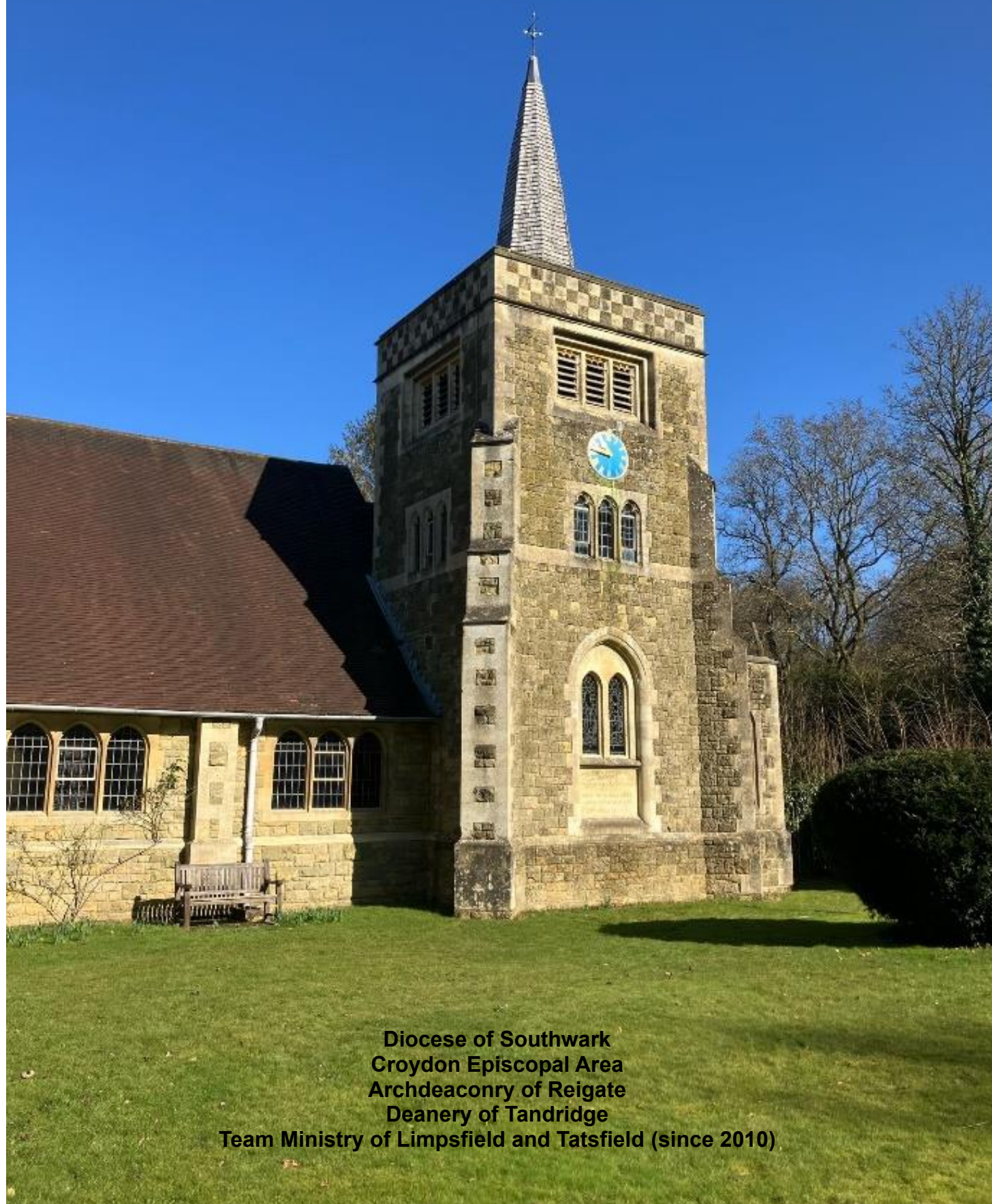


ST ANDREW'S CHURCH LIMPSFIELD CHART



**Diocese of Southwark
Croydon Episcopal Area
Archdeaconry of Reigate
Deanery of Tandridge
Team Ministry of Limpsfield and Tatsfield (since 2010)**

Team Rector at St. Peter's Limpsfield – for the Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team Ministry

We are a team ministry of three pretty, rural villages in East Surrey in the M25 area. I am Helen Cook, the Team Rector, and I am currently supported by a curate who lives in the Rectory in Tatsfield. Within the team there is also one licensed Reader and one SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary)

All three parishes are in the Tandridge Deanery which is within the Episcopal Area of Croydon and the Archdeaconry of Reigate.

Chapter meetings for clergy are held monthly and our team clergy are encouraged to attend. Deanery Synod meetings are held three times a year and usually have a speaker in addition to any business to be discussed. The Deanery provides a valuable additional source of fellowship and sharing of ideas.

I also serve on Diocesan Synod, DAC and SDBE and assist with training needs in the diocese.

Revd Helen Cook



Introduction and Welcome to St Andrew's Church and Limpsfield Chart

St Andrew's has an enthusiastic committed congregation who are loyal, devoted, supportive of each other and often involved in the varied activities of the local community. The church is at the heart of village life and some members of the congregation have been worshipping here for many years. Others have joined more recently, some residents of Limpsfield Chart, and a significant number from the surrounding areas of Hurst Green, Oxted, Limpsfield village and Edenbridge. Our church brings peace, tranquility and joy to the lives of many.

Limpsfield Chart features the Carpenter's Arms pub, a golf course, a thriving cricket club and nearby children's playground as well as plenty of woodland for walkers. A National Trust Warden lives on the Chart and his team is responsible for the upkeep of the area which surrounds the church. The Titsey Estate also manages some of the adjacent land. Home to around 850 residents, the community is a blend of long-standing locals, young families, and professionals, some of whom are now working from home.

Limpsfield Chart is situated two miles from Oxted, four miles from Edenbridge, and five miles from the M25 (Junction 6) in Godstone. Local amenities include the Health Centre, Library, Barn Theatre, Everyman Cinema, Morrisons, Waitrose, Oxted station, several opticians, hairdressers and restaurants. Limpsfield village has a small shop and Post Office run by the community.

St Andrew's Hall

St Andrew's Hall was built in the 1960s, funded by public subscription, and is situated in the grounds of the church.

The hall is used by the church on Sundays and for church events, and it is booked regularly by a wide range of groups including various exercise clubs, a dancing school, a local orchestra, the Chart Community Coffee Morning (see below). It is also a popular venue for children's parties.

The hall is in very good condition, well decorated and the kitchen was refitted to a high commercial standard 12 years ago.



St Andrew's House

St Andrew's House is a beautifully maintained Arts and Crafts style vicarage which is owned and maintained by the Diocese. This charming property is in excellent condition; it has four bedrooms, a spacious study and a comfortable sitting / dining room designed for both relaxation and entertaining. The real log fire adds comfort and warmth to a lovely family home. The kitchen and bathroom were upgraded in 2020.

Surrounded by a well-tended garden with stunning views, this vicarage is just across the road from the church, in a secluded rural setting.



Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team Ministry

St Peter's, Limpsfield	- Team Rector Revd Helen Cook (appointed 2020) Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary: Paul Budgen (appointed 2015)
St Mary's, Tatsfield	- Curate Revd Debra Elsdon (appointed 2023, to be ordained July 2025)
St Andrew's, Limpsfield Chart	- <i>Vacant</i> Minister-in-Charge, House for Duty (2 days plus Sunday) Reader: Dr Sue Compton (appointed 1992)

	St Peter's Team Rector	St Andrew's House for Duty	St Mary's Curate / Team Vicar
Approx population of Parish	2,700	850	1900
Electoral Roll	217 (2022)	70 (2024)	52 (2022)
Diocesan Pledge 2024	£102,000	£23,000	£30,000
Avg Sunday attendance	90	40	20

Members of the clergy rotate churches approximately once a month on Sunday mornings, which promotes a sense of being part of a wider team among the congregations. Similarly, some services are offered by one church to congregations across the team.

Services at St Andrew's

We meet on Sunday mornings for a parish Holy Communion, with a more informal liturgy on the first Sunday of each month. There is lay participation in serving, reading and leading the intercessions.

The six church **bells** ring out once a month, and our dedicated **choir** leads the congregational singing. We are unusually privileged to have several **organists and pianists** who play for our services.

A very talented group create beautiful **flower arrangements** in the church for the different seasons.

Over recent years we have been holding a monthly '**Families@4**' where we welcome and encourage young families to become part of the wider church congregation. There is no school in the parish itself but children from the Chart attend Limpsfield CE Infant School, Crockham Hill Primary School, and Hazelwood Prep School, offering possible opportunities for greater contact in future.

Special services and occasions include:

- Lent Groups and other study groups
- Harvest Festival and lunch
- All Souls' service
- Service of Remembrance
- Patronal Festival, 30th November
- Carol Service
- Christingle Service

Outward giving recently has included support for The Leprosy Mission and Mission Aid Fellowship, with Christmas gifts being donated to children supported locally by 'I Choose Freedom'.

Local and Church Community

St Andrew's congregation supports the life of the community by organizing and / or participating in:

- 'Chart News' quarterly publication – volunteers deliver to over 600 households
- Chart Coffee mornings (*see below*)
- 'Task Force' gardening volunteers work on land under instruction from NT Ranger
- Bell ringing
- Chart Fair (*see below*)
- Quizzes and Concerts
- Sunday Teas in August at St Andrew's
- 'Families @ 4': monthly service with stories and tea for toddlers in the hall
- Flower festivals
- BBQs and picnics on the lawn
- Christmas Market
- Annual Chart Dinner



and the very popular Pet Service...



The Social and Fund Raising Group co-ordinates some of these activities.

Historically there have also been Bridge Drives and participation in the annual cricket match between Pub / Church ('Chub') team and Limpsfield Chart Cricket Club.

Church Fabric

St Andrew's is lovingly maintained by volunteers who care for the church, hall, and grounds. There is an annual Maintenance Plan.

The last **Quinquennial** inspection was in 2021 and the key recommendations have been carried out. We have recently completed major restoration work, including re-shingling the spire, repairing stonework and leadwork, and adding a lightning conductor and weather vane. This was fully funded, within budget, by grants and donations.

The excellent sound system has recently been upgraded.

Plans are underway to repaint the Lady Chapel and Chancel, and upgrade the choir vestry area with additional utilities and storage. Both vestries were repainted 5 years ago.

Friends of St Andrew's (FOSTA) was set up to enable local people to contribute specifically to the fabric of the church.

The church and churchyard are well tended by a devoted team of volunteers, combined with a couple of open Gardening Mornings a year.

St Andrew's does not have a consecrated graveyard, but our beautiful Garden of Remembrance offers a tranquil space for reflection, with memorial plaques added to a bench in the garden.

Governance

The 2025 Diocesan Pledge is £24,000 and finances are healthy. The church balance sheet has improved in recent years. At 31.12.24 it was over £161,000.

St Andrew's Hall committee is a sub-committee of the PCC, managed by local residents, including the minister. The hall has its own separate bank account and the hall balance sheet at 31.12.24 was over £22,000.

The 11 members of the PCC meet every 2 months.

Policies: Health & Safety and Safeguarding policies are reviewed annually, and Risk Assessments are issued / reviewed as required.

The local infant school is in St Peter's parish, a C of E school situated on the edge of Limpsfield Chart.

St Andrew's is a member of 'Churches Together in Oxted and District' (CTOD).

Here is a little more detail about a couple of things mentioned previously:

Chart Fair and Chart Community Coffee Mornings

Held on the Limpsfield Chart Cricket Club's pitch, the Chart Fair is not only a fantastic day out but also a meaningful fundraiser, bringing in about £2,000 each year, largely thanks to an exciting Prize Draw. These funds go toward supporting local projects, with the weekly Chart Community Coffee Morning being the primary beneficiary for the past two years. The event, led by local people and supported by the church, has become a valued annual tradition.

Every Wednesday morning, St Andrew's Hall comes alive with 20 to 30 locals gathering to enjoy a cup of coffee and friendly conversation, free of charge. Initially funded by the surplus from the Chart Fair, the Coffee Morning also benefits from a Limpsfield Parish Council grant towards the hall's rental costs.



As we seek a new Minister-in-Charge (House for Duty), we're excited to continue growing as a church and community, building on our rich history while embracing new opportunities to share God's love. We hope this profile captures the spirit of St Andrew's, and we look forward to welcoming a minister who feels called to continue with us on this journey.

Below is some background to the history of this area which we hope you will find interesting.

History of Limpsfield Chart

Nestled in the heart of the countryside, Limpsfield Chart offers its residents an ever-present connection to nature. Wherever you are in the village or parish, you're only a few steps away from breathtaking woodlands, open fields, and sweeping views - land carefully maintained by the National Trust.

A Roman road once linked London to Lewes, cutting through the High Chart, while an even older trackway evolved into Brick Kiln Lane - evidence of the area's clay-rich soil being used for centuries. Farmhouses, a Mill House, a Salt Box, and rows of workers' cottages all hint at a time when agriculture was at the heart of daily life. One such farmhouse is even recorded in a will from 1495. While farming continues in some parts of the village, the landscape has also adapted to modern life.

The late 19th century brought the arrival of the railway stations in Oxted and Hurst Green. These new transport links made the area more accessible and soon attracted some of the era's most brilliant literary and artistic minds. D.H. Lawrence, Rupert Brooke, Arthur Rackham, and members of the Garnett and Olivier families all found inspiration here.

With its fresh country air and tranquil views across the Weald, Limpsfield Chart also became a place of recovery. Two grand convalescent homes were built on the hillside - one in Caxton Lane, designed for those in the printing industry, and another on Trevereux Hill, an extension of Charing Cross Hospital which later became the Marie Curie laboratory. While their original purposes have faded into history, these buildings now serve as elegant apartments.

As the community grew, so did its spiritual needs. By the late 19th century, St Peter's Church in Limpsfield Village could no longer accommodate all the worshippers. In response, local generosity led to the construction of St Andrew's Church in 1896. Designed in the grand Gothic Revival style by Sir Reginald Blomfield, its magnificent altar and reredos still stand as a testament to the community's faith and dedication.

Over the years, the village has continued to evolve. New homes have been built, filling the spaces between ancient and stately residences. Thanks to Marjorie Pease—a Fabian and local councillor—Limpsfield Chart became home to some of the earliest examples of social housing. Today, a small collection of homes in Ridlands Lane still bears her name. While many of these homes have since passed into private ownership, their legacy remains.



An Introduction to the other churches in the Team by Revd Helen Cook

St Peter's, Limpsfield

Limpsfield is a large semi-rural parish with a vibrant village church at the heart of the community and many able and committed people. St Peter's is a beautiful Norman church building, and its people are active, both in its services, its fellowship and in the community. On a typical Sunday about 90 people will come to the 10am service with very many more at Festivals. Our tradition is liberal catholic in worship and teaching, and we consider ourselves to be an inclusive church that welcomes all.



On the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays we celebrate with a 10.00am Parish Eucharist, our music worship is led by a paid Music Director who together with our organist leads an adult robed choir. On the 1st Sunday of the month, we have an All-Age Service with a short interactive talk and music led by a worship band. This is now our best attended service and attracts many younger families. We also host a Messy Church on a Sunday afternoon once a month and this is also well attended. St Peter's has a peal of 6 bells which ring out regularly across the village. Baptisms, marriages and funerals are an important and valued part of the ministry we offer.

We have a thriving 'carers and baby' group a weekly coffee morning and a monthly group called Musical Memories where those with memory difficulties and their carers enjoy tea and cake, whilst singing the 'old favourites'.

Limpsfield village has a strong sense of community and there are many local social and charitable initiatives which contribute to this. Church people have often started these activities, provided leadership and served at the heart of organisations, including the Memorial Stores and Post Office (run as a community business), Limpsfield in Bloom, and the Link organisation which provides hospital and other transport.

Our parish magazine is published four times a year and is delivered free to every house in Limpsfield. We are proud of our beautiful, tranquil churchyard, which continues to be open for burials and the interment of ashes and is very well kept by a garden maintenance company and managed by active volunteers. The churchyard is famous for the musicians buried here including Delius, the Harrison sisters, Thomas Beecham and Norman del Mar and people come long distances to see their graves.

Limpsfield C of E Infant School has 180 pupils in six classes, and we have very close connections between the school and the Church. We visit each week to lead Collective Worship, and a number of church members are part of the Governing Body.

We also have very close links in the parish with Hazelwood School, Limpsfield Grange School and Panda Nursey and all these schools attend special services at St Peter's at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and St Peter's Day.

Looking outwards, we support local Foodbanks, both at our school and in Redhill. We also choose three charities per year to benefit from our Christmas collections.

St Mary's, Tatsfield

Situated in Tatsfield, St Mary's has a committed, warm, active congregation, supported by the churchwardens and many volunteers. Our pattern of worship includes a Sunday 10am Parish Eucharist and the occasional Service of the Word.

Lay participation within services includes serving, administration of communion, readings and leading the intercessions.

Other services which draw in the wider community include, the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Harvest and All Souls.

Mid-week evening study groups are organised at regular intervals and during Lent groups are organised with other churches in the Oxted area.

The church building is a Grade II listed small church dating back to c.1075 set in a large churchyard with magnificent views over Kent, Surrey and Sussex, and includes the very popular St Mary's Millennium Hall.

We are a church which welcomes all and seek to support and include the local community. This happens through a variety of activities which include an annual Flower Festival, concerts and Lent lunches, Harvest and Christmas celebrations and an Ascension Day breakfast.

The large churchyard is still open and is maintained, mostly by volunteers, through the PCC.

The church is open during the week and our visitors' book shows how much this is appreciated. A Pilgrim Stamp is available for those on pilgrimage to Canterbury and our summer teas on Sunday afternoons in the hall are well supported by the village and those from further afield, including the many cyclists enjoying the steep climb into the village!