

## Children and families worker

### Introduction

The intent of this short introduction is to provide an overview of our ministry as it currently stands, and a little context to the parish.

Our ministry to children (0-11) and their families has developed significantly in recent years and we are looking to develop it further now. We have a good group of volunteers involved in the work and a mixed programme some of which is listed below:

- Junior church
- Ma'mites
- Toddler Praise
- Nappachino's
- Parenting courses
- Junior Choir
- Global Gang (summer holiday club)
- Easter and Christmas fundays
- Lots of special family and children oriented services including Crib Service, Nativity, Good Friday, Global Gang, Remembrance
- School assemblies
- Village fete

Our vision for this ministry is to engage with all the children in the village (about 500) and their families (about 1000 adults). We aim to journey with them, sharing God's love both practically and sharing our faith.

### Youth Work

Our youth work is focussed through a joint project with other churches in the area. The Windle Valley Youth Project ([www.wvyp.org.uk](http://www.wvyp.org.uk)) employs youth workers and with volunteers runs several youth clubs, Café church and is involved in other areas such as schools work.

## **Parish Profile**

### ***Location***

Windlesham is a semi-rural village in North West Surrey, situated between Sunningdale and Camberley. It is close to the M3, M4, M25 and the A30. London is approximately 30 miles away and reached by road or the nearest main line station at Sunningdale.

### ***Population***

This is approximately 4,500, made up mainly of owner-occupied houses. There is a strong sense of community, especially among the villagers who have grown up here or in the area. There are, in addition, a number of “new” estates. There are some starter homes and a small number of retirement flats in the most recently built estate, and limited provision of social housing in the older part of the village. Windlesham retains its “village” feel in many respects while also serving as a dormitory for local towns and London.

### ***Industry and Community Facilities.***

A butcher, pharmacist, newsagent, post office, general food store, off-licence, hairdresser and office supplies are some of the main shops. There is also a doctor's surgery and numerous pubs in the village. The Windlesham Club and Theatre has recently undergone substantial refurbishment and has a snooker hall, social activities and hosts a thriving village drama group. There are also tennis courts, a bowling club and a recreation field (the Field of Remembrance) containing football and cricket pitches and a children's play area.

Eli Lilly, Pharmaceuticals have a research and development centre in Windlesham.

### ***Schools***

- Windlesham First School (5-7) and Little Villagers Pre-School(2½-5)
- Valley End Church of England Infant School, Church controlled (5-7) in Chobham Parish, but enjoying close links with Windlesham.
- Hall Grove Preparatory School, Boys and Girls (4-13)
- Little Grove Pre-School (2½-5) attached to Hall Grove
- Woodcote House Preparatory School, Boys mainly boarding (7-13)
- Hurst Lodge School, Girls and Boys (2½-11) Girls only (11-18) – in South Ascot Parish, but in close proximity and with close links with Windlesham.
- Coworth-Flexlands
- Hatton Hill Day Nursery (3months-5yrs)
- 3-2-5 Pre-School(2½-5) and Windlesham Village Pre-School(2½-5) both meet on weekdays in the village.

The Church has good relations with each of the schools. The Rector is governor of Windlesham First School and we conduct assemblies at Windlesham First, Valley End and Coworth-Flexlands.

## ***Hospitals***

There are no hospitals in the village. Frimley Park Hospital and St. Peter's Hospital are both five miles away.

## ***Church Buildings***

1. **The Church** is situated at the Western edge of the Parish and on the edge of the village. It is predominantly Victorian, redesigned and extended in 1874 but with some parts dating back to 1680.
2. **St. John's Link and Church Hall.** St. John's Hall was built in 1965 and extended in 1985. It is located at the rear of the church and connected by the 'Link' building which was completed in November 2000. The Link is widely used by church, community and commercial groups both during the week and at week ends. It comprises four large and one small meeting rooms on two floors, a spacious cloister area and well equipped, large, modern kitchen.
3. **The Parish Office** is located in the Link and serves both the Link and the Church. It has full facilities and is manned five days a week.
4. **Chertsey Road Hall** is a village hall built in 1890 and located in the centre of Windlesham, some distance from the church. It is used for a variety of church and widely varied community purposes.

## ***Staff***

1. **Rector** – appointed 1997
2. **Ordained Local Minister**
3. **Three Pastoral Assistants**
4. **Children and their Families Minister** (the role being advertised to replace our current worker)
5. **Youth and Children Ministry team leader**
6. **Parish and Link Administrators**
7. **Strong Lay involvement in the life of the Church.**

## ***Church Activities***

The Church has a wide-ranging ministry, including children, youth groups and adult groups (for example: Home Groups, Alpha Courses, Parenting Courses, Men's Meetings, St John Guild, and Ladies' Evening Fellowship). Windlesham Caring provides practical help for the elderly and disabled, and there is a 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Club and Monday Luncheon Club for the over 60. Ma-mites (Mothers and Toddlers) runs weekly in the St. John's Hall, and there is an annual summer Holiday Bible Club for ages 5 – 11, and Fun Days for 5 -11 each Easter and Christmas. A group

of church members attend Spring Harvest, Greenbelt, Soul Survivor (younger church members) and various youth / children camps each year.

St. John's is the only church in the village with approximately 200 people on the Electoral Roll. We maintain good ecumenical links with members of other churches in the Windle Valley, notably the Anglican Churches in Lightwater and Bagshot, Bagshot Evangelical Church, Bagshot Methodist Church and Bagshot Catholic Church. There are regular Ecumenical services.

### ***Music and Worship***

<b>Parish Communion</b> at 9.00 am	Parish Communion is a traditional service of communion using the liturgy of Common Worship Order 1. The service includes the singing of hymns, and the music is supported by the <a href="#">choir</a> .
<b>Morning Praise</b> at 10.45 am	Designed for all-age worship, our Morning Praise is informal, with singing led primarily by the <a href="#">Music Group</a> . On the first Sunday of the month, the service includes Communion. There are full Junior Church activities each Sunday to which children depart during the service.
<b>Evening Worship</b> at 6.30 pm	Our Evening Worship aims to incorporate different traditions and styles, and to encourage us to explore new ways to worship God.

### ***Web site***

The church web-site can be found at [www.windleshamchurch.org.uk](http://www.windleshamchurch.org.uk). This has a section for our youth and children's work [www.windleshamchurch.org.uk/youth](http://www.windleshamchurch.org.uk/youth).