

The United Benefice of
HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD
and
ST. MARY MAGDALENE
BOLNEY



**Profile for the Appointment of an
HOUSE FOR DUTY, ASSOCIATE VICAR AT
CUCKFIELD AND BOLNEY WITH
PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOLNEY**



From the Bishop of Chichester

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 Wilfred 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.

Rt. Rev'd. Dr. Martin Warner

Bishop of Chichester

From the Vicar of Cuckfield and Bolney

Bolney embodies the quintessential charm of England. With its picturesque landscapes, it is an exceptionally desirable village to reside in. At its core, St. Mary Magdalene Church has been a landmark for over 900 years, attracting people not only for its beauty but also for the vibrant, supportive, and enjoyable community life it fosters. Despite its modest population of around 1,300, Bolney boasts a lively village atmosphere, as highlighted in the Bolney Parish Magazine.

The role on offer is a wonderful opportunity— a delightful and manageable House for Duty position situated within a community abound with talented and generous individuals. Additionally, being part of a larger team in Cuckfield ensures that the right candidate will not feel isolated, offering an open invitation for collaboration and prayer with the team as necessary.

The Parish of St. Mary Magdalene in Bolney places great emphasis on community spirit. All the essential elements to nurture a thriving worship centre are present, ready for someone with vision and leadership to help it prosper. As a newcomer, I am constantly discovering the untapped potential here. Although our congregation is small, it is deeply devoted and affectionate. The adjacent Church of England primary school is closely connected with the church and is keen to engage even more. Our enthusiastic Church Wardens, Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, and PCC are eager to work alongside a new Associate Priest. The Rawson Hall and the village pub act as true centres of community life.

The wider ministry team, located at Holy Trinity, Cuckfield, and I are eager to collaborate closely with you and provide support as colleagues in this rewarding position. Should you wish to discuss this opportunity further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With every blessing.

The Rev'd. Daniel Valentine

Vicar

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the vacancy for the post of Associate Priest in the United Benefice of Cuckfield and Bolney.

Cuckfield and Bolney are two adjacent communities at the centre of the Diocese of Chichester, in the Deanery of Cuckfield and in the heart of Mid Sussex. They are flourishing residential communities with good access to local and regional resources. The benefice now seeks a house for duty priest to assist the newly appointed incumbent, the Rev'd. Daniel Valentine, in leading the parishes in preaching the gospel, administering the sacraments and providing pastoral ministry to all ages. The primary focus of the role will be in the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Bolney, with an expectation of ministering two days per week in addition to Sundays.



Our new Priest

We are seeking a priest who . . .

- Is deeply devoted and can help us grow both numerically and spiritually.
- Possesses strong and inspiring communication skills, capable of engaging people of all ages.
- Adapts to various forms of worship, including BCP, traditional, and All Age Services with enthusiastic support from congregations in Cuckfield and Bolney.
- Is eager to collaborate with local schools and actively nurture the church-school relationship, including serving as a governor at the neighbouring church primary school.
- Is enthusiastic about working with the children's minister in Cuckfield to make St. Mary Magdalene an appealing option for children and their families.
- Wishes to be involved in the village and play a leading role in our village community.
- Can help us realise our vision of becoming an attractive, caring, growing church at the heart of our community.
- Can work independently in Bolney while also contributing as a team member to the wider United Benefice.

Cuckfield and Bolney – Mid Sussex Wealden communities



Cuckfield and Bolney are two communities in the heart of Sussex, set on the edge of the High Weald, an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Both are lively, vibrant and flourishing communities, conscious of their history yet embracing the present.

The Parish of Bolney serves a small, beautiful village community. The village centre is a designated Conservation Area with the surrounding areas of farms, woods and heathland designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The village has a well-stocked shop at the local garage on Cowfold Road, a pub with a history dating back many years, a Church of England school, and a village green with an active cricket club. In recent years it has seen a growth in the housing stock with an influx of younger people. It boasts a wine estate, and thanks to the endeavours of the local community, a village centre - The Rawson Hall. This has proved a great asset for the parish, providing state-of-the-art sports facilities, a stage for arts and drama, meeting rooms and a community café which has become an important meeting point in the village.

The neighbouring old market town of Cuckfield climbs northward from the medieval church through the busy high street towards small well planned twentieth century developments. There is a well-developed sense of community sustained through many different organisations. Cuckfield offers a range of recreational facilities include cricket, rugby, football, tennis and golf.

Both Cuckfield and Bolney are mainly residential. However, commercial and business activity is to be found in the neighbouring town of Haywards Heath and other central Sussex communities such as Burgess Hill, Crawley, East Grinstead and Horsham, all within easy reach.

The area enjoys excellent road and rail links to London, Brighton and Gatwick and is well placed for Sussex amenities including several National Trust properties, theatre and music at Glyndebourne, Brighton and Chichester, a choice of golf clubs, hotels and restaurants and professional football at both Brighton and Crawley.

In 2011 the population of the benefice was 5,884, 20% of whom were under the age of 15 and only 9% over the age of 75. Just under 50% of the working population of Cuckfield are in professional or managerial occupations, reflecting the educational attainment of the population, 42% achieving a first degree or equivalent. *[C of E Statistics, based on 2011 Census]*

The ecclesiastical parish of Bolney covers a large rural area centred on the village and bisected by the A23 and A272 roads, extending towards the villages of Cowfold, Twineham and Warninglid.

The Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene



Our vision is to be an inspirational, inclusive and supportive Church, where every member of our community is valued in a safe and caring environment at the heart of Bolney. The church is situated above the village, adjacent to the village school. Our church tradition strikes a harmonious balance between tradition and a 'middle of the road' approach, welcoming diverse spiritualities. We pride ourselves on fostering a blend of emotion, intellect and honest inquiry.

Our well-maintained church building has strong links with a local free church (Bolney Village Chapel) but primarily sees itself as a traditional Parish church, serving all who live in the village. We extend a warm welcome to all on their faith journey, not only for Sunday worship but also for significant life events such as baptisms, weddings, funerals and remembrance services.

Regular Services

Worship occurs every Sunday at 9:30am; most weeks this is the Parish Eucharist following the Common Worship Order 1. One Sunday each month this is replaced by a service of Word. Currently on Thursdays, a Holy Communion service is held every other week, but we anticipate that with the arrival of the Associate Priest it will return as a weekly service. Our typical Sunday attendance averages 25 and Thursdays draw an average congregation of 10.

Our services are skilfully accompanied by our dedicated organist, Martyn Belsey, and Sunday sermons are published online.



Special Services

There is a well-attended carol service each Christmas and our crib service each year is standing room only.

Bolney Church of England Primary School



The school sits at the heart of the village right next to St. Mary Magdalene Church and the two are not just linked geographically: so much of the school's vision comes from its connection with the church and our motto, 'Be the best you can, guided by God'. Clergy are encouraged to come to the school regularly and to lead assemblies.

Special celebrations throughout the liturgical calendar take place in the church such as Harvest, Easter and Christmas with the school hosting an annual Carol Service and the children joining the congregation for the Crib Service. Pupils support during the Remembrance Service in November and leaders of the churches run a Prayer Space for the school in the Spring Term. Weekly school worship has been led in the church this year, which has helped to develop the pupils' understanding of spirituality through awe and wonder. A school leavers' service takes place in the summer when by tradition pupils are presented with bibles, courtesy of the PCC. A popular feature of this event is a guided ascent of the church tower (66 feet high).



The school has two church ambassadors (pupils) who would relish the opportunity to work alongside the new vicar and they would be very welcome to come to school to lead regular worship as their predecessors have done.

The school's RE curriculum is based around '*Understanding Christianity*' and the '*Emmanuel Project*' with progression of skills and knowledge being developed as the children progress through the school. Our Faith page on the school website has more information on all our links with the church and beyond.

The whole school community looks forward to welcoming the next Associate Priest who will enjoy working with the school as parish priest and governor.

Village Links and Magazine

We publish a well-received monthly Village Magazine that is delivered to every home in the village free of charge. This magazine enjoys strong support from our advertisers and is professionally produced.

Mission and Outreach



As part of our mission and outreach we hold a quarterly market in the Rawson Hall displaying and selling crafts, produce, art and much more made by local talented residents. Free refreshments are offered. It is a time for encouraging residents to get to know each other away from the confines of the church. There is also a thriving Community Cafe open three days a week.

Parish Website



Our church maintains its own website, which serves as a repository for information about all church activities. On this website, you can find a comprehensive history of the parish, a church calendar, a gallery showcasing past church events and recordings of previous sermons - accessible at www.stmarymagdalenebolney.org.uk.

The Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene

The church is typically open daily from 9:00am to late afternoon. It offers Wi-Fi access for relevant internet presentations, as well as a hearing induction loop for those in need. Disabled access and wheelchair use is readily available.

Electoral Roll

The number on roll as at April 2023 is 49, of whom 9 are non-resident.

Parish Team

We have a dedicated, flexible and enthusiastic village team that ensures our beautiful church remains open and ready to serve the village.

Ministry Team

Based in Bolney, our ministry team includes Fr. Martin Mills, a non-stipendiary Assistant Curate and the Rev'd. Ruth Bond, a retired priest with permission to officiate.

We also have a Licensed Reader, Dr. Tony Bond who leads a monthly Service of the Word.

In the broader benefice, we have the Vicar (Incumbent), several retired priests and readers, along with a paid Children and Families Minister and Administrator.

As we continue to improve our collaboration within the benefice, we hope that ministers will feel comfortable working across both parishes.

Lay Team

Our lay team consists of two Churchwardens, a Safeguarding Officer, a dedicated PCC (Parochial Church Council), and an Organist, who also serves as the webmaster.

Additionally, there is a committed team responsible for various tasks such as flowers, cleaning, locking up and Sunday coffee, as well as lay individuals who serve, read lessons and lead intercessions.

Parish Support (Administration)

Administrative tasks within the parish are handled by individuals concerned with various aspects of the church's work, including Churchwardens and the Treasurer. Generally, these responsibilities do not fall to the Associate Priest. There is a paid Administrator based in Cuckfield who can provide some assistance to Bolney. Our church calendar, listing church events and occasions, is available on our website for easy access and updates.



Our Buildings

Historical Development

Bolney is on the ancient London-Brighton road about 11 miles north of Brighton; 6 miles west of Haywards Heath and 8 miles southeast of the market town of Horsham. The main road now bypasses the village to the east. Neither a settlement nor a church was recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. The parish was first recorded as *Bolneya* or *Bolne* in the 13th century, and was one of 12 in the Hundred of Buttinghill in the Rape of Lewes. Despite the absence of earlier written records, some sources date the present church's origins to about 1100, around the start of the Norman era and most others attribute it to that period without specifying a date. The church was built on hilly ground overlooking Bolney from the south and was reached by a twitten (a narrow lane) from the village street. The core of the Norman building consisted of a nave, a narrower chancel set at an angle, one window in the east wall and the doorway in the south wall of the nave. To this was added the main east window in the end of the chancel - a large traceried window dating from about 1300. The south wall of the chancel has a window of a similar date, and on the same wall is a 13th-century piscina. There is much more historical information on the development of the church over the centuries to be found at <https://www.stmarymagdalenebolney.org.uk/info/history/>

St. Mary Magdalene Church was designated a Grade I Listed building on 28 October 1957.

Church Grounds

We maintain an open churchyard, which is criss-crossed by footpaths to the school and glebe field. Visitors are attracted from all parts of the country and across the globe, as evidenced by comments made in the visitors' book. The churchyard is maintained at the PCCs expense with a contribution from Bolney Parish Council. At the current rate of burials, it is estimated the churchyard will reach capacity in about ten years, although there is plenty of space for interment of ashes.



Bells & Tower Clock

The tower has a peal of eight bells and a regular team of ringers who practise on Friday evenings, ring on the Sunday main service and for weddings.

Until 1724, the ring of 8 bells was unique in Sussex. The oldest bell dates back to 1592 and the latest to 1740. The bells were at risk in 1961 when weakness developed in the bell frame, but a successful appeal for funds made it possible to replace it. Unusual feats of bell ringing are recorded in the tower.

The tenor bell bears the inscription - "Unto the Church I doe you call, death to the grave will summon all".

Made by Wm. Potts and Sons of Newcastle on Tyne, the clock was installed in 1897 with a single face on the western wall to commemorate the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria. The clock strikes the quarters using bells 2, 3, 4 and 7 and the tenor bell (No. 8) for the hours.

Bolney Vicarage



The Vicarage is the property of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

The parish covers Council Tax and water charges. The upkeep of the garden, heating and electricity are the responsibility of the priest.

The vicarage, built in the 1960s, stands approximately 50 yards from the church and school.

It boasts an attractive layout with a dining room, living room, kitchen, cloakroom and study on the ground floor.

Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms (one ensuite) and a family bathroom.

The ground floor includes a utility room and garage with parking outside.

The vicarage is well-maintained and in good decorative order.



Finance And Fundraising

The PCC is in the fortunate position of being financially stable thanks to historically careful management and the generosity of former supporters.

We contribute approx. £25,000 annually as our Parish share to the diocese, with payments up-to-date.

Our income in 2023 was approximately £40,000 and we generally break even most years.

Approximately 90% of our income comes from direct donations of which about 75% is tax efficient. The rest is generated through fundraising efforts and grants.

Our largest expense is the Parish Share which accounted for 60% of total expenditure and 55% of total income in 2023.

We have observed a decline in regular giving in recent years, both in terms of the number of contributors and the value of donations. This decline is due to a number of significant givers moving away or dying. By contrast, there is a growing use of PGS (parish giving scheme) by donors, which provides automatic index-linking if opted for and has the great advantage of immediate tax recovery by the scheme, enabling the PCC's bank account to be credited in full monthly. We encourage all forms of digital giving and have recently replaced the card-reader inside the church. This is well-used by regulars and visitors alike. The regular congregation are generally very generous in their giving, helping us to maintain a high level of direct giving income despite a small congregation.

However fundraising remains a significant challenge. Nevertheless, we have confidence in our ability to raise substantial amounts for worthwhile causes, aided by grants where forthcoming.

Our Aims

- Provide weekly inspirational worship, teaching and prayer, as worshipping God is at the core of all we do.
- Encourage individual and collective growth in faith.
- Bless all members of our community.
- Foster closer ties with our school families and the wider community.

Our Opportunities

We have witnessed an increasing influx of younger families attracted by the village's beauty, some modern development, an attractive village lifestyle and highly rated OFSTED inspected village school.

Our Challenges

Through dedicated giving, we maintain financial solvency, although our reserves are low.

We are a small congregation with substantial potential and unwavering support, poised for growth. Our regular giving has seen a decline in recent years, and fundraising remains a significant challenge despite the local community's wealth. We are exploring the establishment of a "Friends" group to rally support for the church.

Overview of the Benefice

The Parishes of Bolney and Cuckfield united under a scheme in 2019, although they maintain their own Parochial Church Councils. The hope is for increased collaboration and a more unified benefice in the future.

Benefice Links

The Associate Priest will join the Benefice Ministry Team.

It is hoped that we will establish regular meetings for prayer and mutual support among benefice ministers.

The team includes the Vicar, four retired priests, three Readers, an Authorized Lay Minister and a Children and Families Minister.

Holy Trinity, Cuckfield



For further information about Holy Trinity please visit our website at www.holytrinitycuckfield.org.

Application Details

If you are interested in this position, you can obtain the application pack and additional information by contacting Imogen Robins, Appointments Secretary & Clergy HR Officer.

imogen.robins@Chichester.Anglican.Org

Telephone: 01243 680254

Address: The Palace, Canon Lane, Chichester, PO19 1PY

Closing date midnight 21st Apr

Shortlisting 24th Apr

Interviews 3rd May

For an informal discussion in relation to the post please contact the Vicar, The Rev'd. Daniel Valentine on 01444 454007, vicar@holytrinitycuckfield.org.

