



Parish Profile

PLYMPTON TEAM MINISTRY

The Parishes of
Plympton St Mary & Plympton St. Maurice

The Post

We are seeking to appoint a stipendiary priest as Team Vicar who will work alongside the Team Rector across the whole of Plympton. There is a strong commitment to collaborative ministry.

Areas of special responsibility:

1. Pastoral Care

The person appointed will have particular responsibility for the further development of pastoral care within this large and diverse community. It will include the formation, co-ordination, supervision and ongoing training and support of a pastoral care team to meet the many and varied needs which exist. The Team Vicar will build on the existing relationships with residential and nursing homes and the many opportunities provided by the occasional offices.

2. Mission and Outreach

The new team vicar will have a special responsibility for developing our Mission. This will be especially focused on those areas where the Church has little impact or from which it has largely withdrawn. It will also focus on areas of social and financial deprivation. The role will include working with those communities to help identify their needs and how we may best serve them. It will include Pioneer ministry alongside more traditional forms of mission and outreach.

Person Specification

We seek a priest who is:

1. A prayerful person, with a ministry based in the discipline of prayer, the Sacraments and study. Someone who by example and practice leads others into a deeper spirituality.
2. A pastor, a person who cares, with a heart for all and with the ability to reach out and form positive relationships in the wider community.
3. A leader, who will balance effective leadership with a passion for collaboration. Someone who is confident in sharing their ministry with colleagues and with the lay leadership of the Team.
4. A visionary, who is prepared to encounter the 'God of Surprises' and take risks in building the Kingdom.
5. A pioneer, who will enable us to identify and enable new patterns of ministry and mission, reaching out to those parts of our communities where we have little presence
5. A teacher, with the ability to inspire and lead others into a greater understanding of God, the Bible and the life of the Church.
6. An enabler, who has the ability to discern and develop the gifts of others.

7. A person with a love and understanding of Liturgy. It is important that the person appointed is liturgically literate and skilled, feeling at home with the catholic tradition at Plympton St. Maurice. It is equally important that they will be able to develop new patterns of worship across the Team.

8. A person suffused with joy, for 'We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song'.

Introduction to the Plympton Team Ministry

The Plympton Team Ministry was formed in April 2016 bringing together the ancient parishes of Plympton St. Mary and Plympton St. Maurice.

The population of the Plympton Team Ministry is around 35,000, which represents approximately 14% of the total population of the city of Plymouth. Plympton continues to grow as a result of small housing developments and infill building. A further 550 homes are planned at Coypool on the site of an old china clay works.

Where are we?

Plympton nestles in two valleys bounded by Dartmoor on the North, the A38 to the South and the River Plym to the West. Within 15 minutes of the parishes we can be walking on Dartmoor or enjoying the delights of the South Devon coast. Although Plympton has many centuries of history as a Stannary town and a local authority in its own right it is now a suburb of the Plymouth unitary authority, some 6 miles from the city centre with its good range of shops. We are perfectly situated to enjoy the beautiful area of Devon and Cornwall with its holiday attractions, coastal areas, beaches and moorland. The National Trust properties of Saltram and Plymbridge Woods are within the boundaries of the Team Ministry. Dartmoor Wildlife Park (the inspiration for the film 'We bought a Zoo') lies just outside the Team boundaries.

There is easy access to Cornwall across the Tamar toll bridge or Torpoint ferry. The A38 provides a good road link to Exeter and other parts of Devon.



Plymouth Hoe overlooks the Sound and is a superb viewpoint from which Sir Francis Drake is said to have set sail. Plymouth Sound, where the Rivers Plym and Tamar meet is an area used by naval ships, the cross-channel ferry and fishing boats. It attracts a wide range of events which reflect its maritime heritage and its close links with the Armed Forces. The national annual fireworks

championship takes place here each year.

Plymouth features a number of good restaurants and attractions such as The National Marine Aquarium a major new Museum, Exhibition and Cultural Centre "The Box" and a renowned theatre, The Theatre Royal. There are three universities all with established reputations. The University of St Mark and St John has a Christian foundation and a good reputation for teacher training. The largest is the University of Plymouth with over 30,000 students. The most recent to gain University status is the Plymouth College of Art.

Demography

Plympton is a diverse community. It originally consisted of several small villages. These have been merged together by the development of large, modern housing estates. Some of these, such as Chaddlewood, were originally built to provide housing for Forces personnel. However, as the requirement for HM Forces accommodation has declined the properties have passed into private ownership or to housing trusts. There is a significant area of social housing in Plympton St. Maurice in which there are high levels of social deprivation. Our newly established foodbank has

highlighted increasing deprivation in other areas, including Chaddlewood and Yealmstone Farm. By contrast, the village centre in Plympton St. Maurice, together with other areas scattered throughout the parishes, may be identified as localities of some affluence.

The Chaddlewood and Steer Park area of Plympton represents a significant part of the local population. It is an area within which there are few local amenities and from which local churches have largely withdrawn. It has recently been identified as the area of Plymouth with the highest levels of social isolation.

Plympton is bounded by a number of light industrial and trading estates.

Plympton acts as a dormitory town for the city of Plymouth, of which it became a part in 1967, and it is within the city that the majority of residents find employment. However, a significant number of people are employed in business and industry within Plympton itself. Others are employed more widely in the region.

There are small shopping centres on The Ridgeway, at Chaddlewood, and at Woodford. A large commercial centre and a Sainsburys Superstore may be found at Marsh Mills. There is easy access to the centre of Plymouth.

There are seven primary schools, one CE VA Infant school, two secondary schools and a special school (5-18) within Plympton. Most have Academy status. Our churches enjoy good relationships with all the schools. Pupils are frequent visitors to the churches both for topics within the curriculum and special services. In more normal times the clergy visit a number of the schools and there are several ecumenical 'Open the Book' teams which lead collective worship.



The Team Ministry area contains 12 residential homes. The ministry team has good links with most of these and regularly takes Communion to residents and to those who are housebound.

Our Churches

Plympton St. Mary



Plympton St. Mary was founded by the Augustinian Priory of Plympton to serve the needs of pilgrims and the local community. The present building is over 700 years old. St. Mary's church stands within the grounds of the Priory and a service is held within the ruins each year. Plympton Priory celebrates its 900th anniversary in 2021.

St Mary's has been designated a Major Parish Church, a group which comprises over 300 of the largest and most significant churches in England. In 2019 the PCC formed a Major Projects Group to plan for the restoration and reordering of the building as we seek to widen community engagement and use of the building.

Plympton St. Maurice

Plympton St Maurice church stands at the centre of a conservation area which includes Plympton Castle and Plympton Grammar School. The present building dates largely from C.15 with C.19 additions. It is notable for its fine decoration and the quality of the wood carving to the Chancel screen and pew ends.



Chaddlewood

For over twenty years a small, but faithful, congregation met in Chaddlewood. It was originally based in one of the schools but latterly moved to the Chaddlewood Community Centre.

Regrettably, it was decided in the summer of 2020 that this congregation was no longer viable.

One of the principal tasks of the Team Vicar will be to work with other members of the Team in deciding how we can best serve this community. There is a need to explore new ways of being Church in this area and the differing forms of mission and pastoral care which will be required. This is likely to include an analysis of community needs; aspects of Pioneer Ministry; the development of new forms of worship; and the equipping of strong, focussed lay leadership.

Patterns of Worship within the Team.

The Daily Offices and the Eucharist are at the heart of our life as worshipping communities. The stipendiary clergy meet each day to say Morning Prayer together.

COVID 19 and the lockdowns have challenged us to re-evaluate our existing patterns of worship. We recognise the value of an online presence and intend this to continue. It is anticipated that our patterns and style of our worship will continue to evolve whilst maintaining their central core.

The normal pattern of worship each week is as follows:-

Sunday

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (CW Traditional Language), St. Mary's Church
- 9.30 am Parish Eucharist (CW Order 1), St. Mary's Church
- 10.00 am ZOOM Eucharist (CW Order 1)
- 11.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW Order 1), St. Maurice Church

Prior to lockdown the following were regular features of our worship:

Baptisms took place on most Sundays alternating between the two churches.

On the 2nd Sunday of each month at St. Mary's the music group played at the Eucharist which took a simpler form and included a welcome of the recently baptised.

On the fourth Sunday of each month at St. Maurice the 'Seekers' children's group assisted in leading the worship and normally provided a drama in place of the sermon. This also included a welcome of the recently baptised.

Traditionally Choral Evensong has been held each week at St. Mary's Church. This is currently under review.

Monday

8.30 am Morning Prayer, St. Mary's Church

Tuesday

8.30 am Morning Prayer, St. Maurice's Church

11.00 am Eucharist, St. Mary's Church

Wednesday

8.00 am Morning Prayer, St. Mary's Church

8.30 am Eucharist, St. Mary's Church

9.30 am St. Maurice's Church

Thursday

8.30 am Morning Prayer, St. Maurice's Church

7.00 pm Eucharist, St. Mary's Church

Friday

8.00 am Morning Prayer, St. Mary's Church

8.30 am Eucharist, St. Mary's Church

Saturday

8.30 am Morning Prayer, St. Mary's Church

The weekday patterns may change as we continue to assess the needs of our communities.



For the last few years, the parishes have combined for their celebration of Holy Week. It is anticipated that this will continue in the future. We are also developing a pattern of occasional shared worship.

We are developing other forms of worship within the Team. These have included 'Celtic' and 'Taizé' style services.

Both parishes have a Julian Group which meets once a month.

Both parishes have a robed choir and a full team of servers.

Both churches play a significant civic role through events such as the Remembrance services. In a normal year December is dominated by carol services for our local schools.

Occasional Offices

The Occasional Offices form a major part of the ministry in both parishes. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 70 baptisms in 2021, 30 weddings and up to 100 funerals. Whilst some work is done in providing continuing pastoral care, e.g. an annual memorial service, this is an area which needs considerable further development.

Team Groups and Organisations

There are a wide range of parish organisations within the Team. These include house groups and a number of pastoral groups. Both parishes have branches of the Mothers' Union although the members are elderly and numbers are declining. A wide range of social and fundraising activities are held across the Team during the course of the year.

Church Halls

Both parishes have well-appointed church halls. These are used by a wide range of secular hirers as well as church groups.

Administration

A Team Administrator was appointed in the autumn of 2016. She is employed for five mornings a week and provides essential support to the Team clergy and PCC officers. She is based in the Team Office in St. Mary's Church Hall.



Housing

Accommodation for the Team Vicar is provided in a modern, detached, four-bed roomed house with living room, study and garage plus small sloping front and rear gardens. It is situated in Wain Park which is within close walking distance to St. Maurice church.

Working Expenses and Conditions of Service

Working expenses are reimbursed in full according to Diocesan Guidelines. Employment will be in accordance with the Clergy Conditions of Service and an appropriate job description will be provided.

If you would like further information, or wish to arrange a visit please contact:

The Revd Prebendary Robert Harris

Team Rector

☎ 01752 658762

✉ robdharris57@gmail.com