



# *Andover Parish* **PROFILE**

**Associate Minister**



**Andover  
Parish**  
andoverparish.org

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*A Welcome from the*

## **RECTOR OF ANDOVER PARISH**

**As I write, I have been in post for just a week — and already I have been struck by the remarkable sense of growth and renewal across Andover Parish.**

Over recent months our congregations have experienced encouraging expansion in numbers, faith, and energy. It feels very much as though we are entering a new season of opportunity and fruitfulness.

We have a growing zeal for mission that I believe will, in time, lead us to plant new congregations across the town. To sustain that growth, we must now multiply ministries and leaders — equipping God's people to serve with confidence, compassion, and creativity.

At the same time, I am deeply mindful of the need to pastor well the faithful congregation at West Andover. Some identify it as an Anglo-Catholic church, but in reality it is a mission-hearted, eucharistic community — gracious, welcoming, and deeply prayerful, albeit now largely elderly. They have shown great resilience through years of transition, with a rapid turnover of priests and long vacancies. Our hope is to see this community flourish again and, within the next couple of years, to plant a contemporary, family-focused congregation from St Mary's into West Andover.

This next chapter will require pastoral sensitivity, spiritual depth, winsomeness, courage, and strong people leadership. If you share that calling — to love God's people, to lead with grace, and to see the gospel of Christ take deeper root in Andover — we would be delighted to hear from you.

**The Revd Dr Peter Harwood**

*Rector of Andover Parish*





*Pictured (L-R): St Michael's West Andover, St Paul's, St Mary's & St Michael's KE*

## Our Parish

**Andover Parish, created on May 1st, 2023, is a large Church of England parish covering most of the town of Andover.** Andover is a significant regional town, situated in northwest Hampshire and part of Winchester Diocese. Home to c52,000 residents, the town continues to expand.

Located in the central east edge of the Andover Deanery, there are four churches within the Parish: St Mary's, (central Andover); St Michael & All Angels, (West Andover); St Michael & All Angels, (Knights Enham) and St Paul's, (Smannell Road). As well as the four parish churches, we have three church halls and Parish offices at Gateway Place (in the town's shopping centre). We also have two church schools: Andover CoE and Pilgrims' Cross in the new development of Picket Twenty where the Incumbent is a governor.

In 2019 St Mary's was made a Resource Church largely funded by Revitalise (the development arm of HTB) and the Winchester Strategic Development Team with Strategic Development Funding (SDF) from the CofE. This paid for the re-ordering of St Mary's in 2020 and staffing to support the growth of the church and missional outreach into the town. In response to the pandemic the Lighthouse was also created in 2020. As we tail off these funding streams, and having gone through a Parish merger in 2023, the governance and staffing structure is consolidating into one centrally managed parish with administrative staff funded by the parish and grant funded missional outreach staff.

The governance structure established for the new Parish was simplified after 12 months and continues to be reviewed as to the most manageable and efficient

structure for our purposes. The Parish should have one Incumbent and two associate ministers. There are three full time stipendiary posts (Rector and two full time associates) plus a curate (part time)

Andover Parish is a leader on many fronts and has been studied as a national example of how to work in partnership with external stakeholders. From outreach through the Lighthouse to being identified as a formal stakeholder in the future town planning forum 'Andover Vision', the parish plays an active role in many secular conversations around and about the town.

All buildings in the parish require ongoing maintenance, St Mary's and St Michael's Knights Enham are due for planned renovations, and conversations are being held around plans to reorder St Michael's West Andover and St Paul's, aligned with a vision to engage with the rising generations.

There is huge opportunity for continued growth in all areas of vision and mission to build on the work that has already taken place.

Each of our churches has its own history, identity and worshipping life, whilst interlocking and overlapping with each other. We are excited to see what happens next in our journey to share Jesus for the people of Andover.



## Our *Church Life*

**As a community of churches, we hold a rich variety of expressions of faith, belonging, and tradition. There is a wide breadth of worship in our seven services each week across Andover Parish. We value them all and want as many voices to flourish as possible within our church family.**



**St Mary's 9am** is a traditional communion service using the Common Worship Book with a small choir and robed clergy. The congregation averages 49. **St Mary's 10.45am** is a relaxed contemporary service with a worship band and large children's groups. The congregation averages 194. **The 6.30pm**, the only evening service in the parish, transitioned last year from a worship service to a prayerful bible study in small groups, offering a different experience to any of our other services. This congregation averages 18. The evening service is currently lay led while we work through commitments around clergy workload. There is also a midweek communion service on Wednesdays at 10:30 with a typical congregation of 24.

**St Michael's West Andover** is a church with a Eucharistically-centred liturgical tradition offering a traditional **10.30am service** with communion. They have strong links with the scout group who provide breakfast on the first Sunday of the month followed by an informal café church-style service. This long-standing and gently growing congregation averages 37 with a number of young families.

**St Michael's Knights Enham** is a small medieval chapel with a committed local congregation averaging 11. They have a traditional **BCP service at 8.30am** every week, with communion once a month.

**St Paul's** runs an all-age service at **10am** (children's group on the 2nd & 4th Sundays). They are a growing, diverse community enjoying an informal service led by a piano and guitar alternating between communion and worship, and on fifth Sundays a café church is held. The congregation averages 46. Additionally, there is a youth service at 5pm with a variety of content.



**We aim to have ministries dedicated to all ages and stages of life.** Therefore, we have lay led groups around the parish catering to toddlers and their carers, coffee mornings and afternoon teas for older generations, walking groups and more. We also, have lay led, parish wide ministries for men and women running socials and events throughout the year. Additionally, we have a particular heart to grow youth ministry in the parish through our Youth Community Lead and lay youth team. The youth teams utilise the Life Bus extensively: our opportunity to take mission onto the streets, meeting young people where they are.

We aim to grow discipleship and friendship through **Connect Groups**, regular home bible study groups, and opportunities to volunteer across our broad range of ministries to play a part in growing God's Kingdom in Andover.

**Major annual events** such as Advent, Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Sunday are important gathering times for the town to come to church. In Advent we are privileged to host a range of carol concerts, school and charity events, in addition to our own seasonal events. In 2023 over 6000 attendees were counted at Advent services across the Parish.

**Remembrance Sunday** is commemorated at the town war memorial adjacent to St Mary's and at St Michael's, Knights Enham. The event at St Mary's is a major civic service attracting hundreds of people to the outdoor event at the war memorial adjacent to the church.

In addition, the Parish churches are popular for **life events**. The number of occasional offices conducted speak in part to the larger than average size of the Parish. We conduct 15-20 weddings; 40-45 funerals; 30-35 child baptisms and 15-20 adult baptisms annually. The majority of these are conducted at St Mary's.

We are fortunate to have **several retired and self-supporting clergy** to share our ministry as this is a large and busy parish. Some regularly support services by presiding or preaching, some particularly support Occasional Offices and others are happy to be called on ad hoc. The role of those with permission to officiate (PTO) is vital. We have also benefitted from the support of several curates in the past. The parish also benefits from a number who hold the Bishop's Commission for Mission.

Each church site provides **hiring opportunities** for community and commercial organisations including pre-schools in the church halls of St Mary's and St Michael's West Andover plus uniformed groups at St Paul's and St Michael's West Andover.

**The Parish has two Church of England Primary Schools** and clergy provide ex-officio Governors. Clergy also deliver assemblies and RE lessons as well as pastoral care. Special events such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas involve events at school and in church. We are also building strong links with the town's secondary schools and Further Education College, particularly through the Life Bus, the Lighthouse and the Youth Community Lead.

The Parish has strong links with the **civic community** through the previous Rector's role as chaplain to the Mayor of Test Valley (a rotating position) and as a stakeholder in the Andover Vision, the town's regeneration forum. St Mary's hosts civic services including Armistice Day and the annual Mayor's Civic Service. Since moving the Parish Offices to the Chantry Centre, we have shared the space with the Primary Care Network (PCN). A sign of this successful partnership is that we have been asked to provide a chaplaincy role to their team.

Through our strong civic links and the growth of the Lighthouse, **we have partnered with many external agencies to deliver our outreach mission**. We work with the NHS specifically through the PCN, Test Valley Borough Council and Andover Town Council. Andover Churches Together (ACT) brings all the churches of Andover together in conversation to grow the Kingdom in Andover.



# St Michael *and All Angels*

West Andover SP10 3BB

## *The History*

**St Michael's started as a mission hall from St Mary's and became a parish with its own church built in 1963.**

With its large windows, it is a bright and flexible place of worship, individual seating enables the space to be configured in different ways to suit a variety of events. It hosts a stable, gracious and Eucharistic centred congregation with communion being shared on all but one Sunday a month. The first Sunday of the month is usually an informal café style service.

The church has parking and a lawned area to one side which has been used for fetes, BBQs and outdoor worship. It has a refurbished hall on the site which is extensively used by local community groups. Currently it has a preschool operating out of the hall.

There are extensive plans to refurbish this architectural gem to ensure the growth of the church. These include improving accessibility, heating, toilets, kitchen and improved meeting spaces. The church was originally built surrounded by green fields, but an industrial estate and housing have closed in on the site. A large secondary school is just along the road and so whilst the church is now less physically visible than its original design intended, there is huge missional opportunity in the world that has grown up around it and the reordering seeks to speak into that.

## *The Church*

**The church has always been warm and welcoming to visitors and new members.** Sharing the peace is an enthusiastic element of the service with its opportunity to circulate around the full congregation. Regular attendance is around 39 people.

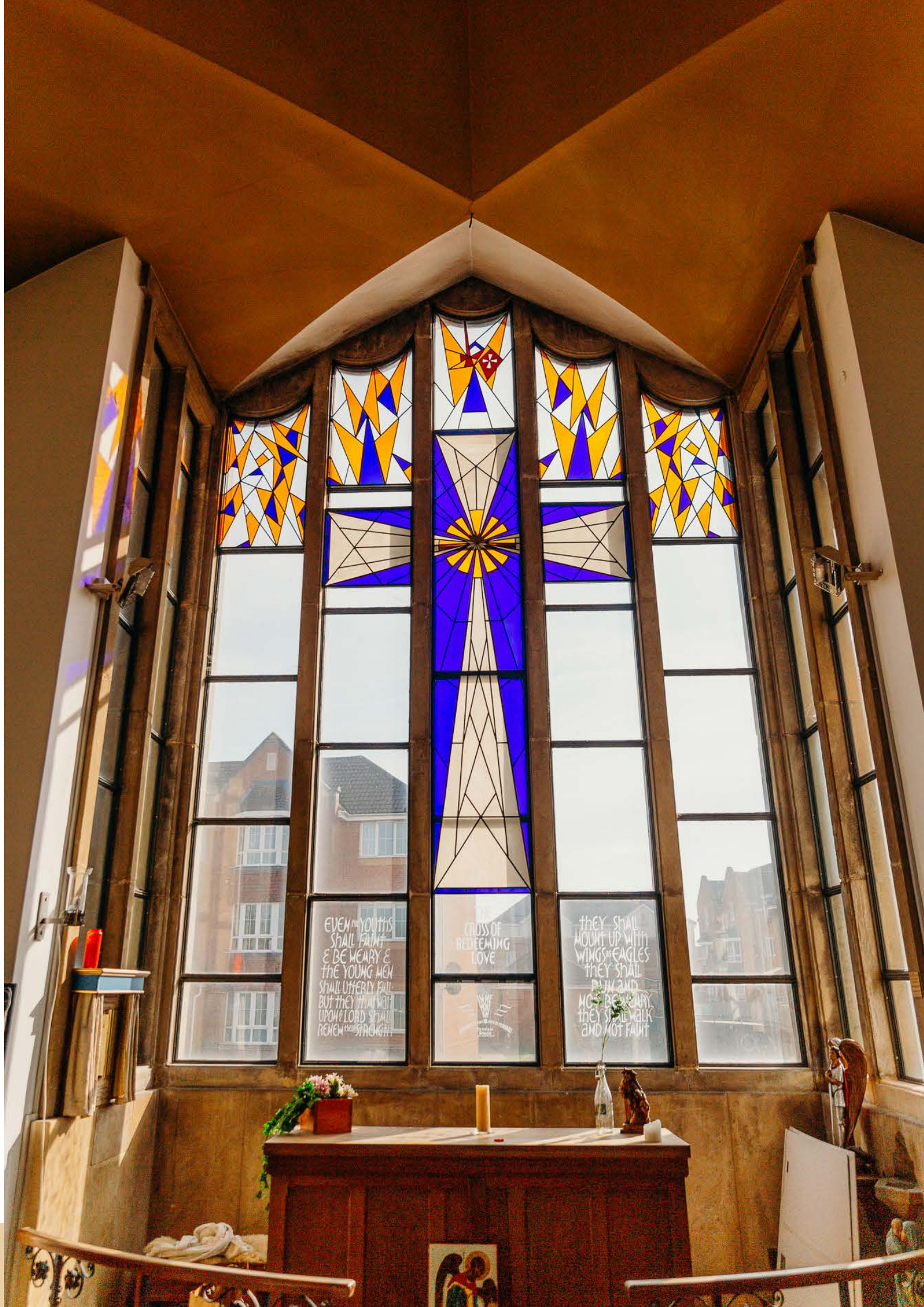
St Michael's have relaunched a toddler group with the new name 'Mustard Seed West Andover' - on the first day there were 12 children! There is a growing congregation and can offer a cafe style Church service, an liturgical traditional service, with a plan to introduce a 4pm service for those who may find Church hard to access at times, especially for families with neurodiverse children.

The number of schools in the parish and their proximity to the church are one of the primary pathways to the community in West Andover.

Since joining Andover Parish, the Life Bus visits the church on a Monday, and they are reconnecting with local schools.

They hope to see this place grow and bless the life of the parish in its own unique ways.





EVEN THE YOUTH  
SHALL FAINT  
& BE WEARY &  
THE YOUNG MEN  
SHALL UTTERLY FAIL  
BUT THEY THAT WAIT  
UPON LORD SHALL  
RENEW THEIR STRENGTH

CROSS OF  
REDEEMING  
LOVE

they shall  
mount up with  
wings like eagles  
they shall  
run and  
not be weary  
they shall walk  
and not faint



## **St Michael** *and All Angels*

**Knights Enham, SP10 4DS**

### *The History*

The founding parish church of the old Knights Enham parish, St Michael's Knights Enham is a tiny 12th Century church tucked away in the hamlet of Knights Enham, North of Andover. Its name comes from the fact that it was a stopping point for Knights leaving for the Crusades and it has a number of fascinating historical items within the building. Its history makes it a very special part of the Parish. Despite being less than half a mile from the northernmost extent of Andover's expansion to date, it retains its peaceful rural feel.

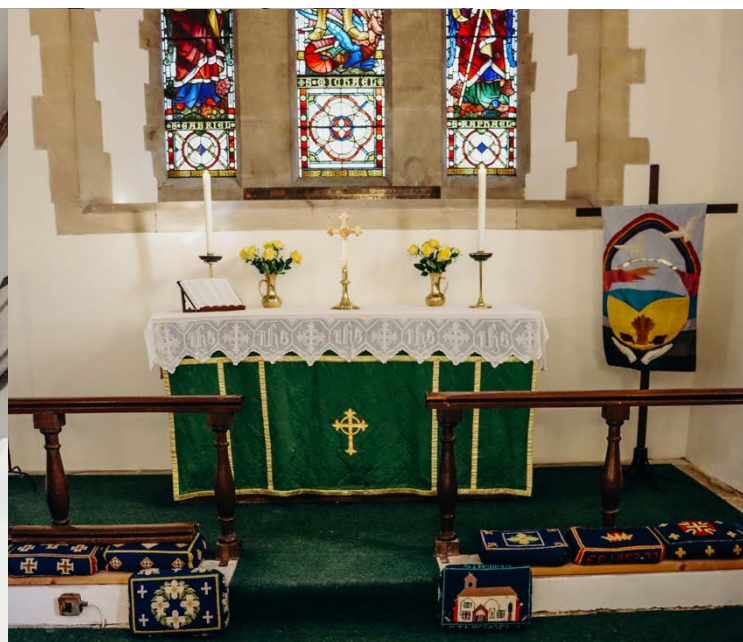
There is an extensive conservation effort being led by a lay member with hopes to add a toilet and servery in the future. Despite the lack of services, this is an attractive location for intimate Occasional Offices. The graveyard is open but only for reservations and so volunteers are responsible for maintenance.

Worship is led each week either by the lead clergy or by members of the congregation following the Book of Common Prayer. It is a haven for those who value the traditional forms of worship, experiencing God's presence in those ancient rhythms.

It has a small but growing and very committed congregation many of whom were involved in the decisions that led to the planting of St Paul's amongst the 'new housing estates' 42 years ago.

## *The Church*

The community surrounding the church is currently very rural with farms and farmland on its doorstep. There are plans for additional housing developments to the North and West of the church and this will significantly change the character of the area and give further opportunities to reach out to the surrounding community.





## Our Clergy



**Revd Dr Peter Harwood**

*Rector*

*Hello, my name is Peter* and I recently began my time as Rector of Andover Parish in late September (2025). I was previously Vicar of Christ Church, Woking for 16 years and more recently served the last 5 years as Director of Mission at the Guildford Diocese. I am married to my wife Clare and we have three grown-up children.

My heart is for mission – that people hear the voice of Jesus that tells them that they are loved, and invites them to follow him.



**Revd Sam Waako**

*Associate Vicar*

*My name is Samuel Waako*, but everyone calls me Sam. I am part of the clergy team in the Parish of Andover and Focal Minister at St Mary's in Andover. I am married to Lyz and we have three wonderful children, Luke (12), Matthew (9) and Abigail (7), and we have now lived in the parish for close to three years and absolutely love the people and the town.

Living and serving in Andover has been great privilege and fun, because of its huge sense of community. It's a place we as a family have found welcome and belonging and it's a theme that runs across majority of people who move into the area.

Sam is currently the lead clergy at St Mary's.



**Revd Jess Ross**

*Curate*

*Hi, I'm Jess* and I'm a curate here in Andover Parish. I've been in Andover since 2022 when I was ordained and I've loved ministering here so far. I'm married to Jake and in 2024 we welcomed our daughter, Martha. I love seeing people grow in their faith and I'm excited about what God still has in store for all of us here in Andover.

Jess is currently serving across the Parish part time following her return from maternity leave. Completing her curacy in summer 2026.

# The *Lighthouse*

**The Lighthouse first started in 2020 as a response to the pandemic.**

Its mission has changed over time, but we are still seeking to 'Live for Jesus and care for the people of Andover' through the various range of programmes and services that the Lighthouse offers.

**Our three main goals are:**

- To support those struggling with the weight of debt.
- To support the mental health and wellbeing of young people and adults in the town.
- To support those who are facing loneliness and social isolation.

We are now working with several local organisations from different sectors, including Andover Primary Care Network, Test Valley Borough Council, Andover Foodbank, and the DWP. Alongside these we have partnerships with the following national organisations: CAP, Kintsugi-Hope and Love Your Neighbour.

As the social action arm of the parish, our vision is to 'care for Andover' and the local partnerships we have formed are helping us to do just that. We want to see those living in our town thrive and we want to see lives changed through the power of Jesus as the Lighthouse reaches out to those in need here in Andover.

As a Parish we have been partnered with CAP for just over 3 years. The Debt Centre is run by our Debt Centre Manager, Sarah Hurcomb, and is a tailored individual service to work with those struggling with debt in the local area.



**CAP Money Management** for adults and children (delivered in schools). These are delivered by a team of CAP trained Money coaches.

**The Bereavement Journey** is run twice a year by a small team of volunteers and is based out of St Mary's Church Centre.

**Kintsugi Hope** is a mental health wellbeing course run twice a year by trained Kintsugi facilitators in St Mary's Church Centre to support adults. It is also delivered in local schools, by Veronica Brewer to support youth.

**The Lounge** is safe and welcoming space on a Monday afternoon at St Mary's Church Centre for anyone in the community to drop in and chat. It provides opportunities for signposting to other agencies for additional support as well as pastoral support. This space is led by a team of volunteers under the oversight of the Lighthouse Lead.





## The *Life Bus*

**The Life Bus is a red double-decker bus (donated by Stagecoach) for missional use with hard-to-reach youth around Andover and the wider area.**

In the spirit of 'Mission without Walls', the bus visits secondary schools, Andover College, the skate park, town centre and of course the different churches. The bus is parish wide resource that is highly visible and a symbol of a safe space fulfilling its tag line 'somewhere to go, something to do' with mature Christians providing a listening ear, wise council and support. In partnership with schools and the college, it hosts courses and an 'open house' vibe to those in need of a safe space to go. Another example of our strong partnerships with external stakeholders is the investment the council is making in equipment for youth provided through the Life Bus.



## Youth *Ministry*

**Alongside the Church of England's vision to double the number of children and active young disciples by 2030, we share a bold vision to see young people in Andover discovering the truth, hope and goodness of Jesus Christ and becoming agents of positive change in the church, the local area and beyond.**

We are passionately seeking to grow youth ministry and mission in the parish. We have a dedicated funded Youth Community Lead, many wonderful volunteers, and more funding to both grow and sustain the Youth Church at St Paul's.

We currently have an active youth group at St Mary's on Sunday mornings and a Wednesday night youth group, which attracts a mix of church and unchurched young people from the local skatepark community. We also run a youth church on Sunday evenings at St Paul's for year 10 to year 13 students.

Our Youth Community Lead has built great relationships with the local secondary schools and Andover College, offering mentoring and Kintsugi Hope wellbeing programs and faith discussion groups. We also have productive local partnerships with the PCN and the Young People's Mental Health forum.





## About *Andover*

**Andover is one of the fastest growing towns in Hampshire, set within the beautiful countryside of the Test Valley with the North Wessex Downs (AONB) to the north.**

The town has excellent road accessibility and via rail to London Waterloo.

The growth of the town of Andover has seen it develop from an historic market town into an increasingly significant regional town, with excellent communication links. Having relatively low levels of unemployment but predominately a low wage economy, making Andover a poor town in a wealthy county. Andover's core employment infrastructure comprises; storage / logistics; financial services and manufacturing / engineering. British Army Headquarters is based in Andover, as are Test Valley Borough Council and Andover College. There are a range of green spaces, a weekly market, 14 primary, three secondary and four special provision schools, five GP surgeries and a community hospital.

Located along the river Anton, which is a major tributary of the river Test, Andover is the principal town within the remit of the Test Valley Local Authority (making up 38% of the entire population of the borough). Over the last decade it has become a popular place for first time buyers owing to its proximity to good employment opportunities and relatively affordable housing.

There are three new major residential developments called Picket Twenty, Picket Piece and Augusta Park which are driving much of the population growth. Test Valley's Local Plan 2024 proposes two significant additional developments to Andover that would further increase the population of the town. The first is adjacent to St Michael's Knights Enham and would host 800 new homes: the second is adjacent to Picket Twenty and would host c.1,500 new homes.

Andover Vision is a council led community stakeholder group – it has become a significant gathering point for conversations about the future of Andover and its regeneration. A turning point came in December 2019 when Test Valley Borough Council launched the Andover Town Centre Vision and Master Plan which we were privileged to host at St Mary's.

The new Master Plan for Andover is something we are actively supporting and collaborating with TVBC and others on. We look forward to all that might be possible as it develops momentum in the coming years.

[\(https://www.thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk/\)](https://www.thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk/)

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) was awarded £18.3m from round three of the government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF), to build a multi-purpose theatre and cultural hub in the heart of the town. The funding allocated to Andover means the council can accelerate the Masterplan to transform the town centre – bringing more businesses, shops and homes into the heart of Andover.





## *Welcome to the* **Andover Deanery**

Andover Deanery has been through a period of significant transition. The urban churches in the town of Andover are now united into the Parish of Andover and, to the north, the Pastow Family has similarly united into a single parish comprising 11 churches as part of the 'Benefice of the Future' initiative. They are joined by four multi-parish benefices to the west and south of the town.

We are now looking to the next phase of our common life in which, through Synod, Chapter and work between parishes, we can each bring our resources, experiences and gifts together in order to foster mutual flourishing and mission.



**Revd Howard Jameson**  
*Area Dean*



**Nigel May**  
*Lay Chair*

# The *Vicarage*

**17 Millway Road in Andover is a substantial and versatile property offering generous accommodation across three floors.**

The property includes a spacious sitting room, study, dining room, kitchen, utility room, garden room, and garage on the ground floor. The first floor provides four well-proportioned bedrooms and a family bathroom, while the second floor features a large attic space with potential for further development. A cellar adds additional storage or utility space. This well-located home presents an excellent opportunity for family living or professional use, with flexible layout options and a welcoming atmosphere.

The property is located in a peaceful residential area of Andover, just under thirteen miles from Winchester, making it well-positioned for commuting or visiting the city. Millway Road is within walking distance of St Michael's in West Andover and benefits from a range of nearby amenities including convenience stores, a post office, public houses, a supermarket, petrol stations, and a bakery. The town centre is less than a mile away and offers further shopping, leisure, and healthcare facilities, including a cinema, theatre, hospital, and mainline railway station with direct services to London.

