



St NICOLAS CRANLEIGH

Parish Profile

Welcome from the Bishop of Dorking

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.



Welcome from the Bishop of Dorking

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 of 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul".

The Rt Revd Paul Davies

Bishop of Dorking & Acting Bishop of Guildford

Welcome from the Archdeacon

I am delighted to commend to you this Profile for St Nicolas Cranleigh. In it you will find the details of a really exciting post, which I hope will capture your interest.

Cranleigh is the biggest centre of population in our most rural deanery, and is reputed to be the largest village in England, feeling more like a small town. St Nicolas Church is the only Anglican church, and does the task of being the parish church for all very well - there is a beautiful blend of traditional and contemporary worship, good visibility within the village, and good relationships with churches of other denominations.

The Parish has been well served and ably led by Canon Roy Woodhams for the last 12 years, and there is a wonderful, strong, happy and enthusiastic community of disciples, and a very able team of leaders.

In appointing the next Rector of Cranleigh, we are looking for someone who is able to lead the church in Cranleigh to be an even healthier and more vibrant community than it is already. There is great opportunity, partly through responding to the huge population growth in recent years. In addition, in a rural deanery, St Nicolas' also has the potential to be a church which helps to resource others around.



Welcome from the Archdeacon

We would want to see a development of this in the coming years, and there is particular and immediate potential for working closely with the neighbouring village of Ewhurst.

Cranleigh is an excellent training parish, and many curates have benefited from their time there. We would hope to appoint someone who would also be a suitable Training Incumbent in time. Previous Rectors of Cranleigh have also served as Area Dean, and have had strong links with Guildford Cathedral.

There are some very firm foundations laid in Cranleigh, and for the person whom God is calling, there is huge potential for a very enjoyable and fulfilling period of ministry and church growth. We would love to hear from you if you think this might be you!

If you would like an informal conversation and an opportunity to ask questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch, either by emailing catharine.mabuza@cofeguildford.com or by messaging 07785 990208

The Venerable Catharine Mabuza
March 2026

Welcome from our Churchwardens

Thank you for considering the opportunity to become our 50th Rector at St Nicolas Church.

We are a warm and welcoming parish church with regular Sunday attendance averaging 145, and attracting many more to special occasions throughout the year.

Cranleigh is a wonderful place to live - most people who move here tend to stay! The village is cradled within the Surrey Hills National Landscape. Although officially a 'village', it is more like a small market town, and over the past six years has grown in size through several large housing developments, with a population now approaching 14,000.

The Rector has always been a significant local figure, attending important civic events such as Remembrance Day services. They have also been active in links with other local denominations and have joined ecumenical initiatives in the parish such as the open-air witness on Good Friday. We would encourage you to make your mark in your own way in this parish and in the wider area. We are praying that God's Spirit of discernment may guide us all through this process.

Please take time to look through our Parish Profile. If you have any questions or would like to contact us for an informal chat, please do email us. We would be delighted to hear from you and to welcome you to the parish of St Nicolas.



Susan and Alan

susan@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk / alan@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Who we are

We are a lively and welcoming church in the heart of Cranleigh, considered to be England's largest village!

We cater for a broad spectrum of worship traditions, whilst still seeking fresh ways to engage with both regular churchgoers and those with little or no experience of church. We extend also to a sizeable online congregation, and have excellent pastoral relationships with local care homes and a large retirement village on the outskirts of Cranleigh, as well as strong links with local schools and nurseries.

Our Mission Statement calls us to be 'Caring, Sharing and Daring', whereby we strive to show Christ's love, share the gospel message, and extend faith beyond the church walls to positively influence the wider local community.

We have a wonderful, collaborative team of clergy, lay leaders, employed staff, PCC and congregation, who are excited to support our new incumbent as they lead us in this next phase of our ministry here at St Nicolas.

We look forward to welcoming someone who will lead and inspire us in being an outward-looking church learning how to follow Jesus Christ more closely.



Things to celebrate now

- A collaborative team of clergy, staff and volunteers
- Exciting plans to re-order the Church and make it accessible for all (Vision 2030)
- Active and growing Children's and Youth Groups
- Excellent provision for and care of the older people in our community
- Silver Eco Church, working towards Gold
- Growth of Baptism Ministry
- Increase in adults coming to faith, with several adult baptisms in the last year.

Our hopes for the future

- Growth - in faith and discipleship, in numbers, and in resources
- Development of our Children's and Youth work
- Exploration of more contemporary worship styles, alongside our traditional offerings.
- Successful completion of Vision 2030 project
- Continue to be a church for the community, outward focused, welcoming and Gospel proclaiming.



RECTORS OF THIS PARISH



ROBERT de CUMBE 1283
 JAMES de DALILEYE 1295
 HUGH de COLEWYK 1329
 WILLIAM ICTE
 JOHN de WARE
 NO RECORD 1345 - 1366
 WALTER de ESTHAM
 JOHN de LONDON 1375
 THOMAS de CRANLEY 1380
 THOMAS of CRANLEY 1381
 JOHN MARREYS 1390
 NAMES UNKNOWN
 DAVID PONTAYNE 1445

DAVID TANQUIERAY
 EDWARD WILLAUNE
 THOMAS BOWEN
 JAMES FIELDING
 WILLIAM SPEER
 WILLIAM C
 SAMUEL
 R.B. W
 LOW
 J

St
NICOLAS
 CRANLEIGH

Our Next Rector

In our next Rector, we hope to find someone who:

- Has a **strong, personal faith in Jesus Christ** and finds **joy** in sharing it.
- Has a **pastoral, missional heart**.
- Will be a Rector with the ability to **enthuse** our congregation through **inspired and meaningful preaching**.
- Is an **energetic and joyful** leader, of our congregation and our team.
- Is a **confident communicator**, able to connect with the wide range of groups and individuals in our community.
- Has proven **experience in leadership roles**, managing a large congregation and with a **vision for intergenerational worship**.
- Is a **people person**, who is **open and approachable**.

Are you prepared to...

- Help us grow in faith and discipleship.
- Nurture and bring to life traditional styles of worship whilst also encouraging more contemporary approaches.
- Lead us in praying for the Holy Spirit to be at work in our church and the wider community.
- Encourage and develop our ministry to young people, children and families.
- Engage with schools, and especially build up the relationship with our Church of England School.
- Continue to support our pastoral work with the older generations.
- Work with the churches, organisations and people in the local community.
- Support our focus on planning for the re-ordering of our church building and associated fundraising.
- Recognise the importance of safeguarding at the forefront of all we do.

Comments from the Wider Community

We asked the community both within and outside of the church, what they would like to see from the next Rector of St Nicolas.

Cranleigh CofE Primary School

Kind and compassionate; Honest and patient; Engaging and energetic; Loving and friendly; Committed and reliable; Somebody who wants to build our school community with us and engage with our families



Cranleigh Parish Council

Suggested the following personal attributes: inclusivity, approachable, communicative with a strong spiritual direction who wants to get involved with the community and bring new ideas.

Elmbridge Retirement Village

“The support we get from the Rector is invaluable and the ability of the Rector to relate to and tend to our village, where the average age is in the upper 80s, is important. We are probably relatively 'conservative' in our spiritual needs. Whilst we don't resist change the traditional order of service is important and comforting.”



Visitors to the Christmas Tree Festival 2025

Visitors were invited to add their ideas and comments to our 'New Rector Tree'. These are some of the suggestions they had.



Fun-loving

Encouraging

Giving of their time to both young and old

A good teacher

Open to opportunities - thinking big!

All inclusive, community orientated

Someone with a vision for Cranleigh

Compassionate, Creative, Caring

Understand and embrace diversity

Accepting, with a kind and welcoming spirit

A good shepherd

Welcomes the Holy Spirit

What we can offer you

A warm welcome

A friendly and welcoming community, eager to develop a vision for growth

A financially healthy parish

Although our giving has gone down recently, we are still financially buoyant and have healthy reserves

A great team

A supportive and capable PCC and sub-committees

A gifted and committed team of clergy, youth leaders and lay staff

A large and able number of volunteers

Administrative support and offices

Beautiful accommodation

A good sized, modern Rectory and garden, next to the church

Respect for your personal wellbeing and family life

The PCC is committed to the covenant for clergy care and wellbeing. The role of Rector is a demanding one and will only be sustainable with a good work-life balance. We encourage and expect you to have regular rest periods, to take holidays, and to make time for retreats, prayer, study, and personal development, as well as for family life, friendship, and recreation. Our team will support you in making this happen.

Prayer

As individuals and as a church, we are already praying for you, and will continue to do so during your ministry with us.





St NICOLAS CRANLEIGH

About Us

About us

Our church members come from a broad spectrum of worship traditions or none, so, to reflect this, our services range from traditional communion services and choral evensong to more contemporary all-age services with band, and mid-week 'Time for Prayer'. The church boasts strong choral and bell-ringing traditions, a variety of home-groups and social groups, a large and active Mothers' Union, and many people who take an active part in running the church on a daily basis. The whole community values the church building highly, with our annual Heritage Gift Days raising significant funds from many in the village. Willing volunteers help to maintain the church and keep the churchyard in good order.

We love to welcome people to church not just for Sunday services, but also at other times, and the church is open daily for visitors, private prayer and weekday services. The church building becomes an attraction for many when we put on our Christmas Tree and Nativity Festivals, and our traditional Rectory Fete in the summer draws a large crowd. We very much hope that our current plans for re-ordering the church will enable us to be even more welcoming on Sundays, but also to become a focal point for many more community activities and thus more integrated into the life of the village, so everyone feels the church is there for them.

Congregation numbers average around 145 across our main Sunday services, as well as 20 more attending weekday worship and some 40 who watch our livestream live or on catch-up.

Meet the Team



Curate

Revd Erik Heemskerck



Curate

Revd Dr Susan Tresman



Ordinand-in-Training

Claire Oxborough



Young People and Families Leader

Steff Shepherd



**Young People and Families Leader/
Locally Authorised Minister**

Claire Jones



Rt Revd

Peter Hancock



Revd Rodney Hill



Revd Martin Booth



Director of Music

Michael Clarke



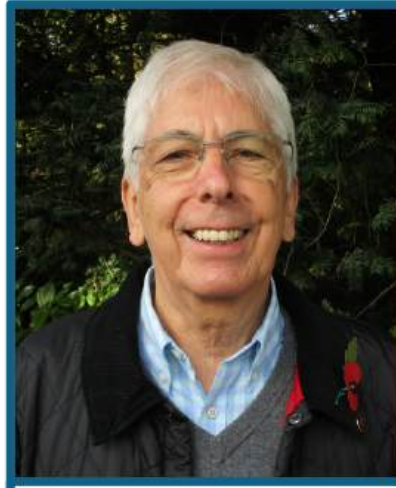
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Katherine Tuck

Meet the Team



Churchwarden
Susan Clarke



Churchwarden
Alan Walton



Parish Administrator
Nicola Craven-Smith

We have a strong Ministry Team which currently includes a training Curate (nearing the end of his curacy), a self-supporting part-time Curate (from the Caleb scheme), three retired clergy, a Locally Authorised Minister, two part-time children's, family and youth leaders and an ordinand in training.

They are all supported by our Parish Administrator and Churchwardens, our Director of Music, and an array of experienced lay helpers and Pastoral Assistants.

Safeguarding

St Nicolas Church is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. We regard it as everyone's responsibility, and encourage as many people as possible to undertake the basic safeguarding awareness course.

The parish is currently on Level 3 of the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard.

Safeguarding underpins all our church groups and activities and we follow clear safer recruitment procedures, whilst our Parish Safeguarding Officer works with leaders and volunteers to ensure that national and diocesan requirements are understood and implemented.

Safeguarding always features on our PCC agenda, and all Risk Assessments include a Safeguarding heading.

For our new Rector, maintaining and promoting Safeguarding in our church will be a priority.

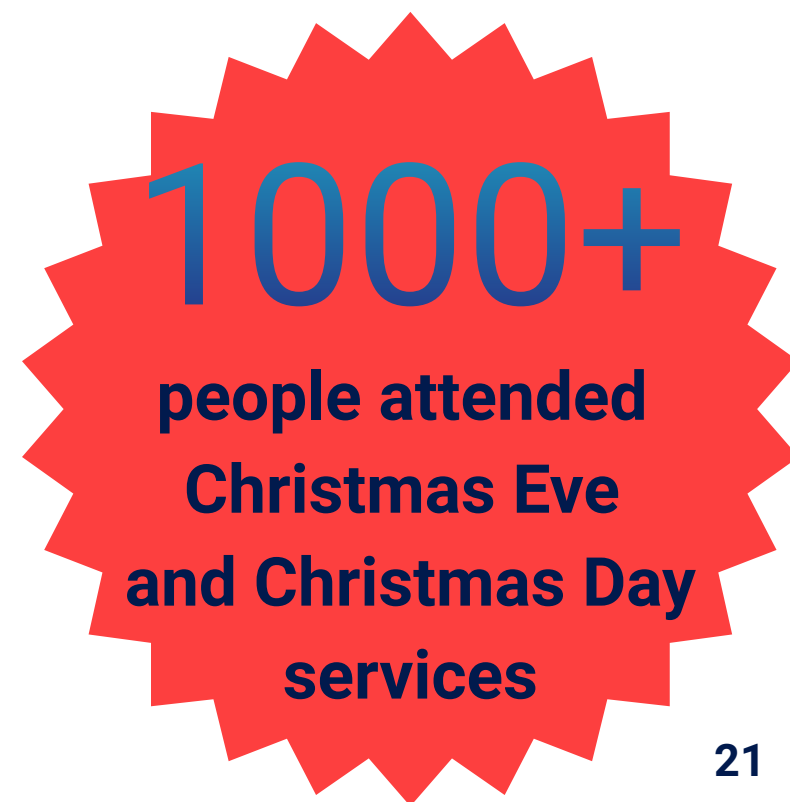
See it Hear It Report It

What we do

We are strongly embedded in the village community, with a presence at most local events (Cranleigh Farm and Food Festival, Cranleigh Carnival etc) and leading the ecumenical Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial. This past Christmas we had over 1000 people attending our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, many of whom are not regular churchgoers, but consider our Christmas services an integral part of their Christmas celebrations.

We also have a thriving Baby & Toddler Group and a weekly Toddler Praise service. Clergy and lay people lead services in care homes in the village as well as at Elmbridge Retirement Village, where there has been significant growth recently.

Church members are involved in many of Cranleigh's organisations and activities, providing a strong St Nicolas presence throughout the community.



1000+
people attended
Christmas Eve
and Christmas Day
services

Service Pattern

1st Sunday

8am: Holy Communion
10am: All Age Worship
6pm: Choral Communion

2nd Sunday

8am: Holy Communion
10am: All Age Communion - with choir

3rd Sunday

8am: Holy Communion
10am: All Age Communion - with music group
6pm: Choral Evensong

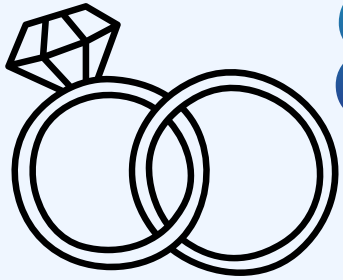
4th Sunday

8am: Holy Communion
10am: All Age Communion - with choir

5th Sunday

8am: Holy Communion
10am: All Age Communion - with choir/music group





8

Weddings



11



Confirmations

30



Baptisms



38

Funerals

Elmbridge Retirement Village

The congregation at Elmbridge is vibrant and diverse, and our mantra is Christian Unity. We are multi-denominational. We frequently include CofE, Methodist, RC, Baptist, United Reform and some others in our services. As a Christian community our aim is to make our services as inclusive as possible.

Elmbridge has the services of a Chaplain, Revd. Allan Taylor, who works alongside parish clergy, the Methodist minister of the village and the faith community at Elmbridge in all its variety in helpful and creative ways.

Our Tuesday services are at 10am, except when we have Evensong which is at 6pm. The first three Tuesdays of each month are CofE, led by St Nicolas. We average 20/25 residents at our regular services.

During the year we have special events during Holy Week and Easter, a Harvest Service, All Saints and Remembrance Sunday.

Our Christmas Carol Service and Remembrance Sunday are major events at Elmbridge and attract our highest attendances, usually over 80.





St
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CRANLEIGH

Get Involved

Our people serve in many ways

Bellringers	Servers	Trackers Kids Group	Christmas Festivals	Coffee Rota
Rectory Fete	Mothers Union	Ignite Youth Group	Buildings Maintenance	Mission & Outreach
Audio/Visual	Little Nic's Baby & Toddler Group	PCC	Flower Arranging	Welcomers
Foodbank	Choir/Music Group	Home Groups	Church Cleaning	Social Team
Churchyard Mowing	Reading & Intercessions	Garden of Remembrance	Lent Group	Toddler Praise

Church Groups

For our services: Our music is supported in some services by a robed RSCM-affiliated adult choir, and in others by a music group (and on special occasions, such as Easter, by both!). Both are led by our very experienced and competent Director of Music, who also plays our two-manual pipe organ, an excellent instrument which is maintained in good order by Mander Organ Builders.

Our band of bellringers has welcomed new members over the last few years and they ring in our Sunday services, for weddings, and have completed peals and quarter peals for special occasions.

We have our team of flower arrangers who arrange fresh flowers for the Sunday services and for weddings; servers who assist in our communion services; welcomers to greet and assist everyone coming for services; and our AV team who operate the sound, screens and livestream.



There are three homegroups, one daytime and two evening, which meet weekly or monthly, with about 25 members across the groups. The groups are free to explore their own choice of topics. One has recently been looking at Romans, while one of the evening groups has been re-visiting and discussing selected Sunday sermons.

During Lent, we follow a weekly course in church, which attracts a wide number of church members, and during which our other homegroups are temporarily suspended.

All these groups provide a time for people to get to know each other better, as well as learning more about their faith, and spending some time in prayer.

Whilst these are all flourishing, we would love to see our homegroups refreshed and reinvigorated to help us with our aim of growing our faith and supporting new disciples.



Church Groups

Mothers' UNION We have a membership of 74 in the Cranleigh branch with monthly meetings and a monthly communion service. We help at Cedar Court Nursing Home and Knowle Park Care Home once a month with a short service at which our members support the clergy.

During the year we have various speakers at our meetings, craft afternoons, open coffee mornings and delicious lunches in the church rooms.

Men's Group - Meets on the first Friday of each month for a variety of activities, whether it be dinner, bowls, a walk, or a guest speaker. Focus on fellowship and social time together.

Ladies' Group - This group meets, usually monthly, for dinner and a chance to socialise together.

Community Engagement

Sewing and Knitting Group - This group started with 8 members and has grown to 30, not all of whom are churchgoers. The group have knitted poppies for our Remembrance Sunday installation, Easter baskets for the congregation to receive on Easter Sunday, displays for Christmas Festivals, blankets for babies in hospital, and much more! Members appreciate the community and chance to chat each week.



Is held at Cranleigh Arts Centre and is a group for those living with dementia and their carers. Run and supported by members of our church, this group provides support and a varied programme of events.



Church Groups

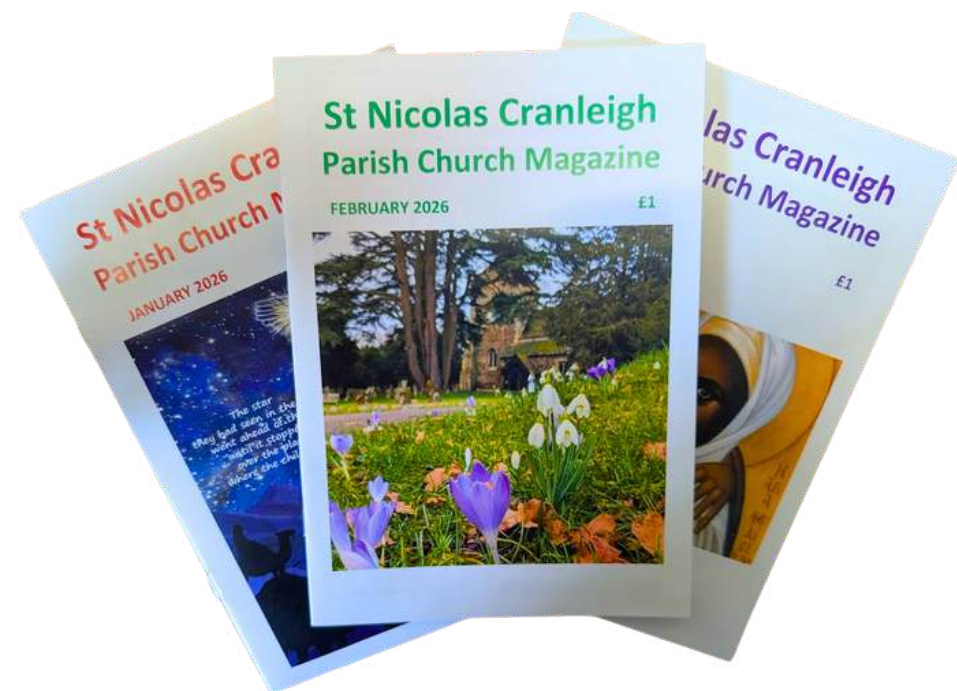
Mission and Outreach

The Mission & Outreach Team seeks out opportunities for demonstrating the love of God through action, building bridges with the community, and sharing the Christian faith in a tangible way. A small team review and make recommendations for the annual charitable donations given by St Nicolas. The charities are chosen to demonstrate the mission work undertaken by community groups at local level, nationally and overseas.

Parish Magazine

Thanks to a team of volunteer editors and article contributions from members of the congregation we produce a monthly, colour Parish Magazine, of which 400 copies are printed each month.

Subscribers receive their copy to their door, and the magazines are readily available in church for visitors and newcomers to purchase. Twenty local businesses advertise in our Parish Magazine which covers the costs of our printing and allows us to make a small profit from the sale of the magazine, which goes to church funds.



Read on for information on our groups for children and young people at St Nicolas



Children & Young People

We have two part-time children/youth workers who work with our leadership team to enhance and develop our ministry to children, youth and families. As well as co-ordinating and leading the groups based in church, they also plan and lead assemblies in schools which are very well received.

All children and young people are a very welcome and vibrant part of our life here at St Nicolas both in our services and in the groups designed specifically for them. The side chapel (Baynards) is permanently set up for children and can be used by families as they wish during services or if visiting during the week. Below are some of the opportunities we offer specifically for children.

Our thriving **Baby and Toddler** group meets in the church rooms every Friday morning during term time, offering the opportunity for both adults and children to meet up. At each session we offer playtime, chat, refreshments, a story from or linked to the Bible, and singing. The group is led by church members, linked to the church and is well attended by the wider community.



Is a lively 40 minutes of singing, dancing and instruments every Wednesday morning during term time in the church rooms.

Children & Young People



TRACKERS is our group that welcomes children on a Sunday to worship with their own skills and talents. We meet every Sunday (except the first in the month) during the 10.00am service. All children of primary school age are invited to join us as we go over to the church rooms to look at passages from the Bible, pray and have lots of fun with games, crafts and other hands on activities. We then return to the church before communion. Trackers have only been meeting this way since September and we are praying for growth as families become familiar with the option on a regular basis.



IGNITE is a youth group run on a fortnightly basis for our church teenagers and friends from Year 7 and above. Each session involves a fun activity such as games, challenges, baking, Lego, quizzes etc. The session then finishes with our Godspot where we tackle issues such as bullying, friendships, families, lying etc with an activity or game that is thought provoking or illustrates a point, before discussing it or looking to see what the Bible says about it. We currently have 10 teenagers on our books and are hoping to start a second group for our younger tweens(Year 5-6) on similar lines.

We recently held a joint Tweens and Teens Film Night with 16 of our young people in the church itself.





Crazy Golf Construction



Mocktail Making

Ignite Youth Group



Schools



Within the Parish there are three state primary schools: Cranleigh Church of England Primary, Park Mead Primary and St. Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Primary. Glebelands is the state secondary school for 11 - 16 year olds.

Cranleigh School is an independent school with its own preparatory school and an Anglican chaplain, and as such are fairly self sufficient but we are always open to working with them when requested and we sometimes have members of staff and their families attending services on a Sunday.

Links with St Joseph's Specialist Trust (a school and college for children with special needs) are mostly personal through members of the congregation. One of their students attends weekly to work outside in the churchyard, and the school always enter a display into our Christmas Festivals!

On the parish boundary there is The Rikkyo School, a Japanese Anglican Boarding School which has its own chaplain. Different year groups from the Rikkyo school attend Sunday morning worship as and when their school terms/timetable permit and we have been working to involve the pupils more in the services when they are present.

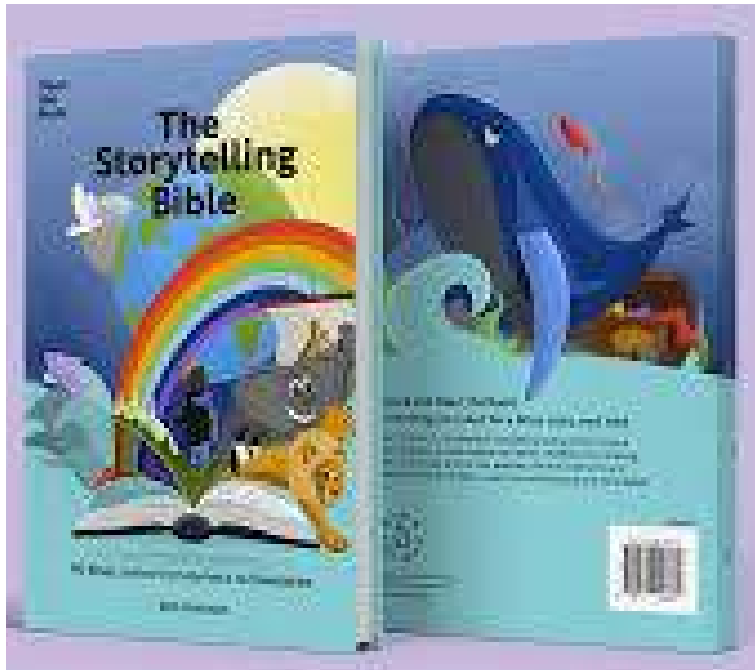
Schools

Both Park Mead and the CofE primary schools hold their Christmas services in the Church as do two local independent schools. Acorn nursery school make use of the church and the church halls for their Christmas Nativity, and have traditionally held their summer party in the Rectory Gardens (weather permitting!) We also enjoy being able to support the CofE school at fund raising events/fairs etc.



While we have good links with all the primary schools in Cranleigh there is scope for increasing them especially in the C of E school who have expressed interest in us working with them to offer support in the RE curriculum including lesson visits, running Church visits and possibly offering support with a Christian lunch time club. There is also scope for making links with Glebelands (secondary) school.

Schools



We have a lively Open the Book team based at St Nicolas with storytellers from 3 out of the 4 churches in Cranleigh and with age ranges from 50 to 99! The Open the Book team deliver assemblies to all three of our village primary schools in which they tell Bible Stories in an interactive and inclusive style. The Open the Book team run these assemblies every week in St Cuthbert Mayne, once a fortnight at Park Mead, and 1-2 times a term for Cranleigh CofE School (as part of the weekly clergy rota from all 4 churches)





St
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Events



Events through the year



RECTORY FETE:

Our annual Rectory Fete takes place in July each year. There are stalls, games, BBQ, refreshments and much more. A great day out for all the family and our biggest fundraiser of the year.



HARVEST LUNCH:

After Church on the Sunday of the Harvest festival, we join together for a lunchtime of fun and fellowship, celebrating the Harvest season.



CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL:

Our Christmas Tree and Nativity Festivals have fast become an unmissable activity for the families of Cranleigh. For 5 days you can see the Church filled with festive displays, vote for your favourites and begin the Christmas season with us.

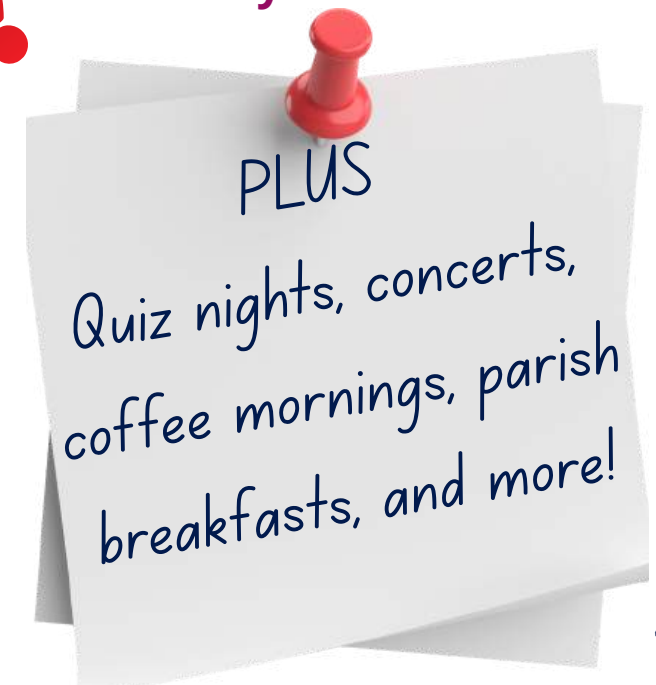


1170: Annual Heritage Day organised by 1170 charity with support of church members, as well as regular concerts and other fundraising events.



LENT LUNCHES:

Weekly fellowship lunches throughout Lent, as well as a weekly Lent course



PLUS

Quiz nights, concerts,
coffee mornings, parish
breakfasts, and more!



1200 visitors to our
Christmas Tree
Festival 2025





Vision 2030: Making St Nicolas accessible to everyone

Vision 2030 is a major internal reordering project that has been a long-awaited aspiration within the church community to make our church building an accessible and positive space for the community. With God's grace excellent progress is being made in the planning phase, with further work to be done before considering grant applications and other funding.

The key aspects of the reordering are the addition of:

- Two new toilets; one accessible, and one to include baby changing facilities
- A medium concealed kitchen
- Floor levelling of church nave and north and south transepts - ramp in north transept
- Removal of pews
- Underfloor heating with secondary ceiling down heaters (achieves NZC target).

At the time of writing (January 2026) the Project Group are working on the statement of significance and statement of needs. We are also refining proposals for an initial enquiry to the Amenity Societies (SPAB, Historic England, Victorian Society) and submitting a pre-application advice to Waverley Borough Council for glazing of the external west doors.

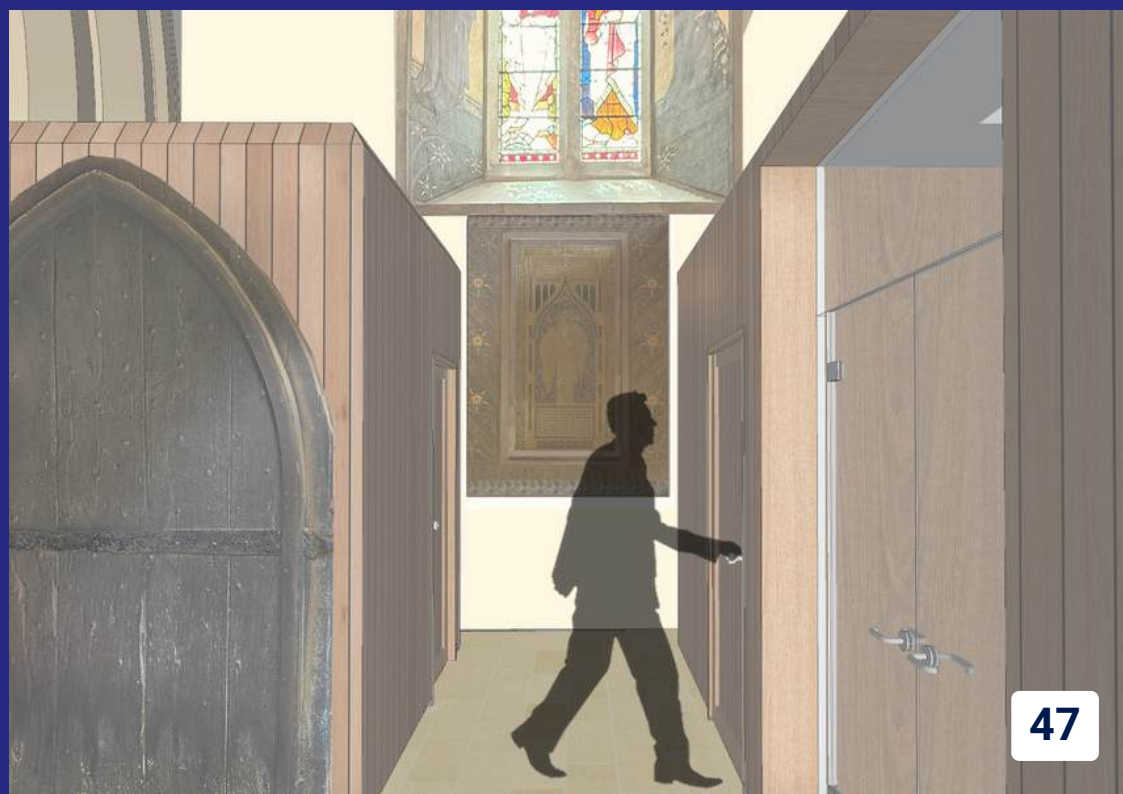


We are rapidly moving into several critical project phases and the new Rector will play a key role in supporting the project team and the inspecting architect during 2026-2030.

Current interior on next slide, followed by Architect's drawings of proposed remodelling.

Current interior of St Nicolas







Eco Church: Going for Gold

In August 2024 we were awarded a Silver Eco Church Certificate, through A Rocha UK's Eco Project, in recognition of our efforts and achievements to care for God's earth in the areas of

- Worship and Teaching
- Management of Buildings and Land
- Community and Global Engagement
- Lifestyle.

This award came about through the contributions of many within our church family, who came together under the sponsorship of our Clergy Team and facilitated by our Eco Lead.

Our journey now continues towards Gold! - Embedding the progress through into the culture of our church in ways such as; expanding our Eco Corner and Eco Journal, developing climate resilience and external grounds monitoring policies, lifestyle seminar programmes, pursuing our net zero ambitions and supporting our children's and young people eco-ambassadors.





St
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Appendices

The Church Building

St Nicolas is believed to date from about 1170. It was first a simple rectangle which occupied the area of the present nave, before being enlarged by the addition of side aisles and chapels. The tower and a new chancel were built around 1340.

The building was extensively modified in the Victorian era and many of the current features remain from that time. The transepts were extended and a clergy vestry and porch were added. Features from that time include the double hammer beam roof of the chancel, pulpit, organ, and pews. The last notable Victorian addition was the Lych Gate in 1880.

It is a Grade 2* listed building.

We are the proud custodians of a fine peal of eight bells (oldest dating from 1552, and the newest added in 1908).



RECTORS OF THIS PARISH			
ROBERT de CUMBE	1285	DAVID JANGUERY	1751
JAMES MARSHALL	1299	EDWARD WILLIAMS	1760
HUGH de COLBYK	1329	THOMAS JONES	1764
WILLIAM JCTE		JAMES FIELDING	1765
JOHN de WARE		WILLIAM SPENCER	1806
NO RECORD	1345-1366	WILLIAM CARLISLE	1810
WALTER de ESTHAM		SAMUEL STANWIX	1811
JOHN de LONDON	1375	R.B. WOLFE, A.M.	1815
THOMAS de GRAMLY	1380	LOVELY FITZELL	1845
THOMAS de CLANLEY	1381	JOHN H. SAPPÉ	1846
JOHN MARREYS	1390	PHILIP CUNNINGHAM	1906
JAMES UNKNOWN		Rev. CHARLES LITTELTON	1928
DAVID PONTAYNE	1447	HUGH I. JOHNSON	1931
JOHN NORMYCOTE	1447	EDWARD T. JOHNSON	1952
JOHN KYRREBY	1448	JACK MUNDRIE	1979
JOHN ALEY	1453	NIGEL MORRISON	1989
JOHN CLERK	1472	ROY WOODHAMS	2005
WILLIAM AUSTIN	1481		
JAMES PRESTON	1485		
HUGHARD GARYNGTON	1489		
MARTIN TYNE	1507		
ANTHONY GORIN	1560		
JOHN HARLOCK	1572		
MORGAN BENTON	1583		
JOHN HOLT	1611		
THOMAS ANYAN	1629		
JAMES HOLT	1832		
MICHAEL PYKE	1845		
HENRY CHEYNE	1852		
GEORGE CHEYNE	1704		
JOHN WARKER	1729		
THOMAS CHEYNE	1734		



The Church Building



The **Jubilee window** was designed as a tribute to Her Majesty the Queen, who celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 2002 and her eightieth birthday in 2006.

The carving of the **Cheshire Cat** found in the North Aisle is popularly believed to have given Lewis Carroll the idea for the Cheshire Cat in *Alice in Wonderland*, and it is understood that a niece of his living in Cranleigh confirmed this to be the case. However, the book was written in 1864, and the author did not move from Oxford to Guildford until 1868, so the matter must remain in some doubt. It may be that the carving inspired one of the early illustrators of the book.



The stand for the **Easter Candle** is decorated with three 'footballs' (also reminiscent of St Nicolas' three bags of money) and was given in memory of Sir Walter Winterbottom (d 2002) who was the first manager of the England football team and, with his wife Ann, a resident of Cranleigh and a member of our congregation for more than 20 years after his retirement.

[You can read more on the history of the church here in a piece written by Brian Bagot, Emeritus Church Historian](#)

The Churchyard

The Churchyard is situated within the Cranleigh Conservation Area. It is closed for burials, except for our Garden of Remembrance, where we are able to inter ashes.

The churchyard surrounds the Church, with the greater part now being on the south side towards the High Street.



The northern part is marked by a number of trees, including a large tulip tree planted in memory of a previous Churchwarden. There is also a fine mulberry. The south side is dominated by a magnificent *Cedrus atlantica*, the “Atlas Cedar”.



The **Atlas Cedar** in the churchyard is believed to have been planted in 1851 from a seed brought back from the Holy Land by Rev'd Sapte. It measures 31m in height!

The churchyard and church buildings have a managed tree plan with regular tree surveys, to ensure the churchyard is professionally managed to mitigate risks to the public and buildings.

The Rectory

The Rectory: The High Street, Cranleigh, GU6 8AS, is a large detached house built in 1985, offering generous accommodation.

Location: At the southern end of the High Street, the Rectory and its large garden areas are situated within the Cranleigh Conservation Area.

Access: A long gated drive leads from the High Street to the property, which is also accessed from a rear double gate which leads directly to the church and churchyard. The church car park, church offices, and church rooms are also accessible via a short walk from this gate.

Accommodation: 4 bedrooms, 4 reception rooms, kitchen breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom, family bathroom with separate toilet, shower room.



Services: The home is connected to mains water, gas and electricity.

Garage: A detached spacious single garage and extensive parking for multiple vehicles.

The Rectory

Approximate Floor Area = 209.4 sq m / 2254 sq ft

Garage = 18.8 sq m / 202 sq ft

Outbuilding = 19.5 sq m / 210 sq ft

Total = 247.7 sq m / 2666 sq ft



(Not Shown in Actual Location / Orientation)

Ground Floor

First Floor



22 Orchard Gardens

The Curate's House - 22 Orchard Gardens, Cranleigh, GU6 7LG

3 bedroom detached house with lounge and dining room, kitchen, utility, cloakroom, study (conservatory), family bathroom, 3 bedrooms. Large rear garden and lawns to front.

Due to an overlap of our last and current curate and thus the need for additional accommodation, we rent another house from the Diocese, which our present curate lives in. 22 Orchard Gardens is currently rented out with a local letting agent providing a monthly income to the PCC (part of which covers the rent on the second property).

Our parish has a proven track record of providing a positive training experience successfully preparing curates for their future ministry. Therefore, the PCC envisages that when the time and circumstances allow, our new Rector will become a Training Incumbent. This will be in close partnership working with the diocese and our Area Dean.



Church Rooms & Parish Office

The Church Rooms behind the church are used daily by various groups and provide an income. There are four rooms, one of which is The Parish Office used by the Curate and the Parish Administrator. Adjacent to the Parish Office is our Youth Office, and then there are two Halls, one large and one smaller. It is on a pedestrian 'through route' to schools and is in a good position for connection and outreach to the community.

In 2025 we were able to fully renovate the kitchen attached to the larger hall, to provide us with a bright, modern, functional space. This has allowed us to re-start community lunches and parish breakfasts, and is an attractive prospect to external hirers looking to use the space.

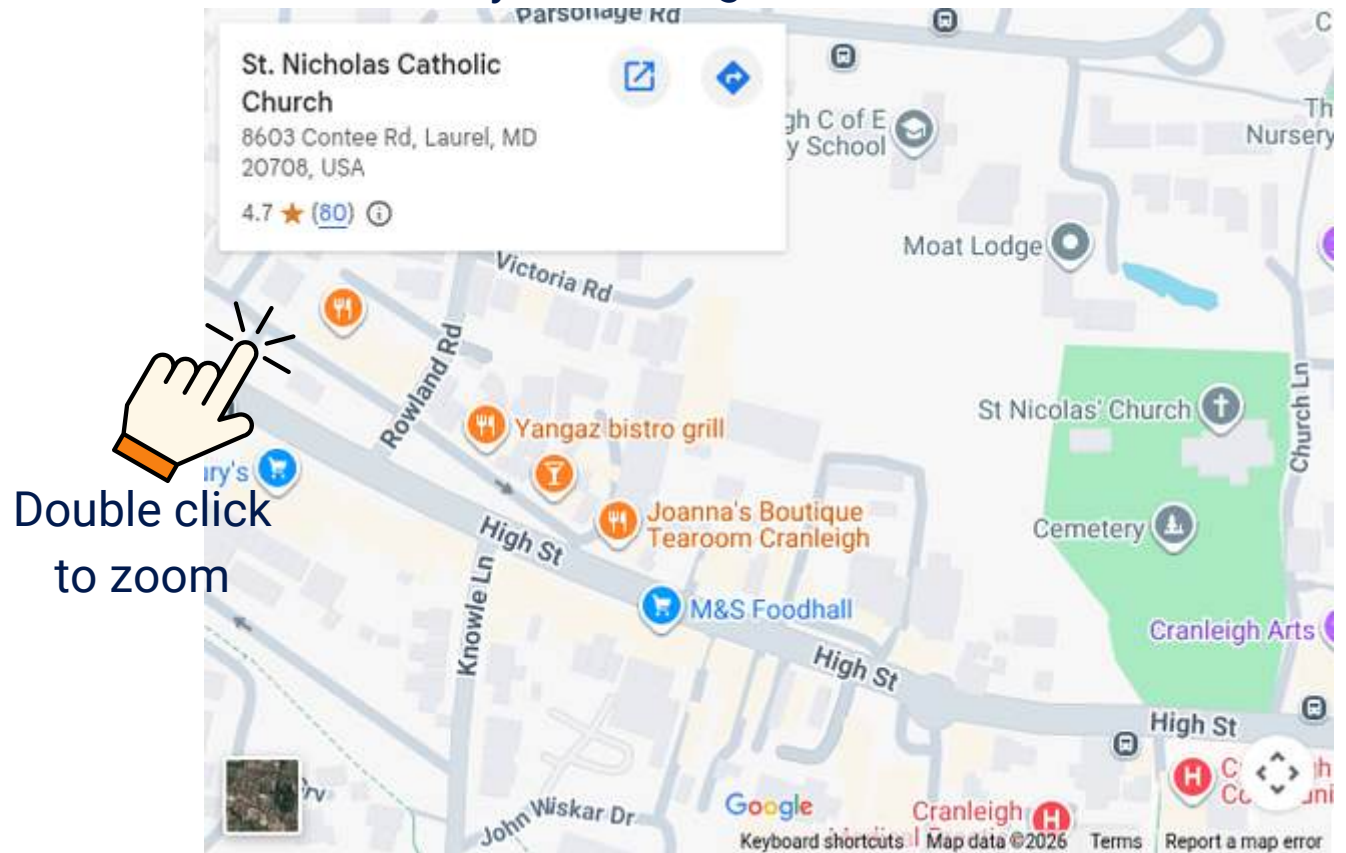
We have a car park which is managed by Euro Car Parks, which provides us with additional income. Our church members, or those attending on church business, can register their vehicles to be exempt from paying.



Cranleigh Parish

The parish is primarily the village of Cranleigh in South West Surrey, claiming to be 'the largest village in England' with a motto of "Cranleigh Cares", though it also extends into a few nearby settlements and covers a lot of land.

Cranleigh lies eight miles south east of Guildford, in the borough of Waverley, just off the A281 and close to the West Sussex border. Horsham is 10 miles to the south and Cranleigh benefits from frequent bus services to both Guildford and Horsham. Situated in beautiful rural surroundings, with views of the Surrey Hills, Cranleigh combines the intimacy of a village with the facilities of a small town.



In the village

Cranleigh's population of some 14,000 live in a variety of housing, from pre-war and 1950s estates, newer estates and smaller infill developments as well as larger detached houses, rural cottages and private large estates. It is a growing community with several substantial new housing developments.

Cranleigh has many green spaces which include areas used to host the annual Bonfire Night, the Cranleigh Carnival and the Food and Farming Festival.

Playing fields and sports facilities offer football, rugby, cricket, golf, bowls, pickleball and even polo. The recently-created Knowle Park is an accessible 60-acre country park and nature reserve.

Organisations and clubs include Lions, WI, St John Ambulance, Choral Society, Scouts, Guides, U3A, Probus, art classes, writers' group, Riding for the Disabled and many more – there is something for everyone.



Cranleigh Carnival



Annual Bonfire Night



Knowle Park

Information on the heritage of Cranleigh can be found on the [My Cranleigh website](#)

In the village

Amenities feature a busy High Street with a mix of chains and independent shops and businesses, including three supermarkets, a post office, butcher, fishmonger and baker. There is a popular garden centre, a petrol station, three pubs, and numerous restaurants and coffee shops. A weekly market is held each Thursday in the main car park.

Cranleigh Leisure Centre is well-used, with two pools, a gym, soft play area, squash courts and exercise studios, and is soon to undergo an extensive refurbishment.

Additionally, there is a Village Hall, a Sports and Social Club, a modern, well-stocked Library and the Cranleigh Arts Centre, offering a year-round programme of live music, comedy, films, event cinema, family events, and art exhibitions.

The modern Medical Centre serves the area with a large team of doctors, nurses and medical staff, while Cranleigh Village Hospital provides some outpatient services including x-ray and ultrasound.



Other Churches



The **Baptist church** in the High Street is a new-build attached to the older property. It has a thriving congregation.

The **Methodist church** again is in the High Street and in the main is attended by an older section of the community. They have a hall, which is used for pre-school and dancing classes.



The **Roman Catholic Church – Jesus Christ, Redeemer of Mankind** is a relatively modern building. It serves the Catholic faithful in the area and their primary school abuts the church.

Deanery Context

Cranleigh Deanery is the largest geographical deanery in the diocese and the most rural. The parishes all lie within the London commuter belt which shapes their character. There is a good deal of wealth within the area but in each village greater social diversity can be found than might initially seem apparent. There are thirteen parishes, fourteen churches and a population of about 30,000, which is served by a good number of clergy and lay people. Each parish operates well within its own community and there is general goodwill towards the church throughout the area. There are a number of church schools and parish involvement in them is good.

The Deanery Synod meets twice a year and looks at ways in which the Diocesan Vision, Transforming Church, Transforming Lives, can be developed at Deanery level. The Chapter meets regularly and is well attended with good working relationships amongst the clergy.



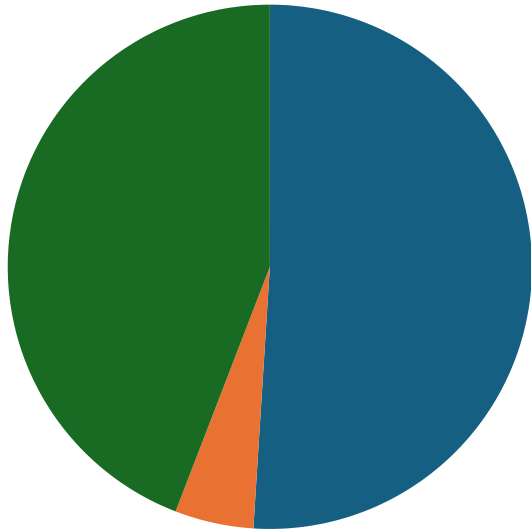
Revd Sarah Hutton - Area Dean



Financial Information

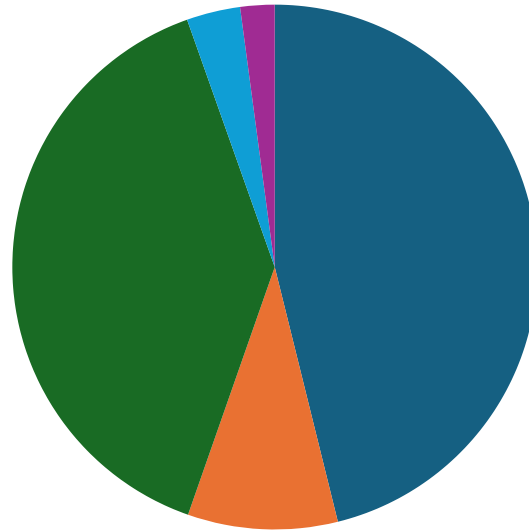
Income £312,720

● Giving Gift Aid and GASDS ● Fund Raising
● Other Income



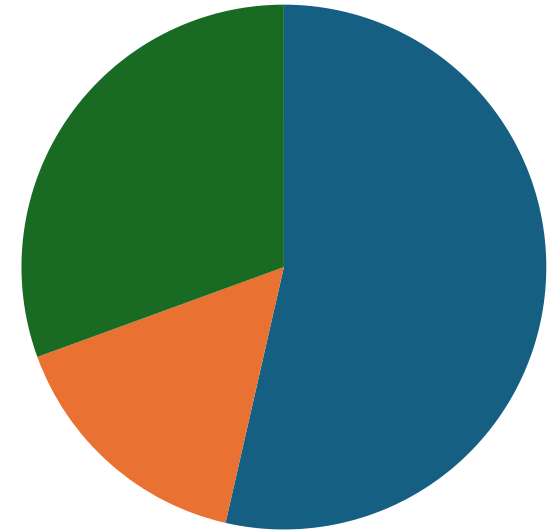
Costs £305,256

● Ministry ● Administration ● Buildings
● Mission ● Other



Cash & Investments £174,000

● Building ● Youth Worker ● General



• Strengths

- Financially healthy with solid reserves
- Funded Youth Programme
- Recent success in gaining grants £30K
- Able to donate £10K pa to Mission in recent years
- 1170 charity provides support for major repairs
- Hire of our Church Rooms and Car Park charges raise £20K pa

• Challenges

- Increasing cost to maintain the fabric of our ancient building
- Regular giving has declined in recent years
- Quinquennial report indicates significant costs in the coming years. (2026 costs included in our budget)

[View our latest Annual Report here](#)

As of 31st Dec 2024



To support the ongoing care and preservation of the building and grounds of St Nicolas Church Cranleigh an independent Charitable Trust called 1170 has been created. This Trust engages with the wider Cranleigh Community to support the activities of the Church and help fund essential maintenance. It promotes the Church as an asset to be used and enjoyed by the whole village.

Despite only starting in 2018 it has already raised significant funds for key works and has a strong programme for future fund-raising. These include Heritage Days within the Church and professional music events which both entertain and raise the local profile of St Nicolas. 1170 is also a joint beneficiary of a local Cranleigh lottery run by the Community.

Whilst working closely with the Church, 1170 retains its independence to better achieve its goals of public benefit.



**Thank you for viewing our parish profile.
We look forward to meeting you.**

