

# **Holy Trinity, Bramley and St Andrew's, Grafham Parish Profile**



## WELCOME TO THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BRAMLEY AND GRAFHAM



### Letter from our Bishop

The Diocese of Guildford is a warm and friendly place to be, with a strong cohort of gifted and passionate laity and clergy, some excellent church schools, and plenty of beautiful countryside to enjoy on a day off!

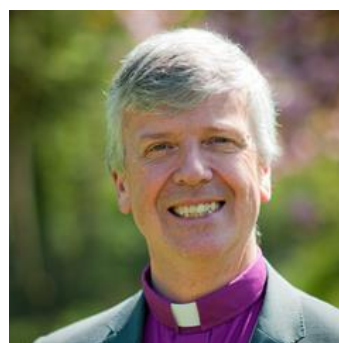
Our vision as a diocese is to see lives and communities transformed through the love of Christ; and, to that end, we have recently refreshed our Diocesan Strategy, *Transforming Church, Transforming Lives*, with a particular focus on Growing Disciples, Growing Diversity and Growing Community. Although our congregations are generally rather larger than average, we are all too conscious that we are only reaching a tiny proportion of our parish populations, and are particularly keen to become more effective in passing on the baton of faith to younger generations.

Our team of Mission Enablers are committed to working with every parish in fleshing out that vision in an appropriate way, going with the grain of the church's history and tradition, whilst also suggesting new ways to 'proclaim the gospel afresh in each generation'. The pandemic, while presenting many challenges, has helped to forge new relationships between many of our churches, creating a spirit of 'us and us' more than 'them and us', and opening up new approaches to partnership and inter-church collaboration.

If you share our vision for transformation, and have a track record in growing disciples, growing diversity and growing community, we'd love to hear from you!

The Rt Revd Andrew Watson

10th Bishop of Guildford



## **Letter from our Area Dean**

This post provides a great opportunity for someone who will relish the work of bringing back together the parishes of Bramley and Grafham after a five year period of working separately. Having worked together happily for many years, an unfortunate situation arose, involving a clash of personalities, which led to a temporary situation, where it became prudent for the two to work separately – Bramley under the leadership of a full time Priest in Charge, and Grafham under the leadership of an SSM. During this time, which has included the effects of the pandemic, Bramley has sadly seen some decline in attendance, while Grafham has seen encouraging growth.

With the Priest in Charge of Bramley moving on to a new parish and the impending retirement of the Grafham SSM, everyone is in agreement that this is the right time for the two parishes to begin working together again. With the goodwill of the PCCs and parishioners alike, there is huge opportunity for growth in these delightful churches and communities. There is strong connection between Holy Trinity, Bramley, and the village Church of England Infants School, as well as with the neighbouring Independent St Catherine's School, a girls' boarding and day school. The boarding students regularly attend worship during term time.

During the present vacancy the parish has been well-supported by a retired priest living in Bramley, as well as from the other retired clergy living in and around the deanery.

I sense a real desire to grow in discipleship, and to reach into the communities with the love of Christ. The new Vicar needs to fully embrace Village life and be able to thrive in this type of ministry. She/he should be comfortable with a variety of worship styles, though the parishes are broadly 'central' in terms of tradition. There is also the need to be creative enough to explore new ways to reach the unchurched and be willing to invest in a growing ministry to young and old alike.

For the person that God calls, there is so much to offer here: the warmth of great church families and wider community; the opportunity of leadership in a parish, deanery and diocese which offers considerable support and resources; the exciting challenge of discerning with these communities what God is doing and how we might join in; the privilege of living and working in a beautiful part of the country, close to the Surrey Hills, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and less than 5 miles from Guildford, the County and Cathedral Town of

Surrey. There are so many opportunities for clergy and families; and there's a lovely, spacious Vicarage, which is vacant and waiting to be loved and lived in!

If you'd value an informal conversation about this post, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me by email [roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk) or telephone 07889 542054, so that we can arrange a time for us to speak.

Revd Canon Roy Woodhams

Rector and Area Dean of Cranleigh



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The united benefice of Bramley and Grafham comprises two Churches that are different and complementary. Saint Andrew's is a small Church in the rural village of Grafham with a lively congregation that is successfully engaging with the surrounding community and beyond. Holy Trinity, which is in the centre of Bramley, has strong links to schools in the Parish. Various circumstances a few years ago put a strain on the relationship between the two Churches and, as a result, the benefice was temporarily suspended. The most recent incumbents have worked together to heal this rift and we are now regularly enjoying working together and joint services. We are delighted to be a united benefice once again and are excited to be looking for a new Vicar who will help us to grow in faith and love. We believe that the different character of our two Churches is our strength, enabling us to witness to a wider range of people in our local community. If you are looking for a challenge, with people who are seeking to complete the process of healing and look to the future, then we have great potential.



Holy Trinity, Bramley



David Hughes Photography

St Andrew's, Grafham

## 2. OUR NEW VICAR

We believe that we need a Priest who is:

- A good preacher, who is capable of clear teaching and who, while respecting our traditions, will develop our prayer and worship in a way which people of any age can grasp.
- Pastorally aware and a good communicator with a sense of humour, friendly, open and welcoming.
- Someone who will relate well within our congregation and community.
- Young in outlook, a team player, able to relate well to, and enjoy working with all ages.
- Able to encourage and enjoy a wide range of music.
- Comfortable with the use of IT and social media.
- Willing to participate in village life and be approachable and visible to all the community – someone to whom people can turn for spiritual leadership but also for pastoral care.
- Able to introduce change sensitively and motivate, inspire and empower others.
- Ready to work within the Diocesan Vision “Transforming Church, Transforming Lives”, and also work ecumenically with other local churches.
- Committed to the long-term future of our Churches.

*“We are looking for a Vicar with the vision and leadership skills to guide us into the Church we strive to be: a light for Christ in the village of Bramley. We want to be seen not only as ‘the building in the centre’ but as caring people, thoroughly involved in the village.”*

Member of Bramley congregation

### **3. SUPPORT FOR OUR NEW VICAR**

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Our congregations look forward to welcoming our new Vicar.

We are committed to supporting him or her in prayer and pastoral care.

- We will encourage the Vicar to have an agreed day off each week.
- We know the Diocese has a clergy Wellbeing Group and we are keen to adopt the recommendations that emerge from this.
- We will bring support through prayer, open hearts and minds - giving our time as he or she guides and motivates us in our continued Christian growth within the Church and Community.
- Normal working expenses will be paid.
- Bramley PCC pays lawn mowing expenses for the Vicarage.



## 4. OUR CHURCHES

### Holy Trinity, Bramley



We hold the following services:

- Sunday 8am: said Eucharist according to the Book of Common Prayer. The average attendance is 8.
- Sunday 9.45am (changing to 9.30 from July onwards to allow the celebrant time to reach Grafham for an 11am service): sung Eucharist using Common Worship. The average attendance is 28. During termtime some 80 to 100 boarders from St Catherine's School join the congregation; they are not included in the average attendance figures.

There are additional seasonal services and variations.

There is a Eucharistic focus and the clergy usually wear vestments.

We are fortunate to have a retired Priest, the Revd. Graham Smith, living in Bramley. He is leading many of our services during the vacancy.

At Holy Trinity, most hymns are from the *Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New*, and we use the David Thorne Trinity Mass setting. The style is traditional, with the organ used to accompany the singing, and the piano is often used during Communion when the choir sings a simple anthem. We have a paid Director of Music who is also the Organist. The choir, which has between five and eight members, sings an anthem and rehearses once a week. A few girls from St. Catherine's join the choir during term-time.

Holy Trinity has six bells, which were fully overhauled in 2018. There are seven bell ringers who practise every Thursday at 8pm and ring before Eucharist services, weddings and special occasions.



Monica Snelling is currently our part-time parish administrator, vergers and sexton, for which she is paid an honorarium. She manages the parish office and office email account, books marriages, funerals and baptisms, opens and closes the church on weekday mornings, orders church supplies, looks after the service registers, vestments and silver, and does much more besides.

Bramley PCC's finances are in a mixed situation. The income from a substantial restricted endowment Maintenance Fund enables all upkeep, repair and maintenance work to be undertaken. The Parish Share (some £77,000 per annum) is paid in full. There is a good take-up in Gift Aid. There are no major (above £10,000) capital requirements foreseen and all Quinquennial work has been funded. However, unrestricted income has declined and a deficit of about £20,000 a year is forecast by the Treasurer. Some measures are in place to use funds previously designated as endowment funds for general purposes and the PCC is considering a number of fund-raising events. Recent urgently necessary major electrical work was funded, with Charity Commission and Diocese approval, from endowment funds held for maintenance work. Sharing the Parish Share with Grafham will help with reducing the annual deficit.

## Bramley people



Sue Oldrey, Churchwarden



Catherine Ingram Smith, Churchwarden.



Graham Smith, retired priest



Monica Snelling, Parish Administrator



Richard Gates, Treasurer



Marie Ward, Organist

## St Andrew's, Grafham



David Hughes Photography

We hold the following services:

- Sunday 10.45am (changing to 11.00 from July onwards to allow the celebrant at the earlier Bramley service to reach Grafham): rotation between a Eucharist using Common Worship, Book of Common Prayer, and Morning Prayer.

St Andrew's has a lively and welcoming congregation who enjoy sharing hospitality with all. A visiting Priest commented, *"I have always felt hugely welcome at Grafham and I've enjoyed preaching to the dogs (as well as the parishioners)"*. It is also a place where you can find peace. As a friend of St Andrew's remarked, *"The first time I walked into St Andrew's, it hugged me and I felt it was a Church built with love. I have always felt that love every time I enter, be it for a service or any other occasion...Just thinking of St Andrew's makes me smile."*

In the Summer months we have an Evensong service which attracts several people from the wider community as well as our regular congregation. We are very fortunate to have two regular organists, and we all enjoy singing using the *Ancient and Modern Hymns & Songs for Refreshing Worship*.

As one of our regular parishioners said, *"There is a careful balance between the old traditions and the modern ways and St Andrew's have the balance right."*

Our very popular annual Pets Service occurs at one of the Evensongs and is held outside in the lower churchyard overlooking the Surrey Hills - a tranquil and uplifting setting that lends itself well for certain services, such as Harvest, Lammas and even our Carol Service!

Other special services that attract a larger congregation are the Plough Service in January; Mothering Sunday with posies lovingly made by one of our parishioners and distributed by her great grandchildren; a blessing of the Lambs in April; Rogation Sunday when we walk around Whitley Manor Farm blessing the crops and animals along the way, ending with a Ploughman's Lunch in the Barn. We also arrange a very inclusive Ascension Day walk from Grafham to Wintershall, where a Eucharist is held outdoors beside a lake, followed by a picnic supper. Our Songs of Praise service invites members of the congregation to choose their favourite hymn and give their reasons why. There are usually more hymns than we have time for! All Souls Service gives a time for reflection, as do the many Easter services arranged during Holy Week.

St Andrew's incoming finance resources in 2023 were £41,875, with committed Gift Aid more in line with years prior to 2022 (which included special donations for the purchase of land and for the repairs to the bells and spire). In preparation for the project to repair the fabric of the Church building, the main expense in 2023 was architect's fees. The income of £41,875 includes the recovery of VAT on the qualifying expenditure in 2022. Membership of the Friends of St Andrew's has increased during 2023. Membership subscriptions and the surpluses on Friends' fund-raising events are held in a designated account, and the balance at December 31 is £2,071. Normal Church running expenses are broadly in line with previous years. The net result for the year was to produce an excess of income over expenditure of approximately £17,000. This figure, when added to the balance of Unrestricted Funds brought forward, results in a balance carried forward of £100,847. Part of the reserves are for the general purposes and mission of the PCC and are also held to provide for contingencies in the running costs and maintenance of the Church fabric. However, a proportion of just under £10,000 are bequest monies unspent and accordingly should only be expended in accordance with the donor's specific wishes.



## Grafham people



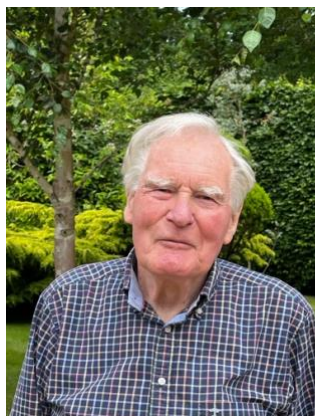
**Caroline Whalley, Churchwarden**



**Colin Parrott, Churchwarden**



**Jill Parrott, Parish Administrator**



**Tim Bullivant, Treasurer**



**Stuart White, Organist**



## 5. OUR BUILDINGS

### Holy Trinity, Bramley

Holy Trinity Church is a Grade II\* building that dates from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, with substantial Victorian alterations and additions. In early times, the Church (then a mere chapel) was attached to Shalford, but in 1847 Bramley became a Parish in its own right. Modern improvements include a Children's Chapel in the north aisle and restored organ and bells.



Entrance to the Children's Chapel



View from the Children's Chapel

All the work required by the last Quinquennial (2022) has been completed or is in progress. The fabric at Holy Trinity is generally in excellent condition. However, as in many older churches, the heating system is both inefficient and inadequate and will need updating in the future. Funds are available for fabric maintenance.

The cleaning of the church is contracted out, and the grounds are maintained by a rota of volunteers. The Parish Council (not the PCC) is responsible for maintenance and repair of the graveyard walls. No major repairs are envisaged. The Churchwardens, assisted by the Finance Committee, manage all the repairs required.

There are projector screens in the nave and the two aisles, each with a camera and projector. There is also a loop system. The Church has an excellent acoustic well-suited to services and Bramley Music concerts.

The medieval chancel suits intimate services, such as Compline, and is used for the weekly Sunday 8am service.



The Church is used, not only for Parish services, weddings and funerals, but also on regular occasions by all the three main schools. There is scope for greater use, although the fixed Victorian pews limit flexibility.

The Parish Room, added in 1969, includes a kitchen, and is used for all church meetings and for some social purposes. It is also let out for private and community bookings.



Sunday coffee in the Parish Room

The Parish Office was built in 2012 for the Vicar and the Parish Administrator and can be used as a small meeting room.

The Churchyard is closed for burials although we still inter ashes in the Garden of Remembrance. The nearby cemetery is closed and it is maintained by Waverley Borough Council.

7 Park Drive (too small for a Vicarage) is owned by the Parish, the freehold coming from a bequest by a Mr Buckingham. The three-bedroom end-terrace house is let commercially and the income so generated is an important part of day-to-day church funds.



Bramley Vicarage was built in the 1930s, but has been modernised. It has five bedrooms, a bathroom, a shower room, a large drawing room and a good kitchen. Also, there is a dining room, a study and a good-sized garden. The Vicarage is half a mile from the church.

### **St Andrew's, Grafham**

In 1861 the renowned architect, Henry Woodyer, who lived in Grafham, designed, funded and built St Andrew's in memory of his young wife, who died in childbirth. Next to it he built a vicarage (now privately owned) and the village school (now owned by Grafham Grange School).

St Andrew's is grade II\* listed and has many significant features such as wall paintings (currently under four layers of paint), a magnificent alabaster reredos and a unique set of 19<sup>th</sup> century banners.



Porch and Spire



Service in St Andrew's



The country churchyard is a place of tranquillity and ecological significance and is managed with regard to the conservation of ecosystems and the many species that call it home. Some services are conducted in the lower churchyard and refreshments served outside. St Andrew's Church embraces not only its congregation, but the countryside around it and the people in it. It is always a place of welcome and inclusion.

There are a few challenges for which we are working on solutions:

- The beautiful Church building is in need of major repair and we have an exciting project underway to restore it and improve the facilities. We are holding regular fund-raising events, generating publicity material, and preparing to seek funding from charitable bodies.
- We have the use of a small car park at the old village school adjacent to the churchyard, but we have recently purchased a three-acre field that lies immediately behind the Church. This has road access and will enable us to create our own car park and use the field for other projects and events.
- The Church does not have internet access and we have limited IT facilities at present. Covid restrictions led us to hold our services outside so that we could meet and sing, a practice which we have continued for special services. This attracts additional interest.
- The lack of running water doesn't stop us socialising and we have a superb composting toilet.



Looking towards back of Church



Consecration of compostable toilet

## 6. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



**Trinity Toddlers** meets weekly in term time and provides an opportunity for parents or guardians and their charges to meet informally in a play-based environment. 15 to 20 children attend, accompanied by their adults. We see the Toddler group as an outreach opportunity.



**Holy Trinity Church Sunday lunch**, held monthly, is very popular and attracts both regular church attenders and people from the wider community.

**Bramley Helping Hand** is a community initiative to fundraise and offer practical help and financial support to all members of our local community. The Helping Hand honesty trolley in the church porch contains basic grocery items – anyone may take what they genuinely need, and all are encouraged to donate what they are able.



**The Four Villages Day Centre** at Blunden Court hosts a monthly Communion service run by volunteers from our congregations.



**Bramley Music.** Over 10 years ago the Church acquired a fine Steinway B grand piano to enhance worship and enable high quality concerts to raise money for the improvement of the Church musical facilities, whilst also raising significant sums for chosen charities (mostly local). There is excellent support from the congregation and from those in the community who otherwise do not attend Church. There are about six concerts a year, each attended by up to 200 people.



**The Annual Village Fete.** Our Churches run the all-important tea and cakes pavilion!





By way of outreach, there is, every two years, a nativity event (“**Bramleyhem**”) designed for young families and held outdoors around the middle of the village, starting from Summerpool House. We are now looking for volunteers to take this much-loved event to future generations.



A popular annual **plant and cake sale** raises money that is shared between the Churches.



**The Children’s Society**, through a volunteer coordinator, organises Christmas shoe boxes for Romania.



**The Grafham Room** is used by a variety of societies and private groups, including Grafham and Smithbrook WI, Cranleigh Young Farmers, a local art group and an amateur radio club. St Andrew’s uses the Grafham Room for

meetings, parking and social events and the cricket pavilion for some social events.

**The Friends of St Andrew's and Grafham** aims to help build our community, strengthen Grafham's distinct identity as a place, increase pride in our village, and contribute to the restoration and upkeep of our historic Grade II\* listed church.

The Friends were formed in 2022 and are administered by a committee appointed by the Grafham PCC; it is a charity, with Friends' funds being held by the PCC in a special designated account.



Fund raising events have included quizzes with fish and chip suppers; pancakes and puddings evenings; music recitals at St Andrew's; a community Coronation BBQ in the churchyard; a bat walk around Honeymead Lake; a traditional fairground stall at the Bramley Fete and a 'drop in' local history event in the Grafham Room.

Both churches have websites:  
<https://www.holytrinitybramley.org.uk> and  
<https://standrewsgrafham.org.uk/>  
Holy Trinity also has a [Facebook page](#)

## 7. SCHOOLS WITH CHURCH LINKS



### **Bramley C of E Infant & Nursery School (part of the Good Shepherd Trust)**

*“Holy Trinity Bramley and its clergy play an important role in our small school. Nestled within the heart of our village, the school’s nurturing ethos is rooted in Christian values. Our values of friendship, respect, perseverance, koinonia, truthfulness and courage help shape our children to grow and develop. We are proud that these achievements are reflected in both our Ofsted and our SIAMS reports. The Vicar will play a pivotal role in supporting and extending children’s understanding of our vision and values by leading collective worships, introducing children to the Church and as part of our Trust’s local committee. Beyond the school gates, our Vicar will be a beacon of support and guidance for our wider parental community, actively engaging with them through links made within the school.”*

Shona Taylor, Head Teacher





## St Catherine's Prep and Senior Schools

Links between the School and the Church are strong. Approximately 80 to 100 boarding pupils aged 11 to 18 attend the 9.30am sung Eucharist each Sunday in term time. The girls sometimes contribute to services as readers and intercessors and several girls sing with the choir. The girls operate the service PowerPoint presentation (which is only used when the girls are present).

*"I really enjoy the Sunday communion services as it gives me time to reflect on the week and think about my faith. It is also a great opportunity to be within the Bramley community, since the church really is at the heart of it."*

Stephy, St Catherine's Head Boarder



*"From a St Cats perspective the relationship with Bramley is so valued not only in relation to the boarders for the Sunday service but all our high holy days – Ash Wednesday, Ascension, St Cats Day; our prep school carol service; our confirmation quiet day; Remembrance services for the prep school – the list goes on! It's also been so wonderful having the priest come and do the odd talk at our services at school. It's been terrific for me to have a fellow priest nearby to meet with too."*

The Revd. Benji McNair Scott, School Chaplain



## **Gosden House School**

Gosden House School is a Surrey County Council School for children from 4 to 16 with moderate learning and additional needs. Although strictly speaking outside the Parish, the school values its strong links with Bramley Church through Education Sundays, Remembrance Days, and national celebrations.



Grafham Grange School (part of Orchard Hill Academy College Trust) is for up to 70 students aged 10 to 16 whose primary needs are social, emotional and mental health, with referrals from local authorities across the South of England. It is located opposite St Andrew's Church and the congregation has recently established a link with the school.



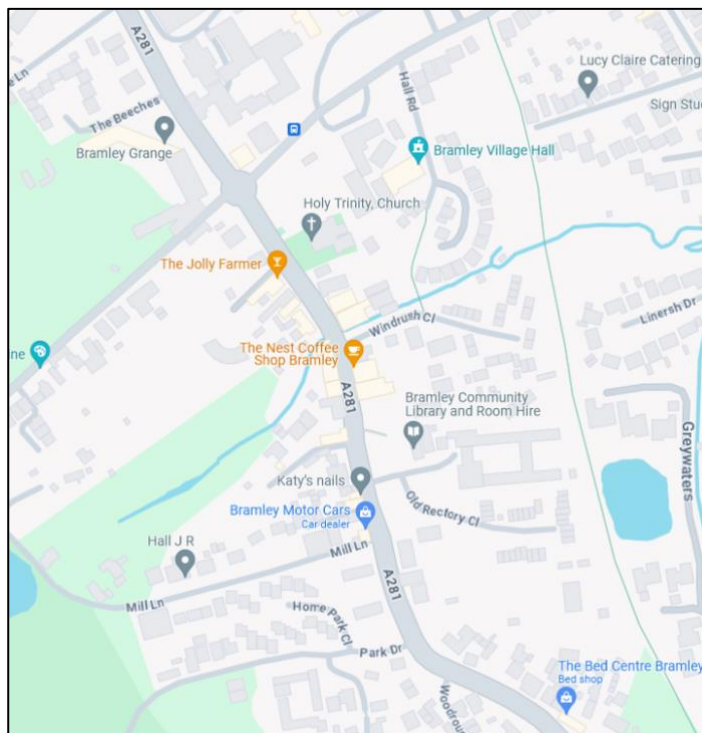
## 8. OUR PARISHES

### Bramley

The village of Bramley is 3.5 miles south of Guildford on the A281 Horsham Road. It forms the more populated part of the civil Parish of Bramley, which has a population of approximately 3,600 and includes Grafham. The village lies in the heart of the Surrey Hills area of outstanding natural beauty with plenty of footpaths and bridleways to enjoy, as well as an abundance of common land.

- The Downs Link footpath and cycleway runs along the disused Guildford to Horsham railway line and is available for walkers, cyclists and horses.
- The Greensand Way, running from Haslemere to Kent, crosses the south of the Parish.

Housing is largely privately owned, but there are several council-built estates in the village and a sheltered housing development comprising 29 flats. The rest of the Parish consists of a few houses and hamlets at Thorncombe Street and Birtley Green, but is otherwise largely agricultural land, with some fair-sized estates.



Location of Holy Trinity, Bramley



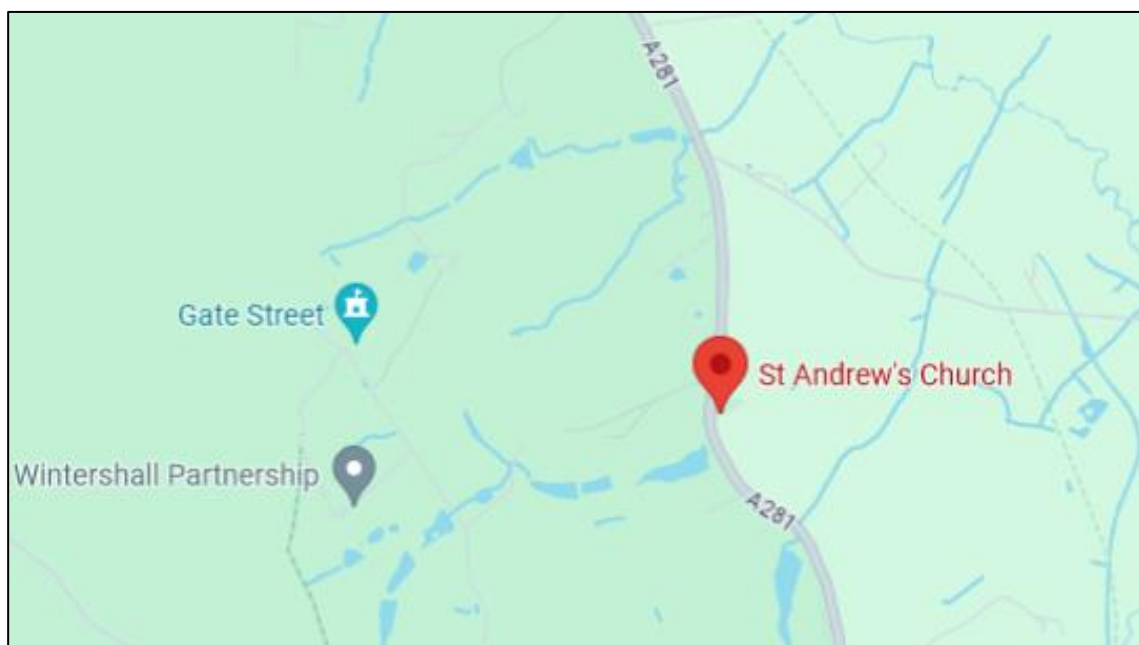
Some of our working population is employed locally in Surrey, but a significant number commute to London. The main employers within the Parish are St Catherine's School and Birtley House. There are many other smaller businesses including 17 units on a business park in Station Road and others in Tannery Lane and in Birtley Courtyard.

Birtley House, a private nursing home at the southerly end of the village, is registered for 47 elderly people. The Whalley family has run the home on this site since 1945 and extended its facilities to provide eight flats with supported living services. The home has close connections to the Church and community.

### **Grafham**

The ecclesiastical Parish of Grafham enjoys an attractive position in the Surrey Hills, a couple of miles south of Bramley along the A281.

St Andrew's Church, the Grafham Room and a village cricket ground and pavilion are grouped at the north end of the Parish on the main road. Further south, towards Horsham, Whitley Manor Farm houses an animal feed business, small independent shops and a popular café/restaurant used by locals and visitors. A mile further south, Smithbrook Kilns also houses a similar development of independent businesses.



Location of St Andrew's Grafham

According to the 2021 census the population was 294, with 118 households. In its heyday most Grafham families had some connection with the land. Today the local population is more diverse, with many families having moved here from more urban areas. However, farming and the countryside still play a major part in local life and the community at St Andrews reflects this in their services and in the management of resources and the churchyard. Wintershall is the home of epic performances about the Life of Christ and the Nativity. The monthly Stations of the Cross on the Wintershall estate has often been attended by our clergy.

Gate Street Barn is connected to the Wintershall estate, catering for weddings and large musical events.

### **Amenities**

Public transport:

- There is a regular bus service from Bramley to Guildford and to Cranleigh.
- The nearest train station is Shalford, with a direct link to Gatwick. There are four fast trains an hour from Guildford to London Waterloo.
- Grafham has an infrequent bus service (not on Sundays)

Bramley has a busy High Street, including two small supermarkets (one with a post office), a butcher, greengrocer, café, restaurant, two take-aways, electrical and hardware store, hair salons, petrol station and two popular pubs.

The Doctor's Surgery is a mile away in Wonerh and the Royal Surrey County Hospital is in Guildford. There are dentists in Guildford, Cranleigh and Godalming.

Guildford, Godalming and Cranleigh are the nearest shopping centres. In Guildford, the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre often hosts pre-London runs and the Electric Theatre holds a wide range of community arts events; there is also an Odeon cinema complex and G Live, which is known for popular concerts and events.

## 9. CONTEXT FOR MINISTRY

### **Cranleigh Deanery**

Bramley is part of the Cranleigh Deanery of Guildford Diocese, which is the largest geographical deanery in the diocese and arguably the most rural. All the parishes are villages, although Cranleigh, reputedly the largest village in the country, has a population of over 14,000. The parishes all lie within the London commuter belt, and each one retains its own character. There are thirteen parishes, fourteen churches and a population of about 30,000.

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year, the summer meeting being a BBQ with a speaker. The Chapter meets six times a year and is well attended.

### **Electoral Roll, PCC meetings and committees**

**Bramley:** At the end of 2023 there were 61 on Holy Trinity's Electoral Roll, nine of whom live outside the Parish. Holy Trinity's PCC is chaired by the incumbent and currently consists of nine elected members, including two Churchwardens and two lay members of the Deanery Synod. It meets five or six times a year. There is a Finance Committee, comprising the incumbent, the Churchwardens, Treasurer and two co-opted members.

**Grafham:** Our last annual report records that there are 49 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 18 of whom reside in the Parish and our average Sunday attendance was 24.

### **Baptisms, Confirmations and Marriages**

**Baptisms:** We baptise those who live in the Parish or whose families have a connection within the village or the Church. Those from outside the Parish are required to have the baptism form signed by their Parish Priest before being baptised here. Holy Trinity averages about four baptisms a year, and Grafham about one a year.



**Weddings:** We marry couples who are residents of the Parish, are on the electoral roll, or have a qualifying connection. We follow the marriage guidelines laid down by the House of Bishops. The policy of both Parishes is that divorcees may be remarried after the statutory enquiries by the Parish Priest. Holy Trinity averages four weddings a year, and Grafham one.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

The Churches of Bramley and Grafham are very different in character, but we believe that these differences are our strength and that together we have great potential. After some problems a few years ago, when the two Churches were separated, we are delighted to be once again a united benefice, working together and holding some joint services.

Our vision is to grow in faith and love, while being outward looking and positive in sharing the good news with the communities of Bramley and Grafham. We are excited to be looking for a new Vicar to lead us. We hope you have enjoyed reading about us and that you will explore further whether we are the right place for you. If you feel God calling you to this challenge, we will welcome you with open arms and warm hearts.

## APPENDIX 1. BRAMLEY AND GRAFHAM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

### Village Organisations

**Bramley Parish Council** has nine independent councillors elected every four years. The Council is active in village life. In the recent past they have led in the saving of Bramley Library as a Community Partnered Library, worked with Surrey to improve road safety, and led Bramley's responses on major planning applications. They seek to deliver in their role as Bramley's local voice with Waverley Borough and Surrey County Councils.

**Bramley Community Library** is run by volunteers in partnership with Surrey County Council and Bramley Parish Council.

**Bramley Village Society** has a remit to maintain and improve the social and material fabric of the village. It runs village events and, as a registered charity, the Society holds the finances for Bramley Wheels.

The **St George's Day Dinner** is held annually, usually in The Jolly Farmer.

**Bramley Village Fete** is a great community event held annually on Gosden Common.

**Bramley Bonfire** is one of the best family-friendly bonfire and firework events in the area.

The **Bramley Christmas Ball** is a popular Bramley village fundraising event, held annually at St Catherine's School.

**Bramley/Rhens Liaison Group** is the result of the village's twinning over 30 years ago with Rhens, an attractive half-timbered village on the Rhine, 15km south of Koblenz. In even years, a group leaves Bramley for Germany and, in odd years, visitors correspondingly arrive here from Rhens.

**The Four Villages Day Centre (Wednesday Lunch Club)** opens every Wednesday at Blunden Court for elderly people who are unable to get out by themselves. To give their carers a break, volunteers, several of whom are Church members, handle their transport to and from the Centre where they enjoy a day with conversation, organised entertainment, lunch and coffee.

**Grafham & Smithbrook WI** meets once a month.

**Bramley Social Club**, formerly the Working Men's Club, occupies premises adjacent to the Village Hall.

**Bramley and District Probus** meets monthly at the Golf Club.

**Wonersh and District Garden Club and Wonersh U3a** includes Bramley residents as members.

**1<sup>st</sup> Wonersh Scout Group** includes all Bramley's Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers.

**1<sup>st</sup> Wonersh & Bramley Guides** are the link for Bramley's Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. The recently established 1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Brownies meets in the Holy Trinity Parish Room.

**Blackheath & Bramley Choral Society** is a choir of around 50 singers who strive for musical excellence and always have fun doing so. They rehearse in Bramley Church and give two concerts a year in Holy Trinity Guildford or Guildford Cathedral.

For a full list of the many social organisations in Bramley, see <https://www.bramleyvillagesociety.org/organisations>

## **Sports Clubs**

**Bramley Golf Club** has an excellent 18-hole course and a fine Clubhouse.

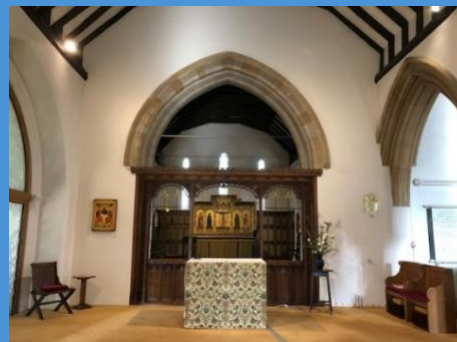
**Bramley Cricket Club** runs three regular teams. Home matches are played on Gosden Common. Incumbents with an interest in cricket are often invited to be a vice-president of the club.

**Birtley Lawn Tennis Club** has three all-weather floodlit courts.

**Bramley Table Tennis Club** plays in the pavilion on Gosden Common.



## Appendix 2. Photos of Holy Trinity, Bramley





### Appendix 3. Photos of St Andrew's, Grafham



*"It is a completely delightful and beautiful little Church - with a vibrant hospitable thriving and growing congregation. It welcomes and enchants new comers and regular worshipers with warmth and great understanding. It also welcomes dogs of any size and has a children's area full of exciting "things to do"."*

*"The Church has reached out to the wider community & been rewarded by their participation in many and varied occasions..."*

*...The unique beauty & history of St Andrew's Church has consequently been more widely appreciated & there is real commitment to the project of maintaining the building & restoring the Church to its full glory."*



*"One of the best things about Grafham is the harmony and joy that unites the whole church."*

