



PARISH PROFILE

WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF
COLGATE AND ROFFEY



THE PARISH OF ST SAVIOUR'S COLGATE AND ALL SAINTS ROFFEY

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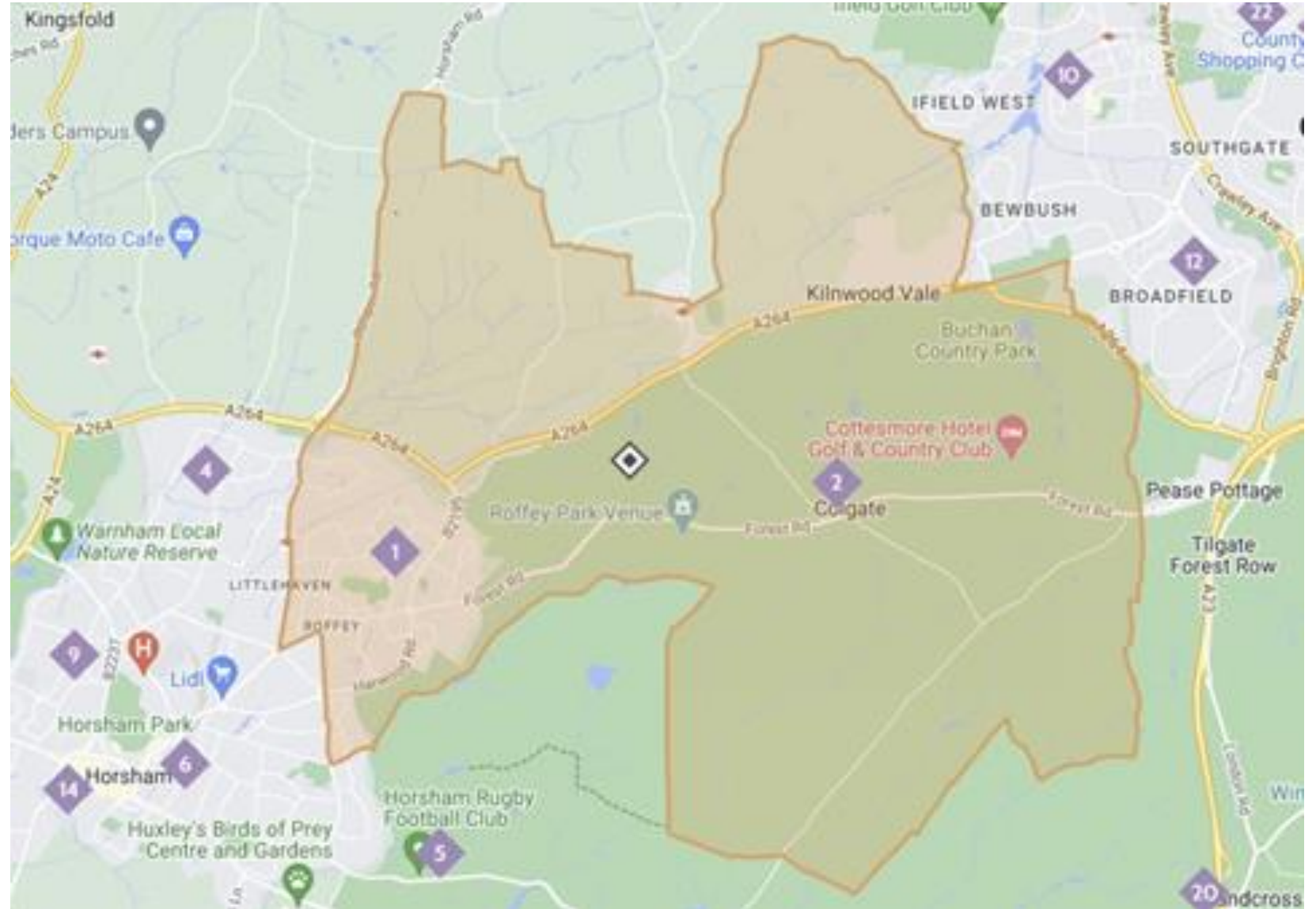
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Preface by our Patron, The Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester

Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith

In 2025 this diocese celebrates the 950th anniversary of witness and evangelisation from a mission base in Chichester, building on the earlier mission founded by St Wilfrid at Sisley. 2025 also marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea with its reminder of the formative claim upon us of the catholic creeds.

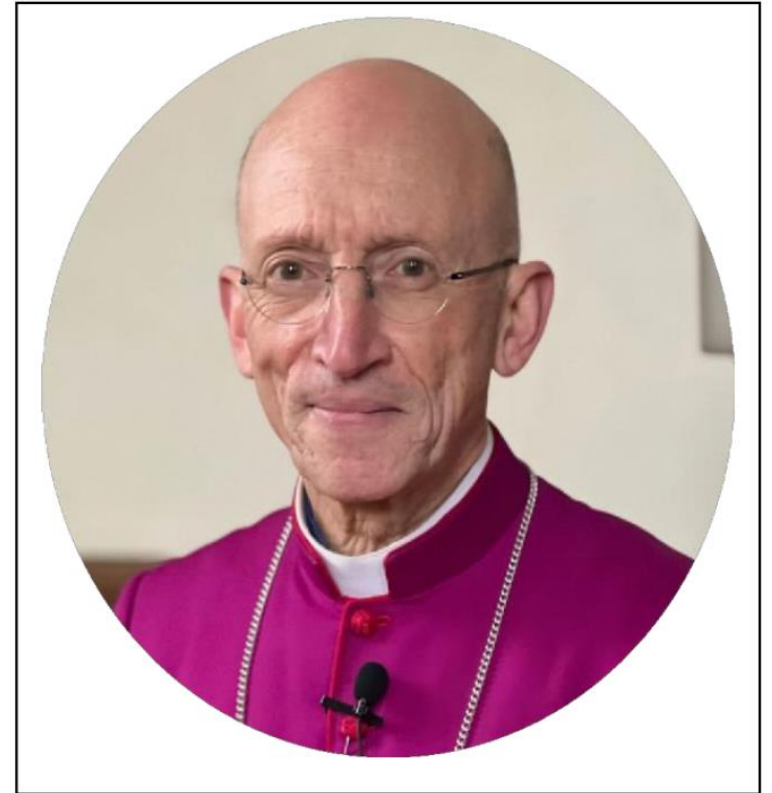
These anniversaries are more than historical footnotes. They speak powerfully about the richness of faith and mission that is our inheritance locally and universally.

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

If God is calling you to join us in the task of proclaiming the mystery of faith in some part of this diocese, we pray that the contribution of your gifts and experience will enrich our witness and deepen your own discipleship.

We take very seriously the call to diversity and radical inclusion as characteristic of the Church's mission. For this reason we welcome applications from ordained women and Global Majority Heritage clergy, who are under-represented in those who serve this diocese.

+Martin



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What qualities are we praying for in our new Parish Priest?

We pray for a Parish Priest who is joyful, open hearted, approachable, generous and secure in their faith with a vision for the growth of the Church in the 21st century who is blessed with a spiritual and strategic mindset, helping us to set our priorities for the future.

We pray for a person who will continue the Anglo-Catholic tradition; whilst providing a spiritual home for those from other traditions who is willing to listen, befriend and encourage all whether regular churchgoers or not.

We pray for a good communicator who is confident and competent in school's ministry and is willing to maintain the strong links we have with our nine local primary schools, especially our church school at All Saints CE Primary.

We pray for a motivator with the ability and confidence to delegate and empower others, who is able to connect with the wide range of abilities and age groups in our churches and wider community.

SUMMARY OF THE PROFILE

The Parish, comprising of Colgate and Roffey, is situated on the edge of the lively market town of Horsham, within the Diocese of Chichester, West Sussex. The two Victorian built churches serve both an urban and rural community which has grown considerably in recent years. The style of worship varies between the two churches to serve the differing needs of our local population and although we may worship at separate locations, we work together in mutual cooperation with one Parish Priest in charge and with one Parochial Church Council.

We can offer our new Parish Priest the warm welcome of our friendly and supportive congregations and local school communities. We can offer the assistance of church wardens, readers and a full Parochial Church Council. We are open to new ideas and are willing to embrace change in order to reach out to the communities we serve. Our new Parish Priest will be an integral part of our local community and schools, living in the local vicarage provided within the Parish.

We envisage that our new Parish Priest will welcome the opportunities presented by our congregations and use this as an expansion for growth, for the Glory of God and the parishes and communities we seek to serve.



ST SAVIOUR'S COLGATE

Described as a “small village with a big heart”* Colgate is indeed that and more!

At the centre of the village is St Saviour's church, with its Memorial Hall, the primary school, and the Dragon pub.

There are active links between the Parish Council, the Church, the village school, the preschool and the Memorial Hall committee, working together with the aim of benefitting all in the community.

(*West Sussex County Times 27th June 2024)





Colgate is more than just one village. Separated by the A264 Horsham bypass there is also Faygate village, much of which lies within the Civil Parish of Colgate though the Church Parish covers a smaller area (see maps included). Faygate has its own village hall, a railway station (with very limited services) the Holmbush Inn, the curiously named Frog and Nightgown as well as several other thriving businesses and the retirement village of Durrant's Copse.

The Parish also encompasses the new and growing housing development of Kilnwood Vale on the outskirts of Crawley, for which we have a Memorandum of Understanding with St John's Church, Crawley to allow them outreach and mission. Kilnwood Vale also has its own separate community and facilities as well as a lovely new primary school which opened in 2019.



Within the different villages there is a real community spirit with many activities going on. Colgate is very much focused on fun, centred at the Memorial Hall with its annual summer fete and locally renowned scarecrow competition, Cuppa and Chat, monthly quiz nights and bingo, and a real enthusiasm to get together (either at the hall or the pub) to celebrate national or other events. It has a “can do” attitude whether it be fund raising for the local community, recycling, environmental projects, keeping the neighbourhood maintained or just generally looking out for one another and keeping people in touch and informed. It has a keen sense of its history but is very forward looking too.

Colgate is a patchwork of nucleated villages and estates as well as with many outlying houses and farmsteads, all in the beautiful West Sussex countryside of forests and fields, much of which lies within the High Weald AONB. It also has the benefit of the urban facilities of nearby Horsham and Crawley too and good transport links to the wider world beyond. With a growing population within the Parish, there is much work to be done.



ABOUT THE CHURCH

ST SAVIOUR'S COLGATE

St Saviour's Church celebrated its 150th anniversary of worship in November 2021 with a special service led by Ruth, Bishop of Horsham. It was lovely to see such a great turn out of people, with every pew filled.

St Saviour's was designed by G M Hills and consecrated in 1871. A pretty brick church with slate roof, at the centre of Colgate village, St Saviour's has long been a favourite for weddings and baptisms. The surrounding churchyard is a place of rest for many past parishioners, which, with its beautiful backdrop of woodland and birdsong, is also a peaceful place of contemplation and remembrance for relatives.

Visitors to the church come from near and far, some quite local while others from across Europe and the wider world. Frequent comments in the visitors' book are "lovely church and graveyard" and "thank you for keeping the church open".





The focal point for communion is the High Altar behind which is the Sanctuary Reredos with its scene from the Last Supper, beautifully designed and carved from marble by F W Pomeroy in 1910. The 150-year-old font, with its ornate foliage band and carved Baptism of Christ scene, stands just inside the main entry near the rear of the church, with the main war memorials for both World Wars nearby.

More information about the architecture and history of St Saviours can also be found via this link:
<https://sussexparishchurches.org/church/colgate-st-saviour/>

The Memorial Hall opposite was built by the villagers in 1953 to replace its predecessor destroyed by bombing 1940. Owned by the Church but leased to the Village Hall Committee, it serves as both the village pre-school and community centre. It commemorates the local bombing victims, three of whom are buried in the churchyard, and whose names are read at Remembrance services alongside the other war dead of the parish. There is also one Commonwealth War Grave in the churchyard.





Remembrance Sunday and the major festivals draw good attendance but regular Sunday worship has declined in recent years. The constraints of clergy availability have also seen our Sunday services at Colgate dwindle from at least one morning service every Sunday of the month only ten years ago, to now just one morning Communion and one Evensong per month. We welcome any new proposals to try to reverse this trend!



ALL SAINTS ROFFEY



All Saints Roffey is located some two miles from the historic market town of Horsham in West Sussex. There is outstanding parkland and beautiful countryside with an excellent selection of schools, facilities and entertainment.

Horsham has gained a place within the “top ten places to live” surveys of the Sunday Times on several occasions and has been a finalist of Britain in Bloom. It also has a unique and innovative five-year partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust to improve the local natural environment.

Horsham Station is one mile from the Vicarage and bus stops serving three different routes are within a few minutes’ walk. From Horsham there are excellent transport connections to London, Gatwick and the south coast.

HORSHAM
TOWN CENTRE



Leisure Facilities

In the centre of Horsham is Horsham Park with 60 acres of grassland with a leisure centre (gym, swimming pool) tennis courts, bowls club, football pitches and a lake.

Closer to the Vicarage and Church is another bowls club and two sports clubs (cricket and more), the Roffey Institute Village Hall and Millennium Hall (various clubs and classes).

The wider Horsham District contains several other parks and nature reserves. Leechpool & Owlbeech Woods, a forested area of over 100 acres with ancient woodland and many trails, is within a few minutes' walk.

Shopping and Eating

Horsham is an ancient market town: it holds local produce markets, has many excellent restaurants and independent retailers along with Waitrose/John Lewis, Sainsbury, Lidl and an Aldi.

Nearer to the vicarage, Roffey has several independent outlets selling day-to-day basics, a Co-Op food store and pub.





Population

Whilst there is some farmland and woodland, the Roffey area mainly consists of houses dating from 1950's to the present together with the current building of a new village called Mowbray with 2750 new homes, an All Through School and Sports Hub. The parish population at the 2021 census exceeded 15,000 of whom some 13,000 were born in the UK and 7% were unemployed.



Supported housing

There are supported living flats for older people, a home for adults with learning disabilities and a charity-run refuge for homeless people.



ABOUT THE CHURCH BUILDING

ALL SAINTS ROFFEY

All Saints Roffey is a Grade II Early English style church, constructed of sandstone with a tiled roof. It was completed in 1878 to serve the Victorian suburb of Roffey.

It has a Walter and Sons manual organ installed in 1880.

The church has the ongoing maintenance issues of all churches of its age.

Most of the area around the church is laid to grass and there is a hall next to the church. This functions as a meeting room and has a toilet and a kitchen. It is at present in need of attention, but a fund is already in place to help towards this.

The War Memorial, which was first erected in 1919, is made of stone, teak and oak and is maintained by Horsham District Council.

Although the church does not have its own churchyard, there is a municipal cemetery situated on the other side of the road and maintained by Horsham District Council. All Saints Church often serves as an unofficial chapel for the cemetery, offering pastoral support for families in the local community.



WORSHIP

Our Parish places the Eucharist at the centre of its worshipping life. All Eucharistic services are celebrated using Common Worship Order One. Our worship is at the heart of our mission to the whole community.

There is a tradition of offering the Mass several times during the week. Festival days are marked with a celebration of the Mass.

Our annual Christmas services are well attended, even seeing over a thousand people in across the Christmas period.

Both churches are open during daylight hours and are visited by the local community for private prayer, contemplation and to light a candle.



WORSHIP SUPPORT

There is a team of lay ministers of communion who are also trained in administering communion to the housebound. They also take the Sacrament to the local nursing homes and sheltered housing in the parish.

For some two years until the current vacancy, the Parish Mass at All Saints was livestreamed and available to view on Facebook and the website.

The Parish has a team of lay people who enhance the worship of the church in various roles – Sacristan, sidespersons, readers, intercessors and flower arrangers.

There is a committed and experienced team of servers ensuring there are always a crucifier, acolytes, thurifer and M.C. as required.

There are also organists at both churches.

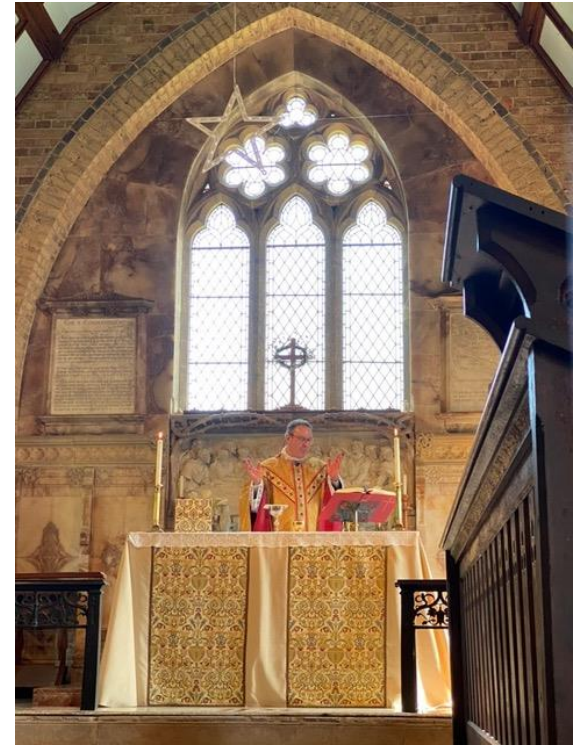


OUR SERVICES

During the previous incumbency, our pattern of worship reflected the vibrant life of our parish community, with four regular Sunday services, a said Mass, All Age Mass (a child-friendly 45-minute service maintaining the dignity of the Eucharist while being accessible to families), and Sung Parish Mass at All Saints Roffey, plus a Sung Parish Mass at St Saviour's Colgate.

Currently, during the interregnum, we have necessarily simplified to one Sunday service: a Parish Mass three times monthly, with one All Age Mass on the third Sunday. While this pattern has helped us maintain worship during this transition period, we have observed that it has impacted our growth, particularly as some families have sought more frequent family-oriented worship elsewhere.

Looking to the future, we hope that with the arrival of a new incumbent we can restore a more comprehensive pattern of worship, similar to our previous schedule or adapted to meet our community's needs. This would allow us to serve all members of our parish family better, from young children to adults, while maintaining our Anglo-Catholic tradition of regular Mass celebrations throughout the week, alongside pastoral services such as Baptisms and Weddings.



CHURCH GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

With a current electoral role of 82, our Parish has an elected PCC of nine members along with the ex-officio members (Incumbent, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and our Licenced Pastoral Worker.

Although church finance is the responsibility of the PCC, day-to-day finances are managed by the Treasurer.

As a Parish, it has not been possible to meet all the financial obligations to the Diocese over recent years.

Please see the separate attachment for our Annual Report and Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2023.

THE VICARAGE

Roffey Vicarage

1 Forest Oaks

Horsham

West Sussex

RH13 6BX



Situated in Forest Oaks, Roffey Vicarage is a modern four-bedroom family house in a quiet close within ten minutes' walk (two minutes' drive) of All Saints Church, and within five minutes' drive of St Saviour's Church, Colgate.

It has an enclosed garden to the rear, modern kitchen and separate dining room and living room. It also has a private study room.



ALL SAINTS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Our vision is to nurture all children, who are valued as individuals, and equip them to be independent, resilient learners, allowing each and every child to thrive and flourish, reaching their fullest potential.

At All Saints, we embrace our diverse community and encourage everyone to be kind, curious and question the world around them. We give our children the fundamental skills they need to prepare for their lifelong journey of learning.

Our community at All Saints is grounded in our core Christian values of respect, compassion, creativity and hope. We seek to inspire in all, a love of learning and a sense of belonging while being guided by our mission statement of "Seeking God in all we do."

All Saints School opened as a new school in 2001 to serve the growing community. As a one form entry primary school it has 200 pupils on roll from Reception to Year 6. The school is a 30 minute walk from the church.

A Covenant was made with All Saints Roffey in March 2024. This established as a church and school, a desire to work together in partnership for the good of our whole community with a focus on service and serving others.

The headteacher valued the relationship with our Parish Priest who would visit the school weekly, offering pastoral support and leading Worship and a termly Eucharist service. In addition to supporting the Governing Board at the school by serving as an ex-officio governor.

All Saints school visits the church throughout the year on special occasions including Christmas, Easter and for the Year 6 Leavers Service.

The school welcomes the church community at our church-school coffee mornings, harvest worship, remembrance services and for school events throughout the year.

The school and church come together to support community events including annual Christmas Fairs and Summer Fairs at both school and church.

The school are praying for a kind, compassionate person who is able to support children, staff and governors, enabling our spiritual development and contributing to our Christian values and ethos.

The school would warmly welcome visits from any prospective priests to experience the Christian school community in action.





THE PARISH OF COLGATE AND BOFFEY
THE PARISH OF THE SOUTH BAY AND ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

SCAN TO GIVE



Just hold your camera over the QR code in the green circle and follow the instructions to donate.

THANK YOU
for your donation towards the work and upkeep of our Church

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OTHER SCHOOLS WITHIN OUR PARISH

Within our parish we also have eight other schools, including:

- Bohunt All Through School Horsham
- Colgate Primary School
- Cottesmore School
- Kilnwood Vale Primary School
- Leechpool Primary School
- Littlehaven Infant School & Northolmes Junior School (Greenfields Federation)
- St Robert Southwell RC Primary School

We currently have a vacancy for a Church-School Liaison from our PCC to communicate with all the schools in our Parish throughout the year to build and strengthen our links with our local schools and communities.

Our hope is that our Parish Priest will work in partnership with our local schools, providing pastoral support, school visits for celebrations including Harvest Worship, assemblies and school events, in addition to the use of our Churches for planned school Christmas services enabling a spiritual connection to the youth and families within our Parish and the wider local community.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

As a Parish we have a dedicated team of volunteers who come together to organise a range of incredible Church and community social and fundraising events.

Highlights include weekly Coffee Mornings, Quiz Nights, Summer BBQ's and our biggest fundraiser - our Christmas Fair!

As a Church community we welcome the opportunity to come together and enjoy socialising whilst raising vital funds for the sustainability of our Parish.

There is an annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady in Walsingham. Our Parish has a Walsingham cell set up.



