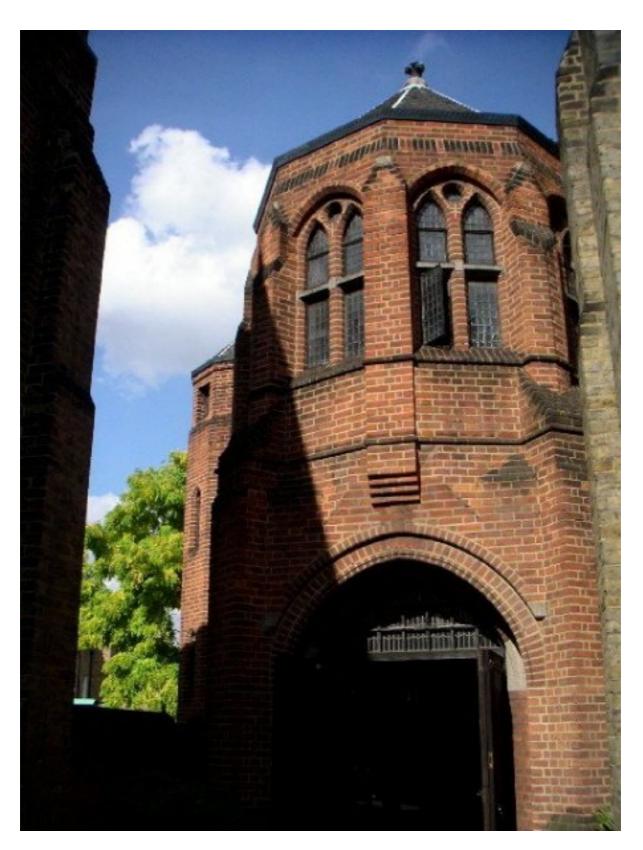
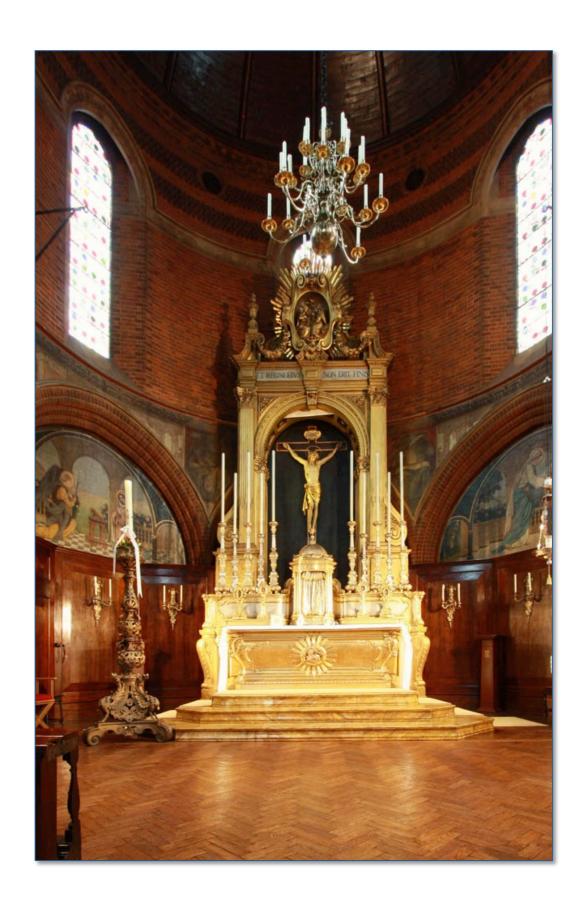
ST MARY'S BOURNE STREET PARISH PROFILE



'Here we are doing extraordinary things in extraordinary ways with extraordinary gusto, to remind ourselves that holiness at the end of the day is ordinary, that this is a foretaste of heaven.'

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WELCOME

We are looking for a priest to become Vicar of St Mary's Bourne Street.

St Mary's is a church in central London whose role as an anchor of witness to catholic tradition within the Church of England is important both in the London Diocese and for the Anglican church at large.

This document describes firstly the parish and church, then summarises recent developments and finally describes the experience and strengths that are sought in the new priest.



BACKGROUND

The church was consecrated on the Feast of the Visitation in 1874 as part of a project to extend the ministry of St Paul's Knightsbridge to, what was at that time, a deprived area in South Belgravia; it became a separate parish in 1909 and geographically is one of the smallest in the Diocese of London.

During the incumbency of Fr Whitby from 1916 the church was extended to the North with the addition of the Seven Sorrows Chapel and the adjoining building on the corner of Bourne Street and Graham Terrace was acquired and developed as the presbytery. St Mary's Trust, the trustees of which are the patrons, was established at that time both to support the parish and to advance the objectives of the Anglo-Catholic movement. A more detailed description of the property of the parish and of St Mary's Trust is provided below.

St Mary's functions both as a parish church within the Two Cities Area of the Diocese of London and as the focus of worship for a large and loyal congregation from further afield.

St Mary's has historically had an important role in promoting catholic teaching with an exceptionally high standard of preaching and, particularly in the latter decades of the last century, the publication of a number of books with commissioned articles from a wide range of contributors including leading academic theologians.

The last incumbent, Fr David Cherry, was appointed as vicar of St Mary's and of the neighbouring parish of St Barnabas Pimlico to which St Mary's was linked in a plurality. Following Fr Cherry's resignation in 2015 the plurality has been dissolved and the two churches now operate independently again. The parish of St Mary's is currently in the care of Fr Neil Bunker who was appointed as Priest in Charge under a legal 'restriction' from April 2015 and who is caring for the parish in parallel with other diocesan roles.

Resolutions A & B Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 are in force in this parish. Being in the Two Cities Area, we fall under the direct pastoral oversight of the Bishop of London.

St Mary's has always been open to all, irrespective of their stance on particular aspects of church life and politics. As a church we wish to remain outside Affirming Catholicism, Forward in Faith and Anglican Catholic Future.



THE PARISH

The parish of St Mary's is to the South East of Sloane Square, bordered by Holbein Place, Pimlico Road, Eaton Terrace and Cliveden Place, and crosses the boundaries of the City of Westminster and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. The parish is mostly residential; a mixture of very expensive houses, Peabody Estate flats and Grosvenor Estate housing.



Antique shops, restaurants and galleries predominate on the Pimlico Road, with those on the north side falling within the parish. There is a well-established farmers' market at the south end of Bourne Street every Saturday morning. There is one pub, the Fox and Hounds, within the parish.

The Francis Holland School, opposite the church, is an independent day school for girls aged 4-18, for which the vicar of St Mary's has traditionally acted as chaplain. Over the years, the church has been used for school services and other activities, and St Mary's has used the school hall for large receptions and the school yard for summer fetes. There is a very positive relationship between church and school, which we are keen to foster.

The privately run Victoria School of English for foreign students has been operating in the basement of the Presbytery and church undercroft since the 1970s.

THE CHURCH

Demography

The Electoral Roll number currently stands at 161 most of whom live outside the parish, some at a considerable distance.

The Congregation

The congregation comprises a mix of families, couples and single people, some of very long standing. There is also a steady throughput of new members and visitors but it would be fair to say that the white professional middle class predominates and that the average age is 40 plus. After some years of decline the numbers of those attending both Sunday and weekday services appear to have stabilised.

Worship

The Anglo-Catholic churchmanship is reflected in all services, in accordance with received practice.

The principal act of worship on Sundays and on Solemn Feast Days is a traditional High Mass (a form of the interim rite) but with significant concessions to Vatican II and using the BCP readings. It seeks to achieve spiritual excellence by combining carefully thought out and well honed ceremonial with appropriately fitting music combining traditional liturgical plainsong with settings of the mass, anthems and motets from a wide range of composers, from all musical periods.

The said Mass is a form of Common Worship. The parish upholds the instruction from the Bishop of London contained in his pastoral letter of All Saints' Day 2011 to celebrate the mass according to the rites of the Church of England and only to supplement with material from the Roman rite for items for which no provision is made.



PATTERN OF SERVICES

The spiritual life of the parish is focused on the daily mass.



Sunday

Mass: 9 am and 7pm
High Mass: 11 am (average communicants 80)
Evensong & Benediction: 6pm
with organ and cantor

Weekdays

Mass: 8 am and 6.30 pm (average attendance 6) Saturday Mass: 11.30 am

Solemn Feast days and Ash Wednesday

Mass: 8 am and 11.30 am; High Mass: 7 pm On other feast days there is a sung mass at the high altar at 6.30 pm

Evening Prayer

is said publicly every day. It is envisaged that the new full-time Parish Priest/Vicar would resume the practice of Morning Prayer.

The daily offices are from the BCP.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on Saturday at 5.15 pm together with monthly Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus held on a weekday after the Low Mass have recently been re-introduced by Fr Bunker as a result of his conversations with parishioners.

Times of Confessions are advertised weekly or can be arranged by appointment.

There is a long standing tradition of regularly inviting guest preachers with a wide range of backgrounds, including those from other denominations, in order to broaden the vision of the congregation.

Those presenting for baptism and marriage represent a mobile inner city population and a flexible approach is maintained. Annually, baptisms, marriages and funerals are each in single figures.

The small number of children who attend are welcomed at the High Mass; there has not been a Sunday School for many years. We are very keen to attract more families with children, Fr Bunker introduced a crib service for the children on Christmas Eve this year which was greatly appreciated.

The parish has recently re-established a Cell of our Lady of Walsingham whose first Superior is Fr Stuart Leamy.

There is a bible study group led by members of the congregation and attended regularly by the clergy. There is a regular Lent course.

It is important when any change is contemplated, that the staff and congregation are helped to understand the proposal before it is implemented.

CLERGY & CLERGY SUPPORT

Licensed Clergy

The parish priest is supported by a team of non-stipendiary clergy all of whom either have other jobs or are retired. One of these, Fr Stuart Leamy, who has a full time job and is usually only available at weekends, will remain licensed to the parish until he achieves the age of 70 later this year.

Others

Prebendary Patrick Tuft, Prebendary Bill Scott (parish priest of St Mary's 1991 to 2002) and the Venerable Michael Brotherton are retired, they are all actively involved with taking services but each has a range of other commitments and the parish priest needs to be available to take services at short notice. There are a number of other clergy who have long associations with St Mary's and are happy to assist from time to time.

Laity

There is a team of experienced servers led by a Head Server. At High Mass one of this team acts as Sub Deacon. There are six licensed Eucharistic ministers in the congregation. Across the congregation there is a wide depth of experience and commitment that the clergy find helpful.



MUSIC

There is a distinguished team of musicians led by the Director of Music, Paul Brough, supported by the Organist, Richard Hills.

Additionally the parish has a music fund that supports an Organ Scholar usually appointed for one year and which provides the opportunity for a young musician to have free practice on an excellent organ while learning the business of Catholic church music within the mass, especially the accompaniment of plainsong. The fine organ was built by Henry Willis & Sons in 1928 and underwent major restoration in 2005/6.

The music staff attach vital importance to the integration of music and liturgy, with the former being emphatically the servant of the latter. To this end the selection and presentation of choral and organ music is undertaken with strict adherence to the celebration and lection of the day, together with the appropriate chant.

Much experience has been gleaned by the music staff over the years in shrine and parish churches, cathedrals and collegiate institutions. The autonomy afforded this experience as expressed at St Mary's is greatly valued. This relationship is expressed joyfully in friendship with the congregation, and music of high quality is seen as a powerful binding force in this Eucharistic community.

The music budget of around £45,000 has been protected through recent financial challenges.



OTHER LAY STAFF

Sacristan - Anne Mundy

No salary. Rent and services-free accommodation in The Cottage attached to the Presbytery and maintained by St Mary's Trust. The Sacristan is responsible for the care and control of all vestments and linen and for laying out vestments and vessels for Mass.

Verger - Christopher Naylor

A voluntary post. He is on duty during the High Mass and helps to keep the church ready for all services. At one time this role was provided on an annual basis by a prospective ordinand, with accommodation provided in the Presbytery.

Head Server - Kris Romanski

Voluntary post. He is responsible, with the incumbent, for church ceremonial and for the organisation and training of the servers.

Until recently we have enjoyed the services of an administrator for about half of the week with responsibilities to both St Mary's and St Barnabas Pimlico and also to the St Mary's Trust. Following the recent resignation of the last appointee to return to his home in Sweden and the ending of the plurality with St Barnabas that role is currently under review. There is an office for the administrator at St Mary's. The Churchwardens and Treasurer play an active part in administration in terms of organising rotas, banking, paying invoices, etc.

Parish Governance

The PCC, under the chairmanship of the Parish Priest, meets regularly, and there are 12 lay members elected by the parish together with ex-officio members including the Chancellor of the Diocese and chair and lay members of the Westminster (St Margaret) Deanery Synod.

There are excellent and constructive relations between the parish officers, with meetings held at least monthly between the Parish Priest and the Churchwardens and with the Hon Treasurer and Head Server, the latter to discuss thoroughly the liturgy for the month ahead. These meetings are essential and contribute importantly to the vital maintenance of unity of the community. The next Archdeacon's visitation is due in 2017.

The Social Life of the Parish

A group of volunteers from the congregation takes the lead in organising regular drinks after High Mass, whether on Sundays or feast days, occasional subscription parish lunches and suppers and, twice a year, sales of produce made by the congregation. The majority of such activities are held in the library and dining room on the first floor of the presbytery.

Charitable Fundraising

In Lent and Advent there are specific collections for charities at home and abroad and carol singing and other collections are made for "Glass Door" previously known as the West London Homeless Charity.

Communications

The main channels of information are the weekly service sheet, the emailed weekly newsletter known as Ave, together with the parish website at www.stmarysbournest.com and the parish Facebook page.



RESOURCES

Parish Finance

Following the resignation of Fr David Cherry some members of the congregation left with a resultant disproportionate loss of planned giving. As a result the PCC finances have been challenging over the past year, at one stage, it looked as if there would be a deficit of over £23,000 in 2015.

Appeal

Following an appeal by the Churchwardens to the congregation in the summer, the situation improved so that provisional figures for the year just ended suggest a small surplus. However, much of this improvement is down to one-off donations, so that to break even this year remains challenging despite the Diocese having generously reduced the Common Fund contribution to £40,000.

Stewardship

The PCC recognises the need to return to covering our full costs in the medium term, and will continue with a programme of stewardship aimed at increasing committed regular giving.

Finance Summary

NB 2015 figures are provisional at this stage

| | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Planned giving | £75,647 | £63,900 |
| Total general fund income | £158,395 | £147,500 |
| Common Fund contribution* | £45.000 | £47,200 |
| Total general fund expenditure | £148,529 | £134,500 |

^{*} The contribution to the Common Fund covers costs but is reduced as the Diocese does not provide a parsonage

St Mary's Trust

The Trust (established in the 1920s) is the patron of St Mary's. There are five trustees (with the appointment of a sixth impending), all of whom worship at the church. The Trustees appoint their successors but in practice appointments of new trustees are made after consultation with the parish of St Mary's. The objects of the Trust are the benefit of St Mary's, or the work of the Church of England in the parish of St Mary's or in the neighbourhood of that parish, but in practice St Mary's is the principal beneficiary, which has traditionally provided housing for the clergy (see below). Maintaining the Trust's properties takes up a very significant part of the Trust's income, but available surplus funds are also used for the benefit of the church. At the end of 2014 the quoted investments of the Trust were valued at £756,551.

The Kenneth and Helena Levy Trust

This was set up about 25 years ago with an endowment of £100,000. The Trustees are ex-officio the incumbent and Churchwardens. It is specifically for the maintenance of the fabric of the church (including the organ) and the income goes towards paying for any urgent works, other than routine minor repair and maintenance. The valuation at the end of 2015 was £176,670 in investments with £15,380 on a deposit account.

PROPERTY

The Church

St Mary's was built in 1874 to the design of the architect R.J. Withers as a daughter church to St Paul's, Knightsbridge. It is Grade II listed. The centre of the church is constructed over massive beams spanning the cutting built for the extension of the Underground to Sloane Square. Externally, from Graham Terrace, the building is an unremarkable red-brick gothic church typical of the 1870s.

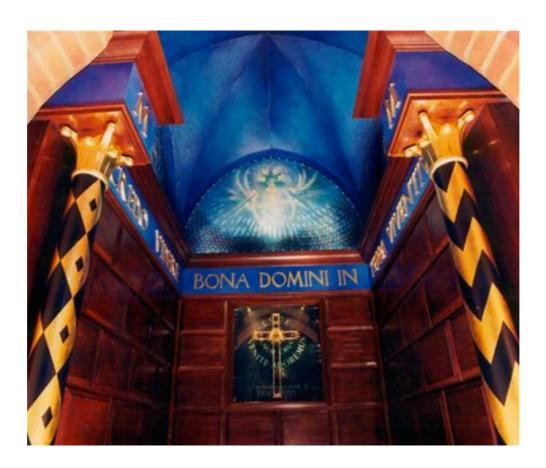
The church was altered and re-ordered in the 1920s to the design of H.S. Goodhart-Rendel, to provide an extension of the north aisle to form the Chapel of the Seven Sorrows, used regularly for low masses, and a new ante-chapel (now refashioned as the parish office) and main entrance on Bourne Street with choir room above. Additionally the church was extended beyond the east end to form the servers' sacristy.



The construction of the church is principally solid brickwork, with stone columns in the nave and brick piers in the north chapel, the former dressed with Bath stone and the latter with granite. The floors are a mixture of stone, square tile and parquet. The main roofs are natural slate, with asphalt-covered felt in between. There are a number of important artefacts and paintings in the church. The church seats just over 200, with room for another 100 seats for major services.

The Columbarium

In 1999 a columbarium, designed by Roderick Gradidge, a long standing member of the congregation, was built in a recess inside the church on the south side of the main Bourne Street entrance. This project was funded by a loan from the Levy Trust which has recently been paid off by the sale of niches.



Recent Major Works

In 2013 a major programme of work on the stonework, guttering, drains and windows both inside and outside was completed, paid for by accrued interest from the Levy Trust, a contribution from the Trustees and by a successful appeal to the congregation. The next Quinquennial inspection is due in 2019. There is a sub-committee of the PCC whose role is to advise on the fabric, the most urgent issue at present is to improve the internal lighting; funds have been ring fenced for this purpose.

The Presbytery

This unusual building which was originally a pub is on the corner of Bourne Street and Graham Terrace and is connected to the church only at basement level. It is Grade II listed.

The freehold of the Presbytery is owned by St Mary's Trust, which is also responsible for its upkeep.

It includes a three-bedroom flat on the top floor which has been used as accommodation by parish priests and is currently on a short-term commercial letting; two one-bedroom flats, both on the second floor, one of which has recently been refurbished to a high standard and is let commercially, and the second of which has been historically used as accommodation for a second priest; and a guest bedroom and bathroom on the first floor. Additionally, on the first floor are the dining-room and library, which are used for parish meetings and social functions - their capacity is limited to about 60 people.

On the ground floor, there is a large kitchen and scullery (used for parish functions), an office (the use of which is made available to the parish priest) and a lavatory.

The building currently provides income through the commercial lettings of two flats and the commercial letting of the basement to the Victoria School of English; agreement in principle has recently been reached for a new 5 year lease of the basement (with increased rent for both the part owned by the Trust and the connected undercroft which is occupied on the basis of a licence from the Parish).



St Mary's has never had a parsonage house and has not had a church hall since the 1950s. Traditionally, larger parish events (such as "Quiz Nights") have been held in the Hall of the Francis Holland School, opposite the Presbytery in Graham Terrace

The Cottage

This was originally part of the Presbytery, it was separated when it was occupied by nuns attached to the parish and is now a self-contained maisonette with two bedrooms providing accommodation for the Sacristan.

26 Graham Terrace

The freehold is owned by St Mary's Trust. It is a detached house over four storeys, next to the Presbytery. It has four bedrooms, a study, two bathrooms, a double reception room, lavatory, dining-room, kitchen, utility room and a small garden. It provided accommodation for Fr Coles and his family while he was the incumbent and is currently let to a community of Sisters of St Vincent de Paul while their premises in Victoria are refurbished.

85 Chester Row

This is held by the PCC on a lease from the Grosvenor Estate for the purpose of housing someone in connection with their duties at St Mary's; over the years it has been used for the verger and for the parish administrator. More recently it provided accommodation for Fr David Cherry, under an arrangement with St Mary's Trust which assumed responsibility for its upkeep and expenses. The house is arranged over three storeys, with dining-room, living-room and kitchen and small back-yard on the ground floor, a reception room and smaller room (study or bedroom), mezzanine bathroom, bedrooms on the second floor. A programme of repairs and redecoration has just been completed.







Vestments, Artefacts and Further Reading

The church has a very valuable collection of vestments and other liturgical artefacts.

More detailed accounts of the history and life of St Mary's and of interior of the church are available in the book 'Streets of Heaven' edited by Neville Price and published in 1999, and the booklet Infinite Riches in a Little Room by the late Fr Brian Brindley. The text of the latter, together with other material, is on the website.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Following the announcement of Fr Cherry's resignation in September 2014 and his subsequent withdrawal from active engagement with the parish of St Mary's, the bishop requested that Fr Neil Bunker, Mental Health Liaison Priest for the Archdeaconry, become attached to the parish and undertake a series of discussions with members of the congregation aiming to gain a vision of their perceptions of the church's strengths and weaknesses and their wishes for its future.

A number of themes emerged, most notably a wish to re-instate the strong teaching tradition of the parish and also to reinstate some devotions that had fallen out of practice such as Exposition and the Devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In April 2015 Fr Bunker became Priest in Charge for a period of a year and has taken this work forward creating thereby increased energy and cohesion within the congregation.



Specific Developments Have Included

The College of Priests

There has been great emphasis on the collegiality of Fr Bunker as Priest in Charge and the associated clergy. The members of the College of Priests agree to remember each other and the parish in their prayers and meet monthly to discuss and arrange responsibilities at services and general parish business. Their meetings are attended by the Churchwardens.

The School of Religion

Monthly educational (in the broadest sense) meetings are held. Topics covered have included 'The Mass', 'Benediction', Music in the liturgy, the work of our neighbouring Sisters of St Vincent de Paul, and an exposition on the King James Bible. These are well attended by 30 to 40 members of the congregation and their friends and are followed by light refreshments.

The Library Committee

There is a historic collection of books in the Presbytery Library. The plan is to explore linkages with academic theological institutions and to make the library available for private study.

St Mary's Lectures to be held in 2016

This is an initiative of Fr Bunker's to revitalise the reputation of St Mary's as a focus of religious and moral instruction. Four lectures will delivered, each in memory of an outstanding individual associated with the church, namely: Lord Halifax, Dr Eric Mascall, Fr John Gilling and David Trendell.

The distinguished speakers will be: The Revd. Chris Chivers, Principal of Westcott House; Dr Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalene College Cambridge; Lord Neuberger, President of the Supreme Court and Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood, Principal of the Royal Academy of Music.



THE NEW PRIEST

We are looking for a priest, mature in orders, whose spirituality is sustained by the daily mass, with experience of traditional Anglo-Catholic liturgy and generous in his orthodoxy.



We will look to the new priest to build upon the foundations laid over the past year to take forward the life of the parish, enlarging the congregation, particularly attracting younger members, and increasing its spiritual understanding.

An understanding of the legacy of the parish to show compassion to the less fortunate and to pursue Christian unity is essential. The appointee must be emotionally, mentally, spiritually and physically robust.

Key Relationships

- St Mary's Trust who are the patrons
- The College of Priests
- The Churchwardens
- The Director of Music
- The Head Server
- The Sacristan

Main Responsibilities

- To lead and advance the spiritual life of the parish
- To continue current work actively to promote understanding of Anglo-Catholicism through maintaining a high standard of sermons, the provision of courses e.g. during Lent and the further development of the School of Religion
- To appreciate and nurture the College of Priests
- To work with the Hon Treasurer, Churchwardens, Trustees, PCC and congregation to secure the financial position of the parish
- To work collaboratively and constructively with the Director of Music, the Head Server, Sacristan, Verger and other members of the team essential to the provision of the liturgy
- To lead, with the Trustees and the PCC, the development of a long term strategy to maximise the use of the church and Trust buildings to advance the objectives of the Trust, support the parish finances and secure the future of St Mary's
- To strengthen links with the neighbouring Francis Holland School
- To maintain the current flexible approach to the provision of the sacrament of baptism
- To undertake pastoral visiting to those who live in the parish and are on the electoral roll and to take Holy Communion to the sick

Essential Experience:

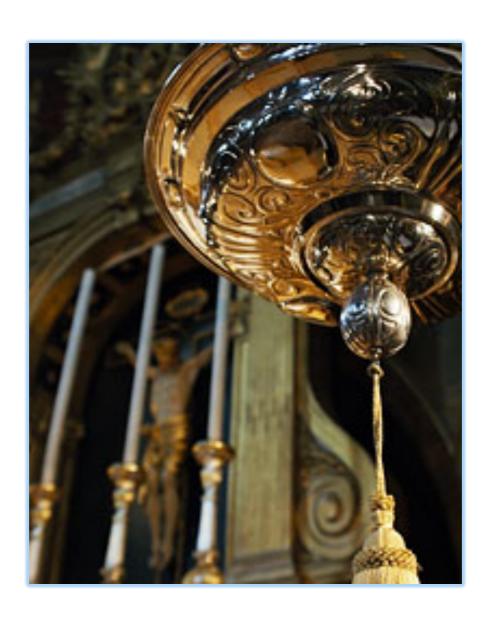
- Successful working within a diverse team
- Successful experience of parochial life
- An experienced confessor
- Preparation for baptism, confirmation and marriage

Essential Skills:

- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively
- The flexibility to adjust to changing circumstances
- To be kind and gain the confidence of the diverse loyal congregation including those who can attend only infrequently or exist at the margins of society
- To be friendly with excellent communication skills so as to encourage growth of the congregation
- A good practical grasp of finance
- Competence in the use of IT
- The wisdom and flexibility to lead the PCC in any discussions which may be necessitated by the House of Bishops' Declarations on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests
- It is a hope always cherished by the congregation that some will have a vocation to the priesthood, the ability to spot and nurture such individuals is essential.

Which of the properties owned by the Trust or leased to the PCC provides accommodation for the new vicar will be agreed with the Trustees and PCC in consideration of his circumstances. The cost of utilities will be met by the Trustees.

There will be an agreed budget for Clergy expenses.





Contact

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Website www.stmarysbournest.com

Google Map and Street View https://goo.gl/hRFkM2

Facebook https://goo.gl/xFlttg