



Parish Profile

Queensway, Wellingborough

Northamptonshire NN8 3SD

September 2025



A warm welcome to everyone ...



Website: www.saintmarkschurch.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarkswellingborough

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Our Vision</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Personal Skills & Priorities.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>The Parish of St Mark</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Leadership and Organisation</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Worship and Prayer Life</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Other Services</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Work with Young People</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Youth Club (UP2U).....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Other Church Activities.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Buildings</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Communications</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Financial Position</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>The Wider Area</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Appendix A (Maps).....</i>	<i>16</i>

Introduction

We expect that most churches think they are special. However, we at St. Mark's like to think we offer one of the warmest welcomes to everyone who comes into contact with our church family.

St. Mark's church is in the Wellingborough Deanery which is in the Diocese of Peterborough. Situated on the Queensway area of Wellingborough the church started life in 1965.

The parish is situated in an area of social deprivation and we seek to offer Christian worship, fellowship, pastoral care and practical help wherever it is needed. We are an active member of *Inclusive Church* and have been successful in growing our congregation substantially.

We have a Catholic style of worship which is also relaxed and vibrant.

Our Vision

St. Mark's aim is to offer God's love to the parish community it serves.

We aim to do this by worshipping God, witnessing to Christ and working together for the Kingdom of God, in love, truth and faith.

Our vision is to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the parish community through:

- Publicity and communications especially social media
 - Maintaining our variety of worship
 - Finding new ways to reach out to particular groups within the community and bring them into the life of the church.
- We are keen to embrace new ideas.

In the past we have responded positively to tragic events

Examples of this are:

- The pandemic – outside services throughout lockdown was an unexpected form of outreach which brought new people into the church.



- A fatal teenage stabbing – working with police and *Off the Streets* for a knife amnesty and initial negotiations to set up a bike track.



- A teenager who drowned in the river – Support for the family to involve the council in establishing water awareness initiatives.



Personal Skills & Priorities

St. Mark's church is looking to appoint a new vicar who we feel should have the following skills and priorities:

- Good “people” skills and empathy with a wide range of backgrounds and ages including youth.
- A good sense of humour.
- Prayerful and spiritual leadership to help the church to continue to grow both in faith and in numbers.
- An understanding of the importance of stewardship.
- Good Christian teaching and communication skills.
- To build upon the existing strong links with the community and to demonstrate the love of Jesus to those on the margins.
- Encourage people to use their skills to become more involved in church life.

The Parish of St Mark

- Currently there are 66 people on the Electoral Roll. There is also a church family roll of 120 which includes a wider range of people who are associated with the church.
- The average Sunday attendance in 2024 consisted of 60 adults and 12 children (under 16).
- St. Mark's has been an active member of the Queensway Partnership. This is a vital networking group which works for the

benefit of the local community. We also have links with the town's Street Church.

- The parish is an urban area that was initially a council estate and is now a mixture of private and social housing with a population of 9000.
- There are three schools in the parish - Ruskin Infant, Ruskin Academy and Olympic Primary with approximately 1000 children.
- There are three sheltered/care homes. These are Bilton Court, Attley Court and Langdale Court.
- Glamis Hall offers day care and community facilities within the parish.
- Park Farm is a well-established industrial estate within the parish .
- There are local shops and a medical centre within the parish.

Leadership and Organisation

The Vicar, a Licensed Reader, Pastoral Leader/Safeguarding Officer, a Licensed Evangelist, two Churchwardens and a Treasurer/Resident Organist form the leadership team which meets regularly.

In addition, the Secretary, and 12 members make up the PCC .
Sub-committees are only formed to oversee specific events.
(eg. Vicar's Welcoming Party!)

We have a pastoral team who offer practical help and support to church members who are ill, bereaved, lonely or housebound and are also involved in Baptism preparation. As well as a Sacristan, we have a team of church members who are responsible for a variety of duties covering areas such as Services, Youth and Children, and Café.

The church encourages church members to further their personal and spiritual development.

Worship and Prayer Life



9:30 am **Sunday** Parish Eucharist
A service of hymns, readings, prayers and Holy Communion, followed by refreshments. For the first part of the service, MiniMarks (Children's Sunday School for 3-15 year olds) have Bible-based stories and activities.

The words of the liturgy and hymns are displayed on a screen.
The service is streamed live to Facebook. We have a modern electric organ and an electronic piano which uses the organ amplifier. Although we do not have a choir, we have a group that regularly sing during communion.

During the summer months, on **Tuesday** evenings at 7:15 there is Evening Prayer.

On **Tuesday and Wednesday** at 9:30am there is a service of Morning Prayer.

Thursday morning at 9:30, there is a said Service of Holy Communion which is followed by refreshments.

We also have a **Lent Course** and an **Advent Course**.

Other Services



After **Palm Sunday**, there have been different services throughout Holy Week. These have included **Stations of the Cross**, **Maundy Thursday Eucharist** ending in an **Hour's Watch** and **Veneration of the Cross** on Good Friday.

On **Easter Day**, we normally have



A Dawn Service of the Light at 6am followed by a breakfast and then **Easter Eucharist at 9:30**



At **Christmas** we have



A Christingle/ Crib Service which fills the church with families who treat this as the start of their Christmas



and a Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning Eucharist

In addition to these services, we have:

- Ash Wednesday Service with ashing.
- A Memorial/All Souls Service
- Services to Sheltered/Care Homes
- Home Communion (weekly/monthly)
- Weddings , Baptisms, Confirmations and Funerals
- Harvest Festival
- Mothering Sunday
- Specific Thanksgiving and Blessing Services

St Mark's has an open policy with regard to those seeking **Baptism** for their children or themselves. We welcome any enquiries and we seek first to build up a relationship with the family or the individual, explaining the meaning of Baptism where needed. This is followed by a meeting with the Pastoral Leader to confirm details and answer any questions. Baptism services take place on a Sunday either during or after the main service.

Work with Young People

St Mark's has a strong relationship with Ruskin Infants and Olympic Primary where the vicar takes regular assemblies. Also certain year groups visit the church as part of the current RE curriculum.



Children's Workshops.

On Good Friday and during Advent these activity mornings attract children and parents who we do not normally see at any other time.



Youth Club (UP2U)

We have an ever-growing, successful, Youth Club, established in 2016 as part of a Church Growth Programme, currently with over 120 young people on the books and a regular attendance of 75-80. It is the second largest Youth Club in Northamptonshire and the biggest Church of England Youth Group this side of Central London. This has recently been recognised by a national presentation at Lambeth Palace. The club has also been awarded Youth Club of the Year by the Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs.



The young people, aged 8-17, meet fortnightly on a Friday (term time only) in 2 groups split by age. Some have Special Educational Needs, others are home schooled, from low-income households or have challenging behaviour, requiring a strong adult presence to reinforce good behaviours.

Over the years, we have seen many of our diverse children grow and be nurtured by our care. New friendships have been formed, confidence has grown and an ability to mix with others has been developed.

A minimum of 10 volunteers is needed for each session, made up from the church congregation. The vicar has always been heavily involved and is a key figure for

the young people in both groups. Our members view youth club as 'coming to church'.



We provide an open space for the children to be themselves, to be heard and to have a listening ear, if required. There is often a time when a quiet moment is needed and 5-10 minutes in the church for a discussion with the

Vicar is appreciated.

With any club, funding is always a challenge and while we do our best to explore options, it's not always easy. Over recent years, with the help and connections of the church, the club profile and mission have been recognised by the local councillors. It is important that these relationships continue.

The youth club's presence on the estate is hugely needed and appreciated by the community and it is hoped that it will continue for many years to come.

Other Church Activities

Wellbeing Café.



Every Saturday morning we have a "drop in" café that provides refreshments and items from the local food bank. This has become a happy meeting place for the local community, many of whom consider this as their "church". Local councillors hold regular surgeries advising on such things as homelessness, housing and

finance. Other organizations (eg: local housing association, police, financial help groups) come from time to time.



The **Wednesday Bingo Group** is a group who meet once a month. This group is run by church members but includes many non-church goers.

60th Anniversary 2025

Disco



Burying of a time capsule



Prayer walk in the parish



Annual Queensway Summer Festival



Pets' Blessing Service



Parish Pilgrimages:

... Walsingham



... Ely



... Oxford



... St Albans



Christmas Lunch



Warm Wednesdays

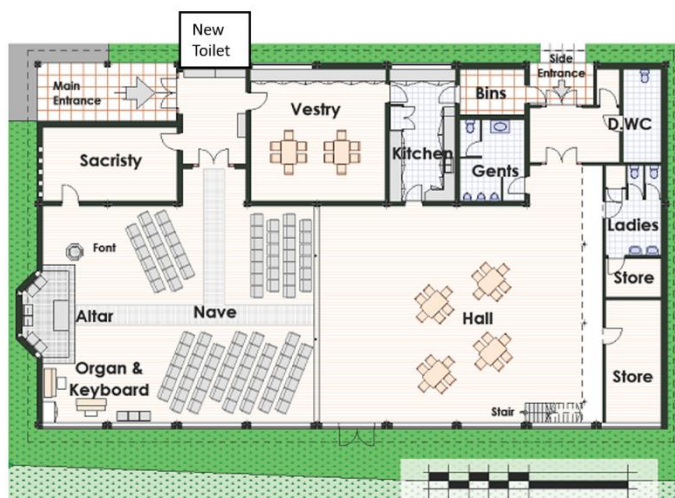
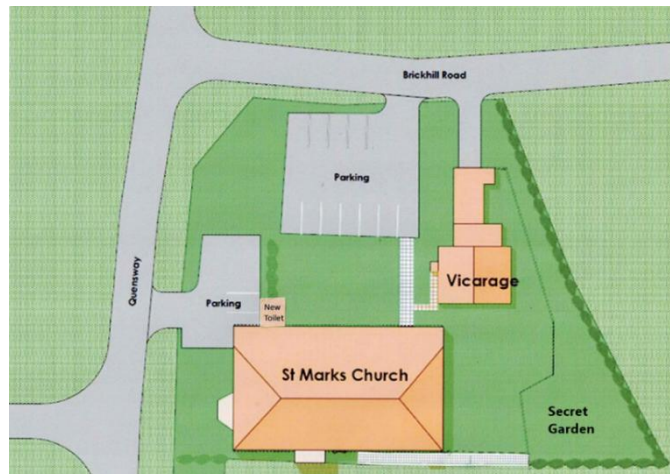
Also - Summer Seaside Trips and Christmas Fayre

The church hall and vestry are used by various other groups during the week, eg: Happydayz nursery (every weekday during term-time), Cubs, Beavers, Squirrels, Scouts, Alcoholics Anonymous and one-off hires.

Buildings

The church and vicarage are adjacent buildings and located on the corner of Queensway and Brickhill Road in Wellingborough, NN8 3SD.

St. Mark's church is one building comprising two main parts built in the 1960's and is in a good state of repair. An additional Disabled Toilet, including baby changing facility, was built in 2024 at the church entrance. The last Quinquennial inspection took place in 2025 and there are no outstanding major issues.



St Marks Church - Queensway Wellingborough.

The front half is the main church (with the altar unusually at the west end.) There is a seating capacity of up to 120.

The church hall is separated from the church by new sliding partitions and is opened for

Sunday services. When opened, this can extend the seating capacity to about 220. There is access to the church hall independent of the main church entrance and good car-parking facilities. The Vestry is used for various meetings. From the hall fire exit there is a path to the secret garden.

The adjacent **vicarage** is a 4 bedroom detached house built in the 1960's with an integral garage. On the ground floor, there is an office/study. Substantial renovations are in the process of being undertaken.



The garden is mainly laid to lawn with small fruit trees.

At the side of this garden there is a path access to 'St. Mark's Secret Garden' which is used regularly by youth and for quiet prayer.



Communications

Both traditional and modern methods are used to provide essential information to both church members and to members of the wider public. There is currently a weekly news sheet with general information. The **website** contains information for contacts, service times and planned future events and the **Facebook** page is used to promote special events and is useful to target specific groups of people. There are two new prominent **notice boards** outside the church which provide information for the community.

Financial Position

Our parish is not in a wealthy area and during the last 10 years, the Parish Share has nearly doubled. Despite this, we have strived to increase the amount we pay each year and in 2023 we paid the full amount requested.

Last year we raised money to build an extra disabled toilet that is accessed from the main entrance and consequently could not pay as much parish share. Since the other toilets can only be accessed from the hall which the nursery uses during the week, the new toilet is available for people attending services and community groups who hire the vestry.

In recent years we have also spent money on the “Secret Garden” (see “Buildings” above), a new efficient gas heating boiler and new partitions which are opened each Sunday. These improvements have helped cater for the expanded congregation and growth of the church.

Over the past few years our main fundraising event has been the “Queensway Festival” which has attracted support from the local community. The Christmas Fayre is also an annual fundraiser.

We made the decision not to join PGS as many parishioners objected to direct debits and giving “outside” the church. There has been a marked increase in standing orders paid directly into our church bank account. We have recently had a Sumup machine donated for contactless donation. A large proportion of our congregation do not have inflation-proof income and stewardship campaigns need to be handled sensitively.

The Wider Area

There are 6 other Church of England churches in the town. (St. Andrew's, All Hallows, Gleneagles, All Saints, St. Barnabas and St. Mary's)

We are also a member of Wellingborough Interfaith Group whose aim is to encourage faith groups to work closer together.

The parish is situated 60 miles south east of Birmingham and 80 miles north of London. The maps in Appendix A show its exact position. The town of Wellingborough has a population of 80,000.

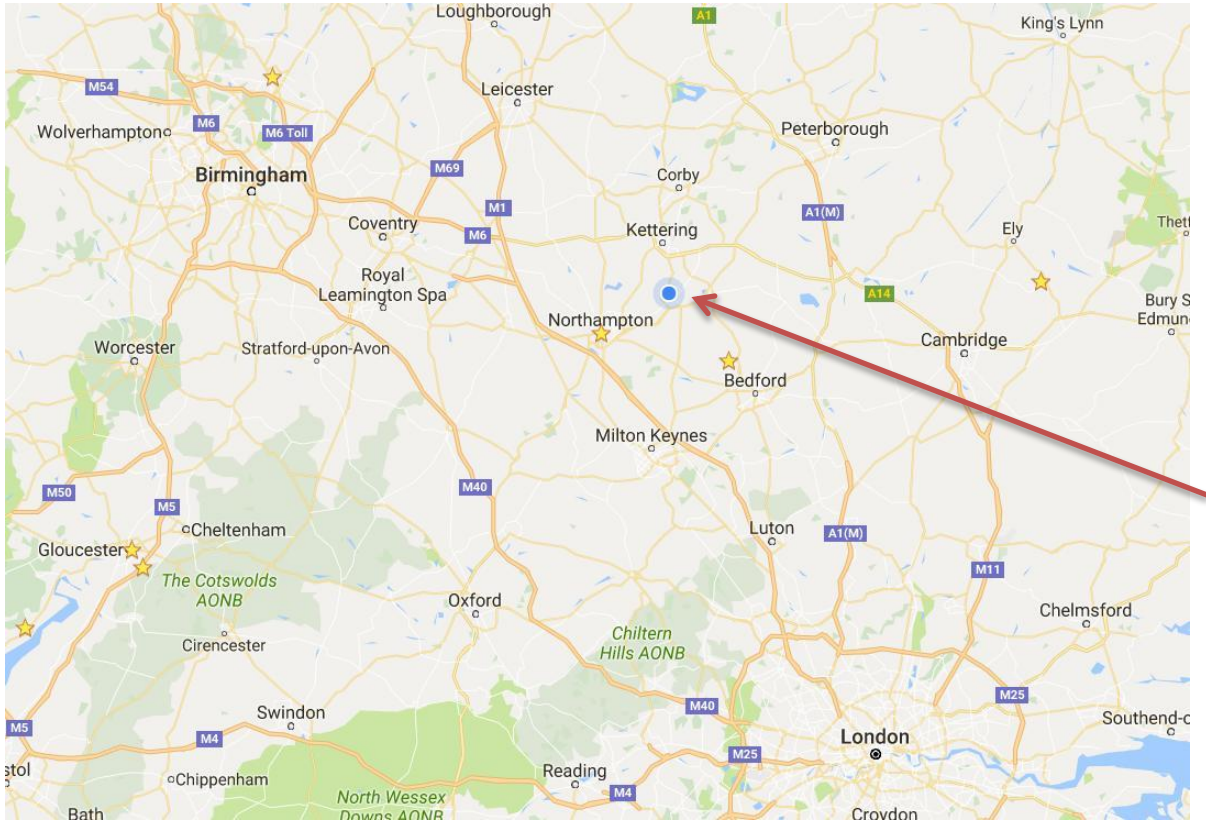
Historically, the town was dominated by the shoe and engineering industries which have gradually disappeared. These have been replaced by a wide variety of companies, based on several industrial estates with many specializing in distribution and logistics due to the central location and easy access to the M1 (north and south) and A14 (East Coast ports). The town is fortunate to have a main-line train service to London and there are major development projects extending the town with housing, schools and retail outlets.

There is a Community Hospital in the town. However, the main hospitals in the area are located in Kettering and Northampton. A crematorium has opened in Wellingborough as an alternative to Kettering.

Wellingborough is multi-cultural and this is a positive influence on the town. It is fortunate enough to be the venue for an annual International Walking Event ("The Waendel Walk").

Appendix A (Maps)

- Location in Country (Postcode: NN8 3SD)



- St. Mark's Parish in Wellingborough

