

# **Parish Profile**

Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset





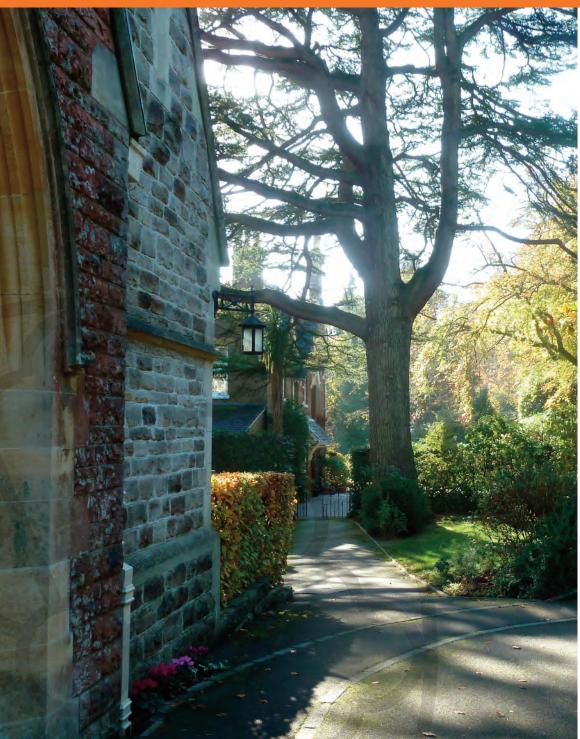






We are a friendly parish, praying for a Godly warm-hearted vicar

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### Welcome

Thank you for reading this and learning more about All Saints' Church and the community, where God may be calling you in the next phase of your ministry. We hope that it gives a flavour of who we are and what we do.

We are a single church parish on the south coast, with worshipping congregations and activities for all ages.

Our aim is to be a welcoming, prayerful and caring church, showing God's love by serving our community and the wider world. Our purpose is to know Jesus Christ and make him better known.

Our vision is to be a Christian family of all ages at the heart of the local community; a place of faith and hope; a place to grow in discipleship of Jesus; a springboard to mission.

We would encourage you to read on, visit our website and you may like to come and visit us in person.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email our churchwardens at office@allsaintsbh13.church.

All Saints' PCC

Branksome Beach - The Parish's Southern Boundary

This post offers an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to bring their own skills and gifts to a welcoming parish with a committed ministry team.

The Parish of All Saints', Branksome Park enjoys the variety of suburban and seaside ministry. The Church itself stands in attractive grounds in the wooded valley of Branksome Chine that leads down to the sea. The parish is largely residential with people who enjoy the seclusion of what is one of the most prosperous areas of Poole, whether in some of the larger houses, as well as in flats. The congregation is both local and eclectic, enjoying a variety of worship opportunities in the evangelical and charismatic tradition.

In an incumbent we are seeking an experienced leader who can minister to a wide range of people's groups, including children and young families (drawn because of the young people's work and toddler's group) and a lively and growing elderly congregation, who enjoy a more traditional form of worship.

The last few years have been difficult for the church, and this has limited the effectiveness of its lay (and some paid) leadership, the consistency of parish life and an inability to develop new work since Covid. There is a vital need for the next incumbent to grow trust, to take time to consolidate the work and direction of the church in collaboration with the PCC and wider congregation and to establish a confident administrative base, from which parish life and the many opportunities for outreach can evolve.

The Poole and North Bournemouth deanery is a supportive one and encourages the sharing of good practice, is mutually supportive and is working together on a number of initiatives, which straddle parish boundaries. There have been some innovative missional work happening across the deanery, particularly in the sharing of resources, and ecumenical partnerships are strong.

The deanery plan emphasises the need for partnership, and there are many opportunities, particularly amongst the churches whose parishes border the coastal part of Branksome Park and Sandbanks, to reach out in new ways amongst the missing generations and tourists alike. Church buildings can sometimes be hidden within a busy conurbation, hence congregations having little involvement in community life, this we feel should be addressed with new appointments including the incumbent of All Saints'. Some wider creativity in the area of mission and evangelism would make a huge difference to the way churches related to each other and their visibility.

From Branksome Park there are good transport links into Poole and Bournemouth and wider afield. The parish boundary runs into Winchester diocese, and in recent years the deanery chapters in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole conurbation have met together a couple of times a year for mutual support.

Ministry in Dorset is rewarding and enjoyable. This is a great post for the right candidate. Should you wish to know more about

it please do not hesitate to pay a discreet visit to take a look around or contact myself (01747 811960) or the Rural Dean the Revd Canon Lucy Holt (07713 490076).

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Bishop Karen** 

The Deanery of Poole and North Bournemouth is the largest in terms of population within the Diocese with around 180,000 people and growing. It comprises 21 parishes + Poole Missional Communities offering a diversity of worshipping life and expressions of church. It is served by 24 clergy of incumbent status in addition to many chaplains, curates, assistant ministers, Licensed Lay Ministers and Lay Pastoral Assistants and very many others who contribute wholeheartedly to the life of the church.



Social demographics are interesting within this deanery with the very rich and wealthiest parishes sitting alongside the poorest. Like many seaside areas we are blessed with fantastic leisure opportunities and yet many within our communities struggle with issues of deprivation and poverty.

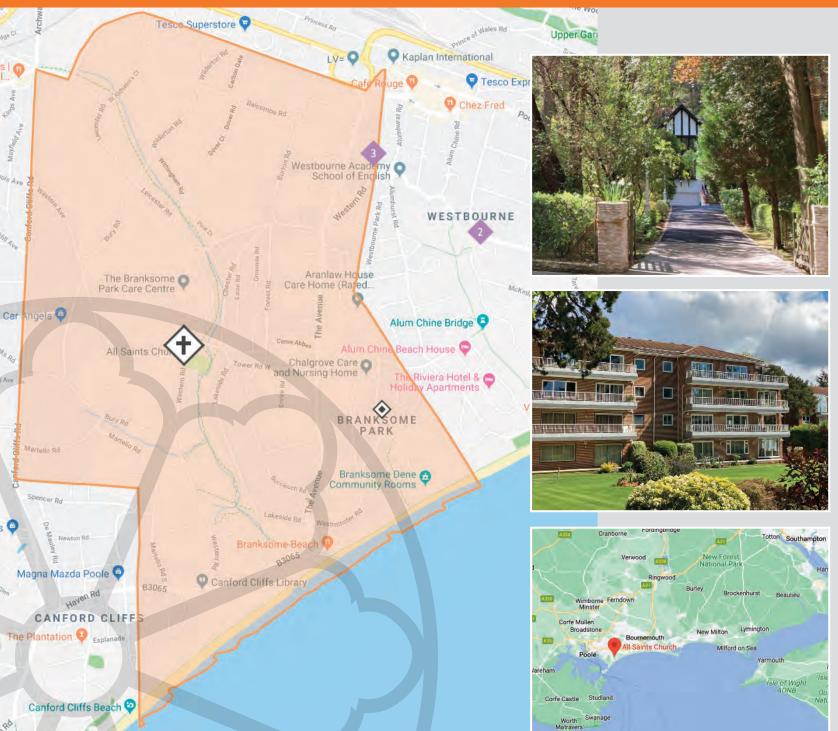
The Deanery itself is vibrant and there is a real sense of collegiality across different churchmanships and expressions of Church. The recently developed Deanery plan has collaboration across different parishes at its heart, encouraging working together across parish boundaries and offering support for different groups of ministry. The Chapter meets regularly as a whole group and also in smaller cluster groups generally, for lunch, support and prayer. As a Deanery we share training for Lay Pastoral Assistants and Lay Worship Leaders, and our synod meetings regularly address wider issues of mission and ministry and explore new ways of working and being Church post-pandemic.

I have enjoyed working with the team at All Saints' as they have journeyed into and through the interregnum. There is a confidence in those involved in leadership and they are keen to move on to a new phase in the life of their church. All Saints' has good resources and enthusiastic volunteers and so, for the right person, this is an

exciting opportunity to lead growth in all areas of Church life. Not only will the All Saints' team be supportive, but whoever comes to be incumbent will also be well supported by local clergy colleagues throughout the Deanery.

Revd Canon Lucy Holt Rural Dean Poole & North Bournemouth

### The Parish



All Saints' Parish is in the leafy, seaside area of Branksome Park in Poole. It is purely a residential area, and is in the electoral ward of Canford Cliffs.

Branksome Park is generally a wealthy area, originally part of the Branksome Estate, with its Branksome Tower mansion, later Branksome Tower Hotel - long since demolished.

The Park was divided up into large plots of land on which were built large houses, screened by numerous trees.

Many of these houses form an essential part of Branksome Park today. Other plots now consist of apartment blocks, which are very popular with retirees, or gleaming ultra-modern houses, popular with football managers!

There are, however, patches of more modest housing within and near the parish, where our younger families are likely to live.

### The Parish - continued



At All Saints' we find that economic and financial needs are generally not as great a cause for concern as are loneliness and isolation for the elderly. There is a strong sense, however, that people living here would never want to live anywhere else.

Many of the All Saints' parishioners have lived in the area for a long time, some since childhood. The church provides a considerable level of security and belonging for its members. The beauty of the area also attracts many newcomers, and some second home owners.

Branksome Chine beach, with its many beach huts, is popular with local families and does not attract the same large crowds as more well known beaches like Bournemouth or Sandbanks.

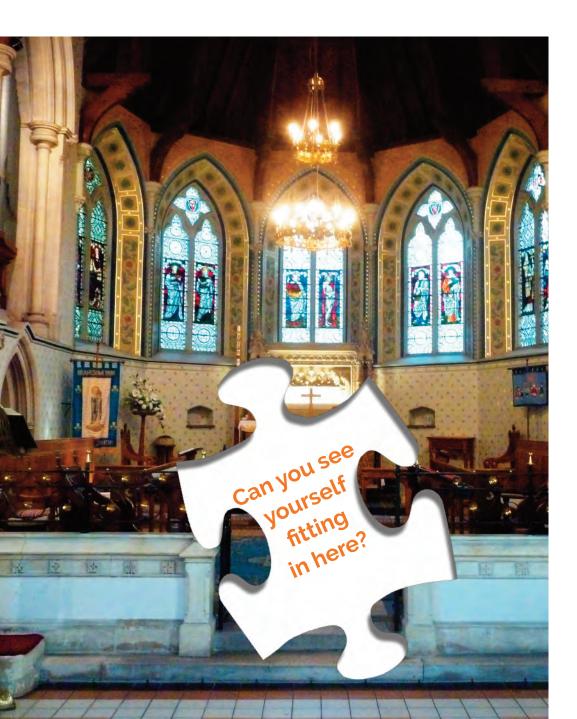
The beach offers opportunities for social meeting as well as outreach events and sea baptisms.











We would love our new Vicar (male or female) to be an inspiring and strategic enabler who is:

- a person of integrity and character with a deep, trusting, faith filled relationship with Jesus Christ, rooted in prayer and God's word, living in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- has a good understanding of, and respect for, the differing traditions of worship and is able to maintain a variety of worship styles.
- a strong team leader, enabling and encouraging the whole congregation to develop and use their individual gifts.
- an excellent communicator.
- passionate about leading people to faith in Jesus Christ.
- a visible presence in the community.
- is sensitive to the needs of the church and the wider community.
- is supportive of our Eco Church aims and environmental concerns.



# Strengths and Aspirations

At All Saints', this is what we believe to be our current strengths and our aspirations for the future of our church.

#### Strengths

- A welcoming church community
- Celebrating a broad variety of different styles of worship
- An able Children and Families Pastor
- An enthusiastic and talented PCC
- Supportive Lay Team
- A willing congregation
- Active home groups
- A good older people's ministry
- Strong pastoral care and prayer
- Good facilities and modern church hall
- Financially secure
- Up to date IT systems
- A heart for mission and charitable giving
- Beautiful place to live, work and pray

#### Aspirations

- To appoint a new Godly leader with insight, vision and the ability to lead us lovingly in God's will
- Develop a viable, coherent strategy for reaching the unchurched in our parish and communities to build the Kingdom of God in this place
- Continue to develop outreach to younger people, families, nursery and uniformed groups
- To continue to be a community with a real pastoral heart to our whole community
- Encourage the use of all the gifts
- Develop our music provision
- Continue to work towards Eco Church status
- Maintain the Memorial Garden and grounds as a place of peacefulness and sanctuary for our community

#### Variety

• from intimate Holy Communion services and traditional Prayer Book Worship, to contemporary all-age worship.

#### Opportunity

- to help drive forward the development of ministry for the 21st century, embracing fresh ideas yet affirming the traditional Church.
- working with lay and ordained colleagues and being instrumental in developing new models of ministry. We offer work with schools, nursing homes and residential homes.
- for our new incumbent and family to explore golden sandy beaches, the New Forest and some of the most beautiful countryside on the South Coast in your free time.

#### Support

• we are committed to providing good administrative support; excellent Deanery and Diocesan colleagues and a welcoming and caring community.

### Is God calling you to join us?











## Worship

SUNDAYS	TIME	SERVICE	WHERE HELD	ATTENDANCE
1st	9:30am	Café Church	Church Hall	45 Adults, 10 Children
1st & 3rd	11:00am	Traditional Common Worship	Church	55 Adults
2nd & 4th	8:00am	Quiet BCP Holy Communion	Church	10-15 Adults
2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th	9:30am	Family Service with Childrens' Groups	Church & Church Hall	45 Adults, 10 Children
2nd & 4th	11:00am	Traditional Morning Prayer	Church	55 Adults

At Christmas there are two Christingle Services, a Nine Lessons and Carols, a Midnight Holy Communion Service and services on Christmas Day.

#### We have a variety of services to suit all tastes:

Our worship is an eclectic mixture of BCP, Common Worship, informal family services and experimental Café Church. Our more traditional services have a robed choir and organ and our more informal services are led by a worship band.

A Holy Communion Service is held on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. There is also an "In Loving Memory" Service once a year, when departed loved ones are remembered.









### The Church Community

There are currently 182 people on the Electoral Roll, of which about a third live inside the parish.

There are regular weekly Childrens' Sunday groups run by our Youth and Families Pastor and a number of volunteers. Refreshments are served after 9:30am service where people from both the 9:30am and 11:00am services can meet.

We are a very sociable church, often running regular events such as Lent lunches, fetes, harvest suppers, tea parties, concerts, quiz nights and many other activities during the year.

#### **Home Groups**

At the moment we have several home groups which meet weekly.

#### **Prayer Ministry**

We have a dedicated prayer team, who produce a monthly prayer diary and are available for prayer at the end of services. A prayer chain can be activated in the time of need.

#### **Stepping Stones**

About fifteen to twenty members of the congregation meet every month for a local walk and lunch.

#### **Knit and Natter**

About twelve to fourteen members of the congregation meet every Friday afternoon to knit and sew. They have knitted for various charities and fund raising activities.

#### **Visiting Schools**

Although we have no mainstream schools in our parish we have good working relationships with local schools. We have Victoria Special School in our parish and we would love to develop further links with them.

#### **Mothers Union**

A monthly afternoon tea is organised.

#### Men's Fellowship

Before Covid this group met regularly for breakfast with various speakers. Lunches at the local sailing club. Croquet evening at the local tennis & croquet club and Christmas suppers at various local pubs.



Worship Band



Mothers Union



Home Group Social



Stepping Stones



#### **Teddies and Toddlers**

This group meet in the church hall every Monday afternoon, where they have lots of play opportunities, craft and songs together.

#### **Older Peoples Ministry - Faith & Fellowship**

A flourishing group that meet monthly for coffee, cake and spiritual chat. It organises various events for the elderly during the year.

#### Courses

Pre-Covid we ran many courses, Alpha, bereavement support, wedding preparation. We are hoping to re-establish these in the near future.

#### Covid

In 2020, as Covid struck, we established an online service which enabled us to have weekly online contact with large numbers of the congregation.



Post-Covid and with the last incumbent departing, we are quickly increasing attendance numbers, back to where they were pre-Covid. A Christmas Fair in November, followed by Remembrance Services, attended by uniformed groups, saw many people return to church in person. With Christmas services and the newly formed Café church, we have continued to see church attendance increasing to how it was pre-Covid, with about 115 adults and 10 children attending different services on a Sunday.

We even managed to take up the Jerusalema Dance Challenge during a Covid lockdown!

It is hoped, as we rebuild, that we can return to our informal and formal Sunday evening services.





Faith & Fellowship

Men's Fellowship



Teddies and Toddlers



Faith & Fellowship meeting during Covid



If you come to us, you will be supported by a team of people who are committed to the parish, who all work to see the church grow in influence and numbers.

We have four salaried staff at All Saints':

- A full time Children's and Families Pastor
- Three part-time administrators, one person five mornings 9:00am - 1:00pm and two people two mornings a week 9:00am - 1:00pm. One of these people has responsibility for funerals and one looks after weddings and baptisms.
- We have two paid organists and a number of organists we can call upon in emergencies.

We have worked hard during the interregnum to develop our administrative processes and to ensure the legal frameworks are upheld. We would be glad of further input in developing this.

We are blessed with a wonderful and gifted team of experienced retired priests and lay ministers who give generously of their time and talents to support the work of All Saints'.

In the past we have received Curates in training. We have had students from Moorlands College, to whom we have offered placements.

We also have an enthusiastic team of volunteers who assist in keeping the church running:

- Two Churchwardens and one deputy Churchwarden
- A Parochial Church Council (PCC) comprising incumbent, Churchwardens, 8 members, 2 Deanery Synod members, Treasurer, PCC secretary and a Safeguarding Officer.
- A Standing Committee
- Verger and Sexton
- One Licensed Lay Minister
- Two Lay Worship Leaders
- A Worship Band
- A Choir
- Sidespeople
- Readers
- Communion Servers
- Welcomers
- Intercessors
- A Pastoral Team consisting of 6 Lay Pastoral Assistants
- Volunteers for Kids' Church and Teddies & Toddler group
- A Treasurer
- A Flower Team
- A Refreshments Team
- A Memorial Gardening Team

Plus very willing members of the congregation who will volunteer for occasional church events.



A large proportion of our gatherings on a Sunday morning have been all-age services, reinforcing the idea of being an intergenerational church.

The Café church services, where we meet in the Hall around tables, enjoying a bacon roll and a drink, are growing in popularity. Here, all ages can worship, hear the word and connect with one another. It provides the chance for newcomers to safely pop their heads in to take a look, and engage with the church in an informal environment. It is also a time in busy family life to stop and to connect with God together.

At other times, when Kids' Church is open we go across to the Hall after a time of worship in church. We worship, pray, talk and have fun together.

Regular events like the Christingle services, Remembrance Sunday parade, Easter events, Church fete, movie nights and family quiz nights provide opportunities for interacting with families that do not attend church regularly. We want to show the community around us that the church of Jesus is welcoming and alive!

Dale Edy, our full time Children's and Families Pastor

#### Cubs (age 8-10) and Beavers (age 6-8)

These groups have been running for many years, being a testament to the volunteers, often from the church community, who run them. It is a great way for families to connect with the church, e.g. through Church parades and harvest deliveries, and there is great scope for more assimilation going forward.

#### **Teddies and Toddlers**

This group meets once a week for anyone in the community with a baby or toddler. It provides a safe place for children to play and a place where parents/carers can breathe, maybe having some interaction with others in the same phase of life. It provides an opportunity to invite people that may never otherwise have thought of walking into a church.

#### Nursery

Our Mothers' Union started the nursery fifty years ago! It is open for all children in the community and is very popular, with parents recognising the Christian ethos by which it is run. The team provide a high standard of service to children and families and in 2023 OFSTED rated the nursery as outstanding. The potential for further crossover between the church and the nursery can bear much fruit.











### Prayer and Pastoral Care

#### Prayer

Prayer is core to life at All Saints'. We have an active prayer group, who are always available in church for personal prayer after services. They produce a prayer diary each month and everyone is encouraged to send in topics for prayer.



Weekday prayer meetings are held in church on Wednesday mornings from 9:15am to 9:45am where a quiet time of fellowship, bible reading and praying for our church community, the nation and the wider world is offered.

Those leading the Sunday Services, including the musicians, pray together before the service begins. During the service members of the congregation have been encouraged to lead the intercessional prayers.

The church is open during the week for private prayer and quiet time.

The weekly newsletter has contact details for urgent prayer requests and to activate the prayer chain.

#### **Pastoral Care**

The active and committed Pastoral Care team at All Saints' continue to try and cover the needs of the parish, hoping to demonstrate God's love by offering support with visits to homes, hospital and residential homes.

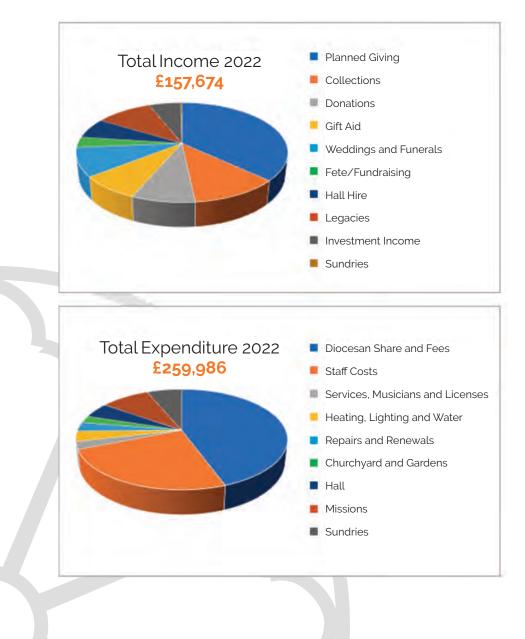
The team currently consists of six Lay Pastoral Assistants, (LPAs) and five members of our congregation, (the Pastoral Support Team), who support the LPAs by accompanying them on some visits.

We seek to offer emotional and spiritual support with phone calls, visits and taking Home Communion to those who are ill or housebound. We also regularly visit five residential homes in the parish, offering friendship, Holy Communion or worship services on a monthly basis.

We also visit care homes at Christmas to sing carols.







We have kept a healthy balance of funds over the past few years but with the last incumbent departing and Covid, considerable pressure has been placed on All Saints' finances. We have however been deeply blessed with substantial and very generous legacies which have supported the ongoing work of the church. The majority of our regular income is paid by standing orders and we also have around 30 donors who use the Parish Giving Scheme. The amount we receive through plate collections is steady and we also have a Sum Up card reader for one off donations. Our dedicated gift aid secretary also ensures we receive significant income from the Revenue.

On the expenditure side, a large proportion goes to pay the Diocesan share. The other significant expenditure is for the salaries of our staff team who are doing sterling work especially during the interregnum. The PCC also decided during 2022 to donate to the Christian Aid appeals for Afghanistan and Ukraine.

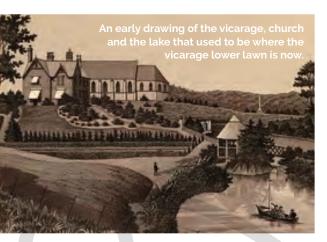
We ended 2022 with a significant deficit but we are now planning to rebuild our church life and get the finances back on track.

Management accounts for income and expenditure are presented at all PCC meetings and controls exist to ensure the all expenditure is approved. A small sub committee has been formed to oversee the church investments.

Due to falls in the stock market, our investments have dropped back to £963,989, returning the portfolios to their 2020 values. The PCC will be developing a strategy in 2023 to decide the most effective use of these significant funds. Current assets stand at £135,792 with only £4,437 of creditors, showing a healthy state of affairs.

#### **The church Setting**

All Saints' Church, Branksome Park, was constructed between 1874 - 1877. It is in the Diocese of Salisbury. There is a graveyard



and a beautiful newly created Memorial Garden. The whole estate backs on to well maintained woodland in the form of Branksome Chine. which provides a pleasant walk alongside the stream down to the beach.

The Vicarage is situated next to the church (*please see our description of the Vicarage on the following page*) and next to the Vicarage is the Church Hall.

The location is a draw for weddings

and baptisms. The gardens, the dappled light from the trees and the intimate atmosphere inside the church provide a lovely setting for these special events.

We are indeed blessed to be able to offer our new leader such tranquil surroundings.

#### The Church Building in General

All Saints' is an attractive well kept church that seats about 150-200 people. Outside the church is clad with Purbeck stone and inside there is a traditional pipe organ which is regularly maintained and used every week.

The church is a Grade 2 listed building. The porch was extended in 2002 to add a disabled toilet and larger entrance. The entrance can even be used for making pancakes for passers-by on Shrove Tuesday!

#### **Fabric Condition**

The church is generally in good condition of repair. The last Quinquennial of the church was carried out in 2018. We have the next one due in October 2023. The church is cleaned weekly by a cleaning company.

#### **Church Hall**

The church hall was built in 1991. It has recently been re-decorated. The excellent kitchen was refitted and a new carpet was laid. Old chairs were replaced with attractive new ones. The very popular All Saints' Nursery, established fifty years ago, uses the hall five mornings and two afternoons. They are very









welcome but it does limit the use of the hall for other activities. The hall has two upstairs rooms which at present are under-used. The spacious vicarage is situated next door to the church, backing on to Branksome Chine. It was built for the first vicar when the church was completed in 1877.



The house is mostly modernised, e.g. with double glazed windows, but has retained original features such as fireplaces, one of which is believed to still be functional. True to its Victorian design, all rooms in the house are spacious and have high ceilings.

#### **The ground floor** A hallway, four

reception rooms (one set up as a study), a large kitchen, utility room, downstairs WC, doorway to the cellar and a back door.

#### The first floor

Five double bedrooms, a shower room, a "Jack and Jill" style ensuite bathroom, accessed from both the master bedroom and the landing. Various cupboards and loft access hatches.

#### Outside

The small private back garden is on two levels, with a modern wooden summer house on the lower level. The pathway then winds its way further down through the trees to a small gate, giving direct access to the woods and stream of Branksome Chine.

On the south side of the house is a lovely sunny Church Lawn. This lawn can obviously be used by the vicar and family, but it is also used for small church events. Steep steps lead down from here to a very large Lower Lawn, which was once the bed of a lake! This lawn, great for playing football on, is used for larger church events such as the annual fete, barn dances and even outdoor services, a literal Godsend during the isolating days of Covid.

At the front of the vicarage, is a garage and driveway, with room for several cars. This driveway also links the church to the church hall, so children leaving the church services for their own meetings in the hall can walk there safely, without having to walk along the road.











### Branksome Park, Poole & Bournemouth - Living Here

#### The Area

Branksome Park is a beautiful wooded suburb of Poole in Dorset. Poole forms part of the new Bournemouth/Christchurch/Poole conurbation (BCP). Branksome Park sits near the Dorset/ Hampshire border between the towns of Bournemouth and Poole. All Saints' Church is in the centre of "The Park" and its graveyard backs on to Branksome Chine, a wooded valley with a stream leading down to Branksome Chine beach, half a mile away. BCP boasts fifteen miles of sandy beaches, right on our doorstep. Perfect for playing, swimming or conducting baptisms in the sea!

This wooded area abounds in wildlife and is especially beautiful when the rhododendrons, azaleas etc are in full bloom. In the autumn a blaze of colour is provided by the numerous trees. Local walks along the beach to Bournemouth or Sandbanks provide Sunday afternoon strolls. We are sandwiched between the Purbecks and the New Forest for further walks or cycle rides. Even Dorset's Jurassic Coast is not far away. Poole Harbour hosts a range of indigenous and migratory birds, and Brownsea Island (where Baden-Powell's scouting movement began) is home to red squirrels. The area is home to deer, and at sea you might even see dolphins or seals! Poole Harbour and our sandy beaches provide plenty of opportunities for water sports. We also have tennis courts, a bowls club and even a renowned golf course within walking distance of All Saints' church.

Nearby, Canford Cliffs and Westbourne provide a range of small shops, cafés, restaurants and medical facilities. Each also has a Post Office and a Library. Bournemouth and Poole towns, plus Dorset and Hampshire counties, provide plenty of other sporting, cultural and shopping facilities. We are well served by both Poole and Royal Bournemouth Hospitals.













# Branksome Park, Poole & Bournemouth - Living Here - continued











#### **Schools**

The area is blessed with several primary and secondary schools, all rated good/outstanding by OFSTED. Church schools include Lilliput CE infant school, and Baden-Powell and St Peter's CE junior school. Interestingly, there is also a joint CE and RC secondary school at St. Edwards in Poole. We have two girls' grammar schools and two boys' grammar schools within 5 miles of the church. Victoria Special School is also situated within the All Saints' parish.

#### **Further Education**

We have two universities – Bournemouth University and Arts University Bournemouth, the latter of which also provides evening courses for adults. Bournemouth and Poole College's three campuses provide post-16 and degree level education. The national RNLI training college is also in Poole.

Travel links within BCP are plentiful, with bus and train stations in Poole and Bournemouth as well as an increasing number of cycle paths. The M27 and M3 are easily reached and, by train, London in under 2 hours and Southampton in 30 mins. On the quieter front, why not take the open top bus to the seaside town of Swanage, via the Studland chain ferry or take a ferry from Poole to France or the Channel Isles. If you really want to get away further though, we even have our own international airport in Bournemouth!







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