



# Parish Profile 2017



**Welcome to  
St Philip & St James Church in the parish of  
Hucclecote, Gloucester**

St Philip & St James Church  
Hucclecote  
Gloucester, GL3 3NS  
[www.hucclecotechurch.org](http://www.hucclecotechurch.org)



# St Philip & St James, Hucclecote

## Who We Are

- A Bible based church with scripture at the centre of its teaching.
- A Spirit led church which encourages use of spiritual gifts.
- A church that encounters God with various worship styles.
- A church that supports the ordination of women at all levels of church life.
- An enabling church with active encouragement of lay participation and Christian service both locally and globally.
- A welcoming, compassionate church committed to prayer, prayer ministry and pastoral care.

## What We Are Looking For

- An incumbent who has a passion for mission in the parish.
- A priest of energy and vision who is committed to the open evangelical tradition.
- A person with an obvious love for Jesus Christ and obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- A dynamic pastor, teacher and good communicator with a passion for the Gospel and sensitive to the needs of the congregation and parish.
- A priest with obvious leadership skills who knows how to use them and has an ability to exercise authority.
- A team builder, someone who can draw out and build on the enthusiasm and commitment of others.
- A priest who is keen to work alongside Deanery and Ecumenical partners and to build strong community links.

## What We Can Offer

- A desire to improve on our outreach into the local community.
- A good management structure and support teams.
- Loyalty to and support for our new incumbent.
- A willingness to change when challenged to new ideas.
- A desire to build on collaborative working with Ecumenical partner churches in the Parish.
- A spacious church office and very able Administrator.
- A comfortable, modern four-bedroom family home for the incumbent provided by the Diocese.



# St Philip & St James, Hucclecote

## What We Want To Be

- A church that extends its outreach and influence into the community.
- A church for all generations that integrates children, young people, families and the elderly into the life of the church.
- A relevant church that desires to engage with contemporary culture.
- A caring church with appropriate structures and networks to enable effective care for one another, especially in times of need.
- An outward looking church that seeks to develop links with those engaged with local and global mission.

The PCC had started work on producing a new Vision document to replace our 2012-2015 version but it went on hold when our Priest in Charge left for a new parish. We will be revisiting this task in conjunction with our new incumbent to produce an updated Vision. We are keen to support the newly launched Diocesan Vision 2017-2022 and with the help of our new Priest in Charge we can make that Vision relevant in our parish and to our church family.

As a church we have been through highs and lows, joys and sorrows. We need an incumbent to lead us to church growth. We long to be led closer to God, deepening our relationship with him; to grow in our faith and for our potential to be harnessed and released; to reach those both inside and outside of our fellowship that we know we miss or fail to support; and to see God's Kingdom grow in this place.







# The Parish

Hucclecote is a suburb of Gloucester, having been a village that became part of the City in 1974, and is within the reach of the glorious Cotswolds and the Forest of Dean. The parish is bisected by the M5 with the western part coming under Gloucester City Council and the eastern part under Tewksbury Borough Council district.

St Philip and St James church is situated near the heart of Hucclecote and is in Gloucester City Deanery which forms part of the Diocese of Gloucester.

The parish is mainly residential and has a population of approximately 11,000, which is increasing due to several new housing developments. Hucclecote has numerous shops and businesses, offices, two primary schools, a library, community centre, Hucclecote Parish Council office and hall (The Pineholt), doctors, dentists, a veterinary practice, a bank and two public houses. The shops include two pharmacies, two Co-op convenience stores, a newsagent with a post office, a fish and chip shop as well as various takeaways. There are active Methodist and Evangelical churches, plus a small brethren group who meet within the parish.

The housing in the parish ranges from some 15th/16th century homes, established housing, flats, to new estates, predominantly privately owned, and a small amount of social housing. There is sheltered housing for the elderly and for people with learning and other similar difficulties. Demographically the community in Hucclecote is thriving and well balanced including a significant number of people of pensionable age. The new estates have been built over the last 25 years, predominately on the old Gloster Aircraft factory site, with new houses continuing to be built at Coopers Edge.



Hucclecote has access to the M5 at junctions 11 and 11A, and has a frequent bus service into Gloucester City Centre and Cheltenham. There are major road and rail links to the Midlands, South West, Wales and London.

A map of the parish boundary can be found at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/parishfinder.php?GL3+3NS>

A map of the civil parish boundary can be found at <http://www.hucclecotepc.gov.uk/>

Diocese of Gloucester website <http://gloucester.anglican.org/> and Diocese of Gloucester Vision 2017 to 2022 <http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/about/vision/>



# The Parish cont.

## Education

There are two primary schools in the parish, Dinglewell and Hillview, with the nearest CofE primary school being in the neighbouring St Lawrence Barnwood parish. Gloucester has a grammar school system with two boys' schools and two girls' schools, all of them 11 to 18. Other secondary comprehensive schools are located around Gloucester and a number of independent schools are within easy reach. There are nurseries and playgroups in the parish.

## Leisure Activities

There are several open spaces in Hucclecote the largest being the King George V playing fields. This area is well used by the community for sport including rugby, football and cricket with Hucclecote Rugby Football Club and junior teams for the Hucclecote Football Club being the main users. The Rugby Club has a club house and training ground on Churchdown Lane. Within the parish there are Scouts and Guides, and Boys and Girls Brigades, the latter being associated with the Methodist church. The Hucclecote Community Association centre is a hive of activity running various classes, events, discos and quiz nights each week. Next to the Community Association is the well-used local library. Just outside of the parish on the Gloucester Business Park is Virgin Active which has a swimming pool, gym facilities, a racquets club, and various classes.

Hucclecote Community Association website <http://www.hucclecote.org.uk/>

## The Area

From the centre of Hucclecote it is 2 miles into historic Gloucester, 8 to the regency spa town of Cheltenham, 9.5 to artistic Stroud and 17.5 to Roman Cirencester. Information on Gloucester, Cheltenham, Cotswolds and the Forest of Dean can be found at [www.thecityofgloucester.co.uk/](http://www.thecityofgloucester.co.uk/)





# The Church Building



## The Church

The church was built in 1850 with the north aisle added in 1911 and the vestry in 1928 including its own toilet. The internal reordering of the main body of the church was completed in 1999. For this the pews and stone pulpit were removed, the nave was carpeted and cushioned chairs provided. The area in front of the chancel was redesigned to include a baptistery (used at least annually for adult baptism) and to provide a flexible worship area. In 2003 a new lighting system was installed. The audio visual system is used during services and is currently being updated. In 2015 a kitchenette was installed in the northwest corner of the church to facilitate the provision of refreshments after services and other occasional events. The church seats approximately 220.

Before the church was built the residents of Hucclecote had to go up Chosen Hill to St Bartholomew's church as it was the parish church at that time.

A quinquennial inspection was carried out in 2015 with only minor actions required with respect to tiles, lead flashing, gutters and drain pipes. The 5 year electrical inspection was also carried out in 2015 and was signed off as in 'good and safe condition' with an overall assessment of satisfactory. There is a maintenance policy that keeps the church in a good state of repair.



# The Church Centre Site

Next to the main church building and churchyard are the car park and various buildings, including the Stone Building with its 5 desk church office, meeting room, small kitchenette and toilet, built as the Church School in 1853. In 1993 the church purchased the adjacent brick built school which is now the Church Centre comprising a kitchen, hall, toilets and two smaller rooms. These buildings are used for a wide variety of meetings, social events and outreach activities together with private hire. The school site also included two Horsa buildings, now the Youth Centre and Gordon Rooms. The Youth Centre is currently hired on a 5 day week basis during term time by the Abbeymead Under 5s Playgroup and the Gordon Rooms by a cabinet maker. The playgroup is a large active privately run group that has close links to the church. It also hires the church centre hall on some days of the week.



The Stone Building is structurally sound with the roof having been rebuilt in 1990. The other buildings are in need of some modernisation together with general repair work.







# The Church Family

The church is of an **open evangelical persuasion**. The services are quite varied in style to try to meet the spiritual needs of the congregations. In recent years our attendance has been steady.

St Philip & St James had an **Electoral Roll** of 148 in April 2016 with approximately 40% of the congregation living outside the parish boundaries. There are around 100 regular church members including 14 young people under the age of 16.

The **PCC** meets bi-monthly and there are currently 16 PCC members including 6 ex-officio. We have 2 churchwardens and 3 Deanery Synod representatives. Two members of the PCC are also members of Diocesan Synod. Currently some of the work of the PCC is carried out by sub committees which include Finance; Grounds and Buildings; Staffing, Admin, and Communications; Mission and Ministry; and Social Events.

The current **preaching team** consists of 6 Readers, one serving with OMF in Japan and is due to return to the parish in late 2017, and 3 retired clergy who preside occasionally at services. The Readers take a full and active part in leading Sunday services and officiate at funerals. We have an ordinand in training and one person exploring ordination.

The well-equipped **church office** is open to the public from 10:00 through to 12:30 Monday to Friday and is looked after by our very capable parish administrator who works 20 hours per week. Our site supervisor looks after the day to day tasks around the site.

We have approximately 90 church members in **9 Home Groups** who meet during the week for Bible Study, fellowship and prayer support. They are co-ordinated by a Reader and they get together once or twice a year in church for a joint meeting. They often have their own social events.

We have a team of ladies who diligently renew and arrange the flowers in church each Friday and their displays at festival times are quite spectacular. We have a large and active **Mothers' Union Branch**, a **Tuesday @ Two** games and social group and a **C.A.M.E.O.** group that meets once a month for a talk with invited speakers. There is also a weekly **lunch club** where a two course meal is provided on a Thursday. Details of all of these groups can be found on the church website.







## The Church Family cont.

We are a church that enjoys fellowship, organising many social activities over a typical church year, including shared meals, quiz evening, barbecue, concerts and other activities such as the candle lit Christmas market. Occasionally there are 'one-off' events for example a festival of wedding dresses and flowers through the years where church members brought in their wedding dresses for display, co-ordinated by our flower ladies group. We make the most of our flexible church floor space and for some of these events the chairs in church are rearranged and tables brought in so that people can sit in groups and have somewhere to put their drinks and nibbles. We are keen that these events provide opportunities to reach out into the community.



In the past, members from the church family have regularly attended Christian conferences such as New Wine and Spring Harvest. There have also been church weekends away and more recently a successful church weekend at home.

Many church members participate in services by providing music, Bible readings, intercessions, prayer ministry, steward duties, acting as vergers and helping to administer Communion (authorised by the Bishop).

Andrew, our much appreciated Priest in Charge, sought a new incumbency for personal family reasons, so we are now looking for a new incumbent. We are looking for a leader who can grow our church family and at the same time grow with us, one who is able to draw in young people and is good at building relationships in the community, and to be someone who will love us.



# Worship & Prayer

The church uses various styles of worship; services are ordered to emphasise the relevance of Scripture, and we try to make services accessible to those on the fringes of the church. We use Common Worship and provide Holy Communion at one service every Sunday. Prayer Ministry is always offered at services and we also offer anointing with oil and laying on of hands for healing.

Sunday services start with **a service at 8.45am**, comprising Morning Prayer once a month and Holy Communion 3 times a month with an additional one on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. This is a predominantly adult congregation desiring a more traditional and liturgical approach to worship. Whilst the general approach to worship is respectfully relaxed at this service, for approximately 40 members, the minister will robe. Music at these services is usually traditional hymns from the Sing Glory book.

**The 10.30 service** is informal with some worship led by musicians with a keyboard, guitar, wind instruments and drums. The congregation numbers approximately 60 adults. It is an 'open to the Spirit' service with worship songs through to the occasional traditional hymns. The prayer ministry team may have 'words of knowledge' to bring to the service. PowerPoint presentations and projected words for the songs, readings and prayers free us from books. The minister doesn't normally robe for this service and at least the early part of the service is aimed at involving and appealing to the younger church members. Each week the children start in church and leave the service for Sunday school; they return to church for the distribution of the sacrament when it is Holy Communion.

There are occasional cluster evening services with neighbouring Anglican churches.

**Messy Church** takes place on the first Saturday afternoon of each month and is designed to reach out to those unable to attend Sunday church. Some regular church members attend and numbers can be up to 50.

There is also a **Prayer Time** each weekday morning from 09:30 to 10:00. Members of the **prayer ministry team** also form a very active prayer circle; we hold a Prayer Time morning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month and there are two Prayer Days during the year.

Coffee and tea are provided from our kitchenette at the back of the church after services.





## Worship & Prayer cont.

We are looking for an incumbent who loves and celebrates the Anglican liturgy but is also comfortable with the informal worship of our 10:30 service. We would like our incumbent to develop both our formal and informal worship styles, and to preach and teach God's Word.

### Service Pattern

Service	Time	Type
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	08:45	Common Worship Holy Communion
	10:30	Morning Worship
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	08:45	Common Worship Holy Communion + Anointing
	10:30	Morning Worship
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	08:45	Common Worship Holy Communion
	10:30	Morning Worship
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	10:30	Holy Communion
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	08:45	CW MP
	10:30	Holy Communion + Anointing
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	08:45	Common Worship Holy Communion
	10:30	Morning Worship

Throughout the year there are a number of Occasional Offices for weddings, funerals and baptisms. In the 12 months to the end of October 2016 there were 29 baptisms, 24 taking place at the font and 5 by full immersion either as baptism or renewal of baptismal vows, 5 weddings and 51 funerals of which 15 were in church and 36 at the crematorium.

Infant baptism or thanksgiving is normally in a 1:00 pm service and once a year there is a full immersion baptism in the baptistery at some point on a Sunday.





# Children's Work at St Philip & St James

On Sundays our children's work covers the age range from pre-school to early teens. Mid-week we have pre-school parent and toddler groups, Coffee Pot and Teddy Bears. Coffee Pot meets in the church centre on Tuesday mornings and Teddy Bears at the Pineholt Community Centre on Fridays.



Currently our Sunday school comprises Little PJs for pre-school to year 2, and PJs for up to 14 year olds. The numbers of children and young people have fallen in recent years.

Services are held for the Toddler groups and Playgroup at the church festivals and Messy Church runs on the first Saturday afternoon of the month.

Although Hucclecote is a large area population-wise with two primary schools, youth work is made more difficult as there is no secondary school. The two local primary schools are receptive to church involvement within their syllabus, both on and off site, with school assemblies being held at one primary school and Open the Book at the other. Open the Book stories have been told to KS1 (infants) by our dedicated team of story tellers for about the last 10 years at the primary school nearer to the church.

At present, our children's and youth work (from school age) is largely restricted to church family children on a Sunday. The other churches in Hucclecote offer mid-week youth activities of a more outreach nature.

We are looking to grow the faith of our young people and increase the team of people who lead the young, and for the incumbent to occasionally be involved with children's and young people's work on Sundays.



# Mission

Our mission statement is:

**To share the message of Jesus in our community & beyond, and grow mature disciples by encountering God, supporting each other and serving the world.**

This encompasses our desire for mission into our community and to build a stronger church community through our shared worship, care and service.

We feel that God's **vision** for us is that as we grow **deeper** into God we become **bolder**; as we become **bolder** we step out and take his love and message into the **wider** community, with the result that his church grows **bigger**.

Our vision statement is currently that we desire **to grow deeper, bolder, wider, bigger**.

This is work in progress.

Areas where we need to seek God's guidance include;

- **Communication**
- **Outreach**
- **Discipleship**
- **Pastoral Care**
- **Stewardship**

At St Philip and St James we have a Pastoral Care Group that oversees the pastoral needs of the church and tries to ensure that we are aware of, and able to respond to, such needs accordingly. Informal visiting, bereavement follow up, hospital visiting and prayer ministry are undertaken by a number of different people and regular home communion is taken to the housebound on request. The group is headed up by 3 licensed pastoral assistants.

We reach out to all ages in our community through events which include concerts and a Christmas market. Baptism preparation sessions are led and supported by lay people. Marriage preparation is led by clergy.

We want to develop our parish outreach with our successful Luncheon Club for older residents, "Teddy Bears" and "Coffee Pot" – our popular parent and toddler groups - and continue our "Open the Book" work, where a team brings biblical stories to one of our local primary schools. There are lots of opportunities for mission in this parish, including a very large residential and commercial development at nearby Coopers Edge.



## Mission cont.

Coopers Edge is at the south eastern extremity of our parish at a point where the boundaries of three parishes meet - Upton St Leonards, Brockworth St George and Hucclecote. The housing in this area is effectively 'cut off' from the rest of Upton St Leonards parish by the motorway. To give this area a joined-up pastoral ministry, a 4 year Bishop's Mission Order was issued in February 2014 with the person in the post to be supervised by Hucclecote church. The appointment for this post is on hold at present until diocesan funding becomes available. Further details are available from the Archdeacon.

Scripture Union books are given to the two local primary schools, to pupils in reception at the start of school and to year 6 students as they move up to secondary school. We join with the other Hucclecote churches in sharing the cost of these books.

Gloucester is also home to Redcliffe College, a training centre for students preparing for the mission field or training for cross-cultural ministry. There is occasional interaction with the students and some church members have appreciated the college's short term courses.

The HUB (Hucclecote Uniting Believers) is the three churches, St Philip and St James, Hillview Evangelical Church and the Methodist Church, working together. During any year our joint projects include a holiday club for primary school children, a social event, supporting and being present at the Hucclecote community day, community carols at Christmas and Nativity on a Lorry, (NOAL). The lorry has a nativity tableau on it with adults dressed in nativity costume and accompanied by seasonal music and Christmas carols. It visits as many houses as possible over 2 evenings, offering an invitation to our Christmas services and a wrapped chocolate.

Many of our church members do voluntary work in the Gloucester area giving an opportunity for outreach. This work ranges from helping homeless people who are street sleepers to hospital chaplaincy, hospital helpers, help at Gloucester FoodBank, involvement with the Family Haven (an organisation helping disadvantaged families in the city centre) and other similar charitable volunteering.

We recognise that there is much more to do.





# Financial

The state of the church finances is healthy. It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to 3 months unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations which may arise. We also have reserves of restricted and unrestricted funds totalling approx. £100,000.

We have recently joined the Diocesan Parish Giving Scheme and about 50% of church members on gift-aided planned giving are currently signed up. The other 50% currently give by standing order or yellow envelope Gift Aid Scheme. Other church members use the offertory box.

The Treasurer and other major budget holders produce a budget each year, discussed by the PCC in November and approved at its January meeting. A full and detailed update of the accounts is presented to the PCC at every regular meeting.

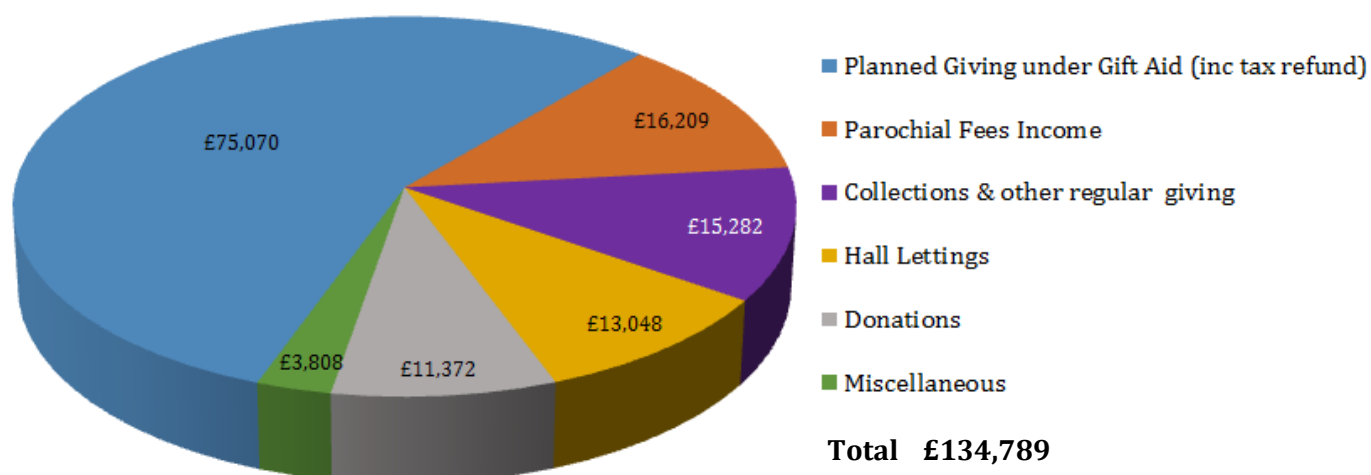
The major proportion of our unrestricted income goes towards paying the parish share which is calculated by the Deanery on a ministry cost basis. We have always been able to pay 100% of our parish share. As a church we are committed to tithe our church income which is given in support of our mission partners as listed on page 14.

Clergy expenses are fully reimbursed for all the reasonable day to day costs that are incurred.

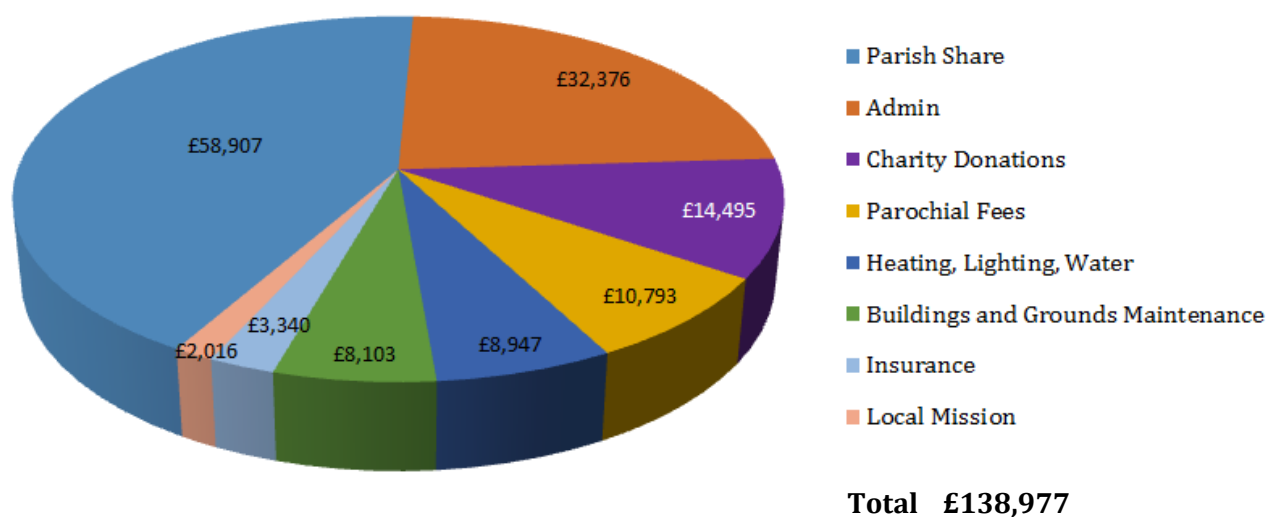
# Financial cont.



## Income 2015



## Expenditure 2015





# The Vicarage



Located at 8 Cadbury Close, Hucclecote, Gloucester, GL3 3UJ, the vicarage is in a prime position within the cul-de-sac and is 1.1 miles from the church. The accommodation comprises a hallway, cloakroom, study, living room, dining room and a well-proportioned kitchen breakfast room. The upstairs offers three double and one single bedroom, one en-suite, and a family bathroom. There is a double garage and parking space for at least two vehicles. Further details are available on request.