



## THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



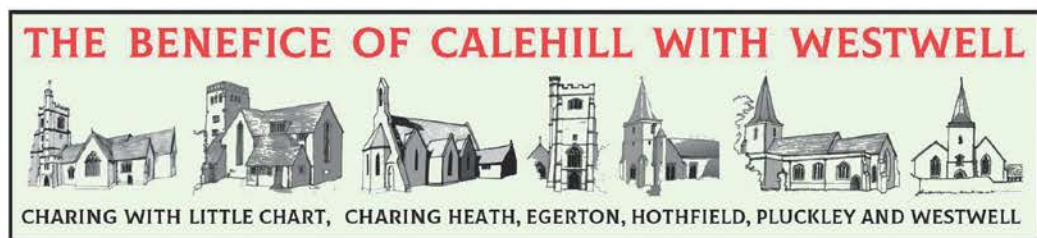
CHARING WITH LITTLE CHART, CHARING HEATH, EGERTON, HOTHFIELD, PLUCKLEY AND WESTWELL



• Benefice Profile - New Rector 2020 •

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## • *An Introduction from Bishop Rose* •

*T*hank you for taking an interest in this role. You'll see from the rest of the profile some of the specific things that the benefice is looking for – and a little of what the team here hopes the future may look like. Of course, part of your discernment process in coming to the role of Rector of Calehill with Westwell is gaining a sense of the bigger picture of us as a diocesan family, our vision and priorities for the future.

## • *Who we are* •

Founded in 597 by St Augustine, Canterbury Diocese is the oldest diocese in England and has a special place in the life of the national and worldwide Church. With its iconic Cathedral it forms a focal point for the life of the whole Anglican Communion, offering a spiritual home and place of pilgrimage for people from every nation and walk of life.

Kent is renowned as the 'Garden of England' and this rural heart is core to our identity - yet the communities we serve are very diverse. Our Diocese stretches from Maidstone to Thanet, from the Isle of Sheppey to the Romney Marsh. We have 350 miles of coastline with historic ports and seaside resorts, alongside rural communities, market towns and commuter-belt urban developments. Affluent areas often sit alongside pockets of major deprivation, offering an exciting and challenging mission context.

## • *Where we're heading* •

At the heart of all we do is a vision of transformation for ourselves and our communities: no one can encounter God and remain unchanged. In our diocese, we want to increasingly become a Christian community transformed through encounter with Christ, overflowing to transform and bless the families, homes and communities we serve in Kent: Changed Lives → Changing Lives. In your role, in your place, we'll be looking for you to play a crucial part in making this vision a reality.

Changed Lives → Changing Lives unites us in purpose but will be expressed in different ways according to what makes sense for different parts of our diocesan family. It's also a living strategy – as we listen to God and one another, the shape of our work together will undoubtedly change and grow. Could you help to develop this vision for the future? Find out more <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/strategy> or speak to the Ven Darren Miller, Archdeacon of Ashford on: 01233 712649 or at [darren.miller@archdeacashford.org](mailto:darren.miller@archdeacashford.org).

• *Our commitment to you* •

We know that supporting healthy, flourishing ministers (lay and ordained) is crucial for a healthy, flourishing diocese. That's why we offer the 'Canterbury Diet' to all our incumbent ministers – this is an intentional programme for ministerial development, health, growth and faith. A lay programme is in development too. Additionally, we offer a range of specialised training events, as well as opportunities for growth in prayer and spirituality.

In short, I hope that you will be as excited by our vision, priorities and opportunities as we are. Be assured of our prayers as you consider your next step in ministry,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rose Hudson-Wilkin', with a long, flowing horizontal line extending to the right.

**The Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin**  
Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury



## • *Overview of the Benefice of Calehill with Westwell* •

The Benefice of Calehill with Westwell is a group of seven churches, united in one benefice. Following recent pastoral re-organisation, the benefice is made up of two parishes, the Parish of Calehill which consists of six churches, and the Parish of Westwell. Each community is distinct, yet all work together to spread the love of God and build His Kingdom.

Situated between the North Downs and the Weald, the benefice is quintessentially rural and yet has close links with the nearby towns of Ashford and Maidstone and the city of Canterbury. The Benefice of Calehill with Westwell is one of three benefices that make up the Ashford Deanery. We are part of the Diocese of Canterbury.

The six churches in the parish of Calehill have only recently become a single parish, although we have been working together with each other and our neighbouring parish of Westwell within the same benefice for many years. We have good, mutually supportive relationships with each other while maintaining our independence and the management of each church at a local level. All our churches are financially viable and pay their parish share.

We are set at the foot of the North Downs in Darling Buds of May country, a day's walk (19 miles) from Canterbury on the Pilgrims Way, and close to Ashford with the high speed rail links to London and Europe.

In the last few years, a substantial number of new houses have been built in parts of the benefice. This is clearly an exciting possible mission opportunity, but we have yet to make any great inroads into this.

We have a well established, motivated and supportive lay leadership team, and are looking for a new Rector who will work with them to build on the existing firm foundations. They are also supported by three retired clergy, a newly licensed lay reader and an enthusiastic group of Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs).

The churches in the two parishes have a wide variety of worshipping styles supported by choirs in three of the churches. Services range from traditional BCP Communion and Morning Prayer through Common Worship liturgy, Iona Eucharist and informal family services to Cornerstone. This is a very informal café-style church, primarily lay led and giving people the opportunity to discuss matters of concern to them in their life of faith in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. When there is a fifth Sunday and on other occasions of celebration, we all come together for a combined benefice service rotating around the different churches.

All the churches are involved with their local community, organising social events partly to raise funds but more often as a part of our outreach.

There are three church primary schools in Calehill parish – in Charing, Egerton and Pluckley – as well as Heath Farm School in Charing Heath, which is a specialist SEN school covering KS1-4.

In Egerton, the school comes to church once a week and Pluckley three times a week. In Charing, however, we go to the school (because of the roads). In addition to regular weekly worship, they all join with us for special festival services. We have a team of volunteers who assist our clergy with this.



At Egerton we run Active Church, which is a Wednesday after school club for up to 40 children and includes games, songs and stories. We are in the process of starting Ministry of Presence in Pluckley School, which also uses the church building as a learning resource. Our relationship with Heath Farm School is a fairly new initiative and thus far involves occasional services including Harvest and Christingle.

At Hothfield, we have been visiting the Acquired Brain Injury Clinic, and have started a regular mid-week BCP service at the Lakeside Residential Retirement Village.

We also have a prayer and Bible study group which meets weekly in Charing Heath church and a home group which meets fortnightly in Charing, except in Lent and Advent when it meets weekly. There are usually a number of Lent courses which are well attended.

Our hopes for a new Rector are that they will be able and willing to care for all the distinct churches in our Benefice, to keep a regular service pattern with various forms of worship, and to support and develop the existing teams. We hope that there could be a place for more contemporary music in some of our services. We appreciate that a new Rector will need plenty of energy, with good leadership skills and the ability to delegate. It would be lovely to have an Incumbent who would encourage us in our mission activities and help us to arrange our churches to make them more available for additional activities. The new housing developments in the parish area offer a great potential for growth under the right leadership.

The modern four-bedroom vicarage with manageable garden (*right*) in Charing has easy access to the village shops and station and good views of the Downs. In Egerton, there is a house for a curate should one be sent to the Benefice.







## • *St Peter and St Paul, Charing* •



Charing is an attractive village, the centre of which sits at the foot of the North Downs below the Pilgrims Way although the parish stretches up and over the escarpment. The Archbishop's Palace, dating from the 12th Century, is an historic feature of the village, the complex of buildings and manor house having been used by various archbishops as they travelled between Canterbury and London.

The church, a Grade 1 listed building, is dedicated to St Peter and St Paul and stands in the middle of the village next to Clewards Meadow, which is a registered village green. The oldest parts of the nave and chancel date to the late 12th or early 13th century with transepts added in the 14th century and the ragstone tower in the 15th century. Local legend also has it that it was once the resting place of the stone on which John the Baptist was beheaded.

The church is open during the day and attracts visitors from far and wide as well as being used as a place of quiet for villagers and a stopping point for pilgrims. It provides a wonderful venue for concerts and is popular with those planning to be married in church. Next to the church is a medieval barn that was moved from a neighbouring village and re-erected in the 1950s. This is used for many church activities as well as being the meeting place for Brownies, the Charing Guild of Players, the Farmers Market and many other activities. A highlight of the summer is the cream teas served on Sunday afternoons.

The population at the last census was 2,766 (includes Charing Heath) and, like many villages has a large number of retired residents as well as commuters who work in the neighbouring towns or travel to London. The village has expanded in the past few years with a large number of new homes being built, and future developments are in the pipeline. There are also a large number of small businesses of various sorts scattered throughout the parish.

The nearest town is Ashford some 6 miles away and Canterbury is 14 miles away. Charing is the first station on the mainline from Ashford to London via Maidstone. We are also very close to the M20 with access to the Eurotunnel terminal, and the port of Dover is only 30-40 minutes away.

The village has an excellent community spirit and boasts a GPs' surgery, two general stores, a butcher, a tea room, a post office and many other attractive retail outlets. The people of the village come together regularly for various fundraising activities and also to enjoy the annual fete, the village picnic and the Christmas fair. There are numerous clubs and societies in the village, including the active local history society, a gardening club, dancing and various sports clubs. The popular Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Brownie groups meet weekly during term time.

There is a small but active Methodist Church in the village with whom we have occasional joint services. Representatives from both churches meet together to make plans for the year ahead. This includes a service to mark the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Women's World Day of Prayer.

There is one care home in the village and some sheltered accommodation, which afford opportunities for pastoral care and visiting. Charing has a small and faithful regular congregation. Services are a mixture of formal Common Worship communion, a monthly 8am BCP communion and informal morning praise.

As with many rural communities, our congregation is ageing and shrinking.









## • *Holy Trinity, Charing Heath* •

The ecclesiastical parish of Holy Trinity, Charing Heath was created in 1874 to serve the villages of Charing Heath and Lenham Heath. Gifts of money and land from the Sayer family of Pett Place, Charing, enabled the building of the church and the school. The school closed in the 1960s and was sold as a private residence. The proceeds from this have been invested in a capital intact endowment, which still provides regular income to Holy Trinity today.

The Victorian building is of plain stone and consists of an apsidal turret with a single bell, nave and north porch. The stained glass east windows, the lectern and the altar frontals were all given by the Sayer family. The pulpit was made in 1933 by local wheelwright Frank Howland.

The church is situated in Church Hill in the north-west corner of the Village, opposite the Memorial Hall. The church is open every day during daylight hours. Holy Trinity does not have a church hall, but we rent the Memorial Hall whenever we need hall facilities, such as for tea parties, or fundraising events.

The parish links the small villages of Charing Heath (Charing/Ashford), and Lenham Heath (Lenham/Maidstone). It includes about 300 homes, spread over a large, mainly rural area. There is a mix of older people and young families, with many of the working population commuting to local towns or to London.

In addition to several working farms, there are a number of small businesses operating from the two villages, including builders, landscapers, a catering company, a catering supplier, a fencing company, a glazing company and a boarding cattery.

The village does not have a shop or primary school. Children travel to Charing, Lenham or Egerton for primary school, and to secondary schools in Ashford, Maidstone, or Tenterden.

The 15th Century Red Lion public house stands at what was the centre of Charing Heath, and provides the venue for coffee after the monthly mid-week communion service at Holy Trinity.

The Memorial Hall is available for receptions, parties, meetings and other events. A short mat bowls group meets fortnightly and there is a mother and toddler group that meets weekly during term time. The Village Society organises various social events throughout the year, mainly in the Memorial Hall. It is hard to imagine a more beautiful setting for the annual village fete and flower show. The PCC has stalls at the fete to raise funds. The recreation ground has a children's play area, and is also home to the Red Heathens football club.

Holy Trinity is a close-knit church family who are always hospitable and welcoming. Many members of the local community who are not churchgoers support us by cleaning the church and flower-arranging. We are keen to be seen as an integral part of our village and aim to support the Eco-church ambitions in our land and building management.



*Top right:*  
The Christmas Fair  
*Bottom right:*  
Charing Heath and Lenham Heath Summer Fete

In addition to hosting village tea parties three times a year and holding an annual harvest supper, church members are involved in the monthly community coffee morning, at which we normally provide Fair Trade refreshments. Each year, we sing carols around Charing Heath and Lenham Heath in support of The Martha Trust, and our carol service on Christmas Eve always sees the Church full to overflowing.

There are currently no children or young families in our congregation, but we have added to our number over the past few years and would like to build on this. A small but growing group meets every Tuesday evening in the church for a time of prayer and Bible study. Several of us attended a Benefice Deepening Discipleship course in the autumn of 2016 and hope that a new Rector would encourage and guide further progression in the future.

We are keen to adapt our lovely Victorian church, the smallest in our Benefice, to make it more accessible to the wider village community and also to forge links with The Red Lion, which has recently reopened under new management. Several church lunch parties have been held in the pub and were much enjoyed!







## • *St James the Great, Egerton* •

The village of Egerton sits on the crest of a range of hills on the Greensand ridge, with the Kent ragstone near the surface that was used in the building of many churches and houses, including its own church of St James. St James church, a Grade 1 listed building, has Norman roots, originally as a daughter-church to Charing. Although it is not quite old enough to be in the Domesday Book, it did make a listing in the Domesday Monachorum, the later annex added by monks.

The church tower is over 100ft high and can be seen for many miles, hence it has a beacon tower. This was used to warn of invasion and is one in a chain of churches with that function.

There is a fine display of Darell monuments on the north side of the church in memory of Sir John Darell (1435-1509). These were originally in the church of St Mary, Little Chart, which was bombed in 1944, and then placed in Little Chart's new church during the 1950s. In 2007, they were restored and installed in St James through the generosity of a member of the Darell family. Egerton church also boasts a splendid chandelier made in 1699 and donated to Egerton in 1856. The 36 candles are lit for special services and celebrations.

Like many churches, it has its legends – one being a fabled secret passage. Indeed, Church House opposite has a very deep cellar where the organ can be heard when it is being played. There are also remnants of a doorway, now blocked up, to a spiral staircase in a pillar which would have connected to the Rood Screen (no longer present). Prior to the Reformation, this would have been used by a selected small choirboy to adorn a statue of the Virgin at the apex of the Screen on the appropriate day.

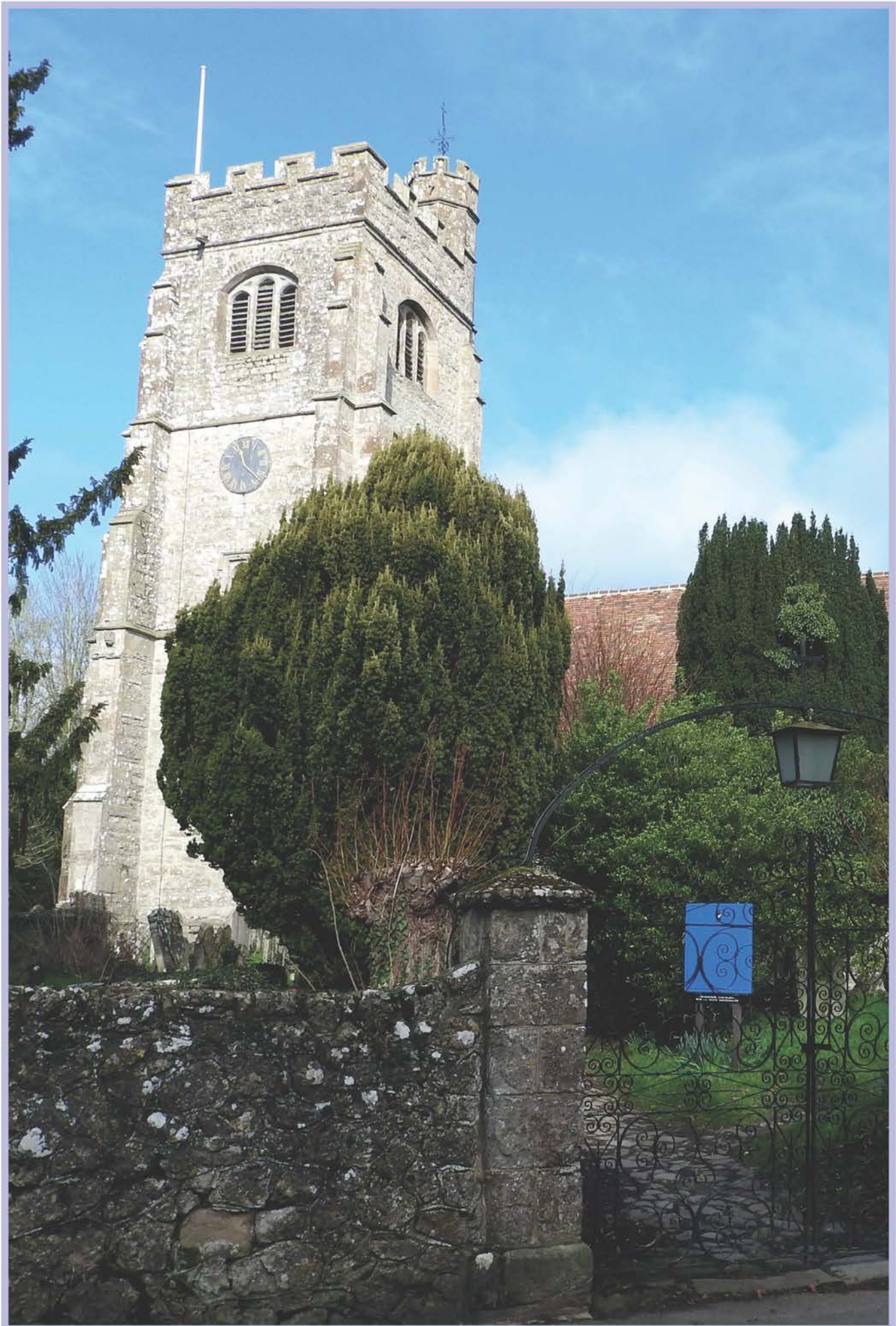
The church, which is probably the largest in the Benefice, is open during daylight hours. It is situated on the highest point of the village, and is close to the village shop, the school and a local pub. It is frequently floodlit, and forms a welcome landmark to villagers returning home in the dark hours.

The population numbering 1,076 includes commuters, who make use of the links to London and the coast via three mainline stations in neighbouring villages. There is a core of older inhabitants who have spent the majority or all of their lives in the village. However, there are sufficient young families for the village to have a playgroup and a mothers and toddlers group.

Egerton still retains an exceptional community spirit, with a large core of enthusiastic volunteers. There are many small businesses, including the village shop, garage, a pub, and community venues. These last include the Millennium Hall with a main hall with stage, a meeting room, the attached Telecottage and a well-appointed kitchen. There is a games barn nearby, and a sports pavilion with good-sized paying fields. There is also a skate/BMX park.

*Continued p14*











*Opposite page from the top:*

Egerton Primary School Children leaving a Church Service  
at St James'  
Christmas Fair on The Glebe  
Fundraising Quiz Night



*This page:*

Egerton Village Celebration

Egerton Free Church worships every Sunday in its own building in the Forstal. Good relationships are maintained between the Free Church and the Parish Church. There is also a sizeable community of Jehovah's Witnesses who have their worship centre outside the village but have house-meetings within the village.

Egerton CE (Controlled) Primary has excellent church links, with a weekly service of worship in the church led by a member of the Ministry Team. The distinctively Christian ethos of the school is apparent in all the main areas of the school where the school values of 'Compassion, Humility, Inspiration, Love, Determination' are clearly displayed.

We have an active Friends of St James society, drawing most of its support from non-churchgoers, which has been and continues to be vital for the good state of our beautiful 14th Century building. There is also an active WI and an over 60s Club which meet regularly in the Millennium Hall.

There is a very active Music Club in Egerton with many concerts taking place in the Church building. Every three years, there is a ten-day music festival which takes place in various sites around Egerton and features a great variety of different musical tastes.

The Millennium Hall is also the venue for the productions offered by Egerton Players, the Telecottage, which offers a range of courses and services, and the film club. There are many sporting groups, such as short mat bowls, cricket, football (with Pluckley), joggers and walkers.

Egerton church has a small regular congregation for whom there is a pattern of services both modern and traditional which we would like to keep. Numbers swell on high days and holidays (150-200 is normal for the carol service), and the church is always full once a week during term-time when our school holds its collective worship there.

Our church team is continually working towards strengthening links with Egerton parish and beyond, helping to further build on the Christian values which underpin this supportive community. We enjoy involvement in the joint activities within the village, such as the village fete, Christmas fair and providing a harvest lunch for our parishioners together with other village activities such as quizzes, sales, military whist and the annual parish assembly. Wherever possible, our congregation also gives support to the needy in the village, providing hospital visits, transport and some pastoral care.

We are particularly fortunate in having the support of the village school. The children attend church each week and enhance the building with their innovative and thought-provoking displays. The school choir always provides additional delights for our Christmas and Easter services. Each year, children from the school and the preschool thoughtfully provide poppy displays both inside the church and at the war memorial. The school also uses the churchyard and the building as a valuable learning resource. The children can often be seen taking exploratory walks around the church building and the churchyard, led by members of the community.

Egerton is looking forward to sharing and developing the established ideals both within the varied services enjoyed in St James and with the other churches in the new Benefice.





## • *St Margaret, Hothfield* •

**T**his Grade 1 listed church building largely dates from the 13th Century. Constructed from local ragstone, it was largely rebuilt following a fire in 1598. Inside the church, there are a number of fine stained glass windows and the 17th Century Tufton Tomb. It is not open to the public on a daily basis because it stands in an isolated position away from the main road.

The modern parish of Hothfield has 780 residents within an area of 959.43 hectares (Source: 2011 Census online statistics). Within the village there is a general store and post office, and two large hotels, a service station and a restaurant just outside the village. Hothfield Primary School closed in 2007 and most primary-aged children from the village attend school in one of the neighbouring villages of Charing or Pluckley.

There is a retirement village just outside Hothfield that members of the clergy visit each month to celebrate communion. Next to the church is an Acquired Brain Injury Unit and many of the long-term and short-term residents come to the services in church when possible. There is always a warm welcome offered by this small congregation.

Hothfield Common is an important local amenity, a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the unusual flora and fauna and a favourite place for dog walkers.

A piece of music called The Lost Chord was composed on the organ which is now at St Margaret's Church Hothfield by Sir Arthur Sullivan (one half of the Gilbert and Sullivan partnership) when he was visiting Lord and Lady Hothfield. It is believed that, at that time, the organ was in the manor house where a public performance was given by Sir Arthur in 1877. The organ was moved to the church in the late 1890s.

Hothfield Church has six bells, and they are rung on the first Sunday of every month and practice nights are held on a regular basis.

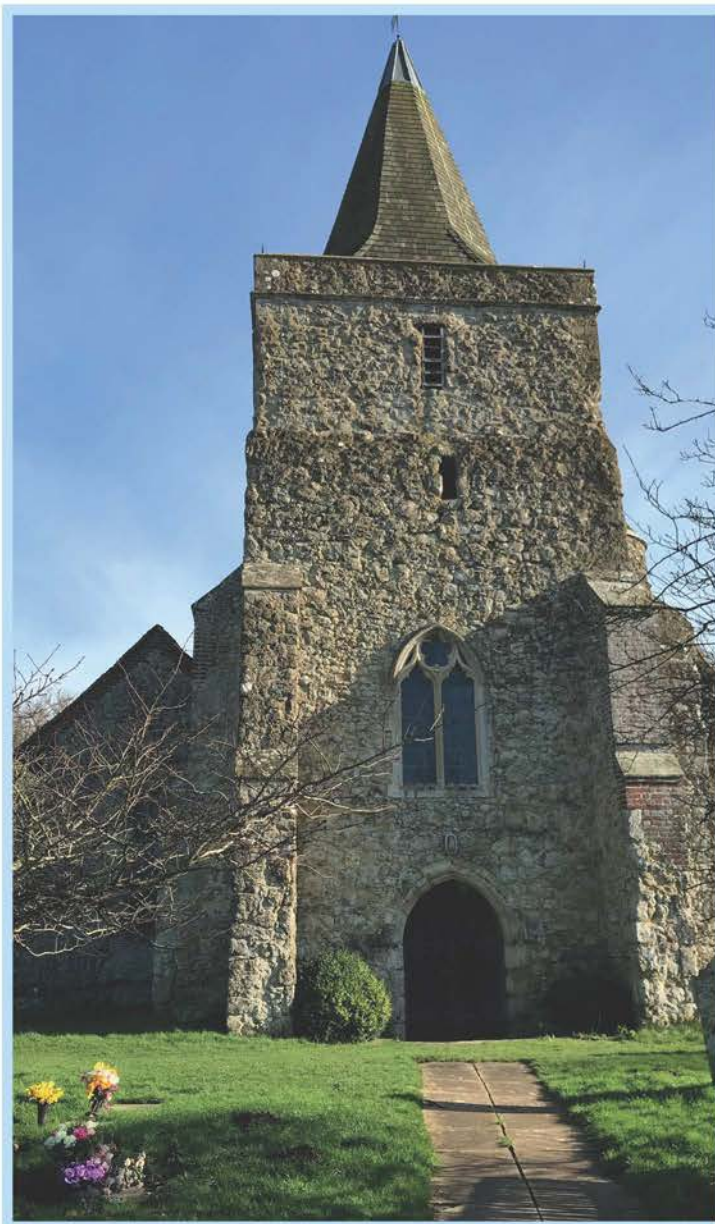
St Margaret's holds three services per month, one Eucharist, one spoken Matins and one Family Worship. Members of the congregation lead both the Matins and Family Worship services.

There is a small regular congregation which increases in number for shared services at Christmas and Easter and for Benefice services. There are currently 26 on the church electoral roll. Normal Sunday services tend to be attended by those people over 50; however, at festivals, the congregation is drawn from a much wider age range.

The church has a very active and enthusiastic Friends group, which raises money through social events for the maintenance of the church and for other needs that arise. We are currently planning a kitchen and new toilet facilities. This beautiful church provides a superb venue for concerts and has also held several two-day events – most recently a wedding dress festival, a flower festival and a Christmas tree festival. The village community and local primary schools are also actively involved in these events.



*Clockwise from top right:*  
Church of St Margaret  
Tomb of Sir John Tufton (1544 - 1624)  
Christmas Tree Festival  
Flower Festival







## • *St Mary, Little Chart* •

*L*ittle Chart is aptly named – a tiny village with only 234 residents, a single pub, no shops and no school. But it does have St Mary the Virgin Church built in 1956 to replace the original ancient church which was destroyed by a German V1 flying bomb knocked out of the sky by an RAF fighter in August 1944. The ruins of St Mary's old church survive.

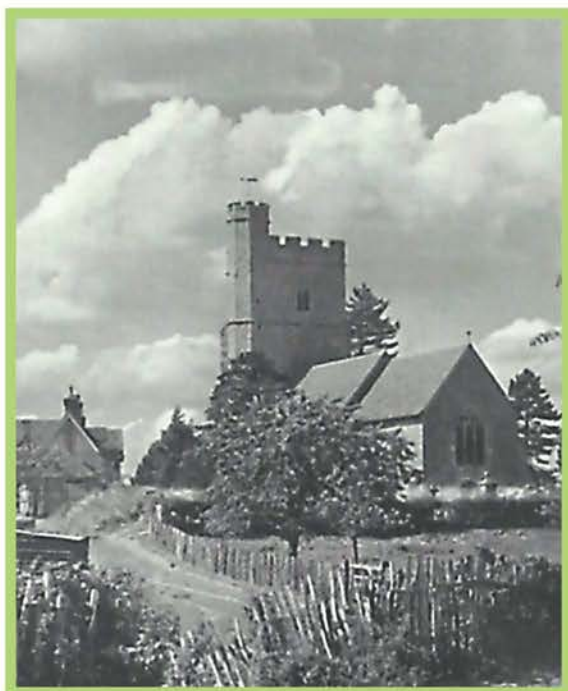
Although a small village, Little Chart villagers are active – offering a wide range of events such as the flower show, a summer fete, a thriving cricket club and a weekly bridge club that attracts players from miles around. This is where HE Bates came to live and to write. Pluckley may claim the Darling Buds of May as its own, but the author preferred to remain in Little Chart!

St Mary's is the home of Cornerstone, a cafe-style church which is led by a group of lay leaders on three Sundays in the month. The fourth service is taken by a member of the clergy and includes Communion. The services begin with refreshments and continue with prayers, modern hymns and discussion on biblical themes. This is very much a family service and children of all ages are actively encouraged to take part. The congregation sits around tables and all information, such as hymns and passages from the Bible, is projected on to a screen. For the future, we have begun reordering the church – as the building, though structurally sound, does need updating with new toilets, kitchen, heating and improved disabled access. Once this is complete, we can then encourage more families to join our congregation.

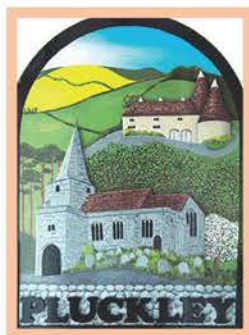




*Previous page:*  
 Ruins of St Mary the Virgin  
*Clockwise from top right:*  
 Interior St Mary's Church  
 St Mary's Church as it stands today  
 St Mary the Virgin before being bombed







## • *St Nicholas, Pluckley* •

The village of Pluckley sits on the Greensand Ridge, dropping away to the Weald of Kent. The village was formerly the home of the Dering Family and many houses are fitted with the unique round-topped Dering windows. There are a number of thriving businesses, a general store and post office, a butcher's shop and a farm shop, and three popular pubs – all providing some local employment.

Pluckley village numbers about 1,069 inhabitants, many of whom are actively involved in the life of the village. Societies include the gardening society, Pluckley Womens Collective and Pluckley Panto Unlimited, and among regular village activities are the annual Pluckley Bash and the monthly coffee morning.

There is a railway station on the main Ashford to London line, as a result of which the village is popular with commuters.

St Nicholas Church, built of Kent ragstone, is a Grade 1 listed building. Although there is evidence of a church on this site from at least 1090, the oldest section of the current church is the northwest corner of the nave, which dates to the Norman period. There are also a pair of blocked up lancet windows in the east end which predate the 13th century. The spire was added in the 14th century, as were the chancel, door and tower window. The whole building was enlarged in the 15th century, when the font, which bears the arms of the Dering family of Surrenden, was built. There is also a collection of medieval and Tudor brasses consisting of eight Derings and one Malmain. The oldest brass is that of John Dering, who died in 1425. The most recent is that of Richard Dering (d. 1610).

The nearby Church of England primary school opposite the church comes to church most days for collective worship and there are excellent links with the ministry team.

St Nicholas Church has a varied pattern of services that includes BCP Holy Communion, lay led Matins, Common Worship Communion and Iona Eucharist. Members of the congregation are involved in all aspects of Sunday worship, from worship leader to speaker and intercessor to chalice bearer.

An active Pastoral Care Team offers support, home visits and guidance to people in times of difficulty, and a Worship Group advises the Church Management Team about patterns of services. The Worship Group organises the charitable giving and allocates a person to promote the separate outward giving for each month.

St Nicholas has a strong musical tradition with a four-part choir who take part in all the main services. The choir is affiliated to the RSCM, and money was raised to commission and build a new two-manual pipe organ which has been installed in recent years.

There is a strong Friends of St Nicholas, which raises funds mainly for the upkeep of the fabric and churchyard.





St Nicholas has an interesting history. As a result of a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery for repairs to the external walls of the church, we were required to demonstrate a focus on the heritage of the church. This exciting project has resulted in the introduction of the Pluckley Heritage Centre into the southwest corner of the church in June 2018. It is open to the public for several hours each week or at other times by appointment. We are fortunate to have a hard-working and dedicated team of volunteers overseeing this project and developing the collection.



*Above left:*  
Volunteers at Pluckley Heritage Centre  
*Above right:*  
Christmas Service at St Nicholas







## • *St Mary, Westwell* •

The parish of Westwell has three distinct settlements – Westwell village, Tutt Hill and Sandyhurst Lane – which are separated by farmland. The civil parish boundary has recently changed, moving to the east of Sandyhurst Lane so that properties on both sides of the lane are now in the parish. There are moves to make the same change to the ecclesiastical boundary, bringing over 100 more properties (mainly family homes) into the parish. The local economy is based mostly on agriculture, although many commute daily to London or to the surrounding larger towns.

Although rural, Westwell is well placed for links to London and the continent thanks to HSR, Eurostar and the M20.

In addition to the village pub, there is also a funeral parlour in the centre of the village. There are many clubs and societies, including a thriving WI, Westwell Players and a book club.

St Mary Westwell is situated in the centre of Westwell village, nestling under the North Downs and in the Kent AONB, close to Pilgrims Way. Pilgrims regularly visit the church, as shown by the many comments in our visitors' book. The outer fabric is early English, built around 1250 of flint, rubble and stucco with an entrance through a 15th century porch. Inside, there are several unusual features including an early stone vaulted chancel with a very large three-bay chancel arch, remnants of medieval tiles behind the modern altar, 17th century graffiti on many of the pillars and a fine Tree of Jesse east window, two thirds of which is still original.

There are services each Sunday (other than the fifth Sunday when the service rotates around the Benefice churches) and on the first Friday of each month. Each service is different in style and includes BCP Holy Communion, Iona Eucharist services, an all-age, lay-led service and a Communion service. Coffee and cake or biscuits are offered after most services – Westwell is a community renowned for its welcome and hospitality. Worshippers are from all parts of the parish; the regular congregation is mostly elderly but there are some young families who take an active part in services – we are challenged to bring in the others.

A number of events are held in the church to remove the 'fear of the door', including Pimms and Hymns and breakfast after BCP Communion, which is a recent initiative.

We are fundraising to put in a loo and kitchen so that we can make more use of our lovely church as a community asset.





*Clockwise from right:*  
 St Mary's Church  
 Westwell Flower Arrangers and Cleaners  
 Poppy Makers  
 Tea Party at St Mary's Church  
 Harvest Supper Volunteers

