



Parish Profile

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Welcome

I would like to wish you a very warm welcome and thank you for taking the time to read our Parish Profile.

I am delighted you have shown an interest in the vacancy at St Nicholas Sevenoaks. I hope this booklet gives a real sense of who we are as a church and reflects our excitement and anticipation of what God has in store for us as a church family. Trusting in God's unchanging faithfulness I pray that He will send the right person to lead one of our four congregations and will enable us to continue to grow in our love of God, one another and our neighbours. I do pray that as you read this and research the post, God will guide you as you discern whether you are the new Congregational Pastor that He is calling to help lead us in our mission and ministry in the years ahead.

With love in Christ

Angus MacLeay
Rector
St Nicholas Sevenoaks



Purpose & Vision

As a church firmly rooted within the evangelical tradition, our purpose is:

- to bring glory to God by ensuring that His word continues to be faithfully preached to all congregations at St Nicholas Church
- to help members of the Church family grow in Christian knowledge and maturity;
- to provide teaching in God's word to the children and young people in the Church family;
- to reach out to the wider community in Sevenoaks, in the nation and around the world to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to provide practical support demonstrating our love for our neighbours near and far

The PCC and the church family have adopted the following Vision Statement to express its objectives, help guide its decision-making and allocate resources to activities which will support and help to fulfill its vision.

We are an Anglican church within the Diocese of Rochester, whose vision is “to Know Jesus and Make Him Known locally and globally”. And so we prayerfully and lovingly proclaim Him in order to Reach, Nurture, Equip & Send for His glory.

As members of the Church of England Evangelical Council we affirm its Basis of Faith and Additional Declarations found here: <http://www.ceec.info/basis-of-faith.html>

As a ministry team, we evaluate each of our activities against the Vision statement to ensure that resources are allocated to the right areas.

How do we seek, under the Lord, to see this vision come to fruition?

- **Reach** – we aim to encourage engagement with Christ through ‘come and see’ and ‘go and tell’ initiatives which promote the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
- **Nurture** – we aim to provide teaching from God's word in congregations, nurture groups and one-to-ones which will enable believers to grow in maturity in Christ together
- **Equip** – we aim to provide specific opportunities for dedicated training by the application of God's word so that believers are able to use their gifts and enable others to grow in maturity in Christ
- **Send** – we aim to see people sent out every week to serve Christ in their homes and workplaces and we specifically aim to send out believers into mission fields and church planting both at home and abroad.

One Church, four Congregations

We have developed what is sometimes called a 'Congregational Model'. It signifies an intention to operate as one Church family but to give responsibility to each main congregation to develop a distinctive character. The advantage of working together as one church family across our congregations is that there are lots of things which function much better when we can share resources and it is important that we continue to foster and develop a clear and distinct 'St Nicholas' identity in all that we do. However, the advantage of working congregationally is that we can provide ministry which is more tailored to individuals so that they can be nurtured, encouraged and equipped in their knowledge and service of the Lord Jesus.

The key group in strengthening our ministry in the congregations are the Congregational Leadership Teams who are led by a Congregational Pastor. The Congregational Pastors are accountable to the Rector and Churchwardens and ultimately to the PCC as employer.

What is the role of a Congregational Pastor within their congregation?

- Responsible for implementing the St Nicholas Vision
- Responsible for reaching out with the good news of Jesus, nurturing believers in Christ, equipping God's people for service and sending people out in mission.
- Organise and run the Sunday service
- Oversee the nurture groups
- Preach regularly alongside the Rector

How will they minister across the other congregations?

In order to maintain our unity as a church family it is important to ensure that whilst each Congregational Pastor takes on significant responsibilities within one congregation, nevertheless they also take on one area of responsibility across the whole church family. This provides richer resources for us all, with each Congregational Pastor serving as a catalyst for ministries where they have particular experience or expertise.

Congregational Pastors are also involved with parish work such as officiating at weddings and funerals, visiting care homes and taking school assemblies.

Though each congregation develops every aspect of our St Nicholas Vision, nevertheless encouragement from across the whole staff team is invaluable in resourcing our common Vision. From time to time there are 'whole church' initiatives where we are able to do far more together than we could manage congregationally and having the specialist input of the Congregational Pastors is vital. For example sometimes each congregation will run their own evangelism course whilst at other times it is helpful to do this centrally. Both approaches have their place.

Strategic Planning

It is important that as one church family, the leadership of St Nicholas is united, and that clear direction is given on matters that affect us all – particularly as we seek to pursue our Vision. This strategic direction and oversight is provided by the Strategy Planning Group (SPG).

The Strategy Planning Group is responsible for preparing a plan to progress the Church's Vision and for periodically updating it in the light of developments and changing needs. It will consult, formulate and propose major recommendations submitted to the PCC for approval.

The permanent members of the Strategy Planning Group are the Rector and two Churchwardens. Other members include Congregational Pastors, four representatives from across the church family and the Operations Director.

The Strategy Planning Group has made consideration of church planting a priority and each congregation is encouraged to think about how they might send people into the mission field - whether locally or further afield.

Bishop of Ebbsfleet

The PCC of this parish has passed a resolution under the House of Bishop's Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests in order to reflect its convictions on the distinctive ministry of men and women. St Nicholas has a warm relationship with Bishop Rob Munro, Bishop of Ebbsfleet, who serves Parishes across England who pass the above resolution. Bishop Rob has visited us on a variety of occasions in recent years.

Congregational Profile

At StNics@11, we are a diverse and joyful community united by a deep longing: to be a compelling family of disciple-making disciples - people who know Jesus and are passionate about making Him known.

Our prayer is that our lives would overflow with love, so that all who come among us would hear and experience the good news of God's love in Christ, not only in our words, but through the warmth of our fellowship and the authenticity of our lives.

God has been wonderfully at work, drawing people from many nations to worship together. We span generations - from newborns to those in their nineties - and represent many stages of walking with Jesus. This diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

In recent years, we've seen steady growth. On a typical Sunday, around 140 adults and 50 under-16s gather for worship. In the past 12 months, we've celebrated four baptisms and five confirmations - joyful signs of God's grace at work among us.

We long...

- to become more prayerful as a body.
- to live boldly for Jesus in everyday life.
- to grow in love for one another.
- to better apply God's Word practically and faithfully to our lives.

While our official list includes 195 adults, our regular attendance doesn't yet reflect that. Resourcing our ministry teams remains a challenge—and an opportunity. We are praying for a congregational pastor who will:

- Faithfully preach Christ from all the Scriptures
- Will love and carefully shepherd us under Christ.
- Challenge us to live wholeheartedly for Jesus in every area of life
- Equip and encourage us to make Jesus known in our town and beyond

We are richly blessed with a vibrant ministry to children and young people:

- Roots (crèche) currently welcoming 7 under 3s.
- Shoots (pre-school group): contains 11 growing, giggling toddlers
- Vineyard Juniors & Seniors (Reception to Year 6): A lively group of 25 children, full of energy and curiosity
- CentrePoint (School Years 7–9): 15 early teens led by our Youth Minister, Simon.
- Contact (Years 10–13): Older teens stay in the service and serve in many ways across our church life.

We also meet midweek to nurture one another in Jesus there are four mixed evening nurture groups and one women's daytime nurture groups.

*We're far from perfect, but we are growing
—in number, in depth, and in love.*

*Whether someone is new to faith, returning
after a time away, or simply looking for a
church family to belong to, StNics@11 is a
place where they can come as they are, meet
with Jesus, and grow in the grace and
knowledge of God.*

Our worship



Sunday Worship attendance is about 700 adults and children across all five services.

We start the day with 8am Holy Communion, a traditional spoken service with a small but loyal congregation. This service alternates between common worship Order 2 and Book of Common Prayer.

Our main morning services take place at 9:15am, 10am, and 11am. In total between 450-500 adults and 150-185 children meet to be taught the Bible, pray together, worship together and encourage one another. We currently livestream our 11am service each Sunday.

We have all-age services on a regular basis and good quality Bible-centred children's work for ages 0-14 on the others.

For those who prefer a less formal setting, one of our four main congregations meets at 10am in Lady Boswell's School. About 150 people meet to enjoy good teaching, fellowship together. Keen to welcome people of all ages and all Church backgrounds or none, we provide a welcoming place for those interested in the Christian faith.

Later in the day at 6pm we have the opportunity for more teaching and fellowship with our regular congregation of about 130 people in St Nicholas.



Our Staff



Angus MacLeay
Rector



Jamie Read, Associate
Rector &
Congregational Pastor
(9.15am)



John Khnana, Associate
Minister &
Congregational Pastor
(Lady Boswell's)



Nic Ross
Associate Rector &
Congregational Pastor
(6pm)



Andrea Trevenna
Women's Minister



Simon Heather
Youth Minister



Sophie-Ann Rebbettes
Children & Families'
Minister



Brenda Beckett
Women & Children's
Minister



Beverlea Parkhill
Operations Director



Susan Clarke
Ministry Support Team



Nick Hammerton
Facilities Manager



Abigail Chilton
Communications
Manager (maternity
leave)



Lois Davis
Ministry Support Team



Lis Lidbetter
Rector's PA



Julian Eckersley
Bookshop Manager

Safeguarding

Safeguarding at St Nicholas is everyone's responsibility and is at the heart and soul of our theology and mission. At St Nicholas church we are building a strong culture where we seek continually to educate and equip ourselves with a deeper knowledge and understanding of safeguarding. We see this as way to love one another as we are called, with an appreciation that safeguarding each other is an external expression of Christ's love for all people. St Nicholas' values everyone and so we aim to be a church where everyone feels safe and able to speak up.

Please read '[How does safeguarding fit into living the Christian life?](#)' for further information.

Our Parish

St. Nicholas has been the Parish Church of Sevenoaks since the early 1100s, situated in the old part of this market town, on the high street, 25 miles south-east of London and close to the North Downs. The church itself is a Grade II listed building, surrounded by a (closed) churchyard and is in good condition. There are offices in the church building for the ministry support staff as well as an undercroft, providing a good-sized venue for church and community use.

The parish has a population of 5,427 (2021 data). In general the congregation reflects the makeup of the town's population and includes many members living outside the parish. Because of its easy access to London, Sevenoaks has many families with one or more commuters.

The town itself has a number of excellent schools, both at primary and secondary levels. It has a busy high street with both independent and chain retailers, including an excellent local bookshop and an independent cinema. At the heart of Sevenoaks is Knole Park, the 1,000-acre deer park that is open to the public all day every day and very popular with local runners and walkers.



Making Jesus known locally and globally

We support local, national and international organisations or Mission Partners sent out from within our congregations. We currently support, financially and prayerfully, 8 units who work internationally, and 8 units who are UK-based. We also prayerfully support a further 7 units in ministry across the UK and beyond.

Our desire is also to see the church, both locally and globally, served by well-trained young people who are seeking God's leading for future ministries. Our Timothy Scheme provides an opportunity for 1-2 years of training and equipping in order to handle the Word of God faithfully and to grow in competency in ministry while helping them discern their next steps. We are delighted to have 2 new Timothy Scheme members join us in September 2025 (ordained ministry track and youth track).



Ministry to Children & Families

Children

St Nicholas has a vibrant and thriving ministry to children and families. At our various morning congregations, we have groups for children:

Age 0-2 Roots

Age 3-4 Shoots

Primary school - Vineyard

In addition to our Sunday morning provision for children, we have a Bumps and Babies Club for expectant and new parents and carers with babies up to a year old.

We also have a Music Time group for pre-school children and their parents/carers.

We have a close connection with Sevenoaks Campaigners [an agency for Christian mission, organised for and by children/young people].

Youth Work

Our youth work is led by Simon Heather and comprises two groups: Centrepunt for younger teenagers and Contact for older teenagers.

Centrepunt have a Wednesday evening club night and Contact have midweek home groups in addition to Sunday meetings.

The annual houseparties are a highlight for both groups.

There is a confirmation class for any year 10s who would like to be confirmed.

Schools work

Members of the ministry team are often invited to give assemblies in local primary and secondary schools. They are particularly involved with Lady Boswell's School, a Church of England school that is connected to St Nicholas.



Other Ministries

Nurture Groups

St Nicholas currently has 21 Nurture Groups across all the congregations. Each group is congregationally based and is the central context of our congregational life together: for prayer, encouragement and Bible study. We are always looking to grow more leaders in this very important area of church life.



Women's Daytime Study Groups

Around 180 women meet in daytime Bible study groups from Monday to Friday. Over the year, most of the groups work through materials determined by our Women's Ministers. We give thanks for deep friendships and pastoral support within these groups and for women applying what they are learning to their lives as they grapple with God's word and grow together.

Tuesday Fellowship

Meeting week by week during term time for a talk which sometimes includes a time of discussion. Each week tea and cake are served afterwards. This is a very special time of fellowship enjoyed by all who attend.

Retired Men's Lunches / Think it Through

A convivial meal followed by a thought-provoking talk with a Christian message from a variety of both church family members and visiting speakers. Both the lunch and Think It Through meetings are centred on the Bible as we strive to stimulate a sense of enquiry into what it means to be a committed Christian.

Courses

We offer a number of courses throughout the year, some of which are evangelistic, such as Christianity Explored or Hope Explored, and others are not overtly so, such as Restored Lives, a course for people who have been divorced or separated.

Challenges

We recognise that despite the positives above, we cannot be complacent. The following are areas of concern or need that we are addressing presently.

- One area of need is within our children's ministry. We have a higher-than-average number of children attending our groups on a Sunday morning. Our volunteer teams are in need of extra leaders. We need to grow our volunteer teams while recognising that space within our building and Undercroft is also under pressure.
- We have a desire to reach the next generation and to support church growth within the Sevenoaks area. We continue to dialogue with the Bishop regarding church growth options. We are seeking to recruit an additional Youth Minister, however, applications haven't yet yielded fruit.
- Financially, we are running a deficit for 2025, although we do have reserves to draw from. We recognise that we need to find ways of increasing our income.
- In January 2024 the St Nicholas PCC passed the following resolution:
St Nicholas aims to be a welcoming and loving community, reflecting God's unconditional welcome and love in Christ. We hold out the good news of Jesus for all. At the same time, this PCC resolves to uphold Biblical orthodoxy by not permitting the Prayers of Love and Faith, commended by the House of Bishops in December 2023, to be used within St Nicholas Church and its associated congregations.