



All Saints Church Langton Green

nourishing spirit and soul



Parish Profile
Welcome

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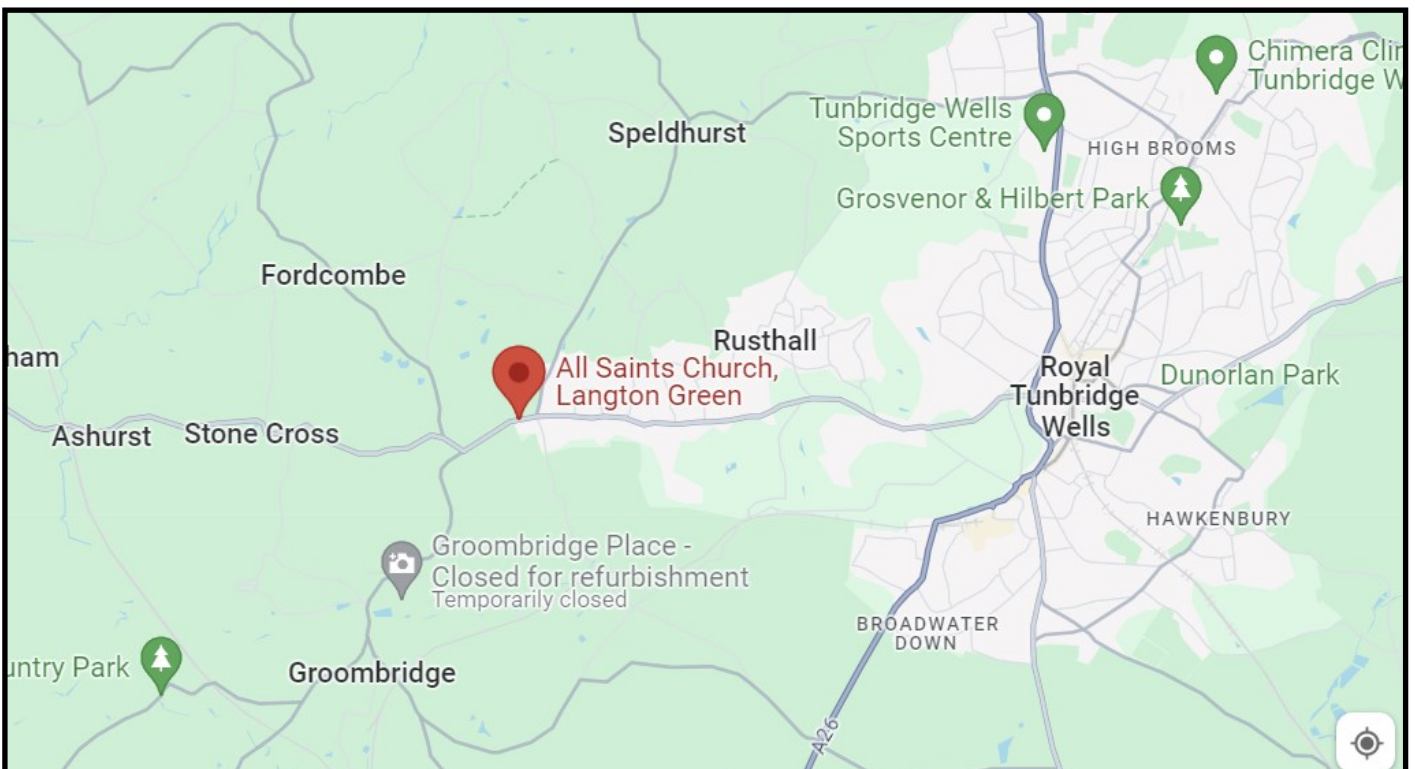
Welcome

About All Saints

All Saints has a well-established congregation who support the church in many ways. We would look towards building on our strengths and identifying new areas for growth in the future.

Where we are located

All Saints church is located within the civil parish of Speldhurst on the A264 approximately two miles west of Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre in an area of natural outstanding beauty. There are 1300 households within the parish. Access to London and the coast takes approximately 55 minutes and the M25 motorway network is within 20 minutes of Langton.

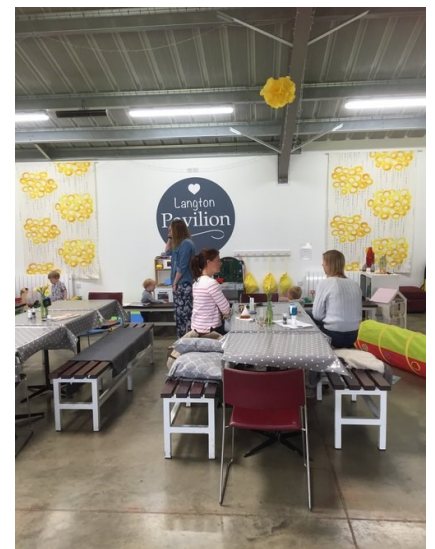


Langton Green

We are very fortunate in Langton Green to have the use of some very useful community spaces. There is the Langton Green Village Hall on the recreation ground along with the Community Hub, this runs a café and is the sports pavilion, there are many activities run here including some of the Thrive sessions. The village is not just what we have in terms of useful places but a wonderful community of kind and community spirited people.



The
Hare
Pub



Community Hub



Village School

Our Identity

Our mission is to ...

- To **Share** our faith, to help others to experience Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- To **Serve** as God calls us to do, through worship, prayer and discipleship.
- To **Nurture**, care and protect to our best ability those who worship with us, and those in our community.
- To **Care** and to work towards protecting creation, peace and justice.
- To **Encourage and Empower** all those on a spiritual journey, and to help others grow in wisdom and knowledge according to God's word.

So that we are nourishing spirit and soul

The Future

In consultation with the PCC and the wider congregation we have collated some aspirations / visions for the future.

- Familiar service— but this does not mean opposition to changes / innovation to our worship
- Caring congregation
- Linking to young families
- Reaching out to Wider Community
- Growing links with Local School



Vision

Our Mission is continuing to be an outward looking church, welcome all who enter our doors and reaching out to the wider community while valuing the contributions of the regular members of the congregation.

We believe that our worship should inspire us and lead to a deepening of Faith. Our main services should be according to the traditions and practices of the Church of England while interpreting these in a meaningful way, easily understood and accessible for newcomers while delivering to established members who know and love these traditions.

We would like to encourage newcomers to participate in the many activities and roles need for the running of the church and that in doing this they feel valued and enjoy being part of our community.



Our team

We have a small leadership team and a PCC who work on the day to day running of our church and a large team of wonderful volunteers who work on individual jobs ie cleaning, flower arranging, readers

Who's Who At All Saints

Churchwardens: Sally-Anne Gathern and Emma Stevens

Treasurer: Mark Gamble

PCC members:

Tricia Fearnley (Secretary)

Matthew Gathern (Website)

Nigel Moore

Alan Stickings

Antonia James

Karen Mitchell

Dave Ling

Deanery Synod Representatives: Ann Greenfield and Chris Gathern

Health and Safety Officer: Chris Gathern

Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer: Ann Greenfield

Deputy Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer: Sally-Anne Gathern

Children's Chapel: Tricia Fearnley, Sally-Anne Gathern, Sue Rabas, Carol Domain

E Newsletter: Sally-Anne Gathern and Ann Greenfield

Chocolate Church: Sally-Anne Gathern and Tricia Fearnley

Mother's Union: Penny Woodford

Little Saints Toddler Group: Cordelia Nevill-Spencer, Jess Owens,

Debbie Hargreaves and Nicci Levy

Home Communion: Jennifer Johnson

Retired Clergy in the village: Rev Jane Edwards

Verger: Adrian Smith

Church Building

All Saints' church is a Grade II* Listed building designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott. With the nave, chancel and vestry completed in 1863 followed by various additions over the years all of which have produced a very interesting building that is being used well. A memorial garden is located along the western boundary of the church grounds. There is the Thrive Langton community garden to the north.

The condition of the church is generally good with only minor works carried out. Our last Quinquennial Inspection was during the summer of 2023 and there were no big issues identified.

Our hall is connected to the church via a small lobby along the northern elevation of the church where a kitchen, office and WC are located within the extension. This addition to the church was completed in 2006.





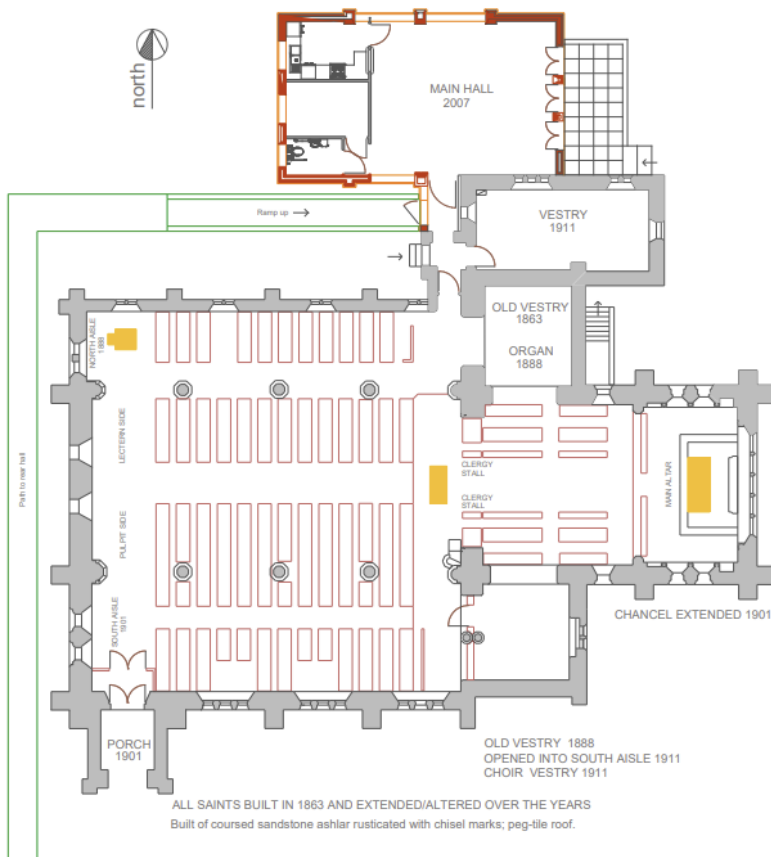
Our beautiful church has much to offer, from stained glass windows, it's most well known one being Mary Magdalene.

Our lych gate welcomes you in from the road and leads you to the church or past the memorial garden and Thrive garden to the church hall at the back.

We have full disabled access into the church and hall.

The choir vestry on the south aisle is fully sound proof and has had a number of uses over the years including a creche.

The children's chapel (Vestry 1911) contains the Mary Magdalene window.



Church Hall—Gracespace

Our church is beautiful and welcoming with the added use of our church hall known as Gracespace. It is used in many different ways by us as a church and by the wider community. We also have a secure church office as part of our new build along with a kitchen and toilet.



Children's Chapel

Is a calm and peaceful space set up for our Godly Play worship with our children.



What we do - our ministry

As an Anglican Church we believe that our ministry should include helping people feel a sense of God and experiencing come closer to God. This can happen when we do things in the community and we try to draw people into the church family when we gather together in church for acts of common worship. This is where we start our mission. There is something truly wonderful when seeing our church, filled with the Holy Spirit during services, as at our recent Easter Day service. We would like to look at ways of trying to bring people together in church to experience the comfort that can bring. It will be a big task to find the kind of worship that can appeal across a wide section of our community. Some will like traditional, some modern and reflective, some family orientated. There is room for many styles so we can continue to grow.

Church groups include: Children's Chapel, Little Saints (a mother and toddler group), Mothers' Union, We would very much like to revive the Choir and Music group as we see it as an important part of our worship.

How we worship

The principle gathering is for worship at the Parish Communion at 10.30am on Sunday. Although our 8am service is equally well attended most weeks. This is a traditional service using modern language, eucharistic vestments are worn and the service spoken setting of the Mass. Music plays an important aspect of the worship at All Saints. An informal All Age Worship is held usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Other regular services include Holy Communion (Common Worship using more modern language) at 8am each Sunday. Twice a month we hold Chocolate Church - family orientated Godly Play worship with a chocolatey breakfast.

Sunday in the month	1st	2nd	3rd	4 th	5th
8am Said Holy Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9am Chocolate Church	✓			✓	
10.30am Sung Holy Communion	✓		✓	✓	✓
10.30am All Age Worship		✓			

Our music styles

Our church has a beautiful organ which is used most weeks and are lucky enough to have a team of both very experienced and new and up and coming organists. Together they enhance our services each week. We used to have a strong choir with choir master and this is something we would love to see again with the right help. We have a keyboard and a guitarist for more informal services but want to encourage growth through a range of music styles. We want to encourage worship through music.



Our online services

During covid we had the opportunity to reach out to people in a different way offering services on Zoom and via You Tube. While we do not have the same need now it is something we could explore further. Our 7.15am morning prayer service is held every morning during the week on zoom.



Prayer

We have Morning Prayer on Zoom each weekday which is a lovely way to start each day. Our church is open every day for people to spend time in quiet individual prayer and contemplation, this is very important to us as it allows everyone to share our space and find quiet time with God. We have a prayer team who pray regularly for those on our prayer list, people known to us who need our support. We encourage our congregation to use the seasonal prayer themes such as Watch and Pray, Thy Kingdom Come.



Children and young families and Youth

The endeavour is to hold something every week for our young people and families, whether that is Chocolate Church, Children's Chapel or All Age Worship - we would very much like to develop the fun side of being part of our church and enable people to join in activities such as a youth club, sports, Lego services.



Older people and others in need

There are many older people who have made All Saints their faith home and we want to encourage them to be really involved not only in our services on a Sunday but in our Afternoon Teas or our Crochet and Chat afternoons.

Thrive Garden

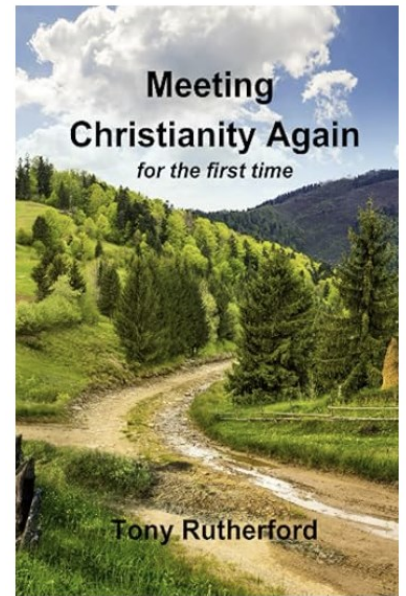
Round the side of our churchyard we have a newly established area known as the Thrive Garden. This is a wonderful community project to encourage anyone interested to join in, to look after, grow and appreciate flowers, fruit and vegetables in a mindful and peaceful setting.



Homegroups

Home group have previously meet on a Tuesday evening and we would very much like this to be the case again with the help of our new incumbent.

One of our recent topics was a book written by a local priest, Rev Tony Rutherford, a chance to share ideas and thoughts on meeting Christ.



Little Saints

Once a week we hold a mother and toddler group to encourage support of young families. It is a chance for parents to chat and make friends and share a cuppa with like minded people.

Courses

Short courses are run, quite often via Zoom for special times of the year: a five week Lent course - 'Watch and Pray' and an in person course for Advent which used several different mediums including journalling, painting and meditation to enhance our spiritual direction before Christmas. We have run very successful confirmation courses for both adults and children and an 'Explore' course for those just dipping a toes in the water to find out more. We look forward to holding more.

Lent Course on Tuesday s on Zoom at 7.30pm

Lent (Feb 14 to Mar 31, 2024) offers an opportunity for us to discover prayer and spiritual growth, as we live LIFE together at All Saints

'On the night he was betrayed, Jesus kneels in darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. Though he pleads with his disciples, "Stay here with me ... Watch and pray," they all fall asleep, leaving him alone in his hour of deepest suffering.'

This year's lent course will be online for 30 minutes each week ... much less than the hour Jesus asked his disciples for!
It would be lovely if you could join us for some time each week to discover what lent is all about and watch with each other as we look towards Easter
Please email Emma Stevens if you would like to join us and she will send you the Zoom link contact@langtongreenchurch.com Starts on 20th February.



11am-12noon Thursdays in All Saints
Starting 23rd Feb
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March

Taking inspiration from Julian meetings, this informal gathering would begin with a short introductory prayer and a Lenten reflection. Then a period of silence during which you are invited to engage with writing on God. This listening for God may mean you sit quietly and close your eyes, or you may wish to bring some baiting, or a journal, or some painting, or a book - anything which you can be doing quietly in the silence. At the end there would be a closing prayer and refreshments. For more details, contact Revd. Cez. Cazz. langtongreenchurch@gmail.com

Community

Our village community is very important to us. We try to work with other community projects such as Thrive Langton, a local charity supporting people's mental welfare. They use our church hall, known as Gracespace for coffee mornings and have started work on creating a village community garden in the church grounds. There are monthly lunches for the older folk in the village which we support too. We welcome our uniformed youth groups on a regular basis and encourage them to participate in services each year. We have used the making of our crocheted and knitted banners to reach out to other people within the village, creating friendship groups that branch further afield. The summer fete is a great opportunity to bring our church closer to the people in the village too. We have a Men's Walking Group that meet once a month for a bacon butty and a sociable walk. Our Christmas Carol services held on The Green or in The Hare pub are a lovely way to reach out to those around us.



Website and communications

An e-newsletter is sent out to the congregation and friends by email each month with the diary of events, readings, contact details and matters of interest.

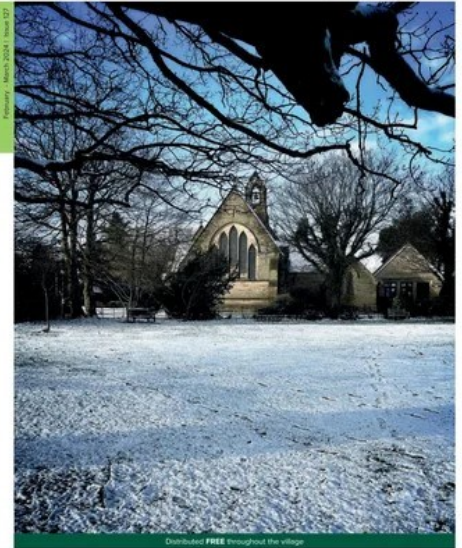
The Church has developed good links with the Village Community. A bi-monthly village magazine which is delivered to all households publishes articles details of services etc. and announcements from the church. The church has a website and news is updated monthly.

Our Facebook page is very well used for up and coming events and thoughts for the day

We also make use of Instagram, twitter (X) and other social media to stay connected.

Langton Life

Your Village... Your Magazine



Produced by Langton Life Ltd | Tel: 07532 339434 | Email: editor@langtonlife.com



Thank You

We have just held our APCM and when you look at all the things we as a church are achieving it makes me feel very hopeful. We have a huge number of people who are all chipping in and helping in some way and for Emma and I and the rest of the PCC it feels fantastic.

We have used your replies to our questionnaires to write our parish profile (a booklet of information to give to any prospective priests who might like to become our new vicar) and are now fine tuning this to work alongside the other churches who will be in our new multi parish benefice. Very definitely progress.

We have two special services this month. The first is on 19th May when Rev Anthony Hammill will take our 10.30am and will bless our new Pentecost banner. The second is the following Sunday, 26th, when Rev Michael Gentry will be coming to take our Sunday services, so lovely that he can come back to support us during our interregnum. Emma and I have started our Leading Worship course which runs through May and June for six weeks. This means that if we have a week that we can not find a priest to take our normal Holy Communion we will be able to run a Service of the Word effectively. This is a Church of England, recognised service that many churches have as part of their service each month, very similar to our Holy Communion services but without the Communion part. If anyone would be interested in undertaking this training please let us know as it is for all lay people and an excellent stepping stone to helping with our worship. They are run several times a year locally.
Sally-Anne (Church Warden)



All Saints Church - Langton Green

Public group · 443 members



+ Invite

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Discussion Featured Events Media Files People



HOME

Our Facilities

Special Life Events

GALLERY

ABOUT US

SERVICES

More



Log In

Welcome to All Saints Church

Come and see the new Pentecost banner being blessed on the 19th May at 10:30am

READ MORE >>

PDF



April Newsletter

MORE INFO



Finances

All Saints manages well with limited resources. In the light of post-covid changes and rising inflation we have pared our running costs back but still maintain the Church and the services with voluntary help and the support of the Diocese. We carry modest reserves to cater for unexpected events but we do have to look to the wider community for support in the longer term.



Finance Information and Administration

Annual Account Figures and Attendance Figures

	2023	2022	2021
Electoral Roll	114	114	108 TBC
Income	£35,047	£41,712	£67,042
Expenditure	£38,428	£47,344	£48,820
Parish Share	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000
Indicative Offer	£27,500	£26,929	£25,769
Planned Giving	£21,512	£31,339	£35,169



	2022	2023
Easter Day	Adults 72 Children 54 Total 126	Adults 78 Children 30 Total 108
Remembrance Sunday	Adults 81 Children 30 Total 111	Adults 116 Children 20 Total 136
Crib Service 24/12	Adults 120 Children 71 Total 191	Adults 177 Children 50 Total 225
Midnight Mass	Adults 38 Children 1 Total 39	Adults 49 Children 2 Total 51
Christmas Day 25/12	Adults 47 Children 9 Total 56	Adults 43 Children 8 Total 51
Baptisms	8	4
Weddings	7	2
Funerals	5	6 + 2 Crem Only

Letter from the church wardens

Hello and Welcome

If you are reading this as our prospective new incumbent please know that we are delighted. We are really looking forward to working with not only yourself but our new friends in the other three churches in the beneficiary. Our church is very good at being positive and looking for new opportunities to reach out to others, you being one of them. Our church is open during the day and it is wonderful to feel that our building is being shared at every opportunity with our wider community. Knowing that local people can just pop in to find some peace from their busy lives is important to us and I know it is valued by many people in our community.

Every day there is something going on in Gracespace, whether it is full of children and parents sharing fun or a chatty afternoon tea, ladies crochet and chat or men eating bacon butties before a morning walk.

We look forward to sharing our facilities with our benefice church communities and widening our worship groups.

Sunday mornings are, as you would expect our busiest times. I enjoy coming into the quiet space in preparation of the services to come. It is a very real joy to see that our 8am services are growing and can now include 5 children or so along with our usual 20 + adults. Chocolate Church is something different which families can enjoy and experience together and something I feel very passionate about. Our 10.30am service has been our principle service for many years but it feels as though it is changing with other services growing in popularity. It is a calm and gentle time with many of our older members who have been very supportive of our ministry during our interregnum. It is the kind and gentle support of those whose years of experience make hard work feel worthwhile. We are in comparison to many a small village church community but one with a huge heart and lots of love to give.

Do come and visit and explore our way of life, we are very friendly and supportive and would want you to feel that we are here to support you (and your family) if you decide to seek a position with us.

We look forward to meeting you very soon.

Sally-Anne and Emma