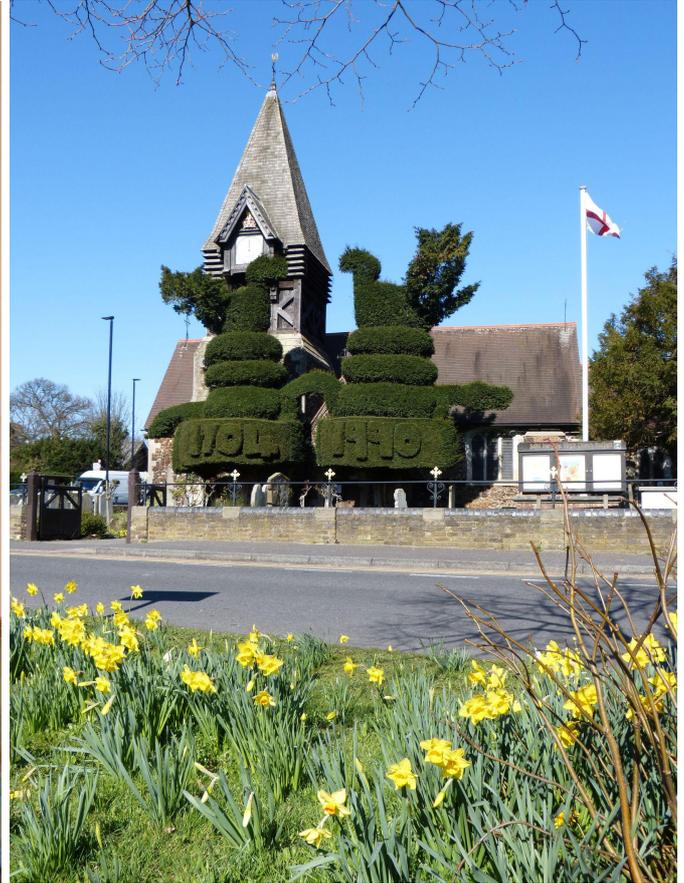




# St. Mary's Bedfont Parish Profile 2014



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint Mary the Virgin, Bedfont.  
Charity number 113 2247.

This document is the "statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish" as mentioned in section 35 of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. It was adopted by the meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

## 1 Description of Parish

### 1.1 Location and Geography

The Parish of Bedford is located at the western end of the London Borough of Hounslow, thus also of Hounslow Deanery. It is bounded to the north-west by London Heathrow Airport and the London Borough of Hillingdon, to the east by Cranford and Hounslow, to the south-east by Feltham, and to the south-west by Ashford (in the Borough of Spelthorne in Surrey).

A former farming village, East Bedford was mentioned in the 1086 *Domesday Book*. Considerable expansion occurred from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century until the establishment of the metropolitan Green Belt. Much of the northern part of the parish is non-residential, consisting of part of the airport and various trading estates. Similarly, the south-western part of the parish is also non-residential.

A lot of the housing stock is semi-detached or in small terraces, but there are a number of housing estates, including Pentelow Gardens (built 1969), Hatchett Road (1976), Watermead (1977), Grove Village (1985), Wooldridge Close (2007), Page Road (2009), and also many smaller blocks of flats built in recent years.

### 1.2 Transport Links

The A315 runs approximately east-west through the parish (on the line of the Roman road between Brentford and Staines). Other major roads cutting through the parish are the A30 and A312.

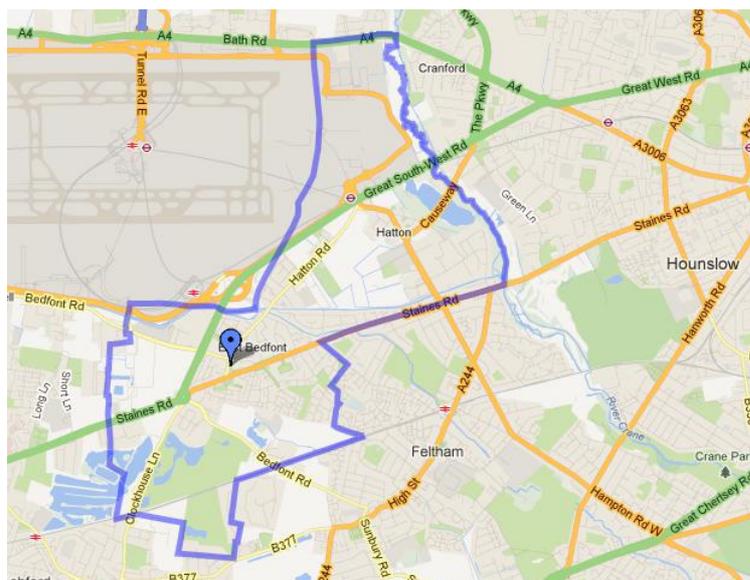
As is usual for London, there are multiple public transport options. There is a single London Underground station, Hatton Cross, on the Piccadilly Line. Of the the many bus routes that serve parts of the parish, numbers 116, 203, H25, and H26 have stops near the church.

The nearest mainline railway station is Feltham, managed by South West Trains.

### 1.3 Population Statistics

According to the 2011 Census:

- The population is about 10,150 adults and 3,550 children in approximately 5250 households – the proportions of children are higher than the Diocesan average, and of 25-35s lower. The population is up from 11,200 in 2001. The proportion of social rented households is 26%.
- The proportion who are married is higher than the Diocesan average, and of those who are single is lower, with slightly higher proportions of divorced people and widow(er)s.
- 61% are employed, 15% retired, 8% students, 5% unemployed – the proportion employed in 'Transport and Storage', is much higher than the Diocesan average.
- The proportions in 'low deprivation' and 'medium deprivation' are slightly higher than the Diocesan average, and that of those 'not deprived' somewhat lower.



*Location map for Bedford showing position of Church, parish boundary, and London Heathrow Airport to the NW.*

- 55% are of British ethnicity, 12% Indian, 6% African (Central & South), about 4% each of Pakistani, Indian Sub Continent, and Polish. 68% were born in the UK. In 2001, about 80% were British.
- 78% are English speakers, the other main languages are Polish, Panjabi, 'other south asian', eastern European, and Urdu – mostly significantly higher than the Diocesan average.
- 50% are Christian, with 14% Muslim, and about 8% each of Hindu and Sikh – the Christian proportion is down from 66% in 2001. Although the Christian proportion is lower than the national average of 60%, it is higher than that of the Diocese.

## 1.4 Economic Activity

Heathrow Airport dominates economic activity in the area, directly and indirectly. The latter includes suppliers to the airport itself, and to various airlines that operate from it, such as a major in-flight food supplier. There are also many transport and courier companies.

The wider area was once home to many significant engineering companies, but these are now long gone, predominantly replaced by service sector companies. The Bedfont Lakes Office Park near to the Clockhouse roundabout was opened in 1991, and is a home to a number of major companies, such as IBM, SAP, Cisco, Home Office, Lindt Chocolate and Stratus Technologies.

The only large supermarket in the parish is Tesco's, Dukes Green. There is a major group of shops, hairdressers, fast food outlets, etc., along Staines Road mostly between Bedfont Lane and New Road, plus others in various places around the parish. Most of the grocery shops sell both Polish and Halal food. There is a Portuguese café.



*An airliner taking-off over the former chapel-of-ease in Steam Farm Lane.*

## 1.5 Major Institutions

There are no church schools in the parish. Some children from the parish attend Bishop Wand School in Sunbury-on-Thames or The Green School in Isleworth.

Fairholme School is a primary school in the south of the parish. On adjacent sites in Hatton Road are Bedfont Primary School and Marjory Kinnon School, which is a special state school for pupils aged from 4 to 16.

There are no secondary schools in the parish. The nearest is Rivers Academy West London in northern Feltham.

There are no hospitals in the parish. The nearest is Ashford Hospital, part of the same trust as St. Peter's in Chertsey. Some patients from the parish are treated at West Middlesex University Hospital in Isleworth and other London hospitals.

The Charity Of Elizabeth Jane Jones owns the Fairholme Estate almshouses, built in 1934 in the Arts and Crafts style with the longest continuous roof in Britain. It is situated to the south of Staines Road. The Incumbent is not *ex-officio* a trustee, but may be invited to become one.

David Henry Waring Home is a retirement home with 24 flats to the south of The Green. It is jointly administered by the borough and the parish. The PCC currently appoints 3 trustees, one of whom is usually the Incumbent.

Burlington Close (built in 1962) to the east of The Green is sheltered accommodation with flats for 56 people, administered by Hounslow Homes.

Sandbanks Residential Home is a residential home for the elderly, especially those with dementia, owned and managed by Hounslow borough. We have held a monthly outreach Communion service there for many years.

Bedfont Lakes Country Park, in the south of the parish, is a designated Local Nature Reserve and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (of Metropolitan Importance), opened in 1995 on the site of former gravel pits.

Hounslow Urban Farm is one of London's largest community farms, covering 29 acres (11¾ ha) in the north-west of the parish.

## **1.6 Development Plans**

Although little of the parish is under the Heathrow flight path, and it is not in the area of the currently proposed expansion, there is little doubt that the parish and our congregation will be affected in some ways by any development at Heathrow that is selected by the Davies Commission in 2015.

## **1.7 The Church Within the Parish**

The church is towards the west end of the parish, in a pretty location on the north side of Bedfont Green, near the junction of Staines Road (A315) and Hatton Road. Most of the residential parts of the parish are to its east.

The number of members of the Parish Electoral Roll presented at the 2014 APCM was 128, of which 43 were male and 85 were female, 61 resident in the parish, and 67 non-residents.

The age range of the congregation is very diverse, ranging from babes-in-arms to nonagenarian, with 3 or 4 generations of a few families attending fairly regularly. There are a lot of retired people, also parents with pre-school and school-age children. The 35-50 demographic is somewhat under-represented. Apart from those who are retired, many in the congregation would fall into the 'hard-working family' description, and for whom finances are rather restricted.

Fairs are held on The Green during Ascot Week (in June) and usually September. Some of the travelling show-people, many of whom live in Hounslow Borough when not on the road, consider St. Mary's to be 'their church', and as a result we have held a number of well-attended weddings and funerals over the past few years.

# **2 Worship**

## **2.1 Regular Services**

Our pattern of regular services is:

- Sundays, 8:00 am, Said Communion (October 2013 average attendance of 14)
- Sundays, 9:30 am, Sung Communion with Junior Church (68 adults & 16 children)
- Wednesdays, 9:30 am, Said Communion (10)
- Tuesdays (1<sup>st</sup> of month), 7:30 pm, Healing Communion (14)
- Tuesdays (except 1<sup>st</sup> of month), 7:30 pm, Parish Prayers (7)

The Sunday and Wednesday communion services use a booklet derived from *Common Worship*. The Tuesday evening services use locally-produced material.

## 2.2 Churchmanship & Worship Style

The parish and most of its congregation can probably be described as “a bit catholic, a bit liberal, a bit evangelical, not obviously charismatic”. The celebrant faces the congregation. There is some use of vestments, but few in the congregation realise that this can be a controversial issue. Incense is not currently used. Votive candles are used. The sacrament is sometimes reserved for use for home ‘sick’ communions. We celebrate our Patronal Festival in September.

The Sunday 9:30 am service is sometimes replaced by a non-eucharistic ‘family service’, for instance on Mothering Sunday, Father’s Day, and Christingle.

Music is an important part of our worship, especially at the 9:30 am Sunday services. We have a keen organist/choirmaster, and the choir leads the hymn-singing and sometimes sings an anthem. A wide selection of hymns are used – some from the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century are among our favourites. There is currently a recruiting drive for choir members, particularly among children.

During 2010, the PCC adopted a ‘Mission and Values’ statement that is included as an Appendix to this document.

## 2.3 Occasional Services

We celebrate key festivals with a number of additional services, especially during the Advent & Christmas period and Eastertide.

On Remembrance Sunday the congregation is bolstered by members of the local branch of the Royal British Legion and various uniformed organisations, prior to an 11 am *Act of Remembrance* led by the Vicar at the local War Memorial. Attendance at this has increased recently, and is likely to remain so during the WW1 centenary period.



*St. Mary's Handbell Team performing during an Advent service.*

Baptisms are generally performed on the afternoon of the third Sunday of each month, except during Lent and Advent, usually for children from more than one family. Sometimes an additional baptism service is arranged, according to pastoral need. In 2013, there was a total of 26 baptisms.

Due to its picturesque location, St. Mary’s is a popular location for marriages, including for couples from outside of the parish. In 2013, there were 10 marriages, and 2 dedications performed.

In 2013 there were 20 funerals in church, and the Vicar performed 21 crematorium services. The bereaved families are invited to a *Memorial Service* on the Sunday nearest All Souls, and many attend.

## 3 Nurture & Mission

### 3.1 Sunday Schools

We have a thriving Junior Church, with the normal pattern being that the children and leaders leave church after the first hymn of the 9:30 am service, and returning during the administration of communion. The children are split into three age groups for teaching purposes. We currently have 12 adult leaders and 8 helpers, all of whom have been DBS Checked. Numbers of children present vary rather unpredictably, but 10 to 20 is fairly usual.

The Junior Church leaders organise special events on Shrove Tuesday, a Light Party at the end of October, and during the summer holidays.

### 3.2 Confirmations

We are delighted to have nurtured around twelve confirmation candidates per year over the past few years, with more adults than under-16s. The service now usually takes place on a Tuesday evening with the Bishop of Kensington officiating. The adult confirmation material has been based on the *Alpha Course*.



*Our 2014 Confirmees, with Bishop Paul and the previous Vicar.*

### 3.3 House Groups

We currently have two approximately monthly house groups: *Bible Book Club* and *After Confirmation*, both led by a lay member with Bible College training. These cover scripture more in breadth than depth, providing some familiarity for people who previously hadn't read the Bible much.

During Lent there are additional house groups. These have often been based on York Courses, but in 2014 we studied *Pilgrim's Progress*.

### 3.4 Adult Courses

During the first years of his incumbancy, the previous Vicar held an Alpha Course running from September to November. A number of attenders of these courses are still active members of our congregation, so the PCC would encourage similar activity in the future.

### 3.5 Engagement with Local Schools

The previous Vicar was on good terms with the local schools. In addition to him visiting them, during Advent and near to Easter we have hosted day-long *Workshops for Schools*, generally well-appreciated by the children and their teachers alike. There is scope for this ministry and mission to develop further.

## 4 Ministry

### 4.1 Ordination of Women

During their meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014, the PCC voted against Resolutions A and B of the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993, both unanimously.

### 4.2 Parish Clergy

The only paid staff member is currently the Vicar (when appointed). A retired priest lives in the parish, and has been officiating at our regular services.

### 4.3 Lay Ministry and Participation

At our 9:30 Sunday service we usually have 2 servers, who are licensed Lay Assistants at Holy Communion (of which we currently have 9). One of these also acts as a crucifer.

Some of the other licensed Lay Assistants distribute communion to the sick at home, although this is also sometimes done by the retired priest.

During the Sunday and Wednesday regular services, the lessons (excepting the Gospel reading) are usually read by lay members of the congregation. At the Sunday regular services, lay members of the congregation usually lead the intercessions.

Sometimes at the end of the 9:30 Sunday service, members of Junior Church share something they have learnt or made with the rest of the congregation. They also sometimes assist with aspects of those non-Eucharistic family services which occasionally replace the Parish Communion.

#### **4.4 Lay Involvement in Administration**

Administration of baptisms and marriages is mostly done at our regular Saturday morning *Parish Office* by lay members, although the previous Vicar was usually also present.

The following activities are also done by lay members:

- Editing, printing, and collating of monthly parish magazine.
- Editing and printing of weekly newsletter / service sheet.
- Website and social media presence.
- Safeguarding administration.
- Hall bookings.
- Serving refreshments after Parish Communion and some other services.

#### **4.5 PCC Committee System**

The PCC has generally met about 6 times per year. The previous Vicar held *Leaders' Meetings* between PCC meetings with Churchwardens and Assistant Churchwardens. The only active PCC subcommittee is the *Finance Committee*, which consists of the Churchwardens, (ex-)Treasurer, Recorder, and Gift Aid Secretary.

### **5 Fellowship**

The *Bible Book Club* and *After Confirmation* groups provide some useful fellowship element. After-service coffee and chat, and the monthly Saturday Coffee Mornings provide some additional opportunities for fellowship, but more social activities would be desirable, and the PCC feel that there are many opportunities to expand our fellowship activities.

## **6 Communications**

### **6.1 Monthly Magazine**

The Parish Magazine is published 12 times per year. The print run is 270, with a cover price of 50p. Some subscribers have little additional contact with the church, and a number of copies are sold at the local library.

### **6.2 Weekly Newsletter**

Our weekly newsletter is a single sheet of A4, again folded to A5 portrait. The outside contains all the information required during the Sunday services, with the *Diary For The Week* and other notices inside. As well as being given away at church, it is available for downloading via a link on the parish's web-site.

### **6.3 Internet Presence**

The parish's web-site URL is [www.stmarysbedfont.org.uk/index.html](http://www.stmarysbedfont.org.uk/index.html).

Our Facebook group, at [www.facebook.com/StMarysBedfont](http://www.facebook.com/StMarysBedfont), attracts quite a lot of interest from local residents and former residents who are not regular attenders.

### **6.4 Other Publicity**

The local library are happy that we have displays in their foyer at Christmas, Easter, and Harvest.

Many local shops display A4 posters advertising our Open Day and Autumn Fayre.

## 7 Finance

### 7.1 Accounts Overview

The following table was abstracted from our 2013 *Statement of Financial Activities*:

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Gift Aided voluntary income	£29,054	Common Fund	£60,000 63%
Other Planned Giving	£3,695	Giving to charity	£3,092 3%
Loose collections, boxes, etc.	£11,606	Vicarage running costs	£2,040 2%
Donations, appeals, etc.	£11,371	Organ / piano / music	£665 1%
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	£6,948	Church running & upkeep costs	£10,858 11%
	£62,679 60%	Hall running & upkeep costs	£8,905 9%
Church Hall lettings	£18,969	Other property upkeep costs	£875 1%
Other generated funds	£1,442	Administration	£4,292 5%
	£20,412 19%	Miscellaneous	£3,249 3%
Rental income	£11,325	Other costs	£93,987 1%
Interest & dividends	£345		
	£11,670 11%		
Fees for weddings & funerals	£9,408		
Bookstall sales	£785		
	£10,194 10%		
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£104,956</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£94,522</b>
<i>(of which Unrestricted)</i>	<i>£83,511 80%</i>	<i>(of which Unrestricted)</i>	<i>£83,983 89%</i>

The balance of income over expenditure was £10,434. This was the first year for some time that there has been a surplus. Because of the £14,852 deficit in 2012, during 2013 the PCC resolved to reduce its Common Fund payment for 2014 to £54,000. Because of the improved financial position, the 2015 Common Fund has been restored to £60,000, and the PCC would like to increase it towards the Diocesan Parish Standard Cost (£75,000 in 2015) should circumstances permit over the next few years.

### 7.2 Planned Giving and Gift Aid

We currently have 62 members of our Planned Giving with predicted income for 2014 of £32,300, compared with £27,745 in 2013.

During 2013, we received £6,948 from Gift Aid. The amount will probably increase due to more Planned Giving income and through the Small Donations Scheme.

### 7.3 Clergy Expenses

The PCC will pay vehicle mileage at the HMRC-approved rates, and receipted expenses for telephone line rental and parish calls, broadband rental, stationery, postage, training courses.

### 7.4 Missionary Giving

The parish supports the The Children's Society through our Christingle service held in December. We also regularly support the Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' initiative (providing shoe-boxes containing Christmas presents for children who would not otherwise receive any) in the Autumn, and the Mission to Seafarers through *Sea Sunday* in July.

### 7.5 Stewardship

We held a Stewardship campaign in Autumn 2013. Some members of the congregation were surprised that we paid £5,000 per month to the Diocese, rather than us receiving money from them. It was quite successful in that various members of Planned Giving increased their contributions, and others joined the scheme having previously be 'plate givers'.

## 8 Parish Buildings

### 8.1 Church Building and Curtilage

St. Mary's is a Grade II listed building, originally built in the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century (see 1953 listing information at right), perhaps on the site of an earlier structure, and the oldest building in the London Borough of Hounslow. The chancel was extended in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, a northern annex with balcony was added in 1829, and the nave was extended to the west in 1865 when the tower was rebuilt on its southern side and the porch added. The vestry extension (also with small office, kitchen and toilet) was added in 1954.

Underfloor heating was installed in 1964, but has recently failed, so oil-filled radiators have been purchased as a stop-gap pending any permanent replacement. There are pews in the annex, and upholstered chairs bought in the 1990s in the nave and chancel. Between the nave, annex, and balcony, the church can seat 180 in reasonable comfort.

According to the most recent Quinquennial inspection, from August 2012:

*"The Church of St. Mary the Virgin has been conscientiously and carefully maintained over the last quinquennium.*

*Works carried out within the quinquennium have included works to:*

- Undertake repairs to stained glass windows following attack by vandals.*
- Renewal of protective grilles to windows.*
- Repair and up-grade the lightning protection installation following theft of down tapes.*
- Renewal, rationalisation and measures to up-grade the electrical supply and distribution."*

There is a sound reinforcement system, but there have been interference problems regarding the induction loop system for the hard of hearing.

There are some fragments of medieval stained glass in the chancel; all the other stained glass windows date from 1865 or later. Two in the chancel are WW1 memorials, of particular interest during the centenary period. The *Samaritan Window* in the front part of the nave is probably the best.

The tower has a peal of 6 bells. Two date from 1713, the other four were recast in 1870. They are rung at weddings, and most Sunday mornings. The base of the tower also houses the clock mechanism, with its somewhat idiosyncratic hourly chime.

The churchyard is closed, and the grass is intermittently mown by council contractors. It contains many monuments from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, of which 8 are listed. There is a Garden of Remembrance for the burial of ashes to the east of the sacristy and office.

*Norman, with original chancel, retaining chancel arch and 1 window, and part of original nave retaining good South doorway. Wall paintings of circa 1300 to North of chancel arch. Mediaeval King-post roofs to nave and chancel. Pleasant series of tablets of C18 and early C19 date, and brass to William Page and Isabell his mother 1629-32. Gravestones and table tombs of C18 and later date in churchyard and pair of yew trees, formerly clipped and originally bearing initials and the date of 1704. The church was enlarged in the early C19 on the North side and again circa 1865 when the nave was lengthened and a new tower and South porch were built.*



*The Samaritan Window, with Harvest Festival decorations*

Just outside the south porch, and dominating the view from The Green are the topiary yew trees, originally cut into the shape of birds in 1704, possibly fighting cocks. They were the subject of Thomas Hood's poem *The Two Peacocks of Bedford* originally published in 1822. Neglected for about 50 years, they were reshaped in 1990.

To the east of the churchyard are the flanking walls of Burlington House, themselves a listed structure. These have been in poor condition for some years, and suffered a partial collapse in 2013. We are in discussions with the borough regarding repairs, and endeavouring to disprove shared ownership.



*The north transept, showing balcony with Ten Commandments and organ.*

## 8.2 Vicarage

The large detached parsonage house is situated across Hatton Road immediately to the west of the church. It has 5 bedrooms, bathroom, study, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs W.C., and utility room. There is a garage, and a large garden to the rear, with a grassed area plus fruit trees and bushes.

During the previous Incumbency, some meetings and social gatherings were held in the Vicarage, and the garden used for various children's activities, it being considered to be a safe and secure area.



*The Vicarage in the snow of February 2009*

## 8.3 Church Hall

Our large and well-maintained Church Hall was built during the 1950s. It is situated immediately to the north of the Vicarage. It is single-storey of rendered construction with a tiled pitched main roof over the main hall, plus subsidiary flat roofs over the kitchen, store, and committee rooms. There is a stage at the west end of the hall, and male, female, and disabled toilets accessible from the lobby at the east end.

There is a car park, some spaces in which are rented during the working week to a local company. Regular hirers include a dance school on Saturdays, an African Pentecostal congregation on Sundays, Rainbows/Brownies/Guides, a Zumba class, Weight Watchers, a badminton club, Darby & Joan. Our parent & toddler group also meet there weekly.



*The Church Hall, from its car park.*

## 8.4 Curate's House

The parish has a 3-bedroom semi-detached house for housing a curate. It is currently commercially let.



*Interior of the Church Hall*

## 8.5 Burial Ground

The churchyard extension is in Bedfont Road about ½ mile to the south, with a number of vacant plots. Previously badly overgrown, hard work by volunteers have restored it to a good condition, but it requires continuing regular maintenance work.

The borough-owned Hatton Cemetery in Faggs Road has been designed to accommodate the burial of Hounslow's growing Muslim population.



*The Bedfont Road burial ground, showing recent graves.*

## 9 Ecumenism

### 9.1 Churches Together in Bedfont, Feltham and Hanworth

The parish is part of Churches Together in Bedfont, Feltham and Hanworth. Meetings – usually held in the Parish Centre of the Roman Catholic church in Feltham – are usually attended by the Vicar and a few lay members. Some ecumenical events are organised, and it acts as a conduit for information. There are about 12 local churches that are members, but not all attend meetings.

### 9.2 Other Christian Places of Worship in Parish

Bethany Church, a Pentecostal Church in Fellowship with the Assemblies of God in Great Britain & Ireland, worship in a chapel originally built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Airport Church Revival Centre, part of Brooks of Life Ministries, worship in a former Baptist church in Hatton Road.

The House of Glory For All Nations, a parish of the Nigerian-based Redeemed Christian Church of God, worship in our Church Hall on Sundays, Wednesdays and some Fridays.

The Community Of Yahweh Worldwide, a Saturday-worshipping Pentecostal congregation, are based in a former doctor's surgery in Richmond Avenue.

Jesus the Divine church worship in the Scouts' Activity Centre on Sundays.

### 9.3 Inter-Faith Activities

Hounslow Friends of Faith is a member of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. The previous Vicar and some lay members have attended events.

## 10 Wider Church

The parish elects two lay representatives to Hounslow Deanery Synod. Both they and the previous Vicar usually attend meetings.

Members of the parish support some Diocesan events, for instance *Messy Cathedral* in January 2014, and have benefited from various training events including the annual Area Conference.

The previous Vicar had links to Rwanda, and he and his wife raised money to send to Christian families in Rwanda to pay for school and medical fees, and such like.

It is hoped that the church will play a more active part in the Diocesan link with Angola and Mozambique in the future.

## 11 Our New Vicar

The PCC considers that the previous Incumbent left the parish in a generally good state, although there has been some stagnation of late. There is certainly room for things to be done better, with more lay involvement, and for new things to be done. Growth is desirable and possible in increasing both congregation size and commitment of members.

We do not have a Mission Action Plan. Some of the information in this Parish Profile is included with a view to helping develop such a document.

The PCC consider the following to be essential qualities for our next Vicar:

- The ability to motivate and encourage others
- An interest in children's work
- Visitor of sick & bereaved people
- A good preacher & teacher
- Keen to increase congregation size and attendance
- Good at communicating
- An interest in building up the social life of the parish
- A willingness to make links with the local community

And the PCC consider the following to be desirable qualities for our next Vicar:

- Keen to encourage house groups
- An interest in building up lay leadership
- An active interest in Deanery, Area and Diocesan activities

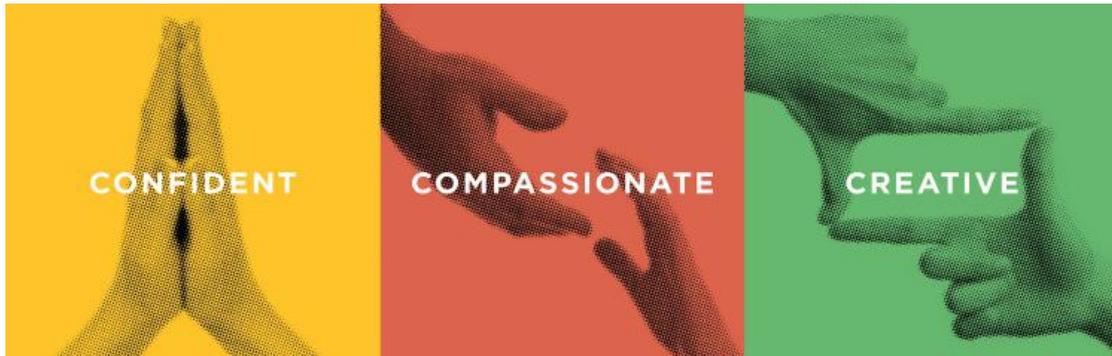
## Appendix A: Mission and Values

**MISSION STATEMENT** 'To know Christ personally and to make Him known to others.'

**OUR VALUES** (as endorsed by the PCC on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010)

- We value **THE BIBLE** as the true Word of God. It has been given to lead us to salvation in this world for the next. The Bible is the ultimate rule for Christian faith and conduct, acknowledging our frailties. We believe it is the supreme authority by which the Church must always reform itself and judge its traditions, founded on New Testament principles.
- We value **WORSHIP** as central to our Christian lives. The Bible reminds us to make Jesus our 'first love'. Our Church services, often including music, are to reflect this relationship. We want to keep regular worship at the centre of everything we do. Our worship needs to be culturally appropriate, facilitating an encounter with Our Lord.
- We value **MISSION** at home and abroad. To proclaim in word and deed the love and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ. Not only do we want to share the Good News of the Gospel with those who do not know Him, but also to give aid to those in need. In doing so, we wish to show God's love in action.
- We value **UNITY**. We want to be a Church united around the claims of Jesus Christ, pulling together in a common direction, fulfilling our **MISSION STATEMENT**. We wish to share our lives together in hospitality, support and care for each other. As a Church, we also value fellowship with other local Churches.
- We value **PRAYER**. As a Church, we encourage everyone to pray and read God's Word. We will then be led and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, accepting change for the sake of the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- We value **DISCIPLESHIP**. From our Creche, through our Junior Church and 10+ groups, to our adults, we take to heart that Jesus calls us to be disciples. Therefore with the help of Alpha courses, seasonal groups and Bible Studies, we seek to introduce the Christian message to those who are searching for Him, and strengthen those who already know Him as Saviour and Lord.
- We value **OUR CHURCH BUILDING**. The Church is for all the people of the Parish of Bedfont. We take to heart the responsibility to maintain and improve both our Church building and Church hall for now & the needs of successive generations.
- We value **PEOPLE**. We believe that each one of us is called to glorify and proclaim God's Son in word and deed. Through the transforming power of God's Holy Spirit, He enables us to live a life worthy of our calling. It is a Church where everyone is valued, respected and welcomed, to become part of our worshipping Christian community.

## Appendix B – CAPITAL VISION 2020



### Capital Vision 2020

As part of the Diocese of London, we share a vision of a church in 2020 that is Christ-centred and outward looking. This vision was the product of almost 2,000 conversations across the Diocese in 2012, distilled into Capital Vision 2020 which was launched at St Paul's Cathedral on 6 June 2013.

As a Diocese our vision is that we will be:

- More confident in living and speaking the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- More compassionate in serving communities with the love of God the Father
- More creative in reaching new people and places with the Good News in the power of the Spirit

To enable this we have committed to 10 priorities. These are areas where we will become sharper and more purposeful in the coming years. Each church within the Diocese has been asked "How will you be part of the story?". It is vital that each parish plays a role in making this vision a reality over the coming years, both by considering its own vision within the context of the diocesan vision and by prayerfully working within deanery, area and Diocese to make this a reality.

Capital Vision 2020 is expressed in a 90 second film, <http://vimeo.com/dioceseflondon/capitalvision2020> and detailed on our website [www.london.anglican.org](http://www.london.anglican.org).