



Rector of Ifield

Parish Profile

Diocese of Chichester

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16th September 2019

Section One

Summary

Welcome to the Parish of Ifield!

We are a parish blessed with people having numerous skills and talents. Much good work has already been done but we need to grow further in our faith to take it forward to a new level to unlock and channel our talents so that the mission of our church may be one of serving fully all those who live here. Whilst we believe we know where we would like to be, we need that special person in the form of our Rector, who has the vision, leadership and high-quality management skills to be that catalyst for our ongoing work in the wider community. We have long experience as a very successful training parish which celebrates the ministry of all priests.

If you like an exciting challenge and feel that you are the right person for us, then read on.....



Is this door opening for you?

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Ifield is geographically large as it encompasses the neighbourhoods of Ifield, Ifield West and Langley Green, and a large area of farmland and smallholdings (of which Ifield Wood is the main settlement) to the west and north-west of Crawley. Crawley itself is located in the north-eastern corner of West Sussex and is halfway between London and Brighton. It was an important staging post for coaches and to this day forms the mid-point refreshment break on the annual London to Brighton veteran car rally.

The church is consecrated to St Margaret of Antioch and serves both urban and rural areas. These include the Crawley neighbourhoods of Ifield and Ifield West (8,414), Langley Green (7,286) plus rural areas that fall within Horsham Rural District. In Langley Green nearly a quarter of the population is Muslim or Hindu. Recent new housing development means the parish now serves a very diverse community with the Rector holding the cure of souls of about 16,000 people.

Our 12th century Grade I listed church is in good condition and was recently inspected. The churchyard is closed for burials and is maintained by Crawley Borough Council. Interment of ashes continues to take place within the churchyard on a regular basis.



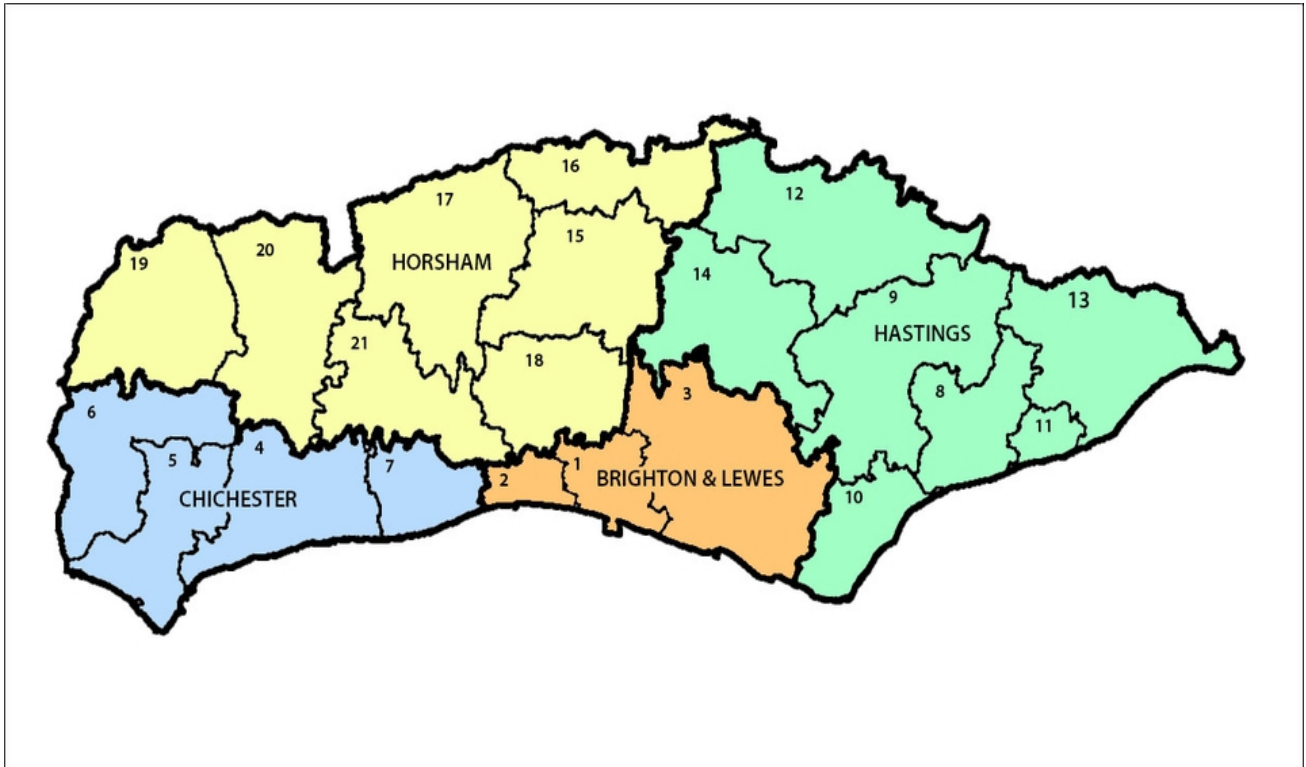
St Margaret's is at the lower/middle end of the Anglo-Catholic tradition and welcomes all into its midst with the statement 'Loved as you are'. The parish uses Common Worship and the church remains open daily from Morning Prayer to the end of Evening Prayer during which time it provides a quiet and tranquil space that is widely used by the community for prayer and reflection.

This is a vibrant parish with a range of worship services and styles which draw people of all ages and at various stages of their faith journey. We therefore seek an incumbent with a pastoral heart who will engage all people with their widely different spiritual and personal needs.

Section Two

The Broader Context

The Diocese



The Diocese of Chichester

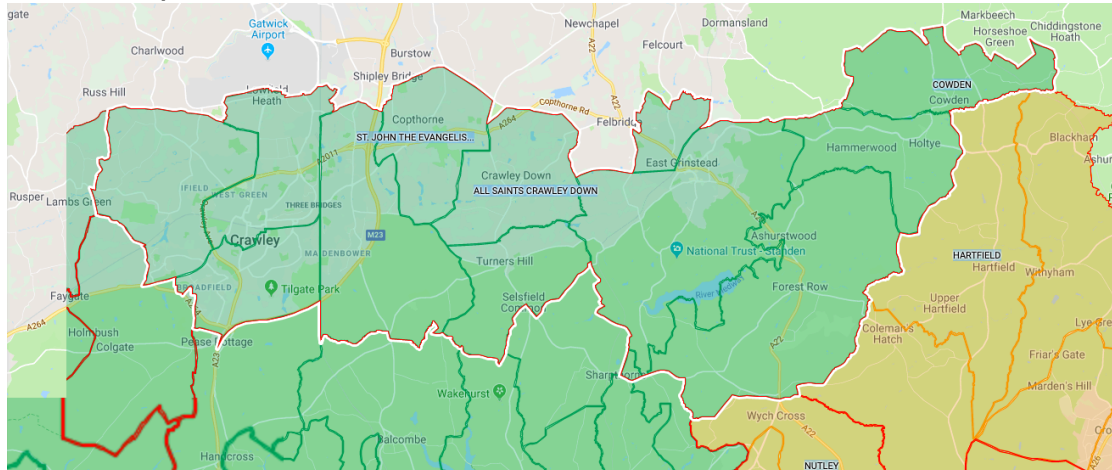
The Diocese of Chichester covers very large area that includes both East and West Sussex. Ifield Parish falls within the deanery of East Grinstead (16) in the far north of West Sussex. Our Diocesan Bishop is the Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner. Ifield is situated within the Horsham Episcopal Area (vacant) and the Archdeaconry of Horsham (Archdeacon - The Venerable Fiona Windsor) and the Deanery of East Grinstead; Rural Dean – Revd Angela Martin, Lay Chair Chris Bell.

Members of our church are active in Diocesan Synod and some of its committees and have previously been members of the Bishop's Council.

As a church we have actively engaged with numerous diocesan initiatives such as the Year of the Bible the Year of Prayer and currently the Year of Vocation.

As our youth work develops, we have once again started taking our young people to the annual Diocesan May Camp.

The Deanery



Area covered by East Grinstead Deanery

East Grinstead Deanery

The deanery stretches from Cowden (Kent) in the East to Ifield in the West. The two main areas of population are Crawley and East Grinstead separated by a central belt comprising Copthorne, Crawley Down and Turners Hill. From East Grinstead eastwards are the more rural parishes of Forest Row, Hammerwood and Cowden.

We actively participate in the deanery where we are represented by ordinary members and also fill the roles of Lay Chair and Secretary.

Churches in Crawley

In centuries past there were three village parishes, Crawley, Ifield and Worth. With the development of Crawley New Town new neighbourhood churches were established creating Team Ministries. The 2015 Crawley & Horsham Review resulted in the creation of more parishes by splitting off some churches from their Team Ministries to become independent parishes such as the new Parish of Ifield. No reorganisations are anticipated in the foreseeable future.

The churches in Crawley work together well. The clergy meet as a group to support each other and address issues specific to the Crawley area. The churches co-operate practically in a number of areas including youth and children's work.

There is an Anglican chaplain based at Gatwick Airport who resides in the parish. Other denominations represented in the town include Methodist, Baptist, URC, Roman Catholic, The Friends, Salvation Army and other strong independent churches. Our parish has links with those from other religions.

The Parish

The parish staff comprises a Rector (in vacancy), two retired priests (Rev Dr. Daphne Goodwin and Margaret Hanson) and a Reader (Jill Bell) who between them officiate and/or preach at Eucharists, baptisms, weddings and funerals as appropriate. The team also run classes to prepare people for Baptism, Confirmation and Weddings.



Rev Daphne Goodwin,



Rev Margaret Hanson



Jill Bell, Reader

There are two churchwardens:



Chris Bell



Robert Pudney

We have an ALM in training focusing on the community.

We also have a number of Eucharistic Ministers who help with Home Communion as well as giving pastoral support.

Paid staff are our parish administrator, Mave Eshun, the Director of Music, Stephen Horsman and our Youth and Children's worker, Naomi Gater.

Ifield parish is well administered with all relevant positions covered by members of the PCC and congregation. We are in a good financial position and have pledged to contribute 100% of our Ministry Costs to the Diocese of Chichester again this year. Stewardship has been a regular feature of our planning and many members of the congregation give through the national PGS as well as by Standing Order. Our finances are overseen by the Treasurer who is a professionally qualified accountant and two Finance Officers who handle day to day matters. The latest accounts for the Parish of Ifield (ending Dec 2018) and the budget for 2019 are available upon request. These show that the parish is in a healthy financial position.

We have recently purchased a card reader so that people can make contactless payments. Whenever possible all our banking is done electronically.

Our parish office is located in the parish owned Lychgate Cottage accessed from the churchyard. It is open weekday morning till noon and is a vital part of our effective mission. The office is well equipped with two computers connected to high speed internet together with an colour A3 photocopier which is used to produce our weekly service and other booklets. The administrator manages all functions associated with baptisms, weddings and funerals etc.

We have a dedicated Safeguarding Officer and Policies which are regularly reviewed by the PCC.

St. Margaret's is a well-equipped church and was reordered in the late 90's. A new warm air heater was installed this summer which we will appreciate this winter as it failed the week before Christmas. We have an excellent Audio-Visual system. When not in use the screen is hidden behind the chancel arch. The two-manual Eminent organ is well voiced and provides realistic sound that can fill the church. We have recently purchased an electronic piano/keyboard and also have a standard piano. Unfortunately, the 'facilities' are not what we would wish as we have a single toilet and small kitchen and a choir vestry built in the mid 90's all of which are unsuited to the growth of the church and for this reason we are planning a major new extension.

Section Three

The Rector We Need

The parish seeks an incumbent who can relate to and communicate effectively with people from a wide range of social and economic backgrounds. The congregation has grown and has a diverse age range with many new younger families joining in our regular worship. One way to describe the congregation is that of a typical large family that is respectful, accepting and caring of each another. A love for all God's people is therefore paramount in this role.

Members of the congregation have a range of skills, knowledge and experience. These gifts of the Spirit need to be developed and utilised for the benefit of the whole church and it is in this that the incumbent will play a vital role if the mission of the church to grow God's Kingdom here in Ifield is to succeed.

Our Rector must above all be a person of who is utterly dependent upon God and open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He or she must have a firm foundation of Word and Sacrament with the desire to share this love and knowledge with all.

Here are some of the qualities we are seeking in our new Team Rector.

Values

- A love for all people and a heart for mission and evangelism
- Encouragement of priestly and lay ministry and in the wider use of gifts
- Commitment to supporting and developing new patterns of non-Eucharistic lay led & priestly led Eucharistic worship with children, youth and young families
- A desire to work ecumenically with all Christian and other faiths to foster mutual respect and understanding, social harmony and cohesion.
- An active interest in the life of the town, the deanery, the diocese and the worldwide church

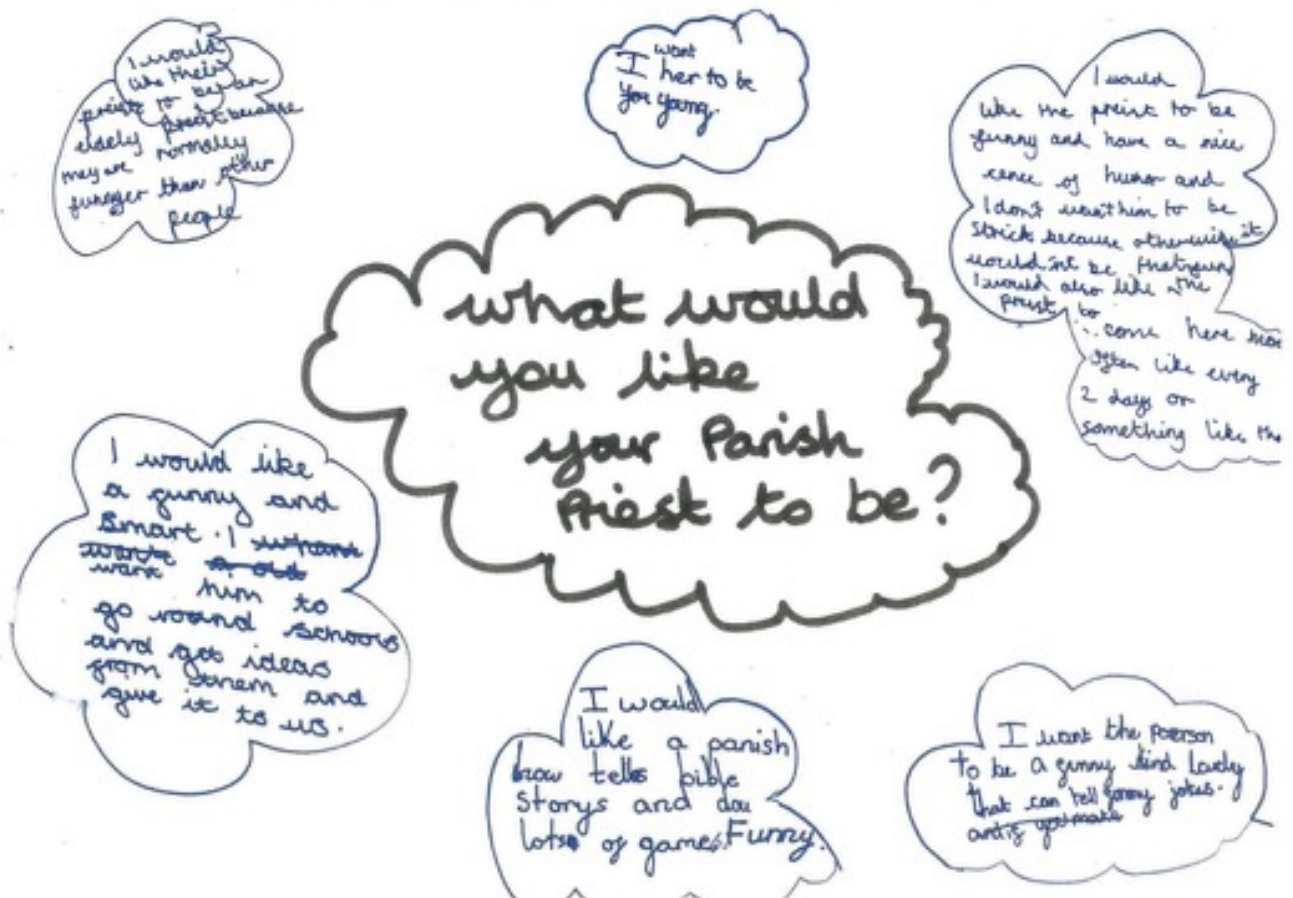
Key Gifts

- The ability to preach and teach the Word of God effectively and imaginatively to all age groups
- The ability to communicate effectively at all levels
- The ability to develop spirituality
- A desire to develop worship through a wide range of liturgical experiences
- Insight to discern gifts, to develop, support and empower members of the congregation in a range of ministries.
- The ability to develop and sustain teaching and learning programmes in the parish
- A Pastoral heart - to care for the people of God, to listen and to support them in all phases of their lives.
- A team builder who will provide vision and have clear and proven leadership skills.
- A person who will encourage, develop, delegate and use then utilise the skills of all licensed and lay people to sustain and grow the wider mission of the church.
- A proven and effective Team Leader who will provide the church with a forward and

outward-thinking vision and who will positively engage and encourage all people to grow in their roles and develop their own faith for the good of all God's people.

- Good administrative and organisational skills
- A working understanding of the finances of a large parish

St. Margaret's School, children's input

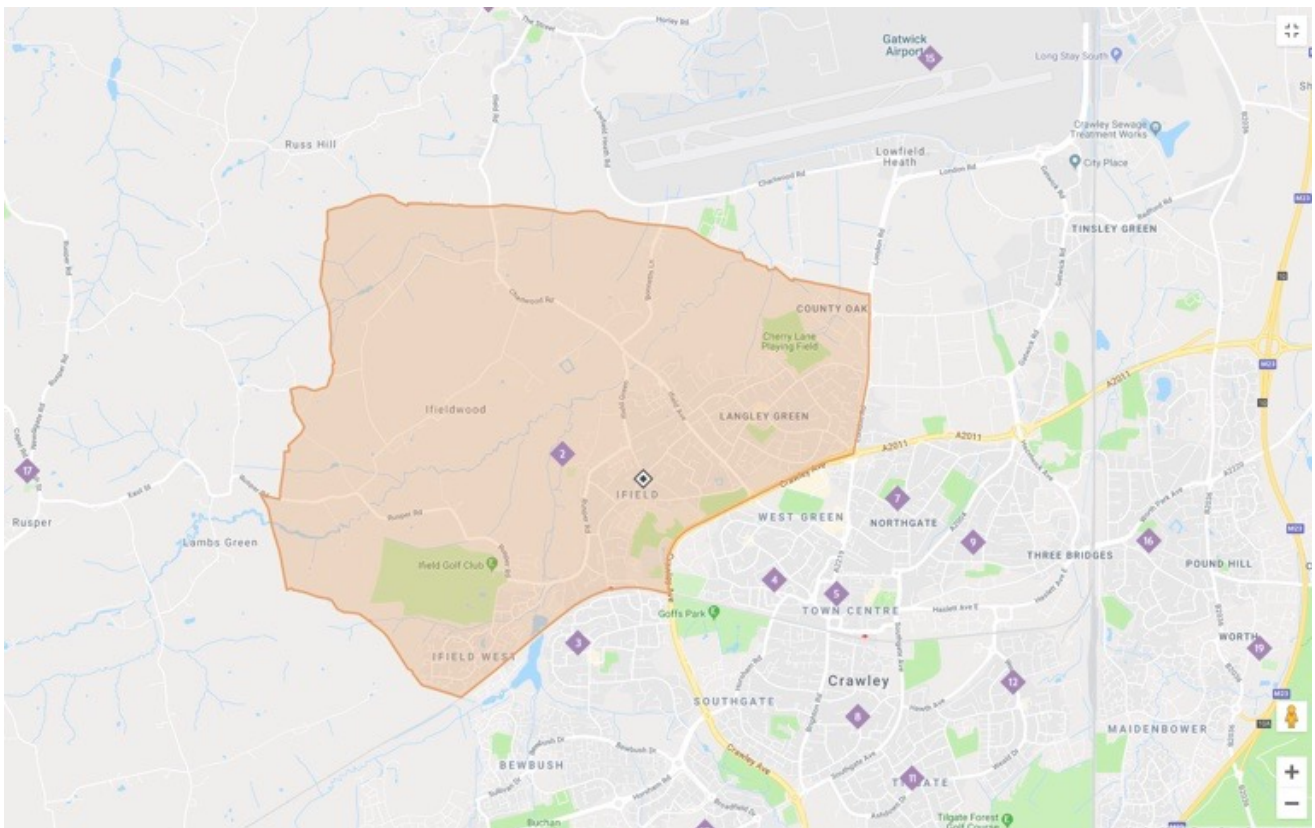


Section Four

About Ifield Parish

Following World War II, Crawley was designated as the site for a New Town. In 1947 it was targeted as an overspill town for London. Originally planned for 55,000 people, it now has a population of over 100,000 and plans continue to increase the population with two significant recent developments on the edge of Ifield. Crawley consists of a town centre, which has a large shopping mall with many major chains represented, a large industrial estate and 13 neighbourhood areas. A staged plan for redeveloping the town centre is under way which will further enhance Crawley's position as one of the major shopping centres in the southeast. There is relatively little high-rise building; housing is of a high standard and mostly brick built. There are many open spaces in or adjacent to the neighbourhoods – Ifield Mill, Tilgate Forest, Tilgate Park (including a nature centre and a golf course), Buchan Park and Goffs Park.

The development of Gatwick Airport is the main reason for Crawley's increase in planned size. It has become the busiest international single-runway airport in the world and is a major employer in West Sussex. Crawley benefits from having one of the lowest unemployment rates in the UK. Service industries drawn by the airport can find it hard to attract sufficient numbers of skilled and semi-skilled employees, which has led to a rise in the number of overseas workers living locally. The high level of shift work throughout the area impacts upon all worshipping communities.



Ifield Parish Boundary in relation to the Crawley area and Gatwick Airport

The northern edge of the Parish boundary skirts Gatwick Airport. The Eastern side is bounded by the A23 and Arun railway line. While the western side is mainly agricultural land that reaches out to Lambs Green. Consequently, it has a diverse ethnic and socioeconomic mix. Our last incumbent said that Crawley was one of the friendliest places he knew and that people from all backgrounds would engage in conversation with each other.

Road, rail and air communications are amongst the finest in the UK, with the M23 on the doorstep and the M25 twenty minutes away. There are two mainline stations (Crawley and Three Bridges) providing excellent links to London and Brighton (Crawley to London Victoria is around 45 minutes) as well as to Chichester, Portsmouth and Southampton. Ifield, itself, has its own station which provides a half-hourly stopping service to London and Horsham which is the terminus for the Thameslink service to Peterborough (It takes 2.5 hours and connects with services to the north there and at Stevenage avoiding London and the underground). The beautiful Surrey and Sussex countryside is easily accessible and both the North and South Downs together with Ashdown Forest are within easy reach.

Virtually every leisure activity is provided for, including our magnificent major sports centre, K2. This opened in 2005, has an Olympic-sized swimming pool along with other state-of-the-art facilities and was used as a training base during the 2012 Olympics. Crawley's library (opened December 2008) is one of the largest and most up to date in the county. The Hawth is well supported and highly regarded in the region as a theatre and concert hall. Crawley Leisure Park near the town centre features a multiplex cinema, bowling alley, restaurants and a fitness centre.

In summary St Margaret's is an exciting church that is growing and meeting the needs of the community it serves - we just want to do more to engage with the wider community. We have a loyal and hardworking congregation with new people offering to help in different areas. The wider community is harmonious and there is a real feel-good factor to the place which our previous incumbent frequently referred to.

Electoral Roll

In 2018 there were 185 parishioners on the Electoral Roll. The New Roll in 2019 reduced this to 129 as it always takes a long time to get parishioners to submit their paperwork.

Crawley is not a deprived area, but some wards are more deprived than the national average. Langley Green is in this category. It does not make these wards deprived areas. (Crawley – A Community Profile)

Parish Finances

The latest accounts for the Parish of Ifield (ending Dec 2018) and the budget for 2019 are separately available upon request. These show that the parish is in a healthy financial position.

Section Five

About St. Margaret's Church

During the seven centuries of its existence, St Margaret's Church has evolved from a wooden chapel set on the edge of common grazing land, into a village parish church that is now the hub of an urban ministry. We are a church community that is characterised by its warm welcome; diversity and openness in making everyone feel part of God's family.

Our Statement of Mission

We are deeply committed 'to reach out into the community, to develop the spiritual life of our congregation and to grow in our church membership'.

Our vision

In the next five years we would like to become a parish that is even more effective in working together, proclaiming the gospel and sharing God's love with our local community. In line with the Diocesan vision we want our parish to be one where prayer and outreach is at the heart of everything we do and where service springs from our relationship with God. We want to get to the place where we grow spiritually and numerically, have healthy lay leadership teams in place, reach out effectively to the community to spread the Good News and are financially secure. We see a key focus area for our growth being in our mission to children and youth, building upon the work already done and, in this respect, have recently appointed a Youth and Children's Officer to develop this vital and high priority activity which is essential to our future growth. We also see an ongoing need to further develop the pastoral and spiritual needs of people for whom 'traditional' church is no longer working. We long to grow to be a community where God's work in the life of the parish brings forward fruit that will last across the generations and sustain His work for years to come. In this regard we need to identify those in the congregation who might be called to Lay or Ordained Ministry.



Friends Interested In Sharing Happiness (FIISH)!

FIISH is a lay led informal service that has been running for over seven years and seeks to provide a space for children, young people and their parents / carers. Refreshments are served throughout the service that looks to balance prayer, activities, worship, games, songs, a DVD clip, and teaching while engaging with adults as much as possible. Our vision is to nurture and disciple people on their faith journey, and to be confident in showing the love that Jesus has for them. We also look to encourage engagement with other services and groups within the church family.



Regular Services

- The main act of worship is the Choral Eucharist at 11am.
- A Said Eucharist takes place each Sunday at 8am and on Wednesday at 10am
- Our monthly lay-led FIISH service at 9.30am takes place on the 2nd Sunday and is aimed specifically at families with young children.
- Since the start of the year we have been trialling a lay-led non-Eucharistic service on the First

Sunday of the month at 11am to act as a bridge between FISH and the full choral Eucharist while also reaching out to those who may not have been to church before or infrequently.

- A growing monthly informal lay-led 4th Sunday service at 9.30am is 'ReFresh' for people of all ages.
- Squeals on Wheels for pre-school children and their parents/carers meets on Thursday mornings at 10am in the Lychgate Cottage and once a month begins with a short service in church.
- Morning and Evening Prayer is said in church at 8:30am and 5:30pm, Monday to Saturday. Between these hours the church remains open.
- During Eastertide we meet for Compline, a Maundy Service, Stations of the Cross, the Easter Vigil, Good Friday and a Dawn service on Easter Day.
- Remembrance, Advent, Toy, Christingle, Crib and Christmas Carol Services are a regular part of our annual cycle of worship.
- We also host civic services for groups such as the Alzheimer's Society, Scouts, ATC etc.

Related activities

- A Communion service is regularly held in a care home in the parish. Communion is also taken to parishioners who are unable to attend services in church.
- Baptised adults and children who are not confirmed may receive communion. We have a course for children prior to their receiving communion.
- Service sheets are printed for Sunday and other major services, enabling a greater variety of both liturgy and music to be used.
- There are weekly evening youth meetings.
- Lent Courses and other training events run across the parish.
- We have some very active Home Groups meeting throughout the year in people's homes and in church.
- We provide preparation classes for couples prior to their marriage.
- In May four members of the congregation were confirmed with another scheduled for September.
- Visits are made to bereaved families which also serve as good pastoral opportunities and have brought people into the worshipping community. This is an area that needs to be expanded in addition to personal invitations to attend our All Souls service.
- Crazy Christians – a fortnightly club (term time) for 6–11-year olds.
- Beyond Crazy – to encourage and support young people in the 11 – 16 age group in their discipleship.

Occasional Offices

- We view the occasional offices as evangelistic opportunities and have a policy of preparation for both weddings and baptisms.
- We have 13 weddings booked in 2019.
- Whilst a number of baptisms are conducted within the normal Sunday services most are held on the first Sunday afternoon of the month. Up to the end of August this year we had baptised 18 infants and adults.
- Till the end of August 2019, we had 11 funerals in church and 7 at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, located to the east side of Crawley. A few church funerals are followed by interment at Snell Hatch cemetery, but most are followed by cremation. Funerals held at the crematorium are increasingly being done by celebrants appointed or proposed by the undertakers.

Communications

The service sheets with the notices provide the basic weekly communications for people attending church. The parish website (<https://www.ifieldparish.org>) gives a comprehensive view of who we are, what we do and when (the Calendar).

The parish news, 'The Buzz', is published 11 times a year. Each edition has a lead article as well as other matters of interest and highlights events around the parish in greater detail.

We also produce a quarterly coloured 'St. Margaret's Church News' for the local community which is distributed through shops, doctors' surgeries, dentists, cafes and pubs, and is also emailed to our distribution list.

We have pew 'Welcome' cards for new people wanting to find out more and be informed of the latest news. 'Welcome to your New Home' cards have been produced for distribution to newly built properties in the parish.

Mission & Outreach

We have an active Mission Committee which apart from supporting our smaller activities has tried to concentrate on a number of major initiatives.

Crawley Open House.

This charity for homeless people in the town centre has for several years been a major beneficiary of the Christmas Collection, the food from the harvest service, the proceeds of the harvest lunch and a group of volunteers who regularly cook meals at the centre.

Church Mission Society (CMS)

We have for many years supported a specific activity of CMS. We collect during Lent, with members of the congregation taking collection boxes. The money raised is now used to specifically support the work of Patricia and Peter Wyard in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As a medical doctor Patricia is developing a palliative medical care team, training nurses and supporting local doctors. Peter is an ordained ex teacher and now teaching Theological students and offering support to clergy and people in the Diocese of Aru.

Family Support Work (FSW)

Ifield parish is an active supporter of FSW with two members of our congregation being members of the local support group. Our Reader and another member of the congregation recently undertook the FSW charity walk from Amberley to Arundel and back raising significant funds. The parish makes an annual donation to the work of FSW.

Lychgate Vintage Tea Rooms

In an effort to extend our outreach we have started running a monthly tearoom where coffee and tea are served in a variety of porcelain cups and saucers while homemade cake is served on stands. This activity has been publicised on the local council notice boards and is attracting members of the general public.

Some groups within the church

Creative Prayer

This group was formed after two attended the Personal and Spiritual Growth course at Worth Abbey in 2014. It is co-ordinated by our Reader, Jill Bell, but members take turns to lead each monthly session with their choice of prayer activity. Being a small group makes it a place to help integrate new members of the church and help them feel “loved as they are”. A former teacher shares items from her extensive collection of quality materials and has taught skills such as greetings card-making and stamping in the context of thoughtful prayer. Another is skilled at leading meditations, based on music or a Bible passage. Others have brought ideas gleaned from the Worth Abbey course, while some are happy to take part but have not yet felt ready to lead – and that is fine. Over the years the group has led a Creative Prayer evening in church and set up creative intercessions at Pentecost for ‘Thy Kingdom Come’.



Home groups

We currently have four, very active, home groups in the parish. One of these grew from a Christianity Explored course some eight years ago. It has since incorporated several other members of the church, both regular and occasional attenders. The group meets fortnightly at in members' homes and has become so popular that living room is often filled to capacity. Leadership of individual sessions is shared. This group has favoured courses based on books or films. It's also a good place for coffee and cake.



A more Bible-based, group meets weekly and is currently studying Jesus' parables. It's good to note that three of our latest Christianity Explored/Adult Confirmation group members have recently joined and become full participants – one of them offering to lead a session after only a few weeks' attendance. In addition to weekly coffee and biscuits, this group is noted for its termly shared meals and barbecues.

A mature group of ladies meets on weekday afternoons. Recently they have been exploring their relationship with Christ and how to share his Word. Tea, cake and Bible study are shared, and members offer one another pastoral/practical care. Their summer term ended with an outdoor meal.



The fourth group is led by our Reader with other members taking over as needed. It began some fifteen years ago with members of Bewbush Barn Church (now part of the parish of St. Alban's, Gossops Green and Bewbush). Over the years, parish Lent courses have also drawn in members from St. Margaret's. Although meeting in St. Alban's, the group continues under Jill's leadership and is part of St. Margaret's home group set-up. Praying for one another's needs (sensitively led by Margaret Stratton) has become a key part of the group's time together. This is followed by Bible Study, mostly based on the Scripture Union Lifebuilder series, currently on John's Gospel. Each meeting ends with a social time over refreshments.



Youth, Children & Families

Youth & Children's Officer

Currently we have a Youth & Children's Officer who is employed for 15 hours a week. Naomi is responsible for all that comes under the Youth & Children's banner and is also actively involved in several of the schools in our parish. Naomi's role is partly funded through a grant over the next 3 years from the Diocesan Mission Fund. Highlights of the role include running youth confirmation classes, preparation for communion classes, school assemblies, school small group work, assisting with baptism preparation classes as well as those things particularly highlighted below.

Beyond Crazies (Youth Group)



Beyond Crazy is our youth group from those in year 7-11. They meet on alternate Fridays during term time between 6.30pm and 8.30pm in Lychgate Cottage. This is the newest of all the groups only beginning in January 2018 with 6 young people. Today we have a regular attendance of 18-20 and over 30 names on the books. This group is led by Naomi and Trevor. The group partake in a variety of activities including film night, bowling, quiz night, ask the Rector, rounders, craft night, cookery classes to name just a few! There is always a short God slot each week or prayer time, and there is always the opportunity for the youngsters to discuss anything with the adults: this may be problems at school, questions about life, or discussions about current affairs. They regularly join forces with the Crazy Christians and enjoy time together. In December 2018, over 40 went to the Panto at the Barn Theatre, and to end each year we have a BBQ and games together.



Crazy Christians



This group is for children in years 2 – 6 and meets fortnightly in term time. Our aim is to share our faith with the young people through a range of activities such as cooking, visits to local places of interest, crafts, games etc and an annual visit to a pantomime. Crazies also try to raise money for charity. They have joint activities with our follow-on group, Beyond Crazy, which have included rounders matches and end of term BBQs.

May Camp

In 2018, we sent a group of 3 young people plus 1 leader to May Camp. We joined forces with the young people from St Andrew's Furnace Green. In 2019, we sent a group of 4 young people plus 1 leader. This time we joined with the young people from St Andrew's Furnace Green and St John's Crawley, to create a Crawley Parishes group. Plans are already underway for May Camp 2020. As part of the conditions for the Mission Fund Money we will need to continue to send a group each year.



Holiday Club

Every year we successfully run a 4 day summer holiday club for children finishing year R-6. The club runs from Tuesday to Friday from 9.30am-12.30pm with a service together on the Sunday to show friends and family everything we have done during the week. A group of ladies come to prepare the refreshments each day for the children and adults. We have a wonderful team of junior leaders (aged 11-16) who help to lead each group and a team of adult leaders who each have responsibility for a group of up to 10 children. Attendance at holiday club is usually between 35 and 50 children. In 2018, the holiday club was Mission Rescue and the children and adults worked as spies investigating the story of Moses. In 2017, the holiday club was Space Academy, with the children and adult launching off into space for a week of fun. In 2020, the holiday club is called Mega Makers and will follow a Scripture Union planned holiday club.

Other Workshops



As well as our very successful holiday club we have also run workshops at other times of the year. These include a Nativity Festival workshop and a Good Friday Workshop. Both workshops offered the opportunity for children of any age to come with their parents and partake in a variety of craft activities. At the most recent Good Friday Workshop activities included: edible Easter garden, marble art crosses, scratch art crosses, decorate an Easter basket, Story of Easter Wheel and Easter calendars. At the Nativity Festival workshop, we encouraged the children to paint a stone with a nativity character and these have been left around the church building for people to come and find.



Sunday School

Over the past 12 months, Sunday School has had to remodel itself to fit in with attendance of children and young people at Sunday services. Currently, Sunday school takes place on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month. From September, this will take the form of two groups – the first for under 5s will be a creche style with plenty of toys and paper for children to use in the choir vestry during the service. Parents/carers will be responsible for their children out here. The service can be heard through a speaker so everyone can be back in time for communion. The second group will be for anyone aged 5-15, this group will take place in Lychgate Cottage and will be a Bible story with activities linked to the gospel reading each week. Naomi is responsible for planning and leading this. It is hoped that we will be able to build up our bank of helpers and leaders again. Usual attendance is around 15 children.

Schools

Within the parish boundaries there are 5 primary schools and 1 secondary school. Within Crawley there is also 1 Church of England secondary school. Naomi currently goes into Our Lady Queen of Heaven Primary School and St Margaret's Primary School once a week for a couple of hours. She is also on hand to help with school trips if needed. Naomi also goes into Holy Trinity C of E secondary school once every half term to lead an assembly for 250 children. From September 2019, she will also be going into Manor Green Primary School to help where needed and also in the Langley Green Primary School to lead assemblies as and when required. Naomi is also hoping to help out the Lighthouse Project (a local schools project) with their lunch club at St Margaret's Primary School. The work in schools is important and helps children to put a face to the church. All schools are happy to send out information about various events we run through their parent mail.



Links with local schools are good. Particularly with St Margaret's CofE (Aided) Primary School in Ifield. Our Youth & Children's Worker regularly visits our local schools and is warmly welcomed.

Naomi Gater, Youth and Children's Worker

"The close link between our primary school and the Rector is very important to us at school and to me as Headteacher. Each week the Rector comes into our school and leads a collective act of worship for our children focusing on the half termly Christian value. I also lead weekly whole school worship on the current Christian value, and I hope that by the children hearing both of us talk about the importance of these values, they can incorporate aspects of these into their lives too. The Rector also leads the Eucharist service with every year group throughout the year. This service is a family service which builds our relationship with our children and their families.

Our close links with the Rector continues with visits to the church for Harvest, Easter and an end of term service with Year 6. This relationship is also strengthened as the Rector is an integral part of the governing body. I value the close and honest relationship we can have about ways to further improve our school both in our education journey, but also our Christian one.

I value these strong links as they play an invaluable role in reinforcing our Christian ethos as a school and acknowledging the value and uniqueness of all our children, teaching them the importance of love, respect and forgiveness and encouraging the physical and spiritual development of each pupil".

Jill Hine, Headteacher, St. Margaret's School

Kindle

As part of Naomi's ongoing role of building links with the youth at other churches in Crawley, we are also part of the Kindle hosting team. Kindle is a youth service that happens once a month and currently moves around various churches in Crawley. We have so far hosted this twice at St Margaret's. It is hoped that we will continue to host this event and continue to build links with the Kindle team.

Squeals on Wheels

Squeals on Wheels is our parent and toddler group which meets every Thursday from 10am in Lychgate Cottage. This group is run by a couple of the mums who attend, but leadership changes each year depending on whose children are going to school/nursery. Attendance varies but there is a core group of about 6 mums and their children. Once a month, a service is held in church for the parents and toddlers to attend, these are led by either Jill or Sharon. The group has organised a couple of outreach events at a local soft play centre to encourage other mums to come along. The mums also meet together socially.



Safeguarding

We take Safeguarding very seriously and follow the procedures and training laid down by the Diocese, and this includes Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. We have a 'Safeguarding Officer' who reports directly to the Rector and regularly to the PCC. All our child and youth leaders have DBS Enhanced Disclosures. In addition, they and all helpers have completed the Diocesan Confidential Declaration Form, which is updated every three years. We also have a number of trained First Aiders.

Other Groups

Choir

We have a robed choir led by our Director of Music, Stephen Horsman, and which meets at 9.30am each Sunday to rehearse for the Sunday Eucharist. Stephen's vision is to develop and grow the musical tradition of St Margaret of Antioch Parish through building on what has been and introducing new material. To this end the aim is to contribute to and enhance the liturgy of St Margaret's Church through music, raising voices in song echoing the words in Psalm 95:2 "Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" (NRSV). We have reintroduced an occasional Choral Evensong and would like this to become a regular feature of our worship pattern.

The Choir and Director of Music have links with local community groups through annual services such as the Remembrance Service, Scouts and the Alzheimer's harvest and Carol Services and supporting other local Carol Services such as at the Gatwick Detention Centres. The Choir have put on two very good concerts since September 2018 which have been well received and, when requested, members of the choir sing at weddings. There are a small number of children who join the choir for weddings, and we are endeavouring to encourage them to be regular choristers in our main services.

SMILE

St. Margaret's Ifield Ladies Events is a parish-wide ladies' group which was formed in 2013. Our primary purpose is to socialise and have fun. We provide fellowship, friendship and support for one another. There is no formal membership of SMILE. Many of those attending our events are not regular church goers, which provides an opportunity for outreach. We have 83 ladies on our contact list, and advertise our activities via the pew sheets, The Buzz (monthly parish news) and our Facebook Group – St Margaret's Church Ifield, which currently has 322 members.

Activities include trips to local theatres and going out to eat together. However, we do try to organise some more low-key events to try and reduce our carbon footprint, keeping costs down in order to be more inclusive, such as DVD evenings and games evenings. During 2018 sixty-two people attended SMILE events. We are not a fundraising group but are happy to support one-off projects and church activities. Last year we made donations to Ride and Stride, Crisis at Christmas and Disaster Emergency Committee.

All ladies (from teens upwards) and men too are welcome to join SMILE activities. We welcome ideas for pursuits and are grateful to those who can host events. We look forward to the new Incumbent and their family joining one of our outings soon.



Men's Fellowship

This group is open to all men in the congregation and apart from providing working parties for the church is a social group that involves eating and drinking together which enables us to get to know one another better. A favourite is our annual February Skittles Night at 'The Bull Inn', Henfield which results in great comradery as skill counts for nothing!

Fundraising

We established a fundraising group following the demise of the warm air heater and the need to raised tens of thousands to replace it. This activity is now led by a member of our congregation who is a professional fundraiser for a major charity. This is now of vital importance as we move forward with the planned extension as it requires a carefully developed, coordinated and structured approach.

The church has a very good working partnership with the Ifield Barn Theatre whose premises are adjacent to the church. The May Fayre, which has been our main fund-raising event each year, is a shared venture between the church and the theatre and attracts thousands of people from the community and surrounding area.

Other Sources of Income

The parish benefits from rental income from No.2 Lychgate Cottage (upstairs). Other rental income is derived from the rental of St. Leonard's Church in Langley Green and the adjoining hall. There is a very small amount of money in restricted legacy funds.

What are the buildings like?

Ifield was first recorded in the Domesday Book. No church was mentioned, but there may well have been a 'chapel of rest' administered by the Abbess of Rusper. The church nave is considered to be wider than that of many Saxon churches, which suggests that the first stone building was constructed around a former 14th Century wooden structure. Internally there is a late Norman Sussex marble font, two early 14th Century stone effigies of a knight and his lady (thought to be Sir John de Ifield and his wife) and a screen made from the timber of the famous County Oak felled in 1884. During the 19th Century the chancel, nave and aisles were added/extended, and the bell tower built to house two bells and a clock. These remain in full working order. In 1975 the present choir vestry and utilities were built and joined to the church by means of an enclosed passage.

A major internal re-ordering took place in 2000/2001 which provided a new maple wood floor and a new liturgical altar was placed on the extended chancel step. The modern free standing modular oak pews allow for flexible seating arrangements. The two effigies along with other historical artefacts were cleaned and the font was repositioned at the front of the chancel with the option of using it as a lectern. The old pipe organ was replaced in 2008 by a high-quality electronic organ.

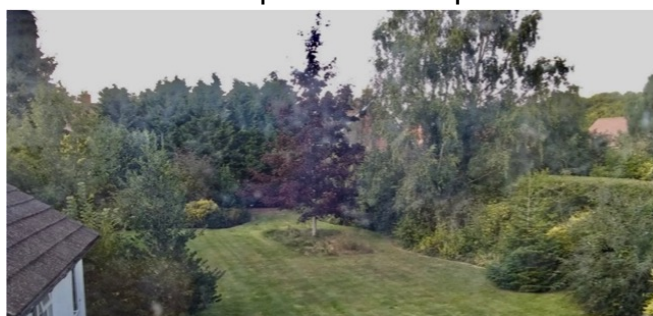
The church together with our architects (Jane Jones Warner Associates) has developed plans to build a multipurpose church hall able to seat 80 at tables, commercial kitchen, parish office, new choir rehearsal/vestry/meeting room, new Sacristy and clergy vestry, toilets etc. to the south west side of the site linked to the church by a welcome area. These plans are now being finalised prior to formal submission to the DAC and Crawley Borough Council for planning consent. When obtained this will lead to a challenging opportunity as we need to raise approximately £1 million pounds for the construction and outfitting of the extension. More importantly, when complete, this asset will greatly enhance the ability of the church to engage more effectively with the community seven days a week.

Other Properties



Ifield Rectory

The Diocese acquired a substantially rebuilt and modernised property on Rusper Road about 1 mile from the Parish Church. It is a large 5 bed, 3 bath modern Rectory with a good size garden within a mile of the church. This was first occupied by an incumbent in 2010. This replaced the old Georgian Vicarage adjacent to St. Margaret's Church in Ifield Street. The house is in good condition and has recently been inspected by the property department. The accommodation comprises an entrance hall with direct access to a ground floor meeting room which is also accessible from the Rector's study and cloakroom. The entrance hall also provides access to the very large and well-equipped kitchen, dining area and family lounge. Downstairs the flooring is wooden while the upstairs is all carpeted in a neutral colour. The first floor has two very large double bedrooms, one with a large en-suite. There is also a smaller bedroom and large bathroom. On the top floor are two further good size bedrooms and a shower room. The garden is of a good size and manageable. Outside is a large in and out gravel driveway. The property also has a substantial garage and security lighting on the outside of the house.



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Lychgate Cottages

Adjacent to and with direct access to the closed churchyard stands Lychgate Cottages. This building is owned by the P.C.C. and has an upstairs flat currently occupied by an elderly lady. Downstairs contains the Parish Office plus 3 small rooms for community use along with kitchen and toilet facilities. A surveyor's report indicates that the building is in need of major refurbishment. Architects have been approached to come up with plans to redevelop the property into two modern separate flats so as to provide an ongoing additional source of income for the parish.



The churchyard contains several significant tombs and numerous headstones; the burial of ashes covered by a small, non-protruding plaque is still permissible. Crawley Borough Council has responsibility for the overall ground maintenance, along with the perimeter walls, fences and gates.



The door is open wide, are you ready to come in?



If you feel that God is calling you to this parish then please pursue it with those who are responsible for this appointment. They would like to hear from you.