

Parish Profiles:



Parish of Funtington
with West Stoke
and Sennicotts



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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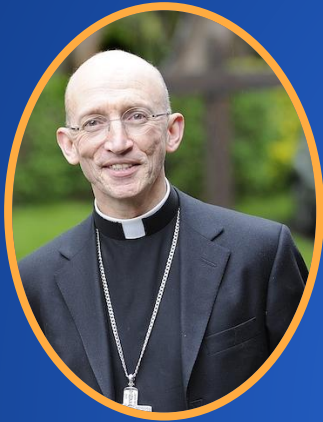


Parish of Chidham

Serving the community for over 800 years



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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.

We take very seriously the call to diversity and radical inclusion as characteristic of the Church's mission. For this reason we welcome applications from ordained women and Global Majority Heritage clergy, who are under-represented in those who serve this diocese.

+Martin



Introduction. Thank you for taking the time to read the profiles for our two parishes. We are both active and committed parishes embedded in the heart of a rural community with a thirst for growth and development.

Our people use their gifts to serve our villages, playing active roles in village life, and marking major events with community focused outreach. We are faithful and energetic, seeking to follow God's call, and to grow in our knowledge and love of him.

Since 2020 our parishes have faced challenges, including the death of Funtington's vicar from terminal illness, and periods of interregnum. As we looked to rebuild after the pandemic, we appointed a shared priest-in-charge. Sadly, his short tenure has left renewed feelings of frustration and uncertainty. Thankfully, our two parishes have found hope: together we have agreed to become a 'united benefice' and strengthen our commitment to a shared spiritual journey and outreach to our local communities.

We sincerely hope that as you read our profiles, you will be inspired to see your future here in this beautiful part of England as our priest-in-charge. We are seeking a leader who can provide the spiritual guidance, stability, and growth that we desire.

Our Vision:

We envision a church that will:

- Offer a warm and welcoming space to everyone in our communities.
- Actively demonstrate the love of God in all we do.
- Grow in both faith and membership.
- Inspire people of all ages to come to faith in Jesus Christ.



Our Values:

- **Safety:** Providing a safe, nurturing environment for all.
- **Spirituality:** Deepening our relationship with God and each other.
- **Collaboration:** Working together as a united community.
- **Growth:** Encouraging personal and collective spiritual growth.

The Joys:

- **Lay talent and dedication:** Our people are very engaged. There is drive from all the churches to lead community events and find opportunities for mission. In Funtington, West Stoke and Sennicotts there is a PCC subcommittee focused on mission, led by an ALM. In Chidham and Funtington there is a strong history of lay pastoral ministry.
- **Village life:** Our villages are active, with distinct identities, and it is possible to be a visible presence of God's love at major events as well as in the pub, on the farms, the schools, or down at the harbour.
- **Spiritual depth:** Our people are keen to develop their faith and transform their lives to follow Christ more nearly, and love him more dearly.
- **Spiritual breadth:** our church families are rooted in sacramental worship and have a love of music, as well as an appreciation for services from the BCP to more modern and contemplative offerings.



The Opportunities:

- **To grow our worship communities:** Guide and lead an active worshipping community eager to expand and grow.
- **Strong PCC support:** Work with two experienced and resourceful PCCs, open to innovation.
- **Variety of worship:** Offer diverse worship styles to meet the needs of both parishes.
- **Develop outreach programmes:** Shape and implement outreach initiatives that engage all generations through new worship and fellowship opportunities.
- **Growth potential:** Capitalise on the potential for growth due to ongoing housing developments and a changing population in the area.
- **Strengthen ministry & mission:** Harness the benefits of uniting our two parishes to enhance ministry and mission.
- **Expand school connections:** Re-energise and further develop links with our three local primary schools.



The Challenges:

- **Managing our period of transition:** Effectively navigating the changes required to manage two distinct parishes as a united benefice.
- **Sensitivity to parish histories:** Being mindful of and sensitive to the rich histories and experiences of each parish; particularly as we learn and grow together.
- **Facilitating church growth & outreach:** Implementing the necessary changes to foster growth within our churches and reach out effectively to new members, while respecting the diversity of worship in each parish.
- **Coordinating two PCCs:** Effectively managing and coordinating the operations of two Parochial Church Councils to ensure smooth governance and decision-making across the benefice.



Our People:

- 3 Church Wardens
- 1 Authorised Lay Minister trained in mission
- The 'Church in Our Community' prayer and action group
- Organists & bell ringers

- Pastoral Care Teams
- 'Occasional' joint choir for significant services
- Altar servers & intercessors
- Sidesmen/women
- Flower arrangers & brass cleaners
- Grounds maintenance volunteers
- Bible study group
- Alpha course
- Home group
- Parish magazines

- 2 Church Wardens
- 1 Lay Minister
- Weekly newsletter - 'Keep in Touch'

Funtington

Chidham

How we will support you:

- A comprehensive induction programme for both parishes.
- Planned social events within the first three months to help you connect with your new communities.
- Workspaces in both parishes, with the option to explore additional administrative support as needed.
- Enthusiastic, open-minded, and talented parishioners eager to volunteer their time for parish activities.
- A strong commitment to the health, well-being, and personal & professional development of our priest-in-charge, including respect for holidays and days off.



Parish of Funtington, West Stoke & Sennicotts Churches



St Mary's Church, Funtington is our largest parish church seating 200. It is a Grade 2 listed building dating back to the 12th century with additions in the 14th, 15th, 19th and 20th century. We have recently had our roof renewed with solar panels. There is a well used and attractive church room built in the 1990's attached to the church. St Mary's has the largest congregation in the parish and there is a family service and two Eucharist services monthly.



St Andrew's Church, West Stoke is nestled at the foot of Kingley Vale and is a Grade 1 listed building dating back to the 11th century. Alterations took place in the 13th and 19th century. West Stoke parish was formally united with Funtington and Sennicotts in 2015 and the church traditionally favours the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) with a Eucharist and a Morning Prayer service once a month. They also put on various musical events throughout the year.



St Mary's Chapel, Sennicotts is located on our eastern boundary and was built as a private chapel in the 19th century. This stunning chapel is Grade 2 listed and still has box pews, a gallery and services lit by candlelight - although there is now power on site. At the turn of the 20th century, it became a Chapel of Ease. There is one Eucharist (BCP) service a month at present.

Parish of Chidham Churches



St. Mary's is a beautiful 13th century Grade 2* listed rural church nestling between Chichester Harbour and the foot of the South Downs National Park in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Sitting on the route of the Pilgrim's Trail it is much visited. Among our many stained-glass windows is a modern window dedicated to St. Cuthman and St. Wilfrid commissioned to celebrate our 800-year anniversary.



St. Wilfrid's is situated in Broad Road just north of the A259. This 1960's church building replaced a former mission church situated in Hambrook. A weekly shared communion service is held here each Thursday. The building also contains the Church Hall used for various ecclesiastical and civil parish activities. It is positioned in the heart of a newly developed part of the village with additional housing planned.

Our current service pattern:

Parish Service times

	CHURCH	St Mary's Chidham	St Wilfrids Nutbourne	St Mary's Funtington	St Andrews West Stoke	Sennicotts
1st Sunday	08:00	Eucharist service				
	10:00			Family service	Eucharist service	
2nd Sunday	08:00			Eucharist service		
	10:00		Eucharist service			
3rd Sunday	08:00	Eucharist service				
	10:00	Morning Prayer Lay reader		Eucharist service		
4th Sunday	09:00					Eucharist service
	10:00	Eucharist service				
5th Sunday	10:00	Each church takes it in turn to host the joint Eucharist service				
Midweek service	10:30		Midweek Joint Eucharist			

This rota reflects our initial approach towards creating a sustainable service pattern that can be effectively managed by one priest-in-charge across both parishes. Significant changes have been:

- **5th Sunday combined services.** Regularly scheduled combined services for both parishes will reduce the number of individual services, allowing the priest-in-charge to focus on one shared gathering. This will foster unity while easing the service load.
- **Combined midweek services:** Midweek services will be kept simple, providing spiritual continuity without requiring significant preparation or resources from the priest-in-charge.

Church community events in our parishes

Our goal is to place the church at the heart of the community and the community at the heart of the church. We host regular social and fundraising events throughout the year where everyone is welcome.

Chidham

Christmas community carol singing
Nativity service
Spring Fair
Plant sale
Cake sale
Lent lunches
Book sale
Flower Festival
Community lunches
Harvest Barn Dance
Remembrance Service
Bridge afternoon
Autumn Fair

Funtington, West Stoke & Sennicotts events

Christmas community carol singing
Christmas Craft Fair
Christmas concert
Outdoor Nativity service
Plant sale
Cake sale
Lent lunches
D-Day 80 event & beacon lighting
Jubilee celebrations
Remembrance Service
Bonfire night & fireworks



Our Parish Schools:

Parish Of Chidham. Chidham Parochial Primary School is a voluntary controlled school. The new headteacher (September 2024) has expressed interest in enhancing connections with the church. The incumbent priest-in-charge serves as an ex-officio Foundation Governor and leads weekly worship. There is currently a vacancy for a second Foundation Governor, proposed by the Chidham PCC, that needs to be filled.



Parish of Funtington , West Stoke & Sennicotts. We have two schools in the parish: Funtington Primary School and Oakwood which is an independent school providing preparatory and primary education. Previous parish priests have served as a Governor and have carried out weekly services in both schools.



All our schools are consistently rated by OFSTED as 'Good'. They feed into excellent secondary education facilities in Southbourne (Bourne Community College) and Chichester (Bishop Luffa School - a Church of England school). To grow our churches we need to nurture our young people and we have failed to do this recently. Engagement with our schools and young people is therefore considered a high priority. We feel the presence of these schools embedded in the proposed benefice provides an excellent opportunity for mission to children and families.

Our Deanery

We are part of the **Westbourne Deanery**, a close-knit and supportive network that values collegiality in both ministry and mission. The Chapter meets every other month for lunch, providing an open and encouraging forum for discussion and collaboration.

Our deanery benefits from a strong House of Laity, where both lay members and clergy actively seek opportunities to enhance fellowship and share best practices within our semi-rural parishes. Additionally, we have a lay-led deanery prayer gathering that offers monthly prayer ministry, supporting each parish in turn.



The Vicarage



The vicarage, built in the 1970s, is located directly opposite St. Mary's church in Chidham. The property is just a short drive from other parish churches: 3.6 miles to St. Mary's, Funtington; 5.6 miles to St. Andrew's, West Stoke; and 5.0 miles to Sennicotts. All are approximately 10-15 minutes drive away.

This recently refurbished home is in excellent condition and offers spacious accommodation. The ground floor features a large lounge, a dining room, a study, a modern kitchen, and a downstairs cloakroom, all connected by a long hallway. Upstairs, there are four bedrooms and utility rooms.

The property boasts an attractive garden with a large lawn at the rear, a smaller lawn at the front, and ample parking, including a single garage and space for two or three additional vehicles on the forecourt.

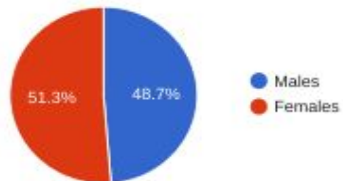
What we are seeking in our priest-in-charge:

- Has a **heart for living and working in a rural community**.
- Has a vision for **managing a multi-parish ministry**.
- Is an **outgoing and approachable** person with the vision, skills, and ability to connect with all parishioners.
- Someone **skilled in outreach**, actively visiting and communicating with parishioners while providing pastoral care and spiritual support.
- Has the ability to **lead those eager to develop faith and grow spiritually**.
- The desire to **support and empower all forms of lay ministry** and service.
- Someone committed to **working closely with our parish schools** and build strong links.
- Someone with **innovative ways to refresh and improve worship** and sustain our parish churches as a thriving Christian community for the 21st century.



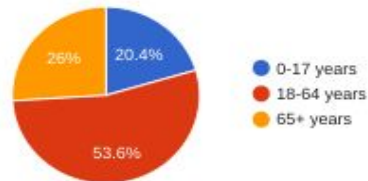
Further Information...

Geography and demographics - Chidham



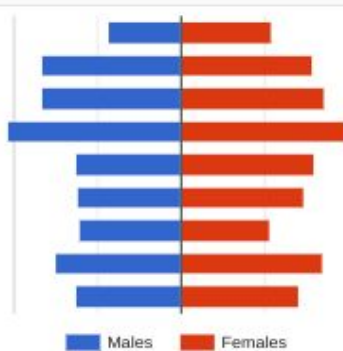
Gender (C 2021)

Males	1,282
Females	1,349



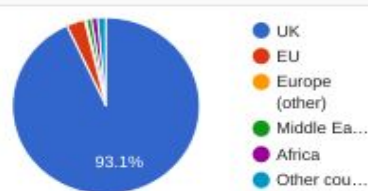
Age Groups (C 2021)

0-17 years	537
18-64 years	1,410
65+ years	684



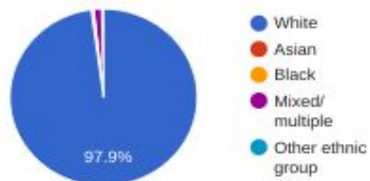
Age Distribution (C 2021)

80+ years	195
70-79 years	323
60-69 years	339
50-59 years	405
40-49 years	285
30-39 years	271
20-29 years	227
10-19 years	318
0-9 years	268



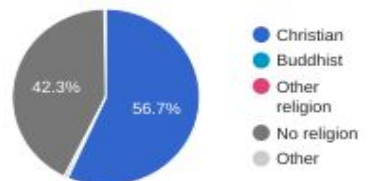
Country of Birth (C 2021)

UK	2,435
EU	83
Europe (other)	7
Middle East & Asia	24
Africa	28
Other country	38



Ethnic Group (C 2021)

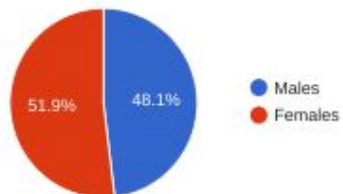
White	2,557
Asian	7
Black	5
Mixed/multiple	35
Other ethnic group	9



Religion (C 2021)

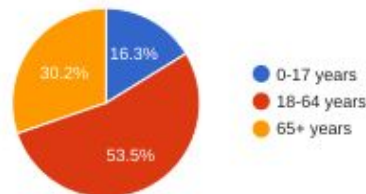
Christian	1,362
Muslim	2
Hindu	2
Sikh	1
Buddhist	6
Jewish	3
Other religion	10
No religion	1,017

Geography and demographics - Funtington



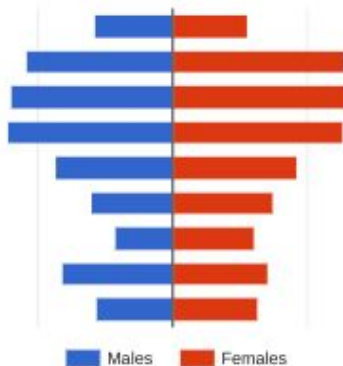
Gender (C 2021)

Males	742
Females	800



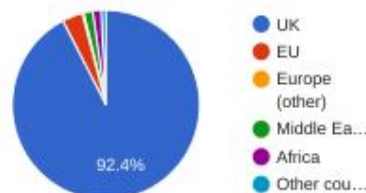
Age Groups (C 2021)

0-17 years	251
18-64 years	825
65+ years	466



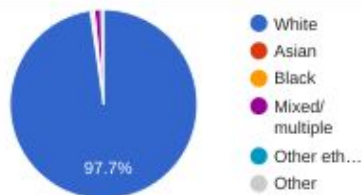
Age Distribution (C 2021)

80+ years	114
70-79 years	237
60-69 years	250
50-59 years	250
40-49 years	180
30-39 years	135
20-29 years	103
10-19 years	153
0-9 years	120



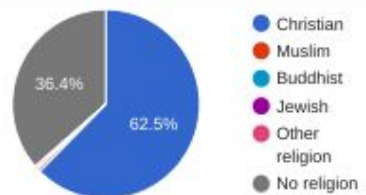
Country of Birth (C 2021)

UK	1,419
EU	54
Europe (other)	4
Middle East & Asia	24
Africa	22
Other country	13



Ethnic Group (C 2021)

White	1,501
Asian	4
Black	6
Arab	1
Mixed/multiple	18
Other ethnic group	6



Religion (C 2021)

Christian	902
Muslim	7
Buddhist	3
Jewish	3
Other religion	4
No religion	525

Occasional office duties across both parishes for 2024:

Parish	Weddings	Funerals	Baptisms	Wedding Blessing
Chidham	4	7	1	0
Funtington	2	6	1	1



Chidham:Financial summary

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments							Notes
	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted Fund/s</i>	<i>Endowed Fund/s</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	
	<i>General: Fund:</i>	<i>Designated Funds</i>			<i>All Funds 2023</i>	<i>All Funds 2022</i>	
	£:	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and grants	35,478	-	28,942	-	64,420	51,208	
Charitable activities	8,307	-	-	-	8,307	3,908	
Other trading activities	8,186	-	-	-	8,186	12,323	
Investments	-	-	1,634	-	1,634	1,262	
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	
Total received	51,971	-	30,576	-	82,547	88,701	
Expenditure on:							
Cost of raising funds	1,710	-	181	-	1,891	2,868	
Charitable costs	54,667	-	9,528	-	64,195	95,901	
Trading costs	2,307	-	-	-	2,307	2,249	
Loan repayments	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	250	
Total paid	61,684	-	9,709	-	71,393	101,268	
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>							
Net income or (net expenditure)	(9,713)	-	20,867	-	11,154	(12,567)	
Transfers between funds	5,000		(5,000)	-	-		
Net movement in funds	(4,713)	-	15,867	-	11,154	(12,567)	
Bank accounts at 1 January	24,611		22,988		47,599	60,166	
Bank accounts at 31 December	19,898	-	38,855	-	58,753	47,599	

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	51,279	-	-	51,279	299,305	
Charitable activities	5,771	-	-	5,771	9,073	
Other trading activities	10,804	-	-	10,804	12,159	
Investments	20,474	641	89	21,204	8,576	
Other receipts	8,923	-	-	8,923	30,177	
Total income	97,251	641	89	97,981	359,290	2
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	288	-	-	288	984	
Charitable activities	127,590	2,204	-	129,794	233,653	
Other trading activities	9,701	-	-	9,701	4,893	
Total expenditure	137,579	2,204	-	139,782	239,530	3
Net gains (or losses) on investments	5,398	-	283	5,681	(4,062)	
Net income or (net expenditure)	(34,930)	(1,563)	373	(36,120)	115,698	
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	7
	(34,930)	(1,563)	373	(36,120)	115,698	
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-	
Reconciliation of funds:						
Net movement in funds	(34,930)	(1,563)	373	(36,120)	115,698	
Total funds brought forward	609,169	2,075	3,000	614,244	498,546	
Total funds carried forward	574,239	512	3,373	578,124	614,244	