



Gaywood Parish Profile 2025

Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic

Parish Profile Pioneer Mission (Associate) Priest St Faith's Gaywood LEP

Do you have an ecumenical heart? Are you passionate about social justice and action? Do you want to bring people to know the love of Jesus? Then perhaps you are being called to serve in Gaywood, King's Lynn.

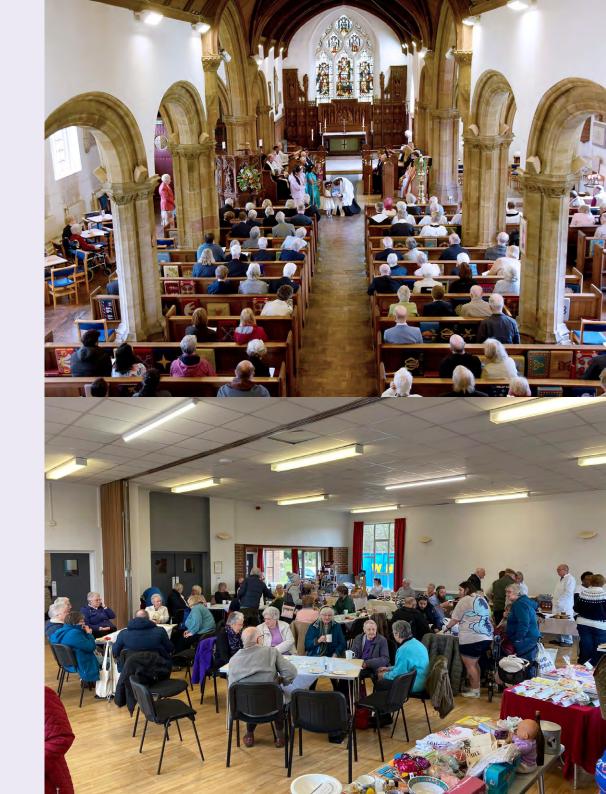
What is the role?

We are looking for a Pioneer Mission (Associate) Priest, with ability and aptitude for pioneer ministry, to serve God in the parish of Gaywood.

Gaywood is a large parish of over 21,570 people within the growing, historic and vibrant West Norfolk town of King's Lynn. There is more detail about the parish towards the end of this profile.

You will be part of an ecumenical ministry team. The church has been shared for worship with the local Methodist Church since 1974 and St Faith's is an established Local Ecumenical Partnership since 1995: Anglicans and Methodists flourishing together as one congregation.

Your role will be to develop and expand the growth and reach of the church, specifically into the large housing estates in the community.



Who we are

We are a lively and joyful outward looking church with a missional heart, seeking to serve our local community with love and care. St Faith's is an inclusive church, seeking to welcome all. We are best described as central in our churchmanship.

Our congregation is growing in diversity, increasingly reflecting our population and we are praying and working to develop our inclusivity and accessibility. We have recently decided to offer Prayers of Love and Faith. We have good and mutually supportive relationships with churches in the Lynn Deanery and in the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit.

Our vision

We want to bring people to know the love of Jesus.

We do this through:

- Growth in discipleship
- Encouraging all to grow in faith and love for our neighbour
- Serving the community around us demonstrating love in action

We are called to be:

- A visible presence reaching out into the community in God's love
- A place of welcome and belonging
- A centre of mission whereby living out the gospel we are agents of change for social justice and action

As a silver award eco church we seek to find ways to care for creation.



What is the task?

- To prayerfully seek and live out a life of faith in word and deed as a visible presence in our community and drawing others to discover the love of Jesus
- To reach out and build lasting connections with families, children and young people on our housing estates
- To strengthen our presence in the community so that our church becomes a centre/ hub for mission and social action
- To take a lead in developing our engagement with local schools
- To help promote inclusivity and diversity by seeking out those who are isolated, vulnerable and elderly and following up on opportunities for engagement when they arise

The mission God has put on our hearts is:

- Standing up for justice by building links with local agencies and support networks
- To work with Norfolk County Council Detached Youth Workers to facilitate the weekly youth group on the Fairstead Estate

Our new priest will be:

- Prayerful, with a strong personal faith and spiritual practice
- Someone with a heart for incarnational ministry, keen to be visible in the community.
- Committed to collaborative ministry, working within an ecumenical team of lay and ordained colleagues in the Anglican and Methodist traditions
- Someone who is an encourager and enabler inspiring others to explore and use their gifts
- A good communicator, able to relate to people of all ages and social status and with a desire to get alongside people wherever they are on their faith journey
- Someone who has a passion for social justice and social action



Where we are

St Faith's is situated in Gaywood in the eastern environs of the historic market town of King's Lynn (which has more historic buildings than York!). It is a twenty-minute walk from Gaywood into the centre of King's Lynn.

King's Lynn boasts a growing café culture, arts and theatre scene, cinemas, live music and libraries. Shopping facilities include well-known high street names, outlet stores, and boutique shops. There are a wide variety of sport and leisure facilities around the town as well as beautiful parks and a picturesque working waterfront.

King's Lynn is served by a variety of good schools and the College of West Anglia College (with a partnership with Anglia Ruskin University). There are good transport links to Norwich, Peterborough, Cambridge and London and a cycle track network across the town.



A bit more about the parish

Gaywood is a sizeable parish made up of mixed demographics. It has a more varied demographic than much of Norfolk, with 10% of people identifying as other than white British at the 2021 Census.

Around 2,500 people are unable to work, 23% of the adult population has no qualifications and 33% are not in work, either because they are retired or because health, caring responsibilities or other reasons make this impossible. There are some established wealthy residential areas and commercial zones but also large estates with high levels of deprivation and inherent socio-economic issues. It is recognised that there are some areas of serious deprivation in parts of Gaywood and notably on the Fairstead Estate. There are challenges for the residents on these estates in particular; low-income families who struggle financially and high levels of family breakdown and mental illness. The estates present many opportunities for mission.

Gaywood has shops, supermarkets, a local GP surgery, dentists and a post office. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is in the parish. Gaywood is close to forests, wide open countryside, West Norfolk's beautiful coastline and only a short distance from Sandringham.



Our Church

The site comprises the medieval church building of St Faith's, the Gaywood Church Rooms and St Faith's Community Hub.

The Church

The church is an attractive medieval building, seating around 250, which was largely rebuilt/ restored in the early 20th Century. Further work to the Chancel and Transepts was completed in 2008. The church is set back from Gayton Road and is surrounded by an attractive churchyard, which is well-maintained by the Council.

The church is open to visitors and for prayer three mornings a week when the church office is also open.

We host a number of different live music concerts each year. Our church and buildings are also used for meetings, services and other events for local groups and agencies.

Gaywood Church Rooms

Gaywood Church Rooms offer an additional resource to the parish with spacious car parking. The Rooms comprise two large halls with kitchens and toilet facilities which are used both for church activities and are hired out to community groups and for social events. They are managed under a separate trust, which is co-chaired by the Rector and Methodist Minister. The Rooms are non-profit making and hire income covers cleaning, caretaking and maintenance costs.

St Faith's Community Hub

The hub was opened in early 2023 as a centre of mission, serving the local community. The mission and ministry of this facility is now growing – with a number of support groups and social activities run in the hub, as well as a weekly satellite Foodbank and Connect Café/ Warm Space. The Diocese of Norwich Children, Youth and Families Resource Centre for West Norfolk is also based out of the hub.



Our Schools

There are five primary schools, two high schools and two schools for children with additional needs within the parish. None of our schools are CofE schools. The College of West Anglia is outside of the parish, but within walking distance.

We have excellent relationships with the schools which we want to further encourage and develop.

We regularly welcome school group visits to church throughout the year and go in to take assemblies. There is opportunity to go into the schools for reading with the children and share lunch times. We attend events in schools, and together with the Norfolk County Council Detached Youth Workers, we facilitate a weekly youth group on the Fairstead Estate.

Churches Together in King's Lynn have a small team, including members of St Faith's, that regularly visit the primary schools with "Open the Book".



Worship with us

Our worship style is friendly, relaxed and aimed at being accessible to both Anglicans and Methodists.

We see ourselves as one congregation with people of a variety of church traditions and backgrounds easily finding a home within the church. A broad range of service types and styles are offered, especially at the evening services. For example: Taizé, Celtic Holy Communion, Healing Services, Sung Evensong. Our Sunday morning services are eucharistic.

Life events are a significant part of the life and activity of the church in Gaywood. (See below under Additional Services)

Worship at St Faith's encompasses a broad breadth of styles: Sung Eucharist, Methodist Worship Book (MWB) Communion, Taizé, Celtic, All-age, Prayer and Praise, informal Holy Communion, Morning and Evening Prayer, Sung Evensong and Book of Common Prayer 1662 (BCP) Holy Communion. Our evening services, in particular, offer the opportunity for creativity and variation.

We are blessed to have two skilled and committed organists and a robed choir who sing as part of our Sunday worship as well as at other special services such as the annual carol service. The laity are involved in reading lessons and leading intercessions.

Service rotas are prepared in advance for several months. We meet for fellowship after the main service on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays in the month (and any other time we can find an excuse for sharing hospitality!)

Patterns of worship

Sunday Services

8am BCP Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays)9.45am HC Communion (3rd Sunday in the month is Methodist Worship Book Communion)6.30pm evening service (2nd & last Sundays)

Weekday Services

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion or Service of the Word (3rd Wednesday is Methodist Worship Book Communion) Saturday 4pm Faith@4 – Children and Families Service and Meal (1st Saturday of the month)

Additional Services

Regular Services for schools Regular Services in care homes Home Communions

Life Events (Occasional Offices) in 2023

42 funerals 26 baptisms Confirmation service – 4 candidates 4 weddings 1 renewal of vows 1 wedding blessing

During the week

Faith in Action

- Weekly after school youth group (in partnership with the police and the Norfolk County Council Detached Youth Work Team on the Fairstead Estate (term time only)
- Warm space run during the winter months in the Community Hub
- Foodbank Satellite and Connect Café on Wednesday mornings (year round)
- FISH Food in the School Holidays weekly breakfast/ brunch for children and families during holidays. In partnership with Churches Together in King's Lynn
- Weekly over 60s lunch club (term time only)
- Weekly Friendship Café supporting people with dementia (year round) in the Church Rooms
- Faith in Community Mental Health Drop-in Group fortnightly in the Community Hub (year round)
- Prayer Shawl Ministry meets fortnightly in the Community Hub
- Harvest lunch, Christmas lunch, Boxing Day and New Year's Day pop up café in the Church Rooms each year
- "A Small Light" Monthly Bereavement Group
 in the Community Hub
- St Faith's is an active member of Churches Together in King's Lynn – in January 2025 we hosted the Peace and Justice Forum in the Church Rooms

Prayer Groups and Bible Study Groups

- Morning Prayer is said in church on Mondays and Thursdays at 8.30am
- A regular Bible study group meets in the Community Hub
- Advent series and Lent course each year run in partnership with neighbouring churches in King's Lynn
- The contemplative prayer group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month in the Community Hub
- The Rosary prayer group meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the church

Social Events

- A variety of live music events throughout the year
- A popular monthly coffee morning in the Church Rooms
- Parish lunches during the year
- Spring, Summer and Christmas Fairs
- Open church/ bell tower tours/ historical exhibition for the King's Lynn Heritage Day in September each year
- Rectory garden/church green events for children and families/ uniformed organisations throughout the year
- Craft group meets on 2nd Thursday of the month in the Community Hub
- St Faith's supports social events in other churches in and around King's Lynn and on the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit

Youth/ Outreach

- Church youth group with around 10 teenagers (meets 1st Sunday of the month)
- Messy Church and other children/ family events throughout the year
- Faith@4 (as above)
- Diddy Disciples meet on the 3rd Sunday every month
- Youth group on Fairstead (as above)
- Good relationships with Uniformed Organisations
- Support for the Junior Gateway Club (for children and young people with additional needs) in the Church Rooms and the Rectory garden



Our Ministry Team

Our Ministry Team comprises a Rector and a Methodist Minister, the latter currently in vacancy. Until a replacement Methodist Minister is appointed, hopefully in the next round of Stationing in 2025, St Faith's is being served by the Superintendent Circuit Minister based in Downham Market and also by the Rector who has been authorised to serve as a Methodist Minister.

In addition, we are blessed to have a retired Methodist Minister in our congregation who leads services and participates in prayer groups and other events. The Ministry Team also comprises a Licensed Lay Minister (with PTO), Assistant Curate (from July 2025) and Authorised Worship Assistant. We also have a number of servers, chalice assistants and crucifers.

As part of the Lynn Deanery and the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit we have good relationships with our colleagues offering each other support, particularly for the large number of life events. We are currently reorganising our pastoral care team. Our youth group, mental health and bereavement groups are run by lay volunteers.

St Faith's is overseen by an ecumenical Church Council, made up of both Methodist and Anglican members, an experienced Treasurer, and a Methodist Circuit Representative. The Council meets together five times a year and is chaired alternately by the Methodist Minister and Rector. The Council also meet together prayerfully once a year for a Vision Day.

We have two Churchwardens, one Methodist Steward and three Deputy Wardens. Clergy meet with the Steward and Wardens/ Deputy Wardens every other month.

Our church office is open three mornings per week (when the church is also open) and is staffed by volunteers and a volunteer Office Manager.



Our Leadership Team



Revd Kyla Sørensen Rector

I've been at St Faith's for over two years. A graduate in languages, interfaith relations and theology and mission, I trained for the priesthood in Australia and in the UK. I have many years' experience in parish ministry as well as working as part of ecumenical hospital and prison chaplaincy teams.

My passion is for social action, ecumenical partnerships and the call of Jesus in Matthew 25:35. Coming from a background in journalism and hospitality I believe in the importance of welcoming all and sharing each other's stories.

Wider roles in the Church involve being a member of the Archbishops' College of Evangelists, Joint Moderator of Churches Together in King's Lynn and the Missionary Disciples Advocate for Lynn Deanery. I will be one of The Church of England representatives at the forthcoming Churches Together in England Forum in March.

I do my best to be an enabler; encouraging and equipping lay leadership, seeking always to find ways to bring people together so that we can all learn from each other.

My husband Peter and I both love living in King's Lynn – and especially in Gaywood. We have it all here: Beautiful parks, good schools, friendly cafes, a real community feel, plus we are minutes from the town centre where we can enjoy cinema, restaurants and live theatre. What's not to like?



Rev Gail Kerry Retired Methodist Minister

My faith journey only began in my early 30's; for this reason I have continued to have an interest in helping individuals to explore their ideas of spirituality and God + helping people to deepen their faith.

In the past I have organised quiet days and I am a spiritual director. From 2000 to 2015, when I retired, I worked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn as part of the ecumenical chaplaincy team. The hospital is a place of diverse cultures and faiths; as well as being alongside those facing their own death, child bereavement, mental health problems etc.

Since August last year I have worshipped permanently at St Faith's having been shown by God to move there.



Daphne Sampson Licensed Lay Minister (with Permission to Officiate)

I am currently a Licensed Lay Reader (with Permission to Officiate) and following a stroke in 2021 I am now hoping to return to full licensed status.

My background is in primary school teaching with a special interest in Special Needs Education (SEND). On retiring from this in 2010 I became a facilitator for Godly Play in the Diocese.

I moved to King's Lynn from London in 1984 and to St Faiths three years later. My time teaching in London off the Old Kent Road led to a strong concern for social justice issues. Following working with a team which for a while offered informal outreach worship I felt called to train as a Lay Reader.

I have a strong interest in environmental issues and I have led the Eco Church group at St Faiths for the past three years.



Liz Mbuthia Churchwarden

I am a worker in God's Kingdom, seconded from Kenya to the UK for His glory. I am humbled to serve as a church warden alongside an incredible, God-fearing team at St Faiths Church Gaywood.

Professionally, I work in the compassion industry as a nurse at our local hospital, where I strive to reflect God's love through my care. Passionate about sharing stories of God's faithfulness, I am continually amazed by all He has done and continues to do in my life—far beyond what words can fully express. Equipped by God, I am committed to serving wherever I am needed, giving my very best for His purposes.



Andrea Pearson Churchwarden

I came to King's Lynn in 1988 and started to worship at St Faith's soon afterwards. I was privileged to be asked to be a Churchwarden this year and so become more involved in the management and running of the church. I also help out in the Church Office one morning a week.

After spending 32 years in the NHS, I now work part-time in a local Garden Centre. I am an active member of the Soroptimist International Club of King's Lynn and help run the Squirrel and Beaver sections of our Scout Group.

I am looking forward to meeting and welcoming our new Associate Priest to our wonderful community at St Faith's in Gaywood.



Ruth Flint Deputy Warden, Parish

Safeguarding Officer, Authorised Worship Assistant

I am Ruth Flint and live in South Wootton about two miles from St Faith's. I share a house with my husband, Simon and two gorgeous Cairn Terriers. I have been retired for 12 years from teaching, and now spend my time walking the dogs and seeing my family and friends. I belong to Lynn's Community Cinema, enjoy going to the theatre and, in an attempt to keep vaguely fit, I do Yoga and dog agility.

My roles at St Faith's are: Church Council Member, Deputy Warden, Parish Safeguarding Officer, Authorised Worship Assistant, Holy Communion Server, Deputy Churchwarden.



Susie Cranko-Page Deputy Warden

My name is Susie and I have been worshipping at St Faith's since 1989 when I moved to King's Lynn and sought a local church where I felt both welcome and comfortable. I recently had the privilege of serving as churchwarden from 2017 to 2024 and I am now a deputy warden. It's great to be involved with the clergy team and to serve God in this way. Family, friendships and the environment are important to me and I enjoy walking and cycling.



Chris Ballard Deputy Warden

I first came to St Faith's when I lived at Walpole Highway and Anglicans and Methodists worshipped separately. At the end of 1997 I moved to King's Lynn and gradually became more involved in St. Faith's church. Then in 2020 I became a Church Warden. I now enjoy being a Deputy.

My hobbies are reading, exercise classes and badminton. I am also a member of King's Lynn U3A.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry started 15 years ago and I soon became an active member. I help at our monthly Coffee mornings and coffee and biscuits that are served after some of our services. On Christmas Day I helped with our lunch for 50 people, in the Church Rooms, of which I am a Trustee.



Joan Greening Methodist Steward

I have been a member of St Faith's for many years and have been a Methodist Steward for some time. I am a representative from the Church Council to the Methodist Circuit Meeting, and also on various other committees within our own Church Council and the Methodist Circuit.

Outside of Church commitments I enjoy cycling and walking.



Your Home

Your home will be comfortable 4-bedroom detached house with conservatory, garage and good-sized garden on a quiet estate about five minutes walk from the church.





Clergy Wellbeing

As a church we are invested in the wellbeing of our clergy and aim to support our ministers to take regular time off, holidays and retreats and reimburse expenses where agreed. This will be discussed upon your appointment. Our current clergy rest day is Friday.

Safeguarding

We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults. We strive to be a safe church for all and you can find our safeguarding policy here: (link) We have adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Guidelines.

We have a very proactive Parish Safeguarding Officer in post, appointed by the Church Council and we are 100% supportive of safeguarding records and training.

Finance

To date St Faith's has always met the full ask for both the Diocese of Norwich Parish Share and the Methodist Circuit Assessment as part of the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit, however financial constraints in 2024 forced us to meet only 95% of these commitments.



Comments and quotes from the Congregation:

"A zeal to bring God's love to those who feel they are far from it."

"A clear vision of what they want to achieve at St Faith's, with God's help."

"Someone who is a hopeful, creative, inventive person of God, willing to take risks to enable transformation."

"Compassionate and approachable."

"Outwardly focussed...can interact with all ages."

"Being a visual presence in the community."

"To bring the message of God's love to more people in our community both spiritually and practically."

"Prayerful. Respectful. Open to new ways of worship and ready to welcome new families to St Faith's."

"...needs to have excellent faith-led interpersonal skills, charisma, positivity, enthusiasm, staying power and be innovative and well-organised."

"A good support and willing to work with the Rector and other members of the ministry team."

Prayers for mission into the community

"Growing together...sowing seeds of hope."

"St Faith's create projects, ideas and structures to create a happier, healthier, prosperous and compassionate community."

"Please grant our wonderful St Faith's much success in its mission, to bring it more into the daily lives of our local community by offering love, support, prayers and understanding..."

"We can best support our community by being outwardly vibrant and active by engaging with the wider community..." How would the new Pioneer Mission (Associate) Priest be welcomed

"With open arms!"

"By giving encouragement and understanding"

"Encourage them in a warm and friendly way."

"Encourage and engage with them."

"Pray for them. Seek to support their initiatives practically."



Helpful links

St Faiths Facebook www.facebook.com/StFaithsGaywoodLEP

Diocese of Norwich www.dioceseofnorwich.org

Church of England www.churchofengland.org

Living and working in Norfolk – Norfolk County Council www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/42621/Living-andworking-in-Norfolk

Thank you

Thank you for reading this benefice profile. We look forward to hearing from you.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Norwich

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