AChurchNearYou.com

The official, free website platform for Church of England churches and benefices

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Overview

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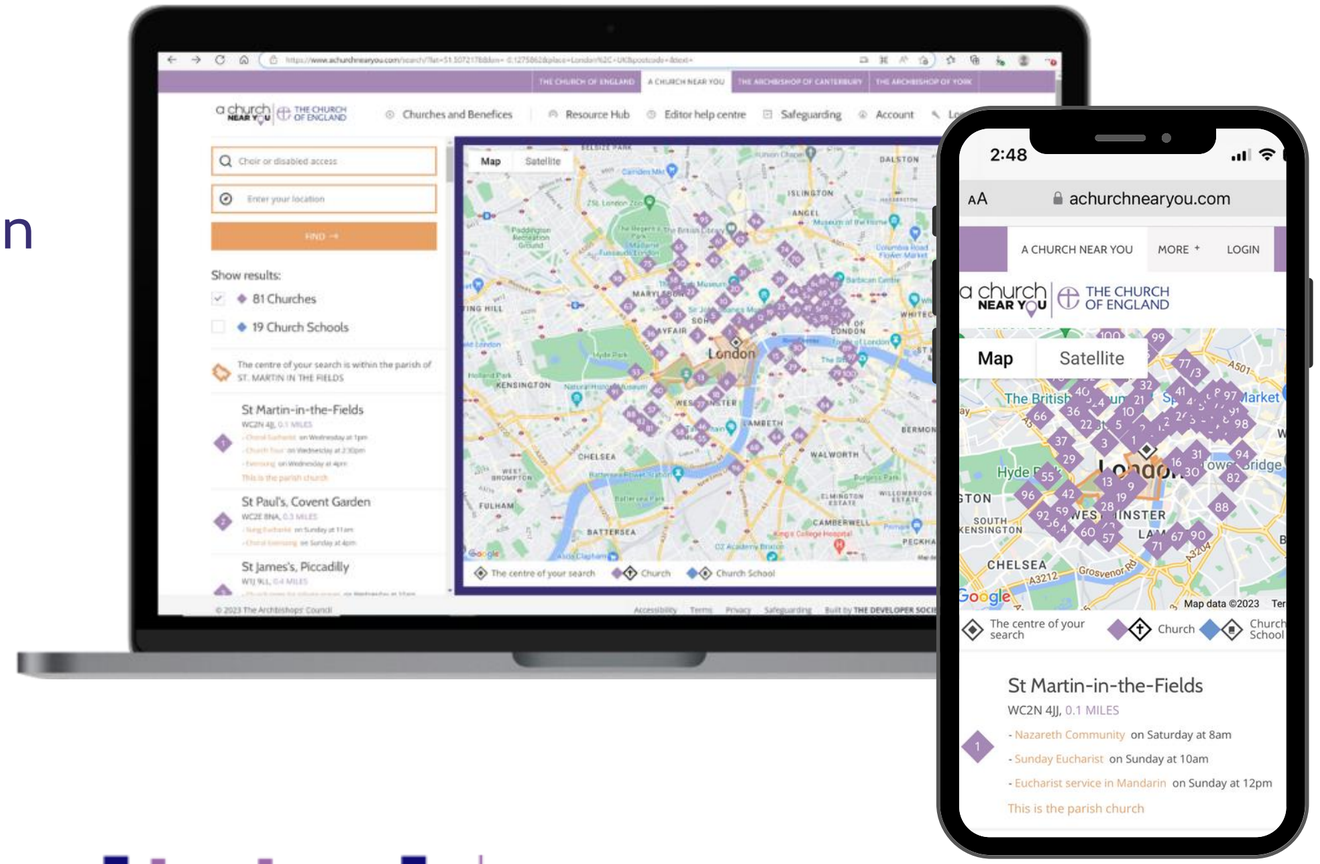
What is AChurchNearYou.com?

1. A church finder tool for the public:

AChurchNearYou.com allows anyone to find their nearest church, view information about that church community and get in touch.



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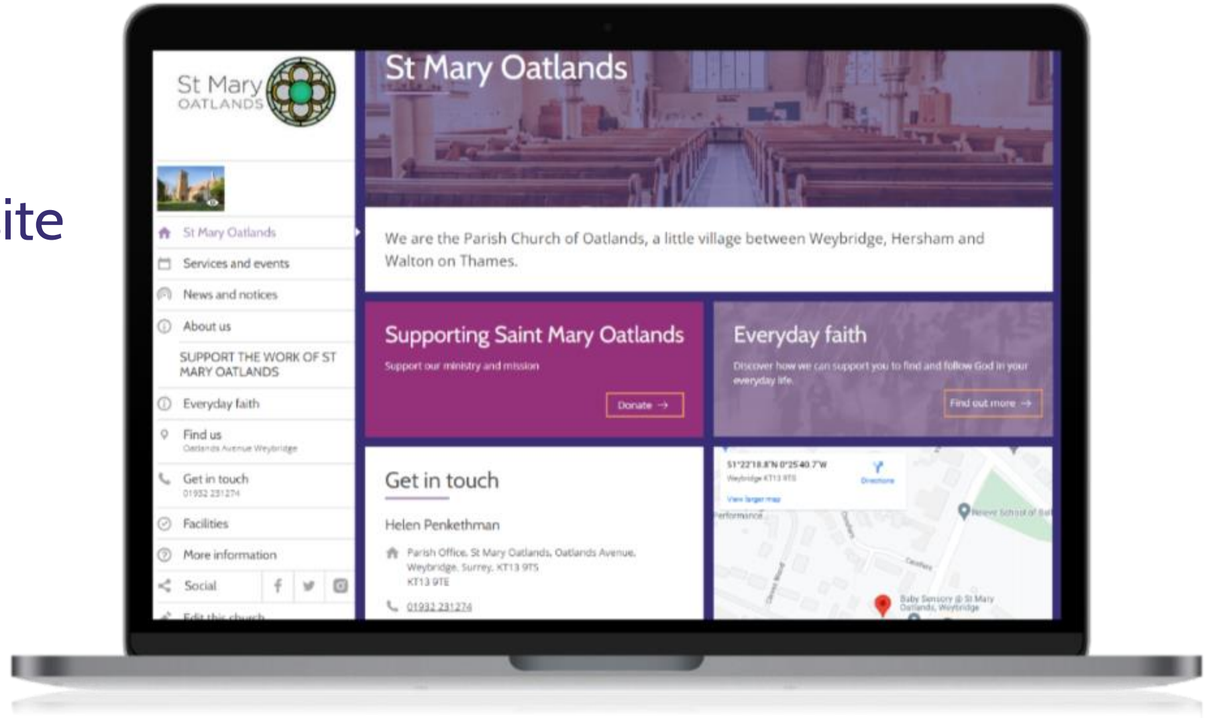
What is AChurchNearYou.com?

2. A free website platform for churches:

Every church or multi-church benefice can easily have their own free, easy to use website on AChurchNearYou.com.



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How it works

Every Church of England church has a listing on AChurchNearYou.com, but it's up to you how you use it.

You have two options:

- 1. Keep your listing **short and simple** with a button to take people to your **separate church website**
- 2. Build out your listing into a **full website,** hosted within AChurchNearYou.com

If you want to, within AChurchNearYou.com you can also set up a website for your multi-church benefice, suitable if you are a Team Parish, Team Ministry or similar.

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Why keep your listing up to date?

AChurchNearYou.com receives over 70 million page views per year. By keeping your church's listing up to date, you can benefit from this traffic and help more people find your church.

- **"This Sunday one of the Church Wardens came up to me after the service and said that she had had an email from AChurchNearYou.com from a lady asking where the service was in the benefice. She had replied immediately and the lady was in church with us!"**

40% respondents to our last editor survey said they had had people come to their church as a result of their AChurchNearYou.com listing.

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In numbers

70 MILLION

Pages viewed annually by the public

SUNDAY

Busiest day of the week on the site

4

Average number of pages viewed per session

40%

Editors have had visitors to their church who say they found the church on AChurchNearYou.com

Sources: **Page views** from server logs, total from last 365 days prior to 14 Jun 2023, less 22% as we estimate these are editor page views. **Pages per session**, **busiest day** and **first time visitors** from Google Analytics, last 365 days prior to 14 Jun 2023. **Editors reporting visitors to their church** – Editor survey May 2021 w/ 300 participants.

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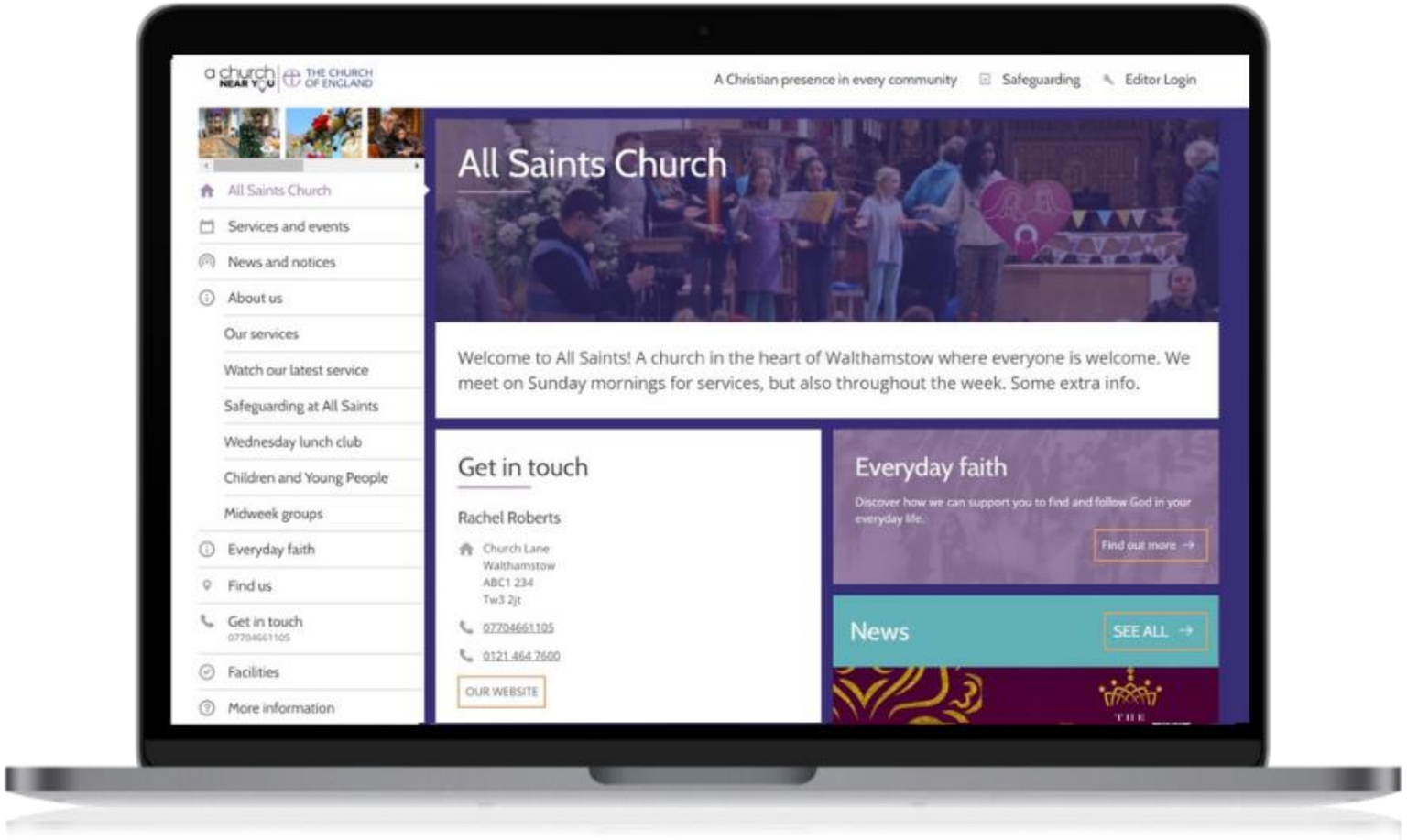
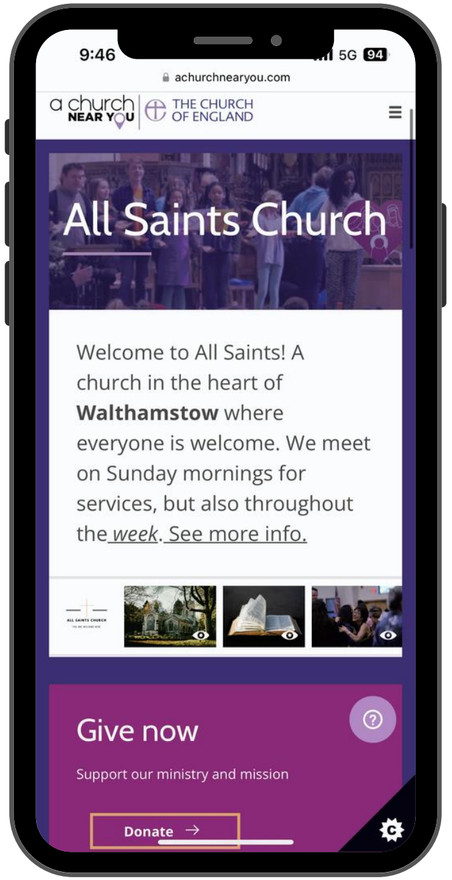
Church site example





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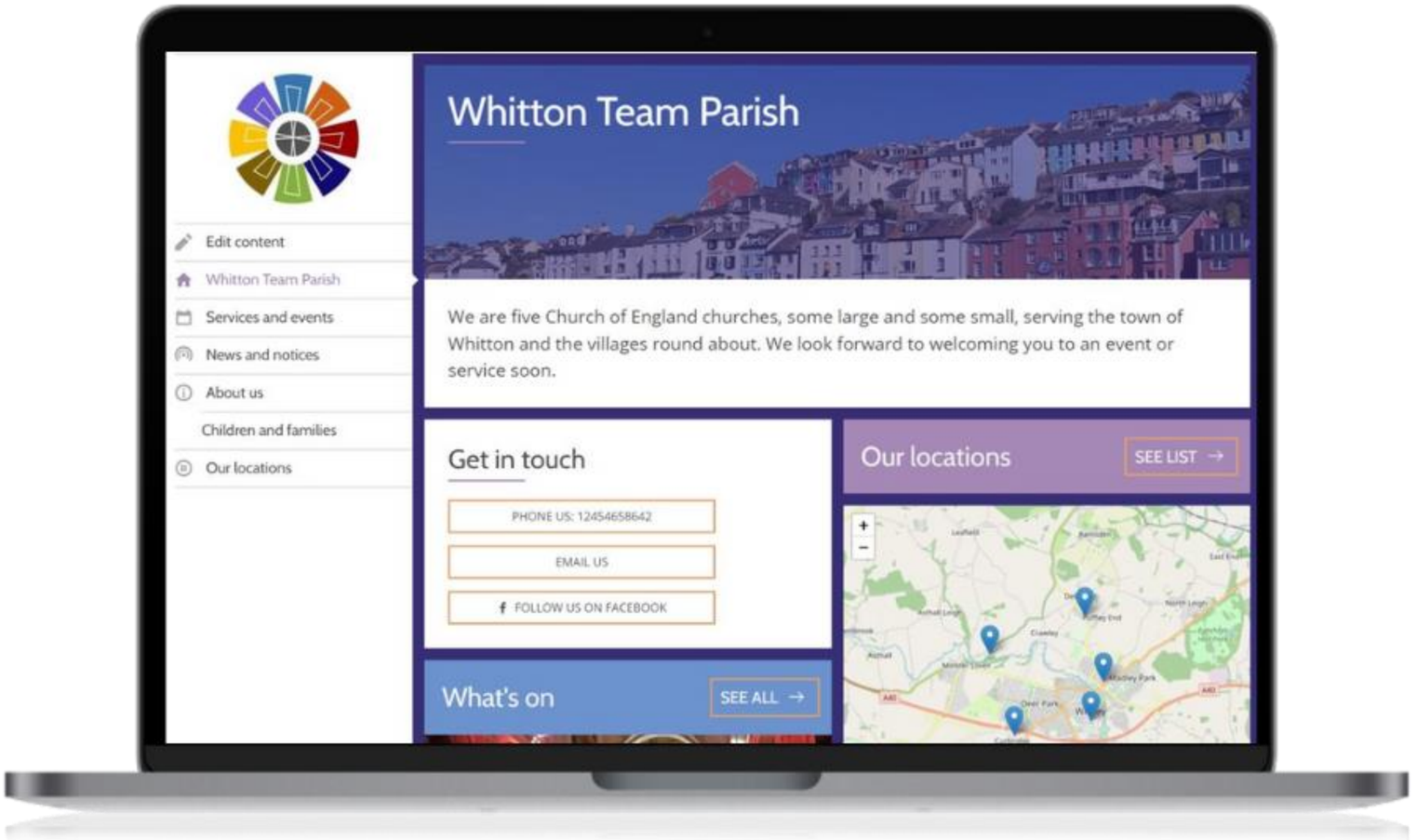
Benefice site example



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Using AChurchNearYou.com as your main church or benefice website

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“For a church with no one who understands the underlying technology it is a good idea, especially as mobile devices can be used to edit. Thank you very much for providing this service.”

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BENEFITS

1. **Completely free:** no developer or admin fees
2. **Simple to update:** designed for people with no website experience
3. **Training and support:** help articles, how-to videos, regular training webinars, or contact us Mon - Fri
4. **Secure:** we handle site security and access
5. **Mobile friendly:** Google prioritises mobile friendly sites, meaning your site will often appear on the first page of results
6. **Reach new audiences:** Drives the public to discover churches at key times of the year through several different digital platforms
7. **Continuous improvement:** editor feedback shapes our development plans

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Key features

Contact form

Easily receive and respond to messages from the public by forwarding them to an email address of your choice

Add your own pages

Add your own pages to highlight aspects of church life

Customisable homepage

Highlight upcoming events and key news, add online donation button

Multi-church benefices

List your content at benefice level and have it display on all your church sites as well as the benefice site

Embed video

Easily display your latest recording if you film your services

Optional extras

Church Development Tool

Simple tool to survey your congregation

Life Events Diary

A quick and easy way to collect all the details from visitors enquiring about weddings, christenings & funerals

Online giving

Add an online giving button to your homepage

Room booking page

Add a Room Booking page to ease bookings admin

Online Services Register

List your service attendance online, making it quicker to complete your Statistics for Mission form at the end of the year

Is AChurchNearYou.com right for me?

For many churches, AChurchNearYou.com offers everything they need with zero cost making it the best choice of website for them.

- Some churches with staff and a budget to run a separate website prefer to do so with other website providers, rather than using AChurchNearYou.com as their main website.
- These churches can add just their basic information on AChurchNearYou.com, including providing a contact email address and a link to their main website.
- We recommend logging in twice a year to list your Easter and Christmas events, to make sure you don't miss out on getting noticed by the boosted visitor numbers that come to find a church on AChurchNearYou.com at these times of year.

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What will my website address (or URL) be?

The default URL will be something like achurchnearyou.com/church/12345

To customise the address, you can:

- **Contact us** and ask for an alternative URL with your church name in it, this will be in the format **achurchnearyou.com/all-saints-millington.**

- **Purchase a new custom URL,** for example, ‘allsaintschurchmillington.org’ from any domain name provider, and set it to forward to your AChurchNearYou.com URL.

- If you already have custom URL for a separate website, but want to move to AChurchNearYou.com, you can **redirect** it to your AChurchNearYou.com URL.

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Getting started

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“This Sunday one of the Church Wardens came up to me after the service and said that she had had an email from ACNY from a lady asking where the service was in the benefice. She had replied immediately and lo! the lady was in Church with us!”

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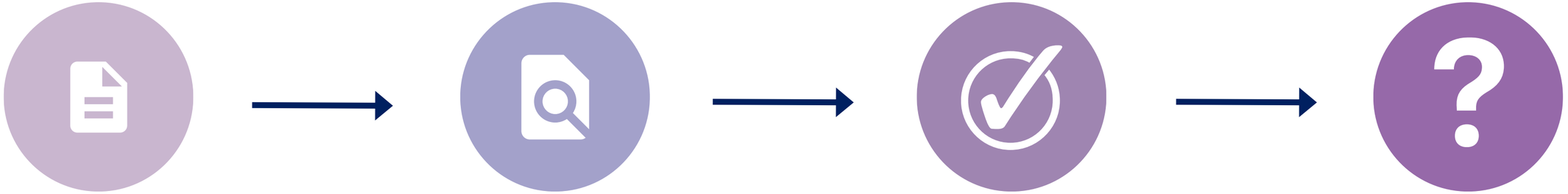
Become an editor



1 - Register

Register at achurchnearyou.com/accounts/signup/ and **login**

2 - Request access

Request access to your church(es):

- Look up your church on AChurchNearYou.com
- Choose 'Edit this church' from the church's menu
- Fill out the form

3 - Approval

Approval of your request by an existing editor of that church. In case of any problems or delay, contact us for approval at cofe.io/SupportACNY

4 - Learn

Book onto a short training webinar at cofe.io/WebinarsACNY. Or, watch videos and read help articles when it suits you, at cofe.io/EditorHelpACNY

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AChurchNearYou.com as your main website

- Use the URL (web address) that we give you or redirect your existing domain name to your AChurchNearYou.com site.
- Add your contact details and your regular services, then make use of the options to add custom pages, and news listings to fill out a full site.
- Explore our benefice functionality to save you time if you need to list the same events and information on multiple churches.
- Visit the Marketplace on the editor menu for more free options, including adding a 'donate' button to your homepage.

What could my church site look like?

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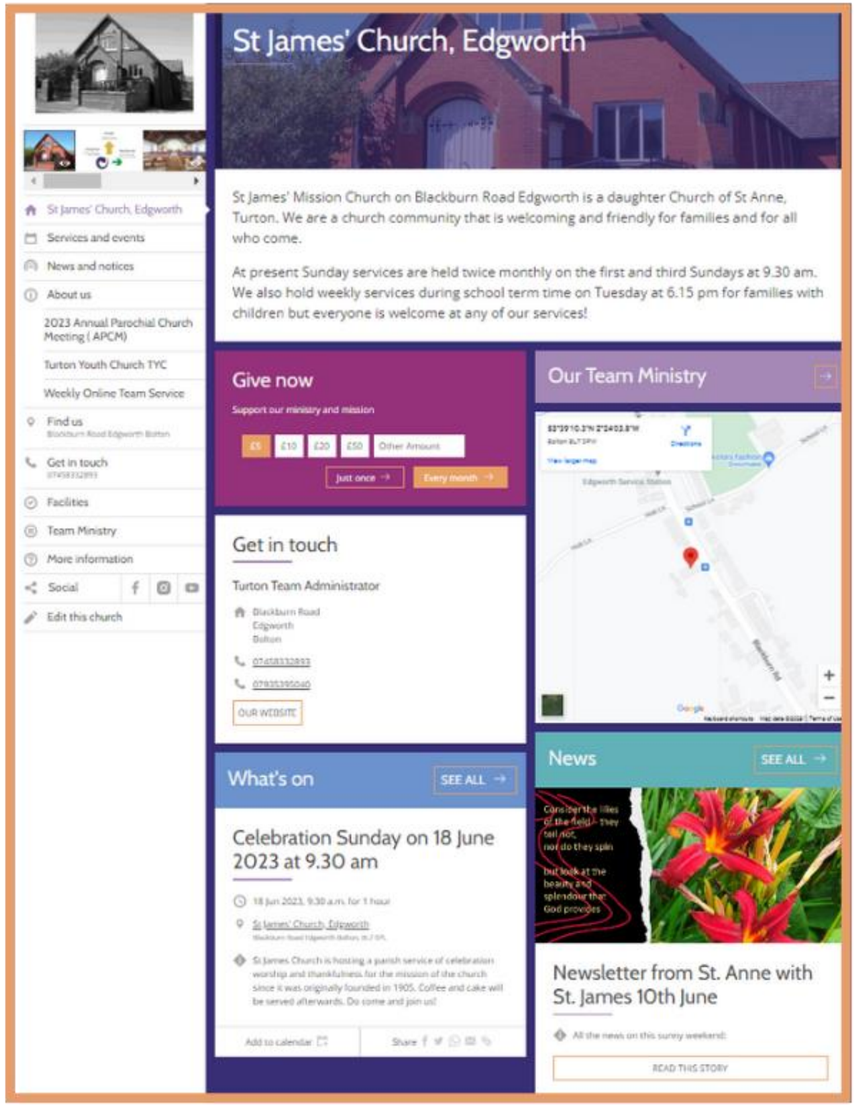

- Homepage
- Services and events
- News and notices
- About us
- Custom pages
- Find us
- Get in touch
- Facilities

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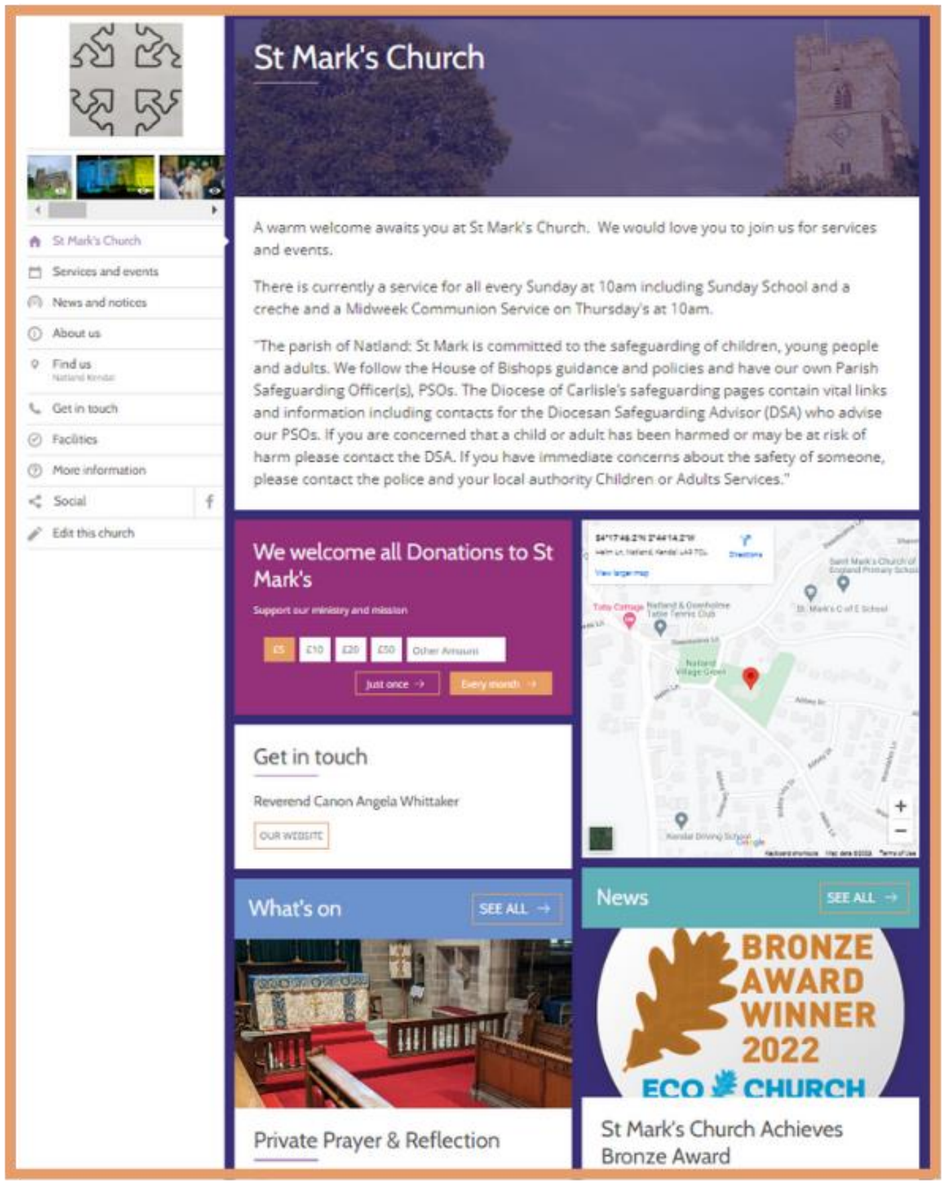
Homepage

Your church's homepage is the first page visitors will see when they arrive on your site.

You can edit the church's homepage to include useful information for the church community and new visitors.

Other customisable features include highlighting upcoming events and key news, and adding an online donation button.

[Editor Help Centre Article]



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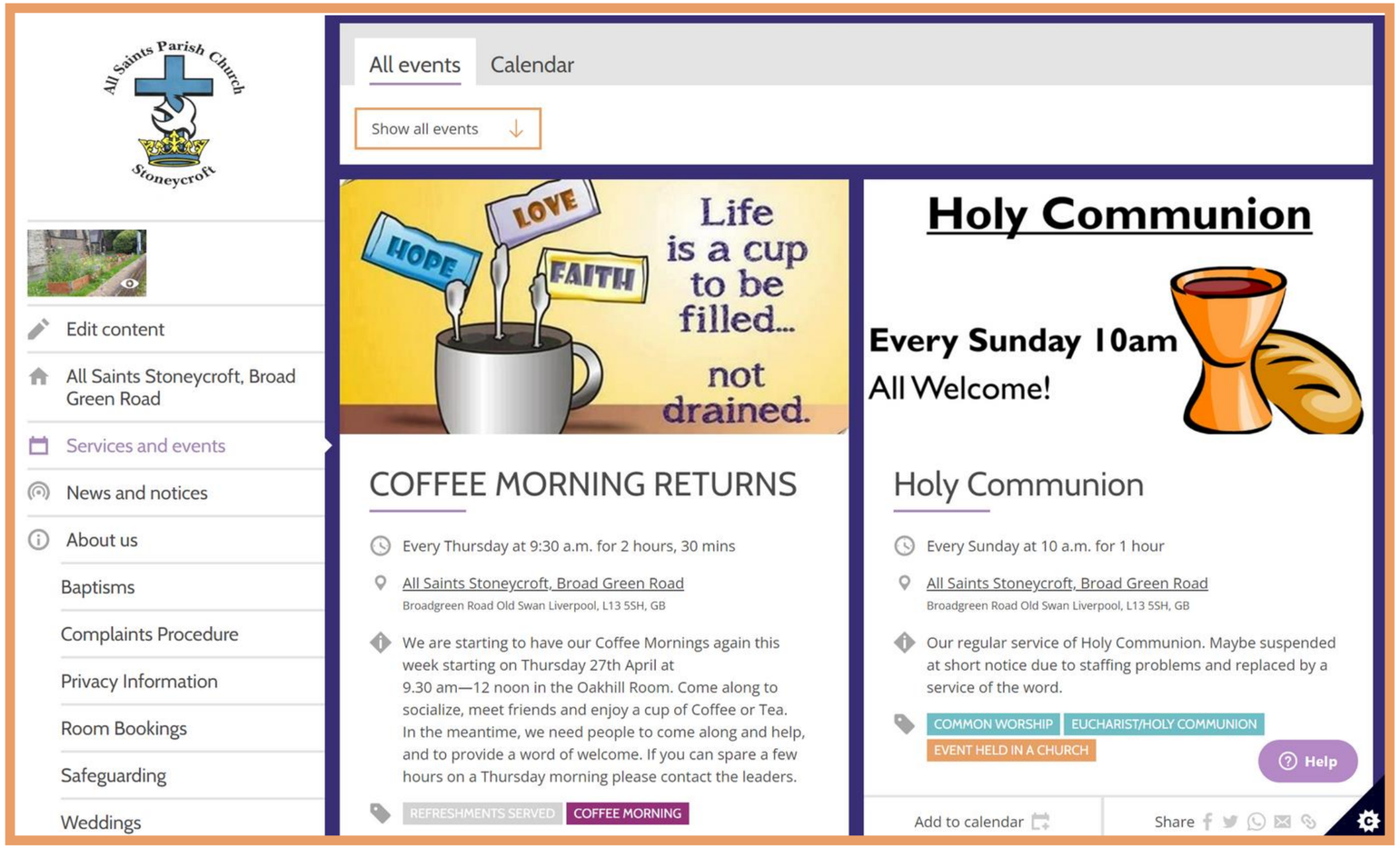
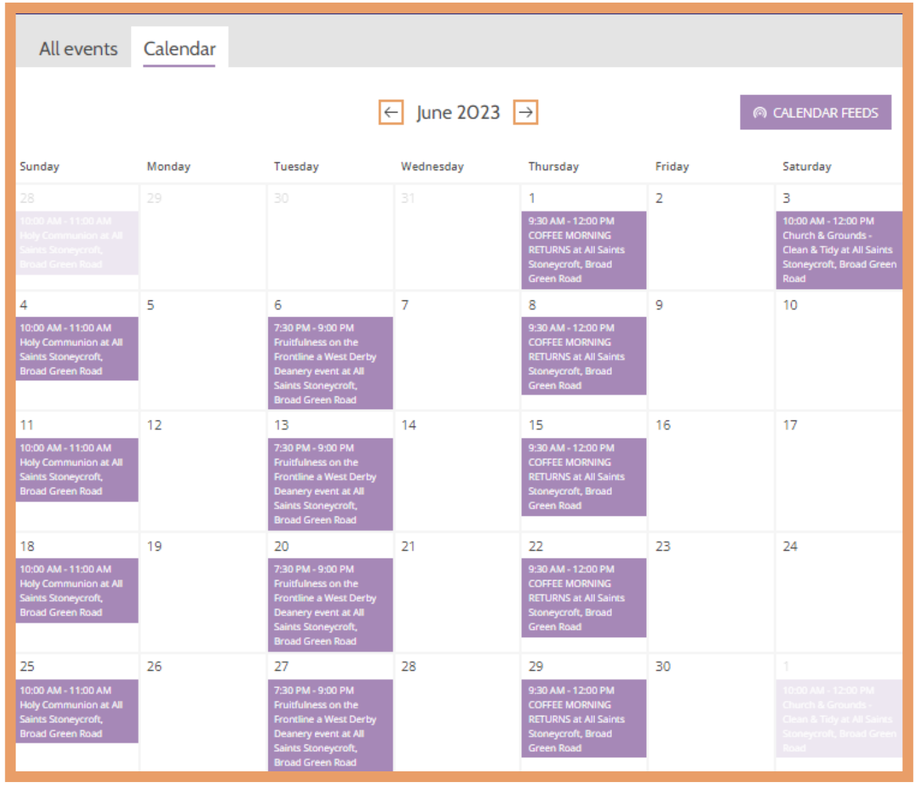
Services and events





[Editor Help Centre Article]

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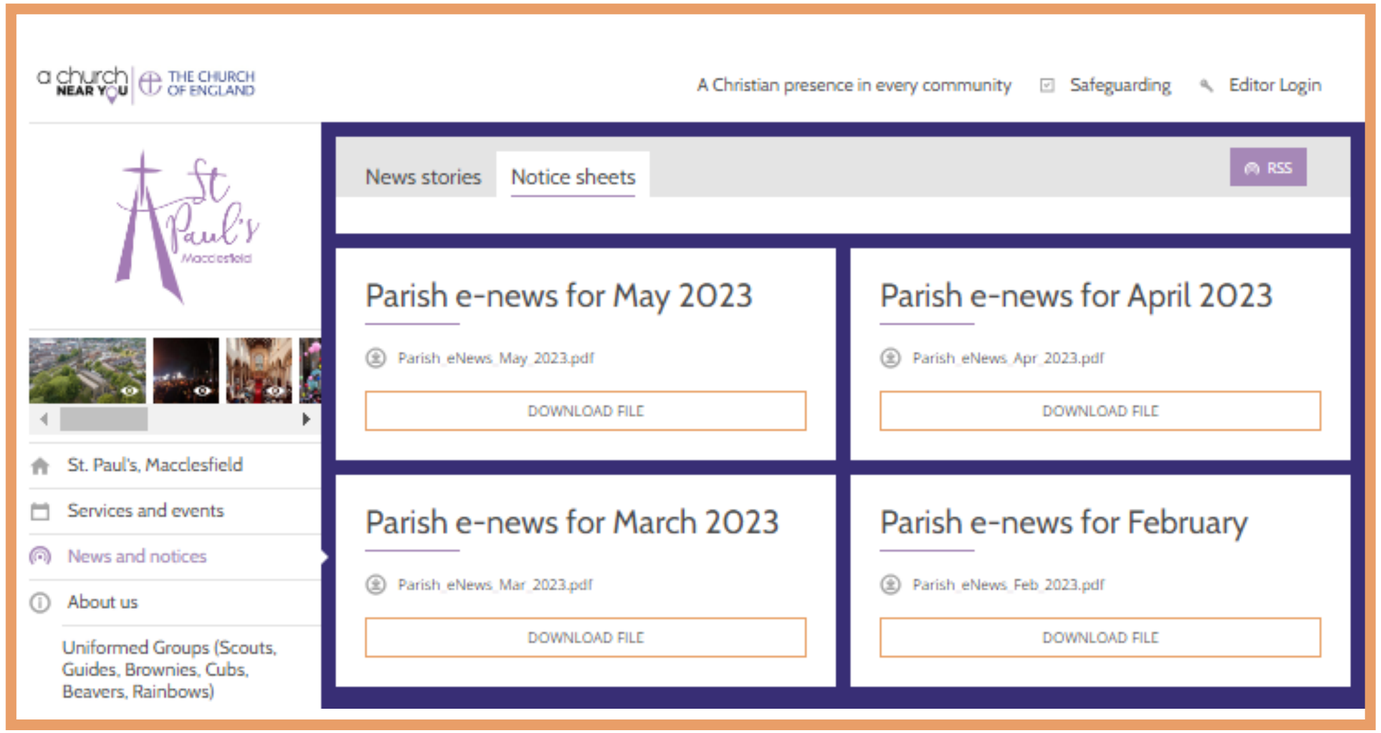
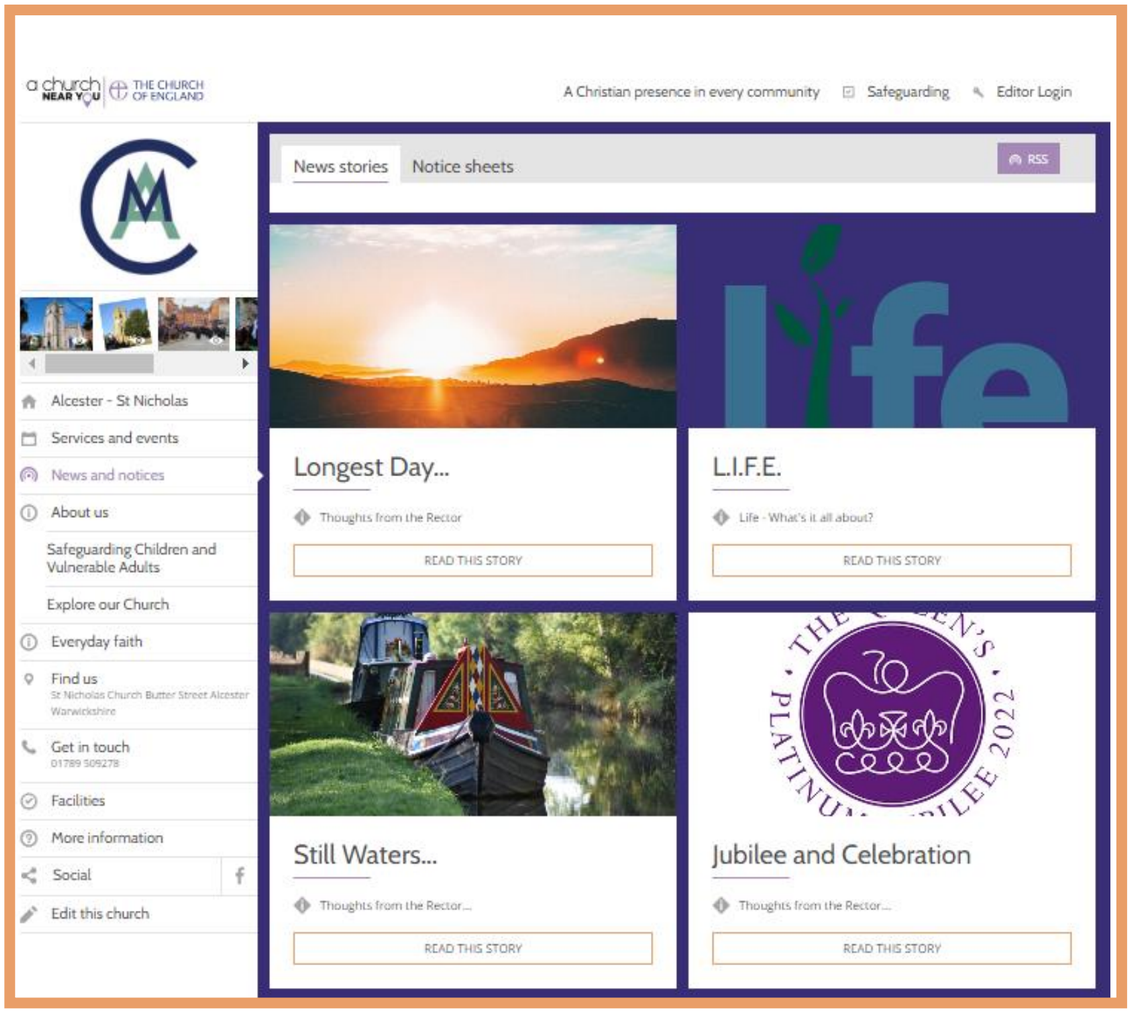
News and notices





[Editor Help Centre Article]

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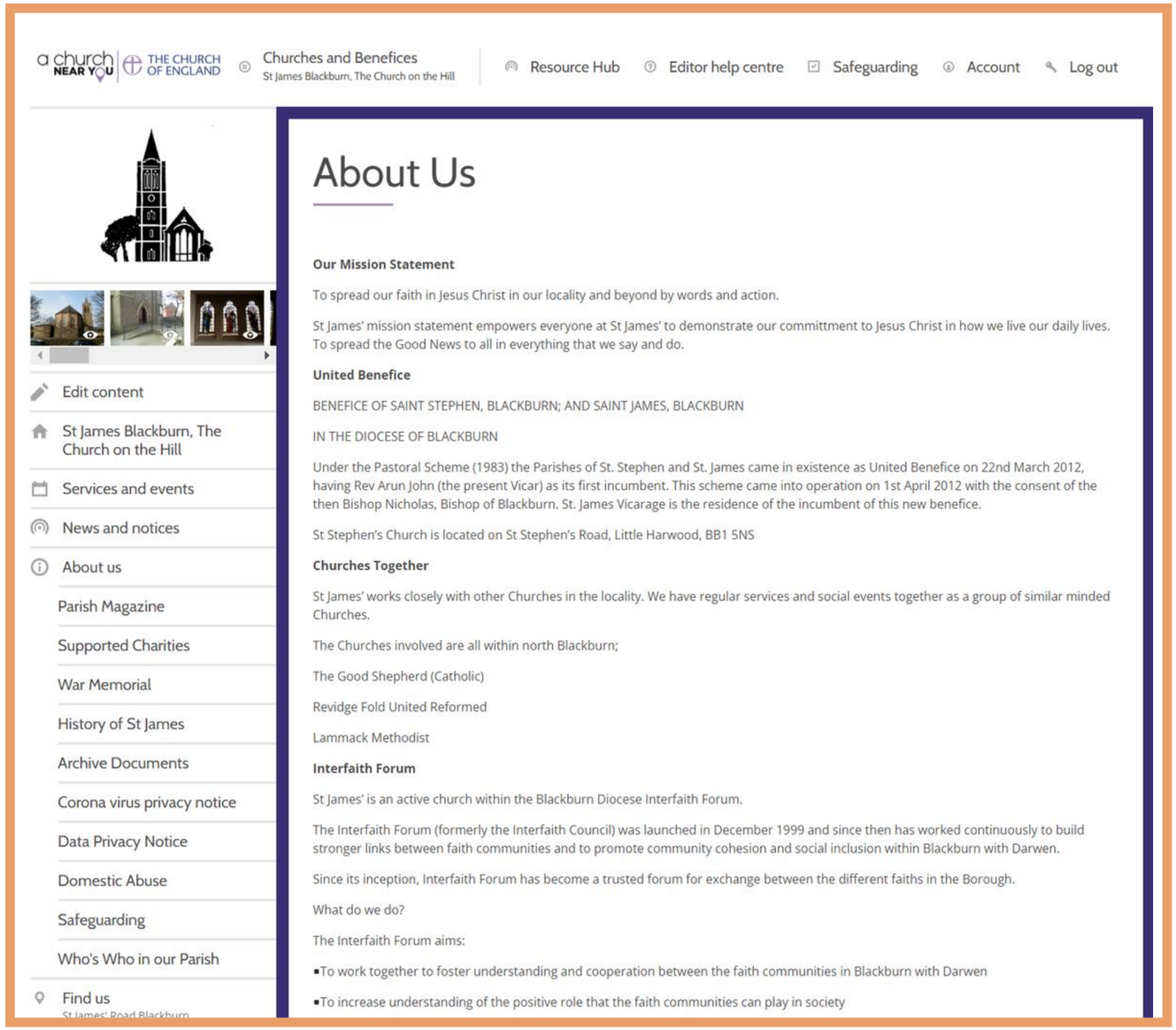
About us

The about us page on your site provides a space to tell visitors more about the life and community at your church or within your benefice.

[Editor Help Centre Article]



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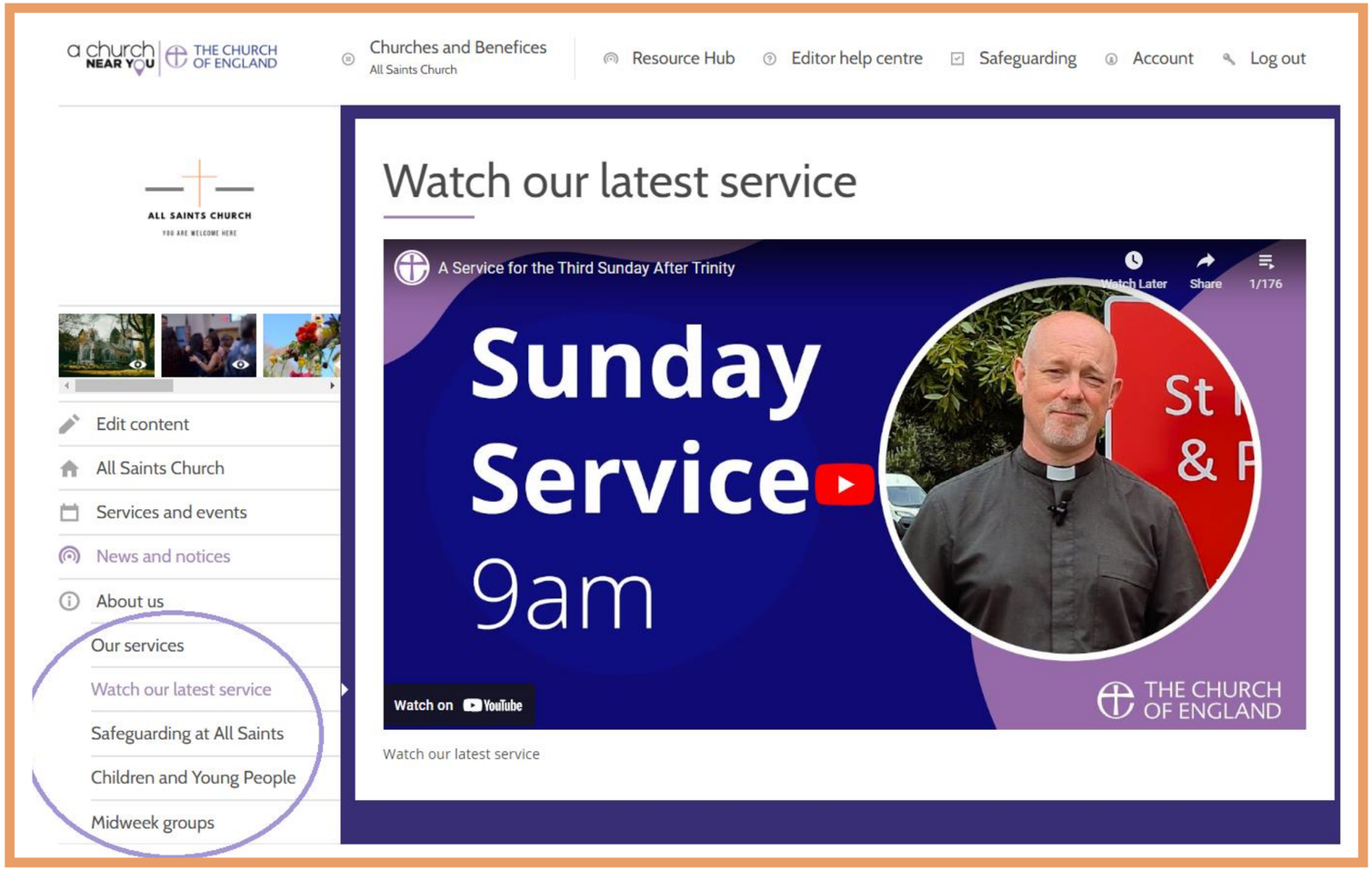
Custom pages

Add your own pages to highlight aspects of church life.

Churches often create custom pages for weddings and funerals, safeguarding, or social action projects as examples.

[Editor Help Centre Article]



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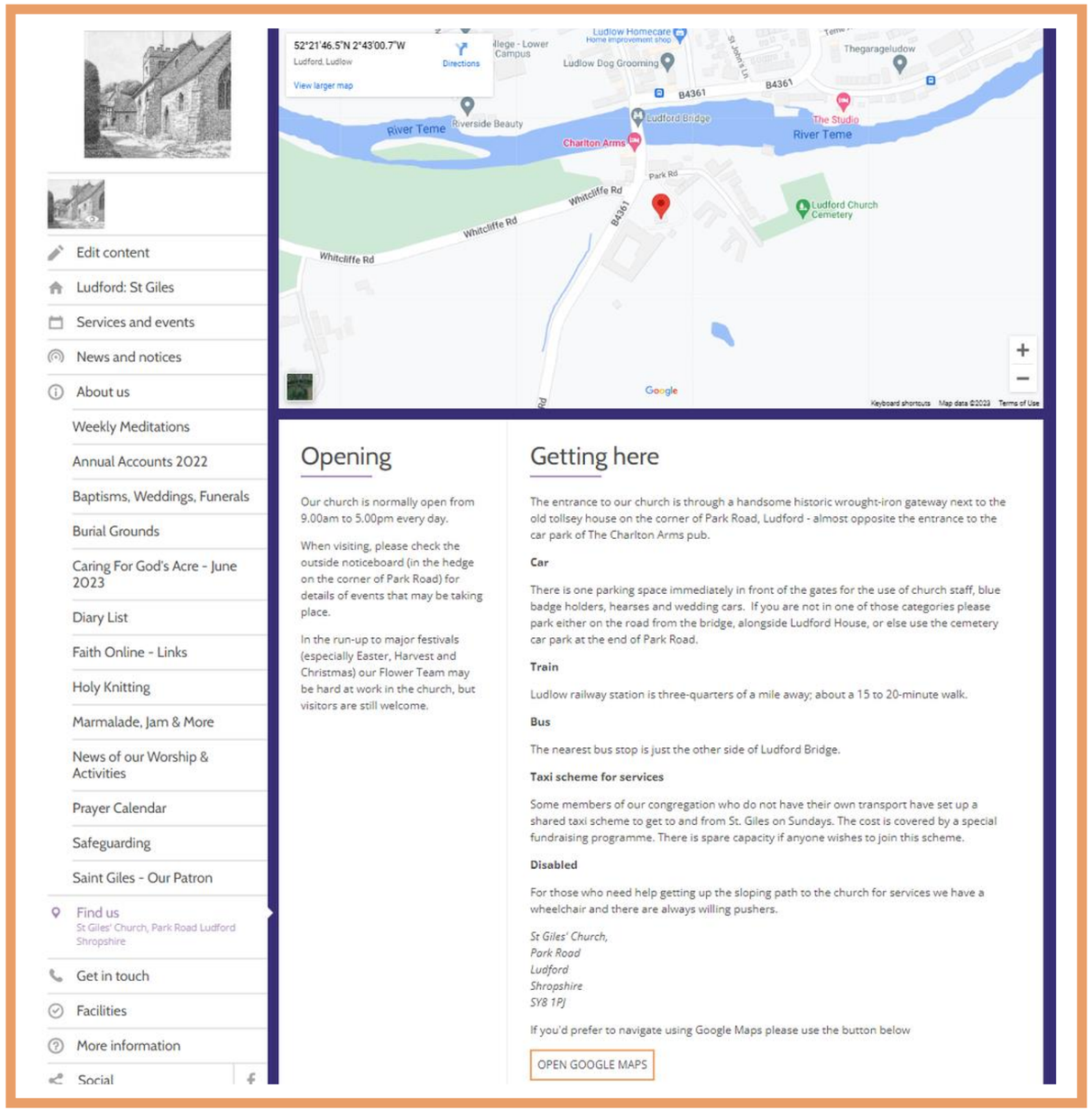
Find us

Tell people how to find you on the Find us page.

Bus routes, parking information and the numbers for local taxi firms will help new visitors feel welcome.

[Editor Help Centre Article]



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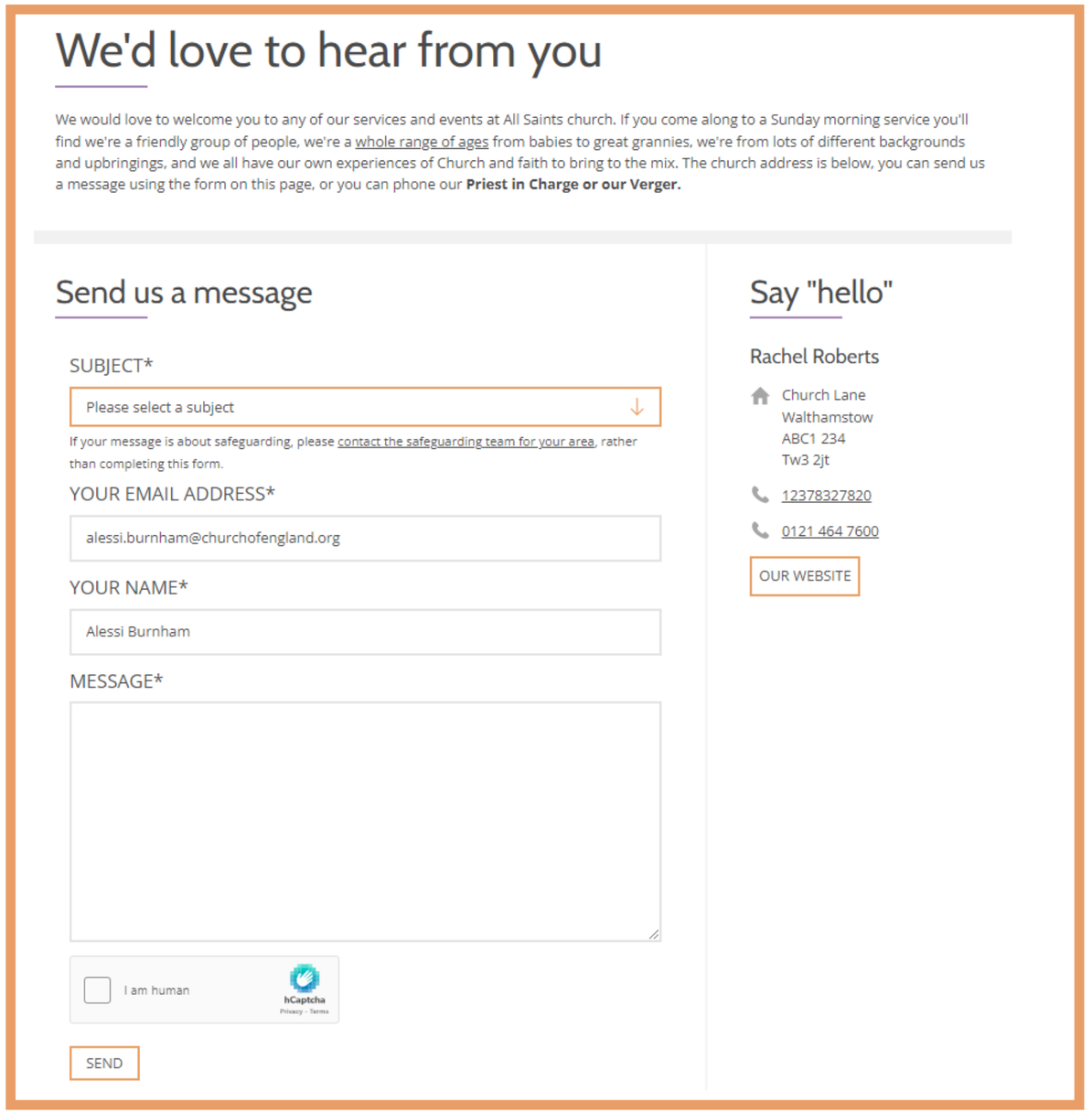
Get in touch

Visitors can use the get in touch page to contact the church through the inbox and to find the contact number and web address.

All messages you receive via the site are sent direct to an email address of your choice for you to reply from.

Editor Help Centre Article



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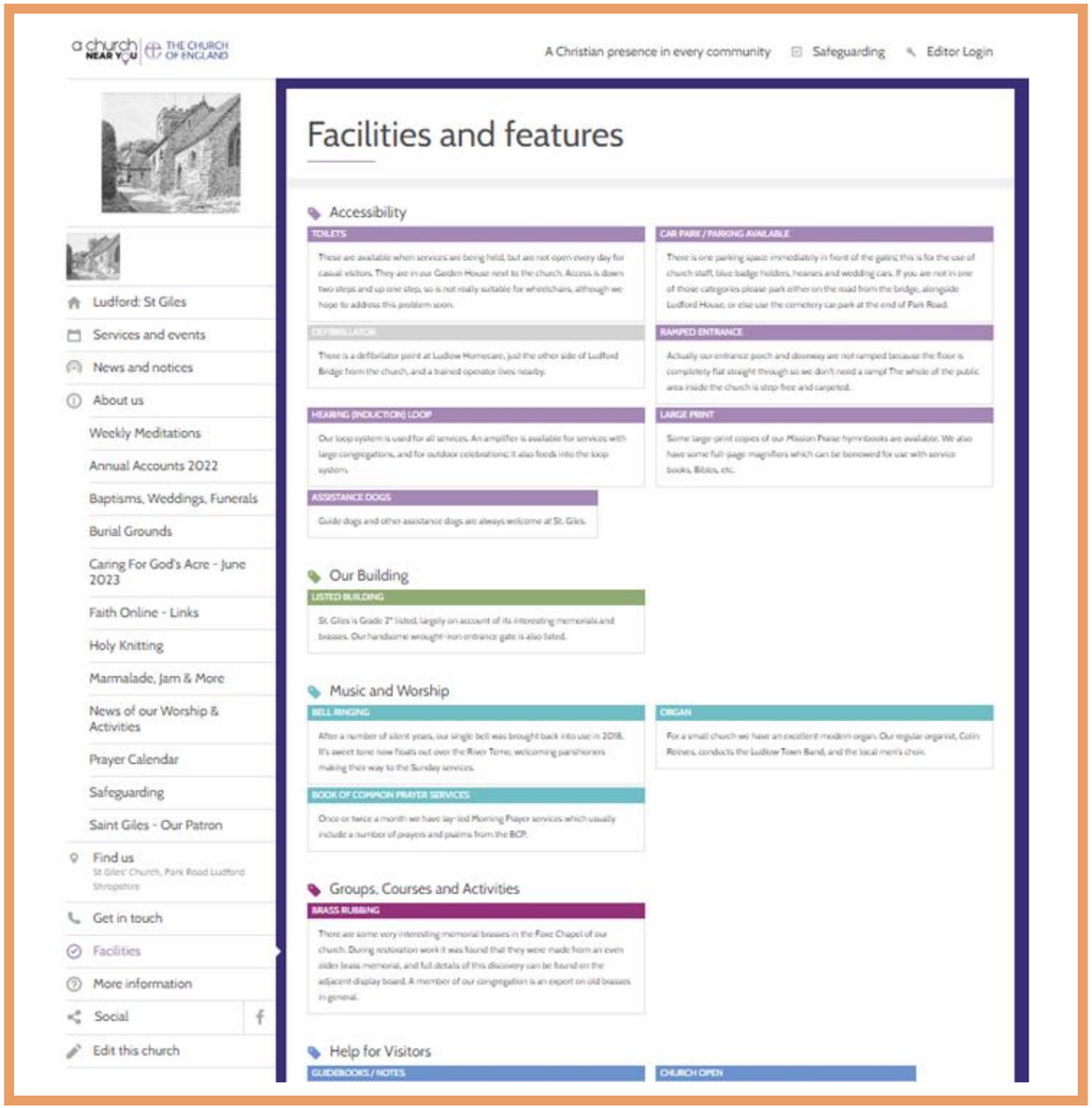
Features and facilities

Facilities tags highlight the features and facilities of your church building or community.

Visitors to the site can search for a church which has a specific feature; for example, a ramped entrance or accessible toilet.

Adding tags to your site, such as these, will help them to feel more confident, knowing what to expect, when visiting for the first time.

[Editor Help Centre Article]



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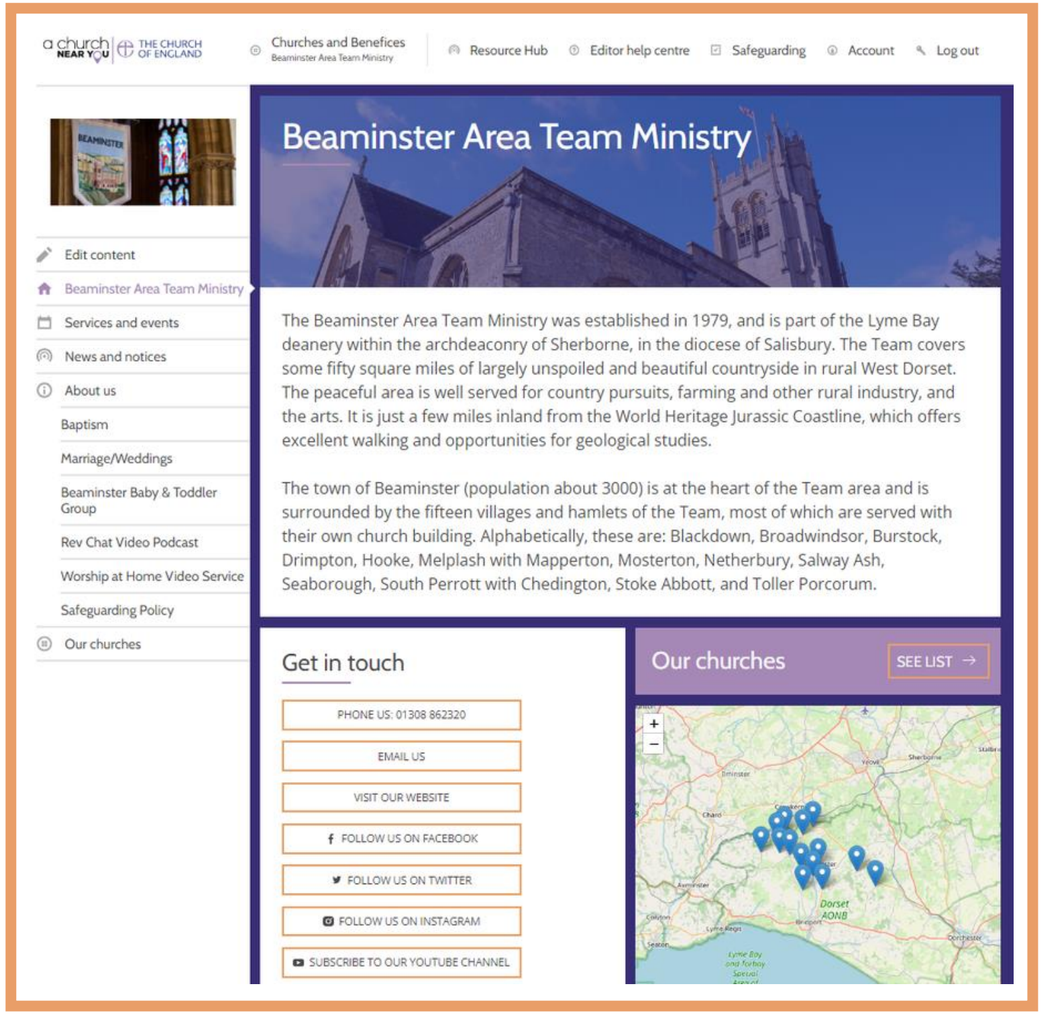
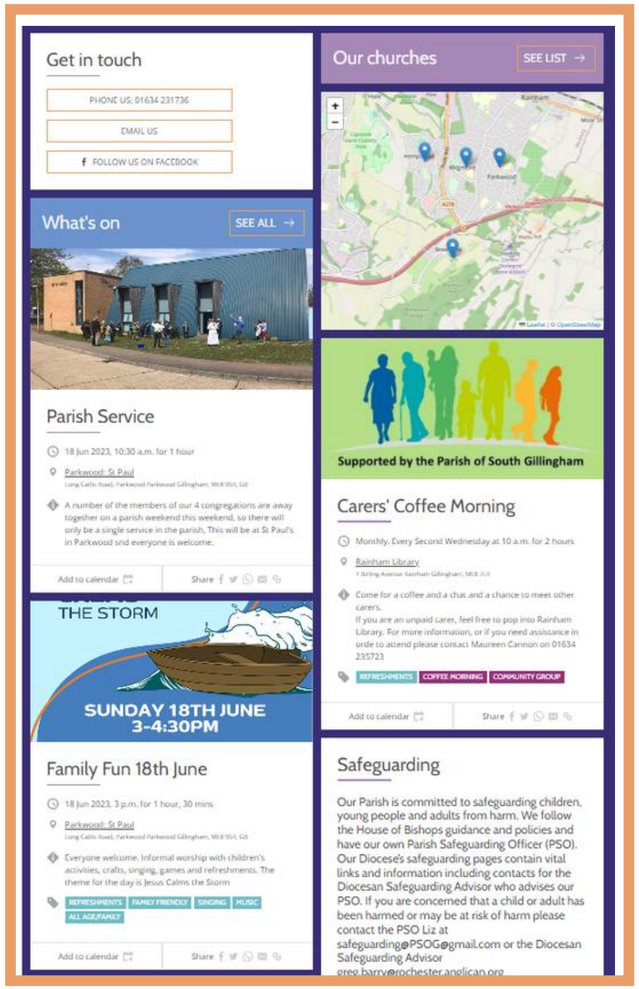
What could my Benefice site look like?

- Homepage
- Services and events
- News and notices
- About us
- Custom pages
- Church locations





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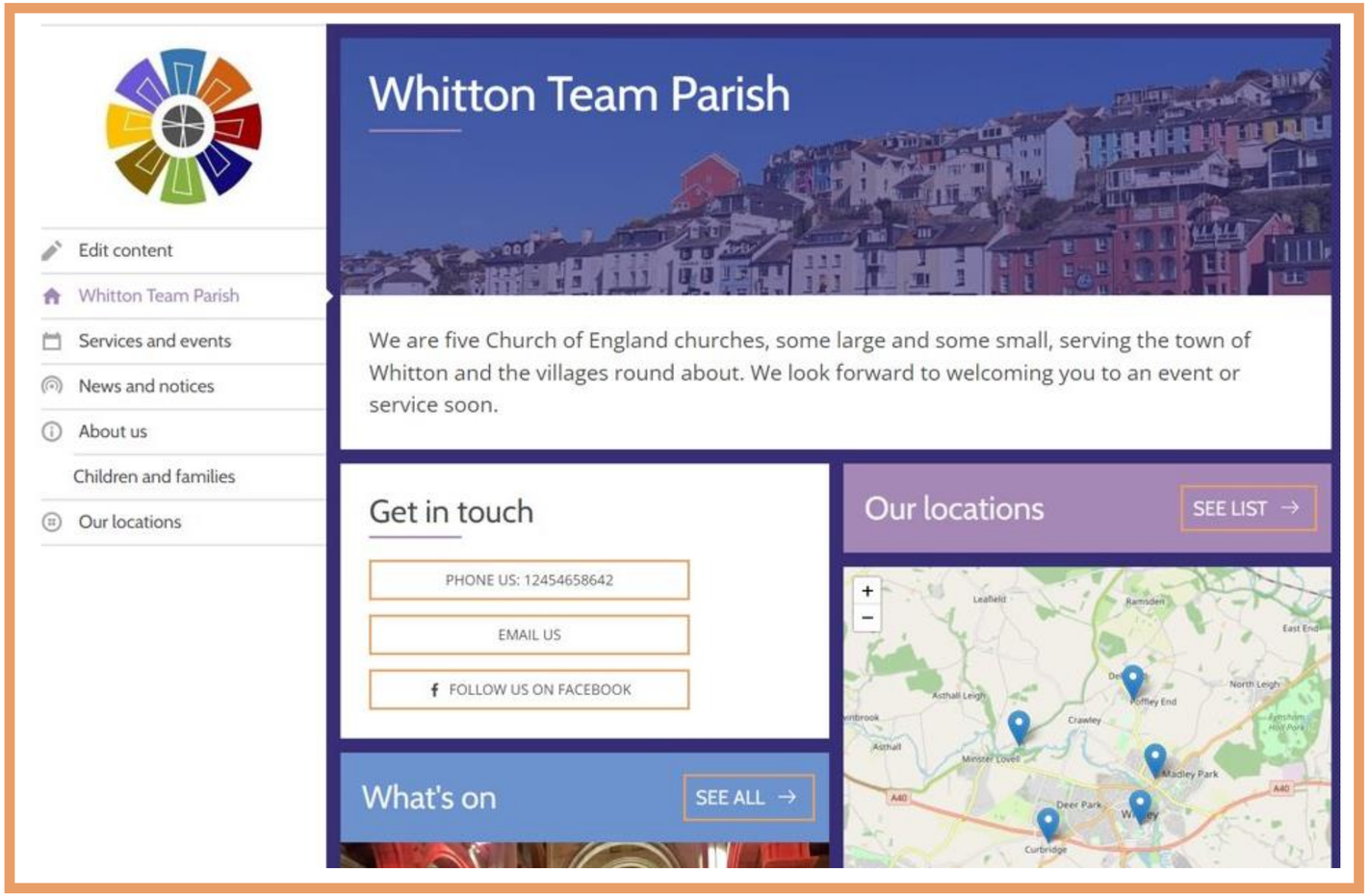
Benefice features

Benefice sites with homepage, services and events page and more

[Editor Help Centre Article]



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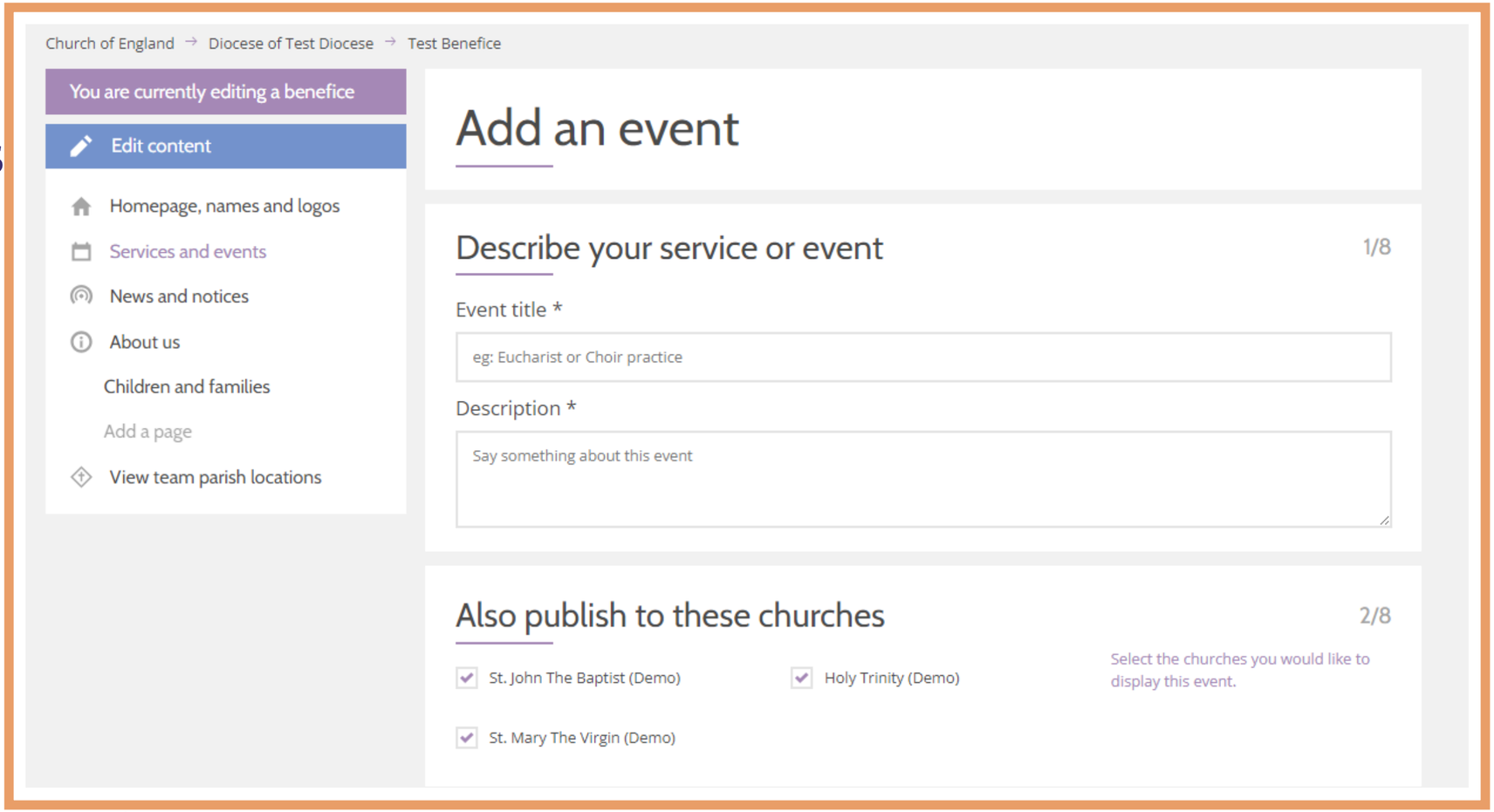
Benefice features

Create and manage events and news and custom pages at benefice level and choose which churches should display them



Editor Help Centre Article

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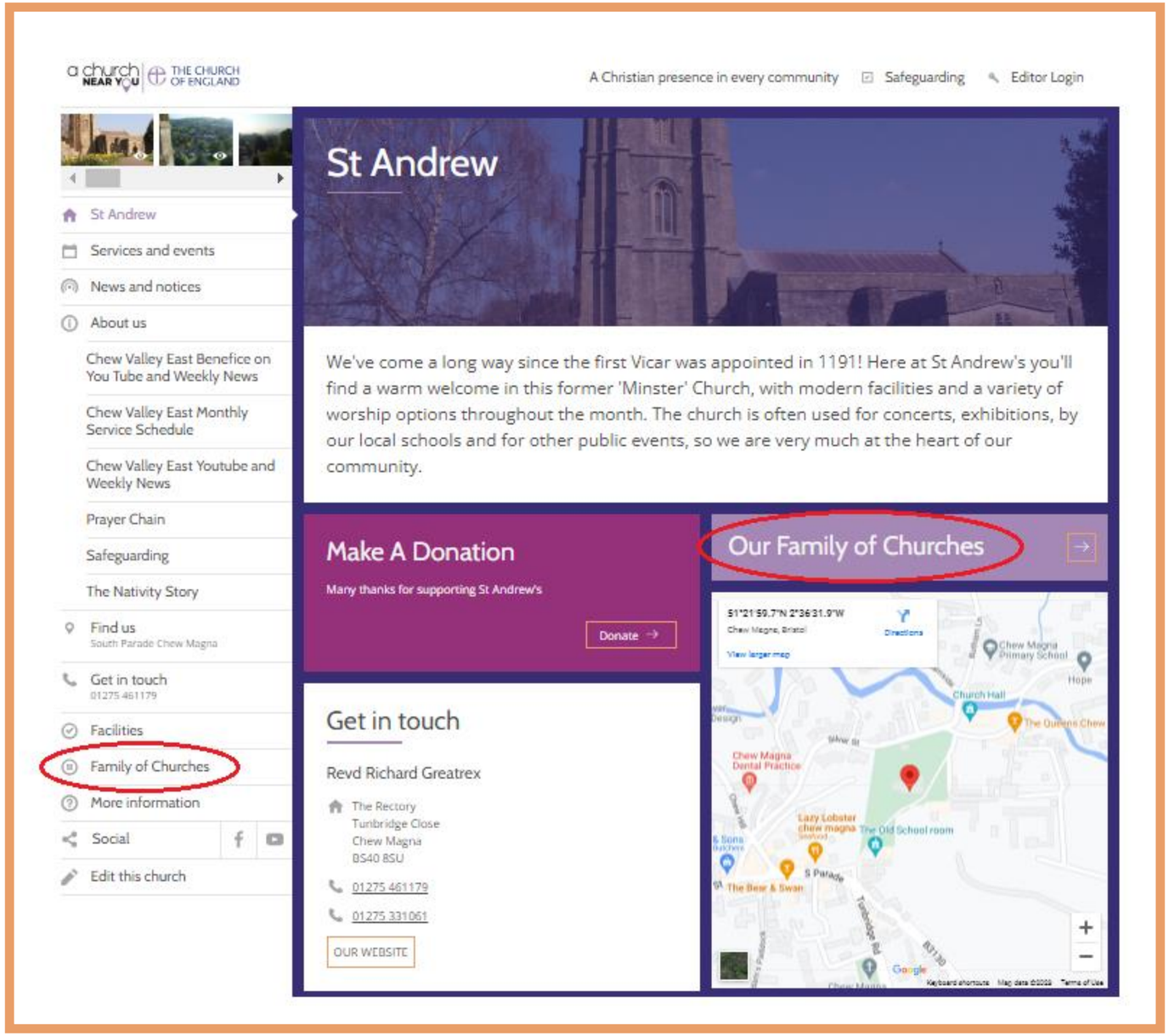
Benefice features

- Option to swap out 'benefice' language, to suit what you use locally
- Flexible options for linking to benefice sites from church sites

[Editor Help Centre Article]



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Extra features

“We love the new benefice feature and works really well for our two locations in the same parish.”

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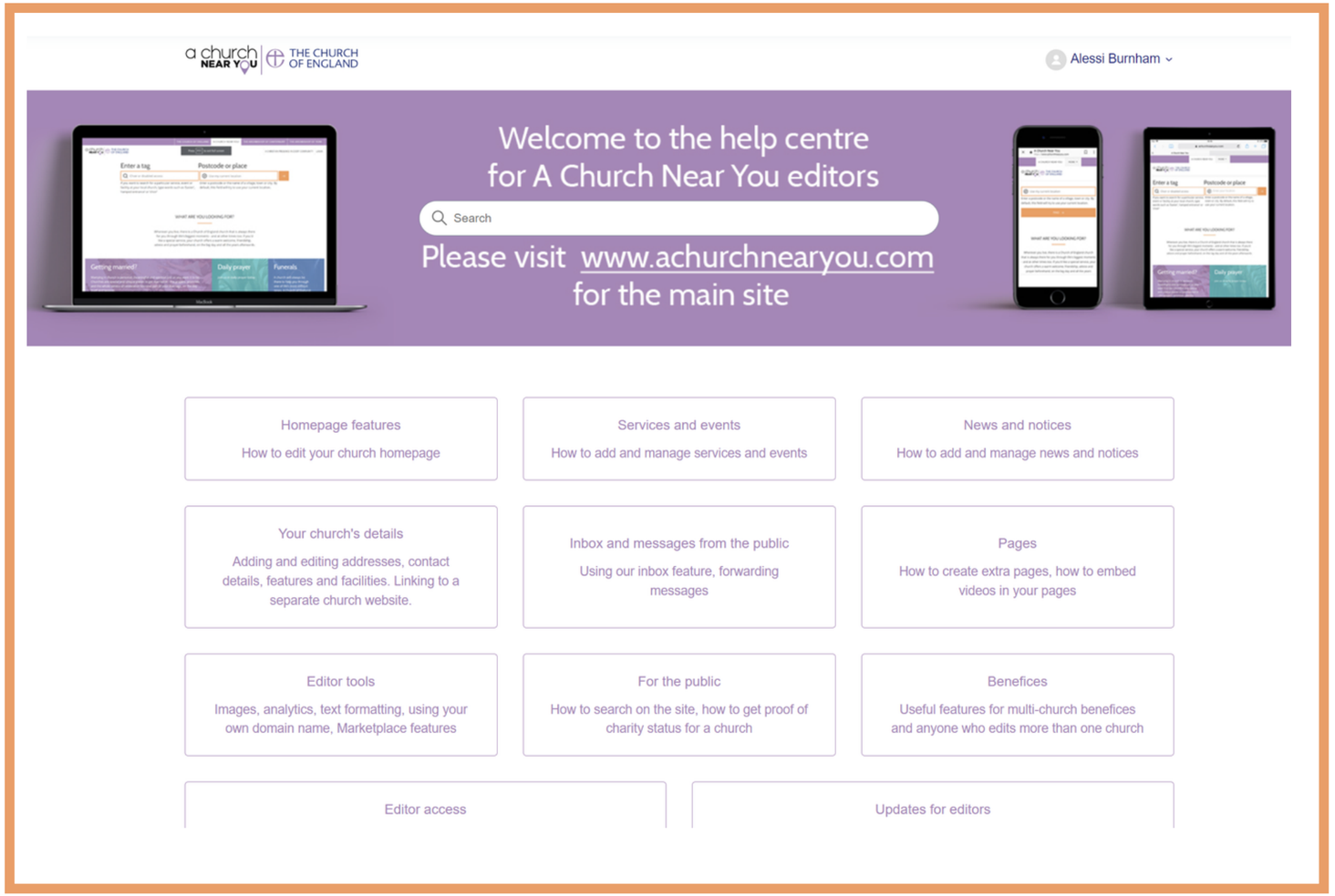
Editor Help Centre

The articles in the editor help centre provide answers to common queries,
'how to' guides and videos.



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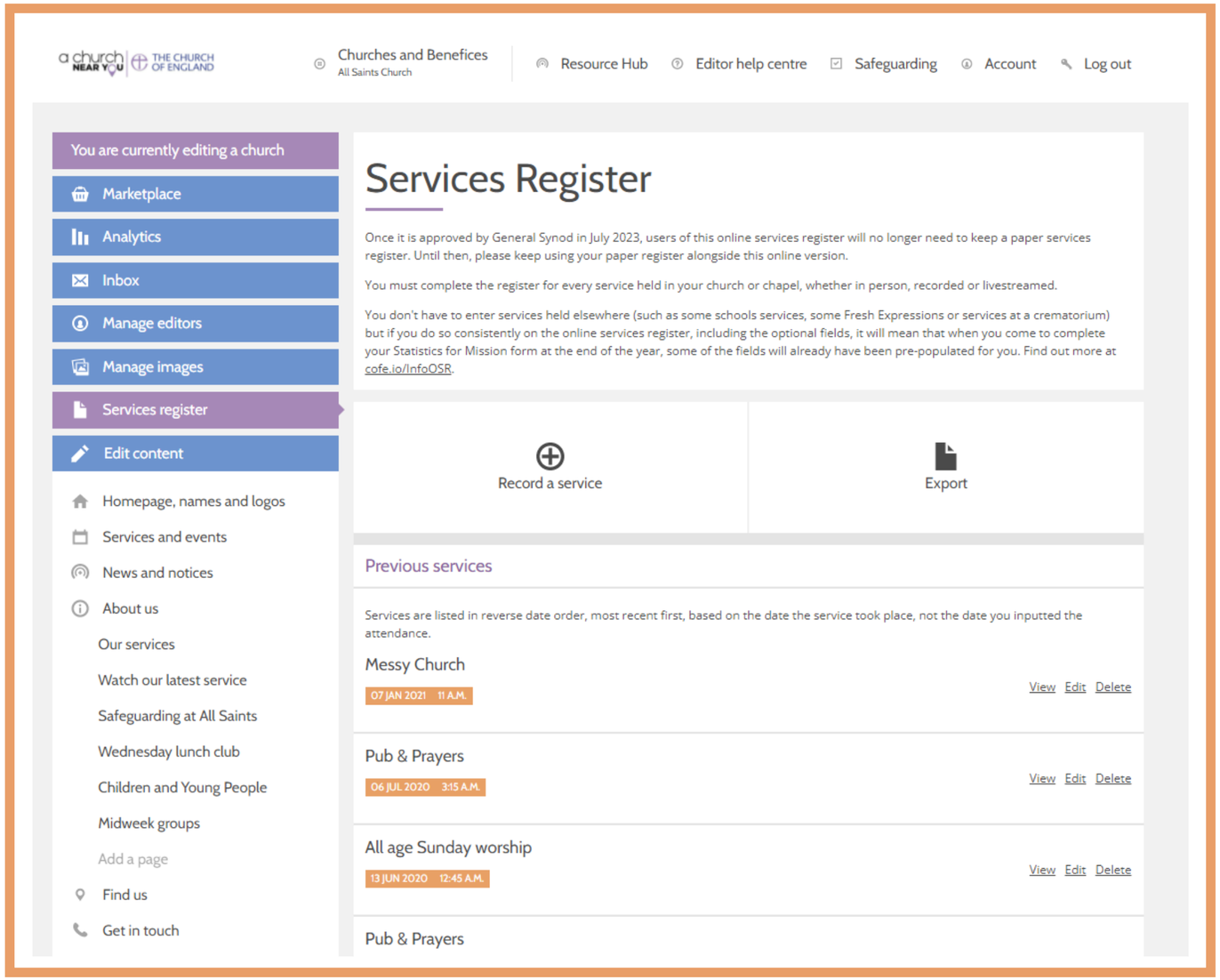
Online Services Register

- Option to switch from a paper Services Register to the online Services Register.
- Pre-populates attendance figures in your Statistics for Mission form, meaning less admin at the end of the year.
- Add entries while offline and they will be synced when you are online again.



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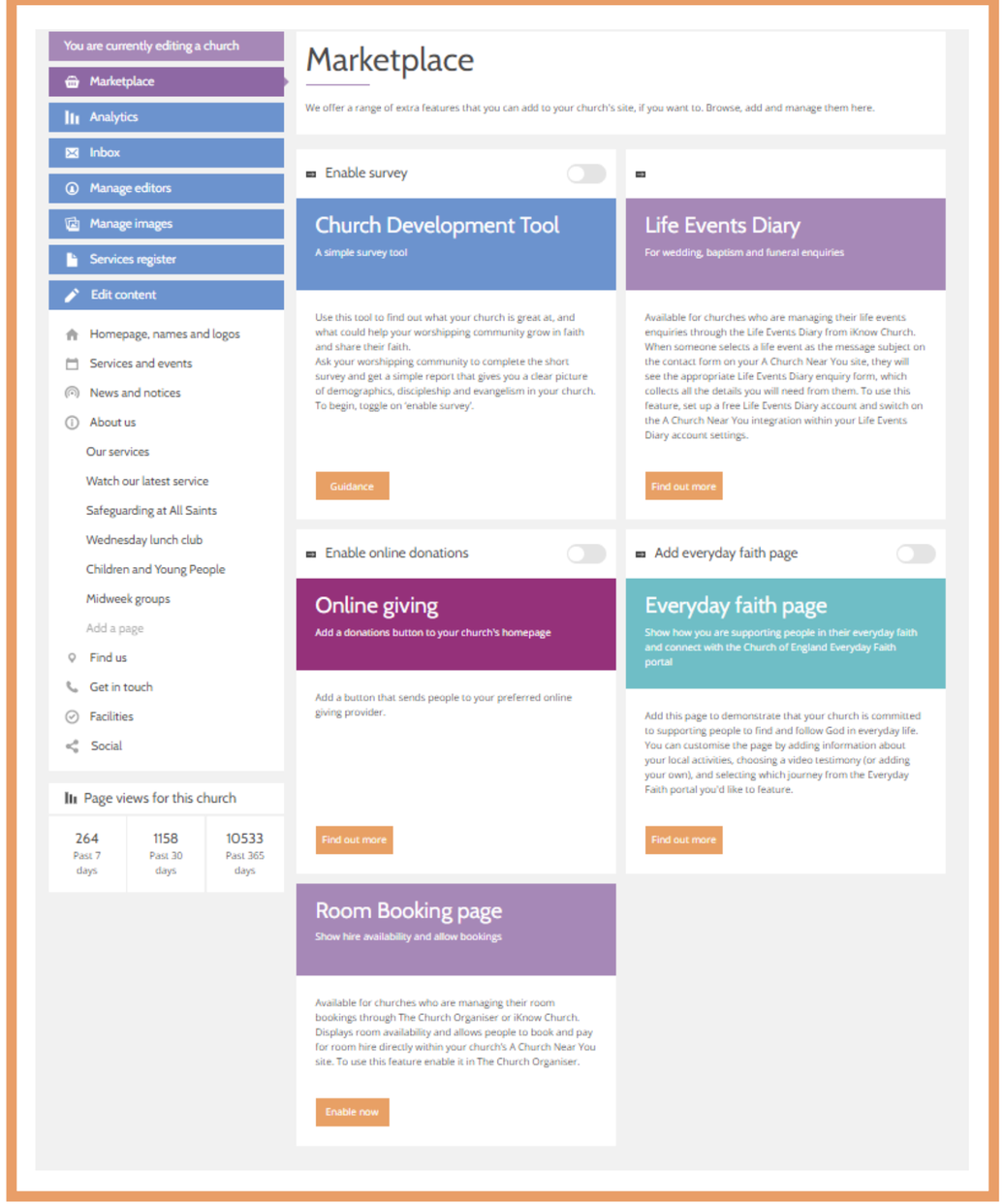
Get more in the Marketplace

We offer a range of extra free features – it's completely optional and up to you whether you use these.

- **Church Development Tool**
- **Life Events Diary**
- **Online giving button**
- **Everyday Faith page**
- **Room Booking page**



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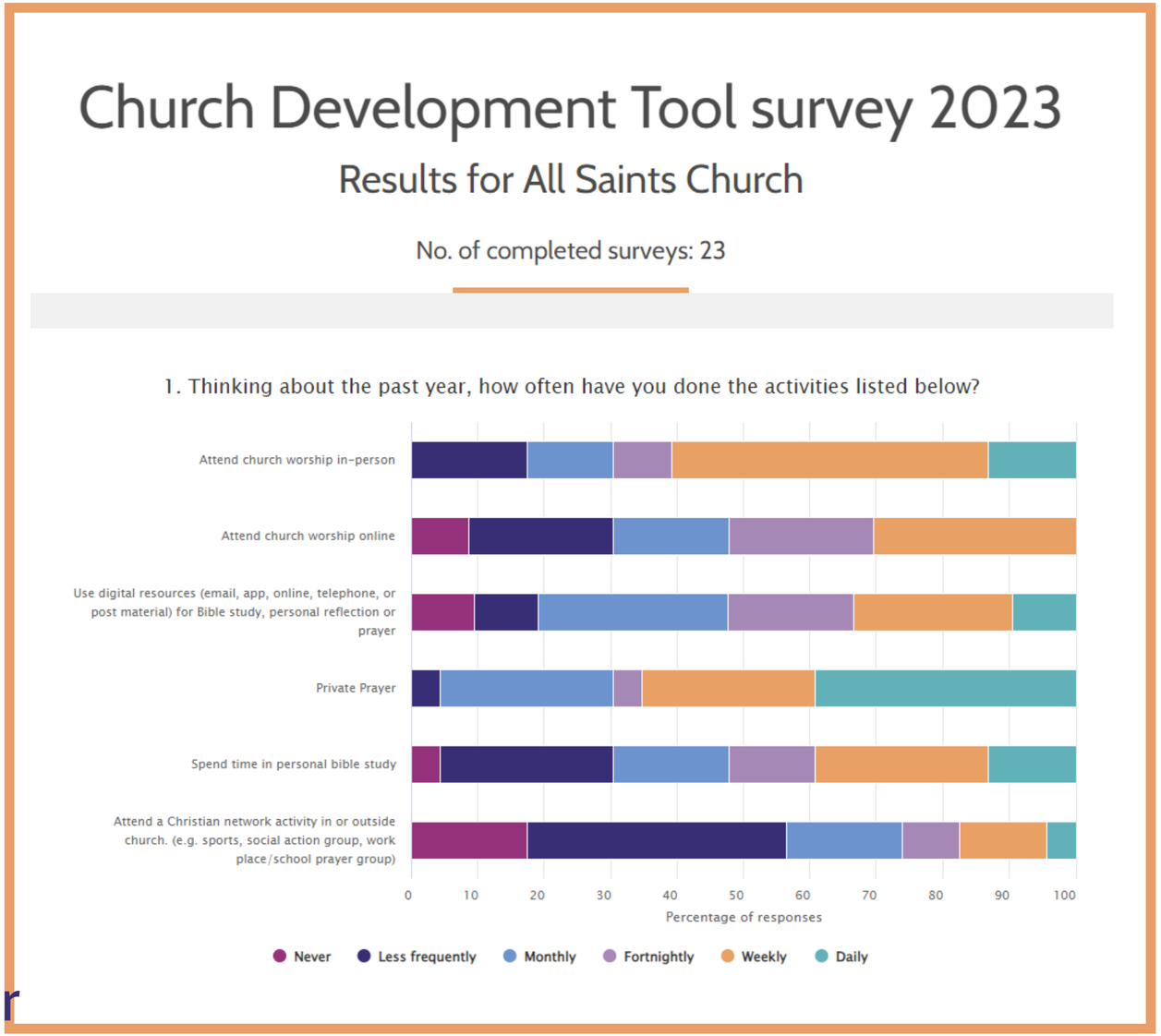
Church Development Tool

Use this simple survey tool to find out what your church is great at, and what could help your worshipping community grow in faith and share their faith.

Get a simple report that gives you a clear picture of faith, discipleship and demographics in your church.

The demographics results for your congregation are shown in comparison to census data for the whole community in your parish.



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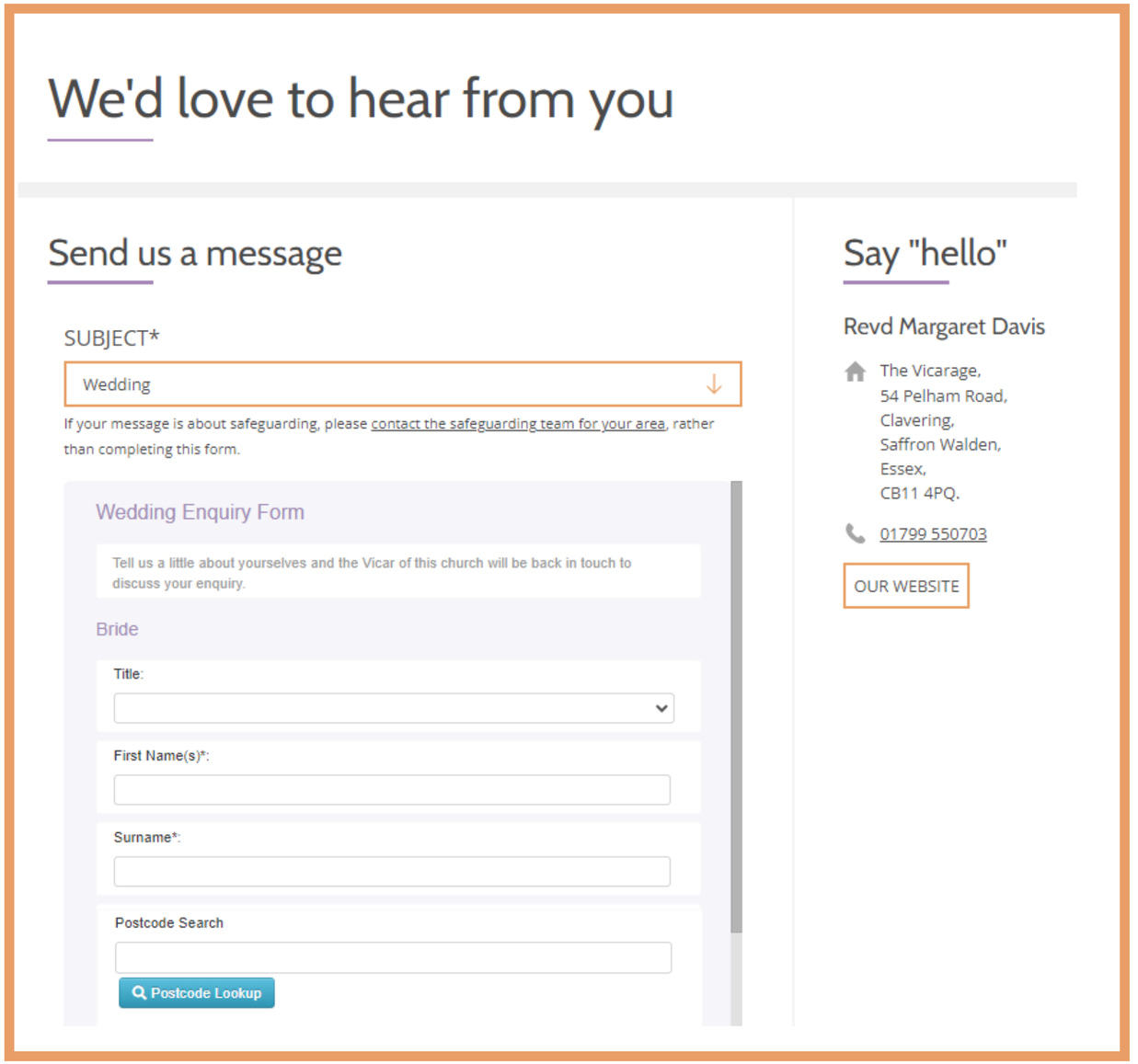
Life Events Diary

Do you use the Life Events Diary? Save time by connecting AChurchNearYou.com to your Life Events Diary account.

Then, when someone uses your AChurchNearYou.com contact form to enquire about a Wedding, Baptism or Funeral, they will be shown your Life Events Diary enquiry form and the information they provide will appear in your Life Events Diary account.



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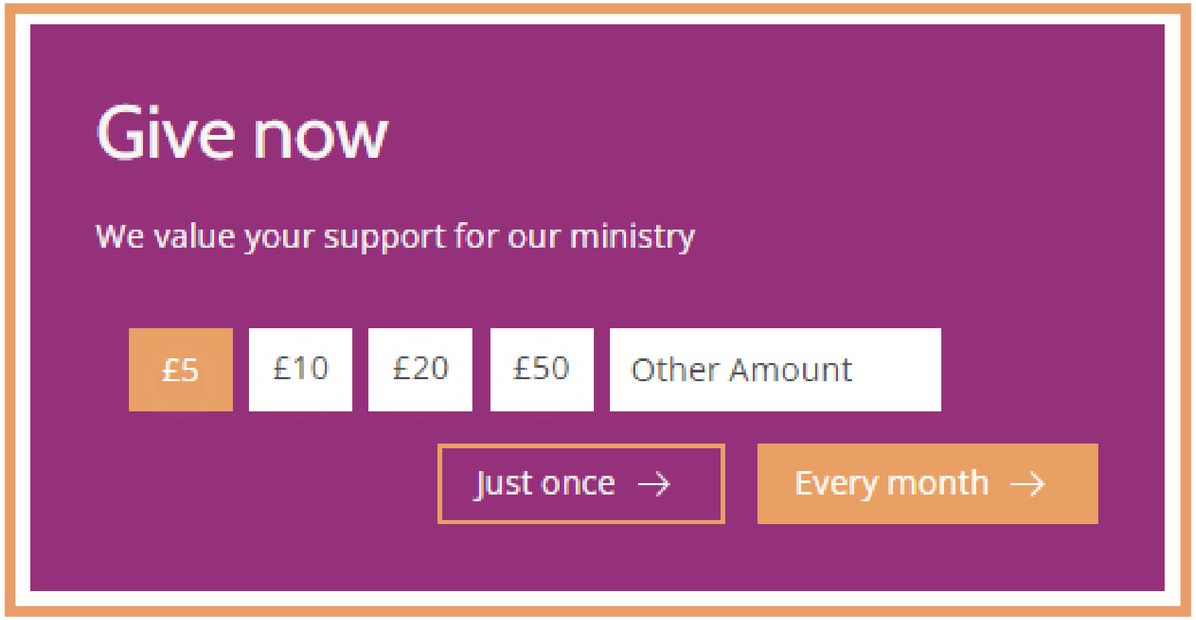
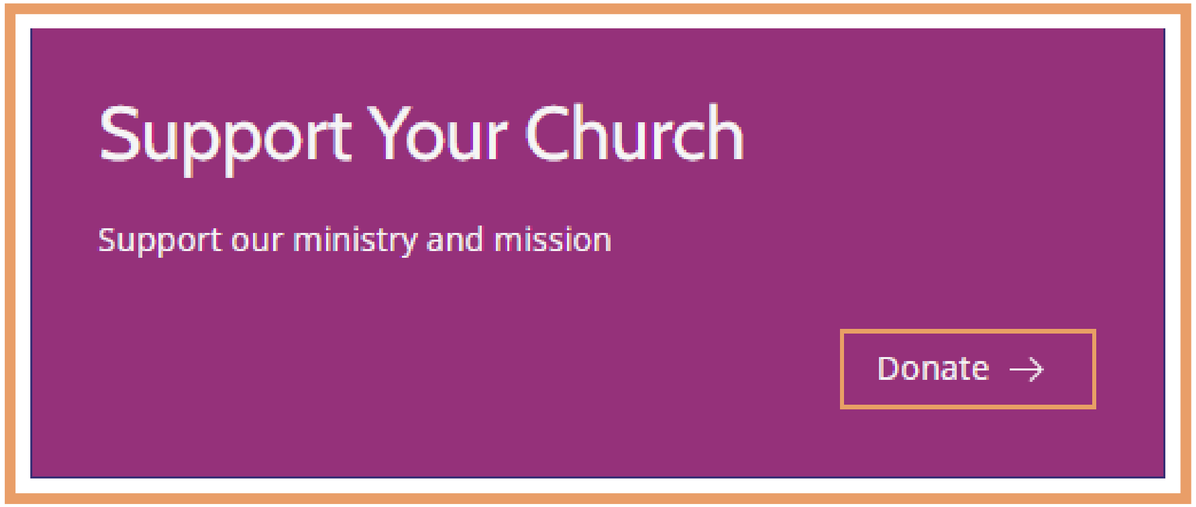
Online giving

Add a panel to your homepage, that sends people to your preferred online giving provider.

You can change the words displayed on the panel and the button.

If your provider is Give A Little, the panel can have multiple buttons for people to give different amounts.





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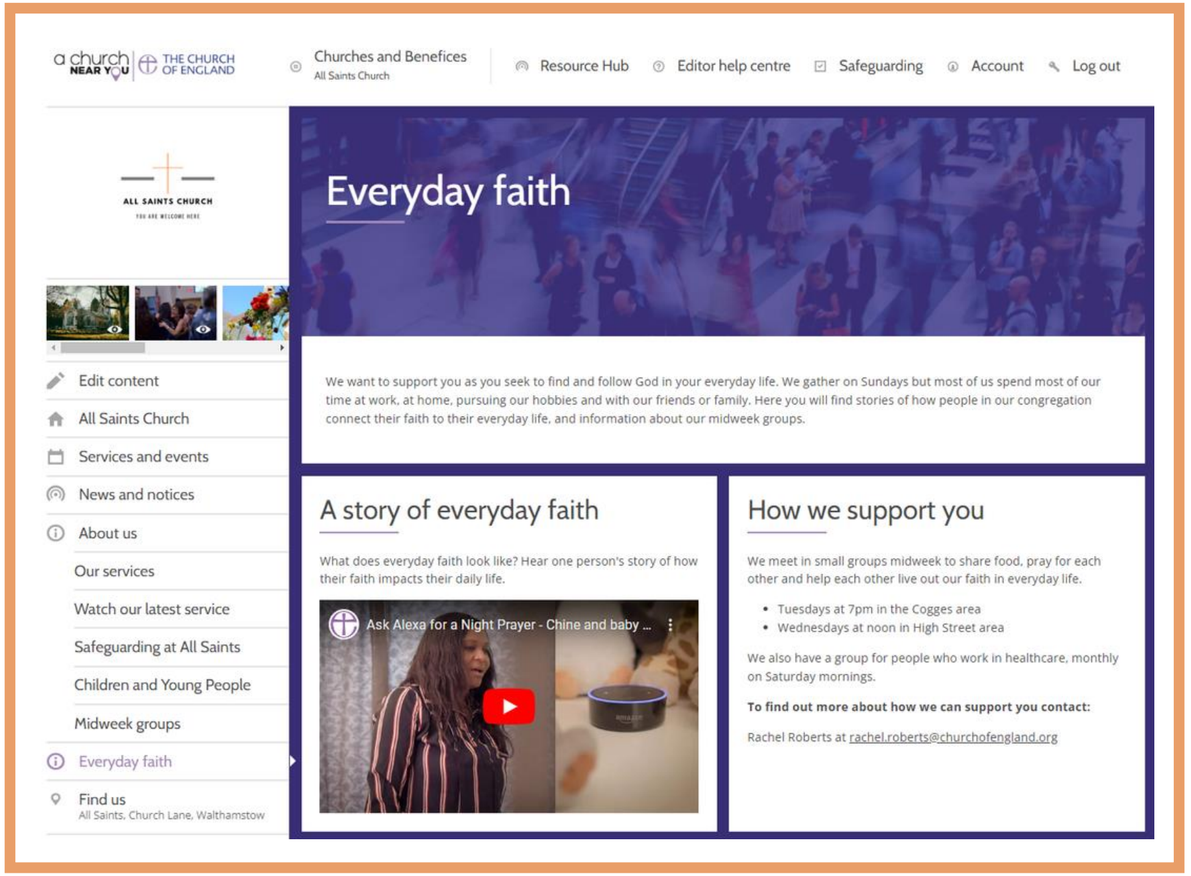
Everyday Faith page

Show how you are supporting people in their faith Monday to Saturday by adding an 'everyday faith' page, fully populated and ready to use as is or to customise with your own content.

The page links people to the Church of England's Everyday Faith portal which is full of resources to help people grow in faith and discipleship. If you want, your everyday faith page can direct people to your selected Everyday Faith portal journey.



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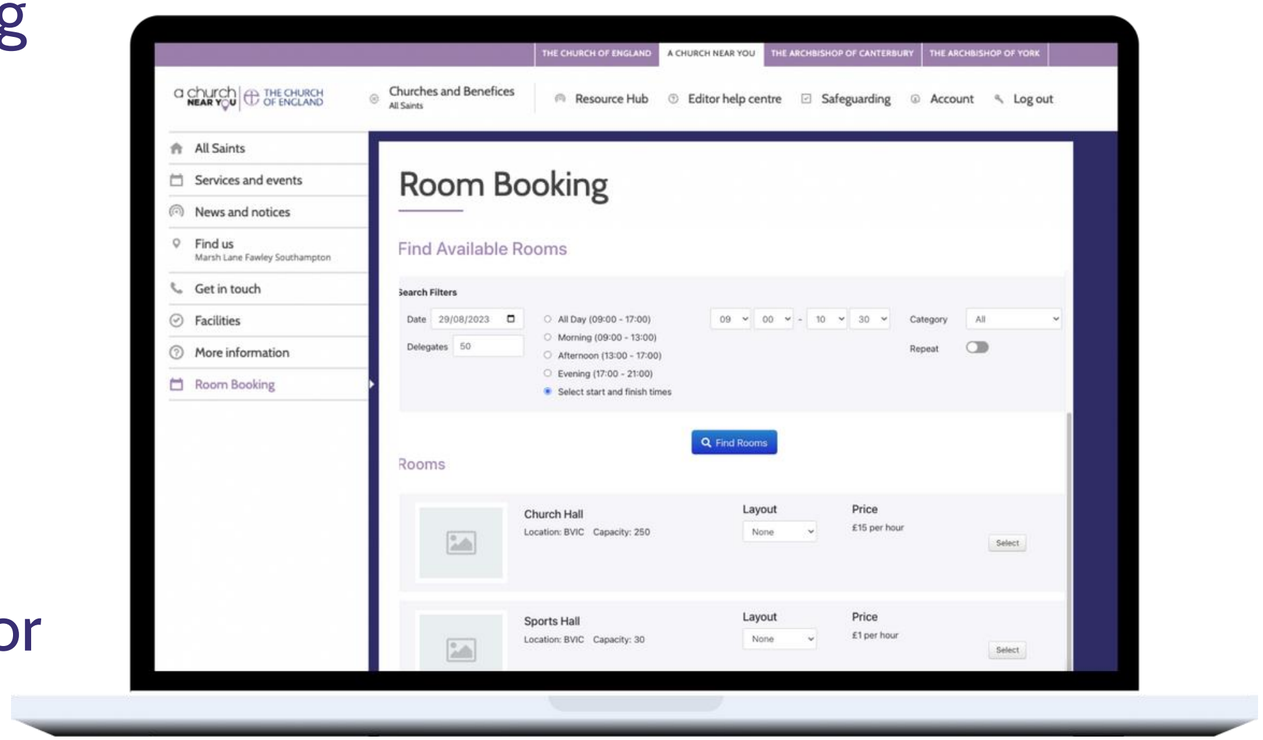
Room booking page

Do you have a room in your church building which you hire out to the community?

Connect your room bookings to your A Church Near You site to collect booking enquiries wherever you are, at any time of day.

This allows people to view, book and pay for rooms directly on A Church Near You. Within The Church Organiser you will then be able to approve or decline bookings.



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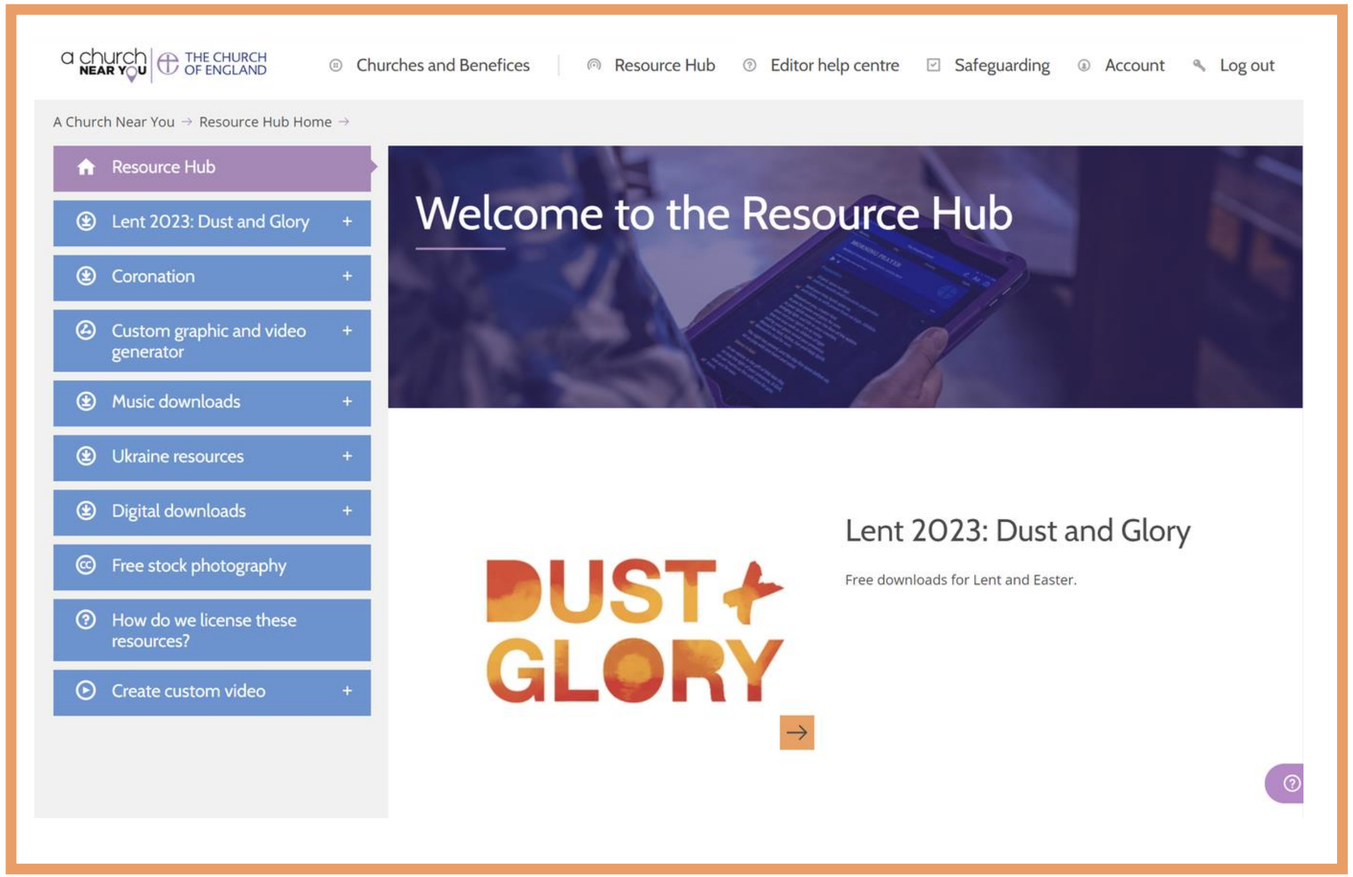
Resource Hub

The Resource Hub gives churches access to a wide range of free materials to use across their websites, social media, print and services.

It is regularly updated with new content, including social media templates, stock photography, music tracks, customisable videos and campaign branding.



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Useful links

- Editor help centre: cofe.io/EditorHelpACNY
- Attend a webinar: cofe.io/WebinarACNY
- Get support: cofe.io/SupportACNY
- Submit your suggestions: cofe.io/SuggestionsACNY
- Future roadmap: cofe.io/RoadmapACNY

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