

# Profile of the Anglican Church Twente

Worshipping in the Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin  
Weldam (near Goor)

[www.anglicanchurchtwente.com](http://www.anglicanchurchtwente.com)

## 1. Location

The Chapel of St Mary's stands in the grounds of Weldam Castle, near the town of Goor, in the province of Overijssel. The nearest larger centres are Hengelo, Almelo, and Enschede (near the German border). Both Hengelo and Almelo are industrial towns, while Enschede has a technical university of international repute. To the West, the charming old Hansa towns of Deventer and Zutphen offer both character and history. With rivers, canals, a varied landscape of fields separated by wooded banks, forests and ancient towns, the whole area is one of the most attractive regions in the Netherlands.



Unlike village churches in the United Kingdom, St. Mary's has a regional congregation, drawn from the provinces of both Overijssel and Gelderland. More specifically, church attendants live across a large area bound by Apeldoorn in the West, stretching Southeast, across the border with Germany and up North as far as Raalte. This is an area of some 4000 square kilometres, which implies, that attending services or any church related social activity may involve journeys of up to an hour. Happily, due to the unique character of St. Mary's, people feel it is worth the effort.

## 2. Anglican Church Twente

The Anglican Church Twente founded in 1979, initially in Hengelo, moved to its present location on the Weldam estate after Count Alfred offered the use of his family chapel.

St Mary's Chapel, constructed over 120 years ago, in the Victorian style, was designed by the English architect William Samuel Weatherley.

On Sundays, there is a Sung Service of Holy Communion held at 10.30, with Eucharistic vestments worn. The liturgy used is Common Worship Order One, in contemporary language. The chaplaincy can rely on the assistance of a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader).



### 3. Congregation

Currently there are sixty-four names on the electoral roll. The age profile of our members shows that 40% are over 65 and 60% are under 65. The chaplaincy continues to experience slow, steady growth, with more than 45 people on average attending Sunday services.

At a special service in October 2019 Bishop Michael Langrish baptized and confirmed two of our members, he confirmed six others and received another two into the communion of the Church of England. Also at that service the Archdeacon admitted and licensed our Reader.



The language used in services at St Mary's is English. There are a large number of English speaking people spread throughout the Chaplaincy. Over the past few years, while the number of native English speakers has decreased in comparison to the number of Dutch speakers, no one sees any reason to change the language of the services. The general feeling is that as English is naturally the first language of the Church of England, the use of English along with the rites and practices of middle to high Anglicanism allows the chaplaincy to provide a unique service to the area.

The congregation itself is truly multinational. Besides Dutch and British members, there are many other nationalities, American, Irish, Sri Lankan, Australian, Tanzanian, South African and Kenyan nationals, to name just a few. The members of the congregation are also multid denominational, coming from a broad range of Christian denominations. Those members using Dutch as their first language often have an affinity with the English language. Some through living in the UK, or holidays spent there, while others have an interest in English culture (literature, poetry, and music) or as language teachers, business people or professionals and the Anglican Church in particular.

We are proud to be Anglicans, worshiping in a liberal catholic tradition embracive of all traditions and wishing to develop a progressive approach to social issues. We are welcoming to all people, regardless of gender, sexuality, age, race, physical ability or mental wellbeing and health. God's love is for us all.

### 4. Church Music

In the services, the musical elements, (Kyrie and Gloria, for example) come from the "Addington Service." The broad range of hymns sung taken from the hymnbook "Common Praise" includes not only the beloved, well-known classical ones but when appropriate, the less prominent ones. Occasionally, choices also come from other sources for more contemporary hymns or songs. Singing by the congregation is generally accompanied on the organ. On various occasions, some members of the congregation, playing the flute, recorder, trumpet or guitar, may join in.

There is no established choir in the chapel. This is mainly due to the distances the singers need to travel for regular choir practice. In winter times, the travelling is often too much. However, on special occasions, such as Christmas or Easter, an "ad hoc" singing group is often organized, which, after only a few but intense rehearsals, adds appropriate festive and much-appreciated music to such services.

### 5. Growth and development

During the past year preparation classes have been held for those about to be confirmed or received into the communion of the Church of England. Also every season Lent courses are organised.

## 5. Regular activities

An enthusiastic flower guild keeps the chapel beautifully decorated in a manner appropriate for the season. Once a year we organize a book sale and a plant sale for the benefit of the Flower guild.

On special occasions (Christmas, Harvest, and Easter), volunteers work together in cleaning, preparing and decorating the church.

The Chaplaincy, working with the local Foodbank in Goor, collects non-perishable items throughout the year, with a particular focus placed on the Harvest Festival donations.

A local contact scheme, run by designated volunteers, tries to remain in touch with all the members of the congregation in their areas as well as welcoming newcomers.



## 6. Special services

Throughout the year there is a wide range of services held at St. Mary's. One of these is the annual Remembrance Sunday service in which we remember those in the armed forces who have died in the line of duty since the first World War.



## 7. Social Life

The social life of St. Mary's congregation has many aspects. Making and keeping social connections, especially the coffee/tea, biscuits and a friendly chat after the Sunday service are significant for everyone.

Then there are special celebrations marked with an excellent 'bring and share' lunch. On every possible occasion (for example, after the Harvest Festival service and also on birthdays) people bring in food and drinks to share.

Another annual event is the Ascension Day service followed by a picnic, often with a pie baking competition, especially enjoyed by those seen here doing the judging. (Ascension Day is a public holiday in The Netherlands.)



## 8. Fund raising and outreach

During a six week period in the summer months we organize a Tea Room on Sunday afternoons, to welcome visitors and passers-by. The chapel is then also open for those who wish to just sit quietly or to hear from our volunteers about the chapel and our chaplaincy. This is both an outreach and fundraising activity, with good conversations and the enjoyment of a cup of tea and home baked cakes.

A very capable and resourceful Castle Fair Committee organizes our main Fund Raising Event, the Castle Fair every September in the grounds of Weldam Castle, in aid of St. Mary's, as well as the charities supported by the chaplaincy. Not only is it a great social occasion for the whole area, but it is also the chaplaincies primary fundraising and outreach event of the year.

During the Christmas season there is also a Christmas Market, which is enjoyed by all.



## **9. Terms and Conditions of the Appointment**

The terms and conditions of service for this part-time position are:

### **Accommodation**

The Chaplaincy Council will provide accommodation for the chaplain. The intention is to rent accommodation and, depending on the candidate, furnish it as necessary.

### **Remuneration**

Our Chaplaincy will offer a 50% stipend (to be discussed and agreed). The Chaplaincy Council agrees to pay premiums for a local private health insurance scheme as required.

### **Expenses of Office**

Allowance for the use of own car, telephone rental and postage for use in the office will be given.

## **10. Specification of the type of Priest required**

It is essential for the kind of priest sought that the successful candidate:

- Will encourage the spiritual growth of our chaplaincy, as well as our unity
- Will enjoy the challenge of providing comprehensive pastoral care in our area in the East Netherlands
- Will actively work at developing our Church life, witness, and outreach
- Will wear Eucharistic vestments and provide various liturgical celebrations and services that will appeal to all members of our multi-denominational and multi-national congregation
- Will be at ease with people of all ages, nationalities and backgrounds and is a good, clear communicator.
- Has excellent, proven, organizational and management skills due to the dispersed nature of the chaplaincy.
- Should be enthusiastic about living and working in the Netherlands
- Is willing to drive and has a valid driving licence
- Have computer-based communications skills

It is also highly desirable that a successful candidate:

- Agrees to work at obtaining some proficiency in the Dutch language.