

Emmanuel Church Car Parking Survey – App. No. 250183

Summary

The Highways Officer has requested clarification of the existing car parking demand to justify the proposed reduction in parking provision (now proposed with 29 spaces, which is 4 fewer than the previously approved 33 spaces (191989), but 5 more than the existing provision in the church car park of 24 spaces).

We have therefore carried out a parking survey and compiled the findings in this brief report, using a standard format suggested by our planning consultant. The survey was conducted by one of the wardens at Emmanuel church, David Woolnough, on two separate days: one weekday and one weekend day, to accurately represent peak usage.

Based on the information provided, the Local Planning Authority has identified Monday afternoon as a peak traffic period (which is right), so we have conducted surveys on a Monday afternoon and a Sunday morning (which is the peak usage over a weekend).

We understand that the focus of the ask was to survey the car parking in the church car park itself, which we have done - we have also included some details on the parking usage on the immediate roads surrounding the church, to illustrate the availability of ample parking in the immediate vicinity.

Headline results: the profile over the two survey periods, tracking the total number of cars parked in the church car park and any overspill onto South Lake Crescent, is:

- Weekend peak time (Sunday morning): 4, 10, 26, **28**, 28, 4
- Weekday peak time (Monday afternoon): 10, 13, 19, **29**, 26, 19, 2

The maximum demand for car parking spaces by church users is 28 on a Sunday morning and 29 on a Monday afternoon - and both of these periods are only at this level of an hour or two.

The proposed layout with 29 spaces will fully accommodate this peak demand and will be an improvement on the existing car park, which only has space for 24 cars.

Date and time of surveys

- **Weekend Survey** - Sunday 16 March 2025: 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, to coincide with peak weekend usage during the main church service (10:30 to 12:00)
- **Weekday Survey** - Monday 7 April 2025: (as requested by Local Planning Authority's Highways comments) Monday afternoon 14:00, 14:30, 15:00, 15:30, 16:00, 16:30, 17:00, as peak weekday usage is while Share and Foodbank community food charities both operate from the Emmanuel church site on Monday afternoons.

Description of the area:

Emmanuel church is located in a residential area with limited through traffic, as South Lake Crescent is essentially a closed loop. The church has its own car park, currently with space for 24 cars (proposing to increase this to 29). Emmanuel church is opposite a retirement home, Alexander Place, which has its own car park. Everything else within 200m is residential homes, most, but not all of which have their own off-street parking - typically providing space for one or

two cars each. There are also 10x off-street car parking bays within 200m of the church, which combined provide space for a total of 48 cars – these are principally used by residents.

There is also ample space for on-street, kerb side parking within 200m of the church, which mostly goes unused as the above parking facilities mean that most cars are parked off-street. There are hardly any areas with double yellow lines. Residents tend to park the relatively few cars that don't fit on their property or in a parking bay, on just one side of the road, to allow good traffic flow. Excluding junctions, access to driveways, yellow lines, turning spaces, etc. and only using one side of the road:

- within 200m of the church, there is roughly 420m of available kerb-side parking space (out of a total kerb length of 930m) on the roads highlighted in red in fig 1. At 6m per car, and rounded down, this is space for 77 cars. Combined with the 10x off-street parking bays, providing a further 48 car spaces, that is a total of 125 car spaces.
- if we just look at roads within 50m of the church, there is roughly 64m of available kerb-side parking space (out of a total kerb length of 190m). At 6m per car, and rounded down, this is space for 10 cars. Within 50m, there are also 3x off-street parking bays, providing a further 10 car spaces, which gives a total of 20 car spaces.

Unusual observations

There were no unusual observations during the time of the surveys, no suspended parking bays, spaces out of use due to road works or presence of skips, etc. The Sunday morning was a typical turn out at church, so represents a typical peak use over the weekend. And the Monday afternoon peak was, if anything, slightly busier than usual for our two community food charities Share and Foodbank, so this represents a typical peak use on a weekday.

Location where parking is concentrated

People using the Emmanuel church centre, whether on a weekend and weekday, will park in the church's car park, gradually filling up the 24 spaces currently available. On the few occasions that the car park's 24 spaces are filled, church users tend to park on the nearest available bit of unused kerb-side parking space on South Lake Crescent, which in practice rarely goes beyond a few cars on the stretch nearest to the car park entrance (there is usually unused space for up to 10 cars within 50m of church) or in the unused spaces in the three nearest off-street parking bays (although we tend to leave these for residents to use). See photos at the end.

Site Location plan

The focus of this car park survey is on the church car park itself, plus the immediate bit of South Lake Crescent right next to the church, as these are the only spaces used by church users for parking, even at the busiest times.

However, we also wanted to provide a feel in this survey for the ample additional parking available within 200m of the church. Fig 1 shows the site location of Emmanuel church, and highlights in red all the roads within 200m range of the church. Figs 2 and 3 show the top and bottom half of Fig 1 in more detail, and indicate the 200m points with blue arrows, so the details are clearer to see. It is from these figures that the estimates of available kerb-side parking were calculated.

The two Parking Record tables capturing the peak weekend and weekday usage below, are split into three sections:

- a) all cars parked in the church car park;
- b) all cars parked on South Lake Crescent kerb-side within 50m of church;
- and then, in grey at the end, c) tracking if any church users' cars are parked on any other roads within 200m of church (none were for either survey).

This survey focuses on the first two of these, as, even at peak times, church users do not use any of the ample further parking available within 200m.

Parking Record:

1. Weekend - Sunday 16 March 2025

Headline: Profile over the survey period of the total numbers of cars parked in the church car park and any overspill onto South Lake Crescent is: 4, 10, 26, **28**, 28, 4. Maximum demand 28.

Car park / Road	Time	Total length of kerb space (m)	Length of available parking (m)	No. of parking spaces (Parking Capacity)	No. of cars parked in available space
Church car park	9:30	n/a	n/a	24	4
“	10:00	n/a	n/a	24	10
“	10:30	n/a	n/a	24	23
“	11:00	n/a	n/a	24	23
“	12:00	n/a	n/a	24	24
“	13:00	n/a	n/a	24	4
All cars on...	9:30	190	64	10	0
...South Lake...	10:00	190	64	10	0
..Crescent within..	10:30	190	64	10	3
...50m of church	11:00	190	64	10	5
“	12:00	190	64	10	4
“	13:00	190	64	10	0
Church users'...	9:30	930	420	77	0
...cars on other...	10:00	930	420	77	0
...roads within...	10:30	930	420	77	0
...200m of church	11:00	930	420	77	0
“	12:00	930	420	77	0
“	13:00	930	420	77	0

2. Weekday – Monday 7 April 2025

Headline: Profile over the survey period of the total numbers of cars parked in the church car park and any overspill onto South Lake Crescent is: 10, 13, 19, **29**, 26, 19, 2. Maximum demand 29.

Carpark / Road	Time	Total length of kerb space (m)	Length of available parking (m)	No. of parking spaces (Parking Capacity)	No. of cars parked in available space
Church car park	14:00	n/a	n/a	24	9
“	14:30	n/a	n/a	24	11
“	15:00	n/a	n/a	24	18
“	15:30	n/a	n/a	24	24
“	16:00	n/a	n/a	24	19
“	16:30	n/a	n/a	24	15
“	17:00	n/a	n/a	24	2
All cars on...	14:00	190	64	10	1
...South Lake...	14:30	190	64	10	2
..Crescent within..	15:00	190	64	10	1
...50m of church	15:30	190	64	10	5
“	16:00	190	64	10	7
“	16:30	190	64	10	4
“	17:00	190	64	10	0
Church users’...	14:00	930	420	77	0
...Cars on other...	14:30	930	420	77	0
...roads within...	15:00	930	420	77	0
...200m of church	15:30	930	420	77	0
“	16:00	930	420	77	0
“	16:30	930	420	77	0
“	17:00	930	420	77	0

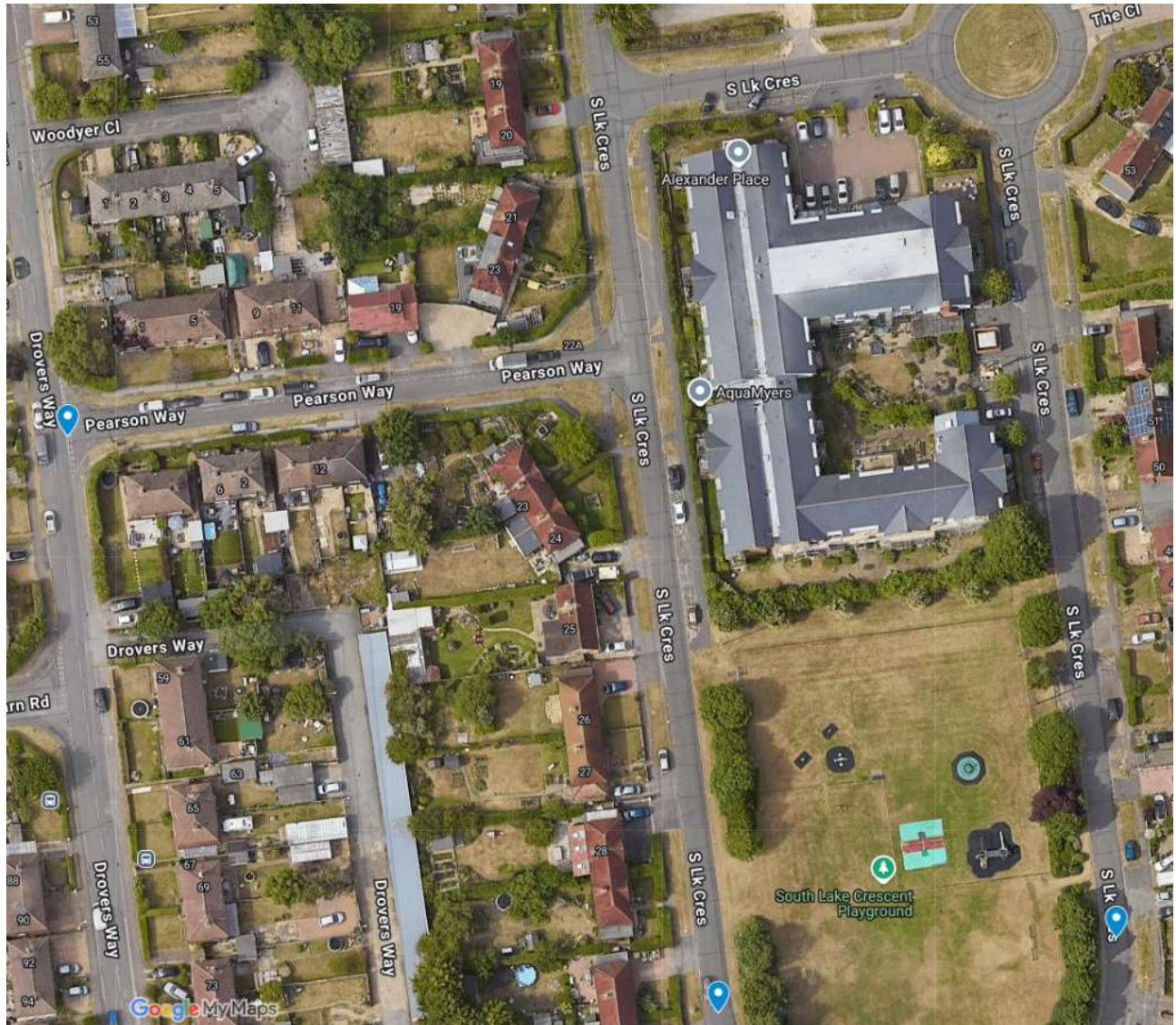
Fig 1. Roads within 200m of Emmanuel church – highlighted in red



Fig 2. Closer look at the top half of the roads in Fig 1 – blue pins mark 200m from the church



Fig 3. Closer look at the bottom half of the roads in Fig 1 – blue pins mark 200m from the church



Photographs

1. Weekend - Sunday 16 March 2025

@ 10:00 – before it gets busy (car park + immediate stretch of South Lake Crescent)



@ 11:00 – peak demand (car park + immediate stretch of South Lake Crescent)



@ 12:00 – still busy (car park + immediate stretch of South Lake Crescent + unused road within 50m)



@ 13:00 – quiet again (car park + immediate stretch of South Lake Crescent)



2. Weekday – Monday 7 April 2025

@ 14:00 – before it gets busy (car park + immediate stretch of South Lake Crescent)



@ 15:30 – peak demand (car park + immediate stretch of South Lake Crescent + unused road within 50m)



@ 16:00 – still busy (car park + immediate stretch of South Lake Crescent)



@ 17:00 – quiet again (car park + immediate stretch of South Lake Crescent)

