

# ST PETER'S CHURCH, TUNBRIDGE WELLS PARISH PROFILE



ST PETER'S CHURCH TUNBRIDGE WELLS, BAYHALL ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, TN2 4UX

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## Welcome

At the consecration of St Peter's Church by the Archbishop of Canterbury in October 1875 the Archbishop spoke "of many changes taking place throughout the Church of England, but over us all there is One watching who is unchangeable, whose words are sure and whose assistance and promises are ever at hand to direct aright."

As we approach our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, these words remain as relevant as ever.

Today St Peter's Church welcomes people of all ages, of all church backgrounds or none and those thinking about the Christian faith for the first time.

We are:

*A Christ-centred church;* The very centre of our faith is Jesus Christ: his love, his forgiveness and his plans for our day to day lives. Jesus' death and sacrifice in taking the sins of the world are essential to our faith. We encourage one another never to lose sight of Jesus.

*A teaching church;* There is so much to learn as we grow in our Christian faith. Many people come to our church especially for the clearly explained Bible-based teaching.

*A praying church;* We know that we can do nothing without God's guidance and empowerment.

*A welcoming church;* Every Sunday we have newcomers and visitors and we aim to make everyone feel welcomed and valued.

*An all-age church;* Babies are often brought from a few days old and there are several members of our church family who are well into their nineties. We love the rich diversity of ages and backgrounds.

*A caring church;* We endeavour to listen well and support each other in the ups and downs of life, bearing one another's burdens.

*A complementarian church;* We treat men and women equally and value the distinctive contributions that each bring to Christ's church.

*A mission-minded church;* We actively support mission partners in this country and around the world by including them in our wider church family. We encourage and support them financially and in regular prayer.

In summary, St Peter's exists to love, praise and glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Spirit, as taught in the word of God, the Bible.

## Our Mission Statement

### Learning to love Christ and to love others

We aim to do this by living out the great commandment: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbour as yourself. (Matthew 22: 37-39)*

And the great commission: *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28: 19-20)*



## Our Beliefs

**St Peter's is an evangelical church and a member of the Church of England. This means that we accept the full and final authority of the Bible as the basis for all we believe.**

We are aware of the need to carefully define our theology, in a world that has attacked and questioned much of what we have come to take for granted.

We find the following (based on the Church of England's 39 Articles) to be a succinct and sound set of statements with which we agree.

1. There is one God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is sovereign in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
2. The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It is the supreme authority in all matters of belief and behaviour.
3. Since the fall, the whole of humankind is sinful and guilty, so that everyone is subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
4. The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God; he was born of a virgin; his humanity is real and sinless; he died on the cross, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth.
5. Sinful human beings are redeemed from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once for all time of their representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between them and God. Those who believe in Christ are pardoned all their sins and accepted in God's sight only because of the righteousness of Christ credited to them; this justification is God's act of undeserved mercy, received solely by trust in him and not by their own efforts.
6. The Holy Spirit alone makes the work of Christ effective to individual sinners, enabling them to turn to God from their sin and to trust in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit lives in all those he has regenerated. He makes them increasingly Christlike in character and behaviour and gives them power for their witness in the world.
7. The one holy universal church is the Body of Christ, to which all believers belong. The Lord Jesus Christ will return in person, to judge everyone, to execute God's just condemnation on those who have not repented and to receive the redeemed to eternal glory.





## St Peter's Parish, Tunbridge Wells

The parish of St Peter sits to the east of Tunbridge Wells town centre and enjoys a village feel being adjacent to St Peter's Street and the former Windmill Fields area. The parish boundaries encompass the residential area of Hawkenbury and borders with the town's largest public park, Dunorlan Park.

Local housing comprises a selection of Victorian and Edwardian properties as well as flats, an area of exclusive developments within Camden Park and a variety of estates built more recently in Hawkenbury. A residential development nearing completion, known as Hollyfields, comprises 225 new houses and a new, enlarged site for St Peter's Church of England Primary School. There are approximately 2,000 homes within the parish.

The parish is convenient for accessing the mainline rail station to London and Hastings and is served by a regular bus service. Many parishioners commute to London and a large number of families within the parish are served by St Peter's School which has a close relationship with the church.

The parish hosts The Nuffield Health Tunbridge Wells Hospital as well as sheltered housing, a small number of care homes and a substantial office of the private health insurance company, AXA PPP.



## The Church Family

*“Committed to each other, committed to serving in the church, committed to seeing every person in the light of Christ”*

St Peter’s comprises 150 adults ranging in age from 18 to late 90s. We are also privileged to have many children in the church. Babies and children are welcomed within the church family and are supported through a crèche area and various clubs for different age groups.

We benefit from regular and clearly explained Bible teaching.

Many adults and teenagers meet regularly for prayer, Bible study and fellowship and we have a pastoral team to care for the church family who are available at each service. We run various courses through the year, including Life Explored, Hope Explored and Simply Christianity.

Our welcome team aims to ensure that all are warmly greeted whether new or regular attendees.

St Peter’s engages in mission in the UK and around the world. We partner with several mission organisations and individuals, through financial support and prayer. This encourages the church family to play its part in Christ’s Great Commission.



## Church Life

Our Sunday morning service is held at 10.30 a.m. and is a mix of traditional and modern. Our music is also a mixture of the best of the old and new hymns and worship songs led by a music group playing a variety of instruments.

We hold evening services on the first and third Sundays of every month. They are generally smaller and more informal with a greater emphasis on prayer. Climbers (4-10 year olds) and SPY (10-14 year olds) meet weekly during the morning service while CY (14-18 year olds) meet during the evening service.

During the week, several home groups meet for Bible study in the daytime and evenings. These gatherings enable us to build strong friendships and share our lives together. We catch up over tea and coffee, learn together from the Bible and support one another in prayer. We also organise occasional mid-week groups to run courses designed by The Christian Counselling & Education Foundation 'CCEF' such as 'Real Change' and 'Instruments in the Redeemer's hands'.

The church family meets at various events and activities held throughout the year. These usually include food – lunches, barbecues, afternoon teas and breakfast meetings.

We build relationships with the local community through a dads and toddler group called Daddy & Me and Friends Together, a bereavement group. We also minister in care homes within the parish and hold regular services at Halliwell Residential Home, an Elizabeth Finn home for the elderly.

The halls and church building at St Peter's offer flexible and spacious accommodation and are very much part of the community. They are used extensively by a variety of local organisations, in particular the Catherine Bellinger School of Dance plus weight loss, exercise and choral groups.



## Staff



Mike Warren - Vicar

Mike became Vicar in 2004. He trained at Oak Hill Theological College, served his curacy at St John's, Tunbridge Wells and spent six years as Vicar in a group of seven rural churches on the Essex/Cambridgeshire borders. Before ordination, he was a physiotherapist.

Mike is married to Sarah and they have two grown-up daughters and one granddaughter. He enjoys playing golf, is a keen gardener and has a bash at playing the piano. Mike is also Chair of Trustees for Biblical Counselling UK, and has completed a Certificate in Biblical Counselling.

Phil Peddar - Assistant Minister

Phil joined St Peter's in the summer of 2017. He grew up in Wimbledon and has spent most of his life living in London. He is married to Lucy and they have three young children.

Before training for full-time Christian ministry, Phil and Lucy lived in Spain where they spent two years working with *Grupos Biblicos Universitarios*, the Christian student movement there.

Phil is keen on all kinds of music and enjoys numerous sports from football and tennis to snooker and snowboarding.



Michele Burgess - Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Michele's role as PSO is informed by previous work experience.

She has a degree in psychology and, together with her husband, Tony, has trained for ministry with the Sussex Gospel Partnership.

Office Administration

Lourdes Bragg - Office Manager, and Lindsey Sumpter.

Building & Grounds

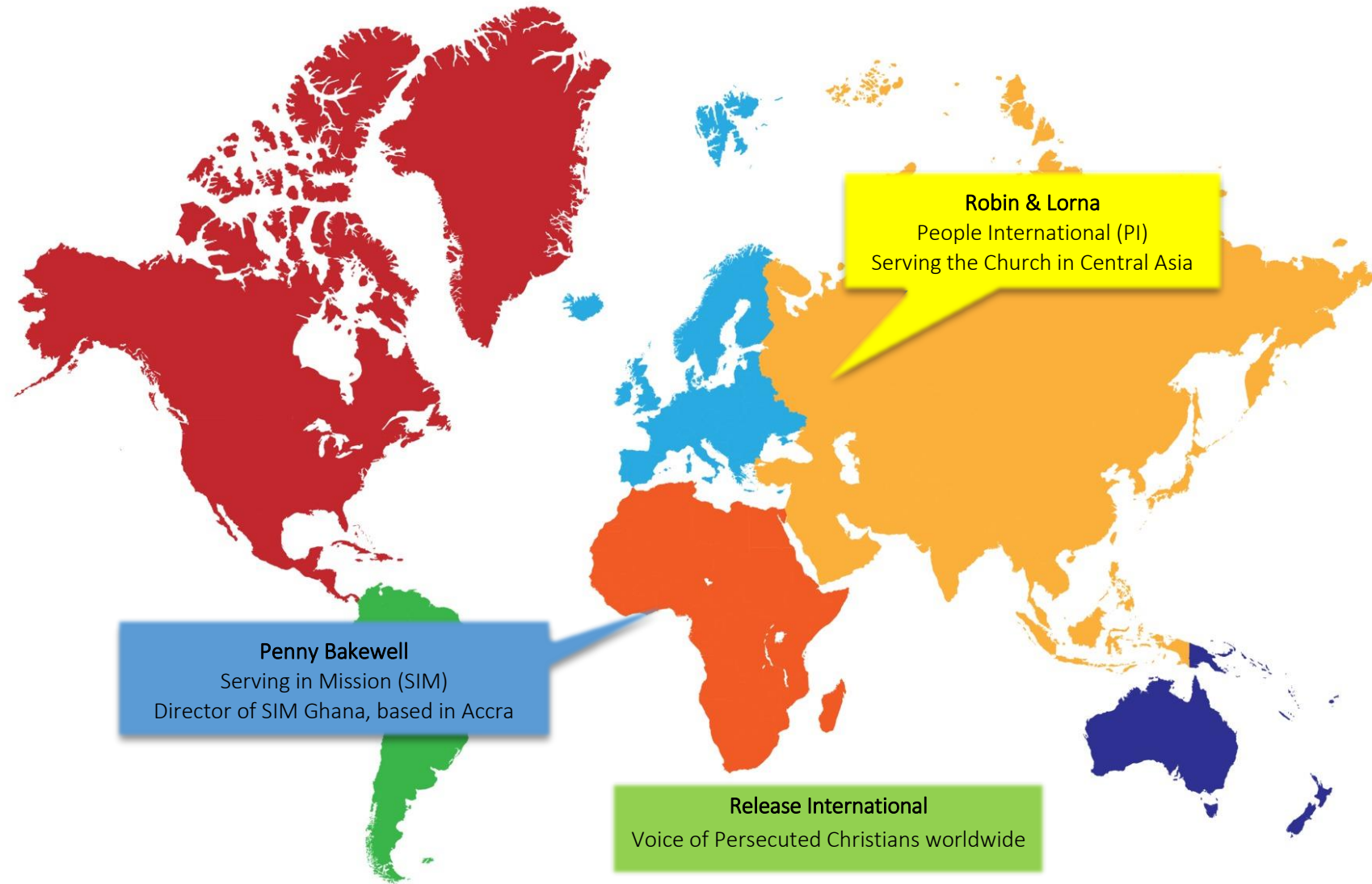
Martin Maplesden has provided invaluable and enthusiastic service to St Peter's as Caretaker for well over 12 years, caring for the upkeep of the church, and Ian Cochrane keeps the grounds and garden tidy.

The Church Wardens

Sally Poland and Cliff Nay.

St Peter's church family volunteers - Everyone!

## Mission Partners



Map from vecteezy.com

## Our Policies

The PCC has passed The House of Bishop's resolution and pastoral oversight is now provided by the Bishop of Ebsfleet. St Peter's has a complementarian approach to women's ministry and as a church we follow the 39 Articles, The Prayer Book and the Church of England Ordinal.

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people, victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults. A formal statement to adopt the House of Bishops' "Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement" has been agreed and signed by the PCC and Churchwardens. All who serve at St Peter's Church follow the Diocesan policies for safer recruitment and undertake safeguarding training.

We acknowledge the pain caused by all types of abuse and will deal compassionately with any concerns that are brought to our attention. St Peter's offer marriage and parenting courses and we support those who are grieving through bereavement or broken relationships.

## Contact Information

Address: St Peter's Church Office, St Peter's Street, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 4UX

Website: [www.stpeterstw.com](http://www.stpeterstw.com)

***For hall hire contact Lourdes Bragg in the office***

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Minister: Mike Warren, St Peter's Vicarage, Bayhall Road, TN2 4TP

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Charity No.: 1131548

