

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BRAMCOTE



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WELCOME

From the Churchwardens, on behalf of the PCC

Thank you for reading this Parish Profile for St Michael and All Angels' Church Bramcote. You will see how greatly we value our relationship with Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and seek to share this gift with our local community and the wider world.

Bramcote is an attractive suburb on the edge of Nottingham. St Michael's is a traditional church building with a newer Church Centre attached. We are located at the heart of Bramcote with the vicarage and our own church school close by. A modern vicarage has just replaced a large Georgian one that was expensive and difficult to heat.

We are a parish church in the open evangelical tradition, our church family encompassing Christians of all traditions and stages of their journey. We love being a "home for all".

We believe God is calling us to reach out to those around us, including younger people, to share our faith with them and encourage them on in the Christian life through baptism, confirmation, and into long-term membership as followers of Jesus.

This vision is shared by Venerable Phil Williams, the Archdeacon of Nottingham, who says:

"The parish of Bramcote has enormous potential for growth including the further development of the strong links with Bramcote CofE (Aided) Primary School. It is the desire of the parish, deanery, and diocese to see St Michael's become one of the diocesan larger resourcing churches. The next vicar of Bramcote will be building on a solid foundation of faithful parochial ministry with dedicated and gifted clergy and lay leaders. We look forward to welcoming the new vicar as they bring a new season of intentional evangelism and growth, development, and innovation to the mission in Bramcote - as well as making a positive contribution to Nottingham South deanery, and the diocese."

The Right Reverend Paul Williams, the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, adds:

“It is my hope that each worshipping community in the diocese will develop a compelling picture of its own future in God’s purposes with an expectation of growing numerically and in the scope of its mission. It is my prayer that the new Vicar of Bramcote will have the creative and visionary leadership to lead the parish into new season of growth, having a heart for evangelism, gifts in growing other leaders, as well as reaching younger to connect with new generations.”

At St Michael’s, we fully embrace the Diocesan vision for Growing Disciples: Wider, Younger, Deeper. We advertise what we offer widely, welcome and befriend new people, do our best to provide for the needs of everyone in our church and beyond, and continually aspire to encourage a deeper spirituality in all.

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WELCOME TO OUR DIOCESE

The Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham - Growing disciples wider, younger and deeper

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham incorporates the City of Nottingham, the whole County of Nottinghamshire and five parishes in South Yorkshire. The population is 1.15 million – 51% live in the greater Nottingham conurbation, 31% in ex-mining areas and 18% in rural. There are 305 churches (252 parishes), served by 142 stipendiary clergy and licensed lay workers.

In 2016 a refreshed diocesan vision was embraced across the diocese, recognising the imperative for 'Growing Disciples: wider, younger, deeper' (see <https://southwell.anglican.org/our-vision/>).

- 'Wider' in that we will seek to grow disciples in every part of the diocese
- 'Younger' in that we will seek fresh ways to harness the boldness and creativity of children, students and young people across the diocese
- 'Deeper' as we grow in knowing Christ

Compelled by the love of Christ, we are seeking to:

- Welcome thousands of new disciples into the fellowship of Christ and his church
- Equip hundreds of young leaders to serve God in our churches and society
- Grow new Worshipping Communities to tell the story of Jesus to all.
- Create Resource Churches to support, train and equip others in their ministry

Every parish is encouraged to create its own 'Growing Disciples Plan' so that it can play a significant part in the strategic commitment to 'Growing Disciples wider, younger and deeper.' The diocese has a 'Growing Disciples Fund' so that each parish can apply for up to £2000 per year to support its Growing Disciples Plan.

The Plan may include identifying the opportunities to reach new people within the parish through a new worshipping community. Please click [here](#) to understand our approach and to see some of our success stories. It is possible to apply for a grant to assist the costs of setting up a new worshipping community.

As a diocese we are seeking to invest in the post at St Michael and All Angels, Bramcote with the expectation that the following three objectives set around three core values will be met:

- Grace (local ministry team equipped and inspired)
- Growth (clear numerical growth)
- Generosity (financial sustainability reaching full ministry costs)

The new Vicar of Bramcote will receive an induction into diocesan personnel and participation on the Bishops' Fireside programme as part of his or her welcome to the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

OUR DEANERY

Nottingham South Deanery is a large, densely populated multicultural area spreading from relatively prosperous suburbs to the west with a tradition of strong, independent (largely evangelical) congregations, through areas heavily shaped by the presence of the Universities of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent, to more socially-deprived urban areas, Nottingham city centre and business areas. The area has a population of roughly 200,000 with 21 parishes and 26 Anglican churches. As well as ordained leadership, the churches have strong lay leadership.

The deanery shares the vision of the diocese to grow disciples wider, younger, and deeper and we seek to work out that

vision in the diverse contexts and churchmanship of the deanery. The deanery plays a very significant role within the diocese, having the highest church population and contributing the largest deanery share (which we call 'giving for ministry'). We note, in the Person Specification for this post, the commitment to significantly increasing the Parish's commitment to Giving for Ministry. The Deanery Leadership Team works collaboratively with all our parishes to deliver the Deanery Share which is allocated to us by the Diocese, and we look forward to a positive and fruitful collaboration with Bramcote in the coming years.

The Deanery is delighted that an appointment of a Full-time Vicar for the benefice of Bramcote, St Michael and All Angels, is to be made, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming the new incumbent to the Deanery and seeking to support and encourage her/him in this role.



As this Profile makes clear, the Parish is ready for a new season of outreach and growth, to which its members have committed, and there is much potential to grow disciples wider, younger and deeper in the parish as existing members needs are met alongside the innovations which will enable the desired new growth. Effective discernment, and implementation, of the required programme of envisioning and change will be essential.

The Deanery welcomes the return to full payment, in 2022, of its allocated share of the Deanery's Giving for Ministry budget, £69,000, and the awareness of the expectation of an increased trajectory of giving for ministry reaching full ministry costs (currently £83,000).

DEANERY EXPECTATIONS

The Deanery Leadership Team has identified the deanery's emerging values as:

- We are the people of God, and we will act as such
- We unite for the good of each other and the wider community
- We see each other as an asset not as competition
- We pray for and encourage one another in the mission of God

Deanery Synod generally meets 3 times a year and the person appointed would be expected to attend and to encourage the parish representatives to take an active part. While there is synodical business to be done, we focus on equipping churches for mission and ministry. Chapter meets around 9 times a year and there is an expectation that attending Chapter should be a priority for clergy.



VISION AND MISSIONAL PRIORITIES

Our Vision is:

We believe God is calling us to attract and retain new people of all ages to our church, including younger people, and to provide for them in ways that enable them to learn about the Christian faith leading to baptism, confirmation, and Christian discipleship.

Our Missional Priorities, are:

1) Prayer

We firmly believe that all we do has to be underpinned by prayer and that God will be with us as He grows our church, and we all grow deeper in faith. We must continue to provide opportunities to pray together as a church family and encourage people in developing their individual prayer life.

2) Reaching out

We are an open evangelical church, eager to reach out and share our faith with everyone, and to create opportunities to enable this to happen.

3) Developing work with children and families

We want to build on recent initiatives to attract and retain more children, families, and young adults and thereby create a broader church family.

4) Attracting new people

We have many ways of encouraging people to come to our church e.g. social activities, but we are not good at translating these 'warm' relationships into church attendance and onwards to discipleship. We need to identify and implement the means of doing this.

5) Styles of Worship

We realise we need to change. We recognise that our main services need to be relevant to those who are unfamiliar with Christianity or with traditional forms of Christian liturgy. Our worship needs to be accessible to families and people of all ages and backgrounds to ensure inclusivity.



Assessing the impact of our current services, groups and projects and new initiatives

Although not a priority, as such, the PCC think it is important to monitor the impact of our current activities as well as new initiatives in reaching and retaining new people in our church fellowship, and suggest the following measures may be usefully employed:

- the numerical increase in Sunday attendance each year for the next 5 years
- the numerical increase in attendance at the new forms of worship that are already in place and any new ways that are identified, again each year for the next 5 years
- the increase in attendance at homegroups and other groups that are specially created for new enquirers and for those growing in their faith
- the number of people becoming involved in leadership, with an emphasis on younger people, e.g. under 40 years of age
- the number of new worshipping communities, and the number attending these, as we expand and grow
- the number of adult confirmations and baptisms that result from all these activities, the impact of the above on the number of new commitments to regular giving to the church as well as the average amount given by each person.



In addition, the PCC is keen to identify means of assessing our progress through 'soft' measures that are less easy to quantify:

- deepening our individual and collective relationship with Christ
- evidencing the fruit of the spirit in every aspect of church life.

The creation of a Growing Disciples Plan in our first year, with support from diocesan personnel, will help us to review our progress in these aspects.



OUR NEW VICAR

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our next “Vicar of Bramcote”. The remit is a simple one: to lead us and direct us in discerning and achieving God’s vision for our church.

Priorities of the Post

We think the following are going to be the priorities for us and our new leader:

- A focus on church growth and the ability to attract and retain new people and especially younger people and families, with a prayerful desire to turn connections with the church into commitment to Christ and depth in faith
Meeting the spiritual, pastoral, and practical needs of the whole church both longstanding and new members
- Leading and growing an enthusiastic group of volunteers, of all ages, who are committed to hearing and acting on God’s call to us here at St Michael’s
- Developing younger leaders to take on positions of responsibility over the next 5 years.

Qualities, Skills, and Experience

So, we are looking for a vicar who will:

- help us to prioritise a focus on church growth and to navigate the consequent changes we will face
- be a person of prayer who listens to God about our church and our community and helps us seek a vision for both which is responsive to the Holy Spirit.
- teach us from the Bible and help us grow as disciples
- help us serve our community and share our faith with those around us.
- help us reach out to children and families and strengthen our relationship with our church school as a mission opportunity.
- help us grow in our gifts and leadership and build healthy teams together.
- be pastorally sensitive and comfortable working across different worship styles
- have relational skills and strategic insight and who is adept at managing change.

What We Can Offer You:

- A congregation which recognises its need to grow
- A strong relationship with our church school
- A dedicated team of volunteers, both retired clerical and lay. (There are 4 retired clergy and 1 retired Reader in the parish who are active within the Deanery and wider Diocese)
- A newly purchased modern vicarage
- A warm welcome

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, BRAMCOTE

OUR PEOPLE & WORSHIP

There are 157 people on the electoral roll at St Michael's. Currently the average age of our church members is higher than the diocesan average and the average for the community that we serve. We estimate that 70% of our congregation are 60+ years of age, 10% are 50-60 years-of age, 10% are 20-50 years-of-age and 10% are younger. But we are working hard to redress this age-imbalance as we focus on the Diocesan vision of Growing Disciples: Wider, Younger and Deeper.



Our most popular regular church service is on Sunday morning at 10:00am and the average attendance is currently 57; the service is usually Morning Prayer (CW) or Holy Communion (CW). The next is the evening service, currently held at 6:30pm and usually Evening Prayer (CW) or Holy Communion (CW), and averages 31. Our Choral Evensong (BCP) on the 5th Sunday is popular and numbers attending are around 45.

Congregations swell considerably for special services; e.g. our Remembrance Sunday Service in 2023 attracted nearly 300 people. Our Statistics for Mission dashboard can be accessed [here](#).



In addition to our church services, we have a number of other regular activities for church members and the community that we serve, many of which take place in our Church Centre which can accommodate 150 people.

Activities include prayer meetings, special courses (e.g. the “Living in Love and Faith” course), occasional concerts, meetings for special groups (coffee morning, silver surfers, a Little Angels toddlers group, ladies keep fit, parish brunches, local history group, etc). All users are very happy with the facilities provided.

OUR CHURCH

St Michael and All Angels' Church is a traditional 160-year-old building with a spire and bell tower; it replaced an older building close by in the village, the tower of which remains and is currently used by the Bramcote Tower Group as a cultural and educational facility. Records show that worship in Bramcote dates to the 12th century.

A more modern Church Centre, with a car park, is linked to the north side of the church, and east of the buildings is a closed graveyard maintained by Broxtowe Borough Council; there is an attractive Garden of Remembrance in which ashes are still interred. The church surrounds are used for outside activities and a good example is 'The Big Lunch' arranged by the church and community to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III in May 2023.



The church building is in good order with part of the church roof recently replaced and the east and west windows repaired and restored. The lighting is now nearly all LED. The church has a magnificent organ and six bells. The interior was modernised 10 years ago with chairs replacing the pews to allow more flexibility in its use. There is good access for people with disabilities.



The 37-year-old Church Centre is attached to the church and is in good condition; it is ideally suited for a variety of uses.

The last quinquennial inspection was in 2019 and our Resources committee and Church Architect continue to monitor and plan for any new works that come to our attention.

We are very proud of the fact that St Michael's was one of the first churches in the Diocese to attain Silver status as an Eco-Church, and we constantly encourage our congregation and others to act responsibly regarding environmental sustainability and Caring for Creation.



In recent years our ability to communicate with church members, our local community and further afield has improved enormously with the creation of a weekly newsletter with information on all that goes on, and also the launch in 2023 of a new, modern website that is both informative and easy to navigate. Further enhancements in communication can be expected over the next weeks and months.

Through the generosity of church members and others in our local community we delivery very large amounts of donated foodstuffs and toiletries to a local foodbank every week.

We enjoy strong links with mission partners in Guatemala (CMS), the Middle East, and in Tanzania and Bulgaria (OneCollective and the BREAD Trust (Berega Relief Equipment And Development Trust)). We are also committed to helping people in need (through Christian Aid, Traidcraft, an annual harvest project, the Bestwood and Bulwell Foodbank, a Christmas Shoebox Appeal, a Christmas Toy Appeal, and support for Ukraine and other countries in eastern Europe via the charity T4U).

A new, modern (1980s) vicarage has just been purchased. This has replaced a large Georgian vicarage that was hard and expensive to heat. The new vicarage has 4 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, cavity wall insulation , double glazing and a double garage.



OUR FINANCES

In recent years, we have balanced the books and both our income and expenditure has been in the region of £125,000 to £155,000. Our finances have been such that have enabled us to provide a range of activities and to keep the building well-maintained. This has been possible through a solid core of givers. In 2022 we had 95 planned givers.

In 2022 we met our full Giving for Ministry allocation by using a top up from our Property Fund created through the sale of a building that was no longer needed.

Below is a simplified summary which excludes designated and restricted funds:

Income		Expenditure	
Regular Giving	£80,000	Church Running Costs	£53,000
Income Tax Reclaimed	£17,000	Giving for Ministry	£69,000
Other Income	£10,000	Mission Giving	£10,000
Transfer from Property Fund	£25,000		
Total Income	£132,000	Total Expenditure	£132,000

The full published set of accounts for 2022 can be accessed [here](#).

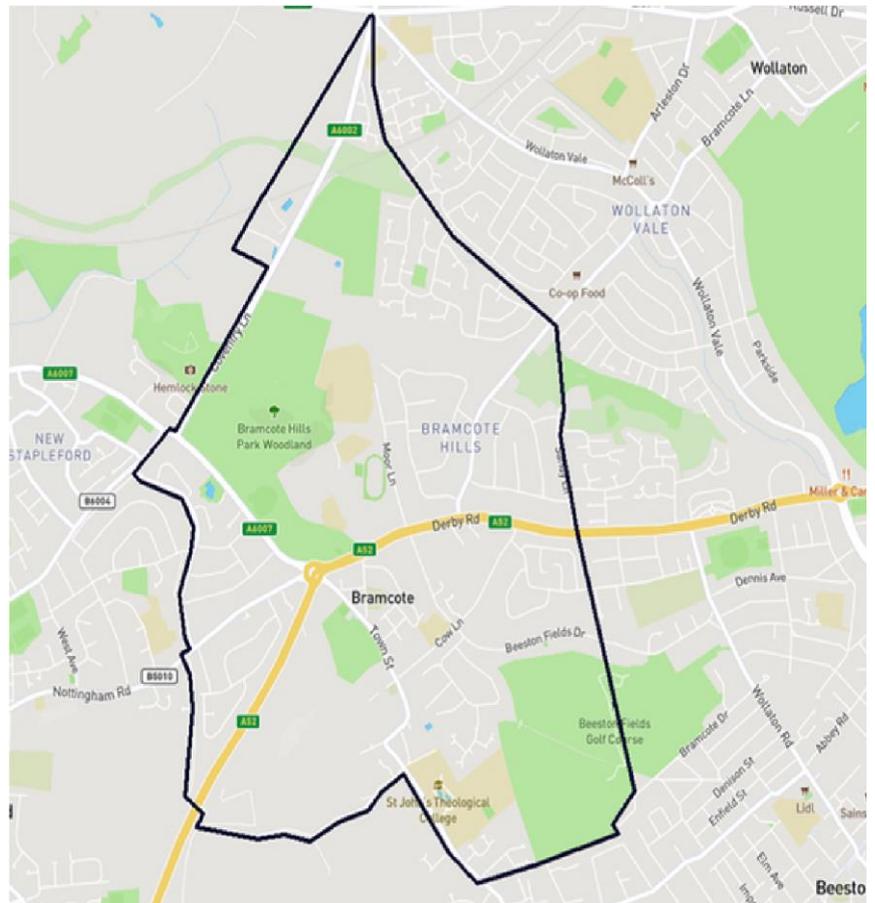
OUR LOCALITY

St Michael's is sited at the heart of Bramcote, an attractive suburb of Nottingham on the edge of extensive green areas. Bramcote is just 5 miles west of Nottingham City Centre, 9 miles east of Derby, and within 10 minutes of the M1 motorway. It is predominantly a residential area with many family homes. In 2018 Bramcote Parish was calculated as having 6935 residents; there are good numbers of people in all age ranges.



Bramcote is a pleasant place to live. There is a large leisure centre with a swimming pool close to the church and two large, well-kept parks, each with excellent play areas for children. There are few shops but there is town centre shopping in nearby Beeston and Stapleford, and the Bramcote Lane Shops are just over the border in Wollaton.

Access to education is very good. Regarding primary education, as well as our own church school, the Bramcote Hills Primary School is another sought-after primary school, and early years education is provided in local nursery schools. The Alderman White School and Bramcote College are our two highly regarded secondary schools, and there is a special-needs school in our Parish, the Foxwood School. Local children also attend the Bluecoat CofE Comprehensive School, the Nottingham High Schools, and other schools within the Nottingham – Derby axis. Nottingham has two universities and one of them, the University of Nottingham, is only a couple of miles away. There is easy access to nearby countryside. Bramcote Crematorium is just outside our parish boundary.



Map of Bramcote showing the Parish boundary

OUR CHURCH SCHOOL



Our church school, Bramcote CofE (Aided) Primary School, is only a short walk from the church (Appendix 2). It is a relatively modern building that has been added to as the school has expanded. The Church and our school have a longstanding tradition of working and worshipping together.

There are approximately 200 pupils on roll. The incumbent and/or the Children & Family Life Minister lead a weekly morning worship. These also have some input in formulating RE policies and the curriculum.

The Chair of Governors is a member of St Michael's Church, and the six Foundation Governors are appointed by the PCC. The incumbent is also an ex officio member of the Governing Body. The school is rated "good" by Ofsted and "outstanding" by SIAMS (The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). Services are held in church at the end of each term. Pupils leaving the school and reception pupils are presented with books as a gift from St Michael's. The PCC make an annual financial contribution to the school fund. Our present Children & Family Life Minister is very involved in school life and is encouraging ever stronger ties.

Our headteacher, Sarah Meredith, was asked for her own view on the relationship between the Church and the church school and she responded: *"As Headteacher of Bramcote Church of England Primary School we value our relationship with St Michael and All Angels' Church. The Incumbent and Children's Youth and Families worker support us by leading our collective worship on Wednesday each week. They provide us with prayer and pastoral support both for our pupils and staff and this has proved to be invaluable. We have worked closely together to develop a monthly after-school family worship time with the Children & Family Life Minister taking the lead. We have met to plan our termly collective worships and we look to every opportunity to promote the children's work at the church through newsletter and flyers."*



OUR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

There are several people who receive a salary through PAYE. These are the Children & Family Life Minister, the administrator and the organist/choirmaster.

Donna, our Children & Family Minister



David, our Organist and Choirmaster



Claire, our Administrator



All others who contribute regularly and actively to all that goes on, do so voluntarily:



Robert, our Environmental Champion



Sally, Wendy and Elsa, our Office Angels



Tina, our Safeguarding Officer



Our Little Angels Volunteers



Pat, author, producer and actor



Christine, one of our prayer-leaders



Carole and Hillary, flower and graphics artists

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