

St Catherine's Children & Family Worker

Background and Context



The Parish

- A one church parish located to the west of Reading, serving the communities of Tilehurst and Calcot.
- Our vicar, Rev Jackie Fountain, was appointed in November 2023.
- God has been at work at St Catherine's growing us from being a church which in recent years has been with almost no children, to one in which children and families are a notable part and our connections with local schools have strengthened. We long for someone to work with us to build and extend these opportunities.
- An electoral role of 112 (APCM 2026) with a worshipping community of 146 adults including 15 children and young adults .
- Originally built in the 1960s building has been extended several times, most recently in 2016 and provides a welcoming space for the community including the church, hall, café, garden room, office and toilets.

Where is God leading us?

The PCC have discerned three focus areas:

- **Reaching out to younger people, children and families** while continuing to value and care for the current congregation.

- **Prayer and worship**- connecting to God. Listening to God.

- **Raising the profile of St Catherines** - not being hidden.



Worship at St Catherine's



- **St Cat's Lite:** A monthly Saturday afternoon fun filled 'messy church' usually attended by some 20 adults and 16 children – though the Easter service broke all records with over 100!

- **Sunday Mornings:** About 60 members meet at 10am as one church to worship God together. Communion is offered at two Sundays in the month. A kids' ministry is available during the service whilst some Sundays are an All-Age service. Lay participation is encouraged, many members of the congregation are involved throughout the week and others are involved in leading services and preaching.
  Our website gives a taster: www.stcatherines-Tilehurst.org.uk



- **Dwell :** An informal monthly evening opportunity to worship

- **Wednesday Morning Communion** : A short-spoken service with about 10 regular attendees

Children & Family Activities

St Cats Lite: A fun filled monthly afternoon service with songs, stories, craft activities and refreshments. Initiated about two years ago, now popular with many families, including those not often at Sunday services.

Sunday Kids' Ministry : A stand up Sunday school, providing young children with activities and learning during Sunday services.





God is at work reaching out to children & families!





Holiday Club: 2026 saw our third holiday club on the theme: Deep Sea Divers! Over 40 children enjoyed the opportunity to join in and learn more about Jesus, organised and run by many church members.

0-5 Toddlers: A weekly play group run by church volunteers during term time.

Reaching Out to Our Schools



- We have strong links with Birch Copse and Springfield Primary Schools:
  - Easter and Christmas services at St Catherine's
  - School assemblies.
- In answer to many years of prayer, opportunities are opening to engage with Calcot primary schools.
- At the near by secondary school. Little Heath, St Catherine's is involved in RE lessons, and staff pit-stops – an opportunity to show our appreciation for the teachers by sharing coffee and home-made cakes.
- We work closely with Reach, a Christian charity working in Reading to support schools.

Parish Life





- The church centre includes the church, hall, grounds, kitchens, office and toilets and provides a busy multi purpose space for both church members and the community every day of the week.
- Café Siena, operated by the Café Manager and volunteers, opens Thursdays and Fridays each week providing a safe space, a chat and an affordable meal or snack.
- The Centre is used for church activities (eg meetings, book club, Friday Friends, Tuesday Get Together, Crafty Space) and is hired out (eg AA, Vivace choir, school clubs, exercise classes, yoga etc).
- Events are organized throughout the year such as Spring and Christmas fairs, eco-fair, quizzes, concerts, and are popular with church members and the community alike.



Welcome to Tilehurst

There are 4 primary schools in the parish, including Birch Copse opposite the church, Springfield not far way and a secondary school, Little Heath. Not Church of England schools.

The parish includes western Tilehurst and Calcot, and straddles both Reading Borough Council and West Berkshire. There are over 4,000 homes in an area of mixed suburban housing .

Tilehurst has excellent transport links. St Catherine's is 4 km from the M4 Jn12, 3 km from Tilehurst station with good links to London, Oxford and Reading, and has a good bus service. Paddington, London can be reached in 25 minutes from Reading station and the Elizabeth line provides links to central and eastern London.

Tilehurst with its village atmosphere provides local shops. Calcot offers a retail park including IKEA, large Sainsbury's supermarket, B&M, gym and Dunelm. Nearby Reading has a wide range of facilities.

The adjacent woodland, many green spaces and nearby rivers Kennet and Thames offer many leisure activities.

Note 1 marks St Catherine's Church.
More information can be found on the internet including:
Calcot, Berkshire – Wikipedia and at Tilehurst (Reading ward) - Wikipedia