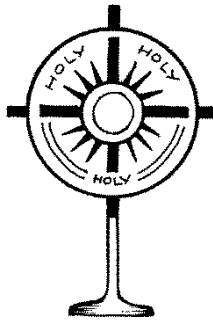


Benefice of Moulsecoomb and Bevendean With Coldean







Introduction from the Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, 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 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.

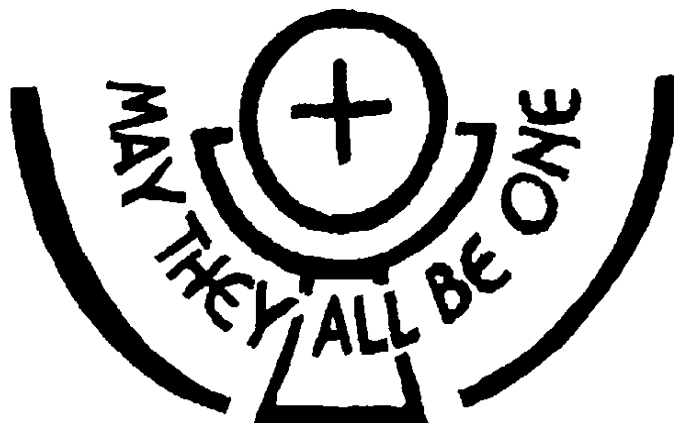
These anniversaries are more than historical footnotes. They speak powerfully about the richness of faith and mission that is our inheritance locally and universally.

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



A message from the Churchwarden and PCC

We would like to begin by thanking you for taking the time to look at our profile and learn more about the Parish of Moulsecoomb, firstly with an overview of who we are and where we hope to go, and secondly through a formal profile of the parish.

St Andrew's is the parish church of Moulsecoomb and home to the Rector of the united benefice of Moulsecoomb, Bevendean and Coldean. The parish is in an area of social deprivation, with a small but committed congregation which has begun to see some growth in numbers in the last year. Some of our congregation live in the parish, while others travel in from the wider area, having in many cases grown up in the parish.

Moulsecoomb was originally built as a 'garden suburb' of Brighton in the nineteen twenties, but many of the original family homes are now occupied by students, so the local community is very mixed. There are opportunities to reach out to people of all ages across the community with both spiritual and practical support.

We currently have a traditional Eucharist at 10am on Sunday mornings with bells, incense and servers, and a more relaxed service at 4pm on Sunday afternoons, which has drawn in new people. We are open to exploring new approaches while maintaining the continuity which is valued by many of our congregation. There has been a strong musical tradition in the past which we would love to rebuild.

The church has a thriving Boys Brigade and Girls Association, a small but growing STACKers (St. Andrew's Church Kids) group for children two Sundays per month, and our church hall is home to the charity "Into University", which helps local children aspire to higher education. In the last two years we have run an Alpha course and a bereavement course which have been well supported by our own congregation and that of St Mary Magdalen (Coldean). We also run regular family outreach events, which are drawing in a growing number of local families.

We have a curate, Fr Levison Kandi, who was ordained priest in 2024, and a retired priest with PTO, Fr John Collins. We also have several lay ministers of communion, and members of the congregation provide intercessions.

We are proud to have the Brighton branch of ZINAFE (the Zimbabwean Anglican Christian Fellowship) based at St Andrew's: the colour, music, enthusiasm and vibrancy they bring to their worship is contagious, and we enjoy regular opportunities to share worship with them.

We have an embryonic partnership with the St Peter's group of churches, part of Holy Trinity Brompton, through which we receive funding from the Social Development Fund (SDF). This has enabled us to appoint a part-time administrator and modernise our admin systems, organise building projects and increase our presence on social media.

Our congregation is keen to find someone who can lead us on the next stage of our journey, building our faith and guiding us to serve our local community, drawing new people into our midst while valuing those who have been at St Andrew's for many years. We want to build on our thriving children and young people's work and continue to develop new leaders. Moulsecoomb is a parish of opportunities, with families, universities and schools where we could become involved. In St Mary Magdalen we have a thriving partner church, and Holy Nativity in Bevendean provides a base for new outreach into the community, a place where new ideas can be piloted. We are keen to continue God's work and build up His family across our community.

We are more than willing to offer you a tour of the parish, the rectory and churches, to meet for a coffee and chat and answer any questions or queries you may have,

You will find our contact details later in the booklet.

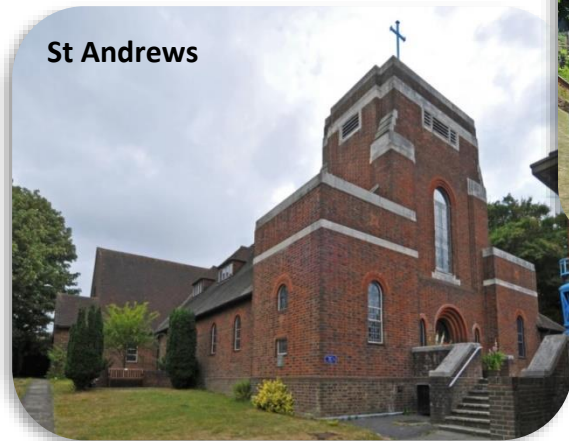
Thank you again for your interest.

*Robert & Amanda
(Parish Warden and PCC Representative)*

MOULSECOOMB PARISH PROFILE

INTRODUCTION.

Welcome to the Benefice of Moulsecoomb in the deanery of Brighton: a team ministry comprising three distinct geographical areas, Moulsecoomb, Bevendean and Coldean.



We are looking to appoint a Rector who shares a passion for people, has the ability to draw together a team of focused clergy and laity, and has a deep understanding of the way in which the Eucharist can be central to the renewal of church and community. Whilst maintaining the traditions of the parish, they need to be willing to continue developing some new and complementary styles of worship, strengthening the fellowship and worship we share.

This is an opportunity for an energetic priest to make a real difference, to make a profound commitment to the church's mission and to share the love of Christ in an area of significant deprivation, both material and spiritual.

The person appointed will be the Rector of St Andrew's as well as team leader, and will work in partnership with Revd Betsy Gray-Hammond, priest to St Mary Magdalen, Revd Levison Kandi, the curate at St Andrew's, Fr John Collins, retired priest at St Andrew's, a verger at St Andrew's and several Lay Ministers of Communion.

The Parish of Moulsecoomb lies to the east of the city traversing the A270 and is an urban parish skirted by countryside.

You will find further details on our website, www.stam.org.uk.

OUR NEW PARISH PRIEST

We are looking forward to this time of discernment and prayer for everyone considering this post. We feel this is a time of transition, and that the Holy Spirit is leading us to a priest who will:

- Be skilled in leadership and provide firm oversight, whilst being compassionate and pastorally gifted, supporting both the existing congregation and those who are drawn to join us.
- Have enthusiasm for developing our outreach as a church, involving themselves with the local community, its needs and aspirations.
- Be liturgically skilled, with the ability to embrace and support both traditional and new expressions of liturgy.
- Have an imaginative sense of vision for the development of God's mission in Moulsecoomb.
- Be a strong proclaimer of the Gospel, encouraging us to build up our fellowship, Biblical understanding and prayer life.
- Have enthusiasm for developing the gifts of others and seeing them grow in faith.
- Be understanding of the foundations already in place, whilst encouraging and assisting the church community to build upon them.
- Be a good listener, who will keep the current momentum but not try to move things forward too quickly.
- Support and further our existing children's and young people's work, encouraging our teams in their work with the next generation.
- Have a good sense of humour.
- Be able to work and communicate with people from across generations and social backgrounds, continuing to develop our use of social media.
- Work with other clergy across the benefice, developing a thriving partnership in both ecumenical and pastoral care, working across the three churches to maximise our opportunities to be an inclusive and caring Christian presence in our community.





OUR MISSION

Our mission is to share the love of God through Prayer and Worship, Fellowship, Care and Service; with a profound commitment to sharing our aims in an area of significant deprivation.

Moulsecoomb is a community with significant challenges: in 2021 67.8% of households in Bevendean and Moulsecoomb East were deprived (Index of Multiple Deprivation), and well above average numbers of school children receive free school meals. Our work with children and families is therefore central to our outreach mission. In recent years there has been a steady increase in the number of multiple occupancy homes, many for students, which has an impact on the makeup of the local community, and has meant that less social housing is available. This presents us with many challenges but also many opportunities and we are looking to the future to share the Love of Christ with both our congregations and the wider community.

Holy Nativity, Bevendean has seen very little worship in recent years but we hope that new opportunities will emerge in the future. This modern church building is ideally suited to outreach, contemporary worship and community events. There are already a variety of community groups using this facility including the local food bank.

WORSHIP

There is a good depth of support between our church communities; we enjoy occasions of shared worship; most notably, the clergy pray the Daily Office together two or three times a week. Our various social events are attended by both the church and local community, giving another opportunity for mission and outreach.



St Andrew's and St Mary Magdalen's hold a regular Sunday morning Parish Mass and weekly Eucharists. Holy Nativity holds a weekday Mass. St Andrew's also holds a more relaxed service on Sunday afternoons. We keep a full Holy Week and Triduum.

St Mary Magdalen's, while long established, was consecrated and became the Parish Church of Coldean on 22nd July 2022. It remains part of the Benefice of Moulsecoomb with Bevendean and Coldean.

ST ANDREW'S

The St Andrew's family is proud of the warmth and friendship extended to visitors, who frequently comment on the welcome they receive from our sides-people and extended church family.

The Arts and Crafts style church was consecrated in 1934 and follows a modern catholic form of worship. Generally we have a regular Sunday morning congregation of approximately 30 and an afternoon congregation of 4-12, attracting greater numbers at Christmas and Easter. We have 48 on our electoral roll with 25 resident in the parish and 23 non-resident.



Common Worship Eucharistic prayers and Lectionary and Propers are used for Sunday morning Mass. Vestments are also worn, and incense is used.

St Andrews has a rich musical past, and a variety of traditional and modern hymns are sung, mainly using "Hymns Old & New", but with more modern music during Communion. At present we do not have an organist, although the organ is serviced regularly. There is a small team of servers for every Sunday morning Eucharist; lay intercessors regularly lead the intercessions; lay ministers of communion assist in the administration of the Eucharist and also take part in our monthly healing ministries. The parish retired priest and curate regularly preach and assist with baptisms, weddings and funerals. The Sacrament is reserved. During Lent there is usually a weekly Lent course and Stations of the Cross. Monthly services are also held in Hazelgrove, Partridge House and The Orchards, the local care homes. The local school visits as part of its RE curriculum and clergy are often invited to attend assemblies.



St Andrew's has a Curate who is also part of the Brighton branch of ZINAFE, a group of Zimbabwean Anglicans who meet once a month at St Andrew's for Mass and fellowship. ZINAFE are a great blessing and play an active role in the life of St Andrew's.

There are approximately 4 baptisms a year; we hope to develop a follow up programme as part of our mission development; also a handful of weddings and about 6 funerals.

The fabric of the building is in good repair. Recently SDF funds have been used for the refurbishment of the hall flat and hall roof, repairs to the church roof and asbestos control work in the church. Plans have been drawn up and a faculty granted for the creation of a servery at the back of the church, to be installed as soon as funds allow. Major work is needed to improve disabled access and to restore a garden at the side of the church, where the site is currently unsafe and cannot be used. At Holy Nativity, the community hall has just had a £10,000 upgrade, including a new boiler and new appliances in the kitchen.

The church and hall are also used as community spaces by a community Arts & Crafts Project, Communitas Yoga group and Crooked Moon Appalachian tapdance group, and currently provide a temporary home for at least one group displaced during the refurbishment of a local hall.

St Andrew's Hall stands in front of the church, and is leased during the week to Into University. This is a national charity providing educational support to children and young people in urban deprived areas, with the aim of enabling them to reach their potential and encouraging them to enter higher education. We are grateful that God has led them to us and with their help we have been able to complete some of the large building projects necessary, whilst extending our mission in the community. Into University have now been with us for ten years, and our lease with them is reviewed regularly. The IU staff team support events at St Andrew's, such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs.



There is a thriving Boys Brigade and Girls Association with approximately 24 participants per week from across the city which meets in the church on Tuesday evenings, again offering an opportunity for mission and development. There is also the St Andrew's Fellowship, a mixed group of church and non- church members who meet on the second

Friday of each month. We hold regular family events for the local community, which are drawing in an increasing number of families.

There is a growing fellowship within the Congregation. On the first Friday of the month men from St Andrew's and St Mary Magdalen meet and have a meal together to build up friendships and help each other, developing networking and reducing isolation. The ladies meet on the last Thursday of the month.



There is a small committed team which runs STACKers (St. Andrew's Church Kids) which meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Numbers are gradually increasing as new families join us.

The Parish Office is located in the church. We currently have a Parish Administrator, funded by the SDF.

As a church we support a child in Haiti through the charity Compassion. We also make a regular donation to the food bank in Bevendean, and support them with our Harvest gifts and an ongoing donation box.

FINANCE

We are blessed by a substantial subsidy from the Diocese. The parish works hard throughout the year to raise sufficient funds to continue God's work, including the general maintenance of the buildings and our parish contribution. Our Summer and Christmas Fairs draw in the local community as well as raising funds. We benefit from the income received from Into University for the hall rental, and from the rental of the hall flat and the former vicarage in Bevendean.



RECTORY

St Andrew's Rectory is the house that will be home to the new incumbent. It is a large 1930s house with a recently extended kitchen/diner, 5 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms and a study off the entrance hall. The master bedroom has an ensuite shower room, whilst the upstairs landing has a further family bathroom. There is also a downstairs cloakroom. The house stands in its own grounds, with a good sized secure garden and a small vegetable garden. It benefits from off street parking on its own private drive which leads around the building to a separate garage. The house is fully double glazed with double patio doors opening onto the garden and full gas central heating.



The garden has sometimes been used for our Summer Fair and social events.



ST. MARY MAGDALEN

St Mary Magdalen Church, Coldean is a warm and welcoming community served by Rev. Betsy Gray-Hammond SCP. As a stipendiary priest, Rev Betsy oversees the day to day running of our vibrant parish. We embrace a modern catholic form of worship, with our Parish Mass lighting up Sunday mornings. Our services also include two weekday masses, a monthly service held at New Larchwood (the local assisted living scheme), and morning and evening prayers. We pride ourselves on being a fully inclusive church, where everyone is welcome. We are thrilled to offer same-sex blessings.



Although we currently don't have an organist, Revd. Betsy is enthusiastically exploring ways to enhance our music program. In 2022 St Mary Magdalen became the parish church of Coldean and we continue to support and collaborate with the rest of the Benefice.



The Church is a charming converted tithe barn, originally built around 1790 and dedicated as a church in 1955. Next year, in 2025, we will joyfully celebrate 70 years of service to the people of Coldean with a series of exciting events that will bring our congregation and community together throughout the year.

We offer a meeting room for hire and an office, with the main body of the church retaining many of its original features.

The church community

St. Mary Magdalen is more than just a place of worship; it's a vibrant and supportive community. Our congregation is mature and resolute, with fifty-two members on the electoral roll (including nineteen non-residents). We gather not only for worship but also to support one another and our wider community.

Our monthly prayer group meets on Saturday mornings, led by both laity and clergy, fostering a strong sense of fellowship and spiritual growth. We are a community-centred church, offering a variety of activities both social and explicitly Christian. These include children's holiday activities, family fun days, and our ever-popular quiz nights. Messy Church is currently under review and will continue after consultation with the wider community.

Community Outreach and Support

At St. Mary Magdalen, our commitment to serving our community is at the heart of everything we do. Our outreach programs are a cornerstone of our mission. We support various charities by hosting lunches after Sunday Mass approximately six times a year. In 2023, we raised over £2,046 for both local and national charities. Our food bank and drop-in centre are vital resources for those in need, and we are excited to expand these services next year.

Our dedication to community service is evident through our outreach programs, and we strive to make a positive impact on the lives of those around us. We are here to serve, support, and uplift our community in every way possible.

HOLY NATIVITY, BEVENDEAN



The church is located in the centre of Lower Bevendean, which is mostly a post war suburb. It is an urban village with easy access to the beautiful South Downs National Park.

It provides the only opportunity for community and church based projects on the estate. It has continued to make financial contributions to the parish whenever possible.

Holy Nativity Church or Hall currently host the Bevendean Community Foodbank/Coffee & crafts/advice centre, Line dancing, Lotus Yoga group and Great Overcomers Church (Sundays). A new women's group is due to start soon.

Lower Bevendean is the third district of the Parish; for over seventeen years there was uncertainty about the future of the building there. We thought that the church had been formally closed, but after discovering the paperwork had never been completed, we now have an exciting opportunity to develop God's work in our community, whilst working closely with community projects. A weekly Eucharist is now held at Holy Nativity.



Holy Nativity Vicarage is currently rented out and provides an income for the parish. Well over 100 people attend the Christmas Eve Christingle, opening up huge potential for work with young families in Bevendean. The local primary school also uses the hall for their annual Christmas party.

After much prayer, the current clergy serving in the Team feel that Bevendean is an area of much mission potential, and that a new Incumbent may be able to further revitalise God's mission in that place.

TO KNOW, LOVE, FOLLOW JESUS



Thank you for looking,
You are welcome to contact us at any time.

Warden of Moulsecoomb

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PCC Representative at Moulsecoomb

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APPENDIX A

ST. ANDREW'S MOULSECOOMB FINANCE SUMMARY @ October 2024.

The Parish accounts for YE 2023 are attached.

A precis of 2024 is below.

Congregational Income circa £13,000
Expenditure (excluding rental elements) £15,000

The Parish receives rental income from the Holy Nativity vicarage, St Andrew's flat and St Andrew's Hall which is rented to Into University, all on a long term basis.

These rentals have generated circa £50,484 YTD.

Holy Nativity church hall and St Andrew's hall are both rented to various community groups.

The Parish Share for 2024 is £21,996

We have £82,335 on deposit

The Parish is blessed to employ a Parish Administrator. The Diocese has agreed to fund this role and its costs for 5 years.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF MOULSECOOMB
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Designated funds	2023 £	2022 £
Income from:	Note	£	£	£		
Donations and legacies	3	30,459	27,529	4,142	62,130	19,187
Other trading activities	4	27,000	-	-	27,000	24,409
Charitable activities	5	42,848	-	-	42,848	45,727
Investments	6	1,896	-	-	1,896	438
Total income		102,203	27,529	4,142	133,874	89,761
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		87,623	23,989	4,412	116,024	81,140
Total expenditure	7	87,623	23,989	4,412	116,024	81,140
Net income/(expenditure)		14,580	3,540	(270)	17,850	8,621
Net movement in funds		14,580	3,540	(270)	17,850	8,621
Reconciliation of funds	17					
Total funds brought forward		86,634	-	7,440	94,074	85,453
Total funds carried forward		101,214	3,540	7,170	111,924	94,074

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF MOULSECOOMB
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	6,103	-
Current assets			
Debtors	13	3,804	880
Cash at bank and in hand		106,183	107,241
		<u>109,987</u>	<u>108,121</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(4,166)</u>	<u>(14,047)</u>
Net current assets		<u>105,821</u>	<u>94,074</u>
Net assets		<u>111,924</u>	<u>94,074</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds		101,214	86,634
Restricted funds	15	3,540	-
Designated funds	16	7,170	7,440
		<u>111,924</u>	<u>94,074</u>

The accounts were approved by the Board on 28/4/24

Rev'd William Leaf
Chairperson

