



The United Benefice
of Dunsfold
and Hascombe

Parish Profiles

Table of Contents

A letter from Bishop Andrew.....	3
A letter from Canon Roy	4
Welcome from the Church Wardens	5
Introduction to the Parishes	6
The Parish of Dunsfold	6
The Village	6
St Mary and All Saints'	8
Our Worship	9
The Parish of Hascombe	12
The Village	12
St Peter's	14
Our Worship	15
Music	15
Normal Pattern of Monthly Services.....	16
Our view... where we are now	17
Vision and Statement of Needs	18



A letter from Bishop Andrew

The Diocese of Guildford is a warm and friendly place to be, with a strong cohort of gifted and passionate laity and clergy, some excellent church schools, and plenty of beautiful countryside to enjoy on a day off!

Our vision as a diocese is to see lives and communities transformed through the love of Christ; and, to that end, we have recently refreshed our Diocesan Strategy Transforming Church, Transforming Lives, with a particular focus on Growing Disciples, Growing Diversity and Growing Community. Although our congregations are generally rather larger than average, we are all too conscious that we are only reaching a tiny proportion of our parish populations, and are particularly keen to become more effective in passing on the baton of faith to younger generations.

Our team of Mission Enablers are committed to working with every parish in fleshing out that vision in an appropriate way, going with the grain of the church's history and tradition, whilst also suggesting new ways to 'proclaim the gospel afresh in each generation'. The pandemic, while presenting many challenges, has helped to forge new relationships between many of our churches, creating a spirit of 'us and us' more than 'them and us', and opening up new approaches to partnership and inter-church collaboration.

If you share our vision for transformation, and have a track record in growing disciples, growing diversity and growing community, we'd love to hear from you!

+ Andrew

A letter from Canon Roy

This post provides a 'golden' opportunity for someone whose domestic arrangements make it possible for them to minister part time (3 days a week, plus Sunday), in return for a house and a half stipend.

The beautiful rural parishes of Dunsfold and Hascombe have been together as a benefice for more than 20 years, and have learnt to work well collaboratively, whilst retaining their individuality and slightly different contexts.

Across those years, however, they have been through some challenging times, when for various reasons, ministries have fallen short of what they deserve. These challenges, however, have helped to give them a very commendable resilience, and the very capable churchwardens have become very good at keeping the 'show on the road' in terms of ministry, outreach and pastoral care. For the past two years, the parishes have really benefitted from the ministry of an Interim Priest in Charge, who has provided excellent pastoral care, teaching and the sort of loving service which these communities have needed. This ministry was always intended to be for two years only, in order to provide some stability, and has now come to an end, creating the current vacancy.

There is very real potential for the new priest to build on the strengths of relationship that the church communities now have with the village communities. There is one ongoing source of friction, which is about how to use the old school building in Dunsfold. The building has been standing empty for twenty years since its closure as a school, and thus far, a way has not been found to bring its future to a conclusion, that is satisfactory to the community and the diocese who own it. I do now, however, sense that there is a real heart for bringing the matter to a good outcome, and I believe there will be a part for the new priest to play, working with both diocese and community in making this possible.

There is a desire to grow in discipleship, and to reach into the communities with the love of Christ. The new priest needs to fully embrace Village life and be able to thrive in this type of rural ministry. She/he should be comfortable with traditional Anglican worship and yet creative enough to explore new ways to reach the unchurched and be willing to invest in a growing ministry to young and old alike.

For the person that God calls, there is so much to offer here: the warmth of a great church family and wider community; the opportunity of leadership in a parish, deanery and diocese which offers considerable support and resources; the exciting challenge of discerning with this community what God is doing and how we might join in; the privilege of living and working in a beautiful part of the country with so many opportunities for clergy and families; and there's a very lovely Rectory, which becomes vacant when the current tenants leave in July!

If you'd value an informal conversation about this post, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me at roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk or by calling 07889 542054, so that we can arrange a time for us to speak.

Revd Canon Roy Woodhams

Rector and Area Dean of Cranleigh



Welcome from the Church Wardens

Welcome to the United Benefice of Dunsfold and Hascombe.

Set in the Surrey Hills, these two small villages have very distinct characteristics, which are reflected in their church communities. The two parishes operate independently; however, we regularly celebrate joint services, and are working together to run our family service, the Funday@4.

Thank you for taking the time to read our United Benefice Profile. The challenge of putting the profile together has opened our eyes to the many positive aspects of church life in our parishes, as well as the opportunities to develop our faith and help nurture our church communities.

Due to the lack of consistent leadership over the past few years our church membership and attendance has dropped. This has been exacerbated by people moving away or dying. Congregations now number on average 25-35 for a normal service. Numbers of weddings and funerals fluctuate, but average 4-5 at each church a year. This necessarily has impacted on our joint finances and we have therefore decided to appoint a 0.5FTE priest, i.e. 3days plus Sunday per week on a half stipend who will be expected to live in the Rectory.

We hope we have given you an insight into who we are, what we do and how we might develop in the future. Are you the person who is called to walk with us and guide us in our journey?

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Dunsfold



Sheila Jones
001483 200204

sheilajones4@btinternet.com

Hascombe



Anne Eve
01483 208497

grannybud@gmail.com



Jan Richardson
01483 200519

churchwardendunsfold@gmail.com



Colin Swait
01483 425380

cds@hascombe.com



Introduction to the Parishes

The Parish of Dunsfold

The Village

Dunsfold lies in the Weald in the south west corner of Surrey, about 9 miles south of Guildford. The smaller towns of Godalming (5 miles) and Cranleigh (3 miles) also have a range of shops and other amenities. There is a regular bus service, good mainline train services on the London–Portsmouth line from Godalming and Guildford and easy access to Gatwick and Heathrow airports. The village is popular with commuters but is not a dormitory village. It lies within the borough of Waverley and is a designated area of Great Landscape Value in the Surrey Hills. An unusually large common runs the length of the main village settlement. About half the housing is in this area, the rest is scattered throughout the parish.

The 2021 Census recorded a population of 1,118 people. There is a mix of housing in the village ranging from large houses to flats. Most housing is in owner occupation, but there are a number of privately rented properties and some social housing. Dunsfold has an allocated housing requirement from Waverley Borough Council of a further 100 houses, several of which will be affordable/social housing. 42 homes have been built, with further potential sites being identified.

There is a strong farming and forestry industry in the parish, with several associated businesses. There is a well-supported community-owned village shop and a pub which serves food. The local doctor's surgery is in Chiddingfold. The parish magazine keeps everyone in touch with church and other events and advertises local services. It is backed up by the Dunsfold eNews and the Love Dunsfold group on Facebook.

Community life is very important. There is an amateur dramatics group, DADS; Pilates, keep fit and art classes; and several groups for retired people, including Evergreens.





Social gatherings tend to take place in the village hall (the Winn Hall) or the adjacent Nugent Room. Sports activities are centred on the King George V playing fields and clubhouse, where there are also tennis courts and a playground for young children. The cricket club plays regularly through the season. There are many footpaths and bridleways around the village and in the surrounding woods. A village fair is held on the Common every year in May and the village bonfire takes place on the Saturday nearest Bonfire Night in November.

This is a time of change in Dunsfold. The proposed development at Waverley Garden Village (the former aerodrome) was strongly contested by surrounding villages. The potential impact of Dunsfold Park of a projected 1800—3400 houses, both on traffic and the environment, is a cause for concern. There are also worries about the effect of the fairly large number of new houses to be built in the village. There are further concerns about proposed drilling for oil and gas at the northern edges of the parish.

The village school closed in 2004 as there were too few children to make it viable. There are a number of good schools, both state and independent, in Cranleigh, Godalming and the surrounding area.



St Mary and All Saints'



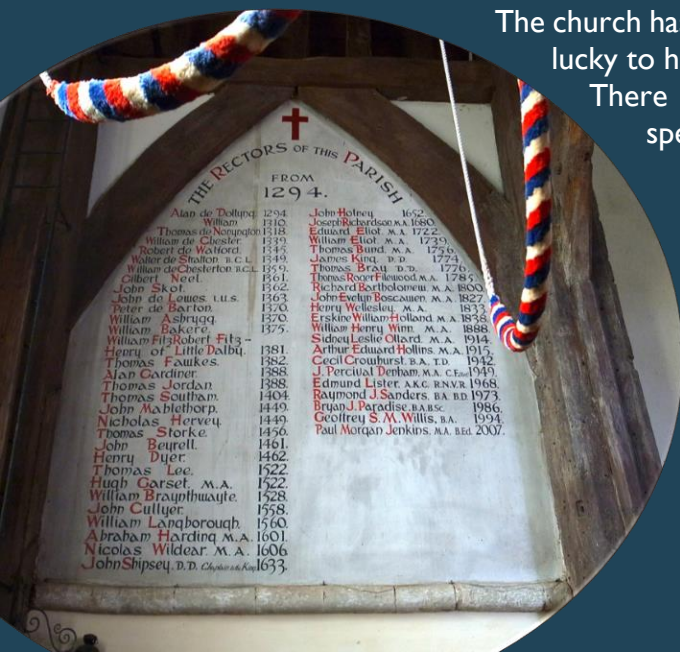
The beautiful church of St Mary & All Saints nestles in Church Green, close to the Holy Well, about half a mile from the centre of the village. It was built in the thirteenth century, of local Bargate stone, possibly on the site of an earlier building. It is Grade I listed, of great architectural importance and, amongst other interesting features, contains some of the oldest pews in England, dating from 1410. Rectors of the parish from 1294 are recorded on the north wall of the bell tower. Dunsfold, like Hascombe, appears in Simon Jenkins' book *1000 Best Churches*. The church is open every day during daylight hours for prayer and contemplation. The patron is the Bishop of Guildford.

The church itself is well maintained. The requirements of the last quinquennial report in 2019 have been met. We are due for our next quinquennial survey this year. The parish is able to meet its financial obligations, but we do face challenges.

The church has an electronic organ by Messrs Copeman Hart. We are lucky to have a gifted organist who covers most of our services.

There is a small choir which is augmented by volunteers on special occasions.

The church has six bells and an enthusiastic bellringing team. The bells are rung from the floor of the church, which presents a challenge for visiting teams. Bells are rung for the 10.00 am service and for weddings.





The church is supported by several volunteers such as flower arrangers and cleaners. The congregation play a part in services with an assistant lay minister, readers and intercessors, as well as the churchwardens and sidesmen.

In addition, the priest is helped by two pastoral assistants. Two of the PCC represent the parish on the Deanery Synod. We work collaboratively with the parish of Cranleigh and share the services of their administrative assistant.

The churchyard is open and is maintained by contractors, with an annual 'clear up' by parishioners. The yew tree near the South Porch dates from around 1200.

Our Worship

The Parish of Dunsfold is open, inclusive and traditional in nature. It is neither high nor low, but seeks to serve the whole community. Worship takes place in both Dunsfold and Hascombe, with some shared services. In Dunsfold, the 10.00 am Parish Communion follows a traditional format. Café Church is held on the second Sunday of the month in the Winn Hall. This is an informal version of morning prayers, usually with a visiting speaker, and preceded by bacon butties and croissants. The annual joint Pet Service takes place outside the Sun Inn, and we move inside the pub for an evening of carol singing at Christmas. The Remembrance Sunday service starts with Morning Prayer in the church, then the congregation move to the war memorial by the cricket green in the village. Many villagers who do not normally attend church services also join for the two minutes silence and conclusion.





Once a month Dunsfold and Hascombe join together for the Funday@4. This is a very informal all-age service held in Dunsfold church which we hope will bring families back into the church. A short service is followed by a craft session and then tea. We are starting to link some of these services to special times in the church calendar, such as Mothering Sunday and Harvest Festival, and invite parents and children to participate in the relevant morning service. For the last few years we have staged an unrehearsed nativity play on Christmas Eve which is increasingly popular. Last year the church was bursting at the seams!

The two parishes also join together for a weekly prayer group, the World Day of Prayer, Advent and Lent courses, Lent lunches, services during Holy Week, Ascension Day and some saints' days, in particular our respective patronal festivals.

We are a friendly and welcoming congregation. Several wedding couples have come back from time to time, even though they do not live in the area. Some couples bring their babies back for baptism.

We are very conscious that in recent years our church tends to be forgotten as it is not in the centre of the village. The Church Electoral Roll has dropped to 49, many of whom are not regular churchgoers. We are trying to overcome this in various ways. Every incomer to the village receives a welcome pack delivered by one of the pastoral assistants. Evergreens, a group for the over 60s, is run by members of the church, although it is not specifically a church organisation. There is a church pop-up stall on the first Saturday of the month, opposite the village shop, which sells homemade produce and bric-à-brac, church literature, cards, mugs etc. Many of those who support the stall do not come to church services regularly, but enjoy a chat whilst making their purchases. We think of it as outreach with jam.



There is an active Stewardship Committee which has overseen a parish picnic on the Common, concerts and lectures in the church, the harvest supper and barn dance, and a performance of two mystery plays in the church.

We know that we need to reach out to younger members of our community and show that the church is relevant, within their busy lives. The new houses in the village will bring in many people, including families with children. The development at Dunsfold Park, although mainly lying in the parish of Alfold at the moment, may also provide opportunities for growth in our church community. We want to be prepared to meet these challenges and show that our church community is ready to hold out a welcoming hand to everyone. We hope that our new priest will help us on our evangelical mission and lead our efforts.



Church website:

www.achurchnearyou.dunsfold.com

Village website:

dunsfoldvillage.uk

Love Dunsfold Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/203182150427321





The Parish of Hascombe

The Village

Hascombe parish lies about 3 miles from Godalming and includes an area separate from the main parish – Hascombe detached – encompassing two permanent traveller sites and part of Dunsfold Park (the former airfield). It also includes Loxhill, between Hascombe and Dunsfold.

Hascombe is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and within the Green Belt. Although there is no longer a shop or a school, there is a lively sense of community, and the local pub, the White Horse, plays a central part in the life of the village. The Friends of Hascombe was established in 1958 and has recently attracted new, younger committee members and, with the Facebook page, links the community. Many people visit the area for horse-riding and walking. Winkworth Arboretum is about 1 mile north of the village.

In the centre of the village, near to the fountain, the housing is mainly small houses, terraces, semi-detached houses and some very old period cottages. There are some local authority owned properties and some old people's bungalows. The former school was converted into residential units and the old village hall replaced with new houses. There are also several larger houses, mainly on the edge of the village.

About 300 people live in the village and an equivalent number in Hascombe detached; there is a good social mix of people of all ages. Most people work out of the village, mainly commuting to London from stations in Godalming or Milford.

The Village Hall adjoins the cricket field and is a popular venue for many village activities, including the annual Harvest Supper and events hosted by the Friends of Hascombe. Several classes are held on a regular basis. The hall is also available for hire and is often used for parties and wedding receptions. There is also a children's play area, and the field is used for several sporting activities e.g. cricket and frisbee, organised by the Friends of Hascombe. There is also an annual children's fishing contest held at the pond opposite the church.



The village hosts both a Seniors' tea party and a Village Bake Off. A great innovation this year has been the building and opening of the Hascombe Little Library next to the fountain.

The number 42 bus connects Cranleigh with Godalming and Guildford with a regular service through the day. There are four trains an hour from Godalming to London Waterloo or Portsmouth, and the village is almost equidistant between Gatwick and Heathrow.

There is a village shop in Dunsfold, which also delivers papers to Hascombe, but most other shopping is done in Godalming, Cranleigh or Guildford.

Several schools serve the area, either in Godalming, Milford or Cranleigh, and there is a sixth form college in Godalming. There are also a number of private schools locally.

Doctors' surgeries are in Binscombe, Godalming or Cranleigh, with the Royal Surrey County Hospital, a 520-bed District General Hospital, located on the edge of Guildford, also for Accident and Emergency.





St Peter's

St Peter's Church, called a 'Tractarian work of art' by Sir John Betjeman, was rebuilt in the 1860s to a design by Henry Woodyer, replacing an earlier church which had fallen into disrepair. It contains features from the earlier building, namely the screen and the porch.

The patrons are The Society for Maintenance of the Faith and the Bishop of Guildford.

The church receives many visitors throughout the year, particularly walkers, and also members of organisations such as the Betjeman Society, the Victorian Society and other local groups including the U3A.

The vestry was enlarged in the 1990s to give a room suitable for meetings, Sunday School etc. There is a disabled toilet and a small kitchen area. While this was under construction the opportunity was taken to refurbish the organ.

Work recommended in the most recent quinquennial report has been completed. The parish is able to meet its financial obligations, but we do face challenges.

Surrounding the church is the churchyard, now closed to burials. There is a new burial ground, opened in 1935, close to the church, which also contains an area for the interment of ashes. There is a bier house, housing the parish bier, which is sometimes used to transport coffins to the new churchyard.

Although the parish transferred to Cranleigh Deanery in 2000, contacts are still maintained with Godalming churches through Churches Together in Godalming.



Our Worship

Hascombe has inherited a tradition of Catholic worship, although over the years this has become less formal and a great deal less Catholic.

The priest, serving team, choir and organist occasionally robe for Communion services. The congregation take a large part in the service, reading, saying prayers, with a server assisting the priest and where there is no communion, taking the whole service.



By and large the congregation is fairly conservative, but recognises the need to move with the times. The monthly 'Something Different' service, when we sometimes hear about the work of various charities across the world, is an interesting variation. This follows the 'Full Anglican' breakfast after the 8.00am communion from the Book of Common Prayer. Evensong, on the third Sunday, is also BCP and is lay led.

There is a tradition of using incense only at Epiphany. On Palm Sunday there is a procession from the nearby White Horse, and the Easter services include the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday and a joint reflective service on Good Friday.

Music

There is a fine two-manual organ built by Brindley of Sheffield and installed in 1869. It was rebuilt in 1992 with minor alterations and re-voicing by Saxon Aldred, Organ Builder, of Redbourn, Herts. There is a small choir which is supplemented by choir members from Dunsfold and Farncombe for weddings and festivals.

Village website:

www.hascombe.com

Parish Council website:

www.hascombeparishcouncil.co.uk

Hascombe Community Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/660924750659937

Normal Pattern of Monthly Services

	Dunsfold	Hascombe
1st Sunday	10.00 Family Parish Communion	8.00 Holy Communion Breakfast in the vestry 'The Full Anglican' 10.00 Something Different
2nd Sunday	10.00 Café Church in the Winn Hall	10.00 Parish Communion
3rd Sunday	10.00 Joint Parish Communion	6.30 Evening Prayer
4th Sunday	4.00 Funday @4 joint service	10.00 Joint Parish Communion
5th Sunday	10.00 Joint Parish Communion in alternating Churches	



Our view... where we are now

Celebrate

- Two beautiful, historic churches, open every day, in lovely villages.
- Warm welcomes from friendly congregations.
- Diversity of worship. From the traditional, to our informal initiatives such as Café Church and Something Different.
- Both churches have teams offering outreach.
- Dedicated leaders from both parishes uniting to bring young children and families into our Funday@4 service.
- Joint Lent lunches have driven £1500 in annual donations to the Bishop of Guildford's Lent Challenge.
- Increasing cooperation between our two parishes.
- Outreach to the communities through social events as well as church events.
- Well-maintained, fit for purpose buildings as well as the options to use village halls when required.

Challenges

- To develop a plan for the future for both parishes.
- To maintain relevant patterns of worship without excluding those who favour the traditional.
- The need to reach out and encourage a positive relationship with families.
- While focusing on the young we must not lose sight of our older worshippers.
- We need the confidence to raise the profile of the church within communities who do not relate to us.
- To grow church membership
- Maintain pastoral care and establish more structured visiting.
- Work on achieving financial stability.

Vision and Statement of Needs

We are two small traditional parish churches who value our heritage but are open to new ideas.

We want to continue to develop services which attract non church goers while not neglecting the requirements of existing members.

We need to reach out, not just to the local community, but to the wider world.

We expect the incumbent to work actively with both parish treasurers to manage the parishes' finances.

We are looking for:

- Someone to help us create a vision for the future and help us grow in our journey of faith
- A thought-provoking preacher to help us interpret aspects of faith
- Someone who respects tradition whilst encouraging new ideas and approaches
- A person of prayer, with good listening skills, who can recognise all points of view
- Someone who is people friendly, a leader who will engage with everyone, young and old, regardless of class or creed
- A person who will visit within the parishes, but also interact with other clergy and the whole diocese. Ideally someone who has a wider experience of life, so can see the bigger picture
- An effective operator who gets things done, but with sensitivity and tact
- Someone with experience of growing a church from a small base

What we can offer:

- Supportive teams of lay leadership, pastoral assistants and PCCs
- Friendly communities to support you in your ministry as you go forward
- At present we share part time paid administrative help with St Nicolas Cranleigh
- Working expenses will be met in full
- Recognition of the importance of the health and wellbeing of you and your family, respecting days off and holidays
- A conveniently located purpose-built rectory



The Rectory is located opposite Dunsfold church and was purpose built in 1965. The house is bright, with superb views across open countryside. There are four bedrooms upstairs, one of which has an ensuite bathroom. There is a fifth bedroom on the ground floor with an ensuite shower room. The large garden is mainly laid to lawn.

The Rectory has been let by the Diocese during the temporary ministry.