COVE PARISH

PARISH PROFILE

one family, two homes

We are one church family with two homes in Cove, Farnborough — reflecting Jesus, loving joyfully, inspiring hope. Come and meet us.

> PRINT EDITION
> This is the printer-friendly edition: every word and every heading of the full profile, set for reading and for economical printing. The photographs, diagrams and colour are in the illustrated edition.

PARISH PROFILE

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the story of our family

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A NOTE ON LINKS Underlined text is a hyperlink — either to another part of this profile or out to a page on the web. Lines marked ↗ are links too, and so is every entry in the contents above.

01

COVE PARISH

WELCOME

we're glad you're here

Start here: who we are, the vision that guides us, letters of welcome from the Bishop and the Archdeacon, and the opportunity before you.

COVE PARISH

WHO WE ARE

one family, two homes

We are one church family with two homes: St. John's Church, small, beautiful and Victorian, and Christ Church, larger and more flexible — with Cove Parish Hall beside St. John's.

Our parish covers the west of Farnborough. Green spaces, heathland and country parks sit alongside homes of every kind, from new developments to social housing, and we live among them: two in three of our church family are within a kilometre of one of our churches.

All ages, all week, all welcome. What that looks like in practice — the services, the groups, the cafés, the Foodbank, the schools and the people who hold it together — is the rest of this profile.

> *"Church feels like home because of the interest we take in each other."*
>
> A MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

OUR VISION

VISION & VALUES

reflecting Jesus, loving joyfully, inspiring hope

OUR VISION, VALUES AND PRIORITIES

OUR VISION

Reflecting Jesus · Loving Joyfully · Inspiring Hope

OUR VALUES

Transformative Encounters · Gracious Generosity · Unified in our Uniqueness · Courageous Faith · Whole-Life Worship

OUR PRIORITIES NOW

Growing Deeper · Growing Wider · Growing our Multi-Generational Family

> *"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."*
>
> LUKE 5:4 · READ OUR VISION IN FULL AT COVEPARISH.CHURCH/VISION

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

WELCOME

from the Acting Bishop of Guildford

Welcome to the Diocese of Guildford!

As Acting Bishop of Guildford, I am currently leading the Diocese following the untimely death of Bishop Andrew Watson in March 2026 until we hope to welcome a new Diocesan Bishop in early 2028.

I have set three foci for my ministry during these two years: prayer, pastoral care and the priorities of discipleship and ministry to children and young people. I have been so encouraged by the response of parishes, schools and chaplaincies to this focus. A deeper and renewed life of prayer ensures that we grow in love for God and that all we do is rooted in Him. Nurturing an intentional culture of pastoral care builds on the excellent relationships that exist in the diocese and ensures that we grow in love for each other. The priorities of discipleship, and ministry amongst children and young people, is naming what over 90% of our parishes articulate are their missional priorities expressed through their Church Development Plans.

I am passionate about supporting our churches and clergy as much as I/we can as we seek to join God in his Kingdom work. In Guildford, care for clergy is a top priority for bishops and archdeacons (articulated in our Wellbeing Covenant). We have in recent years developed a Parish Needs Process which seeks to travel alongside each church in support of its mission. We have also just launched St Martha's College – which seeks to provide formation for all leaders (and has developed a particularly fruitful Foundations in Ministry programme which has been a very successful seedbed for nurturing vocations). We seek to do all this in a culture of being a learning community as we follow Jesus together in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Know that if God is calling you to serve in the Diocese of Guildford, you will be welcomed, loved, cared for and supported to the best of our ability. I pray that you will know God's guiding hand as you discern whether He is calling you to join us.

THE RT REVD PAUL DAVIES
Bishop of Dorking & Acting Bishop of Guildford

> **3**
>
> The Bishop's three foci. Prayer · pastoral care · the priorities of discipleship and ministry among children and young people — the focus he has set for the diocese over these two years.

A WORD OF WELCOME

FROM THE ARCHDEACON

an invitation to explore

I'm so glad that you are reading this Parish Profile for Cove. You'll find here details of a really wonderful opportunity to come and be Rector of a very lively, active, church family, who are seeking to see more of the Kingdom of God in one of the biggest parishes in the diocese, situated in north east Hampshire.

Cove Parish seek to be a church which is 'reflecting Jesus, loving joyfully, inspiring hope', and this is tangible when you meet with them for worship, fellowship or conversation. It is a joyful, enthusiastic community, with an exciting array or mission activities and ministry, and a huge number of people who resource them.

Cove Parish is not alone in being well placed to share the good news of Jesus with the people of Farnborough. The next Rector will have the great joy of some wonderful colleagues in neighbouring parishes, and there is a great deal of energy focussed around a desire to see the town transformed by the gospel.

We're seeking an excellent, prayerful, relational leader, who will love the people of Cove, and walk with them into the next chapter in their life together. I have every confidence that the next Rector will find excellent foundations to build upon, a committed and enthusiastic community of people to work with, the challenge of sharing the gospel in a relevant way in a big and diverse parish, and very few dull moments!

I am told that in Cove Parish, they pray every week for new people to come through the doors, and that this prayer has been answered many times over - the congregation has grown as a result – both in numbers and in faith.

If you think this is a family that you would like to join, and more importantly if you believe God might be calling you to Cove Parish, please do get in touch to find out more.

If an informal conversation with me would be helpful, please do not hesitate to be in touch by emailing catharine.mabuza@cofeguildford.org.uk

THE VENERABLE CATHARINE MABUZA

COVE PARISH

OUR NEXT CHAPTER

what we're praying for

Our PCC and staff teams came together for a vision workshop as we began looking for a new incumbent, and what struck us was how closely their hopes matched.

Chief among them: we long to grow deeper — in faith, not just in numbers — with Scripture studied together, prayer shared and gifts released, and to see people of every age come to baptism and confirmation, young people above all.

God is already at work: people are training for lay and ordained ministry, and our parish prayer meeting, Engine Room, prays monthly for church and community. We want to grow wider into Tower Hill and Hartland* neighbourhoods and connect with Army communities in Cove Parish.

We pray for an incumbent who will help us grow in worship, encourage every generation, take the church to the people, and draw us closer to God through prayer, praise and sacramental life.

We are honest about the task, too: we have a large front door — people walk in every week — and our focus is helping them belong.

* Hartland is a new village being built in Cove Parish with 1,500 new homes, of which 20% will be affordable.

THE OPPORTUNITY

THE ROLE

what you would be coming to

A full-time incumbent for Cove Parish: two churches, one church family, and a parish that has kept its structures working through the vacancy.

SUNDAY AND MIDWEEK

Two Sunday congregations with distinct characters — the 9am at St. John's Church and the 10.30am at Christ Church — with a Thursday communion, a monthly all-age Family Celebration, monthly Fun @ 4 and the monthly Engine Room evening of prayer. Baptisms, weddings and funerals fall across both churches.

LEADING THE PARISH

You would chair the PCC, which meets every two months, working alongside two Churchwardens and two Deputy Wardens. With them, you would chair the Discretionary Fund and Complaints Committees should the need arise. Our finance meetings, held three times a year, also include the incumbent. In 2024 our PCC adopted the Diocese's Clergy Wellbeing Covenant.

FARNBOROUGH FOODBANK

Our incumbent normally chairs the six-strong Foodbank Management Team, which meets every second month and is searching for a permanent warehouse. The Foodbank is a parish charity serving the whole borough, and we expect its next chair will also be its advocate across that community.

THE TEAM AROUND YOU

Six employees working 140 hours a week, a five-day parish office, and 114 volunteers filling 338 roles across 35 ministries — with lead volunteers for communications, events, facilities, finance, operations and pastoral care. You would not be starting alone.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

- A parish strong in Biblical teaching and open to the Holy Spirit.
- A people who get involved in church life and are committed to serving God in a wide range of ministries.
- A growing children's and youth ministry.
- A parish which has a heart for mission and taking the gospel of Christ into our local community.
- A mature and united PCC.
- A parish with a heart for prayer, which underpins all that we do.
- A range of different styles of worship and traditions.

→ The person we are praying for, and the full person specification — page 10

→ Watch the parish film: youtu.be/4oKC5PplUH8

A short film of the parish goes with this profile, so you can meet Cove before you visit.

> Housing. Housing provision is currently with the Diocese Property Department — housing appropriate for an incumbent will be provided.

THE OPPORTUNITY

THE PERSON WE'RE PRAYING FOR

the gifts we are looking for

These are the four hopes that came back again and again at our PCC and staff vision workshop.

1 HELP US GROW DEEPER

In faith, not just in numbers — Scripture studied together, prayer shared, and gifts released across the church family.

2 ENCOURAGE EVERY GENERATION

From Bumps and Babies to Meeting Point — and above all the young people we long to see come to baptism.

3 TAKE THE CHURCH TO THE PEOPLE

Growing wider into the neighbourhoods around us, and into the communities we have not yet reached.

4 DRAW US CLOSER TO GOD

Through prayer, praise and the sacramental life we share across both our churches.

AND FROM THE CHILDREN

CHRIST'S CREW, OUR 8 TO 11S, WROTE THEIR OWN LIST

1. christian.
2. kind.
3. fun.
4. been called to this church. comunity
5. join action songs. responsble.
6. won't cange worship (back to old hymns)!
7. bigger yoth (work.)
8. be Respectfull.
9. Resilient.
10. sometimes the same, somtimes diffrent.

Transcribed from their handwritten list, spelling and all. The original is reproduced in the illustrated edition.

> The full person specification. These four hopes are ours, in our own words. The formal specification for this appointment — the gifts, experience and qualities the PCC and the Diocese are looking for, set out in full — is a separate document.

→ Read the full person specification: coveparish.church/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Candidate_profile.pdf

02

COVE & FARNBOROUGH

OUR PLACE

where we call home

Heathland, history, the streets we serve — and the people who live among them.

WHERE WE ARE

our corner of Farnborough

Cove sits on the west side of Farnborough, north-east Hampshire — a big parish with plenty of green. The parish on a map is on page 43.

Farnborough is famous for its International Airshow, for the pioneering aviator Samuel Cody and for Empress Eugenie; it is the resting place of Napoleon III. Our side of the town mixes high-end new housing developments with estates carrying a large amount of social and sheltered housing. Around them are green spaces and country parks — Bramshot, Southwood Country Park, Cove Green — plus Fleet Pond and many acres of local heathland.

Farnborough town centre is nearby, with shops, cafés, restaurants and a cinema — and a new recreation centre under construction. The M3 opens up London and the south-west; Southampton is less than 1 hour away. For health, Frimley Park Hospital is ten minutes up the road in Surrey, with Voyager Family Health in Southwood and several other surgeries within Cove.

AT A GLANCE

IN NUMBERS

a half marathon all round

Walk our boundary and you have walked a half marathon — around 500 postcodes sit inside it. Here is the parish in figures.

OUR PARISH SIZE

2nd largest

In the Diocese of Guildford — in both area and people.

SCHOOLS

8

Within the parish, plus two colleges and a university centre in town.*

TO LONDON

35 min

By train from Farnborough main station; the M3 runs alongside part of our boundary.

CIVIL WARDS

3

St. John's, Cove & Southwood and most of West Heath — plus Hartland Village, in Hart District.

WHO LIVES HERE

THE PARISH

20,840

people, in 8,239 households across 5.4 square miles — about a fifth of Rushmoor. (Church of England parish data.)

THE PARISH

40.5%

report no religion, against 44.4% Christian. Most of our neighbours do not start from faith.

THE PARISH

22.9%

of the parish is under 20 — 5.9% under five, and 17.0% aged 5 to 19.

THE PARISH IN MORE DETAIL

ETHNICITY

83.6%

White, with Asian or Asian British 9.9%, Mixed 2.5%, other backgrounds 2.3% and Black 1.7%.

AGE

32.0%

aged 45 to 69. The largest band — 21.8% are 30 to 44, and 12.2% are 70 or over.

OTHER FAITHS

9.9%

belong to another faith — Hindu 3.6%, Buddhist 3.3%, Muslim 1.8%, Sikh 0.3%.

* The Sixth Form College Farnborough — farnborough.ac.uk · Farnborough College of Technology — farn-ct.ac.uk · University Centre Farnborough — ucfarnborough.ac.uk

IN DETAIL

A CLOSER LOOK

the numbers behind the numbers

Drawn from ChurchSuite on 1 August 2026, and from the Church of England's parish dataset.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

CONTACTS

341

active contacts on ChurchSuite, our parish address book.

VOLUNTEERS

114

filling 338 roles across 35 ministries — a third of our contacts serve.

SERVING DEEPLY

25

serve on five rotas or more; another 37 serve on one.

JOINING US

30

new contacts a year on average since 2023.

WHERE WE LIVE

Ours is a walkable church family. 64% of our contacts live within a kilometre of one of the two churches and 87% within two, with a median walk of 0.82km — only sixteen people live more than five kilometres away.

201 contacts live inside the parish: 81 in St. John's ward, 77 in Cove & Southwood and 38 in West Heath. St. John's is the nearer church for 61% of them, Christ Church for 39%.

THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE

> 44.2% of residents in St. John's ward feel a strong sense of belonging — against 51.0% in West Heath, 55.6% in Cove & Southwood and a borough average of 51.9%. **That gap is real, and it is exactly where a church family can help.** Cove is not a deprived parish: it ranks 8,981st of the 12,154 parishes in England. But child poverty here is 23%, almost exactly the national median, and a quarter of residents live alone. The need is real, unevenly spread and often quiet — and our calling is local: these streets, these schools, these neighbours.

OUR STORY

OUR HISTORY

180 years of worship here

1844 — **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IS BUILT**

Built to serve Cove — at that time, the centre of the community. It gathers us still at 9am every Sunday, and most of our weddings and funerals are held there. Its graveyard is closed for new graves: ashes are interred where a family already has a grave, and in our Garden of Remembrance for those who lived or died in the parish, or were on our electoral roll.

1918 — **A CHAPEL OF EASE**

As Cove grew around the Royal Aircraft Establishment, the centre of the town moved east — away from St. John's and the old village. A Chapel of Ease opened to serve the new district, and was rebuilt in 1934 as St Christopher's — the building we worship in today as Christ Church.

2019 — **A NEW NAME: CHRIST CHURCH**

Diocesan pastoral reorganisation brings the Southwood congregation to St Christopher's, and the building takes a new name: Christ Church. Alongside St. John's it gives the parish the shape we describe today — one church family with two homes, each keeping its own character and welcome.

2024 — **THE FOODBANK COMES HOME**

The Foodbank two of our parishioners founded in 2009 (page 34) came home in 2024: the parish took on day-to-day running in July and acquired the charity and its assets that November — and it now serves the whole borough from two distribution centres.

180

years of unbroken Christian worship in this parish — held now in three buildings: St. John's Church, Christ Church and Cove Parish Hall.

THREE BUILDINGS

well used and well loved

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Small, beautiful and Victorian, and listed within a churchyard that is now closed for new graves — a quiet green space in the middle of the town, kept by volunteers from both churches on our yearly Community Day. The building seats a large congregation comfortably and carries sound well for choir and organ. Cove Parish Hall stands next door, which makes the two work as one site.

CHRIST CHURCH

Our largest and most flexible space: built in 1934 under a stunning Grade II listed wooden roof, with chairs rather than pews so it can be reset for anything. The church is large enough to take a band and a full congregation on Sunday morning, Foodbank distribution every Wednesday, and our children's and youth groups through the week. It also holds the Parish Office, ample storage and further working space, and the sound, vision and streaming kit that carries a service beyond the building.

COVE PARISH HALL

Beside St. John's, and busy Monday to Saturday. A hall, a kitchen and smaller rooms make it the most adaptable space we have: toddler groups in the morning, Footprints café in the afternoon, Open Door in the evening — and the tea that follows Fun @ 4 in the church next door. It is the building the parish hires out most.

And the buildings are not only ours. U3A, Rushmoor Choir, a local ballet school, a pre-school, Brownies and an exercise class all meet across our buildings regularly, the hall at its busiest midweek. The hire income helps, but the greater gain is people crossing our threshold who might never try a Sunday. Both church kitchens hold a five-star food hygiene rating.

Our eight schools use them too, filling a church several times a year (page 27). Behind every group stands a team of generous volunteers — and some talented cake bakers. Beyond our walls, two of our members run the Cove Child Contact Centre at the local Methodist church.

1,771

confirmed bookings across 2026 — around 148 a month, the busiest single hirer taking 216. What's on: coveparish.church/calendar.

03

WORSHIP & MINISTRY

OUR WORSHIP

how we meet God

Two churches, one Sunday rhythm, and the prayer that holds the week together.

ONE FAMILY, TWO HOMES

OUR TWO CHURCHES

both places, one family

SUNDAYS AT 9AM

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

sung, sacramental, unhurried

Step inside on a Sunday morning and you find a small Victorian church that fills with sound — the choir, the organ, a congregation that knows each other by name. It is unhurried, and the coffee afterwards is an important time of fellowship together.

All ages come, though this congregation especially serves our older members. Once a month the same building fills instead with young families, puppets and craft.

SUNDAYS AT 10.30AM

CHRIST CHURCH

relaxed, band-led, all ages

Chairs rather than pews, a band setting up at the front, children arriving with their parents: this room is louder and looser, and it resets through the week for everything else that happens here.

It is our family-centred congregation and the home of our children's and youth groups — often where families who first met us at a group or a café end up on a Sunday.

The same room gathers our older members midweek at a quieter pace, and it is where the parish comes together for its monthly evening of prayer.

WORSHIP

AT THE HEART

prayer, sacrament and song

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness." – Psalm 29:2

Worship is at the heart of our life together. Through prayer, scripture, sacrament, music and fellowship we seek to encounter God, deepen our faith and equip one another for Christian service.

Every service seeks to be welcoming, Bible-based, prayerful, safe and accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds, supported by clergy and a strong team of lay people. We celebrate communion faithfully as a source of healing, reconciliation, nourishment and unity, and we keep the seasons of the church year — valuing our liturgical heritage while presenting worship in ways that are meaningful for contemporary life. We are committed to worship that is reverent, joyful and Spirit-led.

OUR MUSIC

Our music runs from traditional hymns to contemporary worship songs, so the whole congregation can join in, keeping Jesus front and centre.

Over the past five years, since the merger, worship at Christ Church has moved from a traditional background to a vibrant contemporary style — a real journey for the congregation, with that core mission unchanged throughout.

A Worship Coordinator and two Worship Leaders guide musicians and singers aged 20 to 80, four to six serving each Sunday, seasoned players alongside emerging talent. We invest in them as people, developing musical skill and offering pastoral care, and the song list is formally reviewed each term so the repertoire stays relevant, Spirit-filled and prayerful.

A monthly Worship Jam — tea, biscuits, and no expectation beyond having fun, experimenting, asking questions or just listening in — brings our musicians together with players from other churches nearby, at every standard from absolute beginner upwards. It has proved a healthy pathway into the Sunday team: one member came to us straight from the jam.

At St. John's a music co-ordinator and a small group of singers lead worship alongside the organist or pianist, with other instrumentalists joining occasionally, and a larger group for the carol service, Good Friday and Easter.

> Communion, week by week. Bread and wine at St. John's Church every Sunday at 9am, and at Christ Church every Thursday at 10am except the first, when Meeting Point takes its place. The 10.30am service shares communion on the second Sunday of the month — the sacramental thread running through both our homes.

JOIN US

OUR SERVICES

a service for everyone

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" – Psalm 122:1

9.00am — Sunday Communion — ST. JOHN'S

Sunday. Traditional robed liturgy with choir, hymns, modern songs and weekly communion.

2025 average 55 · best 148 · coveparish.church/services/the-9am

10.30am — Morning Service — CHRIST CHURCH

Sunday. Relaxed band-led worship, all ages but family-centred; monthly communion.

2025 average 79 · best 219 · coveparish.church/services/the-1030am

10.00am — Midweek Communion — CHRIST CHURCH

Most Thursdays. Liturgical communion, well attended by seniors; tea, cake and conversation afterwards.

2025 average 18 · best 24 · coveparish.church/services/thursday-communion-service

4.00pm — Fun @ 4 — ST. JOHN'S

Second Sundays. Child-focused family worship for every generation.

2025 average 44 · best 59 · coveparish.church/services/fun-4

6.30pm — Engine Room — CHRIST CHURCH

Third Sundays. Worship, scripture and prayer for church and community.

coveparish.church/services/engine-room

2026

The whole year in Exodus. As part of growing deeper, both our Sunday services are working through the same series on Exodus — one book, one church family, the whole of 2026.

AVERAGE SUNDAY	BEST SUNDAY	BIGGEST DAY	SERVICES COUNTED
133	**273**	**318**	**120**
across the parish, 2025.	Remembrance Sunday 2025.	Remembrance Sunday 2025, all services.	Sundays and Fun @ 4, 2025.

Pastoral oversight. The 9am congregation and the Thursday midweek congregation are well served with pastoral oversight. Over the last three years many new families have joined the 10.30am congregation at Christ Church and Fun @ 4, and developing closer oversight for them is a recognised need. Work on it is already under way.

→ Service times and what's on: coveparish.church/service-times

SEASONAL WORSHIP

THROUGH THE YEAR

every season, every stage

Christmas gathers us together for Christingle at both churches, with traditional carol services and the Midnight service at St. John's Church, and the whole church family together at Christ Church on Christmas Day. Easter is a journey we walk together, mostly at St. John's — Ash Wednesday, the Easter story told through readings and worship, An Hour at the Cross, then a daybreak service on Easter morning — with Maundy Thursday the exception, moving between our churches (Christ Church in 2026).

Harvest and Remembrance are kept at both churches, with Guides and Brownies joining and a number of soldiers attending Remembrance. Christ Church also hosts Christmas services for the Air Cadets and Tower Hill Primary School.

MOSAIC ARTS

Musicians, dancers and actors from churches across Cove and the surrounding parishes come together in Mosaic Arts, our performing-arts ministry — shows and concerts staged with mission in mind, most recently The Hiding Place, retelling Corrie ten Boom's story, and Ken Medema's Come to the Table.

Dancers come from a local ballet school and pupils from local schools have sung in its productions. Performances have raised funds for community causes such as Open Door and CAP, and have opened the door to invitations of their own — an evening at a concert leading on to Alpha. Its aim, in Psalm 105:2's words, is to "tell of all his wonderful acts".

LIFE EVENTS

LIFE'S BIG MOMENTS

baptism, marriage, farewell

In addition to our Sunday worship we hold services for baptisms, weddings and funerals, with services of remembrance and thanksgiving bringing pastoral support to the wider community.

BAPTISM

Baptisms and confirmations usually happen at Christ Church within Sunday worship, the whole church family joining the welcome, with a few afternoon baptisms at St. John's Church each year.

We want to support baptism families as they continue the journey together, and encourage them into one of our many family-friendly services and activities.

Preparation for teenagers and adults is tailored to need (including full immersion), led by a member of clergy and, where it fits, our youth intern.

MARRIAGE

Most weddings take place at St. John's Church.

Each January we invite every couple due to marry in the coming year to an Engaged Couples Tea — a relaxed afternoon talking through the planning and the preparation for their marriage, and a chance to meet the member of clergy who will take their wedding.

In the spring, two couples from our church family run the five-session HTB Marriage Preparation Course, which we encourage every couple marrying in the parish to attend.

FAREWELL

Funerals and the interring of ashes tend to be at St. John's Church — though its graveyard is closed, some still take place where there is an existing family grave.

Up to thirty funerals a year are taken here, mainly by our assistant minister, our curate, the retired priest and our pastoral assistant.

The care does not end with the service. The same team stays alongside bereaved families long after the day itself.

PASTORAL CARE

Our pastoral care team is small and experienced. It is led by a retired priest with Permission to Officiate, alongside our assistant minister and a pastoral assistant who has served the parish for many years, and a lead volunteer for pastoral care sits among the lead roles behind the PCC.

Home communion carries the sacrament to those kept from church by illness or infirmity — the same bread and wine, the same welcome, in the front room rather than the pew — so that those who cannot come to worship are not left outside it.

Each October the Time to Remember service at Christ Church ministers to the bereaved: a quiet, reflective act of worship open to anyone who has lost a loved one, church or community alike, with refreshments and company afterwards.

→ coveparish.church/life-events

PRAYER & CALLING

ROOTED IN PRAYER

listening for God's call

Everything here starts with prayer. We believe prayer unites us, deepens our faith and empowers us to serve, and as a church family we keep finding God's guidance, strength and wisdom through it.

Each month the Engine Room gives a whole evening to it: worship, scripture, and open, silent and prophetic prayer, on the third Sunday at 6.30pm at Christ Church. It prays for the church, and then looks outward — asking what work God has for us in the community.

Around that monthly rhythm runs a weekly one. Our weekly prayer group takes on specific needs whenever clergy and the pastoral team ask. An online Bible reflection is posted midweek, encouraging us to hear scripture's call on our lives, to pray, and simply to be with God. Homegroups pray together across the parish week by week, and courses like 'The Prayer Course' and 'Be Still' teach us how.

Later in 2026 a 'Prayer Ministry' course will draw people from every service in both churches, growing this ministry to reach the wider community and support those in need within the churches.

GROWING LEADERS

More of us are exploring God's call and responding with faith and commitment. Most train through the Diocese of Guildford at St Martha's College; some study further afield. Recent Foundations in Ministry students have specialised in contemporary worship, community outreach and chaplaincy; one has completed the first year, and another hopes to join next academic year.

For everyone, 'Alpha', 'The Prayer Course', 'The Shape Course' and Bible study keep that road open, with more planned.

→ coveparish.church/ministry/going-deeper

VOCATIONS

- Several have completed Foundations in Ministry; more are following.
- One CALEB graduate, ordained deacon, has recently been priested.
- One member has finished the first year of Licensed Lay Minister training.
- One Ministry Experience Scheme intern now studies theology at St Mellitus College.
- One member has been selected for the Elizabeth Pathway.

> *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."*
>
> COLOSSIANS 4:2

> A VOCATION STORY
>
> My journey to faith has been shaped by moments of profound brokenness, unexpected grace and a God who met me when I felt I had nothing left to give. At my baptism, I experienced a healing that transformed not only how I understood God, but how I understood my own story.
>
> Since then, I have felt an undeniable call to serve, particularly among young people, and to share the hope I have found in Jesus. My ministry internship has given me space to live that calling, and I am continually discovering that God can redeem even the hardest parts of our stories for His purposes.
>
> CAITLIN · OUR YOUTH INTERN

04

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & YOUTH

EVERY GENERATION

growing up in God's family

Groups from bumps to big questions, eight schools on our doorstep, and youth work that says you are known.

EVERY WEEK

CHILDREN'S GROUPS

from bumps to big questions

BUMPS AND BABIES EXPECTANT MUMS TO AGE 2

Run by volunteers at Christ Church for five to ten families each week. The first months of parenthood are hard, and the group offers friendship, encouragement and practical support rather than judgement. It is a genuine route into church life: several who first came for the company now worship with us, take a full part in the church family and serve as volunteers.

MONDAY AFTERNOONS · TERM TIME · COVEPARISH.CHURCH/SERVICES/BUMPS-AND-BABIES

LITTLE FISHES BIRTH TO SCHOOL AGE

Our parent and toddler group at Cove Parish Hall, run by experienced volunteers across two Thursday sessions. Play for every age, then song time and a Bible story. It is one of the parish's strongest links into the community: many families first hear about our services and special events here, and the team offer prayer and pastoral support during the sessions or afterwards. Every helper is DBS-checked; families of all faiths and none attend.

THURSDAY MORNINGS · TERM TIME · COVEPARISH.CHURCH/SERVICES/LITTLE-FISHES

LITTLE DISCIPLES AGES 4–8

Led by our Schools and Families Worker with a team of volunteers. The children leave after the opening song for their own space, where one big Bible story is opened up through games, a retelling pitched for their age, and a craft. They pray together, and are encouraged to look for God's place in their everyday lives.

SUNDAYS, 10.30AM · TERM TIME · COVEPARISH.CHURCH/SERVICES/LITTLE-DISCIPLES

CHRIST'S CREW AGE 8 TO SENIOR SCHOOL

Runs every week alongside the Sunday service, led by a team of volunteers. The same Bible story is taken further through questions, worksheets and prayer, and the group shares the good news and the hard news of their week so they can pray for one another. They rejoin the congregation before the end of the service.

SUNDAYS, 10.30AM · TERM TIME · COVEPARISH.CHURCH/SERVICES/CHRISTS-CREW

ALL AGES

WORSHIP TOGETHER

one big family of God

All-age worship — our monthly Family Celebration — gathers children, parents and older members in one service on the first Sunday of each month at Christ Church — one big family of God together. It is less formal than usual, with plenty of elements so everyone can join in, whatever their age, and lunch afterwards builds the family feel.

Fun @ 4, our monthly family service, meets at St. John's Church on the fourth Sunday at 4pm. Puppets, crafts, singing, dancing and space to ask questions make it an easy first invitation for families who might not otherwise come to church, and many now come on to our family services too. Monthly parent socials build friendships and give parents the chance to ask more about God.

→ coveparish.church/services/fun-4

BAPTISMS

When a child or young person is baptised, we love to celebrate with them. Every family preparing for baptism takes our baptism prep course first, run regularly so children, young people and parents understand the commitment they are making and have time to explore what the decision means to them. The course is one or two relaxed sessions, several families together, led by a member of clergy and another member of the team.

Then comes the celebration. Each family takes home a sock, and a matching one hangs in each of our churches. It means families are prayed for long after the baptism itself, and reminds us of everyone we have baptised in the parish.

One family, after their three children were baptised, wanted to know more, did Alpha, and now worship with us regularly — on Sundays, at special occasions and at Fun @ 4. We love seeing more children and young people come to Christ.

→ coveparish.church/life-events

OUR SCHOOLS

EIGHT SCHOOLS

stories told, worries prayed over

1 OPEN THE BOOK

Volunteers act out the big Bible stories in five infant schools, at least once a term and often more. The team prays together before every assembly, and children have started asking their parents whether they can come to church — the clearest sign it is landing.

2 MOVING UP

Offered to every school in the parish: we help Year 2 and Year 6 children name what they are excited about and what they are dreading before the move up. They draw round their hands and write their worries on them, and for a week afterwards our team prays over every one.

3 SEASONAL WORKSHOPS

At Easter and Christmas we take workshops into school, helping children understand the Christian story at the heart of the holidays they already celebrate — and the Christmas and Easter Journeys bring whole year groups into Christ Church to walk through it.

4 VISITS BOTH WAYS

We take assemblies into school, and the schools come to us: Easter and Christmas services, paying tribute together on Remembrance Sunday, and end-of-term celebrations that fill a church with families who might not otherwise be there.

5 WHAT SCHOOLS SAY

Teachers tell us they learn from the assemblies too, and ask us back. One school put it simply: "We love the effort and support put into assemblies and workshops." A paid Schools and Families Worker holds this together, with a team of trained, DBS-checked volunteers behind her.

THE CHRISTMAS JOURNEY

For two days each December, Christ Church becomes the first Christmas. All Year 1 children in our local schools are invited — through Mary's kitchen, Joseph's workshop, the magi's tent and the shepherds' cave, meeting Clarence the camel and Alfie the sheepdog — to the final reveal: the stable, and a real baby in the manger.

Over 1,750 children have taken part in five years, and some families have come to faith after children brought their parents to church.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

COVE YOUTH

known, valued, and loved

Cove Youth is for anyone aged 11 and over, wherever they have got to on their faith journey.

The group meets every Sunday evening, 6pm to 8pm — food, friendship and faith — with a social on the first Friday of the month, and every leader is DBS-checked and safeguarding-trained. It began recently, with a handful of young people exploring the Bible together, and the priority from the start has been relationships rather than numbers. Trust has grown and engagement with it: they ask thoughtful questions now, and bring what they read to bear on everyday life. New volunteers are joining through Safer Recruitment, so this is being built to last.

Our vision is a thriving community of young disciples who know they belong, are confident in their faith, and play a full part in the worship, mission and life of the whole church.

→ coveparish.church/ministry/cove-youth

YOUTH ALPHA

Young people from any background — church or none — asking honest questions without being judged for asking. Food, a short film, then discussion where nothing is off limits: who Jesus is, prayer, the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and what following Christ means today. One of our clearest pathways into church life.

YOUTH SOCIALS

Faith grows through friendship, so socials run monthly — picnics, sports, games nights, themed evenings, worship and shared meals. Deliberately easy to bring a friend to: a first step into parish life for a young person not yet ready for a service or a Bible study.

2026

New this year: Open Table, a weekly lunchtime drop-in at our local secondary school — open to every student, to bring lunch, play games, get homework done or simply talk. Informal by design, it is where trust is built and faith comes up naturally. Two members of school staff have become valued partners, the school is open to running Youth Alpha with us, and we hope to help with its breakfast club.

FOR OUR NEXT INCUMBENT

This ministry is young, but it is not one person's project: a team carries it, and new volunteers are coming through. We are not looking for an incumbent to lead the next phase themselves — we are looking for someone to **coach and mentor that team, and lead them as they deliver it**: growing the group numerically and spiritually, deepening discipleship, and building on what has begun in the secondary school.

05

OPEN ALL WEEK

OUR COMMUNITY

more than Sundays

Cafés, drop-ins, a community lunch and Farnborough Foodbank — the doors are open long after Sunday.

WEEK BY WEEK

A STEADY RHYTHM

the doors open all week

Sundays are only the start. Something happens in our buildings almost every day of the week — and what carries the teaching, the friendships and the learning between Sundays is this.

HOMEGROUPS

Weekly Homegroups meet across the parish around God's Word, working through questions drawn from that Sunday's services — so the teaching carries on into the week and into the living rooms. Bible study, prayer, friendship and support in everyday Christian life.

COURSES

We run short courses through the year, each with a different focus. Alpha is the open door for anyone exploring faith, with Youth Alpha for our young people. The Bible Course walks the whole story; The Prayer Course and Be Still teach us to pray and listen; SHAPE helps people find where their gifts fit. A Prayer Ministry course follows later in 2026.

NEVER WITHOUT CAKE

It's true — teams of generous volunteers and talented bakers keep every group supplied, week in and week out. Lemon drizzle and shortbread are the specialities, and there is rarely a gathering in either building without a plate of something homemade on the table.

→ What's on this week: coveparish.church/calendar

OUR CAFÉS

COFFEE AND COMPANY

hospitality, one cup at a time

It began with a jar of coffee, a box of tea bags, homemade cakes and prayer. Three cafés now run week by week, all volunteer-led — for many in Cove they are the only contact with church there is.

FOOTPRINTS

Started by our community worker, who saw people crossing St. John's churchyard with no café nearby. It runs twice a week now, at Cove Parish Hall and Christ Church — and it is where much of our pastoral work begins.

→ coveparish.church/services/footprints-st-johns

> *"I wouldn't see anybody if it wasn't for Footprints."*
> BERYL · FOOTPRINTS REGULAR

MEETING POINT

A monthly coffee morning for adults, first Thursdays, held in place of the 10am communion — begun in 2012 when bereavement visits showed how many older people were on their own. Run by volunteers from both churches, and a steady source of pastoral contact.

→ coveparish.church/services/meeting-point

ARTS AND CRAFT GROUP

A monthly morning at Christ Church for anyone who likes making things — painting, drawing, card-making, craft of every kind. Small, steady, entirely volunteer-led — an easy first step for people who would not yet come to a service.

OPEN DOOR

Begun in 2016, when people with mental health difficulties had nowhere local to meet: crafts, games, quizzes and conversation over free refreshments, three Wednesday evenings a month at Cove Parish Hall. No referral, no charge, and a team who know that listening is the work — it reaches people no service would.

→ coveparish.church/services/open-door

YEAR BY YEAR

MARKING THE SEASONS

the moments that gather us

HARVEST

We bring tinned and dried goods for the Foodbank, give thanks, and usually share a Harvest lunch.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A parish lunch around Christmas time. Everyone is welcome to share the table.

BOARD GAMES NIGHT

Board games and quizzes at Christ Church, fourth Fridays — a social outlet for adults.

→ coveparish.church/services/board-game-night

PARISH BBQ

An informal summer get-together with food, games and music — a chance to catch up and welcome newcomers.

COMMUNITY DAY

Volunteers from both churches and the community gather yearly to tackle jobs in St. John's churchyard.

COVE COMMUNITY LUNCH

A free monthly lunch after the 10.30am at Christ Church — over 1,000 served in four years.

→ coveparish.church/services/cove-community-lunch

BARN DANCE & CEILIDH

The October 2025 Barn Dance funded Tower Hill's play area; the 2026 Ceilidh at Cove Parish Hall raises funds for our children's and youth work.

FARNBOROUGH FOODBANK

more than food parcels

2025
1,554
referrals in 2025

2025
3,498
people supported

2025
34%
were children

Farnborough Foodbank serves the Rushmoor community — Farnborough and Aldershot — with food, practical support and encouragement; around 13% of referrals come from surrounding boroughs such as Camberley and Surrey Heath. Demand keeps rising: 2025 referrals were up 17% on 2024.

We run two distribution centres, at Christ Church, Cove and St. Peter's Church, Farnborough. In 2025, £92,485 of food stock was donated and £104,973 of food distributed.

A foodbank visit is often part of a bigger story — rising costs, life changes or health conditions. Citizens Advice Rushmoor has an adviser at every session in both centres, advising clients whatever their circumstances — benefits, budgeting, housing and debt — root causes, not just immediate need.

Two years in: 175 people supported, £100,000 in financial gains, £40,000 of debt written off. At St. Peter's, Acts 435 and Christians Against Poverty add financial advice.

> **17%**
> up on 2024. Demand keeps rising — and the Citizens Advice partnership means a food parcel is rarely all someone leaves with.

> Finding a permanent home is a priority. The Foodbank works from a temporary warehouse in Aldershot; securing a longer-term, affordable base heads the challenges in its strategic plan.

→ The Foodbank has its own website: farnborough.foodbank.org.uk

OUR VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

FARNBOROUGH FOODBANK

THE FOODBANK STORY

it began in sheds

Two of our parishioners founded Farnborough Foodbank in 2009, storing food in sheds and distributing from a Cove church; by 2011 it needed a warehouse of its own on Alison's Road, Aldershot.

Their vision — "to see no one go hungry in the Farnborough area" — still holds. A Trussell Trust foodbank from the start, it has grown steadily ever since: the day-to-day running passed to a new parish team in July 2024, and that November Cove Parish acquired the charity itself.

MANY HANDS

- Welcoming and supporting clients at both centres
- Sorting and packing food parcels in the warehouse
- Collecting food donations from supermarkets and drop-off points
- Over 109 partner organisations who refer and support
- Bi-monthly Cuppa & Catch-Up gatherings say thank you

All staff and volunteers receive safeguarding training and checks, under Trussell and Church of England guidance.

> MORE THAN A FOOD PARCEL
>
> I was homeless and staying in a hotel with my one-year-old daughter, and although it wasn't a usual opening day, the church kindly opened the food bank especially for us. They provided us with so much more than just food. They made sure my daughter had suitable milk-free items, as well as nappies and wipes, and many other essentials that I desperately needed at the time.
>
> What meant the most to me was the kindness and understanding we were shown. I never felt judged or embarrassed about asking for help. Instead, I was met with compassion, dignity and genuine care when I was at one of the lowest points in my life.
>
> The support we received made a huge difference to me and my daughter.
>
> KAYLA · HELPED BY THE FOODBANK

FOR OUR NEXT INCUMBENT

Our incumbent normally chairs the six-strong Foodbank Management Team, meeting every second month to review the operation, its challenges and plans. That team is currently searching for a permanent warehouse. We expect that our new Rector will also be its advocate across the community we serve.

06

TEAM, MONEY & CARE

HOW WE WORK

what holds it all together

The people who open the doors each week, an honest account of the money, and a safeguarding culture you can trust.

OUR TEAM

BEHIND THE WEEK

the people who open the doors

Every café, group and service in these pages has a team behind it: a clergy team, six employees, a five-day office and volunteers in every corner. You would not be starting alone.

EMPLOYEES

6

working 140 hours a week between them.

VOLUNTEERS

114

filling 338 roles across the parish.

MINISTRIES

35

groups, services and cafés, week by week.

FOODBANK

52

volunteers support Farnborough Foodbank.

THE CLERGY TEAM

The clergy team consists of the Rector, a part-time ordained Assistant Minister and a part-time Curate in his second year. Both are self-supporting.

We have three retired clergy with PTO. One is active in leading services and preaching, one heads up the Home Communion Team, and one is currently unwell and so unable to take an active role.

The clergy team is ably assisted by a Pastoral Assistant who is licensed to take funerals, and by several licensed Occasional Preachers.

THE STAFF TEAM

Alongside our clergy we employ six people, together working 140 hours a week: a family and schools' worker, a community outreach worker, a manager and administrator for the Foodbank, and two admin staff. The ministries described in these pages are staffed as well as loved.

THE PARISH OFFICE

The office sits inside Christ Church and is open five days a week — the administrative heart of everything here. Two admin staff give 46 hours a week between them. One number and one inbox reach them: 01252 371804 · info@coveparish.church.

EQUIPPED TO SERVE

Every member of staff has a development plan with annual objectives, reviewed through the year in our appraisal process. We use software where it helps — ChurchSuite, Expense+, the Life Events Diary, Outlook and Teams — and recently added the AI tool Claude for the admin team.

OUR PCC AND WARDENS

Our PCC is typically 14 trustees, with further roles covering the Deanery and Diocesan Synods. It meets every two months, and clergy and staff are welcome to attend. The Rector chairs it.

Two Churchwardens share the legal responsibilities of the parish, their terms deliberately overlapping so that succession is orderly, and two Deputy Wardens support them in specific areas.

Behind the PCC stand lead roles for communications, events, facilities, finance, operations and pastoral care, with dedicated posts for Treasurer, Health and Safety Officer and Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Around them is a dedicated and capable team of volunteers carrying general parish life — hospitality, welcoming and the caretaking of all three buildings. You would be inheriting a structure that already works, not one you have to build.

→ See more about the team at coveparish.church/people

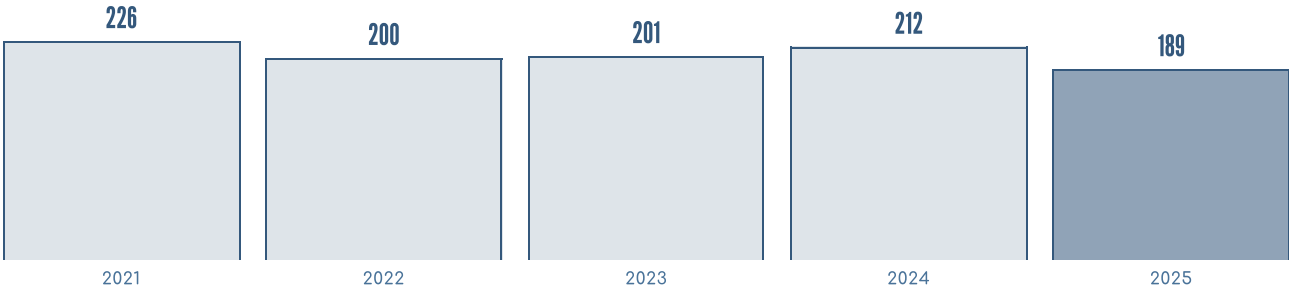
OUR MEMBERSHIP

THE ELECTORAL ROLL

five years, honestly told

189

on the church electoral roll. It moved from 226 to 189 across five years — and both large falls have an explanation.



The roll as reported at each year's APCM.

YEAR BY YEAR

PERIOD	JOINED	LEFT	NET	ROLL
2020–2021	10	13	−3	226
2021–2022	1	27	−26	200
2022–2023	13	12	+1	201
2023–2024	17	6	+11	212
2024–2025 *	160 + 29	52	−23	189

* The 2024–25 line is the statutory full renewal, not ordinary turnover: 160 people re-enrolled and 29 joined for the first time, while 52 did not rejoin.

During the covid year 27 parishioners left and one joined. Between that and the renewal the roll grew for two years running, with 30 joiners against 18 leavers. Then, on 13 April 2025, the roll was completely renewed and republished under the six-year rule, which requires every member to actively re-enrol: the mechanism by which lapsed membership clears in a single step.

160

re-enrolled in April 2025, and 29 joined new — giving the roll of 189.

WHO IS ON THE ROLL · 2025

Female	139 (74%)
Male	50 (26%)
Living in the parish	126 (67%)
Living outside	63 (33%)
In a Home Group	74 (39%)

The profile holds steady across all five years: roughly seven in ten members female, about two-thirds living inside the parish, and Home Group membership between 35% and 41%.

Compiled from the five annual Electoral Roll reports, 2020–21 to 2024–25.

OUR FINANCES

FINANCE

stewarding what we're given

In 2024, Cove Parish welcomed Farnborough Foodbank into the parish family, and it now operates as a restricted fund within our accounts. That changes how our headline numbers read: the assets we took on appear as a large one-off income in 2024, and because every item of freely donated and freely distributed food is valued, the Foodbank adds around £100k a year to both income and expenditure, with food held in stock valued at around £30k.

We report our accounts to the PCC and the congregation in two parts: Cove Parish, and Farnborough Foodbank.

COVE PARISH

We forecast breakeven in 2026, and an overall loss of around £40k across 2026–2027. The Parish Reserve can cover this if needed, but our aim is to close the gap through grant applications for our youth and children's work.

FARNBOROUGH FOODBANK

The Foodbank is forecast to make a £60k operating loss in 2026 as affordable warehouse space becomes harder to find — our local MP is helping the search for a longer-term home. A community-wide fundraising campaign is growing regular giving for its day-to-day work.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE, 2021–2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total gross income	£227k	£241k	£303k	£560k	£465k
Total expenditure	£200k	£248k	£275k	£341k	£518k

2024

Read the jump with care. The step up in 2024 income is the one-off value of the Foodbank assets the parish took on, and from that year both income and expenditure carry around £100k a year of donated and distributed food. The underlying parish picture is the steadier line beneath it — which is why we report the two halves separately.

OUR FINANCES

BUILDING GENEROSITY

growing in trust together

LISTENING & LEARNING

In 2025, training on the Church of England's Cornerstone software — and the congregation questionnaire that came with it — showed us where we could build financial trust and encourage generosity. In response we now share regular financial updates with the congregation, and we launched our 2025 Generosity Campaign.

THE TEAM BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Our finances are cared for by a strong team covering governance, invoicing, purchasing, payroll and pensions, reconciliations, grants and Gift Aid — with all routine financial work now brought in-house. Our incumbent joins our finance meetings, held three times a year, covering financial status, generosity, grants, investments, forecasts and budgets.

AREAS OF BUILDING GENEROSITY, CORNERSTONE

The Cornerstone assessment scores a church across eight areas: Promoting Mechanisms, Demonstrating Impact, Explaining Need, Building Trust, Inspiring People, Discipling Members, Embedding Generosity and Activating Generosity — each set against the diocesan average.

Our four areas of focus are Demonstrating Impact, Building Trust, Embedding Generosity and Activating Generosity. The chart itself is in the illustrated edition.

SAFEGUARDING

part of who we are

We want everyone here to be safe, welcomed, cared for and able to flourish.

Safeguarding runs through the whole life of Cove Parish. Throughout his ministry Jesus showed particular care for people who were vulnerable, overlooked or on the margins, and the Church is called to reflect that same care. For us safeguarding is an expression of faith, not paperwork — a culture where concerns are taken seriously and people feel able to speak up.

We follow the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance, working with the Diocese of Guildford. The PCC receives regular reports and renews the safeguarding policy annually, after the APCM — keeping safeguarding central to governance, ministry and mission.

HOW WE CARE IN PRACTICE

SAFER RECRUITMENT

Our PCC applies Safer Recruitment to every volunteer role — going beyond what the rules require.

DBS CHECKS

DBS checks are carried out wherever required for those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

TRAINING FOR ALL

All staff and volunteers receive safeguarding training appropriate to their role.

SPEAKING UP

We want a church where good boundaries are understood and people feel able to speak up — and to be heard.

ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

We have strived to make both churches and Cove Parish Hall accessible to everyone, following the Equality Act 2010. All three have level access, disabled toilets and disabled parking spaces, and the paths to the main doors of both churches take wheelchairs and pushchairs. Notice boards are hung to be read from a seated position — the size of the print is the next thing for us to look at.

Large-print hymns are provided at the 9am as required, with worship songs on screen at the 10.30am. Worship songs on our livestream are regularly BSL signed, and our website is accessible to anyone with a visual impairment. We have an animals in church policy for parishioners and visitors accompanied by emotional support animals; trained service dogs are of course always welcome, and have attended our services.

> *A culture of care, held by everyone.*
>
> Our Parish Safeguarding Officer and a small team work alongside clergy, staff and ministry leaders. For a new incumbent it means arriving into a healthy culture: an established Officer and team, Safer Recruitment throughout, and a PCC that keeps safeguarding on its agenda.

A MESSAGE FROM THE AREA DEAN

THE DEANERY

our place in the wider church

Cove Parish belongs to Aldershot Deanery, in the Diocese of Guildford. Our Area Dean writes:

REV. TIM BATEMAN

Area Dean, Aldershot Deanery

If you're a leader passionate about mission and evangelism, Cove Parish brims with immense opportunity and potential. Over the last few years, both Christ Church and St. John's have seen dynamic conversions, healings and people released into leadership with a heart and passion for Jesus. Why would anyone not want to join in with what God is doing here?

No role is without spiritual contestation and challenge, but any Rector will have an absolute ball being on the offensive as the Holy Spirit brings greater freedom to Cove Parish and beyond.

Aldershot Deanery is unique in the Diocese of Guildford, being mostly in Hampshire (not Surrey!), with the interconnected towns of Farnborough, Aldershot, Fleet, Church Crookham and the surrounding villages. The area we live in is exciting! There is serious investment, with housing seeing the shape of our communities evolving fast. We are home to the British Army and homeland defence. We are a technological powerhouse, particularly as a centre of international aviation technology. If you like planes, we have the internationally renowned Farnborough Airshow happening every two years, as well as our own private airport! If you like nice walks, we are blessed with so many of them close by, or even on our doorstep. I'm not a train spotter myself, but we have two train lines, west–east and north–south, convenient for travel.

And if you like good clergy colleagues, Aldershot Deanery does pretty well. We have a generous spirit towards each other and a posture of learning. My experience is that we actually like each other (incredible, I know!). But it is exciting to hear how churches are going deeper with the Lord and reaching out to their local communities.

You will also have a seriously supportive Senior Clergy Team in the Diocese of Guildford, unrivalled compared to previous posts I've held. They care not just about how the job is going, but about you. The Senior Clergy Team respond quickly when you need something, which shows how much of a priority supporting clergy is to them.

I have a vested interest in Cove Parish as your next-door parish. I long to see the whole of Farnborough, through the local church, transformed by Jesus. I'll be there to champion you if you're appointed as Cove Parish's Rector, and I'll be with you, giving thanks for all that God is doing in your life, your ministry and the church. God is clearly on the move.

But the question is, if God is on the move, and you have a sense you might be called to this ministry, would you be ready to be on the move to follow God's lead?

Bring it on!

07

NEXT STEPS

COME AND SEE

the door is open

The parish on a map, where to find us online, and how to start the conversation.

OUR PARISH

THE PARISH MAP

where you would serve

THE PARISH MAP

The official Church of England boundary for Cove Parish, and our two churches within it, is shown on the map in the illustrated edition and at achurchnearyou.com.

Housing provision is currently with the Diocese Property Department — housing appropriate for an incumbent will be provided.

COMMUNICATIONS

STAYING CONNECTED

find us online

OUR WEBSITE

Recently remodelled and relaunched in-house by a member of our church family, coveparish.church is integrated with ChurchSuite, so service and event information flows through without being re-keyed. It carries stories from across the family and explore-faith articles.

THE NEWSLETTER

Our weekly email newsletter reaches 240 subscribers — news, services and ways to get involved — and is built so office staff can produce it without touching code. During the vacancy, the newsletter and the website carry the latest on the process. Sign-up is on the website.

SUNDAY LIVESTREAM

The 10.30am service is livestreamed to Facebook and YouTube every week (except the Family Celebration), so anyone can join or catch up from home.

MIDWEEK PODCAST

A short video reflection is posted every Wednesday to Facebook and YouTube, and as a podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and YouTube Podcasts.

SOUND, VISION & STREAMING

A team of 15 volunteers runs the sound, vision and streaming every Sunday across both churches — the work that makes worship audible in the room and reachable from home.

FACEBOOK

960

follow the parish.

YOUTUBE

232

subscribe to the channel.

INSTAGRAM

207

follow @coveparish.

FOODBANK FACEBOOK

955

follow the Foodbank's own page.

FOR OUR NEXT INCUMBENT

You would not be expected to run the comms and digital team. What would help most is encouragement, a steer on what matters, and a willingness to be visible — much of what we publish only works if there is a voice behind it.

#faithinfarnborough · #beingfamily · #onefamilytwohomes

CONTACT

FIND US

we'd love to meet you

CONTACT

Cove Parish Office
c/o Christ Church
Cove Road
Farnborough
GU14 0EX

01252 371804 · info@coveparish.church
coveparish.church
Registered Charity No. 1132865

FIND US

St. John's Church, St. John's Road — Sundays, 9.00am
Christ Church, Cove — Sundays, 10.30am; Thursdays, 10.00am
Cove Parish Hall — next to St. John's Church

HOW TO APPLY

We would be glad to hear from you. If you would like an informal conversation before you apply, or to come and see us for yourself, please do get in touch — you would be very welcome. The latest on this appointment is always at **coveparish.church/vacancy**.

CLOSING DATE
Midnight, Wednesday
4th November 2026

INTERVIEWS
Visit and interview (2 days)
9th and 10th December
2026

INFORMAL CHAT OR VISIT
Our wardens
Penny Pidd
penny.pidd@coveparish.church
Andrew Hyde
andrew.hyde@coveparish.church

OUR USE OF AI We have been open in our use of AI. The content of this profile was provided by the parish profile team and consolidated into this design using Claude, an AI assistant. The team then reviewed the whole document and made substantial manual edits. AI helped us present what we had to say; it did not decide what we said. The team takes full responsibility for this profile as a true reflection of our parish.

"Come and see."

JOHN 1:39

Reflecting Jesus.
Loving Joyfully.
Inspiring Hope.

THANK YOU FOR READING OUR PROFILE

We pray that God will bless you and guide you, and that he will help you as you serve him.

"The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:24

COVEPARISH.CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1132865

#faithinfarnborough · #beingfamily · #onefamilytwohomes