

Diocese of Portsmouth
Archdeaconry of the Isle of Wight



St Helen's



St Peter's, Seaview



St Mary, Brading



St John, Yaverland

Joint Profile for the Parishes
of
St Helen's, St Helens
St Peter's, Seaview
St Mary the Virgin, Brading
St John the Baptist, Yaverland

We hope and pray to appoint a priest who will continue to draw the four parishes together in worship, ministry and fellowship, whilst at the same time recognising their distinctive nature. We hope s/he will be approachable and have a good sense of humour, be flexible and adaptable enough to relate to each of our villages, to those who live here, those who come on holiday and those with second homes.



St Helen's, St Helens
with
St Peter's, Seaview

www.sthelenswithseaview.org.uk



Seaview
and
St Helens

1 St Helens



St Helens is a village and civil parish located on the eastern side of the Isle of Wight. The village is based around the Village Greens which are often used for cricket matches during the summer and football in the winter and also include a children's playground. The local pub is The Vine and the village also has two restaurants, Ganders on the upper side of the green and Dan's Restaurant on the south. The village is a short distance from the coast, with about a ten-minute walk to St Helens Duver, which has a popular beach for tourists during the summer season and is protected by the National Trust. It is here that the original St Helen's Church, now a ruin, is situated.

St Helens has a population of nearly two thousand and is a mixture of traditional villagers, commuters working in Newport and Ryde and a considerable number of retired people. There is a good mix of ages and social backgrounds. The traditional occupations of St Helens were ship building, smuggling, fishing and farming but these have largely declined. Most of the housing is owner occupied, some of it is holiday accommodation and there are four holiday camps.

The village's only school, St Helens Primary School, with 91 pupils currently on roll, is one of the smallest on the Island. The village also has a Newsagent, Post Office and grocery store, coffee shop, bookshop, garage and doctors' surgery. The Baywatch Café is located on the seafront.



St Helens Beach



Seaview is a small Edwardian resort located on the north-eastern corner of the Isle of Wight, overlooking the Solent. The village is popular with tourists and is only a 15-minute drive from the town of Ryde, where most tourists reach the island by ferry or hovercraft. Together with Nettlestone, it forms the civil parish of Nettlestone and Seaview.

The High Street is perpendicular to the shore. On the seafront lies The Old Fort pub, a drinking spot popular with both residents and summer visitors, which overlooks the ever popular rock pools. There is also a Bistro, two hotels, a tea room, stationery shop, pharmacist, clothing shop, art gallery and a fine sports ground with a new pavilion. The Sea View Yacht Club was founded in 1893 and has been a significant part of village life ever since.



The well-known Priory Bay is approximately a ten-minute walk from the village. This stretch of beach can only be reached at low tide. It is filled with white sand and offers excellent swimming conditions. In addition, Seagrove Bay, between the village and Priory Bay, is quite popular as is The Hersey Nature Reserve to the west of the village.



Priory Bay

Between Seaview and St Helens is the village of **Nettlestone**, mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, with its old manor, some Victorian and Edwardian houses, the village shop and Nettlestone Primary School with 198 pupils on roll. Behind the older part of Nettlestone, a new estate was built in the 1960s and 1970s. Often called Seaview Heights, it consists of a number of detached owner occupied houses and bungalows. The population of Seaview and Nettlestone is about 3,000 but this number is increased considerably in the summer and especially in August when the village is full of visitors. Many of these are professional people from London or the Home Counties who own houses in Seaview. Many families have been coming to Seaview for generations and have built up a lasting attachment to it on account of its excellent sailing opportunities and the safe coastal environment for children. For most of the time Seaview's permanent population consists mainly of retired people, though there are families with young children. In the summer it is full of families of all ages, relaxing and enjoying all that our beautiful island home has to offer.



Rock pools off Seaview

2 BUILDINGS AND LAND

St Helen's Church



The present church building dates from 1719 and was extensively rebuilt during the nineteenth century. It is generally in good repair. The most recent major work has been the repair and re-tiling of the south east elevation of the Chancel roof. The Quinquennial Report of 2016 found the building to be generally in good order and commended the way that the church and its grounds had been maintained since the previous report. The church will seat approximately 150 in the Nave and Transepts. There is a small gallery which houses the organ and currently can be used for extra seating when necessary. Entries in the Visitors' Book frequently comment on the tranquillity to be found in the church.

The church building has no toilet accommodation or kitchen facility at present. However, our Tricentenary Appeal, launched in June of this year, aims to rectify this problem so that we can bring the building into the 21st Century.



St Catherine's Chapel and Community Centre

The modern Community Centre in the village has a large hall, with a kitchen and toilets, all leading off an attractive entrance lobby. There is also an octagonal Chapel, St Catherine's, which seats up to 20 people and is used for mid-week and monthly Sunday evening services. This is a wonderful asset for the village and has considerable potential for the parish. The priest in charge is usually invited to become a member of the Community Centre Management Committee.

St. Helen's Churchyard

We are privileged to have a beautiful, peaceful churchyard at St. Helens, an amenity which serves not only St. Helens itself, but Seaview and Nettlestone as well. The original part, round the Church, has been there since the present church was built in 1719 and over the years it has been necessary to extend it southwards so that it now occupies a very large area indeed.

A contracted groundsman undertakes the year-round tasks of mowing, strimming, tree work, weed control and other sundry jobs necessary to keep the churchyard properly maintained.

An honorary manager oversees all the work, including any burials. There is also a section set aside for the interment of cremated remains. A small section of the churchyard is left to nature as part of the 'Living Churchyard' during the summer months, where birds, glow worms and wild flowers can thrive. From October onwards this is all cut back ready for the rebirth in the spring and summer. A previous vicar created a labyrinth for contemplative prayer in the churchyard.

The income to the churchyard comes from fees charged for burials and interment of cremated remains, and headstones, when they are fitted. There are also many people who make a regular donation to the funds and this helps us to meet the cost of regular maintenance.

St Peter's Church



In 1862 the building of St Peter's Church was started on a site in the centre of the village as a Chapel of Ease to St Helen's, until 1907 when Seaview became a separate parish. Designed by the architect Thomas Hellyer who was responsible for a number of local churches, it was constructed in stone with a slate roof and having a fairly simple interior. An elaborate gothic screen of iron was erected in 1909 at the west end of the choir over the chancel step.

Following the First World War, the Lady Chapel and south aisle were added in 1921 to serve as a war memorial. Since then a number of additions have been built in matching stone so that there is now a clergy vestry, a choir vestry, an organ vestry, a flower vestry with toilet and most recently a porch linking the west door with the church hall. There is a well maintained two manual pipe organ and the church can comfortably seat 275 people. On the south side of the church is a very pleasant commemorative rose garden.

Following the last two quinquennial inspections a considerable amount of work has been carried out on the roof valleys, gutters and stonework and much of the lime mortar pointing of the south wall has been replaced. A damp problem in the west wall has also been rectified recently. Otherwise the building is in a good state of repair. A new central heating boiler was installed in 2012.



Gothic Screen



Porch entrance of St Peter's

Adjacent to the church, as a separate building, is the church hall which is on two levels. The top level consists of a large hall, a kitchen and toilet. The lower level is an undercroft which has several rooms, toilets and a kitchen. At present much of this is in need of refurbishment and a project is in hand to achieve this with an application for grants from several sources being sought.

3 WORSHIP AND MINISTRY

The current pattern of worship, which is shared by the two parishes, is as follows:



First Sunday of the month		
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Helen's
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St Peter's
Second Sunday		
8.00a.m.	Holy Communion	St Peter's
10.00 a.m.	Family Sung Eucharist	St Helen's
Third Sunday		
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Helen's
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St Peter's
6.00 p.m.	Evening Praise	St Catherine's
Fourth Sunday		
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Peter's
10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St Helen's
Each Wednesday		
9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Catherine's
Second Thursday		
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Mothers' Union Corporate Communion)	St Peter's

When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion and 10.00 a.m. Matins are normally celebrated in alternate churches.

The **Sunday attendance** for St Helens 8.00am is between 10 & 15, and at 10.00 between 30 & 40. At Seaview 8.00am is between 15 & 18. The attendance at a 10.00am service is between 50 & 60 with 3 children in the choir.

On special days – notably Christmas, Easter, Remembrance Sunday and Regatta Sunday – extra services are held in both parish churches, and on these occasions the retired clergy are more than happy to help out.

Additional non- Eucharistic all age services have been started during August when the village of Seaview is at its busiest.



St Peter's Church organ

At present Common Worship Order One is used at the Sunday 10.00 a.m. Eucharist. Order One Traditional is used at 8.00 a.m. The BCP Holy Communion is used for the midweek services with Common Worship in use at St Catherine's Chapel. Evening Praise is an informal service incorporating hymns, readings and prayers.

St Helens and Seaview are 'middle of the road' Anglican parishes, neither high nor low church, and there is little difference in the style of worship in the two churches. Robes are worn by the clergy at all Eucharists. For the Eucharist in both churches we use service leaflets, created from the liturgy in Common Worship, which are particular to each church season.

Music is provided by our church organist and deputy in each church together with small choir. There are several special services during the year. In St Helens parish an annual Sea Sunday service is held near the site of the old church on the Duver (sea shore). In Seaview the annual Regatta Service on a Sunday morning marks the end of Regatta Week and is always well attended. Easter Sunday services are particularly well attended in both parishes, by visitors and holiday-makers, as well as regular members of the congregation.



Old Church on the Duver

Apart from the incumbent there are two retired priests living in the two parishes who are very willing to assist when required. Our Local Minister, Reader Sylvia Beardsmore preaches and assists at least once a month and a Bible Study/house group continues weekly. The Local minister organises a Pastoral visiting scheme and home communions. In addition, there are two other fully trained Lay Readers in the benefice.

Lay involvement in leading worship is encouraged; readings and intercessions are normally conducted by lay people. There is a team of lay people who take turns in administering the chalice, both at 8.00 a.m. and at the Parish Eucharist.

A large number of church members give of their time and talents in helping to maintain the church buildings and in various kinds of service in the local community. They are encouraged to see what they do as part of their Christian ministry.



Floral arrangement in church

A pastoral prayer group, currently consisting of seven members, meets on the first Tuesday of each month in St Catherine's Chapel to pray for those in the community who are sick and frail. They also form a prayer chain, to pass on information about any who are in need of prayer.

There is a Bible Study House Group which meets regularly and Lent courses are offered every year.

We have a good relationship with our two local primary schools (St Helens and Nettlestone). Children from the schools visit both churches from time to time to celebrate harvest and Christmas or to aid in their study of Christianity. Nettlestone school hold their Annual Awards Ceremony in St Peter's Church every year.

We have a very active Mothers' Union Branch that meets monthly in St Peter's Hall. The old St Helens Branch closed some years ago and amalgamated with Seaview, and there are currently twenty-four members. As well as enjoying their monthly meetings several of the members are able to attend services and functions elsewhere on the Island and in Portsmouth and there is strong support for Mothers' Union projects, both home and overseas.



All three churches are open for daily prayer and contemplation.

4 ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Each PCC has thirteen members including the normal statutory ex-officio members. The **Electoral Rolls** show the numbers on the roll as reported to the APCM are 44 at St Helens and 56 at Seaview.



Please ask the Archdeacon if you would like a copy of the Church accounts.

Each parish makes a disbursement to charities at the end of the financial year.

The number of '**occasional offices**' in the past year in both churches has been:

Baptisms	8
Weddings	9
Funerals	20



The **annual parish share** last year for Seaview was £22034.00 and for St Helens £18543.00.

The **trends over the last three years** have been positive in seeing an increase in income. The finances of both parishes are in a reasonably healthy state with reserves available for church maintenance. However, both churches have large building schemes in progress and reserves have declined.

The previous Vicar submitted a monthly expense sheet for all expenses incurred in fulfilling the duties in the parish - a new incumbent may wish to review this method of dealing with expenses. Where applicable the expenses are shared between both churches.

5 THE WIDER CHURCH

St Helen's and St Peter's belong to the Isle of Wight Deanery, which covers the whole of the Isle of Wight. Each parish has two representatives on the Deanery Synod which meets three or four times a year. The Deanery is subdivided into clusters and we are in the North Cluster, being grouped with the Ryde parishes and Bembridge. This arrangement gives scope for greater co-operation, between both clergy and lay members.

The parishes are also part of the Portsmouth Diocese, coming under the Archdeaconry of the Isle of Wight. The Diocesan 'Ministry for Mission' framework encourages us to develop a vision for the future and a Mission Opportunities Fund has been set up

so that parishes can apply for financial assistance for appropriate developments.



David and Heather Sharland

The two parishes have a link, through IDWAL (Inter Diocesan West Africa Link) with the parish of Bolgatanga in northern Ghana. It is difficult to maintain communication, but we pray for the parish and give them some financial support each year. We also keep contact with our CMS link missionaries, David and Heather Sharland in Uganda.

Both parishes strongly support the work of Christian Aid. We no longer organise a door to door collection during Christian Aid Week, but we arrange a special money raising event.

There are no other places of worship in St Helens or Seaview but, each year, a service is held to mark the Women's World Day of Prayer. There are also 'Christians Together' groups in Ryde and Bembridge and church members are encouraged to take part in these.

6 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

St Helens

At the entrance to St Helens is the Community Centre, which is owned by the church and was built to replace the original 'tin tabernacle' which was a feature of parish life for most of the twentieth century. The Community Centre is well used by both the church and the wider community, hosting various groups including art, bridge and 'mother and toddler' groups, yoga, historical and horticultural societies, Ladies' Club, Pilates and a photographic society.

The centre has its own caretakers and is run by a small management committee with representatives from the parish council and the PCC and usually includes the Priest in charge.



St Helens Sports Pavilion opened in 2008

In addition, the village has a busy medical centre and sports pavilion. With its own football and cricket clubs holding weekly fixtures, the village green is well used. For young people there is a Scout and Guide company and a monthly meeting of Rock Solid.

It is encouraging that local residents, including non-church goers, are looking for the presence of a parish priest not only in the church but also in their community. There is already a church influence with the Easter sunrise service, Easter egg hunt on the green, the sea service, held outdoors on the site of the original church by the

sea shore, and the ecumenical Songs of Praise held on the village green. At St Helens the church has a stall at the annual village fete and has begun to hold concerts and events within the church building with great success. In addition to this a newly formed group has been holding monthly community coffee mornings and a community lunch takes place in the local Vine Inn where people who are lonely can come for a hot meal and some companionship.

St Helens has four holiday camps, considerably increasing the population during the summer months, as well as Brading Haven Yacht Club. Besides all the on-going activities, the village organises various events in the summer, including a carnival and travelling fair, a horticultural show, open gardens and sports day. These events are well supported by residents from outside the village.



Phoenix Choir concert – St Helen's Church

Seaview and Nettlestone

Seaview has a prestigious Yacht Club, of which the parish priest is invited to be an honorary member. Although the village caters for second home owners and tourists in the summer months, there are also permanent activities for the local residents throughout the year. The village has a council football ground, where a pavilion was opened two years ago to serve the local community. This project was funded by various grants and generous local support. The football field is the venue for the St Peter's Church Fete in mid-August, which is viewed by the village as a community event.



Sea View Yachts

St Peter's Hall hosts a variety of community activities, which include a Toddler Group, Mums and Tots, an art group, Women's Institute and table tennis. It is used by groups such as the Royal British Legion and RNLi for their coffee mornings and other fund-raising activities. Current plans to refurbish the undercroft will help to extend community outreach.

Seaview and Nettlestone have their own Community Partnership, who organise the annual Lights of Love service for the Isle of Wight Hospice and Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree in the church garden. They also organise an annual Street Fayre in May and a summer Music Evening on the sea front. These events are seen as an important part of village life and whenever possible it is hoped that the parish priest will be involved.



St Helen's stall at the May Fair

The interplay between church and community is seen in the annual Remembrance Day Service, the Christingle Service and the Regatta Service marking the end of the August Regatta.

Many of our seasonal visitors to Seaview have expressed a wish to be included in the life of the village and the church, and our challenge is how to reach out to them in a meaningful way. It is important that the church is able to meet the needs of both the permanent and seasonal residents and help bridge any gap that might exist between them.

Regular coffee mornings are organised in both parishes, which bring people together socially as well as raising money for the churches. In August St Peter's Church organises a summer fete on the recreation ground which is very popular and well attended by local residents and visitors. For people living alone, in Seaview and Nettlestone, regular Friendship Lunches are arranged, and these provide a wonderful opportunity for them to meet others and enjoy a time of fellowship.

7 OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We have identified the following areas for development:



- **Community Outreach.** We recognise the need to participate more fully in the community life that exists in both our villages. We aim to strengthen the churches' link with the Community Partnership and the Yacht Club in Seaview and with the people who use the St Helens Community Centre and meet on the Village Green. Living as we do in a place where people come to take their holidays, to relax and recharge their batteries, we have a wonderful opportunity to welcome visitors and try to meet their spiritual needs.

- **Facilities.** We want to find ways of improving our facilities, both at St Peter's and St Helen's. In particular the undercroft below St Peter's Hall is now undergoing refurbishment and will soon be brought back into use as a facility for small groups eg. a luncheon club for older people; a cinema club for young people etc. To update St Helen's Church a toilet and kitchen facility are needed and an appeal has been launched in June this year in order to achieve this. We are aware that the lack of a toilet deters some people from attending the church.



St. Mary the Virgin, Brading

with

St. John the Baptist Yaverland



Brading
and
Yaverland

1 Brading

The Parish of Brading is also known as Kynges Town by virtue of the ancient charter granted by Edward 11 for holding fairs and having its own town council. It is a historic place. The heritage trail gives a lot of information throughout the town. Bishop Wilfred who conducted the first baptism on the island is said to have founded the first church in Brading and the present structure is the fourth on the site. Leigh Richmond noted for his "Annals of the Poor" was deacon and priest in Brading from 1797-1805. Little Jane's cottage is still in Brading.



Within a mile of the town there is an important Roman Villa which has undergone a programme of archaeological investigation by Sir Barry Cunliffe. Nunwell House is the previous home of the Ogländer family who have a family vault in the church. It is thought to be where Charles 1 spent a night before he was imprisoned in Carisbrooke Castle. It is now in private hands but has been extensively restored and is open to the public during the summer. Morton Manor built in 1249 and rebuilt 400 years later is another manor house at the other end of the town and is open on special occasions. There is a popular doll's house museum. There are four pubs in the town, three of them providing meals. There is a café and auction house with small antique and craft studios.

The character of the town centre is varied with older style houses and buildings and some modern properties. Parts of the station and signal box are a visitors' centre run by railways enthusiasts. In the high street there is a small supermarket and the post office is open three times a week. The town council is active in the community with various committees serving the needs of the town and there is a public forum every month.



The churchyard is one of the largest on the island but is nearly full of burial plots. However, there is still room for ashes and there is a crematorium on the island. The maintenance of the churchyard is with a contractor and the occasional working party of volunteers. The flora of the churchyard is displayed on a large plaque and identifies some rare species.

The church primary school has a hundred pupils on the roll and there is a thriving nursery section. The incumbent would be expected to be a governor of the school and take regular part in school activities participating in assemblies and services held in school and church. There are governors from the congregation for the school governing body. The school has recently been inspected as "good". Secondary education is provided by several schools in the area.



The Brading centre is a valuable resource for the town with a book swap, a drop-in centre for access to the police, island councillors and other community groups; also free computer access for the public with photocopying facilities provided by the town clerk and assistants.

There is a magazine called the "Brading Buzz" which is produced by the council four times a year which is delivered by volunteers to every house.

There is an active residents action group "BRAG" working for the benefit of the residents and at the present time is developing a plan for the future of the youth club which has been at risk of closure. Other community groups include the Women's Institute, a craft club and Age Concern.

Beyond the town is open undulating countryside which is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty mostly devoted to farming. Brading Marsh is monitored by the RSPB. There are two nearby hamlets, Adgestone where there is a successful vineyard and Alverstone where there is a nature reserve and red squirrel hide.

Ministry



St Mary's has a worship pattern based around the modern language version of the Common Worship Order 1 for Holy Communion. The attendance at the Sunday service is approximately forty five. There are sixty seven names on the electoral roll. During the vacancy the pattern of services has been as follows

Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist
Wednesday	10am	Holy Communion

Festivals are observed.

The church has an active group of bell ringers. There are eight bells and the bells are rung on a practice night and before the service on Sundays. A muffled peel is also rung for local veterans, who perished in the First World War, on the centenary of their death. The bell ringers are fund raising to restore the hanging of the bells.

There is an active congregation with many members dedicated and willing to take on many roles for the well-being and running of the church.



Brading is blessed with the ministry of Revd Kath Abbott who works as Local Minister.

There is a church hall which is in constant use by a variety of groups.

The church has a prayer group who meet once a month. There is also a pastoral group of members who visit parishioners who are house bound or in hospital. The communion assistants take Holy Communion to the housebound.

There is a large and active PCC who meet once every two months. The church supports the Foodbank on the island collecting food after the services. There is a thriving flower guild whose members make the church look beautiful throughout the year. Volunteers take turns in cleaning the church.



Funds are always needed as the Parish Share is a constant challenge along with maintenance of the buildings. There is a stewardship programme in place and the collection is gift aided. To date the parish share has been met in full.

Fundraising activities have included regular jumble sales, successful quiz evenings and providing refreshments after services. There is a collection box in church. In the past there have also been plant sales, spring fairs and Christmas events.

Please ask the Archdeacon if you would like a copy of the Church accounts.

2 Yaverland



Yaverland is one of the smaller parishes on the Isle of Wight. It lies immediately to the south-east of Brading and having one boundary along the shore line to Sandown Bay.

The historic Yaverland Manor of which the church was once the manor chapel, is another of the fine old manor houses dotted across the Island. It is presently in private hands.

Yaverland is, like some other Island parishes, mentioned in the Domesday Book and is a quiet parish, mostly rural in character, except towards the southern end where there is a mixture of holiday lets, private accommodation and holiday chalets near the Island Zoo. The parish when mentioned in the Domesday Book comprised mostly farmland and a scattering of labourers and it was not until the mid-20th Century that Culver Estate began to grow in size and is now where the majority of the parishioners live. The occupants are a blend of younger families and retired people, the latter being the larger group. Along the Yaverland Road, running from Culver Parade seafront to Yaverland Cross adjacent to Yaverland Manor are a few older properties some built before the 20th Century. Overall there are approximately 410 adults living in about 210 properties. The number of children in the parish is not known but is believed to be about 50, up to the age of 19. There is little room for expansion, so that population numbers are likely to remain almost static.

Opportunities exist for mission/ministry to the holiday camp and lettings, as well as the older group of people on the Culver Estate. The holiday camp group is near enough to Yaverland Church for irregular meetings at suitable times, while the older population could meet at Yaverland Sailing Club, by arrangement with the Club members. Yaverland Church hosts some social events there including the Shrove Tuesday Lunch, the Harvest Lunch thanksgiving and Quiz Nights, all very popular with local people.

Ministry

Yaverland church holds a time-honoured worship style each Sunday with an Order 1 service in traditional language at 11 a.m.

Special services take place on Maundy Thursday with a sung Eucharist at 7.00 p.m. and on Ascension Day in the evening at 7 p.m. On 'Good Friday' there is an hour-long devotional service, usually starting at 2 p.m. Other occasions may have special celebrations as necessary. Church Sunday attendance averages up to 20 on a regular Sunday and has declined somewhat in recent years. The Electoral Roll contained 30 names, 14 residents and 16 non-residents in 2015 and is reviewed at the end of each year.

Staffing and Administration

Currently, the Local Minister, Revd Barry Downer is supported by the Churchwarden and a Reader with Permission to Officiate, including Preaching (as required), to teach and bury the dead. He has his 'terms of reference' reviewed as required. The Church holds a Parochial Church Council meeting usually six times a year and also after a Sunday morning service for 'emergency' matters. The Annual Parochial Meeting is held in the Church at an appropriate time before the beginning of May,

usually on a mid-morning week-day. There are separate arrangements for music with two volunteer organists.

Property

St John's is a Grade 1 12th Century listed building it is capable of seating up to 100 people. The south entrance and chancel have Norman arches and small additions were made during the 14th and 15th Centuries. The Church was extended and reordered in the late 1880's, removing the west gallery, coke stove and the old high-backed pews. There is a two manual and pedal organ (built by William Hill) within the Chancel area, overhauled approximately every 30 years, the last occasion being 2004. Heating is by way of a modern and efficient oil fired boiler which is serviced annually. Power and water supplies come via Yaverland Manor. By special permission, church people are permitted to park their cars in the entrance to the Manor Farm estate, as parking is limited beside the Church, especially when there are major services and public events.

There are no toilet facilities and no possible disabled access. Washbasin facilities are in the Clergy Vestry. The Church building is in reasonable repair, with stonework and roofing repairs currently taking place. Apart from some stone spalling in some places the structure is in good order and subjected to detailed examination by a competent architect, appointed by the Diocese at every Quinquennial and inspected at the same time by a qualified electrician.

The small churchyard is regularly maintained, boundaries kept in reasonable order and a qualified tree surgeon employed when necessary, guided by the Island local authorities.

Finance

The Church finances are challenging especially with the added costs of running a Grade 1 listed building. Yaverland uses a 'Gift Aid' envelope scheme and thanks to the generosity of the parishioners has maintained a complete fulfilment of the quota due to the Diocese for at least the last 23 years. There is still work to be done on the churchyard boundary with Yaverland Road when time and circumstances permit.

Please ask the Archdeacon if you would like a copy of the Church accounts.

3 Where are we and where are we going?

We are in the process of seeking to bring these four parishes together and hope that the appointed priest will take the lead in enabling this to happen. Bishop Christopher is consulting on the creation of a new Benefice.

Until February 2016 Brading and Yaverland were looked after by a 0.5 House for Duty Priest. Until August 2017 Seaview and St Helen's had a full time priest. With the parishes now in vacancy the suggestion that they be brought together under the oversight of one priest has been met with enthusiasm.

Three of the parishes (Seaview, Brading and Yaverland) each have a Local Minister which in the words of the IoW Plan is a person who whilst not having any legal responsibility is nonetheless a focal point for ministry in the parish. In Seaview this is undertaken by a Licensed Reader. In Brading and Yaverland this is undertaken by two priests both with PtO.

The new priest, based in St Helen's, will have oversight of all four parishes and will work with the Local Ministers in developing and building greater collaboration. S/he will expect to be a visible presence across all parishes and build and develop the current team. The task will be to lead the two groups of Seaview with St Helen's and Brading with Yaverland into one whilst enabling each to flourish in their own particular styles and opportunities for ministry and mission.

4 The Vicarage



The Vicarage

When the two parishes of St Helens and Seaview became a plurality about thirty-five years ago, the two original vicarages were sold and a new one was built on a piece of land next to St Helen's Church. The Vicarage is in a very convenient position on the main road between the two villages and an equal distance from each. It is also conveniently sited for the excellent general store in Nettlestone.

The house was constructed in 1988/9 as a new vicarage to contemporary Green Guide standards and offers a large family home with four bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, study, utility room and a pleasant garden.

Constructed of brick under a plain tile roof, the house provides accommodation of 176sqm on two floors. The garage extends out from the study, forming a wing on the west side of the house and there is ample space for parking. At the east end there is a bay extending to form the breakfast room. Adjacent to the back door is a small timber garden store constructed in materials to match the main house. The windows are timber framed and all are double glazed. In 2011 all the windows and doors were replaced. There is an open glazed veranda on the south side facing onto the lounge. Unusually for a vicarage, the kitchen is fitted with an AGA cooker.



View from the Vicarage across the fields

The condition of the Vicarage following the last quinquennial was considered to be very satisfactory. The recent incumbent and his wife have found it a most comfortable house to live in. It has all mains services.

In the grounds of the Vicarage is the Parish Office. It houses a computer, photocopier, Risograph, collator and a booklet maker. The office is used regularly by the Parish Administrator and the team who print, collate and booklet the monthly Parish Magazine.

There is also a vicarage in Brading which we will make available for a Title Curate when possible.

St Helen's parish also owns a small cottage by the Church and next to the Vicarage. At present this is let out to tenants and provides a very useful and significant income for the church. It is well looked after and maintained by the present tenant.

PERSON PROFILE

We hope that our new priest will be:

- a prayerful person
- a team player
- visible and determined to maintain a high profile in the community, being involved in community events and organisations as well as the church.
- a good leader among strong personalities and organiser and a ready listener, who can delegate and encourage others in their own particular ministry.
- a potential Training Incumbent
- pastoral, with a special sensitivity to the needs of those who are elderly or housebound.
- keen to welcome newcomers to the church and to develop a pattern of worship that is attractive to young families as well as the older members of the congregation.
- committed to the schools and to youth work, having a desire to help children and young people come to a knowledge of the Christian faith.
- welcoming to visitors, second home owners and holiday makers.
- interested in the musical life of the church, supporting and encouraging the work of the organists and choir.
- willing to work closely with colleagues in the cluster and the wider Deanery.
- good communicator and collaborator
- recognise the value and historic significance of our Churches and communities

THE ISLE OF WIGHT - THE WIDER COMMUNITY

The Isle of Wight is affectionately known as the "Garden Isle" for within its twenty two by thirteen miles land area lies a varied landscape and seascape with a different view round every corner.

The Isle of Wight is:

- a mecca for sailors with Cowes week at the beginning of August being the peak of the year's activities.
- popular with walkers and cyclists with a huge network of well signposted footpaths and many cycle ways.
- of interest to geologists and fossil hunters with the chance of finding dinosaur bones locally
- a place of history and archaeological interest with many ancient manors some with royal connections as well as Osborne House and Carisbrooke Castle.
- great for tourists with miles of beaches, many museums, the steam railway and many other attractions for young and old.

The pace of life is somewhat more relaxed than that of the mainland. Tourism continues to play a significant role in the island economy. The resident population of the island is around 140,000 and the county town is Newport where there are some familiar high street names as well as many local shops. Newport is the main administrative centre on the island. Brading is on the island line railway which runs from Ryde Pier head to Shanklin and there is a good bus service throughout the island.

Patronage

Seaview and St Helen's	The Bishop
Brading and Yaverland	Trinity College, Cambridge