

# PARISH PROFILE



# ST DUNSTAN'S MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES

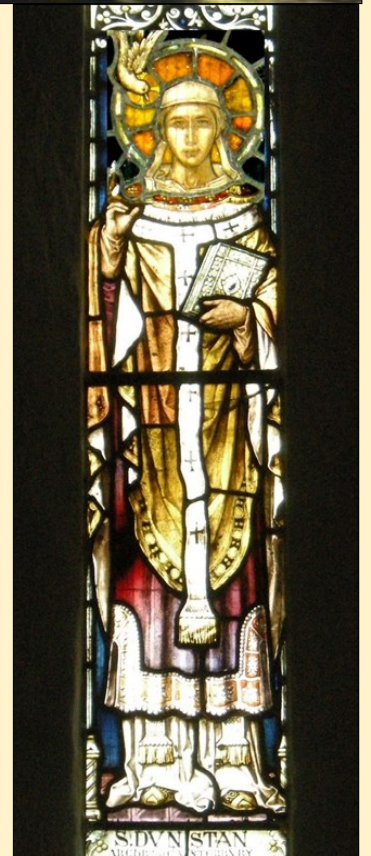
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# CONTENTS

|                               | Page |
|-------------------------------|------|
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>           | 3    |
| <b>SECTION 1</b>              |      |
| <b>THE BROADER CONTEXT</b>    |      |
| A. WHO WE ARE                 | 4    |
| B. WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU      | 5    |
| <b>SECTION 2</b>              |      |
| <b>THE PRIEST</b>             |      |
| <b>WE WOULD LIKE</b>          | 7    |
| <b>SECTION 3</b>              |      |
| <b>ABOUT THE PARISH</b>       | 8    |
| <b>SECTION 4</b>              |      |
| <b>ABOUT THE CHURCH</b>       |      |
| A. THE CHURCH AS A            | 11   |
| <b>WORSHIPPING PEOPLE</b>     |      |
| B. THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY     | 20   |
| <b>SECTION 5</b>              |      |
| <b>ABOUT THE BUILDINGS</b>    | 24   |
| <b>FINANCE</b>                | 26   |
| <b>SECTION 6</b>              |      |
| <b>WHAT WE HOPE TO BECOME</b> | 28   |

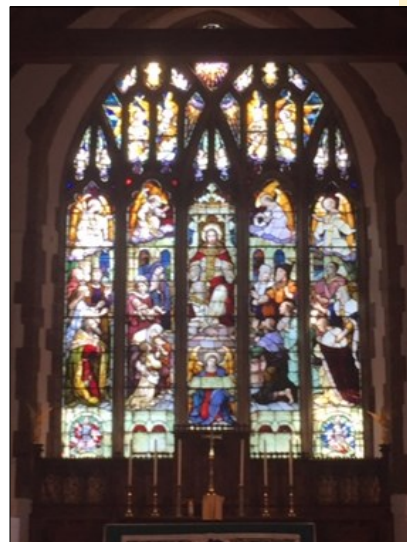


# INTRODUCTION

We trust that you find the following pages a good insight into the life and witness of our Parish.

We hope that you enjoy reading about us and feel that you could have a part to play in leading us in the years to come.

Like many churches today, we have had successes and challenges but we have a committed worshipping community and look to the future with hope and in the certainty that God is with us all.



# SECTION 1

## THE BROADER CONTEXT

### A. WHO WE ARE

**St. Dunstan's seeks to be a vibrant, worshipping community committed to serving God in the world. We seek to do this by following the example of Jesus Christ who taught us to care for one another, and by helping others to know Him through what we say and do.**

*"St. Dunstan's is the place to meet friends, worship together with beautiful music both sung and played to praise God."*

St Dunstan's is the Parish Church of Mayfield and Five Ashes. We are within the Diocese of Chichester and enjoy worship in the Modern/Liberal Catholic style with an established choral tradition. Our patron is Keble College, Oxford. As a church we welcome and support the ordination of women priests and the appointment of women bishops.

*"A strong church family worshipping, playing and supporting one another. "*

Our regular congregation is a warm and welcoming group of people who strive to be the people of God in this place. Many belong not only to various committees within the church, but also to other organisations in and around the village.

Many within the village will agree that St Dunstan's forms an important focus for the community but will only attend services on high days and holy days. There is considerable scope for mission and outreach.

*"When cycling home or walking home the Church spire is like a beacon calling us home."*

There are other churches within the village: Colkins Mill Church (member of the Evangelical Alliance), St Thomas' Roman Catholic Church and Mayfield Baptist Church.



## B. WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

- \* A single church Parish with links to a newly created Cottage Hospice in Five Ashes and many opportunities for mission and ministry.
- \* A congregation that is friendly, relaxed and welcoming. We have good lay participation in the life of the church.
- \* A concern for the health, well-being, personal and professional development of our priest. We pay in full all legitimate working clergy expenses; and expect our priest to take proper holidays, days off, and time for training, retreat and academic study.
- \* Good local schools. There are two Church of England voluntary controlled primary schools, one in Mayfield and one in Five Ashes, both rated Good by OFSTED. In addition, Mayfield CEP has a 'good' SIAMS rating, whilst Five Ashes CEP has 'outstanding'. There is also an independent preparatory school, Skippers Hill. A thriving Nursery also exists. Secondary schooling is mainly focussed in Heathfield some 7 miles distant or Wadhurst or Crowborough. Also within the village is 'Mayfield', a girl's independent day/boarding Roman Catholic secondary school.
- \* A Grade II listed vicarage which is centrally placed on the High Street almost opposite the church. It has recently undergone a quinquennial inspection by the Diocese. It has four bedrooms and two bathrooms on the first floor and two smaller attic rooms on the second floor mainly used for storage. The ground floor has a good size reception, dining room, study, cloakroom and a new kitchen.



## What we can offer you contd.

There are also cellars. This wonderful family home overlooks a lovely south-facing garden with beautiful views across the Weald.



There is a large storage building in the garden. A garage is accessed from the rear of the vicarage.



- \* A traditional Sussex village and neighbouring hamlet, both with good community spirit. Mayfield has good amenities: Post Office, grocery, delicatessen, bakery, butcher, florist, and chemist shops as well as a good range of personal service shops such as an optician, chiropodist, osteopath, hairdressers, and even a dog grooming parlour. There are also doctor and dentist surgeries within the village. There are two pubs.



- \* Good transport links. Mayfield has a good bus service into Tunbridge Wells and Heathfield. Rail links are via Wadhurst and Tunbridge Wells (South Eastern) or Crowborough (Southern Rail).



# SECTION 2

## THE PRIEST WE WOULD LIKE

**We are looking for a priest who is able to lead and enable the 'body of Christ' in this place.**

In particular, we are looking for a priest who:

- \* Has a strong desire for mission in the community with compassion for all people
- \* Has the vision to grow our congregation and to encourage families and young people to join our worshipping communities
- \* Is a good communicator and team player, able to build bridges where opinions are divided, and with good listening skills and gentle humour
- \* Can work comfortably within the church's current tradition, whilst being creative in attracting new people into the church. We would like our priest to continue the existing style of worship with its strong choral tradition but also to be imaginative and flexible in his/her approach to introducing different styles of worship whilst managing change sensitively
- \* Will embrace a sensitive and modern approach to issues such as baptisms and the marriage of divorcees
- \* Is well organised, showing commitment and decision-making abilities; and who embraces modern technology and has good IT skills
- \* Holds a current driving licence to facilitate movement around parish and deanery

And who will:

- \* Continue to develop the relationship with our schools especially the Church Primary Schools
- \* Raise the profile of the church in the community and engage with our various village organisations and people of all backgrounds
- \* Nurture the existing congregations in their discipleship and encourage development of individual gifts and potential

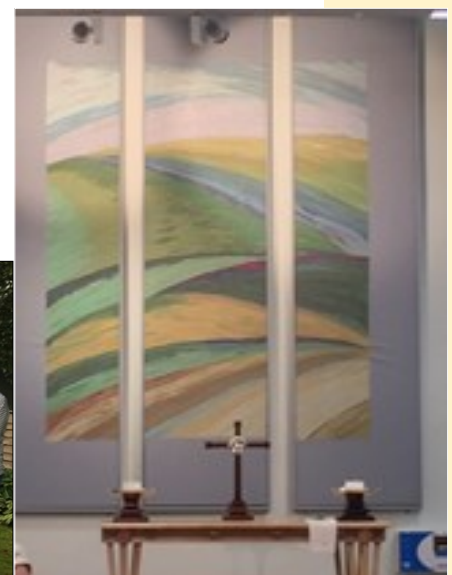
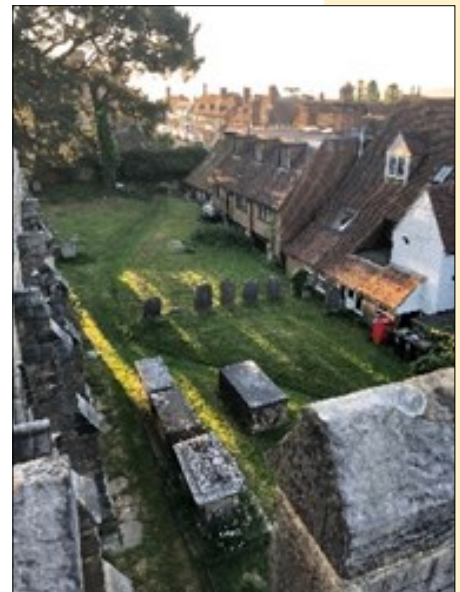
# SECTION 3

## ABOUT THE PARISH

The parish, comprising both the villages of Mayfield and Five Ashes, has a population of approximately 3,500 and is situated in the High Weald AONB in East Sussex 9 miles south of Tunbridge Wells. It is surrounded by beautiful rolling countryside – considered one of the best surviving medieval landscapes in Northern Europe.

St. Dunstan's church lies in the beautiful mediaeval hill village of Mayfield (from the Saxon 'maghefeld' – maid's field) which possesses many historic buildings. The village centre is a Conservation area. Like many places in the area, Mayfield prospered at the height of the iron industry, and much of its finest architecture dates from that time. The "Middle House", in the High Street, for example, is a splendid oak-beamed Tudor Inn.

Five Ashes is located some 3 miles to the south west. An important addition to the community is the recently built Cottage Hospice, a modern concept in hospice care. The Church of the Good Shepherd, the former centre of worship in Five Ashes, was situated on the land now occupied by the hospice and as part of the transfer of deeds arrangement, a multi-purpose space within the Hospice building is used by the clergy for weekly services for patients, their carers' and family, and members of the parish, many of whom were part of the original church congregation. This space was dedicated by the Bishop of Chichester in December 2019.





## About the Parish contd.

*Mayfield is famous for the legend of St Dunstan. The saint, formerly a blacksmith was working at his forge when the Devil paid him a visit, disguised as a beautiful woman, with a view to leading him astray. However, St Dunstan spotted the cloven hooves beneath the dress, and grabbed the devil's nose with his red-hot pincers thus foiling Satan's evil intentions!*

The two villages offer two vibrant communities with two village halls and a dedicated Scout Hut and any number of clubs and societies to choose from. There is a thriving music and arts scene with St Dunstan's offering a 300-seat venue for concerts and theatrical performances, not least the bi-annual Music Festival that draws in artists and audiences from across the south east. There are no less than four choirs - St. Dunstan's, the Mayfield Consort, the MayZing Choir and the Mayfield Festival Choir; and a lively Junior and Senior Silver Band which occasionally play in Church services. This is the village to come to if your passion is music and the arts. Sport also flourishes with a well-established tennis club and an ambitious Sussex Premier league cricket club which has four Saturday sides and a flourishing junior section of approaching 100 youngsters.



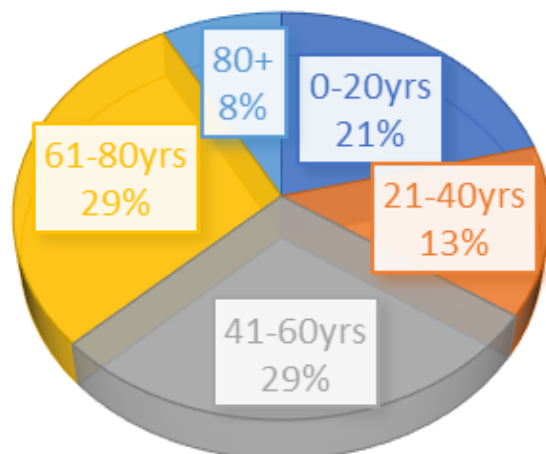
Together with the history attached to our villages it is understandable that Mayfield and Five Ashes retain their position as one of the most sought after areas to live in within Wealden, having been voted 'Best Village' by a national newspaper, and recently the combined villages receiving a Gold medal for the 'Best Village in Bloom', with special mention of our children's garden in the churchyard.



## About the Parish contd.

Living in a premium area does have its drawbacks on the socio-economic demographic. Many young people tend to go off to university and then to city life or seek cheaper accommodation elsewhere where work is more readily available. There is a lack of affordable housing which results in a gap in the age range between 20 and 40 years of age. Many of those in family accommodation are commuters who are asset rich and time and penny poor. The area is also understandably attractive to retirees, who are well catered for and contribute to having one of the highest proportion of people living well into their nineties in the country. There are, however, pockets of deprivation.

### Mayfield and Five Ashes Demographic



# SECTION 4

## A. ABOUT THE CHURCH

### - the Church as a worshipping people

#### Worship Patterns

We worship God together in the Modern/Liberal Catholic tradition and follow the Liturgical Calendar and Lectionary of Common Worship for most services.

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Sunday Services</b>   |                |
| 8am Said Holy Communion*                                       | Common Worship |
| 10.15am Sung Parish Eucharist with Sunday Club                 | Common Worship |
| <u>or</u> 10.15am 'All Together' Parish Eucharist**            |                |
| 12noon Eucharist at the Cottage Hospice ( <i>fortnightly</i> ) | Common Worship |
| 6pm Choral Evensong ( <i>termly</i> )                          | BCP            |
| <b>Midweek Service</b>   |                |
| 10am Wednesday Said Holy Communion                             | Common Worship |

\*8am Said Holy Communion Services have been temporarily suspended during the vacancy

\*\* 'All Together' Services have been running monthly for a couple of years – they are an attempt to attract a broader congregation with a more relaxed format. They are very much a 'work in progress'.

**Average Sunday attendance** (all services):

Over 17: 76

Under 17: 12

## About the Church contd.

### The Worshipping Community

| Children aged 0-10 | Young People aged 11-17 | Adults Aged 18-69 | Adults Aged 70+ | Total |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 6                  | 6                       | 49                | 27              | 88    |

The Electoral Roll at March 2020: 155

### October 2019 figures

| Date                                | Number of services | ADULTS Church | Fresh Expression | CHILDREN Church | Fresh Expression |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| SUNDAY 6 <sup>th</sup>              | 3                  | 135           | 0                | 10              | 0                |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>  | 5                  | 23            | 7                | 0               | 24               |
| SUNDAY 13 <sup>th</sup>             | 1                  | 101           | 0                | 16              | 0                |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> |                    | 10            | 6                | 0               | 26               |
| SUNDAY 20 <sup>th</sup>             | 2                  | 84            | 0                | 6               | 0                |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> | 2                  | 15            | 7                | 37              |                  |
| SUNDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>             | 1                  | 58            | 0                | 5               |                  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 1                  | 11            | 0                | 13              |                  |

### Other Services

| Service        | Congregation                   | Numbers |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Easter 2019    | Communicants                   | 168     |
|                | Attendance                     | 225     |
| Advent 2019    | Congregation & Local Community | 324     |
|                | Civic Organisations & Schools  | 739     |
| Christmas 2019 | Communicants                   | 221     |
|                | Attendants                     | 707     |

## About the Church contd.

### Other Services

**ONLINE SERVICES** – introduced in May 2020 as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
Imposition of Ashes

**LENT**  
Stations of the Cross

**HOLY WEEK**  
Maundy Thursday – Parish Eucharist and Washing of Feet

Good Friday – Liturgy of the Day with Veneration of the Cross  
Easter Day – Easter Vigil and Sunrise Service

**PATRONAL FESTIVAL** –19<sup>th</sup> May

**OUTDOOR SERVICE** - August

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** – ‘Churches Together’ in conjunction with Royal British Legion

**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS**  
Lessons and Carols by Candlelight  
Christingle Service  
Sung Midnight Mass

**SCHOOL SERVICES**

**OCCASIONAL SERVICES:** Animal  
Thanksgiving (*last held October 2019*)



## About the Church contd.

### For Younger Members of the Congregation

*"it is such a joy being able to worship in an adult environment knowing that the children will join us later."*

#### **SUNDAY CLUB**

The Club meets each Sunday at 10.15am except when there is an 'All Together' service. Each session, for aged 3+, includes a bible story, craft and game. The children join the congregation in church for the last 20 minutes of the service.



#### **OTHER WAYS OF DOING CHURCH**

##### **Monday Tots**

Twice a month a group of children, from birth to primary-school age, meet with their mums in London House. We have an extensive selection of toys and sessions include a bible story, craft and singing.



##### **Messy Church**

This is run by an ecumenical team of 14 helpers and is held monthly at St Dunstan's on a Saturday morning. Children, accompanied by their parents, enjoy Bible-based sessions with stories, craft, cooking, singing, games and sport. Each session ends with a shared lunch.



**Songs of Praise:** Middle House Garden

#### **JUNIOR CHOIR**

Meets on Wednesday between 5 and 6pm and is open to children aged 7 years+. These choir members learn to read music and to develop their musical skills.

*"St Dunstan's is our extended family from the children to the oldest member."*

## About the Church contd.

### **BAPTISMS**

Arrangements are made with the clergy for baptisms to be celebrated in either our 'All Together' Eucharist or privately.

*"St. Dunstan's church helps children to have a sense of belonging as they learn together through celebration and prayer."*

### **FIRST COMMUNION**

Classes are held annually for children aged 7+, with a parent also taking part.



### **CONFIRMATION**

For those wishing to make their own adult commitment, Confirmation Services are held within the deanery annually.

*"We're part of a caring Church family who really help in difficult times."*

*"The Church is the heart of the village."*

*"When looking for our home, we went into the Church and an elderly couple were so welcoming and friendly, they were our ambassadors for Mayfield."*



## Ministry Team

### CLERGY

We are very fortunate to have an active Deacon within our ministry team who is able to lead worship, and officiate at weddings, funerals and baptisms.



### SERVING TEAM

We have two robed Altar Servers augmented weekly by one other drawn from a team of four Chalice Assistants. This team has been authorised to offer home communion to those who request it.



### LAY PARTICIPATION IN SERVICES

We appreciate the important ministry role of our two Churchwardens. There are well-organised rotas of sidespeople, 'welcomers' and those willing to do intercessions and readings.

On occasion, we have two robed children as acolytes and we would like to encourage younger members of the congregation to participate more.

We do not have a vergers at this time.



## About the Church contd.

*"Thank you for your marvellous contribution to today's worship..... please pass on my thanks and congratulations to the splendid St Dunstan's Choir"*  
David Halls  
(Director of Music - Salisbury Cathedral)

*"Mayfield Festival is predominantly a classical music festival with St Dunstan's as its largest and most prestigious venue, hosting choirs, orchestras, chamber ensembles and organ recitals. The acoustics of the church are well-nigh perfect and the recent removal of the old choir stalls has transformed the chancel as both a liturgical and non-liturgical musico-dramatic space"*  
Jeremy Summerly  
(Artistic Director - Mayfield Festival of Music and the Arts)

### Music & Worship

There is a long-standing choral tradition at St Dunstan's. The robed choir of adults and children averages 20-25 on Sunday mornings and leads the musical worship in a variety of choral mass settings, congregational settings, anthems and hymns which the Director of Music and Vicar plan together on a monthly basis.

The choir also sings at weddings and funerals when requested in addition to special services such as our Advent and Christmas Carols services. The choir attracts its members from both within and beyond the Parish – the majority are from surrounding areas and such is its reputation that three members chose to relocate to the Parish.

In June 2019 the choir joined with Salisbury Cathedral Choir for services at Salisbury Cathedral which included Widor's *Messe* and an Easter Cantata by Bach with period orchestra.



### Bellringing

The Church has a fine ring of 8 bells the oldest bell was cast in 1602. The enthusiastic band of ringers practice on Tuesday evening 8.00-9.15pm and ring for both Sunday services weddings etc. New ringers are always welcomed. The majority of ringers live within the parish. The clock within the tower chimes the quarters and the hour; the annual maintenance by Smiths of Derby is funded by Mayfield Parish Council.

### Administrative Support

Currently a Parish Administrator is employed to work Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to 1pm.

## About the Church contd.

### House Groups/Spiritual Development

There is currently only one House Group that meets weekly, Lent and Advent courses are run each year using a variety of materials – often those provided by the Diocese.

We have a church library situated within the church.

### Churches Together

We have good relationships with both St Thomas's (RC) and Colkins Mill churches within Mayfield. A team of representatives from the three churches meet to organise the World Day of Prayer (*first Friday in March*) and the Good Friday Walk of Witness. Ecumenical Prayers (*first Wednesday of the month*) take place in Stone House with sisters from the Convent of the Holy Child, Jesus.



### Communication

There are currently 140 recipients of our weekly Enews detailing information regarding services and events within the church; and providing links to useful websites.

We have a website managed by our Parish Administrator:

[www.stdunstansmayfield.org.uk](http://www.stdunstansmayfield.org.uk)

A weekly Pew Sheet is produced for those attending services.

A bi-monthly 'Parish News' is also produced (currently under review) – a periodical with Parish Diary and articles of interest.

### Health & Safety / Safeguarding

We have a Safeguarding Officer in post. However, we are currently seeking a new Health and Safety Officer – this position has proved difficult to fill in the past. An independent fire risk assessment has been carried out for both St Dunstan's and London House.

### PCC / Sub-Committees

The PCC as elected at the 2020 APCM comprises Standing Committee: two Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary; co-opted Deacon, 4 Deanery Reps, and 10 ordinary members.

We are fortunate to have several committees which are generally made up of PCC members and others who have specialist skills. Each committee works in an advisory capacity and is accountable to the PCC to whom they give regular reports. These include:

Fabric

Investment

London House

Social

Bruxner Randall (for church music)

Finance

Stewardship & Growth

Churchyard

Organ Trust

### The Deanery/Diocese

St Dunstan's lies within the Rotherfield Deanery, one of 21 rural deaneries within the Chichester Diocese. Our Deanery reps attend meetings 3 times a year and there are regular Chapter meetings arranged by Rural Dean, Rev Sharon Francis. We lie within the Archdeaconry of Hastings for which The Venerable Dr Edward Dowler is responsible.

Over the years, St Dunstan's has engaged with various initiatives launched by the Diocese. 2020 has seen the launch of a new 5-year vision for Growth Strategy whereby to quote Bishop Martin 'we aim to be in practice what we are by the grace of God; a church that is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.'

We are asked to look at Four Mores:

More Open – a sign of being one

More Converted to Jesus Christ – a sign of being holy

More Generous – a sign of being catholic

More Engaged – a sign of being apostolic

# SECTION 4

## B. THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES

The church seeks to play an active role in the community.

### Occasional Offices 2019

| Service             | Numbers |
|---------------------|---------|
| Baptisms            | 2       |
| Weddings            | 1       |
| Funerals/Cremations | 12      |

### Youth and Family Work

We have been fortunate in being able to employ Youth and family Workers over a five-year period and are attempting to consolidate the growth that has occurred. Part of this work consisted of an outreach to families through social media, establishing relationships and providing much appreciated clubs and functions.

Sadly we are not able to offer the range of youth work without this leadership but rejoice in those areas we are able to continue. We hope to employ a Youth and Family Worker again in the fullness of time and we already have the financial resources in place to fund this.



### Open the Book

A small team of people from our congregation go into our 2 CE Primary Schools once a month to involve pupils in interactive Bible story telling as part of a successful nation-wide initiative of the Bible Society.



*"The children really look forward to 'Open the Book' as it brings Bible stories to life."*

## The Church in the Community contd.

### Involvement in Schools

Members of the church and the incumbent go into Mayfield and Five Ashes CEP schools (2 of 4 primary schools comprising the Weald Federation) on a regular basis and support the teachers where possible. The PCC appoints at least one Foundation Governor to the Weald Federation Governing Board. One of our churchwardens, an ex-teacher, leads weekly assemblies at Five Ashes. There is also an independent prep school within the parish, Skippers Hill, and end of year/term and Christmas/Easter services are held in church.



*"The sense of community is integral to our school and the role of the parish of St Dunstan's is a key part of this. Is it essential there is a strong relationship between the church and school and we continue to drive the Church of England ethos the school feels so strongly about."*



**The Flower Guild** is run by an enthusiastic group and gives village people the opportunity to offer up their skills and talents to enhance our worship space.

**The Hand Bells** are owned by the church and are used by the villagers as a hobby. When they feel confident, they are able to add their talent to various festivals including Christmas.



### Coffee Corner

There is a monthly coffee morning held in London House, and open to all.

## The Church in the Community contd.

### Charitable Giving

The PCC has two charities, one local and one overseas, which it supports and encourages all in the parish to support.

Currently they are:

Family Support Work, a Sussex charity originally founded by the Diocese of Chichester, working with Families who need help



Friends of the Holy Land.



Other charities may be supported at various times during the year particularly Lent and Harvest. In Lent there are weekly soup lunches held with the proceeds going to the PCC charities and others selected on an annual basis.

### Social Events

There is an active Social Committee which gets involved with a variety of events. These have included an annual Summer Fayre, Harvest Lunch, Christmas Bazaar and participation in village events such as Village Day and Late Night Christmas Shopping. Royal events have traditionally been marked within the church either through watching live streaming of the event or similar.



## COMMUNITY LINKS

### MAYFACS

A good number of our church members are actively involved in MAYFACS (Charity No. 1166647), a secular organisation created in 2016 to organise and encourage activities for the more elderly and now spreading its remit to helping the entire community as it struggles with the Covid-19 outbreak. <https://www.mayfacs.org.uk/>  
Together with MAYFACS, St Dunstan's has introduced a lay-led Alzheimers Service.



### The Vicar

The Vicar has the choice to serve on any of the church committees and is also contracted to chair The L. D. Nicholson Trust (Charity No. 1176174).

The previous incumbent served as an *ex-officio* foundation governor of Mayfield & Five Ashes Primary schools for 20 years prior to the formation of the Federation. A continued interest in the schools would be welcomed, possibly through becoming a Governor of the Federation.

He also served the village on the Mayfield Charity (Charity No. 212996).

*"School leaders really appreciate the expertise of St. Dunstan's Church in developing their school's Christian ethos."*

*"The school and church work effectively together to support the local community."*

# SECTION 5

## ABOUT THE BUILDING AND CHURCH RESOURCES

### **St Dunstan's Church - Grade I Listed**

The church is situated at the heart of the village and within one of the largest Churchyards in the Diocese of Chichester. We are pleased that the church is usually open every day from 9am to 5pm for quiet prayer and visiting.

The church building, set back slightly from the main street, was largely rebuilt after a fire destroyed it, along with most of the village, in 1389. It was damaged again in 1621 when it was struck by lightning. The importance of the iron industry in the area is seen inside the church, where 2 cast iron tomb slabs are set in the floor of the nave. The oldest part of the church is the Tower (13<sup>th</sup> C) which houses a small domestic area, the bells and the clock. Other parts of the church are mainly 17<sup>th</sup> C with alterations throughout the centuries.

The church is considered to be in good repair with all due care given to daily maintenance. Considerable improvements have been made over the past 20 years to provide what has been described as 'a stunning worship space'. The chancel was reordered to make an attractive space for modern liturgical celebration. The works also improved the musical acoustics and the general ambience has been enhanced by a new lighting scheme. The West end was cleared of pews to provide more space for baptismal parties around the font as well as providing a flexible space for meetings and social gatherings such as the Harvest Supper, Christmas Market, Exhibitions and funeral receptions. There is a small servery for after service coffee.





## The building and Church resources contd.

### St Dunstan's Church contd.

Recently the South Aisle roof has had extensive structural repairs with lead renewed, water ingress in the south west corner addressed and stonework to the balustrade of the Parvis Tower repaired. Within the Parvis Tower a small room houses choir music and stored parish papers and we are working towards correcting the paper storage environment. Currently we are looking into the issue of birds getting into the tower and the repair of structural work to the spire.

We are fortunate to have a **Friends of St Dunstan's Church (Charity No 1033737)** which raises funds for the preservation and maintenance of the building.

Ongoing topics are disabled access and provision of toilets (currently facilities are provided in London House). Although new cupboards have been built there remains insufficient storage space. A drop-down screen and projector have been installed. This facility is not used as much as it could be.

A Fabric committee, chaired by the last incumbent, looks after the maintenance of the building and reports to the PCC. A new inspecting architect was appointed at Easter and quinquennial inspection was carried out in June 2020 but showed little of any consequence. The Terrier is regularly updated.

There is no designated parking area for those attending the Church. However, there is on-street parking and two public carparks located a short walking distance away – one on South Street and one by the Memorial Hall.

### London House (Grade II Listed)

This property adjacent to the church is believed to be a Medieval Hall house. At ground level are the church toilet facilities; and the two small downstairs rooms, together with small kitchen, are used mainly by the church for



## The building and Church resources contd.

### London House contd.

meetings, Sunday Club, Monday Tots and a monthly coffee morning. It was also used to host a church youth group but space is very limited. These rooms are also rented out mainly to village associations.

Upstairs is our Parish Office which is currently open on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. Another office is let out on a three-year lease, which provides us with a regular income.

Work on the building both internal and external has been carried out over the last 20 years so it is in pretty good condition (external painting was completed in May 2020). The building lacks storage space and its usefulness is limited by the size of the rooms. Recently a feasibility study was carried out to see if it could be extended but following consultation with the local district council (Wealden) it was concluded that it was not feasible.

The day-to-day running of London House is managed by a small committee. Building works are covered by the fabric committee. The church has no other meeting place apart from the Church itself.

### Churchyard

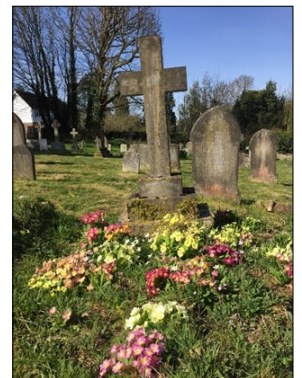
The churchyard remains open for burials and is one of the largest in Sussex. We receive a grant from the Parish council to cover a percentage of the maintenance currently carried out by a groundsman



under contract. We also receive support from the three other churches within the village: Colkins Mill Church, St Thomas' Roman Catholic church and Mayfield Baptist Church; and also The Friends of Mayfield



Churchyard. One particular feature of the churchyard is the largest labyrinth in East Sussex but we struggle to maintain it.



# FINANCE

St Dunstan's has been well supported financially over the last twenty years, especially by the gift of two major legacies. This has enabled the renewal of parts of St Dunstan's, and the essential structural repair of the South Aisle roof, which was partly paid for from a successful appeal last year to raise £100,000. Substantial reserves remain, and these have been committed not only to work on the Fabric but also to pay for the increased ministry to the young and families in the Parish through the employment of a Youth Worker. A local Trust has recently committed to augment the PCC's resources and fund the costs of employing a Youth and Family Worker for a period of three years.

The Parish has been able to pay 100% of our Parish Share. In recent years, however, annual income, largely derived from Parish Giving, has not been sufficient to cover the day to day ongoing costs of the Parish. The PCC wishes to bring this into balance and a Stewardship Campaign 'Our Church, Our Challenge, Our Choice' was launched community-wide in July 2020 in an attempt to redress this.

In addition to the General Fund there are a number of Restricted Funds which have resources to support the maintenance of the organ (the Organ Trust), aspects of musical life within the church (the Bruxner Randall Trust), and the Churchyard.

The accounts for the last year are available for review.

There are also a number of independent charities whose purpose is to support the Fabric of St Dunstan's church, its Churchyard, and religious life in the immediate area surrounding the Parish, from which the PCC receive grants from time to time.

The PCC currently employs three people: the Director of Music, parish administrator and a cleaner for London House.

# SECTION 6

## WHAT WE HOPE TO BECOME OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The 2020 Coronavirus pandemic has changed our lives individually, as a church family, as a community, as a nation and globally. It has given us time to think where we are, and where we are headed.

A PCC SWOT analysis helped to inform this document and revealed the following:

### STRENGTHS

- ◇ A welcoming church with friendly, willing and active congregation
- ◇ A beautiful, well maintained and constantly monitored Grade I listed church open to the village community and visitors alike from 9am to 5pm offering a still oasis for reflection during busy days, but also looking to accommodate ever-changing requirements
- ◇ Exceptional choir and musical heritage
- ◇ Financially well-endowed PCC including 3 years funding for Youth and Family Worker

### WEAKNESSES

- ◇ Reluctance to embrace different styles of worship
- ◇ Ageing congregation
- ◇ Inability to balance our annual income and expenditure
- ◇ A PCC which has not always maximised its potential due to not always working in a collaborative manner

### OPPORTUNITIES

- ◇ For outreach
  - to capitalise on the good will of those in the village who do not come to church on a regular basis but support major festivals and various appeals, and to embrace those who may now worship elsewhere
  - to continue the good relations we have with our church schools with greater attention given to participation on the Weald Federation Board of Governors. It is hoped that our new priest will consider being a Board Governor
  - to further develop the good relations we have with local organisations
  - to continue to recognise and take advantage of the technological opportunities we have utilised during the Covid-19 lockdown
- ◇ To employ a Youth and Family Worker
- ◇ To create more diverse ways of worship that offer those with a sprouting interest in knowing Christ the opportunity to move forward, one step at a time

### THREATS

- ◇ Remaining static through an inability to accept change



# OUR CHURCH, OUR CHALLENGE, OUR CHOICE

Our recent Stewardship Campaign succinctly stated the following aims as key to our immediate future:

- extend our ministry of teaching and nurture in Christian understanding and faith
- provide increased support for our local families and young children
- further develop our relationships with community organisations
- encourage and develop more varied patterns of worship and outreach to attract a wider audience

**We hope to be able to explore together  
what this vision will look like**

**for the future of our  
church.**

