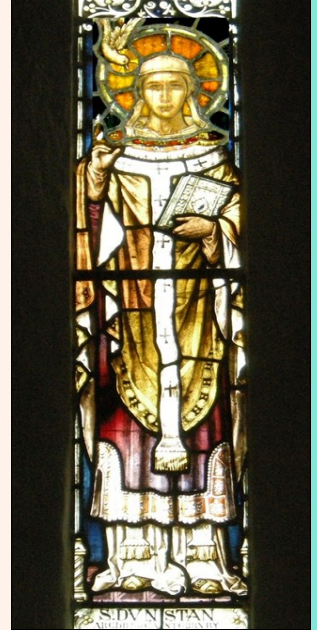


PARISH PROFILE



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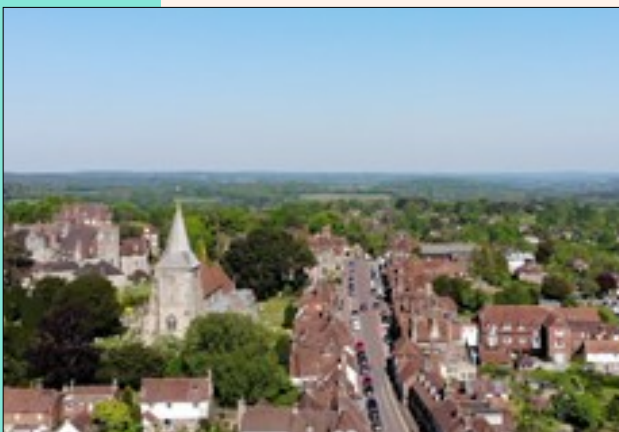
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CONTENTS

	Page
WHO WE ARE	3
THE PRIEST WE WOULD LIKE	4
WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU	5
WHO WE ARE A MORE IN DEPTH LOOK	7
THE CHURCH AS A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY	11
THE CHURCH IN COMMUNITY	14
THE CHURCH IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY	17
ABOUT THE PARISH	19
THE BUILDING AND CHURCH RESOURCES	21
FINANCE	23
OUR CHURCH, OUR CHALLENGE, OUR CHOICE	24



WHO WE ARE

WELCOME TO ST DUNSTAN'S!

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

Our **regular congregation** is a warm and amiable group of people who strive to be the people of God in this place.

Clergy

We are very fortunate to have an active Deacon within our ministry team who can lead worship and officiate at weddings, funerals and baptisms. During the vacancy we are relying heavily on retired clergy one of whom is a regular member of the choir.



Serving Team

We have one robed Altar Server. There is a team of Chalice Assistants who augment the weekly clergy team. They have been authorised to offer Home Communion to those who request it.



Lay participation in Services

We appreciate the important ministry role of our two Churchwardens. There are well-organised rotas of sides people/ welcomers and those willing to do intercessions and readings. We would like to encourage younger members of the congregation to participate more.

THE PRIEST WE WOULD LIKE

WE PRAY FOR A PRIEST WHO IS:

- * Warm, compassionate, and approachable
- * Spiritually grounded and a thoughtful preacher
- * Collaborative, inclusive, and well-organised
- * Deeply committed to pastoral care
- * A visible presence in the wider community
- * Respectful of tradition and yet open to new ideas
- * Supportive of our strong musical and liturgical heritage
- * Able to inspire families, young people and newcomers
- * Positive, resilient, and rooted in Christian hope

Such a priest will find at St Dunstan's a faithful congregation, strong lay leadership, a vibrant musical life, and a village community ready for renewed connection and growth.



WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

- * A single church Parish, with links to a Chapel within the Hospice in the Weald Five Ashes and with considerable opportunity for mission and ministry.
- * A congregation that is friendly, relaxed and welcoming with good lay participation in the life of the church.



- * A serious regard for the health, well-being, personal and professional development of our priest. We pay in full all legitimate working clergy expenses and are concerned to ensure that our priest takes proper holidays, days off, and time for training, retreat and academic study.

- * Good local schools. There are two Church of England voluntary controlled primary schools, one in Mayfield and one in Five Ashes. There is an independent preparatory school, Skippers Hill, in Five Ashes and thriving pre-school Nurseries in both villages. Secondary schooling is found in Heathfield some 7 miles distant, in Wadhurst and in Crowborough (both 4.5 miles). Mayfield School, an independent day/boarding Catholic secondary school for girls, is located in Mayfield High Street

- * A Grade II listed vicarage which is centrally placed on the High Street, almost opposite the Church. Having



undergone a fairly recent quinquennial inspection by the Diocese, this wonderful family home overlooks a lovely south-facing garden with beautiful views across the Weald.



“The positive aspects of St Dunstan’s when we first arrived in the village were the warm welcome and community spirit.”

What we can offer you contd.

It has four bedrooms and two bathrooms on the first floor and two smaller attic rooms on the second, mainly used for storage. The ground floor has a good size reception room, dining room, study,



cloakroom, a new kitchen and cellars. A garage is accessed from the rear of the vicarage and there is a large storage building in the garden.

PLEASE NOTE: The Bishop has suspended presentation for a period of three years so that the suitability of the present parsonage and available alternatives can be considered. For this reason the appointment will be as priest-in-charge in the first instance. It is hoped to complete a review of options as quickly as possible. For further information, please contact the Ven Russell Dewhurst, Archdeacon of Hastings, on 07827 275649.

* Traditional Sussex villages with good community spirit. Mayfield has good amenities: Post Office, grocery, delicatessen, bakery, butcher, florist, and chemist shops as well as a good range of personal



service shops such as a chiropodist, osteopath, hairdressers, and even a dog grooming parlour. There are also doctor and dental surgeries within the village. There are two pubs. Five Ashes has more limited facilities. In addition to the Hospice in the Weald, the school and the pub, there is a first-class village hall.

* Good transport links. Mayfield and Five Ashes have a good bus service into Tunbridge Wells and Heathfield. Rail links to London and the south coast are via Wadhurst and Tunbridge Wells (South Eastern) or Crowborough (Southern Rail), with trains to the Kent coast via Tonbridge.

WHO WE ARE—a more in depth look

Churchwardens

Stephen Blurton
(also PCC Treasurer)



Sheila Rait



PCC Secretary: Barbara Draper

PCC / Sub-Committees

The PCC comprises a co-opted Deacon, 4 Deanery Reps, and 7 ordinary members. There are 2 vacancies.

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

Fabric	Finance	Social
Investment	Organ Trust	Bruxner Randall
London House	Churchyard	(for church music)

Health & Safety / Safeguarding

We have a Safeguarding Officer, Miles Smith, and Deputy, Karen Mack, in post.



We are currently seeking a new Health and Safety Officer, a position which has proved difficult to fill in the past. Currently the incumbent and Churchwardens are named as those responsible for matters of Health and Safety. Our policy was updated in 2024, agreed by the PCC, and is reviewed annually. An independent fire risk assessment has been carried out for both St Dunstan's and London House.

Administrative Support

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



Who we are—a more in depth look contd.

“We are good at rallying around and I, for one, felt I hugely benefitted from the kindness and concern shown when I was first diagnosed with cancer, and the thoughts and prayers thereafter.”

“Our long-standing excellence in choral music is a great strength—currently a very great strength!”

Communications

There are currently 174 recipients of our weekly Enews, detailing information regarding services and events within the church and providing links to useful websites.

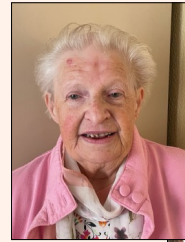


The weekly eNews is prepared and the website maintained on a voluntary basis by Julia Lawrence, a member of the PCC. We have recently updated the website and additional information about the parish may be found at www.stdunstansmayfield.com

We recognise the need to be more social media savvy and are grateful that the Parish Administrator and Director of Music are making inroads into addressing this.

Sunday Club

Margaret Neve runs SUNDAY CLUB which meets each Sunday at 10.15am. Each session, for aged 3+, includes a bible story, craft and game. The children join the congregation in church for the last 20 minutes of the service.



Director of Music & Organist

Lucy Piercy joined us in 2024. There is a long-standing choral tradition at St Dunstan's. The robed choir of adults averages 12 on Sunday mornings and leads the musical worship in a variety of choral mass settings, congregational settings, anthems and hymns, which the incumbent and Director of Music plan together on a monthly basis. Occasionally the choir is joined by the Mayfield Choristers, a group recently formed (see Page 14). The choir also sings at weddings and funerals, when requested, in addition to special services such as our Advent and Christmas Carols services. The choir attracts its members from both within and beyond the Parish



Within the past year, the Choir has sung Choral Evensong in Southwark Cathedral, Romsey Abbey and, together with the Choristers, at St Paul's Cathedral.

Who we are—a more in depth look contd.

Storytellers

A small team of people from our congregation go into our 2 CE Primary Schools two to three times each term to involve pupils in interactive Bible storytelling.



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



The Hand Bells are owned by the church and are used by the villagers as a hobby. They have played in various venues and old people's homes locally.



Coffee Groups

Coffee is served after Sunday and Wednesday Services.

COFFEE CORNER - a monthly coffee morning held in London House, and open to all.
PICNICKERS takes place each Saturday lunchtime – a get-together for those living alone.



Bellringing

The Church has a fine ring of 8 bells, the oldest bell having been cast in 1602. The enthusiastic band of ringers practise on Tuesday evenings, ring for Sunday services and, if requested, at weddings. Most ringers live within the parish. The clock within the tower chimes the quarters and the hour—the annual maintenance is funded by Mayfield Parish Council.



“The friendships formed through church give us the knowledge that we do care for and about each other, especially when things are tough.”

“We feel connected and included, and that is a lovely thing.”

“The atmosphere on a Sunday morning is so warm and friendly and when I arrive early to ring, the wonderful singing as the choir rehearses is mixed with laughter as friends greet each other. It is a truly joyous place to be.”

Who we are—a more in depth look contd.

“After a few years we returned to worshipping at St Dunstan’s as we realised that what was important to us was worshipping within the community and the fellowship.”

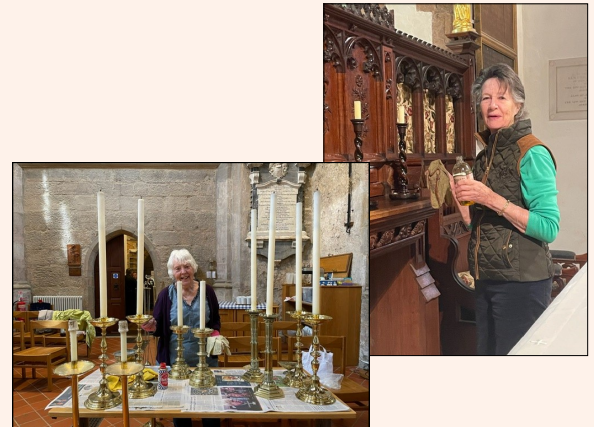
Social Events

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



Holy Dusters

A keen group of women (although men are always welcome!) gather every six weeks to ensure the church is kept clean and tidy.



Churchyard Working Parties

Churchyard working parties occur monthly March to November and are well supported by the village.



“The church is doing a very good job, slowly making progress across the board in these changing and challenging times. The neater graveyard being a good example of this.”

THE CHURCH AS A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

Worship Pattern

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

Sunday Services	
10.15am Sung Parish Eucharist with Sunday Club	Common Worship
12noon Said Eucharist at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Hospice in the Weald, Five Ashes (<i>fortnightly</i>)	Common Worship
6pm Choral Evensong (<i>monthly</i>)	BCP
Midweek Service	
10am Wednesday Said Holy Communion	Common Worship

Average Sunday attendance (all services): Over 16: 68; Under 16: 6

Other Services

ASH WEDNESDAY

Imposition of Ashes

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday – Parish Eucharist and Washing of Feet

Good Friday – Liturgy of the Day with Veneration of the Cross

Easter Day – Easter Vigil and Sunrise Service

PATRONAL FESTIVAL – 19th May

HARVEST FESTIVAL

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – ‘Churches Together’

in conjunction with Royal British Legion

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS

Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

Christingle Service

Sung Midnight Mass

SCHOOL SERVICES

OCCASIONAL SERVICES

Animal Thanksgiving (*last held 2023*)



The Church as a worshipping community contd.

Occasional Offices 2025

Service	
Baptisms	1 (for child aged 5-10)
Weddings	4
Funerals/Cremations	5 funerals, 3 cremations, 10 burial of ashes

Baptisms

Arrangements are made with the clergy for baptisms to be celebrated in our 10.15am Sunday Parish Eucharist



First Communion

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



Confirmation

Confirmation Services are held within the Deanery annually for those wishing to make their own adult commitment.

Other ways of doing church

At this time there is no alternative provision for children and young families in terms of 'other ways of doing church'. We have experience of Messy Church and 'All Together' Family Services.

House Groups/Spiritual Development

Currently there are no House Groups. Access to Lent and Advent Courses has been limited.

We have a church library situated within the church.



The Church as a worshipping community contd.

The Worshipping Community 2025

Children aged 0-10	Young People aged 11-17	Adults Aged 18-69	Adults Aged 70+	Total
6	8	52	52	118

The Electoral Roll at March 2025: 106

October 2025 figures

Date	Number of services	ADULTS Church	CHILDREN Church
SUNDAY 5 th	1	52	3
6 th - 11 th	1	6	0
SUNDAY 12 th	2	69	2
13 th - 18 th	1	7	0
SUNDAY 19 th	1	60	2
20 th - 25 th	1	6	0
SUNDAY 26 th	3	125	0
27 th - 31 st	1	7	0

Other Services

Service	Congregation	Numbers
Easter 2025	Communicants	122
	Attendance	156
Advent 2025	Congregation & Local Community	373
	Civic Organisations & Schools	703
Christmas 2025	Communicants	203
	Attendants	608

THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

The church seeks to play an active role in the community

Mission through Music

During the past year, much thought has been given to how best St Dunstan's can engage with young people and their families within a community that is already well catered for across the different age groups. Mayfield and Five Ashes Community Services (MAYFACS) runs a Toddler Group, Youth Support Activities, Clubs for adults and provides overall practical pastoral care. Colkins Mill Church runs a Youth Group.

With its long tradition of choral excellence, it was decided to act on our strengths as a church by launching 'Mission through Music'. We recognise the importance of bringing young people into the musical life of the church and maintaining a vibrant community of all ages.

Our Director of Music arranges weekly singing sessions at both Mayfield and Five Ashes Primary Schools and offers children (aged 7 years and upwards) the opportunity to become choristers encouraging new friendships, team

building, discipline and responsibility whilst learning more about our faith through our rich choral tradition. The younger choristers join the main choir for some of our services, for special events and for the occasional trip to one of our cathedrals for Evensong. They receive an excellent, all-round musical education free of charge and have the opportunity to progress through the RSCM award scheme.

It is hoped that our new incumbent will fully embrace this new initiative providing encouragement and support to all involved.

"In St Dunstan's I value our welcoming atmosphere, the quality of music and our music outreach programme to our schools."

"Even though we belong to different denominations, St Dunstan's Church serves as an incredible asset for the musical ambitions of our community. We're truly fortunate to have such a beautiful venue at the heart of our village, where we can enjoy a wide variety of music."



The Church in the community contd.

Involvement in Schools

Members of the church and the incumbent go into Mayfield and Five Ashes CEP schools (2 of 4 primary schools comprising the Weald Federation) on a regular basis and support the teachers where possible. In addition, one of our churchwardens, an ex-teacher, leads assemblies at Five Ashes and Mayfield.

The PCC appoints at least one Foundation Governor to the Weald Federation Governing Board.

The primary schools come into church at various times of the year, such as Harvest and Christmas, for their own services. The independent prep school within the parish, Skippers Hill, also holds end of year/term and Christmas/Easter services in church.



Churches Together

We have good relationships with both St Thomas's (RC) and Colkins Mill (Evangelical Alliance) churches within Mayfield. A team of representatives from the three churches meet to organise the World Day of Prayer (*first Friday in March*) and the Good Friday Walk of Witness. Ecumenical Prayers (*second Wednesday of the month*) take place in various venues within Mayfield.



St Dunstan's recognises and teaches that creation care and action to address the climate and nature crises are integral to

Christian Faith and Worship. We are committed to responding to this by participating in the A Rocha UK Eco Church Award Scheme. To date we have achieved an award at the 'Bronze' level. We have a thriving committee of seven members who work to encourage care for creation across all areas of church life: Worship & Teaching, Buildings & Energy, Land & Nature and Community, Global Engagement & Lifestyle.



"The most positive aspects of our church are the friendliness, service-giving, and faithfulness in getting everyday church jobs done."

COMMUNITY LINKS

“The involvement of church members with the community is a notable strength.”

MAYFACS

A good number of our church members are actively involved in MAYFACS (Charity No. 1166647), a secular organisation created in 2016 to help to prevent isolation and loneliness, by organising and encouraging activities for the more elderly. Since Covid, it has spread its remit to helping the entire community <https://www.mayfacs.org.uk/>



“Here is a community of people who look after each other and some of the wider community.”

The Priest-in-Charge

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

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

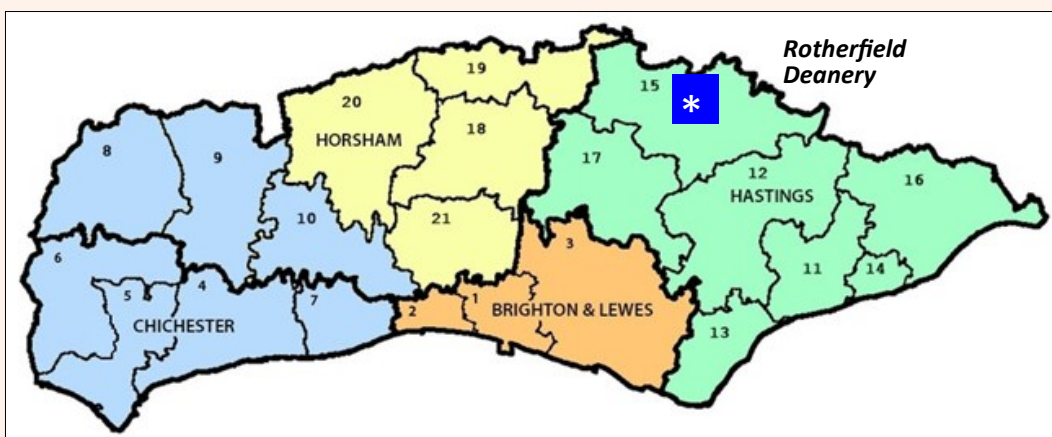
They also served the villages on the Mayfield Charity (Charity No. 212996).

“Although not active worshippers, the church is very dear to our hearts, and we all value the hugely important role it plays within our villages.”

THE CHURCH IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

The Deanery/Diocese

St Dunstan's lies within the Rotherfield Deanery one of 21 rural deaneries within the Chichester Diocese. Our 4 Deanery reps attend meetings 3 times a year and there are regular Chapter meetings arranged by the Rural Dean. We lie within the Archdeaconry of Hastings for which the Venerable Russell Dewhurst is responsible.



Previously, St Dunstan's has engaged with various initiatives launched by the Diocese. Over the next four years the Diocese asks that we commit to Living the Mystery of Faith and each year to explore one of the four portraits of Jesus provided by the Gospel writers beginning in 2026 with the Gospel of Matthew. The Diocesan commitment to growth is rooted in prayer for the ongoing renewal of ministry for mission.



Diocese of Chichester

Living the *Mystery of Faith*

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

The Church in the wider community contd.

Charitable Giving

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

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



Caring & Sharing – a Sussex based Charity raising money to support small community empowerment projects in the Third World. We specifically support The Church of Uganda Kisiizi Hospital in Kabale.



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



ABOUT THE PARISH

The Parish, comprising both the villages of Mayfield and Five Ashes, has a population of approximately 3,500 and is situated in the High Weald AONB in East Sussex, 9 miles south of Tunbridge Wells. It is surrounded by beautiful rolling countryside.

The two villages offer vibrant communities. The Village Hall in Five Ashes provides a venue for social activities. There is a dedicated Scout hall in Mayfield and a new Village Hall is planned. There are a considerable number of clubs and societies to choose from including U3A, Horti and History Societies. There is also a thriving music and arts scene, with St Dunstan's offering a venue for concerts and theatrical performances, not least the bi-annual Mayfield Music Festival that draws in artists from London and Europe and audiences from across the South East. There are no fewer than four choirs - St. Dunstan's, the Mayfield Consort, the MayZing Choir and the Mayfield Festival Choir, and lively Junior and Senior Silver Bands which occasionally play in Church services. Sport also flourishes with a well-established tennis club and an ambitious Sussex Premier league cricket club, which has four Saturday sides and a flourishing junior section of approaching 100 youngsters. Mayfield also boasts a recently established and highly successful Womens' Cricket team.

Many members of the congregation belong not only to various committees within the church, but also to other organisations in and around the villages of Mayfield and Five Ashes.

Given the history of our villages, dating back to medieval times, and the considerable attributes which they offer, it is not surprising that Mayfield and Five Ashes hold their position as one of the most sought after areas in which to live within Wealden.

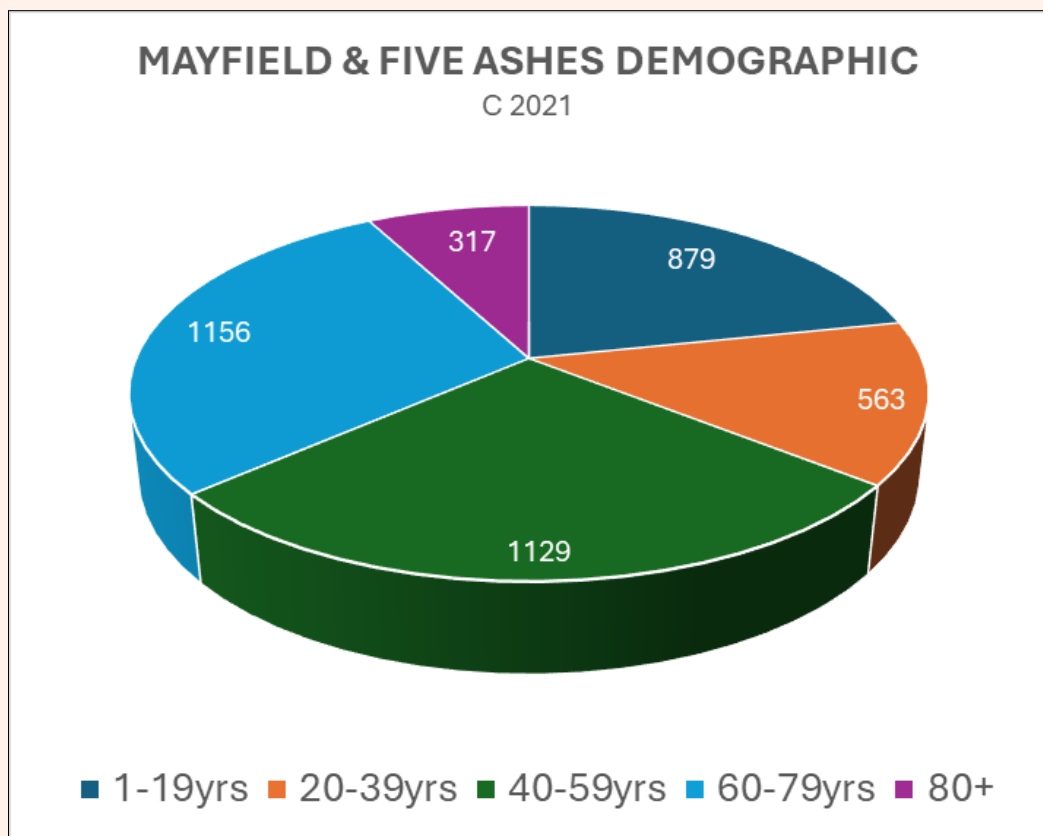
There are alternative places of worship within the village: Colkins Mill Church (member of the Evangelical Alliance) and St Thomas' Roman Catholic Church. The Mayfield Baptist Chapel will reopen shortly.

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



About the parish contd.

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



There is a general consensus within the villages that St Dunstan's forms an important focus for the community but many will only attend services on high days and holy days. There is therefore considerable scope for mission and outreach.

THE BUILDING AND CHURCH RESOURCES

The Church is Grade 1 Listed and is situated at the heart of the village. It has one of the largest Churchyards in the Diocese of Chichester. We are pleased that the Church is open every day from 9am to 5pm (9am to 4pm in the winter months) for quiet prayer and visiting.



The church is considered to be in good repair, with all due care given to daily maintenance. Within the past 20 years, the West end was cleared of pews to provide more space for baptismal parties around the font as well as providing a flexible space for meetings and social gatherings such as the Harvest Supper, Christmas Market, Exhibitions and funeral receptions. Such events make use of the small servery.

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

Ongoing topics are disabled access and provision of toilets (currently facilities are provided in London House).

A Fabric committee, chaired by a member of the PCC, looks after the maintenance of the building and reports to the PCC. We are fortunate to receive regular advice from an excellent Church architect appointed by the Diocese. A quinquennial inspection was carried out in January 2025 and we are committed to carrying out the recommendations.



The Terrier is regularly updated.

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



The building and Church resources contd.

London House (Grade II Listed)

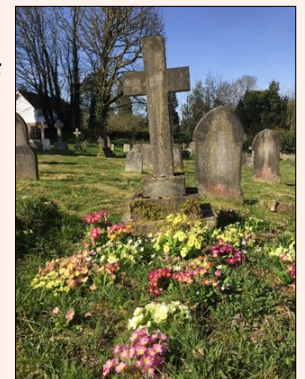
This property, adjacent to the Church, is believed to be a Medieval Hall house. At ground level are the Church toilet facilities and the two small downstairs rooms, together with small kitchen, are used mainly by the church for meetings, Sunday Club, and a monthly coffee morning. These rooms are currently rented out to MAYFACS, until such time as a Community and Health Centre is built in place of the Memorial Hall – a project still ‘in process’.



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

Churchyard

The churchyard remains open for burials and is one of the largest in Sussex. We receive a grant from the Parish Council to cover a percentage of the maintenance, currently carried out by a groundsman under contract. We also receive support from the other churches within the village and also from The Friends of Mayfield Churchyard. One feature of the churchyard is the largest labyrinth in East Sussex.



The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

The Hospice in the Weald Five Ashes occupies land formerly owned by the church. As part of the transfer of deeds in 2019, a multi-purpose space within the Hospice building is used by the clergy for bi-monthly services for patients, their carers, their families and for members of the parish.



FINANCE

St Dunstan's has been well supported financially over the last twenty-five years, especially by the gift of two major legacies. These enable the Parish to fund its traditional style of worship.

The Parish pays its agreed Parish Share. In recent years, annual income largely derived from Parish Giving, has not been sufficient to cover the day to day operational costs with the shortfall being met from investment income and capital.

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

The accounts for the last year are available for review.

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

The PCC currently employs four people: the Director of Music, the Parish Administrator, a groundsman for the Churchyard and a cleaner for London House.



OUR CHURCH, OUR CHALLENGE, OUR CHOICE

OUR AIMS FOR THE FUTURE

- To extend our ministry of teaching and nurture in Christian understanding and faith
- To provide increased support for our local families and young children
- To develop our relationships with community organisations and enhance our role at the centre of village life
- To encourage and develop appropriate patterns of worship to attract a wider congregation

**We are eager to explore together
what this vision will look like
for the future of our church.**

