

Parish Profile

Sheringham St Peter

Diocese of Norwich

St Peter's Church
Serving God, Serving Sheringham



Vicar: The Reverend Canon Christian Heycocks
SSM Curate: The Reverend Christina Rees

Overview of the Benefice

Sheringham is a vibrant seaside town on the North Norfolk coast, with sandy beaches and beautiful woods. Of the 7000 inhabitants, 4000 are Christians according to the 2021 census. The age mix is 1000 under 17, 3200 between 18 and 64, and 2800 are over 65 (Source: City Population website accessed 6th July 2023).



Tourism is an important industry in the town, but wider employment opportunities are varied and exciting. We have a RNLI Lifeboat Station; two museums; a theatre/cinema; two big nurseries; very large primary school; a high school with Sixth Form; and a SEN school.

We are a single parish, single church benefice; a living church at the heart of our community. We work closely with our sister churches in the town (Baptist, Roman Catholic, Quakers, Methodists, Life Church and Salvation Army) to proclaim the Gospel message. The best example of this is our ecumenically run 'Beach Life' programme:

<http://www.sheringhambeachlife.co.uk/>

Our Church Family

We have over 130 people on the electoral roll (2023) and 100 worshippers across an average week. This can rise dramatically during holiday periods. The church diary is extremely busy with events ranging from monthly booksales to orchestral concerts.

Our church works closely with the local Foodbank and we have a large drop-off point in the building. We distribute homeless packs to those in need and have a very well used prayer space and votive candle stand where prayer requests can be left.



We run a carer, baby and toddler group called ‘Noah’s Ark’, with an average weekly attendance of over 70. We have a children’s clothes bank and baby weighing scales available as well as baby massage, ante-natal and post natal support groups.

On Monday mornings, the hall is open for everyone who wants to drop in for a free hot drink and a biscuit, or maybe a scone, and some company. Within this environment, we specifically offer mental health support to our local community.

In recent years, five members of the congregation have been ordained in the Church of England.

We are members of 'Inclusive Church', which means that we do our best to welcome everybody. We've got signage to help people with dementia, baby changing facilities, and access for wheelchair users.

We're also members of 'EcoChurch', and have nearly achieved our bronze award as we do our best to help the environment. We even have an eco-garden.



We're members of HeartEdge - which means that we're at the heart of the community whilst being with people on the edge.

Our late 19th century church building is open every day so that people can come in to pray, rest or to look around. In August 2019, we officially recorded over 3,000 visitors to the church building (outside of regular worship).



Our Ministry and Worship

We offer a variety of worship services throughout the year, from Taize to Prayer and Healing Services and our main communion services take place on Sundays at 10.00am and Thursdays at 11.00am. We have a thriving choir and employ a Director of Music/Organist.



Our Ministry Team is strong in number, including two lay ministers (Readers), an SSM Curate and our collaborative partners from the Society of St Luke (a local Anglican Religious Community). We have a number of retired ministers as part of our team and regularly welcome Ordinands on placement. The Vicar has been in ordained ministry for 26 years, has long-standing experience as a 'Training Incumbent' and has served in a wide variety of ministerial settings including urban, rural, 'Greater Church', Military and University Chaplaincy. We also employ a Parish Administrator to oversee our Parish Office.

Housing

We have a modern, well-maintained Curate's house with its own drive, garage, extra parking area and large back garden. It is situated in a modern, quiet estate near to the local schools and close to the centre of town, the church and the beach (3 minutes by car; 10 minutes walk). Pretty Corner Woods are 5 minutes walk away.





Want to Know More?

We're on Facebook, X (Twitter) and a Church Near You website:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StPetersSheringham>

X (Twitter) @rockandkeys

Website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10042/>

If you are interested in serving your Curacy at Sheringham St Peter, feel free to contact the Vicar for more information or a further conversation. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

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