

Head of Family Discipleship

A Brief Parish Profile

Over the last 10 years much has changed at St Mary's. Following a successful community building project the church was able to reorder the main church and build an amazing new church centre that is used throughout the week almost 365 days a year. With renewed premises there has also been a renewal in worship, community life, discipleship, and mission.

As a larger church, blessed with significant resources of people and finance, we are focused on:

- reaching out to a world in need,
- drawing people into a new identity in Christ,
- deepening our culture of discipleship,
- loving one another as family and
- giving ourselves away for the sake of others.

We long to see God change lives, families, and churches

Families, children, and young people

Over many years St Mary's has had a strong youth and children's work that has significantly shaped the life of hundreds of families. With great connections to our local schools, both primary and secondary, we have a consistent flow of new families joining our church community. The opportunities for seeing God change the lives of children and young people are very significant.

On Sundays and mid-week, we have developed a variety of children and youth groups and events that span the ages from toddlers to those heading off to university or college. On average, we have over 200 children and young people through our various mid-week groups, over 100 on Sundays, and we are in contact with many more over the course of the year. In addition, we have a flourishing Girls Brigade of over 70 members that has recently come under our church umbrella.

Prior to Covid we also ran a popular holiday club of 200 children and 100 helpers and had an annual cycle of camps and events that were significant times of going deeper in relationship and in spiritual depth. This summer we are taking 50 young people to the new Satellites Festival in Peterborough.

A new chapter in our youth, children, and family ministry

There are hundreds of families connected to the church and we are excited that a new **Head of Family Discipleship** will play a key part in shaping our church life over the coming years.

Having reflected deeply on how to introduce and to grow children and young people in their relationship with God, we are committed to **placing the family unit and parents at the centre of our approach** moving forward as we continue to expand our team and increase our investment in this area of church life.

With this in mind, whilst seeking a leader with a particular passion for, and experience of, children's/youth work and enthusiastic to have hands on responsibility for our 6-11 year olds, we are looking to appoint a new member of staff to join our senior leadership team – a person of maturity, experience and vision - not only to oversee and grow what we are already doing across all ages, supporting the staff and teams making it all happen, but to

also **develop a new way of supporting parents and families in the growth of their own unique culture of discipleship.**

This is an exciting time, and we want to learn about how to do this effectively and then share our learning and discovery with others on the same journey. As you will see below, we are also looking to appoint a new youth worker to join the team to develop the relational discipleship and mission activity of our church among young people.

Our Church Family

There are currently **544** individuals on the electoral roll of St Mary's and the Heath Church. Our average attendance was **460** (including children) in 2018 and while this has taken a hit due to the pandemic, we are aware there has been growth as well as drift.

Our vision is to see God changing lives, families, and churches. Our strategy is to be and to make **whole-life disciples** by reaching out, drawing people into a new identity in Christ, and strong culture of discipleship, loving one another as family and giving ourselves away.

Whilst we have a vision for growth, we are aware that our membership in recent years has remained relatively flat and we are still making sense of what happened during the pandemic. Alongside those more mature in faith, St Mary's also has a significant fringe often made up of those who are relatively new to faith or those with no faith. This is a key area for ministry and growth.

Young families make up a significant proportion of our congregation, driven in part by competition for places at the outstanding local church schools – something which brings opportunities as well as challenges.

There are **over 20 Life Groups** and a range of ministries specifically targeted at various demographics.

The church has strong links with the **New Wine** Network, and now the **Satellites Festival**.

Sunday Services

St Mary's Parish Church hosts three services every Sunday

- At **8.30am** we hold a traditional communion service in the chancel. This service is attended by 40 – 60 people
- Our **10.30am** service is a relaxed, family-friendly service and usually attended by around 250-300 people of all ages.
- The final service at **6:30pm** is informal, with a focus on contemporary worship and more charismatic. 60 – 80 people.

The Heath Church has a service at **10.30am** each Sunday morning. 35-40

0 to 5's - Children and Families Ministry

At this age children only come if someone brings them, so this ministry is involved with parents and families. Gen Griffiths leads the team and by increasingly placing the family and parents at the centre of her work, we have seen a shift in the engagement of parents and leaders.

Tots Praise runs every Monday in term time in the church chancel and currently attracts around 20 preschool children and their parents. On Wednesday morning Gen gathers new mums with very young children for friendship and discipleship, and they eat

together over lunch. On Fridays she hosts a weekly Toddler Cafe which attracts 60+ children and accompanying adults. This is the largest group of 'unchurched' people coming through the doors of our Church Centre on a regular basis

On Sundays there are three groups (Creche & Totzone | Sparklers | Fireworks) with 100 children on the books. A recent online 'Parenting for Faith' course for parents of 0-5 year olds has attracted over 30 families.

School Years 1 to 6

We are in contact with over 200 children in this age group, but attendance varies by week. There are three groups on Sundays (Beacons | Lasers | Lighthouses) with 150 children registered. On Wednesday there is Satellites '56 with 100 registered – many of whom don't come on Sundays. Satellites '56 is a fun, open youth club with a talk, games and an ever popular tuckshop.

Until a couple of years ago, we ran a Holiday Club for over 100 children. Our focus is on establishing discipleship basics, understanding the Bible, becoming part of Jesus' team, making friends, caring for each other and creative prayer. We provide one to one support for children with additional needs and have a dedicated team of volunteers who serve in this way.

Youth work – Years 7 to 13

On Sundays, we have a Sunday Satellite group of 20+ young people who have a separate gathering during the service, unless there is an All Together Service. Midweek Satellite Groups meet on Wednesday at the centre and while attendance fluctuates over the year, there are 120 registered.

Trips away to Carrotty Wood Adventure Centre and to Soul Survivor (now Satellites) have been highlights of the year. We also have a thriving Girls' Brigade Company with 70 girls aged 5 to 16 meeting on Friday evenings (70 members). Working with young people one to one and while at school are also fundamental parts of our approach.

Local schools

There are a number of outstanding schools in the Reigate area, both independent and state-funded. Within the immediate vicinity of St Mary's Church is the voluntary-aided Reigate Parish Church Primary School and this has significant links to the church. Adjacent to the church grounds are Reigate Grammar School and Reigate St Mary's Preparatory and Choir School, both of which are independent. Reigate Priory Junior School is situated in the local park, Holmesdale Community Infant School is nearby, and St Bede's School in nearby Redhill, is a unique, voluntary aided, fully ecumenical Christian secondary school with whom we have strong links which we would like to strengthen further.

We also support local schools through our engagement with **SparkFish**, a local Christian schools-work charity, working across Reigate, Redhill and Merstham, in around 20 primary and secondary schools. SparkFish supports children and young people in schools engaging children in RE, giving students the opportunity to explore prayer and reflection for themselves, and by caring for children's emotional well-being through group work as well as one-to-one mentoring.

Our Parish

Reigate is situated to the south of London, just **outside the M25**. It is a relatively prosperous London commuter-town with good connections to the surrounding area. Many young couples relocate here from London in order to start families, as the local schools have a good reputation, and the area is surrounded with **open green spaces**.

The actual parish of St Mary's has a population of around 7,000 and covers most areas of Reigate to the south of the railway line, including the town centre. It is predominantly middle-class, although by no means exclusively so, and many of the residents work in professional occupations, particularly in **London**. Beneath the relative comfort of a suburban market town, however, there are all the **challenges** associated with 21st century living and prosperity: financial pressure and stress, marital breakdown, and the problems of lives lived in a state of constant comparison. The parish borders areas of relative deprivation, and the church is actively engaged in supporting those in need.

Reigate is an **attractive** place to live with a vibrant high street. The centrally located Priory Park hosts a number of community events throughout the year, and there is plenty of open space for walking and cycling. The area is also home to several different churches and there is a great informal network of Reigate Ministers who meet and pray together regularly.

Our Buildings

As mentioned earlier, we have excellent facilities and buildings, with a reordered church and a modern Church Centre

In addition, we have two other church buildings within the parish - the **Heath Church** and the **Mill Church**.

Our Staff

St Mary's is blessed with a dedicated and able staff team who work together to lead and coordinate us in worship, discipleship, and pastoral care.

Vicar

- Richard Wilson has been in post since July 2018 having moved from Twerton, an estate on the edge of Bath where he was also Area Dean.

Associate Vicars

- Nigel Griffiths is a full time Associate Vicar with responsibility for Discipleship, Leadership Development, and the Heath Church.
- Kate Capper is a part time Associate Vicar and has oversight of our pastoral care

Curate

- Erin Gilmour has been our curate since 2019.

Associate Ministers

- Josh Brown is Head of Worship Culture and responsible for music and tech.
- Martin Saunders is our part-time Youth Leader responsible for overseeing our youth work - school years 7-13
- Gen Griffiths is our part-time Children's and families' worker responsible for our ministry to young children aged 0-5.

- Vacant Youth Worker post – We are actively looking to appoint another youth worker alongside Martin (hrs to be decided)

Administrative Team

- Our Operations Team Leader, Catherine Farrow, is responsible for the smooth running of the church and oversees the Operations Team including, Amanda Adams (Church Administrator and Bookings Manager), Louise Zandi (Church Administrator), Vineeta Chiles (Admin Assistant) and Laura Juden-Wills (Finance Assistant)

Honorary Assistant Clergy

- We have two further ordained Ministers who lead and preach and are involved in various other ways in the life of the church. Danielle Robinson is a retired Hospital Chaplain with PTO (permission to officiate), while Mike Fox is a retired Vicar living locally, also with PTO.

Lay Ministers

- Brenda Juntunen, our Reader, who recently moved to Reigate and was licenced here in 2021

General Information and Communications

Further information about St Mary's Reigate can be found on our website **www.stmaryreigate.org** including details about activities mentioned in this Profile, current preaching programmes and forthcoming courses and events.

Facebook: **www.facebook.com/stmarysreigate**

Twitter: **[@stmarysreigate](https://twitter.com/stmarysreigate)**

Interested in applying? We'd love to hear from you!

For an application form, and for an informal conversation about the role and church, please contact the Vicar, Richard Wilson.

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