient buildings. Opposite the church is 'The Old Cottage' built at the same time as the church. Barton Manor is reputedly the oldest continuously occupied manor house in England, whilst the Lion Inn dates from the 15th century, The Inglenook Hotel from the 16th century and the Lamb Inn from the 17th century.

Pagham can proudly lay claim to having established one of the earliest Parish Councils in the country. Records show the first meeting was held in the village in 1894, with the founder members being fishermen, farmers and a blacksmith.

The Beach Estate, which originally consisted of holiday homes largely created from redundant railway carriages dates from just after the First World War, with homes gradually becoming permanent. This is one of the areas of Pagham which is under threat from changes to the coastline.



By virtue of its coastline position Pagham played its part during the Second World War, A granite memorial stone on the beach in front of the Yacht Club honours Pagham's contribution to Operation Overlord and the famous Mulberry Harbour project. One of the 6000-ton Mulberry Harbour caissons originally stored offshore prior to D-Day can still be seen at low tide, around two thirds of a mile out.



During the post-war years the village of Pagham expanded rapidly with large numbers of bungalows being built. Today the parish has approximately 7000 residents. Expansion continues with plans for a significant number of new houses.

An interesting fact on an opportunity missed for Pagham is that when King George V recuperated at Craigweil House in 1928-9 Craigweil was very definitely part of Pagham. It only became part of Bognor by formal Order of West Sussex County Council in 1934, following the 1933 Local Government Act, after which the Bognor traders successfully petitioned the Privy Council to add 'Regis'.

The Benefice

The Benefice of St Thomas à Becket consists of the whole of the municipal areas of Pagham and Nyetimber and is in the Deanery of Arundel and Bognor, in the Diocese of Chichester.

The Patron is the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Vicarage is approximately a mile from the church, in the heart of the village. It is a four bedroom extended property with the recent addition of a loft conversion. There is a large easy to maintain garden. During the past four years, when we have shared a priest with our neighbouring parish, the Diocese has rented out this property.



The Churchyard is large and surrounds the church. It was formally closed in 1997 although it is still possible to inter ashes, which happens regularly, the memorial for which are contained in the church's Book of Remembrance. Burials now take place in Chalcraft Cemetery, a few miles from the Parish. Cremations are generally carried out at Chichester or Arun Crematoriums.

Upkeep of the churchyard is demanding, but has been undertaken by willing volunteers and working parties. We receive a small grant from the Parish Council.

This has recently been supplemented by a legacy. In recent years we have been very fortunate to have had the services of the Community Payback Team who have worked in the churchyard on a regular basis throughout the summer months, keeping the churchyard respectfully tidy and a pleasant place to visit, as well as being in harmony with its natural environment. We receive many compliments regarding the care and good maintenance of the Churchyard.

Car Parks - In 2010 we negotiated the purchase of land which now houses two car parks, the second one demanded by the increasing numbers of worshippers and thus their cars. These are situated on the opposite side of Church Lane from the church, approximately 50 yards from the church gate. The car parks are adjacent to one another with a dividing wall. When purchasing the land it was stipulated that the land should only be for church use. The gates are therefore kept closed or locked when not needed for church purposes.

St Ninian's - United Reformed Church is also situated in the village and has its own small hall. St Ninian's minister is the Methodist Minister of Selsey, although he is due to retire next year. We have a positive connection with the church, with possible opportunities in the future to develop work with the elderly.

Schools - There are no schools within the parish but many of our local children attend Rose Green Infant and Junior Schools just outside the parish boundary. The vicar is welcomed to these schools for monthly/half-termly assemblies, and they visit the church from time to time, especially at Christmas for their carol services. The nearest Secondary School is The Regis School, approximately 3 miles from the parish. Some children from the Parish attend Nyewood Infant and Junior Schools, about 2 miles away – these are church schools for whom we have foundation (lay) Governors. The previous incumbent was a foundation governor for the Infant and Junior schools. The previous incumbent was holding regular worships at both Infant and Junior Schools. Bishop Luffa School in Chichester is the local Church Secondary School. There is also a College of Further Education in Chichester as well as the University of Chichester, with campuses at Chichester and Bognor Regis.

Public Transport - There are frequent and regular bus services operating within the parish travelling to both Chichester and Bognor Regis.

The nearest railway station is in Bognor Regis with another in Chichester. There is a direct rail link to London, and a service in both directions along the coast.

The Present Parish

Pagham is situated on the coast approximately 6 miles south of Chichester and 3 miles west of Bognor Regis. It had a population of 6,430 recorded in the 2021 census, with a large proportion of retired people but also a significant number of young families all of whom are represented within the church family.

The housing is largely owner-occupied or rented. Major house building projects are being undertaken within the parish to meet local and national needs.

There is a large holiday complex sited close to the church (and around three sides of it) which is open from February to November each year.



There is no physical centre to the parish, yet there are many centres of community.

There are two small shopping areas within the parish – in Pagham itself and Nyetimber. These offer two small supermarkets and other small shops, three pubs, a hotel, a number of take-away food outlets, an Indian restaurant, a Post Office and a Pharmacy.

The main medical centre serving Pagham is situated just outside the parish, but there is a small clinic in the village where some surgeries are held. There are dental practices within the parish as well as a few alternative therapists. The nearest general hospital is situated in Chichester, although there is a small hospital in Bognor Regis which caters mainly for long-stay and elderly patients, holds some clinics and has a small minor injuries unit.

There are no nursing homes within the parish but several just beyond it.



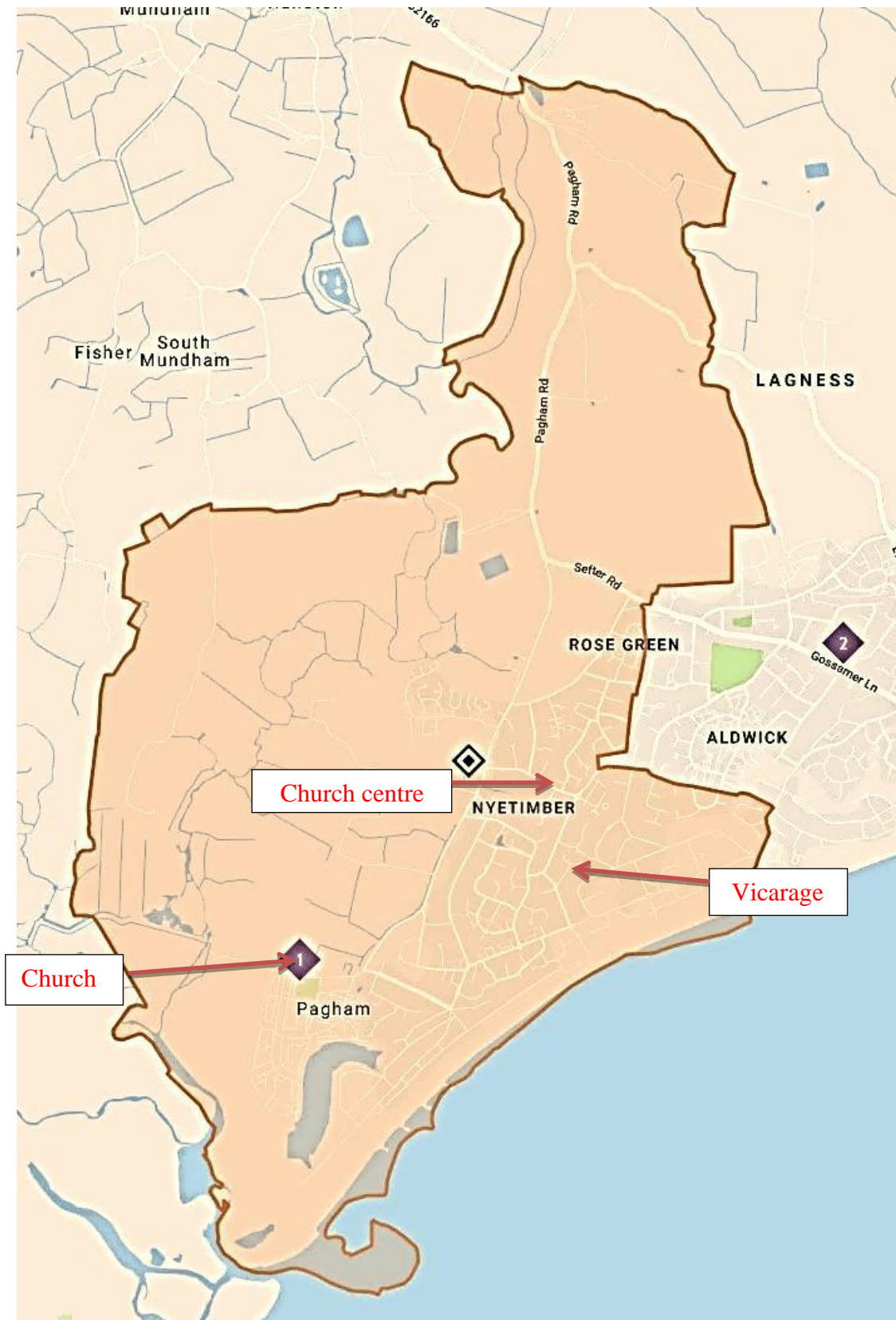


There is a purpose built Village Hall within the Parish run by a village committee, which is used for a number of community events, including some church events.



The Church has its own Church Centre, which has a new Playschool beginning in September 2024. It is a venue for a number of church activities and local groups, and is also available for hire.

The Parish of St Thomas à Becket, Pagham



St Thomas à Becket, Pagham - Church History

Records show Pagham is the subject of a transaction dated c.680, in which Caedwalla, King of Wessex, gave the area to Bishop Wilfrid.

There is evidence of a Saxon church on this site, with foundation stones being discovered in 1976. These stones have been used to create an oak-topped altar which stands in the South transept. A small piece of a Saxon cross and fragments of a Saxon burial urn have also been discovered, and are on display in the church.

When Bishop Wilfrid returned north he gave Pagham to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who remains the patron of the Parish.

A Norman church was built on the site replacing the Saxon church, and then rebuilt and enlarged using some of the original Norman church, during the early 13th century. Some evidence of the early church can be seen in the Chancel, and the font bowl, decorated with Norman arches, is from the earlier period.

Much of the church has been constructed in the Early English style.



The church does not contain any elaborate tombs, although there are some small memorial stones built into the walls.

A great deal of work was carried out on the church during the Victorian period, as the church had been in a very poor condition, with the West



front being completely renewed and a large Rose window installed. During this period the choir vestry with gallery over, was installed at the west end of the church. The Rose window was re-glazed in 1936 in memory of the convalescence of King George V at

Craigweil House in 1929, during which time Queen Mary became a regular worshipper at the church.



In 1996 St Andrew's Chapel (a two storey extension) was built to provide modern facilities for Sunday School and other pastoral work, and to provide much needed storage space. Toilet facilities were also installed at this time.

In 2008 the church underwent some re-ordering to cater for increasing numbers and the regular use of the north and south transepts on Sundays. Some of the pews were removed to allow for a plinth to be built. A moveable altar was installed so that the Eucharist is focused in the centre of the church and visible to all. A positive by-product of this re-ordering has been the ability to make better use of the space and light created in the centre of the church.



The church is Grade 1 listed. It is constructed in flint work with stone quoins and has plain tiled roof. The shingled tower houses the bell frame with its ring of six bells, the oldest of which dates to 1666. Many of the windows contain stained glass. The east window combines elements of 16th century Flemish glass from Rouen together with armorial work of an early 19th century date. The six pre-Raphaelite windows in the North and South Transepts were restored in 2005, with some restoration carried out to the east window at the same time.

Major repairs were carried out to large areas of the roof in 2019. There were no major outstanding issues identified in the most recent Quinquennial Inspection (October 2022).

However the need to investigate a new, energy efficient and environmentally friendly, heating system has been identified as a priority by the PCC, in addition some work is needed to be carried out to the stained glass windows in the Chancel and North Transept, and the Church would benefit from an updated sound system.

The church today is not a museum, but a thriving Christian community, rooted in our celebration of the Eucharist and Daily Prayer, providing a spiritual space at which all are welcome.

The church is Grade I listed.

Links with other Organisations

There are close links between our Church and Bognor Churches Together, with members of the church family attending and involved in activities organised by them.

The parish has a Foundation Governor at our local Church schools, Nyewood Infants and Nyewood Juniors.

Although Rose Green Infant and Juniors Schools are just beyond the parish boundary, links have been forged over recent years, as many of our children attend those schools and some of our members are teachers or helpers there.

There are good links with the Parish Council and the various Residents Associations, and members of the Church family encouraged to participate in and support parish activities.

One of the major activities is the Pagham Pram Race on Boxing Day, and past Clergy have been actively involved in this. We want to be seen to be involved in all aspects of village life.



Over the past few years The Bear has hosted carols in the Pub, with a large number of the Church family participating and leading the pub regulars in carols. We also have links with Pagham Yacht Club.

We use the local hostelries to hold some of our discussion groups

There are weekly Stations of the Cross.

During Holy Week, there is a daily offering of worship:

Monday	Evening Prayer
Tuesday	Eucharist
Wednesday	Compline
Maundy Thursday	Eucharist with foot washing, followed by a Watch of the Passion until midnight
Good Friday	Ecumenical Walk of Witness The Liturgy of Good Friday, including veneration of the Cross and dramatic reading of the Passion.
Easter Day	Dawn Eucharist on the beach, followed by breakfast in St Andrew's Chapel 9.30 Eucharist with the lighting of the Paschal Candle lit from a bonfire in the churchyard.

Easter is celebrated until Pentecost

Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival, and Remembrance Day are well attended, with the local uniformed groups attending the 9.30 a.m. Family Eucharist.

There is an annual Memorial Service around All Souls Day for those bereaved during the year.

The Occasional Offices

Weddings The church is available for weddings in accordance with current Church of England policy and subject to discussion with the Incumbent.

The Affirmation of Marriage on significant anniversaries has been encouraged.

Funerals Funerals in church are followed either by cremation at Chichester or Arun Crematoriums, or burial at Chalcraft Lane Cemetery. The churchyard is officially 'closed' but burials can still take place in existing graves if there is sufficient space.

Baptisms Baptism preparation represents a significant part of the Church's Ministry and although much of the preparation is undertaken by the Incumbent, there is a team from the Church which attends Baptisms and is a visible presence at the ceremony.

Most Baptisms take place following the main Sunday service and are arranged on an ad hoc basis, with usually one or two families, or very occasionally three. For the children of active Church members, the norm is to celebrate the Baptism within the main Sunday Eucharist.

Confirmation In recent years it is mainly adults that have been confirmed.
Confirmations are usually celebrated at a Deanery Confirmation Service and sometimes hosted at Pagham.

Communion before Confirmation
This was introduced in Pagham, approximately 10 years ago, as it was felt that Confirmation was happening at too young an age. Year 5 children are admitted to First Communion, usually at Christ the King, following a short course.

Ministries

Clergy

There are, at present, four retired Anglican Priests, Canon Colin Wood, Revd Bill Meyer, Revd James Cooper and Revd Clive Ashley, actively involved in parish life. They are all able and willing to officiate at various services.

Licensed Lay Minister

There is one Licensed Lay Minister (Reader), Rosemary Towse. Rosemary has many years' experience and is an active member of the leadership team. Rosemary oversees and co-ordinates the Pastoral Care Team and has general oversight of the various Sunday ministries.

Lay Ministers of Communion

We have a team of 11 who have been commissioned as Lay Ministers of Communion. On a normal Sunday 2 would be on duty at the 9.30am service. From the team, 5 Ministers regularly take Home Communion to members of our church family who are no longer able to get to church.

Sacristan

We are fortunate that we have a Sacristan to prepare the Church, vestments and elements for services, and who also has the responsibility for ordering all the necessary requirements.

Ministry of Welcome

The Ministry of Welcome is considered most important and has been emphasised as a role for the whole congregation. Some of our young people are encouraged to take part in this, particularly for the Tuesday@7 services.

Choir

There is not a great choral tradition, but we have a small and faithful congregational choir, who help to sustain the singing, mainly at the 9.30 a.m. Sunday Eucharist and at special services.

Music

We are fortunate in having two accomplished pianists, who are enthusiastic organists, and have a rota to play at the 9.30 Sunday Eucharist and at special services.

We have a modern Wyvern electronic organ together with a piano which is used for some of the more modern hymns which may not be so suited to the organ.

The blend of different instruments and styles has created a balance which enhances the depth of prayerfulness and spirituality-at our celebrations.

Readers and Intercessors

We have a team of readers, arranged on a rota, to give the Old and New Testament readings from the Eagle Lectern.

A small team take responsibility for writing and leading the Intercessions at the 9.30 service.

At the Tuesday@7 service our young people are encouraged to read and to lead the prayers.

Outreach

We believe that our work of Mission is to live the Gospel and attract others to Jesus through the Church community. We have not had a formal Mission in recent years, but consider this to be a normal and everyday aspect of our life together as missionary disciples.

Open Church – The church is kept open during the day for people to come in for quiet prayer or just to visit our beautiful peaceful church. We receive many comments in our visitor's book about the peace and spirituality of the Church

Luncheon Club – The Club meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month for lunch and companionship. It is held at St Ninian's United Reformed Church hall. It has membership of approximately 40, drawn from across the Parish. The meals are cooked by one of the local pubs (The Bear), provided at a reasonable price, and served by volunteers from the Church and community. The Club organises transport for members, using the local Residents' Association minibus to collect members from their own homes.

Pastoral Care Team - A small team was formed in 2014 following training using a Pastoral Care training course, developed by the Diocese. Visits are carried out to those in need in the community, the housebound, the newly-bereaved, the sick and the hospitalised, to offer a friendly face, a listening ear, care and friendship, and prayer.

Domestic Abuse Team - A number of church members, in response to news from the Diocese relating to this issue, were inspired to act to set up a small team to focus on this issue. Its main focus is to raise awareness and act as a point of contact.

Website - The website has been developing over a number of years, carrying not only information relating to up-coming events etc, but also feedback on activities, blogs, pictures and an invite to all to participate in all that is happening in and around the church.

Social Media - We have a developing presence on Social Media and recognise its importance as a means of outreach.

Food Bank - We are all encouraged to consider those less fortunate than ourselves and provide items for our local Food Bank. One member of the church family has the responsibility of transporting the goods, which are collected in church, to the Food Bank and in keeping the church family informed of the most pressing needs.

Knit and Natter - The group meets every Wednesday in one of the member's houses. It attracts both church and non-church participants for an afternoon of companionship, chat, tea and knitting. It is very popular and has the added benefits of producing items which are donated to a local charity, and also raises some funds for other charities.

Shoebox Appeal - For many years we have supported this charity that sends Christmas boxes to families in Eastern Europe, boxes are collected from church family and the wider community. We also contribute approximately 100 knitted blankets created by our Knit and Natter Group.

Tea and Chat - This is held once a month, offering tea, cake and companionship. This is open to all.

Pints of View - Held monthly in The Inglenook Hotel, Pagham. It is an opportunity for men to engage in open discussion on topical and current issues of concern and explore ethical, philosophical and spiritual ideas.

The Bear Necessities - Held monthly at the Bear Inn, Pagham. A women's discussion group in a welcoming and safe place to discuss three current news topics and in doing so get to know one another better.

Breakfast Club - Held monthly at Manor Nursery Palm Court Café. Welcome to all. An opportunity to enjoy a cooked breakfast, with like-minded people, and wide ranging conversation.

The Church Family and Tradition

Electoral Roll

At the 2024 Annual Parish Church Meetings the Electoral Roll stood at 234 with approximately 25% living beyond the Parish boundary.

Congregation

The Church family consists of a wide mix of ages from young families at Tuesday@7, to the elderly at other services, all of whom are made to feel welcome and an important part of the family of the Church. There is always more work to do to emphasise and encourage that inclusivity, but we try!

Church Tradition

We are not comfortable with labels! We would not see ourselves aligned either to the 'High Church' nor 'Evangelical' traditions. We have a broad based approach to worship – a simple catholic approach which has sought to explore spirituality within a familiar framework.

Teaching emphasises both the biblical basis of faith and also the need for personal growth through prayer, study and Christian action.

The Book of Common Prayer is used for the 10.00 a.m. Thursday Communion service.

Common Worship is used for the 9.30 a.m. Tuesday Eucharists and all other Eucharists within the liturgical year.

Development of Spirituality

We seek to explore different expressions of Spirituality to assist our own personal growth on the faith journey. There is possible scope for development here.

Christian Meditation Group

A small group has met to explore Christian Meditation.

Prayer Chain

In recent years we have initiated a Prayer Chain as a means to respond swiftly to requests for urgent prayer.

Study Courses

Courses are offered from time to time, often led by the Clergy, to encourage us to continue to study and learn together. In the past we have fully engaged with the Pilgrim Course, and have run a 'Being With' course, last year our Lay Reader ran a 'getting to know Paul course'

Lent Groups

Many members of the Church family have taken the opportunity to join the Ecumenical Lent Groups organised by Bognor Churches Together. This gives the opportunity to explore and study alongside Christians from other churches and traditions.

Over the past few years we have also held our own Lent Groups using material produced by the Diocese.

Diocesan Cursillo

Cursillo (a short course in Christianity) offers an opportunity to examine the fundamentals of our faith and what it means to be a Christian in today's world. It encourages growth through prayer, study and action so as to share God's love with everyone.

It provides a learning experience away from the parish, and an opportunity to meet others who are also exploring, to enjoy a weekend of

spiritual growth and fulfilment, leading to a better understanding of how to put into practice what is learnt, back in parish life.

20 members of the church family are members of Chichester Cursillo. They come together in small groups once a month, meeting at members' homes, to support and encourage one another on their spiritual journeys. Almost all members take a very active role in church life, with many serving on the PCC.

Book Club

A Book Club meets regularly during the year. Membership is fluid but approximately 12 members of the Church family are involved. Books are varied, but all have spiritual dimension, and once read members come together for lively discussion.

Pilgrimage

Over the past few years a small group from the Church family have made an annual pilgrimage to Walsingham, or Launde Abbey. This is part of our experience of different traditions within the Church.

Children's Sunday School

Sunday School meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month during the 9.30am Parish Eucharist in the separate St Andrew's Chapel to learn about scripture and to take part in age-related activities, rejoining the rest of the church family at the end of communion for a blessing. They are encouraged to share what they have been learning with the rest of the Church family.

They are led by experienced leaders and assisted by enthusiastic parents and members of the congregation.

Bell Ringing



We have an enthusiastic team of ringers, who ring for the main Sunday Service and special occasions. They also ring for most weddings and occasionally for funerals when asked. Practice night is Monday evenings.

Flower Arrangers

Our team of volunteer flower arrangers provide inspirational displays throughout the year, excluding Advent and Lent (when the church is left unadorned).

For major festivals the Flower Team work together to fill the church with flowers. Flower displays are also provided, for a fee and by prior arrangement for weddings in the Church.

The Flower Team also take part in The Cathedral Flower Festival which is held every other year, and at other church flower festivals by invitation.

Church Cleaners

A faithful band of volunteer cleaners made up from the Church family and the wider community undertake the mammoth task of ensuring the church has a bright, clean, pleasant and welcoming atmosphere. The small teams are organised on a rota to ensure the church and chapel are always kept in pristine condition. We also have an annual deep clean when around 20 volunteers turn up to do all the difficult to reach areas and to enjoy the bacon butties.

The Friends of St Thomas à Becket

Many people in our village or who have connections with Pagham have a great affection for our historic building, even if they do not wish to be involved in the religious aspect of our Church. The Friends is an organisation which has been charged by the PCC with raising funds to maintain the fabric of the church. Social events are regularly organised and enjoyed by all those who attend. The Friends contributed substantially to the restoration of the transept windows and more recently towards the cost of re-tiling the church roof.

Social Events and Fundraising

The Church has a highly organised programme of social activities aiming to appeal to all members of the church family and also the wider community, as a 'shop window'. Most activities, but not all, are organised with a view to raising funds, but in a way that we can all enjoy as well.

All involved with running events meet at the end of the year to plan a programme of events, arranging dates spread throughout the year, so as to achieve an even spread of events.

In the past fundraising has been for two specific purposes:

- For the ongoing maintenance of the church, organised by the 'Friends' organisation.
- For the general running of the church to bridge the gap between income and expenditure, organised by individuals on behalf of the church family.

Christmas Fair

This is held annually at the Church Centre in November. Willing volunteers come together to make this a fun and successful event



Art Exhibition - This event is held annually over the May bank holiday weekend. The event has been running for more than 20 years and has grown significantly in the past few years. It is a popular event, with local artists displaying and selling their work. Refreshments and light meals are served and the event attracts a large number of visitors.

Cream Teas - Organised by the 'Friends' this is yet another popular event which really seems to appeal to the wider community. This is held annually in the church with a Cream Tea served,

Burns Night - Our Men's Group initiated the idea of holding a Burns Night Supper, and take responsibility for the organisation and running of the event, including all the cooking. It has proved hugely popular attracting young and old, and has also proved to be a very worthwhile fundraising event.



Other events

Some events are run with no thought of fundraising; they are just designed to bring people together and to have fun.

Examples are:

- Parish Summer Walk, with a picnic held part way round, which allows those unable to walk the bounds to join in the fun.
- Pancake party on Shrove Tuesday – originally for the benefit of our young people but has become a popular event for the whole church family.
- Super Soup - organised to raise funds for Christian Aid and local charities, but also has the benefit of bringing large numbers of the church family and others together to enjoy fellowship whilst raising funds.
- Summer Parish BBQ - held at Church and open to all

Statistics

The figures reported to the 2024 Annual Parish Meetings (incorporating details included in the Diocesan Statistics for Mission are as follows:

Electoral Roll	234
Average Sunday Services	55
Average Tuesday@7	36
Easter Attendance	158
Easter Communicants	108
Christmas Attendance	341
Christmas Communicants	80
Baptisms	12
Admission to Communion before Confirmation	6
Confirmations	3
Weddings (Blessings)	6
Funerals in Church	9
Burial of ashes	10

Administration

The PCC has 12 members, who serve for a three year period. There are 3 Deanery Synod representatives. There are two Churchwardens who are subject to election each year. The full PCC meet 11 times a year.

Our PCC Secretary and our Treasurer take care of all the printing on our own machines in the upstairs room above St Andrews Chapel. This includes Orders of Service, leaflets and posters.

Our Website is maintained and updated by a member of the PCC.

Social Media is managed by a member of the PCC.

Safeguarding

Fortunately incidents at Pagham are very rare and dealt with very efficiently and in full consultation with the Diocese safeguarding team. We are not complacent and are aware of the need to constantly attend to the wider culture; being proactive in promoting the safety of all who minister and worship in our parish. DBS checks and full training is carried out by all those required to do so to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are safe from harm. The Church has an active safeguarding officer.

Finance

As with most churches and small charities our greatest financial challenge is to meet our running costs from unrestricted income. As a PCC we are committed to giving 5% of our unrestricted income to other charities. It has been necessary for a number of years to rely on fundraising and unrestricted legacies to meet all our commitments.

Pagham has always aimed to pay their full Parish Share, aiming to pay and meeting our full ministry costs. Our unrestricted income last year was £85,340 and we contribute £55,650 to the Diocese as our Parish Share. During the last incumbency we shared a priest with our neighbouring parish and were given a credit of half a stipend.

Over the past few years we have held regular Stewardship campaigns with a focus on not just financial support, but also the giving of time and talents. The PCC have also adopted a Legacy Policy with details available in the church.

We have a generous congregation, making good use of the Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Orders and Free-will offering envelopes, and we make good use of Gift Aid. We have also installed a giving station so as to receive contactless donations.

St Thomas à Becket's Church, Pagham

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments 2023

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted Fund/s</i>	<i>Endowed Fund/s</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Designated Funds</i>			<i>All Funds 2023</i>	<i>All Funds 2022</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	71,992	-	2,340	-	74,332	119,870	
Charitable activities	5,136	-	-	-	5,136	4,366	
Other trading activities	4,063	-	7,745	-	11,808	13,516	
Investments	2	2226	-	-	2,228	847	
Disbursements	4147	-	-	-	4,417	-	
Total received	85,340	-	10,085	-	97,651	138,599	3
Expenditure on:							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Charitable costs	64,846	-	770	-	65,616	75,434	
Trading costs	-	-	8,731	-	8,731	9,354	
Other payments	-	-	-	-	-	15	
Archdeacon loan repayment	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	-	10
Total paid	69,846	-	9,501	-	84,788	126,856	4
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>							
Net income or (net expenditure)	15,494	2,226	584	-	18,304	53,811	
Disbursement control			-	-		(1000)	
Net movement in funds	15,494	2,226	584	-	18,304	52,811)	
Bank accounts at 1 January	10,094	72,791	13,345	-	96,230	43,419	
Bank accounts at 31 December	32,989	80,392	1,153	-	114,534	96,230	A & L

Final Note

Thank you for taking the time to read through this profile. We hope it has given you a glimpse of the large range of activities and opportunities in our parish and gives you a flavour of who we are.

If you are excited about the way in which God has been working in our parish, we ask that you pray about whether God is calling you to be our priest for the future of our Church and Church family.

We are open to the next step that God wants us to take and we would really like you to explore whether you could be the person to work with us in the future.

Pagham Church is a registered Charity: **Charity No. 1134842**