



# St Peter's Wolvercote

## *Taking Part*

*Sharing in the life of the church*



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## INTRODUCTION

The church is described in the New Testament as a Family, a Team or a Body. In all these pictures, two things are important:

- The church is made up of people
- Every single one of us has an important part to play in it

*'As in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body, and individually we are members of one another' (Romans 12:4-5)*

Being a member of the church means being part of this Family, this Team, this Body. There are three areas in which we can put our membership of the church into practice:

- Sharing in prayer, Christian learning and fellowship
- Finding practical ways of helping in the life of the church
- Giving financially towards the ministry and mission of the church.

St Paul's picture of the Body of Christ reminds us that all of us have gifts, skills and talents to use in God's service. Each of us is like a limb or organ or cell that can make a vital contribution to the life of the whole Body.

We hope this booklet will help you to review how you are involved in the church and its mission and may perhaps inspire you to try something new!

We also want to strongly affirm those who are already doing so much in the life of the church, often unseen in the background. And to everyone, please be assured that whatever contribution you make, large or small, is of great value, and is appreciated very much.



## WORSHIP

### *Welcomers and sidespeople*

Most of us seek to grow in our Christian faith through Sunday worship so it's vital everyone coming into the church is made to feel welcome. Our welcomers offer a warm greeting and help people into the church. Inside our sidespeople hand out service sheets and offer a helping hand to find a seat. Both welcomers and sidespeople are encouraged to talk to newcomers, invite them to coffee after the service and introduce them to other members of the congregation.

Do you enjoy meeting people? Are you available one Sunday morning each month? Then we would be really pleased if you would join our sidespersons' or welcomers' team.

### *Servers*

We encourage young people from 10 years old to play a more active role in church life. As servers they prepare the church for the 10am Sunday service. Wearing a long white robe, girdle and cross, they carry lighted candles at the head of the clergy and choir procession into church. During the service they stay in the chancel and assist clergy.

This is an opportunity for young people to take on more responsibility in a supported environment. They would serve about once a month and may be asked to support occasional midweek services.

### *Bible readers*

Many of our churchgoers enjoy contributing to worship by reading Bible passages during the 10am service. Readers get the opportunity to read once or twice a year.



## *Singers*

Our choir is always on the lookout for new singers – no audition required! Regular members rehearse for an hour on Friday evenings, and before the 10am Sunday service on the first, second and fourth Sundays of the month. Upper voices sing on the other Sundays. If you're unable to sing regularly, the once monthly All-Age or the extended Festival Choirs might suit you.

## *Bell ringers*

Could tower bell ringing be your new hobby? Reading music is not required. You just need to be reasonably active and over ten years old. St Peter's has one of only a few ringing simulators nationwide, so beginners start in a safe, controlled way. Although not a Sunday activity, we also have a set of hand bells which come out for tune ringing on Thursday evenings or for external performances. Anyone over ten years old can give it a try.

## *Children and Families*

St Peter's warmly welcomes children and families into the church. An active Explorers group for children under 10 years aims to make the Christian message accessible and fun using craft, music, acting and stories. We have a talented team of DBS-checked co-leaders but are interested to hear from more potential helpers. Extra volunteers are particularly valued at outreach events which attract 35-40 children.

As children get older and question more, we invite them to share their thoughts about the relevance of faith today. But it's not all serious. We are looking for people to plan and implement social activities for the 10-plus and 13-plus age groups. These events help young people to make friends, at the same time providing a safe environment to explore any issues which might arise.



## OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH

We're proud of our lovely church and always thankful for the volunteers whose labour of love keeps it clean and sparkling. Most jobs are done on a monthly rota although some, like general cleaning, vacuuming and dusting, are done every Friday or Saturday. You can volunteer to help regularly or as needed. Extra hands are always welcomed.

### *Sacristry*

The sacristan is responsible for making all the material preparations for church services and would welcome support with one or more of the many tasks. For example, candles need to be checked and ordered, along with communion wine, and the altar frontal changed according to the season. Silver is washed weekly and gets an extra polish, along with all the church brass, at Christmas and Easter. Somebody keeps an eye on the altar cloths, taking them to the laundry every couple of months, or more if they get stained or creased.

### *Flowers*

Beautiful floral arrangements remind us of the wonder of creation. Our flower team needs new members. Could this be the role for you? The team works to a rota, each person volunteering about six times a year, displaying and caring for flowers over two weeks. At Festival times the volunteers work together as a team.

### *Gardening*

We're a nation of gardeners so there must be plenty of people who'd enjoy weeding, pruning shrubs or sweeping leaves in the churchyard. You might like to adopt a small area to care for. Another option is to join an *ad hoc* team which tidies in readiness for Remembrance Sunday or the Patronal Festival. Dates are publicised in *Partnership Link*.



## HOSPITALITY

### *Sunday morning coffee*

Everyone is invited to the Parish Room after 10am service to socialise over a hot drink and biscuit. We have a team of people who prepare the room and refreshments, clean up and tidy up. Most people help once a month but occasional back-up, or more regular support tidying away chairs and tables, would be a bonus.

### *Open Church*

The Church is open to visitors from 2.00 to 4.00pm on Sundays, and on Saturdays from April to July, except for occasional services. Church sitters, who volunteer on a rota system to welcome visitors, have a peaceful two hours to read, draw, or just think.

### *Lifts to church*

A growing number of people with mobility difficulties would be grateful for a lift to church, usually on Sundays. Would you be willing to help?

### *Catering*

We keep a list of volunteers who are called on to provide catering after special services, talks and concerts. Their much-valued services include providing tea, coffee and cakes, sometimes wine, setting up, serving and clearing. People persons will love this job.

### *Patronal lunch*

Our Patronal lunch is held on the Sunday closest to St Peter's Day and is usually the last day of the Midsummer Festival. We cater for over 100 people, members of the congregation and people outside St Peter's who work for the community. We need at least 30 volunteers to prepare food in advance as well as a team of around 10 on the day who set up,



serve and wash up. Look out for requests for volunteers in *Partnership Link* or on our website!

### *Harvest Supper*

Every year we host a hot supper for about 80 people in St Peter's. Like the Patronal Lunch we need volunteers who prepare food in advance and a team of helpers to set up, serve and clear away. Being a part of this team is rewarding, and the evening is always enjoyable. Volunteer cooks, servers and entertainers are recruited via *Partnership Link* or the website. Don't be shy – brush off your tap shoes or sing us a song!

## PASTORAL CARE

### *St Peter's Net*

St Peter's Net is a small group of people who offer pastoral care to those in need of spiritual support or company. They also host small, informal Sunday lunches for members of the congregation who attend different services and newcomers to the community. If you enjoy getting to know people and cooking a simple meal, the Net would welcome your help. Note: For certain activities DBS checks may be required.

## PRACTICAL HELP

### *Maintenance*

Our building and churchyard are in constant need of regular care. Leaves clog roofs and gutters, paint weathers and wears, fittings get damaged and equipment breaks down. We need more DIYers to help as needed, or to organise and monitor tradesmen who carry out regular servicing, testing or repairs.



### *First Aid*

We'd be pleased to hear from any qualified people willing to join the list of First Aiders in Church, or from anyone interested in being trained.

### *Deliveries*

We send out letters to church members on the Electoral Roll a couple of times a year. Next time we are distributing information, please ask a churchwarden if you can help with deliveries around your home area.

### *Administration*

Do you have a home computer, word processing or spreadsheet skills and a few hours to spare? Our safeguarding officer needs help logging and maintaining safeguarding information. The data compliance officer needs support auditing church activities to ensure information is held appropriately. Several teams such as the Bible readers or flower arrangers operate on a rota system which is updated once or twice a year. Some committees need a secretary to take minutes three to six times a year. Taking over just one of these tasks will lighten the load.

### *Occasional help*

For special events like St Peter's Fête, the Patronal Festival and Harvest Supper we urgently need people to move furniture or put up gazebos. Let us know if you'd be prepared to help for an hour or so.

### *Specialist skills*

Do you have specialist skills such as fundraising, book-keeping or plumbing, and be willing to help the Ministry team or officers if the need arises? One area of specific need is someone to manage and implement St Peter's Health and Safety Policy which makes clear our duty of care for all who visit and use the Church. We're waiting to hear from you!



## COMMUNICATIONS

Effective communication is vital in furthering the Church's mission. It is not only a means of sharing information and knowledge, bringing people together for a common purpose, but it also builds and nurtures relationships.

St Peter's has several ways of reaching out to different audiences and for communicating various information.

### *St Peter's website*

Our website ([www.stpeterswolvercote.org](http://www.stpeterswolvercote.org)) is the central source of spiritual and secular information about St Peter's and the Parish Rooms, for parishioners and visitors. News is posted weekly and all regular church publications and selected sermons are available to download.

We edit the website every week to make sure the content is up to date. if you're a confident computer user and enjoy writing and design, you could easily learn how to edit the website. Our Children's and Families' worker would especially value a copywriter to support their outreach programme.

### *Partnership Link*

Published weekly, *Partnership Link* is a short newsletter, flagging upcoming services and events at St Peter's, All Saints' Wytham and the Summertown-Wolvercote Church Partnership (SWCP).

Occasional holiday cover is wanted to help compile notices and print the newsletter.



## *The Flying Goose*

*The Flying Goose* is a free resource for local community groups and one of the most important ways we communicate with the 3,000 homes in the parish of Wolvercote. There are many steps in its production and distribution, all of which need additional help.

**Advertising:** We fund *The Flying Goose* by selling advertising space. There's a role for someone to liaise with advertisers.

**Project management:** This might be a job to share with a friend. You would attend quarterly editorial meetings, liaise with the printers, collect printed copies and bring them to church.

**Editorial:** If you have a creative eye or ideas to enhance the content, why not join the editorial team? If you're a details person, then you could support proofreading. The Editor would also value occasional support collecting articles and photographs and laying out the publication in Microsoft Publisher or the Apple equivalent, a task which requires similar skills to website publishing.

## *The Quarterly*

*The Quarterly* is an SWCP ecumenical journal. Contributions, ideally less than 600 words, are always welcome. The small editorial team would also value help for a couple of hours every three months preparing articles, and then collating, folding, and stapling printed sheets.

## *Social media*

St Peter's has yet to dip our toes into the waters of social media although this is a future objective. Our Communications Group would value a new member who regularly uses different social media platforms to advise on strategy and keep us updated on new developments.



## OUTREACH

### *Shaping our Vision*

Our vision statement is: "*Becoming closer to God and celebrating his loving purposes; reaching out unconditionally showing God's love for all creation.*"

Several groups meet to shape and turn this vision to action:

- Exploring Spirituality
- Learning and study
- Discovering alternative ways of Worship for all ages
- Engaging with the local community
- Championing social justice and care of the environment

Would you like to join one of these groups, contributing to our thinking about the ministry and mission of our church? Contact the Vicar to find out more.

### *Cotteslowe Pavilion services*

Once a month, we join ministers from other SWCP churches in Cotteslowe Pavilion to lead a simple service primarily for the elderly living in the area north of the ring road. Volunteers are needed to bring and serve refreshments after the short service and to help publicize the event.

### *Fairtrade stall*

Fairtrade goods are sold every third Sunday (apart from August) after the 10am service. Helpers are always needed to run the stall at St Peter's and on the following Sunday at the Wolvercote Farmer's Market in the White Hart Community Pub.



## *Wolvercote and Wytham Midsummer Festival*

Every year, everyone in Wolvercote and Wytham villages is invited to events for all ages and tastes over ten days around midsummer. St Peter's hosts the Festival Service, a Family Concert and our annual Church Fête. This is a huge undertaking and the Festival Committee is always looking for more help, behind the scenes or on the day. If you would like to meet more people locally and help build community relationships this could be for you.

## *St Peter's Fête*

The whole community is invited to our Church Fête, held on the last Saturday of June in and around the Church. Proceeds are donated to charitable organisations. The Fête Committee meets monthly from February to June and is looking for new members with creative ideas or organisational skills.

## WIDER ENGAGEMENT

### *Deanery Synod*

Deanery Synod is part of the Church of England's legislative and deliberative structure, linking Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) to the Diocese. Local concerns are discussed at the Deanery Synod which then reports made back to the PCC. St Peter's is represented by our clergy and up to four lay representatives. We have unfilled places. This is a great opportunity to learn about the wider work of the church.

### *Christian Aid*

Christian Aid stands up for dignity, equality and justice with the poorest of our global neighbours. For decades, workers have provided urgent, practical and effective assistance, now in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none. Our team urgently needs new members who will



work together co-ordinating the annual Christian Aid week collection, and other fundraising and campaigning events.

### *Taung Link*

The SWCP churches maintain a valued relationship with the parish of Taung in South Africa through occasional visits and supportive fundraising. New steering group members are needed to discuss activities supporting and promoting the Link, keeping us in contact with our friends in Taung.

### *Mission Giving*

St Peter's gives ten percent of its annual donations and legacies income, plus profits from the 100 Club, to charitable organisations (detailed on our website). We organise occasional talks and displays highlighting the work of these charities, for which help would be appreciated.

### *Churches Together in North Oxford*

An ecumenical forum which organises joint annual activities including One World Week, Women's World Day of Prayer, a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service, an open-air Good Friday service in Summertown, and a public lecture to accompany the Annual General Meeting. Newcomers are welcomed.



## GROWING IN FAITH

Every member of St Peter's is encouraged to grow and develop in their own way through prayer and Christian learning. Most do this through Sunday worship, but there are other ways to grow in faith together.

### *Exploring Prayer and Spirituality*

Every Christian has their own way of feeling close to God in prayer. We pray in church nearly every day, and monthly in peoples' homes. St Peter's publishes regular Prayer Cycles, based on the church calendar, which unite members of the broader church body in their intercessions. Each Prayer Cycle details regular and special prayer events such as the Lent Quiet Day, Advent Quiet Evening and Exploring Spirituality meetings. Details of all these opportunities can be found on the church website or by contacting Revd Viv Bridges.

### *Christian Learning*

Home Groups meet fortnightly for discussions of the Bible, Christian books, fellowship and prayer. New members are always welcome!

Christ for Today is a course primarily for newcomers to the church, or for anyone interested in taking a fresh look at the basics of faith today, or adults interested in confirmation. Over six sessions, we explore how the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus are relevant today.

Further courses run from time to time. Revd Charles Draper will provide more information about courses or Home Groups.

### *Open Fellowship*

We meet on Mondays fortnightly in St Peter's Old School Room to listen to an invited speaker, discuss and socialise. The last meeting each term is a Bring and Share Lunch. Details can be found in *Partnership Link*, on our website or through the Church Office.



Speak to a churchwarden or member  
of the Ministry Team to find out what  
is involved in any activity, or contact  
Parish Administrator (Julia Goddard)  
tel: 01865 236094  
email: [officeatstpeters@gmail.com](mailto:officeatstpeters@gmail.com)  
website: [www.stpeterswolvercote.org](http://www.stpeterswolvercote.org)