

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Parish Profile, 2025



Church Address: St. Mark's Church, 10 St. Mark's Road. Burlington, MA 01803:

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Position Title: Priest-in-charge .50 time position

Receiving Names: Ongoing

WHO WE ARE

St. Mark's is a multi-generational parish in which we celebrate God, enjoy one another, and serve our neighbors. Our mission is to create a place of safety and support in which all God's people are given the opportunity to be transformed, as we explore our faith and our call to service.

BURLINGTON FACTS



Burlington, Massachusetts, located approximately 12 miles north of downtown Boston, offers a perfect balance for those seeking proximity to the big city but preferring the quiet and convenience of suburban living. Here's a closer look at why Burlington is a great place to live and work:

1. Conveniently Located

- **Proximity to Boston and Other Key Areas:** Burlington's (2024 population approximately 27,000) location just 12 miles from Boston. The town has easy access to major highways, such as I-95/Route 128, and public transportation options. Burlington is centrally located near major business hubs, tech centers, and education institutions such as Cambridge, Lexington, and Waltham.

2. Thriving Economy

- **Business Growth:** Burlington is home to a number of thriving businesses, especially in the tech, biotech, and retail industries such as IBM, Oracle, NetSuite and the Broad Institute. The town features shopping such as the Burlington Mall and 3rd Avenue, which include popular retail stores and dining options.

3. Quality of Life

- **Safety:** Burlington consistently ranks as one of the safest towns in Massachusetts. The town's commitment to public safety and its low crime rates make it a comfortable place to live.
- **Education:** Burlington is served by a highly-rated public school system. The school system includes 4 elementary schools, a middle school, a high school and is also part of the regional technical high school. Additionally, the town has access to top colleges and universities in the area. The town is also home to a well-stocked public library, which regularly offers educational programs, events, and resources for residents of all ages.
- **Family-Friendly Environment:** Burlington is an ethnically diverse family-friendly community, known for its community-oriented atmosphere, with many parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities available for families. The town regularly hosts community events, making it a friendly and welcoming place for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

4. Access to Nature and Outdoor and Sports Activities

- **Parks and Recreation:** Residents enjoy access to numerous parks, walking trails, and outdoor activities such as the Burlington Landlocked Forest, Cummings Park, and Mill Pond Recreation Area. The Burlington Recreation Department offers a variety of sports leagues, fitness programs, and seasonal activities.

5. Community and Social Life

- **Engaged Community:** Burlington prides itself on being a close-knit community. Local events such as the Burlington 4th of July Parade, the Farmers' Market, Burlington Day, and seasonal festivals bring residents together. The town's community center and various clubs offer a wide array of activities for all ages. Burlington's Interfaith community is very strong and our church is proud to participate in town-wide Interfaith efforts and services, fostering unity, understanding, and compassion across diverse communities.

6. Real Estate

- **Housing:** The town offers a mix of single-family homes, townhouses, and apartments to suit a range of preferences and budgets.

7. Healthcare and Medical Facilities

- **Access to Healthcare:** Burlington is located near some of the best medical centers in Massachusetts, including the Beth Israel Lahey Hospital in Burlington as well as other renowned hospitals in close proximity to the Boston area.

PARISH STORY– History

1. Tell us about when your church was founded and how has your parish and community changed over the years?

Our first worship service was held in 1958 at the American Legion Hall in Burlington Mass. In 1960 land at the corner of Bedford Street and Terrace Hall Avenue was purchased and a portable sanctuary was erected on that site and used until 1971 when a permanent building was completed and which is known today as St. Mark's Episcopal Church. We became a full parish in 1978. For history buffs the cross in our church was made from wood from the U.S. Constitution, so there is some Boston history to our town located about 12 miles northwest of Boston. Our church is located about 0.7 of a mile from the town center and, for those who may not be from this area, convenient to major routes both into and out of Boston. Further data on the town may be found at: <https://bringmetoburlington.com/>

The Education Building was added to the property and housed our Sunday school. Presently it is rented to a daycare center. A smaller building was erected and used as a consignment thrift shop. It was later rebuilt, doubling in size, and rented to the town's food pantry, People Helping People. When the pantry moved to a larger location the building was offered to a not for profit as Wee Care. Wee Care Burlington strives to help parents and caregivers to be able to provide basic essential needs for children. We do collect rent for this building. Further down the road is a split-entry, 4-bedroom home that we have used as our rectory. It presently is being rented to an individual family at a low-income affordable rate.

Full time priests have been with us since our inception. More recently, Rev. John DeBeer became our rector in 2006 and was with us until he retired in 2015. As part of his Annual Meeting Rector's report, he stated that St. Mark's has a clear sense of call. During that time, St. Mark's has cultivated a community where individuals have been taught to work at searching for the talents God calls them to use in His service. This led to the development of our mission statement which is proudly displayed at the beginning of this Parish Profile.

Rev. Bryan Pearson became our Priest-in-charge in 2015 and decided he was called to become an Army Chaplain in 2019. Bryan continued to bring us all together and has been a priest with great compassion, acceptance, and guidance.

Rev. Daniel Bell became our next Priest-in-charge in 2020, at the onset of the Covid epidemic. He accepted an appointment by Bishop Gates to become the Chaplain at Boston College in November of 2023. Since that time, we have been fortunate to have sustained clerical leadership through our relationship with Rev. Stephen Voysey, our Priest-in-Residence currently.



Helpers at Advent

Blessing of the Animals



2. Pumpkin Patch: A significant event that stands out in our history and our ongoing mission.

A small group participated in the LDI (Leadership Development Initiative) through the Diocese. Our project was to implement a pumpkin patch on our property and sell pumpkins and donate all the profits to People Helping People, a volunteer group within the town which supports residents in need of temporary assistance along with a food pantry. The Pumpkin Patch is still a big success since

inception in 2012. The patch includes volunteers from other religious organizations, businesses and families in the town who help with the project and we have been able to donate over \$40,000 over the years. 2024 was our best year ever with sales of over \$19,500 of pumpkins, \$12,300 to the Navajo Nation that grew the pumpkins and \$7,200 to People Helping People.



This year marks our 11th year of Pumpkin Patch benefiting Burlington's local food bank, People Helping People.

PARISH STORY – Present life

3. Tell about a time in your church's life which you recognize as success and a time of failure.

Time of success

The success of this church is how caring and kind everyone is to each other while being hard working. We all get along, there never seems to be arguments with each other. We welcome newcomers with no

exceptions, whether they are there as weekly worshipers or on their own journey of exploration to find a home church.

We try very hard to welcome new families by our Welcoming Team along with our many friendly welcoming parishioners and to invite them to come to our coffee hour after the service.

We have a successful Pastoral Care Team consisting of a very active greeting card program which sent out over 250 cards last year alone. There are 4 people on the team who send the cards on a monthly basis. Cards are sent to those who are ill, both short and long term, sympathy, "just thinking of you", encouragement and special occasions.

When needed, and during our present time of transition, everyone has stepped up to help out.



Blessing of our Solar Panels by Bishop Gates



We have a deep sense of caring for God's creation as stewards of this Earth. We exemplify this sense of caring both at our church and in the larger community. Internally, we recently installed more than 50 solar panels on the roof of our church and Parish Hall (blessed by Bishop Gates with a Super-Soaker squirt gun!) The panels have greatly reduced our electric bill (church is heated by electricity so this is a substantial number). It also exemplifies our care for the environment by reducing our use of fossil-related fuels. Externally we have partnered with the Diocese with participation in the pilot program for the Episcopal Path to Creation Justice.

Time of failure

This is difficult to answer as we feel we have been blessed and do not have a failure that stands out in our minds.

The only thing that could be considered a failure would be the call to a Rector many years ago, who was not a good fit for our community, and to this day we are very careful about who we call as priest-in-charge.

4. Share your worship style and special worship moments you like.

We believe that worship is the primary reason people come to St. Mark's. Our church has 58 active participants and, post Covid, average weekly attendance is about 20-25 parishioners. We celebrate Rite II services at 9:30 AM on Sundays with the service also streamed online. We have been told that we were the first church in Burlington to begin live streaming at the onset of the Covid pandemic. We continue to livestream reaching an additional 5-8 parishioners per week, including people from out-of-state.



Our newest stream team member!

Our worship style is broad. We are family oriented and enjoy the sounds of little children during the service. Children are also included in the processing of the elements for communion and assisting in the offering collection. Also, pre-teen acolytes have historically taken part in this service.

We are intergenerational in nature and a community of faith and support. We strive to be a church of inclusion, making God's love evident through our words and actions. We care deeply about each other and the greater community around us.

We have a core group of Lay Readers, Acolytes, Ushers, and Altar Guild members. We encourage parishioners to explore their connection to the service by participating in these roles.

Music is very important to our worship. We have one paid cantor. Our choir director/organist has been with us for many years and is loved by all. Occasionally our music services are augmented by an additional cantor and/or a trumpeter.

Passing of the peace is very personal. People come out of the pews to greet each other.

Coffee Hour after church services is an important part of our service. It allows us to connect face to face and show our care for each other.

We are always open to opportunities to collaborate with other churches. We have traditionally shared Lent and Advent services and Bible studies with St. Elizabeth's church in Wilmington, MA for many years.



Our Cantor and (maybe) Cantor-in-Training

5. What brings people back week after week?

The love and kindness that people show to everyone brings people back week after week along with the sincere friendliness of caring for each other during good and bad times. Young families are comfortable having their children make noise and sometimes even running down the aisles. Crying, laughing, it's all good! We want the church to be a safe place for all. We always have coffee hour after the service for fellowship. Once a month we have Game Night where people come and play board games. There are games for all ages and children are welcome.



Monthly game night celebration for all ages

6. How do you care for each other?

Our Priest-in-Residence is available to us in providing pastoral care as needed, including home communion calls and officiating at baptism and burial services. Also, some of our parishioners are great huggers.

We utilize a “phone tree” to keep everyone connected with church news and updates.

We include the names of those in any need in our weekly Prayers of the People.

7. Tell us about outreach in your community?

- Outreach is incredibly important to us, and we think we do it well. Everyone in our congregation in some way supports our Outreach efforts, either financially, and/or with their Time and Talent. We donate a percentage of our pledged funds to our Outreach programs.
- We hold a Pumpkin Patch sale each October for the entire month; net proceeds go to the local food pantry, People Helping People (PHP), and to the Navajo Nation which supplies the pumpkins. All St. Mark’s share of the profits is donated to People Helping People, over \$40,000 since we started the Pumpkin Patch in 2012
- We support, and are involved with, [People Helping People](#) (food pantry) with donations of food.
- We support Cambridge Closet by giving toiletries collected during the year.
- We support the B-SAFE (Boston’s Summer Academic & Fun Enrichment) , a five-week, full day academic and enrichment program, by providing a donation of bags of groceries.
- We financially support Visions made Viable Tatuua, a nonprofit in Kenya, which is a fellowship program that trains and coaches community leaders and social activists.
- We financially support Episcopal City Mission.
- We conduct a Veteran’s Day collection during the month of November to purchase commissary cards for Veterans at the VA Hospital in Bedford. Our Outreach Committee matches donations up to \$200. The 2024 donations to the VA Hospital was \$685.
- We support the REACH program, which aids victims of domestic abuse, with our Mother’s Day Altar of the Roses fundraiser.
- Yearly purchase items through ERD (Episcopal Relief and Development) Gifts for Life.
- A portion of our Endowment Fund is sent to El Hogar, an Episcopal orphanage in Honduras.

- Our Rectory is rented at a below market rate as “affordable housing” to a family that couldn’t afford renting in the Burlington area. Our Community Building is also rented at a below market rate by a Non-Profit organization Wee Care at a below market rate helping them to provide an essential service to young families with small children supplying clothing and other related items at no cost. Annual outreach impact for below market rentals rates for these two buildings is about \$19,000.
- For additional information we encourage you to visit our Facebook site [saint marks burlington](#)

8. Finances

Finances have always been a challenging part of our church environment. We do hold stewardship campaigns with the knowledge that good stewardship is a combination of both time and talents. As with many churches, the pandemic has impacted church attendance as parishioners moved away, retired, or unfortunately, passed. This has resulted in a lower level of contributions as you might surmise. We believe our annual budget income for 2025 will support a .50 time position. We also have money budgeted for anticipated expenses and have recently worked to increase overall cash flow. We actually had greater than anticipated 2025 pledges and larger than budgeted 2024 pledges which we believe indicates the desire of our parishioners to continue to engage in the St. Mark’s community.

Keeping with the idea that continued clergy leadership is important to church attendance we seek a PIC that can lead worship at least 3 Sundays per month. We can supplement the 4th Sunday with Morning Prayer lay leadership or, if a Eucharistic service is desired, supply priests.

We employ a parish office administrator seven hours per week to help with various clerical duties and support the clergy and wardens.

9. What gifts and skills would you like your new leader to bring, and what gifts and skills can you offer?

Our new priest should be willing to get involved in our community and follow the priorities of the church community. We would hope the new leader would have the following gifts:

- Bring guidance and support rather than dictate to those who are dedicated and willing to commit their time and efforts to ensure that what needs to be done gets done.
- Be able to teach at an adult level and children's level interpreting biblical scripture.
- Be willing to explore opportunities to collaborate with other churches.
- Be a good communicator, a team player willing to engage current and potential new members of the congregation and who will encourage unity.
- Help us to improve communications both within our parish and our greater community regarding our parish activities and all that St. Mark's has to offer.
- Be willing to be open and share personal life experiences in sermons and have a great sense of humor.
- Be amenable to exploring options for reinitializing our Sunday School Program
- Be willing to walk with us on our spiritual journey with unity, goodwill, understanding, patience, and peace.
- Ability to relate to people who are going through difficult times. Examples: Serious even life-threatening illness or injuries or death; relationship conflicts, between couples, their children, or any relationship conflicts that may get in the way of a person's ability to thrive and grow further in their relationship with Jesus.

In other words, we are looking for a rector who is willing to join us in the continuance of our own spiritual journey. We, in turn, will provide support, love, and acceptance, be open-minded and work closely with clergy and will welcome a new priest into our community with open arms and hugs!



10. Compensation & Housing

Compensation available for new position: \$47,500; .50 Time Position
Negotiable? (y/n): N

Housing Allowance or Rectory: None (Rectory is currently rented)

SECA reimbursement options (n/a, Full, Half, Other): N/A

SECA reimbursement details: N/A
Pension plan (in compliance?): Yes
Healthcare options (negotiable?): 50% of premium, assuming employee + 1 for PPO 80 plan
Dental: None
Housing Equity Allowance in Budget: N/A
Annual Equity amount: N/A
Vacation weeks: 4
Continuing education weeks: 1
Continuing education funding in budget: Yes, \$250

Additional compensation comments: Items in our budget for book allowance.

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Please send all responses and inquiries, including a recent copy of the OTM profile, Resume, and a copy of a recent written sermon, to the attention of:

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