

PROFILE
The Parishes of
Northchapel, Lurgashall and Ebernoe



St. Michael and All Angels, Northchapel



St. Laurence, Lurgashall



Holy Trinity, Ebernoe

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Welcome

Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith

In 2025 this diocese celebrates the 950th anniversary of witness and evangelisation from a mission base in Chichester, building on the earlier mission founded by St Wilfrid at Selsey.

2025 also marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea with its reminder of the formative claim upon us of the catholic creeds.

These anniversaries are more than historical footnotes. They speak powerfully about the richness of faith and mission that is our inheritance locally and universally.

Inspired by that inheritance, we seek to be a household of faith that is endlessly curious about how the Holy Scriptures and the sacraments of the New Covenant enable us to know, love and follow Jesus Christ in today's noisy and distracted world.

If God is calling you to join us in the task of proclaiming the mystery of faith in some part of this diocese, we pray that the contribution of your gifts and experience will enrich our witness and deepen your own discipleship.

+Martin

Introduction

We are three rural parishes, across two Benefices, in West Sussex, in the Deanery of Petworth, Diocese of Chichester. Our Churches are all in the South Downs National Park and we have Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a unique nature reserve. The villages are about four miles north of Petworth and approximately 20 miles from the beautiful Cathedral which is the Mother Church of our Diocese.



A view over parts of the three Parishes from Black Down

*You came, looked and loved the view,
Long known and loved by me,
Green Sussex fading into blue,
With one grey glimpse of sea.*

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, a former parishioner of Lurgashall

Who are we?

Our Parishes are Northchapel, Lurgashall and Ebernoe. We are a small but active group of Churches each serving its own local community. Whilst recognising the individual character of each community we work well together and are looking to further develop and strengthen the relationship that exists between us. We share a vision for the future and are praying for a Priest who will explore and develop that vision, helping us articulate and further it.

Our Parishes each have distinctly different characteristics but with a community spirit and an enthusiasm for our Churches. We are a sociable community who come together for many annual celebrations. We believe that the Church is at our centre and we want to grow and develop our Church life. We are open to change – and pray that our new parish priest will listen to, and lead us, helping us find our way as we move forward in our faith and outreach.

We will give our new Priest as much support as possible and help him or her to get to know the parishioners and be fully involved in village life.

What can we offer our new Priest?

The Rectory is a comfortable modern house in the village centre of Northchapel. Views from the Rectory are across beautiful rolling countryside.

The Parish Office has historically been accommodated in the Rectory building.

St Michael's Church is adjacent to the Rectory. The Northchapel shop, school, village hall and pub are all within walking distance, but there is no public transport between the Parishes and so being a car driver is essential.

The three Parishes have strong and effective Parochial Church Councils (PCCs). Because of the very different characteristics of each Parish, we regard it as essential for each of them to retain their PCCs. The Priest in Charge is the Chair of each PCC.

The parish magazines for each Parish are an excellent forum for communication and the Parish Priest is asked for a regular contribution.

We offer the new Priest in Charge our full support and encouragement in promoting new approaches to rural ministry with all its joys and frustrations. We are open to change and progress, whilst wishing to maintain worship in all three of our Church communities. The pattern and rhythm of worship across the two Benefices is something that we know will need early consideration.

What do we hope and pray our new Priest will be able to offer us?

We are looking for a Priest who will enjoy living and working in our community. We would like him or her to be as active and visible as possible in the life of all three villages. We do recognise that as a House for Duty parish priest there will be limitations of time and the need for prioritizing aspects of ministry across the three Parishes enabling them to focus as well as to relish living across our communities. We believe that the demands on the Parish Priest will be compensated for by the warm welcome he / she will receive in each community, by the support which he / she will receive and by the joys of living in this part of the country.

The Priest will be a central figure in each of our distinct and socially diverse communities.

We therefore hope and pray a new Priest could offer:

- Pastoral care as the main plank of their ministry
- Worship that is broadly middle of the road with a focus on reaching out to the community and involving them in gatherings and family friendly services.
- Open hearted and welcoming attitude to all.
- Good communication skills.
- Pro-active leadership.
- Understanding the nature of rural life in the 21st century.
- Flexibility, drive and enthusiasm to develop and harness the skills and generosity of our village communities.
- Visibility within each Parish

We are looking forward to working with, as well as being enriched and challenged by, the talents and gifts which our new Priest will bring.

About each Parish

St Michael and All Angels, Northchapel

Northchapel Village

Northchapel is situated in the north-western corner of Sussex and is within easy reach of London and Surrey. The population of Northchapel, about 900 persons, is predominantly families with 56% under the age of 44 and only 15% above 65.

The parish covers 3,500 acres. Two miles to the west of Northchapel the highest point in Sussex, Black Down frames the horizon. The western part of the parish is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is within the South Downs National Park. The gently rolling landscape to the east is equally beautiful, with open fields, hedgerows, and abundant woodland.

The main road, the A283, divides the village in a north/south direction.

There are listed buildings in the village centre and many of these are vernacular timber-framed houses, some clad with the traditional brick and tile familiar to this part of Sussex. Others are Georgian or Victorian, and this gives the village its distinctive character. However, more recently three separate estates of public housing were constructed and these properties provide the majority of residential accommodation. Owing to its proximity to employment areas and the lovely countryside the village is a popular residential area for working people and their families.

The village hall hosts amongst other things a monthly lunch club, fund raising quizzes and an annual flower and produce show. A grocery shop with post office provides essential supplies and socialising takes place at the village club and the Half Moon inn. A community sports club arranges league football and the traditional Sussex game of stoolball on the village green. It is pursuing development of an all-weather facility to enable sport through the winter months.



Northchapel Village Sign

The Churches of Northchapel and Ebernoe publish a Parish magazine which features a lead article by the Priest together with details of services and local news.

Northchapel Village School

Importantly Northchapel has a successful primary school with a pre-school nursery together with Elm Club which is available each day after the school day. The school plays a big part in village life and uses the Church on several occasions each year. The school is accredited as a Forest school and pupils pursue outdoor woodcraft and ecology activities on a piece of Church glebe land.



Christmas Village Lunch in the Hall

Our headmistress Deborah Coggin says:

“There is a wonderful opportunity for the Vicar at Northchapel to be involved with our local, little school in a number of ways. We feel it is very important to cherish a link with our Church, even though we are a Community School, and are open to working alongside the Priest in any areas they would like to share in school life. Northchapel Primary School includes children from Lurgashall, Ebernoe and Northchapel as well as other families who drive in from Petworth and Haslemere.

“Here are some of the ways in which the Priest could get involved:

- *We love to celebrate services in the Church three times a year along with all our families. We invite the Priest to take part in these services at Harvest, Christmas and Easter, which happen within the school day. We are happy for the Priest to give a short, (interactive if possible) talk to the children during these services and to lead prayers and the blessing at the end.*



***Children's Choir
at the Carol
Service, with The
Reverend Jack
Mulder***

- *We hold assemblies during the week in school and would love the Priest to have a regular input. This could mean once a term, once a half term or more often depending on the skills and interest of the Priest. It is also lovely to be able to invite the Priest in at the start of new terms to give a prayer of blessing during the first assembly of that term.*
- *The whole staff team as well as the children value the chance to get to know the Priest and feel able to chat, so we welcome visits at playtimes giving the chance to chat informally to children and to have a coffee with staff. This builds positive relationships and enables the Priest to feel a part of the school community.*
- *During the year we hold a number of key events such as our Christmas and summer fayres as well as music concerts, sharing assemblies and Christmas parties. We would welcome visits from the Priest at these events as a way of building relationships with the school community, both adults and children and with local families.*

“We hope that as Priest in the village you would feel welcome in our school and would also value the opportunity to get to know us and work alongside us, taking an interest in key events as appropriate”

St Michael and All Angels Church

The Church is loved by parishioners and visitors for its peace, quiet and charming south-facing Churchyard. A young couple that recently re-settled in the village from London remarked on how welcoming the congregation and Priest have been. Visitors, some of whom have come from as far as the USA and Australia, have made comments such as: *“a beautiful solace”* and *“a haven of tranquility in this crazy world”* and a visitor from Poland remarked *“a beautiful Church, peaceful and full of spirit”*.

North Chapel was previously within the Parish of Petworth and worship took place in a chapel. Full parochial status was granted in 1691. In 1926, the Parishes of North Chapel and Ebernoe were joined but retain separate PCCs. The present Church is the result of a major rebuilding project in the nineteenth century. It is the only building for worship by any faith in the parish.

In 2010 the parishes were partnered with the nearby parish of St Laurence, Lurgashall. Since then the work of the past two incumbents has made good progress in aligning services and commonality of worship. In July 2018 St Michael's celebrated 300 years as an independent parish, which was marked by a special service attended by past incumbents and Lord Egremont who is Patron of the parish.

Worship is in a straightforward and accessible form reflecting the nature of a rural community and small congregation. It is sensitive to the broad range of parishioners who may be of different traditions and denominations. Involvement of parishioners in services has been actively encouraged - for example assisting with the chalice, readings and delivery of family services. Services are in rotation with our sister parishes with Holy Communion at Northchapel on two Sundays each month commencing at 1030 a.m. Refreshments are usually offered after the first service of the month. There is an occasional choir for special occasions such as the carol service and an organist plays for at least one service per month.

The war memorial is within the Church and the congregation takes pride in a carefully conducted service on Remembrance Sunday.



The Sanctuary at St Michael's



The St. Francis Window

During the 1990s, the fabric of the Church was found to be in need of restoration. A major fundraising effort was undertaken and with the help of lottery funding, the works were completed by the end of 2000. With the aid of a grant from the millennium bell fund a new bell frame together with five bells was installed and a sixth bell was installed later. A team under the supervision of the tower captain rings the bells before most services.

An important feature is the stained-glass window of St Francis by the noted artist Wilhelmina Geddes at the western end of the north aisle.

The last quinquennial inspection took place in 2019 and some works of general repair and maintenance are required which are in hand with the architect. More extensive work to the shingle-clad spire will be the subject of a fund-raising appeal. A well-supported monthly working party helps with maintenance both in the Church and Churchyard.

Our Village Bonfire which is held on the last Saturday of October originated in the church glebe land but outgrew the area and is now held on the green and is enjoyed by old and young alike.

Village Events



*The Village Bonfire
on The Green*



*Some of the Queen's
Platinum Jubilee
celebrations*



*Guests at the re-
ception following
the Tercentenary
Service in 2018*



What we hope a new Priest will be able to offer us

We hope that our new Priest will fundamentally be faithful in prayer, diligent in preparing for worship with an overriding desire to be a loving pastor to God's people in this place.

He or she should be prepared to participate in the life of the village and to treat this as being part and parcel of an effective ministry. He or she should:

- Provide worship that reflects the varying needs of our broadly middle of the road attendees with a focus on reaching out to the community and relating to all social groups. Common Worship is of course in use. Family worship in a modern, innovative and accessible form has also been provided and needs to be sustained; however, there are older members of the congregation for whom traditional forms of worship are important. Offering choice between the new and old forms of service will sustain broad interest in worship.
- Be openhearted, caring and welcoming to all.
- Provide faithful leadership combined with good communication and listening skills.

The Priest will be a central figure in the community. In particular, he or she should be willing to connect with the social support agencies and be involved with social inclusion during the course of ministry. The applicant must be comfortable with the realities of providing pastoral care in a village of a wide range of social and economic backgrounds and differing attitudes.

Links

Northchapel Parish Council

<https://www.northchapel-pc.org.uk/>

Northchapel County Primary School

<http://www.schoolwire.co.uk/public/northchapel456.html>

St. Laurence, Lurgashall

The picturesque village of Lurgashall is centred on the large village green around which are located the thriving Church of St Laurence, a community shop and a popular pub. The Green and the outlying hamlets of Roundhurst, Dial Green and Hillgrove form the parish of Lurgashall which is extensive in terms of area but with a relatively small population of about 600. The parish, which is in the South Downs National Park, includes the large National Trust protected area of Black Down, which has the highest ground in the south of England

The Church

● *Services at St Laurence*

Christians have been worshipping at St Laurence's for over 1200 years. Our Eucharist services are held at 10.00 am each Sunday morning with a joint service when there is a fifth Sunday in the month. This is celebrated in rotation at

St Michael's Northchapel, Holy Trinity Ebernoe or at St Laurence's. In addition, there are special services held at Lurgashall to mark Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday as well as weddings, baptisms and funerals. All details can be found on our website and in *Lurgashall News*.

● *Tradition of Worship*

The tradition of worship at St Laurence could best be described as middle of the road Anglican. The congregation is traditionally minded, but by no means resistant to change. It is not inclined to the evangelical but has been prepared to embrace more modern ideas without losing sight of traditional forms. We use Common Worship (Traditional Language) during our Sunday Eucharist and hold occasional services (either Mattins, said Communion or Evensong) from the Book of Common Prayer. Specially written family services are held on Mothering Sunday, for the annual Pet Service, and the Christingle, Carol and Christmas Day services.

Our church is kept open twenty-four hours a day for anyone who wishes to come for prayer or quiet reflection.



Cricket on The Green



St. Laurence

● ***The Church Community***

The regular Churchgoing community is supportive, loyal, caring and most welcoming to newcomers and visitors. We have regular Sunday service attendance averaging 14 - 20 parishioners and swelling to over 250 on high days and Festivals.

Our Electoral Roll for 2022 has 117 adult names, with actual churchgoers ranging in age from 0 - 99.



Hunting for space on Christmas morning



...even the choir stalls filled up with the congregation

● ***Other Activities***

Covid obviously had a big impact on our worship but since then we have made some important additions and changes to the life of the church.

- A Hardship Fund has been set up with the express purpose of giving help to parishioners in need. This is generously supported by the village.
- We now offer coffee and biscuits after each service and this has proved to be very popular, giving everyone the chance to meet and talk.
- More varied services have been introduced, including occasional Evensong and Mattins.
- On the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee, and later following her death, special services were held which were much appreciated and well attended.
- The church building is being used for more 'non-service' events so as to encourage more people to visit this beautiful building, even if not for worship.
- To assist in this, we have agreed to install a lavatory. Permission is still being sought.
- The importance of the church being central to Lurgashall was made apparent when almost five hundred people recently attended a Thanksgiving Service for a much loved member of the village.
- A popular annual Harvest Supper is held at the Village Hall following the Harvest Festival Service.



Nativity Play in a barn by the Church



After the Pets' Service

● ***Supporting Groups***

A large number of villagers together make up our dependable groups of sidesmen, volunteer sacristans, cleaners, flower arrangers, brass cleaners and a monthly working party who maintain the churchyard.

● ***The Church Building***

The Church is originally Saxon with many later additions and is set in an extensive and peaceful Churchyard which is bounded by fields and woods. Inside it is quiet and simple; the visitors' book has many comments on the beauty and peace of the Church.

The fabric of the building is in a very good condition and is well looked after. The last Quinquennial inspection was in April 2019, and all recommended work was completed by 2021. Arrangements are already in hand for the next inspection due in April 2024. We are not aware of any major problems likely to be disclosed, apart from some concerns about the cedar shingles cladding the spire.

● ***Church Finances***

The Church finances are in a healthy state with good reserves. However there has been a deficit on current account over the years 2021 and 2022. The budget for 2023 shows a small surplus. Although cut back for 2023, the Parish has consistently met 100% or more of its Diocesan Quota over the last years.

The Lurgashall Village Community

The demographic pattern of Lurgashall shows a largely residential population with a few commuters and weekenders.

The community comes together not only to help in the church and as volunteers in the village shop, but also to arrange a host of activities such as a hugely successful annual fete, a horticultural show, and an arts and craft exhibition. There is a Horticultural Club, monthly lunches, teas and film screenings and book clubs. More details about village life can be found on the village website at www.lurgashall.org and in *Lurgashall News*. This is a joint initiative of the church and the parish council (jointly funded by those organisations) which is published each month and circulated free of charge to all parishioners. It provides essential reading to keep up with the village activities.

*Lurgashall Village Shop
and Post Office*



The Noah's Ark pub

Other Aspects of Lurgashall

Apart from the Church there are the other centres of activity within the Parish, as follows:

- ***Lurgashall Village Shop and Post Office***

This has been trading for over 120 years. In March 2018, a new not-for-profit community organisation took over the running and management of the shop supported by an enthusiastic team of volunteers.

- ***The Noah's Ark***

This is a 16th century pub, serving delicious seasonal food and local beers with a friendly service. The front garden overlooks the village green making it a wonderful place to sit during the summer months and watch the cricket.

- ***The Village Hall***

This is another hub of village life and is situated just off the Green. It is fitted out with a large, well equipped kitchen, disabled facilities and excellent audio-visual equipment. The community comes together here for the monthly lunches, teas, film nights and occasional bingo evenings. It is regularly used for exercise classes, children's parties, dinners, performances and exhibitions.

- ***The Jubilee Field***

This former glebe land was bought from the Diocese in 2011 through funds donated by villagers and various grants. The open space is owned by Lurgashall Recreation Association, a charitable body with the aim of providing sporting facilities for inhabitants of the village.

What is it like to live in Lurgashall?

We asked a handful of villagers to tell you what it is like to live in our beautiful village:

“I have lived in Lurgashall for over 60 years and can truthfully say that this is a charming village set in outstanding countryside. It is a thriving community centred on the Church, shop and pub. My wife and I have worshipped here for all this time and are certain that you will find us a very welcoming Parish”.

Laurence Reed, Retired Churchwarden

“I have looked after the Noah’s Ark for some 15 years now and feel very fortunate to have had such a long and happy association with this outstanding pretty village and the local community who have supported us”.

Amy Coghlan, Landlord of The Noah’s Ark

“In October 2017 the risk of closure to the Village Shop was brought to the attention of the parish and since then it has been a remarkable journey of generosity, enthusiasm and dogged determination to ensure its future. The Village Shop is now about to start its second year of trading as a community shop and this has only been made possible by the many parishioners who have given up time to make it happen. Currently the shop is supported by thirty volunteers, two part time staff and a team of five management directors. Those who were unable to volunteer to work at the shop have shown their support by patronising the store with their custom. The shop has become one of the busy social hubs of the village and brought together many people from different generations, making new friendships and acquaintances.”

Sophie Jowett, Lurgashall Community Shop and Post Office



The approach to St. Laurence through the Churchyard

Holy Trinity Ebernoe

Ebernoe *“This enchanted improbable place”* says Ian Nairn.
 “People are very proud to have come from Ebernoe” Lord Egremont.

Ebernoe is a contradiction between old and modern.

The Parish Council was only established in 1987; the Church is only 150 years old. However, the annual Ebernoe Horn Fair was originally a custom from the Middle Ages and some of the Ebernoe houses date to the same period. There are two industrial estates dating from the 1980’s and many home businesses using latest technology. Changes have come; residents have often retired to Ebernoe or travel quite long distances to work.



*The 2018 Horn Fair -
The Revd. Peter Hayes
is fourth from left*

“The Village still has character and beauty “ Lord Egremont.

Ebernoe is situated 4 miles north of Petworth and adjoins Northchapel and Lurgashall Parishes to the north and west and Kirdford and Petworth to the east and south. It is a sprawling village with about 100 dwellings and 200 inhabitants. There are three distinct hamlets: Balls Cross, Ebernoe and Colhook. It’s about 2-3 miles from west to east.

Holy Trinity Church is at its centre but even our Church is tucked away among the trees. The Churchyard abuts the Sussex Wildlife Trust owned Ebernoe Common Nature Reserve. The two other focal points are the Stag Inn at Balls Cross and the cricket ground. The cricket club looks after and maintains the village green. Cricket at Ebernoe is almost unique in that the public road runs through the ground. Stoolball is played by the enthusiastic ladies of the parish. The layout of Ebernoe if anything does much to enhance the generous community spirit and above all the residents love to come together for a party. Ebernoe has amazing community spirit and the Church is extraordinarily supported by not only current residents but also wider families of long standing residents.



*The village Darts
Team outside
The Stag*

The Holy Trinity Church Community

The Church community is faithful, sociable and steadfast. The support the Church receives is generous and enthusiastic. On many Sundays the congregation may not be numerous, perhaps sometimes between 15 - 20. However, for Services such as Christmas, Easter and the Carol Service the Church is always packed.

Because the Church is always open 24/7 many call in for prayers and a quiet time. Indeed on Horn Fair day, which is July 25th (St. James's Day) many families make their annual pilgrimage to Ebernoe and visit the Church as well as watch the cricket.

Community use of the Church includes holding meetings of the Parish Council and holding seminars for those visiting the Nature Reserve. We know we must not be complacent about the future of our Church and in the last year we have debated how to make the Church building even more used by a wider community. We are planning to enable a wider use by installing a toilet in the future. We are currently pressing to ensure broadband is connected to the church. We have strong links with the Sussex Wildlife Trust who own much of the woodland around the church.



Holy Trinity Ebernoe hosts the Bishop of Chichester

Worship at Ebernoe Church.

We share our booklets of Common Worship and Hymnal with Northchapel. We also have a combined Carol Service format with Northchapel and the choir is convened for this service from both villages. We at present have a service on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. As a traditionally agricultural Parish we also celebrate Plough Sunday, Rogation, Lammas and Harvest with an even-song. We have services for Easter, Christmas and Remembrance.

We work closely with our sister Churches at Northchapel and Lurgashall to plan our services and meet the needs of our villagers. Weddings, funerals and baptisms are tailored to meet the needs of families. Many comment on the close family feeling in the Church.

Those who love our Church.

Quotes from the visitors' book

"A place of peace and happy memories"

"Cared for with love"

"All is as it should be here, a church that is open and welcoming to all"

We are blessed by hard work and support for Holy Trinity Ebernoe both as a Church building and as a Christian community. A wonderful team of volunteers clean the Church and does the flowers on a rota basis. The Churchyard is maintained to enhance the outstanding wildflowers which include very rare orchids. This is done by willing volunteers. Others deliver the Parish Magazine to every house in the village. Our new administrator is going to get our web site up and running.

In recent years the support for fundraising has been stalwart and successful. Last year we had a golf day, a Harvest Festival auction of produce and a Christmas raffle and raised funds by donation at the Platinum Jubilee. We successfully launched the Parish Giving Scheme in 2017 and also promoted it again in 2022. We also have been blessed by very generous donations.



*Christmas 2022
in Holy Trinity*



Pet Service 2023

We are happy to support charities as well as support the church itself. During 2022 funds were raised for:

The Royal British Legion
The Family Support Network
Macmillan Cancer Care

The Trussell Trust and Local Food Bank
Canine Partners
Petworth Community Hospital

Other Ebernoe highlights and village life

Horn Fair is a major annual highlight and we would very much appreciate our new Priest's involvement on the day. It is the proceeds from this day which enable the Cricket Club to run itself and to maintain voluntarily the village green. Stoolball and cricket have been played on the green for many years and are enthusiastically supported.

The Stag Inn is really important to the village and is a true local pub. This reflects the country enthusiasm of Ebernoe people. Boxing Day sees a huge turn out to greet the local hunt which stops mid-way through the day at the pub.

In 2022 we had a great celebration for the Queen's platinum jubilee. Everyone came together on the cricket green and a lovely party was enjoyed by all. The service of thanksgiving for the life of Queen Elizabeth was appreciated and the condolence book completed by just under 100 villagers. Plans are afoot to celebrate the coronation of King Charles.

During the past year a number of new church services have been introduced which have proved popular and are planned to be further developed. The carols on the green are here to stay. "Back to school", Pimms and Hymns, Pet service and traditional evensong have augmented our four agricultural services.

The choir is excellent, and is combined with Northchapel and sings at notable events such as the annual carol service. This year they will sing at evensong on the eve of the King's coronation.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations on The Green including an enthusiastic Tug-of-War



The parish council is proactive and one of the Churchwardens is currently the chair. Two defibrillators have been supplied. Arrangements are made for snow clearance where the County Council does not have responsibility. The Village has recently taken part in the County Council's "what if project". This tests community resilience and provides equipment for use in emergency. The lead tutor made the comment "*Ebernoe is full of the ethos of self-help. People know each other and go out of their way to assist others*"

Holy Trinity Church building and finance

The quinquennial report has recently (January 2023) been commissioned and is awaited. The roof was completely replaced in 2020. Few works are likely to be identified this time although repairs to the church yard outer wall may be needed. Electrical certificate was issued in 2022. The 2018 recent report highlighted the lack of disabled access.

The financial position of Holy Trinity is strong due to fund raising, donations and the parish giving scheme.

The Parochial church council (PCC) is lively, meetings are well attended. There are no problems in filling any vacancies. Safeguarding is always on agendas and the safeguarding officer is appointed annually.

"Ye shall observe my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary"
From Leviticus: sign inscribed over the Chancel



Plough Sunday 2023 with Canon John Bundock

The Rectory

Northchapel Rectory is a spacious four-bedroomed family house, constructed in 1989. It is well built and insulated and is in a very sunny position with fine views to the south over the Churchyard.

Downstairs, leading off the entrance hall, there is a large sitting room with french windows opening on to the garden. There is also a separate dining room. There is a well-appointed kitchen and utility room.



Also at this level, and before entering the main house, there is an entrance lobby from which access is gained to the Office/study on one side and a cloakroom on the other. This arrangement is completely shut off from the accommodation by an internal front door which can be separately locked. The office currently contains a large safe for the important registers and filing cabinets for each Parish's documentation. There is a phone line in the name of the Parish for the use of the office and the parish priest, together with fast broadband internet access.

Upstairs there are four good-sized bedrooms, a family bathroom and a box room for storage.

The house has oil fired central heating and all other services. It is maintained by the Diocese and has a regular schedule of redecoration.

Externally there is a pleasant garden facing south. There is also a double garage and log storage. The Church of St Michael and All Angels is a mere twenty yards from the front door across a parking area which is used by those attending services.

Northchapel is approximately five miles from Haslemere railway station, which is on the main Waterloo to Portsmouth line. There are very frequent services, reaching London in under the hour.

Conclusion

This Profile has been prepared by the PCC's of all three Parishes and we very much hope that it conveys the true character of our Benefices. We also hope that it will prove attractive to you as a potential new House for Duty Priest in Charge, and that it will have explained what it is that we need from you for the spiritual development of our community.

As part of this process, we have carried out an analysis to help identify strengths and areas of opportunity and to be self-critical of our weaknesses.

Strengths:

- Strong community spirit.
- Friendly, inclusive and caring folk who are happy to make time to help and support others.
- Lovely rural setting in villages surrounded by farm land.
- Village school at Northchapel with outstanding leadership.
- Village shop at Northchapel and recently opened Community shop at Lurgashall.
- Well supported pubs in each village.
- Village halls at Lurgashall and Northchapel.
- Thriving Club in Northchapel with coffee morning twice monthly
- Very successful lunch clubs.
- Sports grounds in each village.
- Youth Club in Northchapel
- Many small rural business enterprises including business parks.
- Strong links with Parish Councils in each village.
- Strong support for church activities.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of opportunities for teenagers
- Many Church stalwarts increasingly elderly.
- Few young children as part of the Church community
- Poor public transport
- Some are put off coming to Church because of perceived "not for me" feelings.

Opportunities:

- Retain the core strength of each Parish and build on it.
- Reach out to new families and inspire involvement in the Church.
- Make sure that each Church is truly welcoming and that full use is made of the buildings.

Threat:

Possible decline in attendance if the age profile of congregations continues to rise.

We pray that, if you are the priest being called to serve us, you will hear the call joyfully and respond with confidence and hopeful expectation in all that God has already prepared for us.