

## A BRIEF LOOK AT OUR FOUR CHURCHES

### HEADCORN

#### 1: THE MISSION OF OUR CHURCH

Our Logo is 'following Christ together', and this appears on our Notice Sheet each week and in our Magazine each month.

Over the coming years we want to continue to build up a loving, prayerful and confident congregation that will be a powerhouse for witness and service.

We are looking for effective ways to integrate our young families into the main church congregation.

We live and worship in a medium-sized village, of where there is a generous overlap between church and community. There are many joint activities with the village, including the annual Christmas tree festival, Christmas market and Apple Day. Our popular Men's Breakfast and Women's Breakfast groups tackle issues relating to the world of work and social concern.



Sunbeams is our group for babies, toddlers, mums and other carers and meets every Friday.



Messy Church gives us exciting new contacts with young families in our village, and we are at present re-shaping the way we run this group.

Our Magazine Committee produces an attractive edition each month which is popular both in the church and in the wider village community.

Our Pastoral Group coordinates care for those who are ill, housebound, and in nursing homes.



We run a Food Bank which provides resources for the Salvation Army Centre in Maidstone. A team of Headcorn church volunteers takes the contributions along each week.

Into this exciting mix of achievement and potential, we will welcome our new priest, to walk alongside us, and to inspire us with vision and leadership.



## 2: THE WIDER CONTEXT OF THE PARISH

Headcorn is one of the largest villages in the area with 6,000 residents. There is a well-mixed population of young families, working-age people, and the retired. Housing is a mixture of owner-occupied and rented.

There are a significant number of commuters, as Headcorn has a main-line service to London Charing Cross every half-hour, and the journey time is approximately one hour. There is also a direct train service to Canterbury and Dover. There

is a regular bus service to Maidstone and Tenterden.

Headcorn Primary School is a well subscribed two form entry school situated close to the village centre and has recently been rated 'Good' by OfSTED. The village has a popular pre-school and a new nursery has recently been opened. The nearby towns of Maidstone and Ashford have several boys' and girls' Grammar Schools, Comprehensive Schools and Sixth Form Colleges. The historic and picturesque towns of Tenterden and Cranbrook are also nearby with Comprehensive Schools. There is good care for the elderly with a weekly lunch club held in the village hall.

Headcorn is located in the Weald of Kent. It is situated beside the River Beult and is surrounded by beautiful countryside and footpaths. The centre of the village, including much of the High Street, is a Conservation Area, with several historic listed buildings. The village has a wide selection of independent shops, including a baker, a butcher, restaurants, two public houses, a Post Office, library, doctor's surgery and dentists. There is also a Sainsbury Local.

The Village Hall is a thriving centre for many activities, with over 30 clubs and societies. The village has many sporting facilities including golf, cricket, football and tennis clubs. The old Methodist Church is now called the Heart of Headcorn and provides for many community groups to get together.

'Churches Together in Headcorn' include the Baptist, Catholic and Methodist congregations as well as us. We have special times together in Lent and Holy Week, at Christmas, and during the Week of Prayer for Unity.

## 3: OUR WORSHIP

As well as all the major festivals, the following is a summary of our regular services:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month: Café Church

A relaxed lay-led service lasting about 30 mins, preceded by light refreshments served from 9:30am.

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10am Parish Communion are part of the usual pattern of Sunday services at Headcorn.**



**5<sup>th</sup> Sundays Joint Benefice service on a rota between the four churches. (see Appendix A)**

We also celebrate special festivals – Harvest, Mothering Sunday,



Pet Service and Christingle. **All these 'special' services are part of our weekly 10am worship.**

Members of the Pastoral Group take Communion to our housebound communicants as requested.

We are busy through the year with baptism, wedding and funeral services, and the statistics about these can be seen in the Statistical Appendix at the end of this Profile.

We use Common Worship, and a robed choir leads us in our singing.

There are 12 members on the PCC, and we meet five times a year apart from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Our finances are sound, and we have paid our Diocesan Share in full for many years.



We are very grateful to the Friends and Fundraising Group of Headcorn Church who raise a significant sum each year and help us with many aspects of fabric repairs and ongoing maintenance costs. A summary of PCC accounts can be seen in the Statistical Appendix.

News about our church can be found in the regular monthly Magazine and on our Benefice web-site. <http://www.handschurches.org/> and on our Facebook Page [\(20+\) Facebook](#) which is regularly updated by our Benefice administrator.

#### 4: OUR CHURCH BUILDING

The Parish Church stands at the west end of the village High Street, and is surrounded by the graveyard, which is not yet closed. The church is approached through a lychgate, built in 2000 to commemorate the new millennium.

The church is Grade 1 listed and dates largely from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and is in good order.

The tower has a ring of eight bells, which are also in good order. They are well maintained by the bellringers, with help when necessary, from the County Association.



We are currently in the process of finalising plans for a new servery at the west end of the church. This includes the removal of two pews to allow for a wider hospitality area. In addition, a new fully accessible WC is being built in the vestry at the west end of the Nave, we expect the work to be completed by the Autumn of 2025.