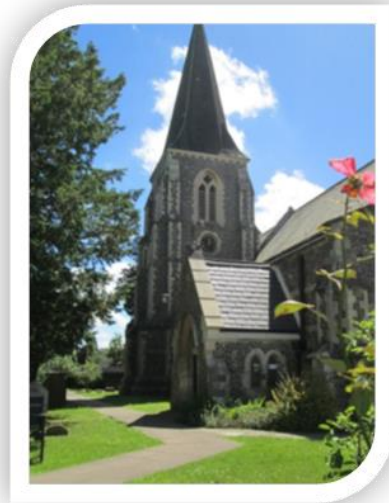


*Called together to make Christ known*

# The Parish of Bracknell



## Parish Profile

Parish Office, The Ring, Bracknell, RG12 1HD

[www.bracknell-parish.org](http://www.bracknell-parish.org)

Facebook: [Holy Trinity Church Bracknell](#) / [Mosaic Church Bracknell](#)

## WELCOME and INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in our church and the post of Vicar of the Parish of Bracknell. We hope that from this profile you will gain a flavour of our parish life and mission, and that God will guide you and us to find the person God is calling to be our new Vicar.

### Brief Introduction

Our Parish has seen significant changes over recent years with the dissolution of the Team Ministry at the end of 2020, which now makes possible the appointment of an Incumbent. The Incumbent would have pastoral responsibilities for the parish.

The parish consists of two Anglican mission hubs, with more traditional clergy led congregations centred at Holy Trinity Church and a Fresh Expressions lay led congregation at Mosaic. We seek a visionary who will relish working across these contrasting styles and can sympathetically lead change. We envision this change including shifting the current priestly focus on Holy Trinity to a new balance, of new priestly roles, to support both hubs in order to achieve our parish ambition of growth and outreach. This would include more focus of the incumbent's role on reaching the unchurched.

The Parish also provides oversight to the Town Centre Mission.



**HOLY TRINITY**



**MOSAIC**

### Our ambition

To appoint an incumbent to:

- Lead our journey as a Parish to be a sustainable presence in the evolving town of Bracknell
- Enable our congregations to develop as disciples in faith and mission
- Enhance our lay capabilities

We are looking for a priest who:

- Relishes new opportunities
- Encourages us to build relationships across the generations
- Can sympathetically lead change, particularly within Holy Trinity congregations.
- Will help us to help them in maintaining *their* well being and *our* resilience by being more lay reliant.

### **Preface from the Archdeacon**

The parish has reached an important moment in its journey. Prolonged organisational uncertainty has been resolved and the church community is now looking forward with a clear sense of resolve. This parish is distinguished by the presence of two different expressions of faith and mission.

The traditional expression is based in the parish church where people are beginning to think about what changes may help them to better connect across the generations. The new incumbent will be invited to build on this desire to develop mission and ministry and to engage the wider congregation with a shared vision for the future. There are good civic and educational connections to work with.

The fresh expression of church is based in a local housing area. It is relatively mature and self-sustaining. The challenge, beyond regathering and recovering from the last two years, is to work with the lay leadership team to discern how it might be developed in the coming years.

The new incumbent will be adept at working well across both expressions of church and will be able to guide a process of corporate discernment and change with clarity and empathy.

The Ven. Stephen Pullin  
Archdeacon of Berkshire

### **Preface from the Area Dean**

As incumbent of a neighbouring parish and recently appointed Co-Area Dean, I look forward to welcoming a new incumbent to the Parish of Bracknell. As is evidenced in this profile, there has been considerable change to the town centre and in the parish over the last few years. It will be important for the new incumbent to be skilled in helping the parish to discern God's vision for the church in the years ahead and together to identify a clear sense of direction and mission, and she or he will need to encourage existing lay leaders and raise up new ones.

As well as being welcomed by Deanery colleagues, there will be a warm welcome for the new incumbent to Bracknell Christian Network, a group of church leaders and others who meet together each week to pray for Bracknell and each other, and who seek to work in partnership with each other across the town.

May the Lord guide you as you consider whether he is calling you to join us in the Bracknell Deanery.

The Revd Catharine Mabuza  
Bracknell Area Dean

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Parish mission statement is:

**'Called together to make Christ known'**

As 'one body with many parts', we believe that we are called to teach, train and equip the people of God in the Parish of Bracknell to make the love of God known through:

- our worship,
- our pastoral care,
- our involvement in community life.

We aim to draw people to Christ by making our mission appropriate to the time and place in which we are called to serve. We will continue to develop and support our congregations, encouraging them to be prayerful, faith-confident people.



## PARISH of BRACKNELL'S DIRECTION of TRAVEL

This profile is a mix of what we did as a parish before lockdown and during. Our ambition is to embrace what we have learnt during lockdown and to build back better going forward. The PCC gathered congregational input to weave into this profile. The detailed input is in Appendix 1.

**Our Onward Journey as a Parish** - *The PCC wish to work with a collaborative leader for positive change. Our priorities are:*

- Clarity of Purpose – with the change from team ministry to a Parish and years of interim ministers, we need to renew our vision, hopes and sense of direction.
- Cherish people who are within the church family, whatever their role and stage of life.
- Support all age, co-pilgrims on a journey of discovery and discipleship.
- Encouraging wider involvement in Parish life **across the generations** – engage the untapped gifts available and change the perception of what it means to be involved.
- Love the people God has placed us amongst, drawing people to Christ

**What we need** - *The job to be done to achieve our priorities includes:*

- Facilitate our journeys of discipleship among all ages.
- Build up our community of love, grace and mutual respect.
- Enable and encourage participation in worship and wider mission with all, through a variety of approaches.
- Enable and encourage leadership among lay and young people; building up teams particularly those for children, families and young people

**Who we need** - *The PCC believe the following attributes are essential in our appointed Parish Incumbent:*

- Servant leader with a collaborative style of ministry with clear accountability
- Collaborative ability to develop a vision, strategy and plan, for the next phase in the new life of the Parish of Bracknell
- Ready for the challenges of change and a growing church
- Values and encourages the contributions of all through active engagement
- Ability to discern gifts and ministry in others, and experience in nurturing such gifts.
- Someone who takes their own well-being (spiritual, mental, physical) seriously in order to maintain their resilience, sustain their ministry and love their life among us

## INTRODUCTION to the PARISH of BRACKNELL

### WHO WE ARE

#### Holy Trinity



The congregations of Holy Trinity are 'gathered', with over 50% of those who attend and on the electoral roll living outside the Parish boundary. Members tend to come from a traditional Anglican background, enjoy the church space as a place of worship and/or value ordained leadership.

During Lockdown services have move to Zoom and live streaming on Facebook.

Due to its location near to the town centre, which is within the parish boundaries, Holy Trinity acts as the civic church. The town's Remembrance Sunday service has traditionally been held in the church. A Battle of Britain Sunday service is attended by Air Cadets, reflecting Bracknell's association with the RAF.



Some local families (who may not be regular members of our congregation) see Holy Trinity as their church and come for baptisms, weddings and funerals. A memorial service is held each year to which families who have been bereaved are invited.

Local schools and organisations visit the church: Ranelagh School comes to Holy Trinity for a service of Holy Communion each term and also holds concerts in the church; Holly Spring and Harmans Water Primary Schools hold Christmas services in the Church and Uniformed organisations visit the church to work for their faith badges.

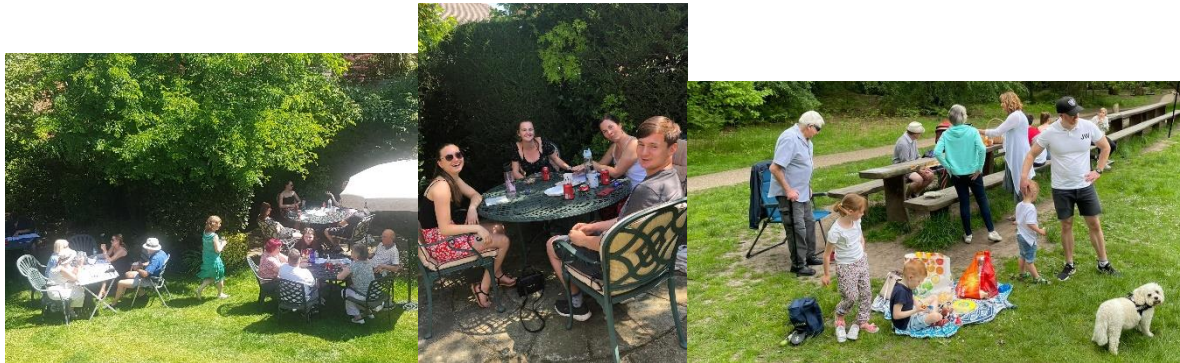
The Church has been used as a venue for musical concerts. A community choir used the church on a regular basis until 2019.

#### Mosaic Bracknell

Mosaic Bracknell's mission statement is 'Build community, grow disciples, reach the unchurched'. We are intentionally focussed on seeker friendly activities and positioned as a church for people who don't do church and who either have no church experience or have been away from church for a long time. The image of Mosaic represents us as broken people brought together by God to make a thing of beauty. We use the Mosaic logo which was originated by Irwin McManus in Mosaic Los Angeles



Our services are informal and café style, for the whole family, with the minimum elements of a Service of the Word, including a short (typically 12 minute) talk and an aim to engage people in dialogue and response. In more normal times we meet as a church family on Sunday mornings in The Parks Community Centre. This location gives us a particular interest in outreach to The Parks estate. During COVID lock down we have used this model for our services, typically hosted live on screen by a service leader and a speaker using StreamYard live studio software, streaming to Facebook. As we transition out of lockdown we have run a series of garden events to reconnect our church family.



We have always been a lay led congregation with a shared lay team of (currently seven) leaders. The Incumbent, as a member of that team, is involved on all significant decisions and Mosaic is under the authority and governance of the PCC. We have a small team of authorised preachers and a wider range of occasional speakers and activity leaders. When we are meeting face to face, we aim to have someone ordained present once a month to lead us in a service of Holy Communion, held after our main service and open to all.

Looking to the future, together Holy Trinity and Mosaic, are open to change as we “build back better” and find new ways to connect with our local community, in all age groups, while consolidating the many online relationships that have developed.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

### Services

Right now, we look forward to being able to worship, pray and sing together in person without the restrictions made necessary by the pandemic. However, as we emerge from these particularly challenging times, we give thanks to God for the benefit of technology. As a result of this, many of us have been able to take part in services and prayer on-line, and we hope that on-line worship will continue to form part of our parish life together.

Service	Pre-Pandemic		During Pandemic
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Style</b>	<b>Average attendance Oct 19</b>	
8am - Holy Trinity	Said Holy Communion - BCP and CW alternating	15	Periodic restart when possible
9.30am - Holy Trinity followed by fellowship	Eucharist, with monthly service pattern of 2 more formal, 1 family oriented and the rest less formal. There is a small choir most Sundays or a solo singer.	69 adults, 25 children	Online via Zoom & livestream to FB. Fellowship after service on Zoom
9.15 – Langley Hall	Children’s Church (4-10yrs) / Youth Breakfast (11yrs – 14yrs) x 2 mth in term time.		Families invited to online service
10.30am – Mosaic @ The Parks, followed by fellowship	Informal, café style, family focused. Followed by communion once per month.	15 adults, 8 children	Live stream to FB
5.15 – Holy Trinity	Vespers	7	Live stream to FB
<b>Weekday</b>			
Thursday 10am – Langley Hall	Said Holy Communion	20	Live streamed to FB. Restarted in church May 21.
8am – Mon / Tue 6.15pm - We/ Thurs	Daily Offices		New - Live Streamed on FB.
Saturday 8.30am – except 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday - Langley Hall meeting room.	Prayers (Mosaic and Holy Trinity)	8	Online via Zoom
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10.30am - The Bull	Town Centre Prayer group	20	Online via Zoom

The Parish Electoral Roll is 239 (June 21).





### **Pastoral support and weekday activities**

- The parish set up a hardship fund in March 2020 providing financial support to people living in Bracknell facing difficulties because of the pandemic
- During the pandemic our pastoral support work was extended, particularly to more vulnerable members of the congregation, through regular phone contact; devotional materials were distributed, and flowers were delivered to some members of the congregation
- In the past there was a regular bible study group, these stopped during the pandemic. Recently a Lent group was held on Zoom.
- Our regular mid-week coffee morning moved over to Zoom during the Pandemic
- The Mothers' Union meets once a month for fellowship and prayer, to discuss wide-ranging topics based on family life and to hear about the world-wide work of the MU
- We have in the past had Parish events, such as: BBQ in Langley Hall grounds; afternoon tea at the Grange Hotel opposite Holy Trinity; Quiz nights with supper.



### **Langley Hall as a base for community activities**

- The PCC have provided the use of the hall as a gift in kind for several initiatives, including PACT family support
- The parish supports the local night shelter, Pilgrim Hearts, working with other churches in the area to provide shelter and meals on a rota basis for four months each year; Langley Hall has been used once a week for this up to March 2020
- During term time and for part of the school holidays Langley Hall is used by an after-school club

- Other recent hirers include a group for dementia sufferers and their carers, evening exercise classes, dog training classes and out of school Maths classes. Langley Hall is also hired occasionally for social events

### Town Centre Mission

Currently (Dec 2021) we have two part time lay Pioneers working one day a week each on Town Centre Mission in Bracknell. Town Centre Mission is managed on behalf of Bracknell PCC and the Incumbent by a steering group of three people, one of whom is the line manager of the pioneers. Funding is also through the Parish. The team operates under the brand “One Step Closer”. We aim to help people through informal conversations which enable them to take one step closer to Jesus.



Our two part time Pioneers are currently piloting a workplace chaplaincy model for the town centre. They are inviting local Christians from across the churches to pray.

The context, history and future strategy for the Town Centre Ministry can be given on request.



## GOVERNANCE

There are a number of forums that currently run to provide governance to our parish life and ensure we meet at least the minimum standards of all legislative and Diocese best practices by the appointment of responsible people and/or policy. Although people often fill multiple roles.

**PCC** - We have a PCC of 9 people including the Church Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, vice-chair and members from the various congregations, there are 6 casual vacancies. We have 1 deanery synod representative and 4 casual vacancies. The PCC meet monthly, except for August and December.

**Standing Committee** – has a remit from the PCC to take decisions if required outside of PCC.

**Finance and Administration group** – meet to discuss these topics in detail and bring recommendations to the PCC for ratification.

**Buildings Committee** – Have a remit from the PCC to manage the maintenance of Holy Trinity, Langley Hall and the grounds.

**Staff meetings** – weekly planning meeting involving Incumbent, Parish and Financial Administrators, Sacristan and a church warden.

**Mosaic Leadership meetings** – monthly evening meetings including the Incumbent when available

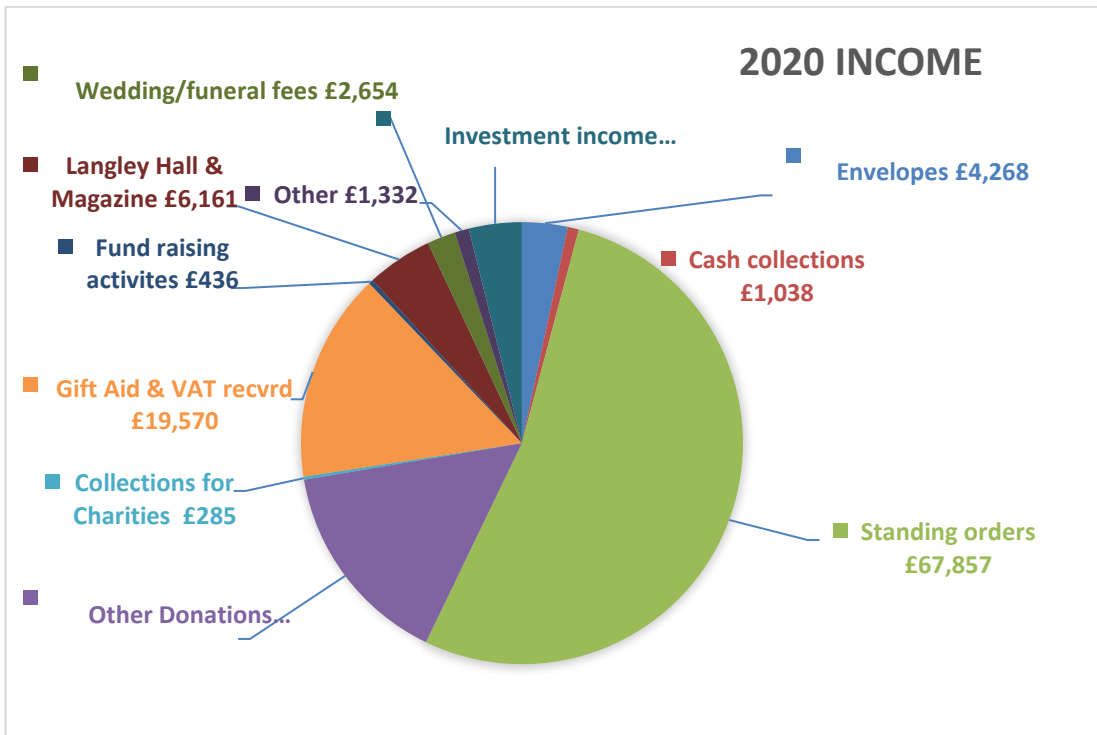
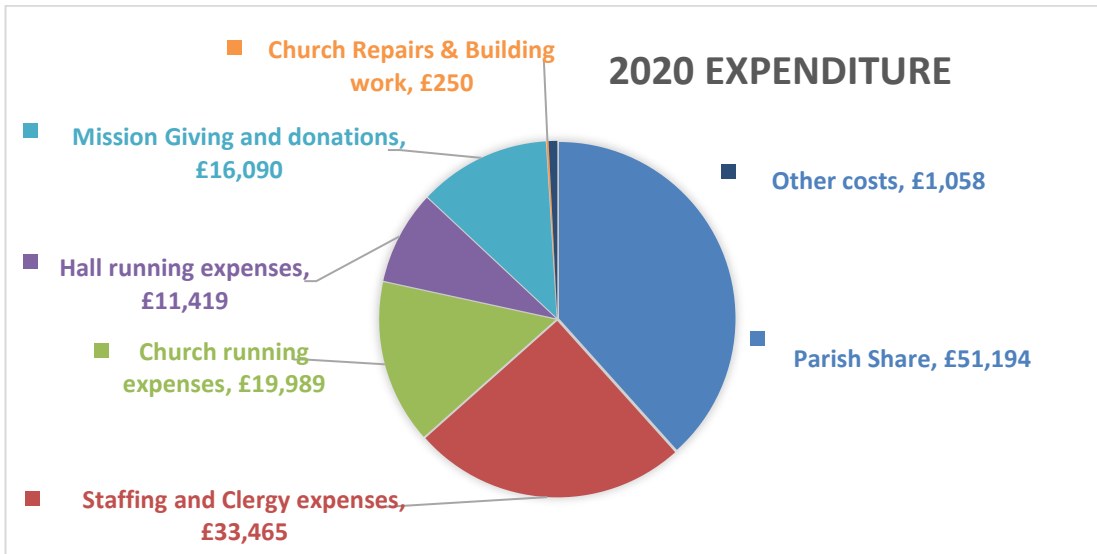
### **Staff**

There are 2 employed part time members of staff: a Finance Administrator (2 mornings a week) who reports to the Treasurer, and a Parish Administrator (5 mornings a week) who reports to the Incumbent.

### **Support we will offer to our incumbent**

- Encouragement to maintain a sustainable ministry, including days off, holidays, retreats, opportunities for learning and development, adequate time for family life, friendship and recreation.
- Shared commitment to meeting the challenges identified
- Prayer, friendship, fellowship

## FINANCES



## BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

### Holy Trinity Church

The Parish Church is on the edge of the recently redeveloped town centre, close to transport hubs. It was built in 1851. It is a Grade 2 listed building and as with all churches of this age, it comes with the challenges of maintaining the building in good repair. It has a capacity of around 350 people seated in pews and chairs. The South and North Aisle have been cleared of pews to create more flexible space, including a children's play area and space for providing hospitality. It plays the role of a civic church for the town.



### Our churchyard as a quiet haven in a busy town

- Local people enjoy walking through the churchyard and some stop to take photos of the church
- Students and some town centre workers appreciate spending breaks in the churchyard

### Langley Hall

Langley Hall, adjacent to Holy Trinity and close to the town centre, was built in 1975. The main hall (seating up to 100) is used for a variety of meetings, community ventures and lettings. There is a small office for the Parish Administrator, and a larger office where the Finance Administrator works, with a photocopier and resources for others to use. There is a small meeting room, available for clergy and lay ministers to hold meetings (including a Saturday morning Clergy Surgery).



**The Vicarage - Old Lands Hill, Bracknell.**



The Vicarage is a four bedroomed detached house with lounge, dining room with doors to back garden, fitted kitchen and utility room leading off the kitchen and doors to back garden, downstairs cloakroom, private study / home office, professionally extended to include a garage space, off the entrance hall. 1st floor has 4 bedrooms (Master with ensuite and fitted storage, 3 further bedrooms all with fitted wardrobes), family bathroom. There is an enclosed rear garden with side entrance and small front garden. Single garage and off-road parking for two cars.

While the Vicarage is geographically outside the Parish, it is 1 mile from Holy Trinity Church which can be reached in 5 minutes by road or a comfortable 15 minutes walk on main footpaths.

## Our Parish Community

### Background

The parish, like the town, has seen significant changes over the years. Holy Trinity Church, now on the edge of the town centre, was opened in 1851, and later extended. For a time the parish was a Team ministry, including St Andrews church in the Priestwood neighbourhood, and an Anglican congregation worshipping in St Paul's URC in Harmans Water. However, at the end of 2013 the last Anglican Sunday service was held in Harmans Water, and in 2014 St Andrews was transferred to a neighbouring parish. The Mosaic congregation joined the parish in 2012, and has been using The Parks Community Hall since 2015. More recently, in 2016, the Parish obtained funding from the Diocese for the Town Centre Mission, which is currently still active, although operating at a reduced level since the start of the pandemic. The Team Ministry was dissolved at the end of 2020, which now makes possible the appointment of an incumbent.

### Deanery Perspective

The Bracknell Deanery comprises eight parishes from Sunningdale to Binfield. They fall into two informal clusters (Bracknell and Ascot) based on geographical area - Bracknell Parish is in the 'Bracknell Cluster' with Binfield, Easthampstead and Warfield. <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/reading/deaneries/bracknell/>

The Bracknell Deanery Synod holds three meetings annually with the aim to support the Deanery Mission Action Plan. In addition, the Deanery hosts a Gathering, once a year, which is open to all in the deanery. The theme for 2021 was *Faith in Action – Making a Difference*.

### Local Churches

Parishes directly adjacent to the Parish of Bracknell are Easthampstead, Binfield and Warfield. The town centre itself lies within the Parish of Bracknell.

<https://www.warfield.org.uk>

<http://www.stmichaelsesthampstead.org.uk>

<http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk>

<http://www.bracknell-parish.org>

There are also a number of vibrant and active churches in and around Bracknell, many of which have an active involvement interest in mission and ministry in the new town centre, including:

- **St Josephs RC Church** (<http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>), is right in the centre of Bracknell, and has a strong social justice ministry.
- **Kerith** (<https://www.kerith.church/>), originally a Baptist church but now independent, has a large gathered congregation and is situated next to Bracknell and Wokingham College on the other side of Church Road. Kerith has a very strong community action programme (including food bank and advice).
- **Vineyard** Church has recently relocated to Brackenhale School within half a mile of the town centre (Check – cannot trace web site)
- **Easthampstead Baptist** Church (EBC), which has a strong social mission, mostly around the residential areas.

<http://www.ebc-bracknell.org>

Other significant congregations include:

- **Seventh Day Adventists** have a strong presence locally, based at Newbold College in Binfield and are active in the Night Shelter (<https://www.newbold.ac.uk/virtual-visit/#church>).
- **Bracknell Methodist** Church in the Priestwood area, also involved in the Night Shelter (<http://www.bracknellmethodist.org.uk>)
- **St Paul's URC Church**, Harmans Water, has a focus on developing community outreach in the Harmans Water area (<http://bracknellurc.org.uk>)

- **New Covenant Church** is a Pentecostal church, which has been meeting near the train station: (<http://www.newcovenantbracknell.com/welcome.htm>).
- **Victorious Assembly** church has prayer meetings during the week as well as Sunday worship (<http://rccgbracknell.org>).

There is a weekly prayer breakfast of church leaders, currently meeting on-line. Although there is no formal organizational structure, such as Churches Together, there is a strong desire to work together on joint causes for the Kingdom and to demonstrate unity rather than just talk about it.

Bracknell has a lower than average 'other faith' population, though this is beginning to change. The most numerous non-Christian religious grouping is Hindu, with a strong and historic Gurkha community. There is a growing number of Muslims in the area from different countries.

### Schools

Bracknell Parish currently has 6 schools and the local college:

- Crown Wood Primary
- Holly Spring Infant & Nursery and Holly Spring Junior
- Harmans Water Primary
- St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary
- Ranelagh Church of England Academy (Secondary) \_
- Bracknell and Wokingham College of Further Education

In addition to these schools within the Parish there are several other local primary and secondary schools in the immediate vicinity, including St Michael's CE Aided Primary that has the whole of Bracknell as its catchment area.

### Parish Boundaries

The Parish of Bracknell contains the town centre and covers some of the neighbourhoods of the town, including Bullbrook, Harmans Water, Crown Wood, the Warren, Forest Park, and the Parks (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/search/?lat=51.41604&lon=-0.75398&place=Bracknell%2C+UK&text=>).

Although the parish boundaries were redrawn in 2014, so that the area of the parish was reduced, the population of the parish grew from 22,785 in 2011 to 25,360 in 2018, showing the impact of new housing in or close to the town centre (<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=67bce0ed36dd4ee0af7a16bc079aa09a&extent=-0.4317,51.313,0.1986,51.5945>).

## BRACKNELL LOCATION

Bracknell is a town which has seen many changes over the years. Originally it was a small settlement in Windsor forest; it developed as a market town and its growth was accelerated by the arrival of the railway in 1856. After the Second World War Bracknell was chosen as one of the first new towns, providing housing and employment for people moving out of London and Reading.

Engineering companies moved into the area, and the Met Office established its headquarters in the town, where it remained until 2003. The town benefitted from being close to major motorways and Heathrow Airport. Bracknell became a centre for IT companies and several major corporations set up their headquarters in the town.

Bracknell has expanded since the 1940s, with new estates being added with neighbourhood facilities. Housing was originally erected by the Development Corporation, although later new housing

developments have been built by private developers. More recently there has been a significant increase in housing in and close to the town centre, replacing older buildings and including some redevelopment of office blocks.

Bracknell is a unitary authority, and has a town council (<https://bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk/>) while being within the borough of Bracknell Forest (<https://bracknell-forest.berkshireobservatory.co.uk>). The 2019 population of the borough is estimated at 122,549 (<https://bracknell-forest.berkshireobservatory.co.uk/population/>).

The town centre has changed significantly over the years, with the development of pedestrianised areas from the 70s onwards, and more recently the redevelopment of much of the retail area, with the building of the Lexicon, opened in 2017 (<https://www.thelexiconbracknell.com/>) as part of plans to regenerate the town centre (<https://bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk/bracknell/bracknell-town-centre-regeneration/>).

Appendix 1.

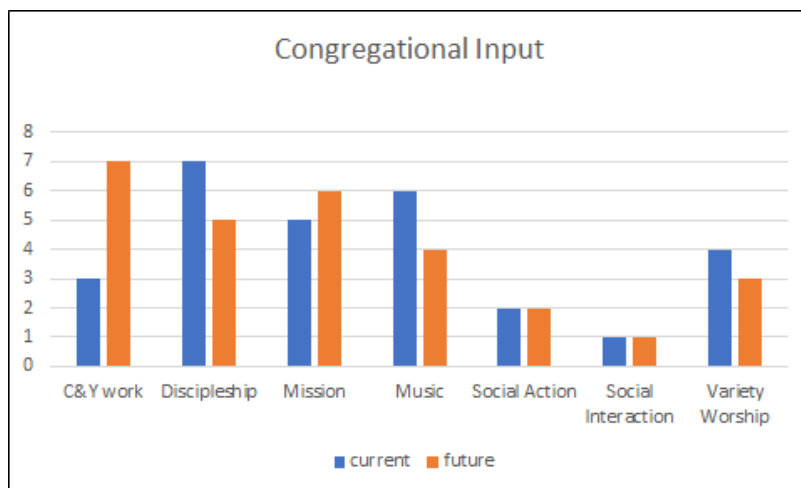
**Congregational Input**

In our profile preparation, the PCC invited congregational input via a survey form which we followed up with focus groups.

This is the wordle of how we see ourselves, from the survey, with the size of the word representing how many times it was mentioned. All input has been included and while the majority describe a welcoming, inclusive church there are words like ‘uncaring’ and ‘uninspiring’. As the survey was anonymous the PCC was unable to follow up on these directly and there was nothing in the follow-up focus groups that helped explain these. We have included them for transparency of future conversations to be had.



We also asked for participant’s ranking of 7 attributes as they saw them now (current) and their priority for the growth of our Parish in the future. The results are shown in the graph with 7 being the highest priority.



From the comments and previous surveys of this type a proposed analysis would be that our forward focus should be on mission (growth) and discipleship (maturity in faith) with particular inclusion of children and youth. This focus would come from an acceptance of our music and service offerings. The lower focus on social action and social interaction is consistent with previous survey results related to Holy Trinity congregations. Regarding social action, people make their own choices on social concerns

and their response to that in their personal involvement and giving. On social interaction, as a gathered congregation there is limited expectation of the church acting as a community focus point.

The PCC are also open, that our current strengths and ambitions may need a paradigm shift to achieve the true growth in faith, connections and numbers we desire. For example, while people seem happy with the level of social interaction could a step change in that unlock the lay involvement that Holy Trinity needs?

This summary was enhanced by 2 focus groups, ran with cross congregational attendance.



Thurs am responses  
and comments.docx



Chat from Bracknell  
parish event 190821