

## St Andrew's Church, Coulsdon

### Parish Profile



<http://www.standrews.coulsdon.net>

## Summary

St Andrew's Church, Coulsdon is a parish church in the Diocese of Southwark and our Patron is the Bishop.

We are a friendly, liberal catholic church, just 5 minutes' walk from Coulsdon town centre and the congregation has been serving God through prayer and worship on its current site since 1914.

Coulsdon is a thriving outer London suburb, located about half way between London and Gatwick airport, and is undergoing a period of growth. The population of our parish will rise significantly over the next 10 years with the development of the Cane Hill site.

Every Sunday morning around 70 people (ranging from babies to pensioners) gather for sacramental, prayerful, traditional worship. The challenge now is to be able to offer worship which is attractive to younger members and families.

Our wider church life and community activities include bible study and prayer groups, a Contact Group, Home Communion, children's workshops and Messy Church.

At present we have one Reader and a prospective Reader. There is a part-time volunteer Parish Administrator and the church is financially viable.

Planning permission has been given for a new Vicarage and work has started on the site. We are part of a friendly and supportive Deanery (Croydon South).

We would welcome a Priest-in-Charge with a youthful outlook and sense of humour.

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## Part 1 - Introduction

### Overview

St. Andrew's Church Coulsdon has been serving God through prayer and worship since 1914. We are a parish church in the Diocese of Southwark and most of our congregation lives within the parish. A flagstaff on the roof and a cross, illuminated at night, are local landmarks serving as a reminder of the church's presence.

We share the love of God by following the example of Jesus Christ. We believe that every person of every age, race, creed, gender and ability is loved infinitely by God.

Our general pattern of worship is traditional and liturgically-based with a strong musical tradition and every Sunday about 70 people from babies to 90 plus years gather for worship at 9.45 am.

Morning Prayer is said regularly in church for the people living, working or studying on every street in the parish of St. Andrew's. We also continue to show the love of God through practical acts of friendship, hospitality, service and care for those we encounter in our daily activities.

*Photo of our Centenary Celebration Wedding Service during National Marriage Week 2014*



## Part 1 - Introduction

### Location

Coulsdon is a thriving outer London suburb, located about half way between London and Gatwick airport. Whilst part of the London Borough of Croydon, it also borders open countryside with Farthing Downs stretching for miles, and Coulsdon Common and Banstead Woods nearby.

Coulsdon Town has its own unique identity, reflecting its proximity to the countryside and to London, specifically its easy access to the South Coast, central London and the M25 motorway, and excellent rail and bus links.

It is currently undergoing a period of change, with new flats under construction in the town centre. There are plans for a new health centre, two supermarkets and further housing (at least 300 new homes on the Cane Hill site) that would see more families and first time buyers entering the area. This will add to the existing blend of old and new shops, restaurants and cafes in the town centre. As a result, we know that the population of our parish is likely to rise significantly (10%+) over the next 10 years.

*Photo of Coulsdon Centre looking south*



The church lies to the west side of Coulsdon, just 5 minutes' walk from the town centre.

There are five very popular state schools within the parish, four primary schools (one Roman Catholic) and one secondary school.

- Recent Vicars/Priests-in-Charge have been school governors of Woodcote High School.
- A Church representative does small workshops in the primary schools exploring the Bible
- Two of the primary schools visit the church each year on a rotation basis
- The High School art depicting Stations of the Cross is displayed in the church each year
- A Christmas service for Woodcote's Year 7 pupils and their parents is held at the end of each year



## Part 2 – The Body of the Church

### Worship

Our main act of worship is Parish Eucharist at 9.45am on Sunday Mornings, with a small Sunday School for younger members, followed by well attended refreshments in the Church Hall.

We are a friendly, liberal catholic church. We have a robed choir and wonderful music, we also have robed Servers. An average Sunday sees 70 people in church ranging from babies to pensioners. The challenge now is to be able to offer worship which is attractive to all age groups.

### Renew Service

On the 3rd Sunday of the month our young people lead a less formal *Renew* service that follows an All Sorts format, with more modern songs, accessible story telling of the Gospel, but also with Holy Communion.

### My Life, My Faith, My Church

Recently, on the last Sunday of the month the sermon slot has been taken by a member of the congregation who shares personal stories along this theme.



### Music and the Choir

Our Sunday worship is blessed with high quality music from a very talented Musical Director. We have a highly regarded musical tradition at St. Andrew's, with a good, mixed, versatile choir comprising mainly adults. One of our tasks going forward is to explore ways of expanding the types of music we offer. The William Hill organ had a major rebuild in 2002.

**Sunday School** also meets on Sundays at 9.45am, except for the 3rd Sunday of the Month, when they attend the Renew Service.

Children start off in Church. They leave for their own activities at the time of the bible readings, to explore what is being heard in Church in a child-friendly manner.

Children are involved in arts and crafts relevant to the bible teachings and then return to Church in time for Communion followed by "show and tell".

*Photo of Children's corner, back of church*



## Part 2 – The Body of the Church

### Church Life

#### Bible Study and Prayer Groups

We aim to teach and explore the faith in a number of settings through:

##### Healing Ministry

Between 8 – 12 people attend a monthly Wholeness and Healing service in Church with:

- Anointing with oils
- Laying on of hands
- Prayer requests on behalf of the sick and needy

##### Prayer Group

A small group meets monthly. A set format focused on prayer for St Andrew's, the town of Coulsdon, the Deanery, the Diocese and the wider world. Leaflets made available for personal use at home

##### Bible Study

An ecumenical bible reading group, currently 8-10 people, meet on a monthly basis. The group is currently using a Lectio Divina approach.

Two important questions that we need to explore going forward are:

1. How willing are we, as adults, to study the bible and increase our understanding of the faith?
2. What can St Andrew's offer for those not yet in church and who would like to explore the Christian faith in an informal and friendly environment?

#### Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

During 2013 we welcomed 18 people into the Christian faith through baptism. There were also two weddings at St. Andrew's during the year. Four funerals were held in the church, a further 11 were conducted at the local crematoria and 3 burials of ashes took place at St Andrew's Memorial Garden.

#### First Communion

Following preparation, we admit children to Communion before Confirmation.

#### Children's Workshops

The Easter Gardens workshop is held on Good Friday and the Stir Up workshop is held on the Saturday before the last Sunday of Trinity. Both these workshops have now become regular fixtures in the church's year and have proved very popular. Going forward, we need to be more prepared for a greater number of participants. Numbers are likely to increase following the advent of Messy Church.

## Part 2 – The Body of the Church

### Community Activities

#### Pastoral Work

This vital work is currently undertaken by the Reader, Contact Group and other members of the congregation. A dedicated Home Communion Group ensures that housebound members of the congregation receive communion regularly. The nearby residential and nursing homes receive regular visits with communion. We also liaise with hospital Chaplaincy teams when necessary.



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month and in conjunction with South London Region Centres, our **Messy Church** project continues to thrive and grow. The Church Hall buzzes with 30+ children straight out of school with their parents/carers at themed activity stations with fun arts and crafts – all the while a delicious smell wafts out of the kitchen!

Working together with St John's Old Coulsdon, we have engaged a youth minister to be involved in Messy Church and specific bible literacy work in local schools.

**Contact Group** – *“when I needed a neighbour you were there!”* Nearly a quarter of a century ago, in September 1990, a group of volunteers began undertaking neighbourly activities in a spirit of friendship and care. This service continues today offering: befriending, help with shopping, lifts for medical appointments, outings and Pop-In Teas – sharing Christ's love in practical ways.

#### Mothers' Union

Our fellowship is around 35 members. We meet twice a month, once for Corporate Communion and an evening meeting for a programme of talks, social events or a quiz. One of our challenges is to renew our efforts to appoint a Branch Leader and recruit new members. We need to increase awareness of, and participation in, Deanery and Diocesan activities.



As part of our **Patronal Festival celebrations**, we hold a “fish and chip” supper and quiz, which is very well attended by our parishioners. This is just one of the ways that we continue to show our love of God through practical acts of friendship, hospitality, service and care for each other.



## Part 2 – The Body of the Church

### Churches Together in Coulsdon

There is a well-established *Churches Together in Coulsdon* (and Old Coulsdon) in which St Andrew's plays an active role. CTC brings together the local churches of all denominations to enable acts of Worship, Witness, Study and Mission together in a series of activities throughout the year.

### Centenary Celebrations

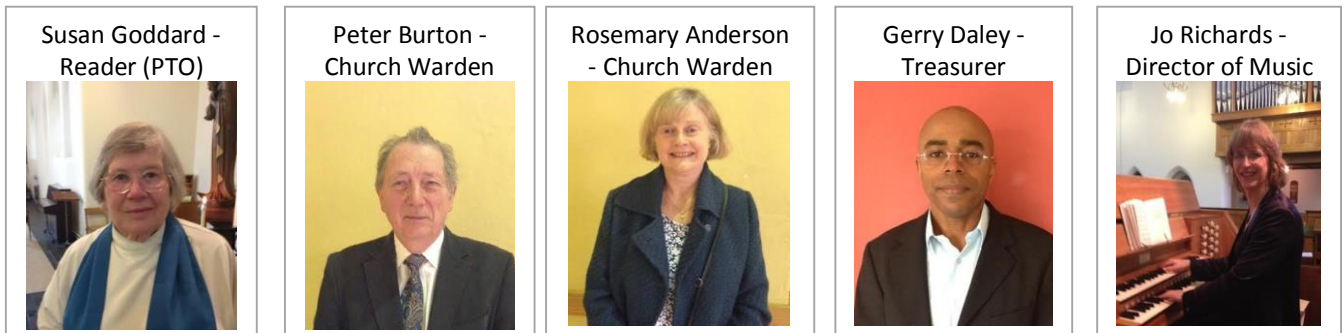
The preparation of this profile fell in St Andrew's Centenary Year. Several key events included; National Marriage Week Celebration, History Display, Cricket Club/Scout Reunion, Open Weekend and Flower Festival, Remembrance Day Service focusing on the people whose names are on our War Memorial and a special service for All Saints - the actual centenary day, together with a concert in the evening. These events have proved to be an outreach to the wider community.

*Photo of marriage celebration – cake cutting*



## Leadership

### The Current Core Team



The St Andrew's PCC draws its membership from across the age and ethnic range of the congregation. At present the PCC meets alternate months to conduct church business and the meeting starts with prayer. In addition to the Standing Committee, the PCC also operates through the following working groups: Mission Grants, Finance and Stewardship. We have both a part-time volunteer Administrator and a Church Hall Manager.

## Part 2 – The Body of the Church

### Finance Summary

The PCC has a commitment to allocate 10% of its income from regular giving, tax recovered and dividends for distribution to Charities at home and abroad. The PCC's policy is to build up and maintain designated funds to cover contingencies, and these are shown as the General Fund, the Church Hall Fund, the Missionary Fund, Messy Church Fund and the Centenary Fund.

Funding of the PCC activities is met principally by:

1. Regular giving under the Stewardship scheme. The majority of these donations are made under the Gift Aid scheme, which allows a significant recovery of tax.
2. Investments from the balance of the sale proceeds of St Francis Church. Due to the significant value of the investments, St Andrew's is financially stable. The PCC follows an ethical investment policy under advice from its professional advisers and brokers.

Gains and losses on Investment assets was a favourable gain of £24k in 2013(2012-£18k gain), resulting in a £48,298 increase in the PCC funds for the year (2012-£27,091k profit).

The future of St Andrew's church remains assured due to continuing commitment of the members of the congregation.

The following PCC funds returned a surplus	2013	2012
	£	£
General Fund	7,576	8,822
Hall Fund	3	1,123
Organ Fund	-	(3,550)
Missionary Fund	(5,850)	(5,510)
Messy Church Fund	(1,182)	(93)
Centenary Fund	<u>23,425</u>	<u>8,691</u>
Total Surplus	23,972	9,483
Investments	<u>24,326</u>	<u>17,608</u>
Net funds for the year	48,298	27,091

## Part 2 – The Body of the Church

### The Vicarage

Planning permission has been given for a new Vicarage, together with 2 x 4-bedroom detached homes, to be built on the site of the previous Vicarage.

The existing site area for re-development is 0.1448 hectares with the new Vicarage being built on a sub-plot area of 637 m<sup>2</sup>. It will have a gross internal area of 191 m<sup>2</sup> and dedicated garage allocation of 20 m<sup>2</sup>.

#### *New Vicarage Development*

The following accommodation to Church Commissioners' "Green Guide" Standards is being created: Study, visitors' cloakroom and waiting area, kitchen, family room, utility room, living room, 4 x bedrooms, 2 x bath/shower rooms, storage, garage, public forecourt and private garden, dedicated external cycle parking racks, dedicated external refuse enclosure.



The scale of development described here means that a new Priest-in-Charge is more than likely to first move into rented accommodation, before settling into the new Vicarage.

## Part 3 – Our Mission

At this crucial time of our Centenary, Interregnum and Mission Planning, we have taken some time to reflect on the type of church we are now, plus the challenges and opportunities we face going forward.

We asked our congregation to share their individual views and desires, to help us formulate this part of the profile, but also to establish a culture of a “listening church”. We would wish this consultation to be a regular undertaking, perhaps every 3 – 4 years.

We are called to be **“sharing God’s light for another 100 years in Coulsdon”**.

Our love of God and His service is behind everything we do to:

- “draw in” others, help them to integrate quickly into the church family and grow our community as a place to be and a place to belong
- care for each other, reach out to those in need with practical support and friendliness
- extend St Andrew’s outside the church buildings and share the value of a spiritual life
- develop strong social ties among the congregation, so that even when things don’t go to plan we can pick up and get on, still loving each other
- defending Christians and Christianity around the world

*Photo of High Altar taken from Gallery*



**Vision** – we believe God is calling us, over the next 3 - 5 years, to be:

- a friendly, liberal catholic church with a mix of beautiful reverent services, a robed choir and servers with wonderful music that enables all people to grow closer to Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to transform their lives
- a strong, positive, growing church working with others in Coulsdon for the benefit of all its people
- the *“people from the church with the light on the tower extending the glow from its light into the whole community”*

*Photo of Altar at Flower Festival*



## Part 3 – Our Mission

### St Andrew's Church now in 2014

We have many **strengths** to celebrate, in particular:

- we are a friendly church family of loving people who extend a warm welcome to newcomers, care for one another and provide practical support to each other
- there is a strong music tradition that reflects our love of God – a very talented Director of Music and a versatile choir
- we are a willing congregation – a strong core group of eager volunteers carrying out many tasks, working well together
- we have great facilities and resources for community outreach and charitable support – evident for example in our Messy Church project and Contact Group
- we share a wider concern and action for those in the local community and those suffering throughout the world
- we do much to support the elderly in our community through the Contact Group, and this is also evident in our outreach to the nursing homes

But we are not there yet! We have some **weaknesses** that could hold us back, in particular:

- we are an ageing congregation – mainly over 50's with insufficient new members to grow
- there are few teenagers and younger people to sustain the church
- Sunday School is small. We reflect on the possibility that young people who attend a Sunday morning's service may not enjoy it, stay for the duration, or return the following Sunday.
- there are few volunteers for important roles and to meet the demand for new activities – there is just too small a pool to choose from
- we need to bed in and build on the new one hour prayer group format

## Part 3 – Our Mission

**Opportunities** – we believe we need to find new and innovative ways to:

- **be more effective in the local community by:**
  - increasing our community outreach to the whole community and to all ethnic backgrounds
  - working with other churches and pooling our resources - e.g. floating shelter
  - working within local schools, thus introducing more local parents to the church
  - ensuring that those outside church continue to learn more about the Christian faith in a non-threatening environment
  
- **attract all age groups** to the church and encourage younger families within the community to take an active part in church life
- **encourage wider leadership** among church members taking an active part in all aspects of church life and continuing to strengthening our mission within the community
- **facilitate prayer group and bible study opportunities** that help us grow spiritually

*Photo of our some of our young people during Marriage celebration*



**Our Priority Goals** for the next 2 - 3 years are to:

1. Attract a **new incumbent** with the versatility and energy to lead us through the challenges ahead
2. Maintain **weekly/bi-weekly Eucharist** and Communion at the care homes
3. Develop the **monthly self-sustaining Renew / All Sorts worship** to provide an appealing format for non-regular worshipers
4. Maintain our current **outreach and charitable support** commitments – i.e. charitable giving, Purley Food Hub, Contact Group, Christian Aid and further develop our **monthly Messy Church** format to be self-sustaining in order to widen our outreach to young families.
5. Maintain our **church buildings** for the next generation – ensuring that meeting and social facilities can be used to the fullest extent, to maximize income
6. Develop our **ministry** with more home groups and explore the possibility of “Pilgrim” type courses



## Part 4 – Our new Priest-in-Charge

Much of the job content is apparent from elsewhere in this Profile, but we have brought it all together in this section.

**The Priest-in-Charge appointed** will work and worship together with the people of St Andrew's to grow in love and faith. In this task he or she will build on this church's tradition of Eucharistic worship, excellence in music and mutual pastoral care. He or she will encourage and support lay-participation.

**Challenges** for our new Priest-in-Charge include being able to:

- Respond to the significant rise expected in our parish population due to new housing development
- Continue and develop relationships with our local school and community groups
- Offer worship which is attractive to a wide age group, and explore ways of expanding the types of music we offer
- Extend our current ministry – particularly in the context of people not yet in the church being able to explore the Christian faith in an informal and friendly environment

### **Person specification**

Our new Priest-in-Charge would be able to:

- Embrace the current congregation with sacramental, prayerful, traditional worship
- Extend a warm welcome to younger members and families with a lively, modern style and relevant story telling
- Inspire us with biblically based preaching and expand our understanding of the Christian faith
- Enable the congregation to develop gifts in the service of the church and community
- Identify potential for growth in congregational activities
- Combine the above points whilst maintaining the existing liberal catholic tradition of St Andrew's
- Take their part in deanery and diocesan clergy groups and meetings and Churches Together in Coulsdon

**Our new Priest-in-Charge** will be a good communicator with pastoral skills in teaching, leading bible study, listening and preaching. Either a male or female Priest-in-Charge would be welcome at St Andrew's.

We hope that he or she would love our wonderful musical tradition as we do and help it to continue and grow. A good sense of humour coupled with imagination and energy, would be a distinct asset!

## Key Contacts

For further information please contact:

- Reader – **Susan Goddard** email: [ess-gee@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ess-gee@hotmail.co.uk)
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- Area Dean – **Rev. Christine Spurway** email: [christine@christinespurway.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:christine@christinespurway.orangehome.co.uk)