

Parish Profile of **St Peter's Newdigate**

(Part of the Surrey Weald Team)



In Jesus' name
Making Disciples
Growing in Discipleship
Reaching Out
Connecting Church and Community

Contents

1	Mission	4
2	Vision	5
3	The Person We Seek	6
4	St Peter's Church	7
5	Church Community	8
6	The Benefice	14
7	Safeguarding	15
8	Parish of The Holmwood St Mary Magdalene Holmwood	16
9	Parish of Capel & Ockley St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley	18
10	Welcome from Newdigate Infant School	20
11	Welcome from the Diocese	21
12	Welcome from the Wardens	23

Welcome

Welcome to St Peter's Newdigate! Thank you for prayerfully considering whether God might be calling you to be the next Rector of St Peter's Newdigate and Team Rector of the Surrey Weald Team.

We are praying that God will call a visionary leader, good at team building, to join us on this journey; a person who is led by the Spirit, open to renewal and has a clear call for rural ministry and a compelling love to preach and teach his Word.



Mission

Our mission is to make disciples, encouraging each other to grow in lifelong discipleship, godly living and service and to be part of his kingdom-building work advancing the gospel within our communities and beyond.



Vision

Our vision is to see God move and break into our villages with his love by changing lives and deepening our desire to serve everyone in the local community and further afield.

It is exciting to see this vision for growth begin to take root. Much has been achieved over the years and much has still to be accomplished, but we sense God is preparing us for a new season of growth and outreach. As God unfolds his plans our prayer is that many will hear and respond to the good news of Jesus and put Jesus at the centre of their lives and being.

We believe God has already begun to outwork this vision and is beginning to do a new thing:

- Forging closer ties with the local schools and rebuilding and extending work with children, young people and families
- Building meaningful relationships and greater unity between our team churches
- Deepening our desire to go further and deeper in our personal and corporate prayer life
- Being a church family and fellowship where you can make friends and love, support and care for one another
- Developing and encouraging every member ministry and greater congregational participation in our services
- Developing a worship band to lead contemporary worship
- Becoming a church family enabling every member to worship in spirit and truth

We have been greatly encouraged to see some new people come, attend Alpha, grow in their faith and become involved in the life and ministry of the church. Our prayer is that the church will grow stronger spiritually and numerically, that young people, children and families will become central to the life of the church and we will become more effective in reaching out to our friends and neighbours with the good news of Jesus' love.

Our Church Development Plan is due for revision within the next 12 months or so and in it we will look to the central themes of making disciples, strengthening our outreach into the community, rebuilding our children's and youth ministry, growing the church family, especially among those under 50, increasing our small groups, deepening our personal and corporate prayer life.

The Person We Seek

The appointment of Rector of St Peter's Newdigate while also serving as Team Rector of the Surrey Weald Team is full of potential, new opportunities and promise, yet will be challenging and demanding at a critical time in the life of St Peter's and the wider Team. It requires a person of vision and enthusiasm who will bring a variety of gifts. We are praying that God will call such a person with all the necessary gifts who will be:

- A collaborative team leader and pastor, who gives priority to prayer and bible study, is open to the Spirit and committed to discerning and carrying out God's Will
- A gifted preacher, evangelical in outlook and open to renewal. Someone who loves God's Word, is able to handle it well with confidence and conviction and to make scripture relevant to everyday life
- A person with a heart for people of all ages to live with God at the centre of their lives and become fully devoted followers of Jesus, able to share their faith with others
- Able to develop a strong culture of discipleship and prayer
- A person with a heart for young families who can support parents in the discipleship of their children and is committed to helping young people grow in their faith and become fully integrated into church life
- Able to mobilise the church to reach out to those who are not in church and facilitate every member ministry by the release of the gifts
- To help develop ways of expanding our pastoral care and support
- Committed to forging even closer links with the local schools and their staff and pupils
- Committed to developing team ministry and mutual support across the parishes
- Able to appreciate and enjoy the different styles of worship in each parish and be open and supportive to both those who value contemporary worship and those who value more traditional worship
- A good listener with a lively sense of fun and able to relate well to people of all walks of life

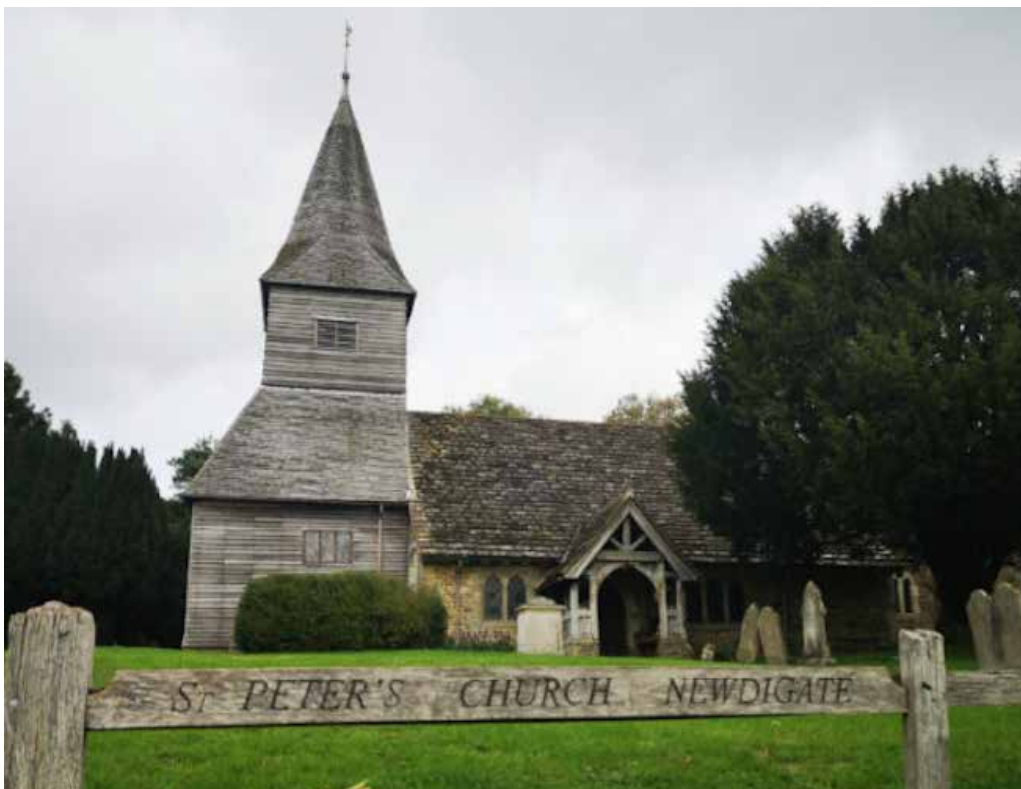
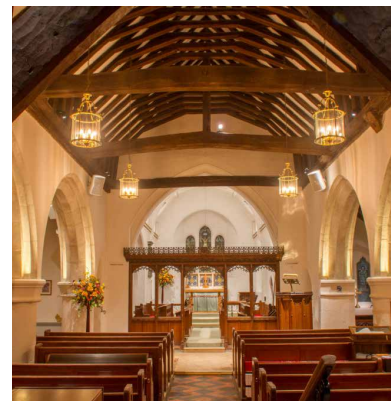
St Peter's Church

Church family overview

St Peter's is a very warm and friendly church family with a strong sense of fellowship and community. Over the past five years we have sensed that God is doing a 'new thing' (Is 43:19) at St Peter's. This has led to a new pattern of services and worship, greater congregational participation and a greater emphasis on prayer and openness to the Spirit. We are excited at the opportunity that this appointment brings to continue seeking the Lord to direct us as we continue to outwork his plans and purposes both within the church, the team and our wider communities.

Profile

The church electoral roll currently stands at 100, with about 40 people regularly attending our 10am services and around 8-12 at our 8.30 BCP communions. We are saddened that our church family now includes only a very small number of families and young people. By far the largest age group is the 50-80 year olds, most of whom reside in the Parish. Our Festival Services including the Christmas puppet nativity are usually very well attended but in recent years there has been a decline in younger people attending regular Sunday services. However, Messy Church events, held in the village hall at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, have been helping to build up our contacts and relationships with primary age children and their parents and carers.



Church Community

Ministry Team

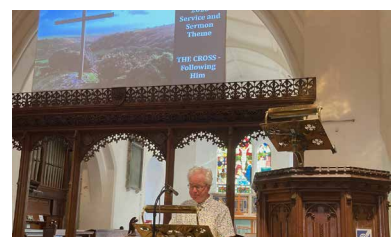
- Associate Minister - the church is greatly blessed to have an Associate Minister, Revd Dr Martin Gilpin (self-supporting), who has lived in the village for over 40 years. His involvement in conducting the offices of the church for the past many years and now during the interregnum has been considerable and a huge help and encouragement.
- Churchwardens - our two churchwardens, David Newbery and James Baker are long-standing members of St Peter's and have served in this role since 2023. They are supported by the PCC as they work to steer the church through the interregnum.
- PCC - St Peter's has a prayerful PCC made up of mature Christians from a range of professional backgrounds, bringing a wide range of experience to their role. United by a shared heart for God, they work to ensure the mission of the church is supported and its buildings and assets are well maintained. The PCC meets every other month. A member of the PCC, Paul Middleton, has recently completed the 'Foundations in Ministry' training and as a Lay Associate Minister now serves as an occasional preacher.
- Pastoral Assistants - our pastoral care team consists of five trained Pastoral Assistants and our Associate Minister who are available if anyone is finding life difficult and wants someone to talk to. They are also able to help if someone would like a home communion or make an enquiry about a baptism, wedding or confirmation.

Church services

Our usual pattern of services is:

- Sunday services @ 8.30am (average attendance 8-12)
1st & 3rd Sundays. Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)
- Sunday services @ 10am (average attendance 40-45)
1st & 3rd Sundays. All Age Worship led by music group
2nd & 4th Sunday. All Age Worship with CW Holy Communion (prayer ministry is offered during these services)
5th Sunday. Café church, Taizé or other style of service
- Wednesday online service @ 9am (av. attendance 15-20)
Morning Prayer.

Coffee is served in church after the 10am service and is always a good time of fellowship and catching up. Members of the congregation are encouraged to take part in the services in a variety of ways such as by reading scripture, leading intercessions, giving testimonies, playing instruments and singing, giving words of knowledge, giving the talk, praying spontaneously, going forward for prayer ministry and on occasion leading the service, or components of the service. The church is also blessed to have a committed group of flower arrangers who decorate the church so beautifully. In addition to this, from time to time we have also put on Arts festivals in the church where local artists exhibit their work.



Church Community

Until recently we had many weddings each year at St Peter's. This has currently dwindled to around three a year, but our outreach to wedding couples remains important to us as we welcome them to services and prepare them for marriage. Quite a few of our former wedding couples return to church occasionally and some have brought their children for baptism. In the past year we have held two funerals and five thanksgiving services.

We want to strengthen our reach into the wider community and to this end, St P's Gathering, an informal band led service has started meeting twice a year in the village hall. The aim of this is to focus on building up the faith of a non-churchgoing generation who are comfortable in exploring what it means to be part of a faith community, experiencing God's love and worshipping in spirit and truth.

Music and Worship

Music plays an important and valued role in our worship, helping to shape our services and drawing the congregation together in praise and worship. Since October 2021 we have embraced a blend of both traditional and contemporary hymns and worship songs, offering variety and ensuring that our music reflects both the richness of our heritage and the freshness of more modern expressions of faith. At the 10am services, this music is led in different ways, sometimes accompanied by the organist, at other times supported by the worship group, or through the use of carefully chosen recordings streamed via YouTube.

Our worship group brings together people of all ages and backgrounds, including young people from our SNF youth fellowship joining in alongside adult members of the congregation, sharing their gifts and growing in confidence as they play and sing together. At present, the choir does not take part in weekly services, but its contribution remains valued for special moments in the life of the church such as major festivals, weddings, funerals, and other significant services, often combining voices with the choir at Capel, reminding us of the beauty and power of singing together.

Children, youth and families

We have a committed and strong team of volunteer leaders for our children and young people's groups, which currently meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month during term time.

- Adventurers for Year R to Year 4 on Sunday morning
- Explorers for Year 5 to Year 7 on Sunday morning
- Sunday Night Fellowship (SNF) for Year 8 to Year 13 on Sunday evening

The impact of Covid has resulted in a reduction in the number of children, young people and families involved in this ministry but we are working hard to reverse this declining trend through our Messy Church events, where we are in contact with around 15 families. Initiatives such as going into school to listen to children read have already begun to bear fruit and nurture this community. Adventurers and Explorers currently serves one family, with three children attending, and, having sent some members to University in September, SNF will have three young people in the group. The church has good links with the village uniformed organisations, who attend the annual Remembrance Day service.



Church Community

Discipleship and prayer

Fostering discipleship and giving opportunities to those who want to explore the Christian faith is an important part of our ministry. In recent years we have run several evening courses for new and existing members; these have included Alpha, the Prayer Course and the Unanswered Prayer Course and Crazy Love, Hope Explored and Just10. Last autumn we ran Alpha in person and are currently running the Bible Course (new edition) as a follow-up.

Every other month we run 'Talk in the Tower' which is an afternoon video discussion group, and this is currently undertaking a series on 'Hymns we Love', looking at the story behind and meaning of some of our much-loved hymns. Roughly three times a year we hold our version of 24/7 prayer when the congregation are invited to pray in their own homes for an hourly slot between 6pm to 6am the following day.

Community outreach

- Coffee Under the Bells - we serve the village community by running a weekly café 'Coffee under the Bells'. This outreach, which has been going for the last 15 years, is hugely popular and on average draws 25 people (church and non-church) each week. We also aim to support the local community by holding a monthly hearing aid clinic at 'Coffee under the Bells', and a local councillor comes to deal with any queries once a month. At other times the coffee mornings provide opportunities for church members to lend a listening ear or give other pastoral support.
- Pop In Ploughman's - post-covid, we have also started offering a mid-week Ploughman's Lunch in the village three times a year and this regularly draws around 30 people from across the community. These outreaches are a lifeline for those who feel isolated, lonely and vulnerable and for those still recovering from the impact of the pandemic.
- Welcoming Newcomers - this has become a significant ministry which first began in the 1970s and now takes place every six months in the village hall. Everyone who moves into the village is invited to drop in with their whole family to enjoy tea and coffee, cake and a chat, and meet other newcomers and residents. Church members act as hosts and really enjoy being part of the body welcoming and reaching out to newcomers in this way.
- Breakfast Outreach - in the past we have run both men's and big village (for both men and women) breakfasts in one of the village pubs. These had outside speakers and were very well attended. We intend to relaunch the series later this year.
- Walk and talk - this has become a regular event. Walking in our beautiful countryside has proved a good way to bring church and non-church people together. We finish with tea and cake in the church or churchyard and this year included a quiz for children and families.
- Village day - for the past three years church members have provided and served refreshments for this annual event which is put on by Newdigate Community Centre



Church Community

- Home groups – there are three traditional home groups meeting weekly/once/twice a month involving 25 members. These groups provide opportunities for in depth fellowship and support as well as growth in discipleship. Each term these groups either study a book of the bible or follow a topic-based study course. Once a month our Associate Minister leads a men's Christian discussion group in the local pub usually based on something topical going on in the world as its theme. One of our priorities is to extend the number of home groups and encourage greater congregational participation in them.
- Mothers' Union – we have a well-supported MU branch of some 15-20 members who meet monthly in the village hall. Led by a committee of members the branch organises a programme of speakers throughout the year embracing the Diocese's vision of transforming church, transforming lives together with its own aims and objectives. It supports the work of local women's refuges and overseas development.
- Outward giving – we serve the wider community by practically and financially supporting two Dorking charities; Dorking Area Foodbank and Besom, a Christian charity providing household goods to those in need. We also fundraise and regularly give to Tearfund, the Christian international relief and development organisation, and are connected with and give occasional support to Welcare, a charity offering family support in East Surrey, and to Embrace the Middle East, a Christian development charity, supporting the most excluded and marginalised in the region.



School

Newdigate Church of England Infant School, founded in 1660, is the oldest Church School in Surrey and has recently become federated with St Michael's Church of England Infant School, Mickleham, Nr Dorking. It provides an excellent education for children from Reception to Year 2 and attracts pupils from within and outside the village. We greatly value the links we have with the school and its staff who place children at the very heart of all they do. Church members regularly go into school to hear children read; other initiatives involving creative writing and inputting to assemblies etc may also be areas for further involvement. We look forward to building on the good understanding and relationship we enjoy with the School and forging even closer links.

Finance

St. Peter's finances are now in sound condition. We have strong reserves in both cash and investments and frequently benefit from gifts from the Friends of St Peter's whose purpose is to help preserve our historic building as a place of worship. Earlier this year we completed the successful re-shingling of our oak spire, a project which involved raising over £150,000, with a great response from both the church and wider village community, reflecting how important the church is to the village. Some funding also came from external trusts.

Our parish share is currently set at 70% of ministry and clergy housing costs in recognition of the work St Peter's previous rector did as Team Rector and in 2025 was just over £64,000.

Church Community

Income from current regular planned giving and associated gift aid is approaching £75,000 per annum and a recent stewardship campaign resulted in increased giving. There is need to continue to work on stewardship, especially as the majority of our giving comes from those aged over 70.

The full accounts for 2024 are available on our church website.

St Peter's church building

The parish church of St Peter is medieval (circa 12th century) built of stone under a Horsham slab roof with later additions and classified as a grade 2* listed building. The oak tower added in the 16th century is the church's most distinctive feature and has six bells which are regularly rung on Sundays. An active bell ringing team practices weekly and visiting teams are also welcome. During the week the bell tower is used as a meeting area and every Wednesday morning holds 'Coffee under the Bells'; set up outside when the weather is warm and good enough. There is a children's corner with toys where young children can play and be looked after by their parents during services. One area of the church has also been set aside as a prayer space for visitors or passers-by, and this is also where prayer ministry is offered.

The tower's oak shingles were renewed in 2024 which coincided with the 850th anniversary of the church. There is a vestry, kitchen and toilet off the north east corner of the church and a separate disabled toilet and storage unit in the car park. The capacity of the church is about 110. In around 2017/2019 the church was rewired and equipped with a new lighting and AV system. The church has a built-in pipe organ situated on the north side of the chancel. The church does not have a church hall but makes use of the village hall and cricket pavilion for large social gatherings and the nearby school's premises for meetings of the Sunday school.

Rectory

The Rectory is situated at the end of a driveway leading off the church car park. Built in the 1970s, it's a generously sized four bedroomed family home set within a large and well-established garden. The house has been well maintained and has been recently renovated and redecorated.

Conveniently located off the main ground floor entrance hall is a large study, complete with bookshelves and with a view towards the church. A downstairs cloakroom and two large storage cupboards are accessible from the main hall, which also has a separate door to maintain privacy from the rest of the house. To one side of the ground floor hallway is a large living room with sliding doors enabling access to a patio area.

On the other side, a generous dining room leads through to a large kitchen and separate utility room with access to the garden. Upstairs, there are four double bedrooms, all with built in wardrobes, and two with individual sink units. There is also a family bathroom with an electric shower, and a separate toilet. Outside is a single garage, separate carport and well stocked garden and lawns looking eastwards.



Church Community

Newdigate village

Newdigate is a traditional Surrey village, comprising over 800 households. It has not expanded much in the last 50 years although there have been two significant housing developments, The Mulberries and Becket Wood, in the village adding 65 high-end homes to the housing but only a handful of 'affordable' homes. A further eight 'affordable' homes were built more recently in Darbyshire Road. There is some social housing in Winfield Grove (though most of it has been purchased under 'right to buy' legislation) and no sheltered accommodation. At the 2021 Census the population was 1,754, of which 40% were under 45. Cudworth Park, a residential estate of some 60 Park Homes, lies in the south of the parish. A parish magazine is delivered free of charge every month to all households in the village.

The village is a popular place to live, with a number of long-established families and residents who have lived in the village for many years. The village has various amenities including a good infant and pre-school, dispensing doctors' surgery, village hall and sports & social club, as well as a village recreation field (the Brocus) providing facilities for cricket, football, tennis, bowls and a children's playground with safety surface. Local businesses include two pubs, a shop and post office, Indian restaurant, garage and a farm shop café. There are also numerous clubs, organisations and activities which cater well for families and those who have retired, including a well-used Good Neighbours Voluntary Transport Scheme. Many members of St Peter's are very active in village life and are represented in most, if not all, village organisations. This has resulted in developing a very wide network of relationships and a large number of village people who have some kind of contact with people of faith.

There is a daily (not Sundays) bus service from Crawley to Epsom which passes through Newdigate and Dorking but only six times a day in each direction. An on-request bus service is also available.



The Benefice

St Peter's is part of the Surrey Weald Team (formed in 2003) comprising four rural churches set in three parishes; Newdigate, Capel and Ockley (united in 2018) and The Holmwood (comprising Beare Green and South & Mid-Holmwood). Each parish has its own PCC. All three parishes are within the Deanery of Dorking lying at the very Eastern edge of Guildford Diocese and flanked by the Diocese of Southwark on one side and Chichester on another.

The Team Rector (stipendiary) has been based in Newdigate where the vacancy now occurs. The Revd Liz Richardson is a full-time stipendiary team vicar based in Capel and takes the lead in pastoral ministry for Capel and Ockley Churches and parish and will be retiring in late 2026. The Revd Jane Schofield is a House for Duty priest (2 days + Sunday) based in South Holmwood and takes the lead in pastoral ministry for The Holmwood and parish.

Historically, however, the three parishes whilst coming together for some seasonal events or special services, have not worked closely together as a team. This new appointment gives an opportunity to forge much closer links and to initiate more of a team approach to ministry.

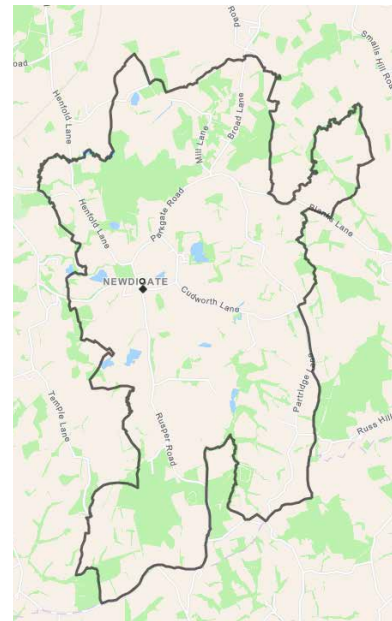
Location

The parishes of Newdigate, Capel & Ockley and The Holmwood are geographically placed between three and six miles to the south of Dorking and between five and seven miles to the north of Horsham and lie either side of the A24. All three parishes are set in beautiful countryside and enjoy easy access to London by road and rail and to Gatwick and Heathrow airports. Many people are attracted to the area for its excellent walking in the countryside, much of which is owned by the National Trust and has designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Besides the towns of Dorking and Horsham there are the nearby towns of Epsom, Reigate, Redhill and Crawley.

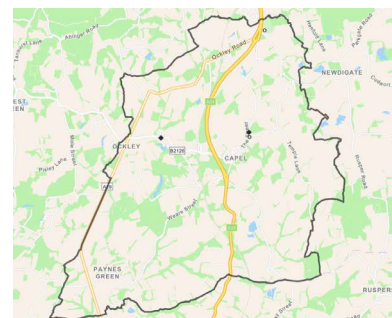
The communities

The communities of the three parishes are not that dissimilar although there is more of a mixture of housing in Capel and The Holmwood. Whilst all three are rural, the populations are no longer predominately farming and agricultural although there are a number of estates, farms, smallholdings, nurseries, riding studs and stables providing a variety of related employment. Many of the farms now let out their premises to small local businesses. In addition to those who work at home or locally, others travel relatively short distances to work or commute to London and the two airports.

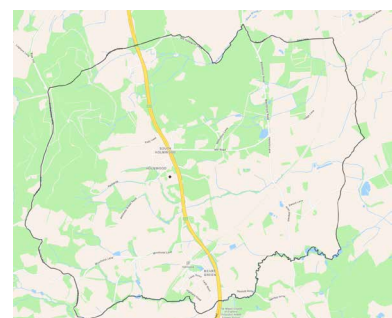
In all three parishes house prices are high and young people find it difficult to afford housing although in Beare Green there is a wider spread of house prices. The communities are served by three church schools, (infant schools in Newdigate and Capel and a primary school in Beare Green). All three schools were ranked as 'Good' or better at recent OFSTED inspections. There is an excellent choice of secondary schools and sixth form colleges, both state and independent, in and around Dorking, Reigate and Horsham.



Newdigate



Capel and Ockley



The Holmwood

Safeguarding

All three parishes adopt safeguarding policies and practices focusing on the need to protect members of their churches, their church groups and any visitors to services, events or their beautiful church buildings, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

They also have safeguarding procedures in place to ensure both visitors and all who welcome them are kept safe, follow the House of Bishops guidance and policies and each have their own Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The Diocese of Guildford is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

All post holders and volunteers are expected to share this commitment. The safeguarding policies of the Diocese and the individual parishes can be viewed on their respective websites.

Parish of The Holmwood – St Mary Magdalene Holmwood

St Mary Magdalene Holmwood is a rural parish in the Deanery of Dorking some three miles or so South of the town of Dorking itself.

The parish comprises over 1000 households generally centred on Beare Green, South Holmwood and Mid Holmwood to either side of the busy A24 main road to Horsham. The majority of residents live in the Beare Green estate to the South of the parish. The parish is set in beautiful countryside much of which is owned by the National Trust. There are large tracts of farmland, and many people are attracted to the area for its outstanding walking. Holmwood Common and Leith Hill are the main attractions, and there are wonderful views from both. At the 2021 census the population was 2,475 which includes long established residents as well as recent incomers and represents a wide range of age, occupation and income. The church electoral roll currently stands at 70. The working population is balanced between those who work locally, those who travel modest distances to work, and those who commute. There is a train station situated between Beare Green and South Holmwood which serves London in one direction and the South Coast in the other.

The majority of properties are privately owned (71.5%) but there are some publicly and privately rented ones. The cost of housing in South Holmwood and Mid Holmwood is high but there is a broad spectrum of prices in Beare Green where there are a good number of young families.

There is no shop in Holmwood and as a church we are considering whether we could open some kind of community shop during the week. There is a doctors' surgery in the middle of the village and on the Beare Green estate there is a small shopping precinct which includes a newsagents, a hairdresser and a café.

There is a good-sized village hall in central South Holmwood with a very lively social club with whom we have a very good relationship. We have our annual Community Carol singing there and get involved with village events such as the annual taxi day when London taxi drivers give up their day to drive veterans to the South Coast for fish and chips, pausing at South Holmwood for breakfast.

The parish church school is the Weald Primary School who hold three services a year in church when the whole school comes over. We have a lively 'Open the Book' team who go into school every other week.

The church building

The church building of St Mary Magdalene is fairly large for a village in this area and stands in a reasonably well-kept churchyard. The church is over 170 years old and pews have been replaced with seating. It is a wonderful space for events, and we hold very well attended social events at least monthly.

Next to the church is a parish room which was built in 1968 on the site of the old Vicarage stables. The parish room is currently in use every day by the preschool with whom we have very strong links. Their rent is a significant source of income.



Parish of The Holmwood – St Mary Magdalene Holmwood

Church services

At 10am each Sunday there is parish communion using Common Worship Order One. The average attendance on Sundays is between 45 and 50 with a few children. We are planning on starting Wild Church in the Vicarage garden in September. There is a significant lay involvement at Sunday services with many people taking on roles such as sides people, readers, communion assistants and intercessors. We have a robed choir and an organist, and the priest robes every week.

We have a Mid-week Communion service on Wednesdays at 9.30am, and a monthly communion followed by lunch.

We have a termly informal service jointly with Capel Church at the Weald School.

Parish team

Sally Pullen is our church warden. Following the sad and sudden death of Sandy Horvath in November 2022 there has been a vacancy for a church warden. We have four pastoral assistants, and a PCC with a wide range of gifts and skill. The church treasurer position is vacant. The church magazine which was running at a loss has been paused but is hopefully restarting as a collaboration between local community groups this September. There are two people starting training with the diocese in September; one is undertaking the Lay Associate Minister course and one doing the Foundations In Ministry course. Reverend Jane Schofield is our house for duty priest and lives with her husband in the Vicarage.

Mission

There are lots of opportunities for mission and ministry - we are currently running the Alpha Course in Beare Green, and we also run a version of Hymns we Love. The previous incumbent retired soon after Covid and the Parish were told she would not be replaced, and they were going to merge with a neighbouring parish (not part of the team). This didn't happen but the uncertainty which lasted for several years meant the church did not have the opportunity to recover from the pandemic.

We are gradually growing in number, but our main challenge is growing our income to cover the increased Parish share. Although there is a lot of visible prosperity in the Parish, these people are not church attendees, so we make sure that our varied social events are well publicised. Alongside this prosperity there is also a lot of emotional, social and financial poverty. We are so happy to report that it is in this demographic we are seeing the main growth in church attendance (which obviously doesn't help to pay the parish share.)

We hope very much that the new Rector of the Surrey Weald Team will encourage the churches collaborating and working more closely together.

Revd Jane Schofield

Associate Priest Parish of The Holmwood



Parish of Capel and Ockley –

St John the Baptist, Capel and St Margaret's, Ockley

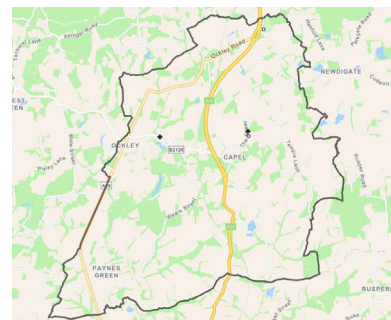
Dating from 1240, the Church of St John the Baptist in Capel was one of the founding members of the Surrey Weald Team, formed in 2003 alongside St Mary Magdalene, South Holmwood, and St Peter's, Newdigate. In 2018, following a pastoral reorganisation in a neighbouring group of churches, St John the Baptist joined with St Margaret's, Ockley – whose own history dates back to 1300 – to form a united parish within the Surrey Weald Team. This union has proved to be a fruitful and enriching one, strengthening our ministry and deepening our sense of shared purpose.

The parish currently has an Electoral Roll of 91, recently revised and updated. Weekly attendance varies between the two churches, with St Margaret's, Ockley generally having the smaller congregation. In 2024, our average weekly attendance was 42, with a total worshipping community of 56. That same year, our Christmas attendance reached 218, and Easter drew 91 worshippers. On average, we host around three weddings per year, showing a decline from six nearly a decade ago. The number of funerals fluctuates, with 12 held in the past year, down from 16 in previous years.

Our weekly services include Holy Communion in both Common Worship and BCP formats, Morning Worship, traditional Matins, and a more informal monthly Café Church service, held either inside the church at Capel or in the garden of the neighbouring pub. We also worship together as one congregation once a month.

Both churches are fairly traditional in style and represent a central churchmanship. A key strength of our parish is our deep integration into village life and our members are involved in many aspects of the community. Another defining quality is our strong culture of welcome and hospitality, rooted in our love for God and our desire to share that love with others.

Like many churches, we have longed to see more children and families joining us in worship. Over the years, we have tried a variety of approaches, some successful, others less so. At Capel, we ran a Messy Church for several years with mixed results, until the COVID-19 lockdown brought it to an end. Ockley also offered children's activities during services for some time. More recently, our focus has been on developing links with our local schools. One of our greatest recent successes has been a weekly after-school Church Club, which regularly attracts around 30 children aged 5–8. This has naturally led to increased attendance by children and parents at special services and events, and we are excited about the opportunities this presents for the future.



Parish of Capel and Ockley –

St John the Baptist, Capel and St Margaret's, Ockley

Within the parish of Capel and Ockley there are two schools. The Weald CofE Primary School which provides education for children in Years 3 - 6 and Scott-Broadwood CofE Infant School which provides education for Reception to Year 2. The Weald School lies on the parish border close to Beare Green and Scott-Broadwood is right in the centre of Capel village, opposite the pub and the church. Both are members of the Good Shepherd Academy Trust and share one headteacher. We are awaiting the result from a recent consultation to bring the two schools together on one site which would be the Weald site. Scott-Broadwood will be staying in Capel for the next two terms with a view to moving onto one site in the summer term 2026 if that is the outcome of the consultation.

We enjoy good relationships with the other churches in the Surrey Weald Team, regularly sharing annual events. The clergy across the team work well together and aim to meet weekly, though we maintain a flexible approach. Capel has a small choir, which occasionally combines with the choir at St Peter's, Newdigate, for joint services.

In our parish, I am supported by a recently retired priest with PTO, a visiting Licensed Lay Minister (LLM), an authorised Pastoral Assistant and, most recently, a newly ordained self-supporting Assistant Curate. Both churches have active Friends organisations, which help fund the maintenance and preservation of our beautiful 13th-century buildings and their surroundings.

At the 2021 Census the population of Capel and Ockley was 2,848. Set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, both are semi-rural villages that offer a wonderful setting for living and worship. The area benefits from good transport links, including a nearby train station, easy access to the A24 and M25, proximity to Gatwick Airport, and is just 40 minutes or less from the coast. Though relatively small in population, these villages have vibrant, welcoming communities with strong local organisations. Each hosts a popular summer show, and there is also a well-attended annual Military Show.

Both churches are registered Eco Churches and currently hold bronze awards. We also actively support our local food bank as part of our commitment to serving the wider community. We are looking forward to welcoming a new Team Rector to journey with us into the future.

Revd Liz Richardson

Team Vicar Parish of Capel and Ockley



Welcome from Newdigate Infant School

Head of School

The relationship between our school and St Peter's Rector is a valued and important part of our community. The Rector leads a short act of collective worship every fortnight, either in school or at the church, often linked to our school values or events in the Christian calendar such as Pentecost, Advent, or Ash Wednesday. These times offer children a chance for peaceful reflection and the opportunity to explore spiritual and moral ideas. The Rector also supports key services at the church, such as Harvest and Easter, by welcoming the school community and offering a short reflection or prayer. A highlight of the year is the Christingle service, which the Rector leads for children and families.

We believe strong links between school and church enrich the life of the school and support the school vision of 'In God's hands we learn and grow'. The church community is actively involved in school life, with members of the congregation regularly volunteering to hear children read - a much-valued contribution. The Rector also plays a special role in wider aspects of school life, including attending our annual May Queen celebration and helping to support the school financially through the Steer and Booth Foundation.

We are looking for a Rector who will continue to build on this positive relationship, who enjoys working with children, and who values being a visible, supportive presence in school. This partnership plays a key role in helping children feel connected, supported, and flourish as they grow.

Gayle Priestley

Head of School
Newdigate C of E Infant School



Welcome from the Diocese

From the Bishop of Dorking and Acting Bishop of Guildford, the Right Reverend Paul Davies



It is a great privilege to live and serve in the Diocese of Guildford. Our part of Surrey and Hampshire (including a parish in London and Sussex) combines the stunning beauty of the North Downs with close proximity to central London. This makes it a highly desirable place to live. It has seen a considerable increase in population in recent years which continues to rise with extensive building of new houses.

We are a very friendly diocese with strong relationships across parishes, schools and chaplaincies. In the last five years, we have invested significantly in clergy wellbeing. We launched the wellbeing covenant in 2021 and, since then, we offer spiritual direction, clergy mentoring and pastoral supervision. We also provide clergy counselling when needed. As bishop, I take the love and care of clergy very seriously.

The Diocese has a strong vision rooted in Transforming Church, Transforming Lives. This was the result of considerable consultation in 2015 and was updated in 2023 when we discerned three priorities: Growing Discipleship, Growing Diversity, and Growing Community. Each parish is asked to consider what this overarching vision might mean in its local context and express it in a Church Development Plan.

There is significant support of parishes through the central team in Church House Guildford. In 2020, we launched the Parish Needs process. This is our unique support system which recognizes that each parish in the diocese is different and it seeks to journey alongside each one of them, supporting in a way that is rooted in particular needs - whilst seeking to build a supportive learning community across the diocese.

Building on training provision that has existed for some time in the Diocese of Guildford, in 2026 we launched St Martha's College. This seeks to support our parishes in equipping leaders for all sorts of ministries (including ordained ministry). Its most exciting recent venture has been the two-year Foundations in Ministry Programme which has seen over 120 people explore calling and formation.

Whilst we have seen considerable growth in many parts of the diocese over recent years, our greatest challenge since the pandemic has been recovery of ministry to children and young people. We are in the process of prioritizing these areas – as we currently rewrite our children's strategy and have launched the Youth Catalyst Programme which is providing an exciting platform for young people to explore faith.

We are therefore always looking for clergy with a proven ability - or at least the clearest potential - in leading change, fostering a vocational culture and growing the church younger, so that our vision of a Transforming Church, Transforming Lives might be more fully realised.

The diocese has been blessed with very able leadership for the last decade through the ministry of Bishop Andrew Watson, whose untimely death in March 2026 caused considerable grief for us as a diocesan family. Inspired by his example, however, we are committed to continue to 'run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter to faith'.

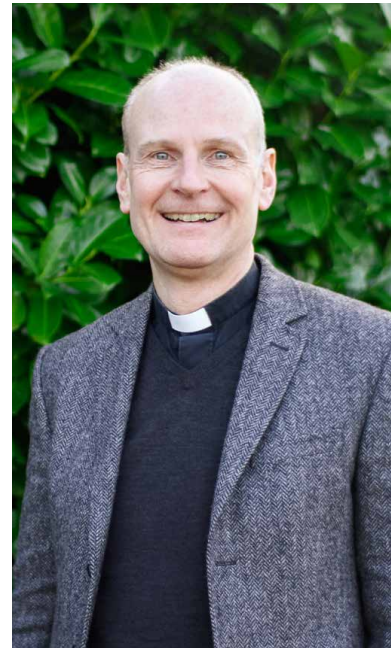
Wishing you every blessing in your discernment – and please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of the archdeacons if we can help in any way.

The Rt Revd Paul Davies , Bishop of Dorking & Acting Bishop of Guildford

Welcome from the Diocese

From the Archdeacon of Dorking, the Venerable Martin Breadmore

There is much to celebrate across the Surrey Weald Team Ministry and at St. Peter's Newdigate in particular which includes faithful congregations committed to grow in discipleship, diversity and community as they live for Jesus wherever they find themselves every day. In recent years there has been an renewed emphasis on growing stronger relationships with local schools, creating more of a feel of team across the parishes and seeking to be more intentional in reaching out into their local village communities. Dorking deanery is also a very supportive and active deanery.



We are seeking to appoint a full time Team Rector and Rector of St. Peter's who, ideally has previous experience of ministering in a rural context, and will prayerfully build on the strengths of this faithful community as well as further develop the existing ministry amongst children and families and outreach to the community. The new minister should have a passion for seeing people come to a living faith in Jesus, have strong pastoral and teaching gifts, have the ability to inspire others to reach out, and have a passion for engaging with children, families and schools, as well as bringing gifts and evidence of vision, strategy and collaborative leadership.

This appointment is perfect timing for receiving resource and support from the wider diocese. 2024 marked the beginning of our second cycle of our Parish Needs Process, which is a brand-new way of working whereby the diocese will seek to walk alongside each parish to help them with vision and whatever needs they might have arising out of this.

I am very enthusiastic about this post. For the person that God calls, there is so much to offer here: the warmth of a great church family; the opportunity of leadership in a parish, deanery and diocese which offers considerable support and resources; the challenge of discerning with these communities what God is doing and how we might join in; the privilege of living and working in a part of the country with so many opportunities for clergy and families.

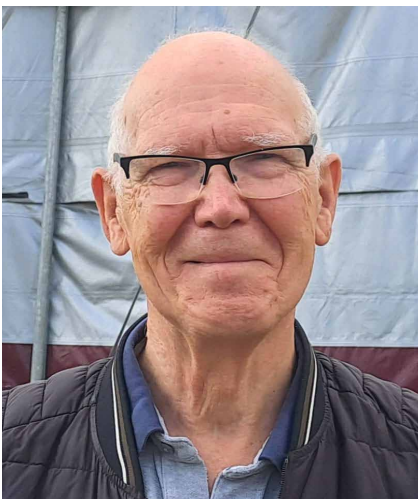
If you'd value an informal conversation about this post, I would be keen to speak with you, so please do not hesitate to be in touch with me via: archdeacon.dorking@cofeguildford.org.uk

Venerable Martin Breadmore
Archdeacon of Dorking

Welcome from the Wardens

We are so glad you have been drawn to read this Parish Profile. We are excited about discerning the man or woman who God is calling and pray the Holy Spirit might inspire you to apply to be the next Rector of St Peter's Church and Team Rector of the Surrey Weald Team.

If you have any matters you would like to discuss with us please feel free to get in touch. We will gladly try to answer any questions you might have.



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Parish Profile of
St Peter's Newdigate
(Part of the Surrey Weald Team)

stpetersnewdigate.org.uk

