

St Philips

Earl's Court Road



Parish Profile

Our Mission

“To become a more visible sign of God’s kingdom in our community and to grow the church.”

Our Motto

“Come and See” From St Philip’s reply to Nathanael (John 1:43)

Our Vision



Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to consider becoming our Vicar here at [St Philips Church, Earls Court Road](#) in the Kensington Deanery. We hope you will find much in this profile to interest you and please do contact us if you would like any further information. We have scope for growth and that there are great opportunities in our parish for a vicar who can help us take these forward.

This profile is intended to paint a picture of who we are and to outline the qualities we are looking for in our new Vicar. More information about the life of St Philips and our place in the wider Christian presence in Kensington can be found in our [website](#). You can find out more about the Kensington diocesan and deanery vision on the [London Anglican website](#). There is a range of other churches in the deanery.

We are a “middle of the road” church with strong links to the local Church of England primary school and with a socially and ethnically diverse congregation typical of West London. Although we are in a largely affluent area, about half the local population are deprived in at least one of the four areas of employment, health, housing and education. We seek to become a more visible sign of God’s kingdom in our community and to grow the church. We have just become an independent parish, having been part of the wider central Kensington Parish of [St Mary Abbots](#) with [Christ Church](#) and St Philip until December 2016. From 2017 the 3 churches will operate as three separate parish churches with a group ministry. Our parish is more or less within the [Abingdon Ward](#) of the [Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea](#). The building is a re-ordered Victorian church in the heart of the parish on the Earls Court Road. There is no churchyard but there is a small strip of garden along the north wall. The Vicarage is a four bedroom Victorian town house, with a small patio garden, about 50m from the church.



The Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin
Bishop of Kensington

“St Philip’s Earls Court is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in the growth of the church in a challenging and vibrant area of London. The church has a warm sense of common life and good links into its local community. It has grown in significant ways in recent years to the point where it has just become its own parish, though continuing in a Group Ministry with its neighbouring parishes. There is a good foundation for some innovative and entrepreneurial mission work into a varied and energising area of central London. We are looking for a mission-minded priest who can work with lay people who are already committed to building up the life of the church and its outreach to the local area.

The Diocese of London is committed to becoming a more Creative, Compassionate and Confident Church. There is a sense of energy and vision here, and this is an opportunity to work in a diocese that has seen significant growth over the past years, bucking national trends, and an episcopal Area that has a sense of purpose, unity and missional direction as we seek to focus on the church’s core purposes of Worship and Witness together.”

Who are we?

- ✝ We are a Church of England parish with a relaxed liberal catholic liturgy; we welcome the ministry of women and men.
- ✝ We are a church that seeks to embrace a family-friendly approach to worship by being supportive to families of all shapes and sizes and inclusive of worshippers from 1 month to 101.
- ✝ We have moved forward during the past eight years in our liturgy, worship and spiritual growth and look forward to growing further in our mission and community outreach.
- ✝ We have recently adopted the Children's Charter and have agreed to become an [eco-church](#).
- ✝ The ministry team includes the [Revd Lesley Perry](#) (self-supporting assistant priest), and Rupert Steele, our [lay reader](#). The [Revd Ije Ajibade](#), who was a curate with us for three years, returns to take services about once a month. Paid staff include our [Director of Music](#), two part time administrators (working a total of 32 hours a week) who manage the hall lettings and run the church office, a part time Children's Leader, a newly created part time Community Worker role (to be appointed after your arrival) and a part time caretaker.
- ✝ We share with St Barnabas in helping with [St Barnabas and St Philip's Primary School](#), a thriving Church of England Primary School in the heart of Kensington, committed to providing a broad and balanced education within a secure Christian education environment.
- ✝ Regular worship is currently Sunday 10.30am Holy Eucharist (Common Worship) (60-70) with full children provision (once a month All Age Service led by the children); Weekdays 8am Morning Prayer (currently Monday and Tuesday) led by the laity. Our electoral roll currently stands at 135.



- ✝ We have a number of occasional special services during the year, including major festivals and those with St Barnabas and St Philip's School.
- ✝ Our Common Fund contributions have fully met costs (as if we had already been an independent parish) since 2012, and since 2013 we have contributed above that figure to assist poorer churches, particularly in the north of the Deanery. More than two thirds of our income comes from hall lettings, and our building is typically busy from dawn to dusk every day of the week.
- ✝ We have some further improvements to our building in mind which will require some fund raising.

Who are you?

We are looking for someone who:

- ✝ will be able to engage with people from all backgrounds and all ages in our community, irrespective of their faith, to build the place of the Church in the community.
- ✝ preferably has experience of growing a church and is looking for a longer-term appointment.
- ✝ will be involved in the work of our local primary school, creating links with local families and can explore how we might engage more effectively with businesses and other organisations in our parish.
- ✝ can maintain good relationships with other churches in the deanery, develop ecumenical relationships and interfaith understanding and seek with others to place church communities at the heart of the local neighbourhood.
- ✝ is a compassionate pastor, with excellent communication and listening skills who is able to affirm and encourage people and can deal with all ages and stages, who is not afraid of dealing with questions.
- ✝ is a thoughtful and effective teacher and preacher and will support and encourage lay ministry.
- ✝ is alive to the potential of modern means of communication including social media.



Outreach and the church in the community

- ✝ Our congregation is diverse in culture, age, ethnic origin and gender, and while we celebrate this we are always open to new learning to ensure that we are welcoming.
- ✝ We have links with our local primary school, St Barnabas and St Philip (we have a representative on the governing body, children from our congregation have priority for places and we run several projects, such as our Paschal Candle competition, with them), with [Lee Abbey](#) and [LAMDA](#), with the local police station (just north of the church) and with local hospitals and care homes.
- ✝ We have just agreed to adopt a Children's Charter, but we are in the early stages of planning the implementation of this.
- ✝ Among charities supported: Christian Aid service is held during Christian Aid week and members of our congregation speak at St Barnabas and St Philip's School about Christian Aid; at Harvest Festival, collections are made for [The Upper Room](#), a local charity helping the socially deprived.
- ✝ Following a community audit we are in the process of recruiting a [paid part-time community worker](#) to help realise our commitment to be at the heart of our local community by building intergenerational links, developing stronger connections between these older adults and children that live or go to school in our community.



- ✝ We have a number of spiritual and social activities including weekly Bible study, [Confirmation classes](#) in the spring, Lent reflections either within our congregation or jointly with other local churches, [monthly concerts](#) organised by our Director of Music, a termly [film club](#) and our parish lunches. Many in the local community attend events in the church building organised by our many lettings clients; we are keen to develop broader contacts through this means.