

Church of the Good Shepherd, Lee

Shining God's light to our community, and sharing the good
news of God's love for all

May, 2025

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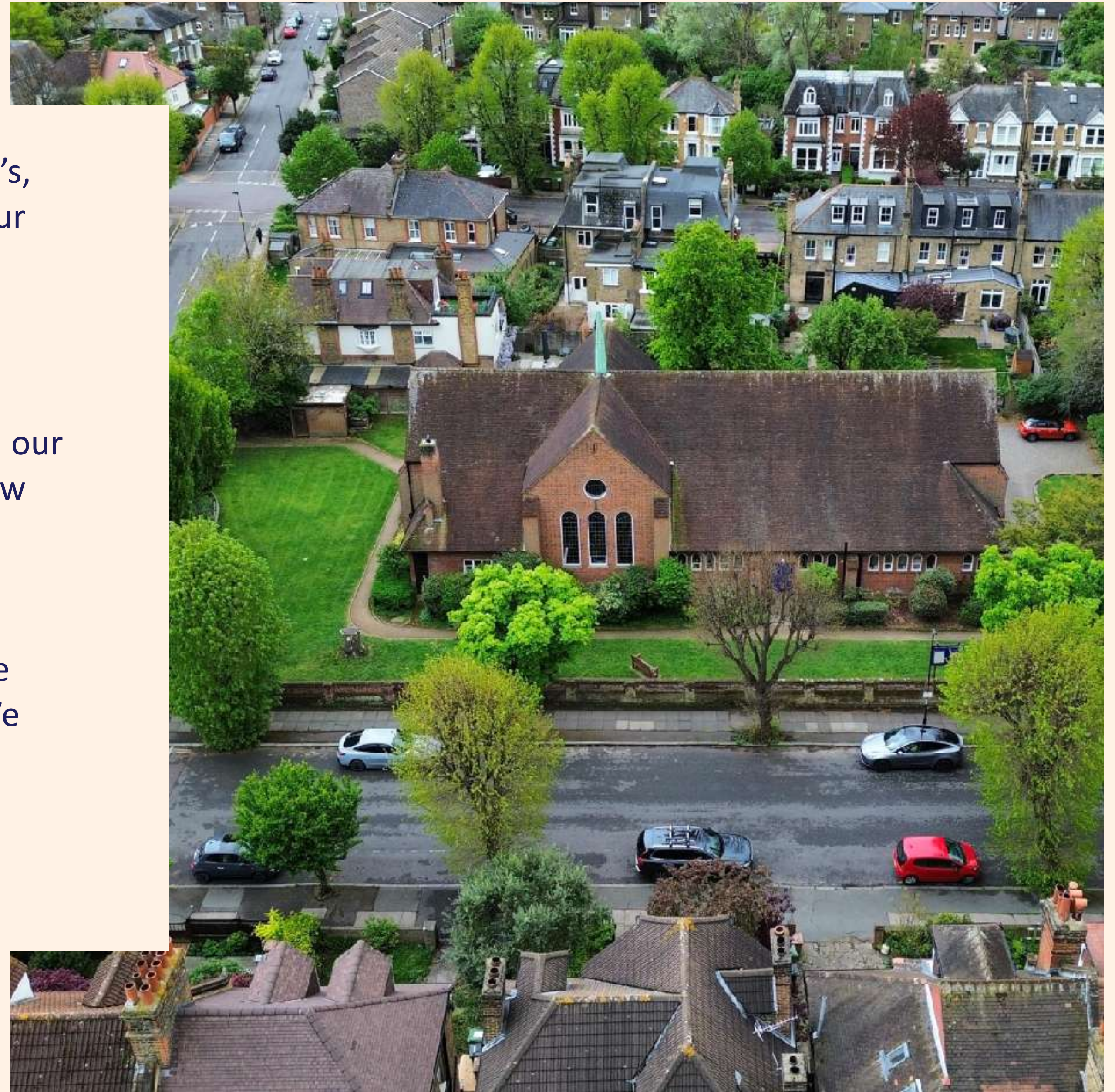
Introduction

Thank you for your interest in The Good Shepherd with St. Peter's, Lee. Our parish profile outlines who we are as a congregation, our values, challenges, and dreams for our parish.

Preparation of this document involved consultation with congregation members, the PCC, and our church school. It is an honest and rounded representation of where we are as a parish, our ambitions, and the areas of our daily life that we believe will grow with a new Vicar.

The Good Shepherd is an inclusive church in that we welcome people of different ethnicities, LGBTQ+, and neurodiverse people both as members of our congregation and in leadership roles. We are committed as a congregation to being open, welcoming, and diverse as stated in our vision.

We are committed to serving and supporting our parish with a growing worshipping community.



Our Vision

As a church we are committed to “Shining God’s light to our community and sharing the good news of God’s love for all.”

This is expressed and lived out through the following five values:

- All are welcome - we are an inclusive church, and part of the Inclusive Church network
- All have space to grow in faith - every age and stage of life matters
- All are called to serve - everyone has a part to play
- All find a place to belong - we are committed to God and to one another
- All reach out - we respond to the needs in our community with the love of God

The PCC has adapted (see #4) and adopted the Church of England’s current vision and strategic priorities and committed to becoming a church that is: Jesus Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped; that reflects the character of Jesus by being humbler, simpler and bolder; that focuses its energy on four priorities:

1. Exploring, releasing and supporting each other to live out our faith in everyday life
2. Encouraging variety and creativity in our worship, mission and practice
3. Being a church that is younger and more diverse
4. **Pursuing social justice for all**

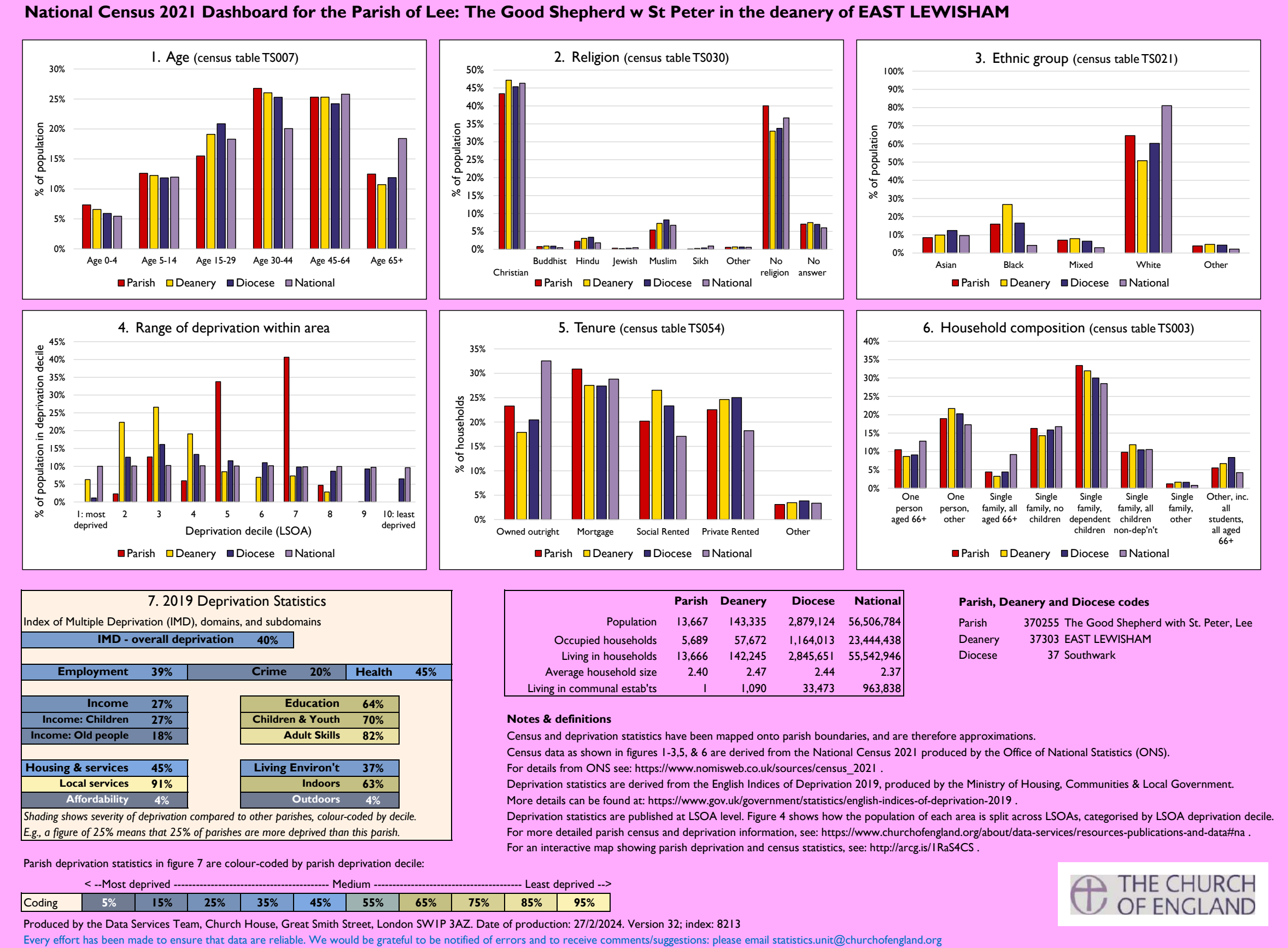
The Parish

The Parish of The Good Shepherd with St. Peter’s Lee serves over 13,000 people within 5,689 households, extending across parts of Hither Green, Lee and the edges of Kidbrooke and Blackheath. 75% of the parish is above the average national deprivation.

In the centre of our parish sits the disused Leegate Shopping Centre, with redevelopment set to commence in 2025. We believe this brings an opportunity to create a church-led hub where innovative mission blends with active community engagement.

The Good Shepherd is based in a diverse parish with our recent 2025 electoral roll of 127, our average Sunday attendance of 98 (2024), with regular attendance in our Zoom stream. During our festival services we met 6-7% of our parish in 2024 with 850 (’23 - 900) attending our Christmas services and 267 (’24 - 185) at our 2025 Easter Sunday service.

Our Patron is The Rector of St Margaret’s, Lee; Rev. Manuela Schmucki.



Our Team

We are blessed to be served by a strong team of staff and volunteers.

The two Churchwardens and the PCC are able to look to the expanded Ministry Team and particularly to our Reader and to our Assistant Pioneer Curate in training as the senior members of the team to lead on Ministry, Mission and Pastoral issues and on Services.

During our previous Vicar's Sabbatical and during the vacancy, the PCC has been led by the Lay Chair supported by the other officers. The PCC is representative of the congregation but there are many other volunteers who support the running of the church, our community engagement and church activities. We have a director of music and 3 worship music teams along with our choir. Other volunteers include a number of helpers across Children's Church (U11) and youth group (11-18). We have a Management Group for St. Peter's, our second church building dedicated to Community activity, and a team managing our hall hire.

Our clergy and lay volunteers are supported by part-time paid staff, namely a Parish Administrator and our Flourish Minister.

Where we have focused on developing our lay leadership, over the past decade we have consciously engaged diverse members of our congregation to complement our more established and experienced volunteers. We have managed to engage younger enthusiastic volunteers for our youth and children's work but are keen to further develop this growing group of leaders to support a wide range of diversity in activities.

Our Strengths

The Good Shepherd is an inclusive church in that we welcome people of different ethnicities, LGBTQ+, and neurodiverse people both as members of our congregation and in leadership roles. We are committed as a congregation to being open, welcoming, and diverse as stated in our vision.

While we are a church in the central CofE tradition we are a community church with many members of very different church backgrounds from Roman Catholic, High Anglican, Methodist, inclusive Evangelical and most recently Charismatic.

At The Good Shepherd we are persistent in our Christian calling to care for and love all our neighbours. With this, we have strong links between the church and the wider community which are ever-growing, namely our school (Trinity Secondary) and many others, local young families, those in need and our local businesses.

We always make an effort to welcome newcomers through our welcome teams and regular newcomer lunches during the year to build on and deepen those initial relationships.

As a social congregation, many enjoy spending time together outside of Church and we organise events to fundraise and spend time socially.



Sunday Morning Holy Communion Service

Worship



Worship

Our worship life is rooted in the central tradition of the Church of England, offering a balance of reverence and accessibility. We follow the modern version of services in Common Worship so we can cherish the richness of Anglican liturgy while embracing an inclusive and welcoming approach that reflects our membership of the Inclusive Church network.

Our Sunday service is Holy Communion at 10:30am. We also have weekly said Morning Prayer at 9am on Wednesdays in church. We hold regular All-Age Services of the Word instead of Holy Communion when the children join us for the whole service. Uniformed groups are invited to All-Age services marking specific occasions, e.g. Mothering Sunday, Going back to school, Remembrance.

We aim to create services that are meaningful for all, valuing the importance of both tradition and contemporary expression. Our worship incorporates elements familiar to those within the central tradition: Holy Communion (where children are welcome to receive), prayer, and engaging sermons that speak to the complexities of modern life. We embrace inclusive language and practice, ensuring that everyone - regardless of age, background, or identity - feels seen, heard, and valued. We routinely record the weekly sermons and publish them on our website.

Our services at Christmastime are examples of events that we consider community celebration services. We continue to be fluid and dynamic in trying and changing services based on feedback from the congregation and parish.



Example Of An All Age Service



Baptism During A Sunday Holy Communion Service

Worship

Our commitment to being part of the Inclusive Church network shapes not only our liturgical life but also our broader vision. It informs our ethos as a parish striving to reflect God's boundless love by fostering a community where all people can grow in faith, belong, and serve.

Home Groups - We currently have two groups meeting every other week which are open to anyone. A third group is being setup to meet monthly. Each group decides on topics to study or discuss.

Meditation Group - A small dedicated group meets every other week to pray in silence in church.

Evangelistic Courses - the church has run Alpha courses in the past. A key strategic parish objective is to develop discipleship and leadership training.

Confirmation - candidates are prepared once a year. This year, the deanery confirmation service will be held in our church with the Bishop of Woolwich presiding.

Music plays a vital role in our worship, reflecting our desire to bridge generational and stylistic gaps. We blend time-honoured hymns with newer songs to create a space where diverse musical preferences can find their place in worship.



Sunday Holy Communion Service



Lighting Of The Lamps Community Service

Social Action and Outreach

Pursuing justice for all has been a major focus for the Good Shepherd for many years and the most visible part of our social action has been our Helping Hands foodbank located at St. Peter's Hall, in partnership with a local charity, Action For Refugees In Lewisham (AFRIL).

St. Peter's Hall already hosts AA and ex-prisoner groups and the church wishes to extend our social action. A very big decision made recently was to use St. Peter's primarily for community work and we now host Lee Green Lives, a local community organisation that provides services to those in need. Our St. Peter's management group hopes to increase church participation and develop more church based social action initiatives.

Both St. Peter's Hall and The Good Shepherd Hall are let out to community users. Uniformed groups are major users of The Good Shepherd Hall in return for modest donations. We also run Ukrainian English classes/coffee mornings and host a local community choir. On an annual basis we host the Lee Green Open Studios for local artists to showcase work and the local shop community fair hires the hall - both are examples of ongoing community involvement.

Another initiative is our Fair Trade stall - this runs typically twice a month after Sunday morning service and generates over £5K in sales per year. It also runs during the Lee Green Open Studios event in the community.



Afril Foodbank



Open Studios

Social Action and Outreach

This community and Social Action focus has been enhanced by two new initiatives in recent years, i.e. the advent of a Pioneer Curate in Training and the employment of a Flourish Minister in Trinity School.

Having a pioneer Curate we have been looking for opportunities to explore how, as a church, we engage with the community in listening, loving service and exploring faith. As part of that work, our curate has been engaging with one of the parish's major community hubs, the Station Pub in Hither Green. This has resulted in a piloted charity pub quiz and an open mic night which gives opportunities to invite people to engage with the church outside of a church service. The pioneer work is an ongoing project in development.

In September 2024, we employed and embedded a schools Flourish minister on a 2-year pilot. The focus is to develop new worshipping communities in the school, building on strong relationships with the school chaplain; and helping to create engaging spaces where young people and staff can explore faith and spirituality.

A challenge and opportunity is to see how we can continue these two initiatives after the curacy and pilot come to their natural end.



Pioneer Pilot Events At The Station Pub, Hither Green

Children's Work

We are blessed to have a large number of young people in our congregation and provide Children's church during our Sunday worship for children in Primary school years. Our Youth group supports and guides 11-18's in their journey of faith, and is held on a bi-weekly Sunday evening with an average attendance of 14 children.

A number of our young people are working towards our confirmation service at Pentecost where we will welcome the Bishop of Woolwich to lead our Sunday morning service.

In addition to children attending the church, we maintain strong links with our uniformed groups and local schools. In 2024, we saw over 3,000 different children in assemblies, welcomed 100 children in church for school visits and hosted school services for more than 600 young people.



11-18Yr Youth Group - End Of School Bbq



Good Friday Family Activity Morning



Trinity School

Trinity Secondary, a part of Trinity all through schools, sits within the Good Shepherd Parish and is closely located to The Good Shepherd church building. Trinity is a 'Good' school with outstanding elements from its previous Ofsted report. In addition to being rated as an 'Outstanding' school in their more recent statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools (SIAMS) report, it was recently awarded the inclusion quality mark as a 'Centre of Excellence'.

Our school community is a family, welcoming pupils from all faiths and none, continually seeking to work with all members of our Trinity family to ensure our pupils live life to the full. A significant part of this is the close collaboration between the school and the church, which in part involves Trinity pupils joining the eucharistic services at the church once a term.

In September 2024 we appointed a Flourish minister who works between the secondary school and the church to build opportunities for young people to explore faith.

The new Vicar will become a member of the through schools governing body, ensuring that the current relationship continues to thrive and grow over time.



Trinity Secondary School Headteacher, Mr David Lucas And Students

Cultural & Social Events

In addition to our Social Action and Outreach that takes place, the Good Shepherd church also hosts choral evensong with the Hithertones and also provides use of the church for practice.

The church hosts social events including summer picnics and quiz nights to raise money for charities.

We provide free tea and coffee after our Sunday service with a great opportunity for the worshipping community to socialise and spend time in fellowship.



Finances

The Good Shepherd receives most of its income from congregational giving (£111,825 in 2024) and rent of the parish facilities through hall hire and property rental (£64,304 in 2024). The cash reserves hold approximately £50,000.

We are fortunate to have received a significant increase in regular giving from the congregation following a successful Stewardship campaign.

We recognise that we are a more wealthy parish which has allowed us to support some of our partnerships and by paying more than the requested Parish Share.

Accounts can be found on the Charity Commission website - Charity Number 1171429.



Facilities & Buildings



Buildings

Church of Good Shepherd and St. Peters building

The Good Shepherd church building was rebuilt in 1957 after the original church (built in 1881) was destroyed by a fire in 1941. The church's last Quinquennial Inspection in 2020 reported no current outstanding structural or urgent issues open. The next Quinquennial is due in October 2025.

The Good Shepherd vicarage is a purpose built, two-storey, four bedroom house on Handen Road. The vicarage highlighted in the photo on the previous page is a 2-minute walk from the church with a large garden, single garage and off-street parking.

St. Peter's was originally a temporary 'iron church' in 1867, re-built multiple times over with the current building since 1983.

The two churches were originally part of two separate parishes and were formed into one parish in 1960.

As a church, we want to be at the heart of our local community, where all are welcome, and all have the opportunity to grow in faith.



The Good Shepherd Church Building



St. Peter's, Lee Church Building

Facilities

The Good Shepherd is blessed to have buildings for worship, outreach, community groups and social events. With two spaces in the larger Main Hall (120 people) and smaller Parish Room (20 people), the rooms are available for hire used by a wide range of community groups and birthday parties.

The surrounding garden space at The Good Shepherd allow the Church to run outside events, including BBQs and picnics.

St. Peter's is 0.7 miles (15min walk) from the Good Shepherd church building. As a flexible, multi-purpose space this building is used primarily as a community centre and as such is the location for a large amount of our partnership activity. The hall seats 35-50 people.



The Good Shepherd Church Building



St. Peters Church Hall



The Good Shepherd Church Main Hall

Challenges and Looking Ahead

The PCC has put together a Mission Action Plan (MAP) to summarise the work the PCC has been doing on vision over the past few years (2022-2024). The priorities in the MAP are not new, but are things we've identified and agreed collectively.

In particular, during our consultations with the congregation and PCC we looked specifically at how St. Peter's fits into our vision. This ongoing work has confirmed that we want to be 'a hub of spiritual energy - focused on the person of Jesus; and a hub of community activity - reflecting the life of the Kingdom of God; and that through that community activity people are enabled to encounter Christ'.

Our Next Vicar

The Good Shepherd is looking for a Vicar who will embody our values of inclusivity and openness, being a warm and welcoming person. She or he will appreciate the traditions of the church but will bring fresh insights and new ideas to bring the congregation and our wider parish community on a journey to deepen our understanding of Christian faith in action in our daily lives.

Theological proficiency and pastoral care are both very important to everyone. The Good Shepherd would benefit from energetic leadership to support and guide the growing ministry opportunities that the Lord has begun to present to us.

We expect the Vicar to be actively involved in the day-to-day running of the parish. This includes line management of our curate and office worker, being on the Board of Governors for Trinity Secondary School.



4/5/25 - Church Of The Good Shepherd All Age Congregation - One Quality That We Want In A New Vicar

An aerial photograph of a church and its surrounding neighborhood. The church, a brick building with a brown roof and a prominent gable, sits on a green lawn. It is surrounded by a mix of residential houses, some with red roofs and others with grey. Numerous trees, mostly in shades of green, are scattered throughout the scene. A road with a crosswalk runs horizontally across the lower half of the image. Several cars are parked or driving on the road. The overall scene is a typical suburban or urban residential area.

Thank You