



# CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF STREATLEY, WARDEN HILL AND BRAMINGHAM PARK/BARTON HILLS

## PARISH PROFILE

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ST. MARGARET'S PARISH CENTRE

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Church of St. Margaret, Streatley, St. Margaret Parish Centre, Bramingham and to our Parish. We hope to inspire your interest in our faithful community to the extent of wanting to learn more about us with a view to becoming our new Parish Priest, combined with Chaplain to the local Keech Hospice Care.

We are a warm, friendly, and enthusiastic community where everyone is welcome to join us in any activity.

We are praying for a vicar who will join us in this next chapter and into the future. Someone who will walk with us, pray with us, laugh with us and help us become the church God is calling us to be.



## OUR VISION & WHAT WE OFFER

To create a warm and welcoming environment that encourages a deepening of faith and mission, while seeking to build a church for everyone, which meets the needs of the community through every stage of life.

We hope to accomplish this with the help of our new Parish Minister who will be:

- **INSPIRATIONAL AND RESILIENT:** a vicar who will lead us and work with us in building our links with the community around us, while seeking to support new opportunities to strengthen our congregation and ministry for the future.
- **INCLUSIVE AND APPROACHABLE:** we look for spirit filled and encouraging leadership to inspire us to continue our work together in all the varied facets of our Church life, growing in faith and warmth in building a church for everyone to enjoy.
- **CHAPLAINCY AND EMPATHY:** to help and to bring comfort to those in need at the end of their life, while also providing support to their families and the wonderful staff at Keech Hospice Care.
- **CURIOUS AND JOYFUL:** We are looking for a vicar to share our curiosity in our faith and love of music, building our sense of joy for all that our Christian life can offer through new opportunities.
- **FOR OUR PART WE WILL OFFER:** our love and friendship in being part of a Christian community which seeks to grow in faith while widening our ministry in the community.

A place to develop your personal ministry in the goodwill and warmth from the wider community.

The opportunity for inspirational Chaplaincy work within a dedicated and professional local Charity team, that provides hospice care and related support in the community across Bedfordshire.

A dedicated team of established volunteers, with a variety of skills which support:

- traditional and contemporary worship, across both the Church and our Parish Centre
- creation of 'making a joyful sound' through our choir, songs of praise, community Carols
- outreach locally through food bank collections, visits to local care homes, hosting school visits, and more widely through the work of our Care Committee



- supporting key local groups – Warblers and Wobblers dementia group, Keech Hospice Buddies, Talking Elephants bereavement group
- organising social events and fundraising opportunities to bring the community together, including our summer fete, quiz nights, beetle drive, sparkly jumper afternoon tea.



# KEECH HOSPICE CARE

The Keech Hospice Care is located just off the A6 highway between St. Margaret's Church and the Parish Centre providing free specialist end-of-life care for people of all ages. They support adults and children across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, and Milton Keynes with life-limiting conditions — and their loved ones — at home, in hospice, or wherever they're needed.



**KEECH  
HOSPICE** ❤️ [Keech.org.uk](https://www.keech.org.uk)

The hospice aims to lead the way in providing excellent care, supporting children and adults with life-limiting conditions and those affected by death and dying, helping them to live well and make every day count.

St. Margaret's Church hosts the Keech Hospice Annual Remembrance Service, and some of its parishioners volunteer in Keech Hospice shops.



Website <https://www.keech.org.uk>

## KEECH HOSPICE CARE CHAPLAINCY SERVICE: CO-ORDINATING CHAPLAIN

We are seeking a compassionate individual who, alongside their church role, will join our multidisciplinary Hospice team for one and a half days per week. The post holder will provide spiritual care and support to Hospice patients, their families and carers, as well as to Hospice staff and volunteers.

The role includes recruiting, training, coordinating and supervising a multifaith voluntary chaplaincy service, working closely with partner organisations and our Hospice volunteering team. You will offer leadership, guidance and pastoral support to chaplaincy volunteers, enabling them to deliver high-quality, inclusive spiritual care.

The post holder will also play an active role in Hospice remembrance events, deliver spiritual care training for staff and volunteers, and work with our data team to record and share chaplaincy activity and impact.



## WORSHIP & MINISTRY

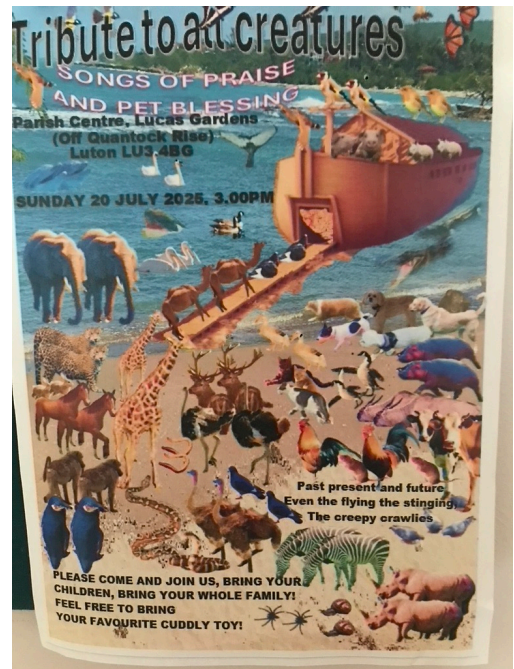
Following the full revision in 2025, there are currently 53 people on the Parish Electoral Roll: representing an overall decline since the last full revision year. The PCC membership remains at 9 people.

The style of worship is best described as traditional with vestments, alb and stole at the church and relaxed, informal at the Parish Centre. Every Sunday we offer a 9.30 Parish Communion (Common Worship) at St. Margaret's Church followed by the same service at 11.15 at the Parish Centre.

Each Wednesday at 10.15 a Communion service is held at the Parish Centre with hymns and on the third Thursday every month at 2.00 Compline is held at St. Margaret's Church .

Seasonal services are well attended especially Christingle and the candlelit Carol Service. Lent courses or challenges are also offered and bereavement support is available at the Parish Centre once a month.

Members of the congregation regularly read, lead intercessions and assist with the chalice for which rotas are in place. Regular once a month visits are also made to the local residential homes.



Music is an important part of our services, the Church has a well maintained organ and a piano. Our organist directs a dedicated and passionate choir and organises Sunday



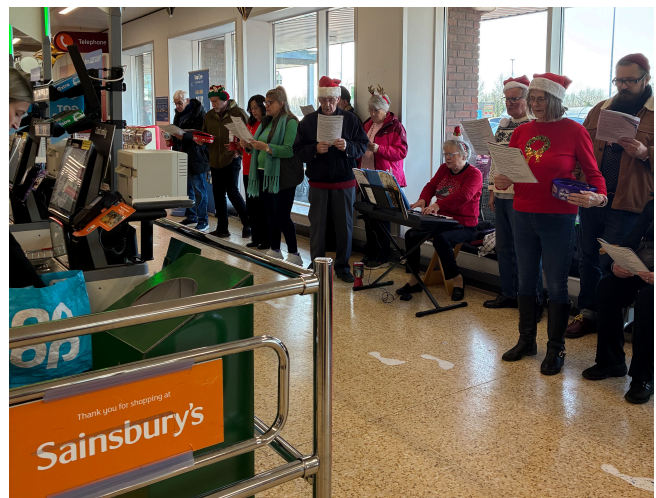
afternoon entertainment every few months in the form of Songs of Praise based on a theme. These are produced in the Parish Centre for accessibility to a wider audience. The Parish Centre has an electric piano. A hymnal worship machine is available for use at any church service as and when necessary.

Pastoral care is an important part of our ministry with particular attention to the elderly, the isolated, and those living with illness or disability.

## COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

Our Parish Centre, when not in use for Church services, is occupied by many groups with a close relationship to the Church and other community groups providing services and activities for the local area.

Ladies Guild	Warblers & Wobblers
Disharmony Choir	Coffee Morning
Youth Hub	Buddy Group
Talking Elephants	



Events that bring the community together at the Parish Centre hosted by the Church are:



- Songs of Praise
- Sparkly Jumper Afternoon Tea
- Quiz Night
- Beetle Drive
- Harvest Lunch

The Church holds its Summer Fete each year at Streatley Village Hall and grounds.

On a monthly basis non perishable food is collected and delivered to our local FoodBank. Occasionally Sainsbury's make a donation. When the need arose, clothes were collected for an influx of refugees.

Within the congregation we have a few knitters who are given wool to knit blankets which are then bundled and given to the Inner Wheel to be distributed where needed.

As well as holding Carol Services in Church, our choir sings in Sainsbury's, Keech Hospice Care, local residential homes, and The Chequers pub, situated next to St. Margaret's, also sponsored the recent Easter Egg Hunt and Crafts. In addition, they provide refreshments on Remembrance Day, and prizes for various church raffles.

## BUILDINGS & RESOURCES

Church of St. Margaret is a Grade 1 Listed building with 14th-15th century origins, featuring a distinct Perpendicular style west tower. The church has experienced significant historical changes, including restoration after serious neglect and closure in 1917, before reopening post-WWII.



The church consists of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and a west tower. The structure features Early English elements, such as the font, while much of the building is in the Perpendicular style. The chancel was rebuilt in the late 19th century, and the church was re-seated in 1896.

Currently the Church is in good shape with repairs due to be undertaken which were identified by

the Quinquennial Inspection.

St. Margaret's Parish Centre in Bramingham Park, originated from early community efforts, expanding from a temporary home setting in the late 20th century. It was developed from an A-frame building originally used as a developer's information centre, serving as a dedicated church hub before the main church building was completed in 1990.

The Centre is run by a committee and is self sustaining by revenues received from leasing the premises for both community and private uses. Profits made by the Parish Centre support the ongoing work of the Church.

**Finances:** these are a concern with pressures on revenue from cost of income rises, the vast majority of congregants existing on a fixed income, and the reduced numbers attending Church. Due to insufficient funding our full Parish Share was not met last year, however, we have continued to pay £3,500 per month. The Parish Share request for 2026 is £44,299. With increased costs of maintenance and utilities, new initiatives need to be sourced.

Stewardship is practised through the Parish Giving Scheme, envelope scheme and collection from services. There is a Tap & Go machine in church as well as a Solo device for mobile donations.

A new fundraising initiative was started in 2025 whereby donations are received from shoppers on line when going through the easyfundraising application.

The work required for the Quinquennial Inspection will be covered by grant



applications to various sources including the registered charity, Friends of Streatley Parish Church. Its aim and activities are to raise monies for the maintenance and preservation of St. Margaret's Church. The Vicar of Streatley or any person in Holy Orders, Licensed or in charge of the parish, is a member of the Executive Committee.

Two small charities are associated with St. Margaret's Church - Smyths Education Charity and The Streatley and Sharpenhoe Trust which owns the allotments in Streatley. The incumbent and Churchwardens are Trustees by virtue of their office.

What was previously the Curate's house is rented out providing a source of income.

**Raise funds for us for FREE**

with **easyfundraising**

Join as our supporter today at:  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause)  
Just search for:  
St Margaret's Church Streatley

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them

Argos TESCO JOHN LEWIS ebay JUST EAT

Start at the easyfundraising website or app → Click out to where you'd like to shop → Checkout: prices are exactly the same! → The retailer sends a % of your spend to easyfundraising → They pass it on to us :)

Plus, you'll get...

Exclusive retailer offers | Competitions | A warm feeling inside!

Over **£60m** raised for UK good causes

**£0** extra cost to anyone

# GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

The parish is well served by its PCC, with 9 elected members, 1 co-opted member - our Organist, 2 Churchwardens and 2 Deanery Synod representatives. The PCC operates through a number of committees:



Care Committee. Its brief is to raise funds and nominate charities to be supported outside the parish. The Care Committee also works with Plan International and has been doing so for over 30 years. They currently sponsor 3 children, one from each of the following countries: Bangladesh, Niger, and Myanmar.

Sponsors pay £15 per year towards each child sponsored by the Committee.

- Parish Centre Management Committee.
- Fund Raising Committee (Summer Fete, Quiz Night and Social Events)
- Pastoral Committee, which organises the annual Harvest Appeal donations
- Churchyard Maintenance Group. Not all regular Church attendees
- Communication Groups including:  
Proclamation, the Parish Magazine with a monthly circulation of 300 copies. The Parish Website. The Church's Facebook page. Weekly pew leaflet. Posters for events.

Additional teams and helpers who are invaluable in their continued services and efforts to maintain a clean and orderly church environment.

- Intercessors, Readers of the Lessons, Organist, Choir, Sideperson, Bell Ringers, and Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- Flower arrangers, cleaners, laundry team, refreshment teams



We are blessed with a licensed Lay Reader and Lay members who officiate Service of the Word services and Compline in the absence of an ordained minister. We also have a Verger, Crucifer, and Servers.



## ABOUT THE PARISH

The Parish of Streatley, in the southern part of Bedfordshire, has a population of around 10,000. The Church, a well maintained and much loved, traditional, historic building stands in the village of Streatley, on the Chiltern escarpment in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The village was originally a Bronze Age settlement. There are some beautiful countryside walks within and adjacent to Streatley Parish, (Sharpenhoe Clappers, Sundon Hill Country Park, Warden Hills and many more).



The modern Parish Centre was built at the beginning of the 21st century and is set in the midst of the Warden Hill, Barton Hills / Bramingham area of Luton. While these areas were built in the 1930's and 1980's respectively, new housing is currently being built in the area with a plan for an urban extension of 4,000 houses and infrastructure to the north edge of Luton, between the M1 to the west and the A6 to the east. This is dependant on the building of the proposed new M1 and A6 link road. A percentage of this extension will fall within the Streatley Parish, which is vast and diverse, with a large Muslim population.

The geography and demographics is such that the Parish embraces both rural and urban communities. The Vicarage, Parish Centre and Curate's house are located in Bramingham. There is one other community centre within the Parish: Streatley Village Hall.

Our two locations of worship provides the community with a choice of services, the Parish Centre being more contemporary than the Church service. Everyone is welcome to either service or both. Some members of the congregation attend Church on Sunday and the Parish Centre midweek. More details are available at <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=67bce0ed36dd4ee0af7a16bc079aa09a&extent=-0.4317,51.313,0.1986,51.5945>

Our mission stats are available at <https://app.klipfolio.com/published/c3f0f854036f3b9f9b5e4da57e7f8a54/diocese-of-st-albans--benefice-mission-statistics>

Luton town centre is approximately 5 miles away and London Luton Airport is approximately 7 miles. The parish is within easy reach of 3 mainline train stations (Luton, Leagrave, Harlington). Bus services are regular and the M1 Motorway is approximately 4 miles away. The parish has a variety of schools and shops.

#### THE PARISH ALSO HAS THE FOLLOWING AMENITIES

Luton Indoors Bowls Club  
Lancaster Avenue Bowls Club  
South Bedfordshire Golf Club  
Warden House Museum and Gallery  
Lea Manor Sports Recreation Centre  
The Chequers, Public House and Restaurant, Streatley  
The Brim and Crown, Public House and Restaurant  
Sainsbury's Superstore  
Aldi  
M & S Food Hall  
Costa Coffee



#### EDUCATION

The Parish contains five schools/nurseries:

Bramingham Primary School <https://www.bramingham.net/web/>

Cardinal Newman Catholic School (secondary) <https://www.cardinalnewmanschool.net>

Grasmere Nursery School <https://www.grasmerenursery.co.uk>

Warden Hill Infant School <https://www.wardenhillinfant.co.uk>

Warden Hill Junior School <https://www.wardenhilljuniors.co.uk>

Bright Horizons Bramingham Day Nursery and Preschool [https://](https://www.brighthorizons.co.uk/our-nurseries/bramingham-day-nursery-and-preschool?utm_source=googlemybusiness&utm_medium=Referral&utm_campaign=Bramingham-)

[www.brighthorizons.co.uk/our-nurseries/bramingham-day-nursery-and-preschool?utm\\_source=googlemybusiness&utm\\_medium=Referral&utm\\_campaign=Bramingham-](https://www.brighthorizons.co.uk/our-nurseries/bramingham-day-nursery-and-preschool?utm_source=googlemybusiness&utm_medium=Referral&utm_campaign=Bramingham-)

#### HOUSING AND CENTRES OF COMMUNITY

The Parish contains a mixture of village and suburban housing, residential and daycare centres, agricultural land, retail shops and modern light industrial/commercial units.

The Parish also contains many other centres:

Keech Hospice Care,  
Six centre's, for retired, elderly and disabled people.  
Two houses in Wycombe Way (Respite care for 16 – 19 year olds with physical and learning disabilities).  
Bramingham Parish Centre.  
St. John's Methodist Church.  
Christchurch Bushmead.

## OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

A further development of contact with residential homes, and to establish a network of contacts of the lonely and isolated to encourage them to join our coffee mornings or services.

We are endeavouring to build greater connections with Parish schools and colleges, previously organised school visits to the Church have been a great success and a source of fascination and enjoyment for the children who attended. A greater connection with uniformed groups, other local agencies, services, churches and other denominations will help us in our ministry and outreach. Many of these connections were lost during COVID and have proved slow to rebuild.



The Youth Hub every week at the Parish Centre was well attended to sustain it is challenging due to lack of volunteers.

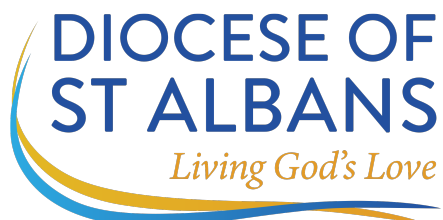
The difficulties we face are similar to many other parishes. In our world of social media, Sunday shopping and Sunday sports, attracting young people into church is even more challenging.

Luton Vauxhall plant used to be a major employer but that, along with other major employers, has now closed causing job losses, economic crisis, and an increasing need for Luton Foodbank. Many within the Parish worked at Vauxhall but are now retired, took redundancy and looking for work, or provide administrative skills from a home office to Stellantis.

Whilst the Parish Centre is thriving with its younger based congregation, the membership at Streatley is more advanced in years and we need to encourage the younger people to become more involved in the wider church activities in order to sustain church life.

# THE VICARAGE

The Vicarage is a very pleasant and modern detached four bedroom family home in good repair. With gardens, two car garage, and off-road parking. Situated in a lovely quiet close and is offered with the post. It is located on the Bramingham estate close to all amenities and half way between the Parish Centre and the Keech Hospice Care. The church is situated about a ten minute drive away along the A6.



Archdeaconry of Bedford  
Luton Deanery  
The Parish Church of St. Margaret, Streatley  
Patron - The Bishop of St. Albans

Church of St. Margaret  
Sharpenhoe Road  
Streatley, Beds, LU3 3PZ

St. Margaret's Parish Centre  
79 Lucas Gardens  
Luton, Beds. LU3 4BG

Websites: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7752/find-us>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064454601286>