



## **ST PETER & ST PAUL, HAMBLEDON**

### **PARISH PROFILE**

The congregation of St Peter and St Paul offer you a VERY warm welcome as you continue to read this parish profile.

### **VILLAGE DESCRIPTION**



St Peter and St Paul is a beautiful Grade 1 Listed Church of Saxon origin. It stands prominently above the heart of this historic village. The village has a strong identity with a happy mix of people, ages, occupations and incomes. The population hovers around 950 souls who live in approximately 450 homes. We think it is fair to say that people who come to Hambledon rarely leave. Indeed, we have over 60 people here

who have lived in the village for over 50 years! Recently there has been a welcome influx of young, professional families and while many of them may not be regular worshippers in our church they form the pivotal hub of our village going forward and they do like to know the church is there. There has always been a visible and very warm melding between the young and the actively retired population.

There are four small estates which combine private, social, council and affordable contemporary housing. There is also a crescent of bungalows situated in the centre of the village for the elderly. The winters of 2000 and 2014 saw many houses in the village devastated by flooding and the roads in the village were impassable. Nonetheless the wellington boots were lined up in the church porch for all the Christmas services and everyone rallied round in support. The village has only just emerged from the eventual major works which had to be done to provide a flood alleviation scheme.

Hambledon is a very active rural village within the South Downs National Park:  
We are situated:

- 20/30 minutes from Portsmouth and the Diocesan Office
- 20 minutes from the market town of Petersfield.
- 30 minutes from the lovely Cathedral Cities of Winchester and Chichester.
- There is a direct train from Petersfield to London Waterloo (70mins)

At its northern boundary stands Broadhalfpenny Down (**The Cradle of Cricket**) and the famous Bat & Ball pub. The Vine is in the centre of the village. The country roads around here all feel as though they are linked by footpaths, bridleways cycle routes.

Further points of note are:

- Hambledon Village Hall + walk-in GP's surgery, 3 mornings a week
- 2 children's play areas and a tennis court – free for parishioners and tuition for children.
- Youth Hut: venue for Hambledon Pre-school & Folk Club
- GP Surgery & Health Centre, Post Office & Local Shops in Denmead Village centre (10mins)
- Main chain supermarkets all within 20 minutes.
- The cricket club boasts three senior teams and colts, from age 5 upwards which is attracting a lot of village children.
- Hambledon Hilly fun run over the most beautiful countryside.
- Working farms and a large vineyard surround the village.
- Hambledon pre-school meets Monday to Friday from 9am until 3pm
- Excellent secondary schools within easy reach
- Church Affiliated Primary School (Ofsted rated Outstanding) is situated opposite the vicarage and is usually accessed through the churchyard. It enables really close ties between the 110 children there and our church.
- We also have an excellent village shop which sells most of what you might need and it remains open from 8am until 8pm.
- There is a new tea-room (The Old Forge) in the village too.

## THE CHURCH BUILDING

Please also refer to enclosed church guide.

With the help of extra seating in the outer nave we can accommodate about 350 worshippers.

The spiritual life of the church was strengthened in 2000 by the creation of the Millennium Chapel of The Good Shepherd in the north west corner of the outer nave. Smaller services are often taken here or in the chancel. This Good Shepherd Chapel is also used by the choir for changing and assembling before and after services.

In 2013/14 the outer nave was reorganized to provide a welcome area and an information centre, together with a soft play area for our younger members. Children love playing here and really enjoy taking ownership of this space during the services.



This improvement is part of a much wider and more ambitious opportunity to re-order the west end of the church to provide modern administrative facilities, a meeting room, toilet and kitchen facilities. To assist with this project we have asked the advice of the notable architect Ptolemy Dean. This is an exciting project which is being undertaken with great care and sensitivity. The new vicar's leadership in promoting this development will be a key objective.

The fabric of the church is in good order. Major roof repairs were completed in 2004, with the energetic and generous financial support of the whole community. A recent quinquennial survey has not revealed any significant problems. The fabric of the church is kept under constant review by a team of experienced members from the congregation who report directly to the PCC. Indeed, much of the routine maintenance is expertly carried out by them. The churchyard is also reviewed regularly and well maintained.

## DEANERY

Our parish lies within the Bishops Waltham Deanery. This is a lively and concerned Deanery with secretaries of the various PCCs meeting up over a soup lunch to compare notes. The Diocese appreciates the way we look beyond the parish boundaries to greater ministerial collaboration. We realise the value of staying informed about smaller rural parishes and the benefits of co-operation with each other to facilitate meaningful worship. Our neighbouring parishes of Soberton and Newtown are good examples here. We are

looking forward to extending our reach to cover all three parishes. It could turn out to be very beneficial to us all; indeed, it could easily facilitate a further opportunity for curate training.

## **WORSHIP and our CONGREGATION**



Our congregation is mostly over the age of 50. Approximately 15 per cent of the regular attendees come from outside the parish. Our 10-year AWA is 97 adults (although current levels are typically nearer 80.)

The Church Wardens head a large number of dedicated people who volunteer in all sorts of ways. We have a team of pastoral volunteers who keep in touch with anyone who is sick or unwell in the village. We are compliant with safeguarding and data protection requirements. We also have an effective “Good-Neighbour” support network, particularly for newcomers to the village. The PCC meets monthly (except in August).

Our Verger/Sexton ably assists with weddings, funerals and churchyard graves and has been a stalwart of our church for a great many years.

We have recently attended a LyCiG course (a local initiative centred around leading local churches into growth). This was an excellent opportunity to take stock of who we are and where we are going within the Deanery. Much work still needs to be done but we look forward to developing these ideas further.

The Vicar's spiritual ministry is supported significantly with three retired Lay Readers with PTO, and a Lay Reader-in-training. Some have their own home groups. The Lay Readers also lead much of the week-day morning prayer and Sunday non-eucharistic services. They also play a central role in home and hospital visits.

On Sunday there is an 8.00am Communion; usually followed by a 10.30am service and 6.30 evensong. Each has a carefully considered balance between BCP and Common Worship Services. Most months in term time there is a Short Family service at 10am followed by Matins at 11am. Harvest, Mothering Sunday, the Palm Sunday procession, Easter (with egg rolling) Remembrance Day, Christingle and Christmas are all services where we welcome a good helping of village people. They may not be regular Sunday

worshippers but because of the size of our village we know a great number of them very well.

We have felt that our pattern of worship has been central to the success of our parish life. See enclosed copy of The Hambledonian for details.



### **Activities and work with Children & young people.**

We pray for ways in which our young village families will once again feel able to engage with our Church. This remains one of our biggest challenges, but our team is nevertheless eager to continue working with our children & young people under new and enthusiastic leadership.

#### *Our successes:*

- **Short Family Service:** held once a month, attracts both families and other adults who enjoy the stories, drama, songs, prayer etc delivered in an informal way at the back of the church.
- **Soft Corner:** A comfortable, well equipped space where children accompanied by an adult can play during services.
- **Family Services and Family Eucharist:** All-age services held throughout the year for special occasions attracts good numbers of families.

#### *Previous Successes:*

- **Messy Church:** Once a month after school. Sadly, a decline in numbers saw its closure just this year.
- **Holiday Club: 2001-14:** This popular event discontinued when the organiser retired.

- **Saturday Workshops/Activity Mornings:** Superseded by Messy Church.
- **Sunday School:** Discontinued in 2014. There has been renewed demand from a small number of parents for it to restart.
- **Sunday Youth Group:** met in the Youth Hut twice a month; but this has been temporarily suspended.



**Music:** Our choir master has led the choir (20 super-enthusiastic members) and a strong team of accomplished organists for nearly 20 years.

**Bell Tower:** The church bells are rung at all mid-morning and festival services, and weddings (if requested). There is a full band of loyal and regular ringers, headed up by our Captain who has been with us for 28 years. She has taught a great many people how to ring the bells well; some of them were young children, who have now gone on to pursue their own careers but - they enjoy coming back to ring for their Captain!



## OUTREACH

Lay Readers regularly give communion by extension to house-bound parishioners as part of their pastoral care.

We believe we are the first registered Dementia Friendly church in Hampshire. We welcome and offer support to carers and those with dementia.

The children from the village primary school offer an important opportunity for community engagement and involvement. There is at least one assembly per term in church for the whole school and it is wonderful to see so many parents there.

Our coffee and Cake drop-in on Thursday mornings is a welcome stop for parents and toddlers after dropping off the children.

We maintain a friendly link and give financial support to our inner city local link parish of St Michael and All Angels, Paulsgrove and we try to attend each other's services when we can.

We actively support The Meon Valley Food Bank, Hackney Link and IDWAL (though this good cause is currently subject to review).

Lent and Charity soup lunches raise awareness for our outreach programme and we aim to donate the equivalent of 10% of our annual planned giving to the registered charities we support. (The full list is on the church notice-board.)



We have run very successful Saturday clubs and holiday clubs in the past. These could easily be re-invented if suitably qualified young parents could be found to run them. There is certainly a band of eager children in the village with time in the summer holidays.

*The Hambledonian* (most recent copy enclosed) is an award winning church-owned community magazine. It is delivered free to every household in the village. In the magazine you will see that there are many proactive clubs and groups with lots of opportunities to join in. Horticultural spring and summer shows, French twinning, Scouts and Cubs, Tennis, Art, WI, Walking, History, Bird Watching, Drama, The Winter Film Club, Scottish Dancing and a Folk Group are just a few which come to mind.

The village actively raises money for The Rowans Hospice.

Our outgoing vicar organised some very convivial summer BBQs in the vicarage gardens. “Bring and share food” was the order of the day, with everyone helping to prepare, wash-up and clear up afterwards. There should be no pressure presumed in telling you this, but it was just one successful idea to bring people together.

The well-used tennis court on the glebe land, neighbouring the vicarage, gives a good opportunity for engagement with parents and children, as does the annual fireworks event which is held close by.

We have a fully functioning website. (<http://www.hambledonchurch.co.uk/>)

## **The VICARAGE**

The vicarage is beautifully situated – close to the church and close to our thriving affiliated village primary school. The garden of the vicarage is lovely with far reaching views; yet it is just two minutes’ walk to the village centre. It is a good, spacious adaptable family home with four bedrooms and two bathrooms. On the ground floor there is a sitting room, study, dining/play room and kitchen.

## **FINANCE**

The PCC and our Treasurer ensure that our stewardship is prudent and that our outward giving is generous and proportionate to our income. Donations to home and overseas missions and charities are expected to amount to the equivalent of 10% of church planned giving and are determined annually by the PCC.

The PCC has agreed to promote the Parish Giving Scheme. At the moment we need to raise just over £100K annually to meet our anticipated commitments, including our parish share of just over £60K. This is a significant amount to raise. Last year we achieved a modest surplus but often it is a very close-run thing. Our reserves policy seeks to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to approximately six months running costs. We currently maintain reserves in excess of this policy.

Details of our finances are set out in our latest annual report. See attached.

## SOME 2017 STATISTICS

Population	950 (approx)
Electoral Roll	197
10-year Average Weekly Attendance	97 adults*
Baptisms	13
Weddings	6
Funerals	9
Easter Day Communicants	159
Easter Day Total	235
Christmas Communicants	197
Christmas Total	650
Outward Giving	£5,600

\*Approximately 15% of our congregation come from outside the Parish.

## OUR VISION

The members of our congregation at the moment are mostly middle-aged and elderly except at major festivals, when the church, large as it is, is overflowing. This age pattern is not unusual today in our country churches. We long to see our church grow.....with the young! For that to happen we need to bring them alongside. It will be their inspiration and their input which will secure the future of the church as a whole.

There are great social changes in the way that people spend their weekends which of course affects their pattern of living. We are only too aware that this may be the single biggest challenge for our new vicar. We need to work with these changes and review our work going forward - both in terms of our mission, timings, pattern of services and content. That is not to say we should abandon our older supporters and their preference for familiar worship, but we do need to communicate with, understand, respect and provide for the needs of a younger generation as well. Technology and social media will have a big part to play. An appropriate office, meeting room, updated kitchen and loo facilities will all help to indicate that **we are stepping out** to greet the new, rather than living in the past.

We would also like to establish St Peter and St Paul as a setting for excellent artistic displays, classical and religious music in a way that meshes the spirit of what church means with the aspirations and enjoyment of the village community.



## **OUR NEW PRIEST**

We seek to appoint someone who would:

- bring to the parish spiritual depth and careful ordering of its worship
- be sensitive to our balance of tradition and innovation
- be a collaborative team leader who will work well with our Lay Readers and laity
- assist as a visitor for the sick and bereaved
- help to identify and encourage leadership potential
- bring lively enthusiasm and a keen sense of humour
- listen and communicate effectively across all ages
- work with our village school to inspire the children and encourage young families
- be aware of the financial issues we face and be prepared to bring such matters to the attention of the congregation

## **OUR PROMISE TO YOU**

We have all been round the clock a few times – and we know what we know and we know what we like! But we promise you the warmest of welcomes and our full support.



**Attachments:**

Church Handbook

Current copy of *The Hambledonian*

Current annual reports and financial statements

Map of walks