

An Introduction to the Diocese of Chichester

Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith

In 2025 this diocese celebrates the 950th anniversary of witness and evangelisation from a mission base in Chichester, building on the earlier mission founded by St Wilfrid at Selsey.

2025 also marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea with its reminder of the formative claim upon us of the catholic creeds.

These anniversaries are more than historical footnotes.

They speak powerfully about the richness of faith and mission that is our inheritance locally and universally.

Inspired by that inheritance, we seek to be a household of faith that is endlessly curious about how the Holy Scriptures and the sacraments of the New Covenant enable us to know, love and follow Jesus Christ in today's noisy and distracted world.

If God is calling you to join us in the task of proclaiming the mystery of faith in some part of this diocese,

we pray that the contribution of your gifts and experience will enrich our witness and deepen your own discipleship.

We take very seriously the call to diversity and radical inclusion as characteristic of the Church's mission.

For this reason we welcome applications from ordained women and Global Majority Heritage clergy, who are under-represented in those who serve this diocese.

+Martin





Chanctonbury

Parish Profile

The Church and Context

The vision God has called us to at Chanctonbury is simply: "Kingdom come". Our mission is transformation - to see the reign and rule of Jesus increasingly breaking into our lives, the church, the local communities we serve, and the whole atmosphere of the land in this place. What this may look like, we have set down in what we call "2033" which you can find on the church website. This is our distinct contribution within the life of the Diocese of Chichester, as we seek together to 'know, love and follow Jesus'.

During the past 25 years, God has been graciously growing the churches in Chanctonbury. In 2019 the former benefice became one parish, with one PCC, with shared finances and governance, united behind the 2033 vision under the overall leadership of the Rector.

On a Sunday, we meet in five congregations in three different church buildings within the parish, and though style and temperament of each service may be different, we understand ourselves as one church, united in heart and mind. A quarter of the church is under the age of 18, gathering on a Sunday just in Ashington - though we are praying you may be who God has in mind to help us change this!

Though on Sundays we meet in different places, the church comes together in small groups that we call Kingdom Family Communities (KFCs!), for a monthly worship and prayer night, and we gather once a year for a weekend together that we call the 'Chanctonbury Family Gathering'. We have six corporate prayer meetings each week, and encourage the whole church to fast on Wednesdays.

We serve semi-rural communities surrounded by beautiful landscape halfway between Worthing to the south and Horsham to the north, situated beneath the South Downs. There are three C of E schools in the parish, 2 primary and a large local secondary school 4 miles away. We enjoy strong links and active involvement in all these schools.



Our Values

All glory to God

Heaven is here

Revival starts with me

People are precious

To the ends of the earth



Washington (St Mary's)

In Washington, there has been a church on the site since at least 1174. The church has been tastefully refurbished (2011) with comfortable seats, toilet facilities and a well appointed kitchen.

The church is at the heart of Washington village, and remains open during the daylight hours, making a handy stop-off for walkers.

Washington began to visibly and obviously grow during COVID, which saw the launch of a second morning congregation. During the past 4 years, numbers have grown to an average weekly attendance of 65, with committed, Christ-like, passionate congregants with a vision to grow again. This is at the heart of our desire to recruit a new Associate Vicar for Washington, to help lead us in mission within Washington village, particularly amongst children and families. This reflects the heart of the whole church, which treasures a vision for flourishing, multi-generational, Word and Spirit churches everywhere for the glory of God. We know change is coming which we are ready for and embrace for the sake of mission.

The 9 at Washington

This is a weekly liturgical service with Holy Communion.

The 10.30 at Washington

A Sunday Service full of powerful worship, anointed teaching prayer and prophetic ministry.

Holy Communion is given the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

We are praying for a person to join the church family and church leadership who is a strong team player, operating well both in authority and under authority

a mission-enabler, experienced in the oversight, development and equipping of voluntary teams

grounded in a passion for and submission to the authority of God as revealed through the Bible

a person of integrity, given to personal holiness and corporate prayer

emotionally intelligent; able to maintain healthy personal relationships

All the clergy team are members of The Alliance, and the PCC have unanimously passed a resolution in support of their decision not to offer PLF in Chanctonbury.

We contribute 100% of Parish Share to the Restricted Fund.



Chanctonbury

The Parish of Chanctonbury is overseen by the Rector - Rev. James di Castiglione

James.dicas@chanctonbury.org.uk

Lou di Castiglione serves in the day-to-day leadership of Chanctonbury as Head of Ministry Development

Lou.dicas@chanctonbury.org.uk

Vision priorities 2025

For 2025, we have sensed five priorities in order to advance the vision God has called us to. Four are time-specific to this year, and the fifth is our long-term investment towards 'preparing the way for the Lord' (Isaiah 40:3) in Washington.

1. Participating fully in a joint churches large-scale mission to Steyning Grammar School in November 2025.

2. Discerning transitioning Wiston Church (St Mary's) as a House of Prayer.

3. Multiplying Kingdom Family Communities (KFCs) to become "more intimate (smaller), more local".

4. Growing and replenishing the pastoral team, and Kids & Youth teams.

5. 2025 & beyond: Our longterm investment priority - Washington:

Recruiting, housing and providing for the permanent appointment of a full-time Associate Vicar in Washington.

The Parish of Chanctonbury is set within the Deanery of Storrington, and is governed by the clergy and PCC. The PCC comprises of 15 persons including 2 church wardens

and two of the clergy team.

In addition, Chanctonbury is served by: one Self-supporting Associate Vicar, and two further clergy with PTO.

Chanctonbury is also resourced through a full-time Head of Youth and Head of Kids.

There is a well-equipped administrative team and a strong base of voluntary leadership.

We have a loving and passionate church family ready to serve the Lord with you!