

The Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood and Forest Green



Profile
February 2024



Letter from Bishop of Guildford: Andrew Watson

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 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 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!

Letter from the Area Dean: Roy Woodhams

Ewhurst, Okewood Hill and Forest Green



This post provides a great opportunity for someone whose domestic arrangements make it possible for them to minister part time (two days a week, plus Sunday), in return for a spacious house in the beautiful Surrey Hills, Area of Outstanding Beauty.

The Parish of Ewhurst, Okewood Hill and Forest Green was formed in 2018, when Okewood Hill and Forest Green (formerly in Dorking Deanery) were moved into the Cranleigh Deanery. The early years of this new parish have not been without challenge, as the individual churches, with their diverse backgrounds, have begun to learn to work together as a unit. However, there is a strong commitment to making the unit work, with a dedicated team of experienced and hard-working churchwardens.

During the present vacancy the parish has been well-supported by retired clergy from the deanery and by the strong and inspirational lay-leadership team, who are ready to be deployed creatively under the leadership of a new incumbent. There is very real potential for the new priest to build on the strengths of relationship that the church communities now have with the village communities. There is a desire to grow in discipleship, and to reach into the communities with the love of Christ. The new priest needs to fully embrace village life and be able to thrive in this type of rural ministry. She/he should be comfortable with a variety of worship styles – traditional Anglican worship in Ewhurst, and a more relaxed, contemporary style in Okewood Hill. 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 this community what God is doing and how we might join in; the privilege of living and working in a beautiful part of the country with so many opportunities for clergy and families; and there's a very lovely Rectory, 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 at roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk or by calling 07889 542054, so that we can arrange a time for us to speak.

Revd Canon Roy Woodhams
(Rector and Area Dean of Cranleigh)

The Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood and Forest Green



Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the vacancy for the House for Duty Rector (Sunday + 2 days) of our Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood and Forest Green. This is an exciting time in the history of these three churches and we are looking for a visionary leader to build on the foundations and strengths that our three communities bring together. We see ourselves as one parish with three worshipping centres as we become closer together.

We want to grow in spirit and in numbers. We already have strong relationships within our local communities and want to extend and develop our partnerships with local organisations, particularly other churches, care homes, schools, nurseries, clubs and societies.

We offer a diverse range of faith-sharing. Our reach takes us beyond the welcoming buildings which comprise our family of churches. There is an engaged community of all ages regularly committed to church life. The person we are seeking will further develop the our ministries focusing on work with young people and families, on the continued development of life/home groups as a vehicle for fellowship and bible study, on providing a range of church services which recognise different worship styles, and on pastoral care within our village communities.

The Parish

Our Parish of **Ewhurst with Okewood and Forest Green** brings together three adjoining church communities nestled at the foot of the glorious Surrey Hills. We are looking for a House for Duty Rector to serve the communities of Ewhurst, Okewood, and Forest Green with upwards of 3,500 residents.

Our Services

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
EWHURST	10.30am Morning Worship	9am BCP Holy Communion 6pm Evensong	10.30am Holy Communion	9am BCP Holy Communion	
OKWOOD	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Morning Worship	10.30am Morning Worship	10.30am All Age service	
FOREST GREEN				6pm Evening Worship	10.30am Joint Holy Communion

Book of Common Prayer said Eucharist; a quiet Communion service using the Book of Common Prayer and the King James Bible.

Choral Evensong: Book of Common Prayer Evensong with choir. A reflective service to end the day.

Holy Communion: All welcome to celebrate CW Holy Communion with hymns and liturgy.

Morning Worship: At Ewhurst: a fairly traditional, service with hymns, prayers and sermon. At Okewood: a less formal service with worship songs and live music, anchored in Anglican liturgy.

Other services

There are many special services throughout the year which complement our Sunday worship. These include the following:

Old Rectory Communion. A monthly service for the residents, families, friends and staff of The Old Rectory Nursing Home.

Christingle. An inspiring candle-lit celebration which brings everyone together into a busy church. Collections go to the Children's Society.

Nine Lessons and Carols. A highlight of the choir's calendar with readings by the village community.

Carols round the crib. A special service on Christmas Eve where children perform the nativity story to a packed church, with collection going to Crisis.

Mothering Sunday. We give the women of the village community hand-tied posies as we celebrate Mothering Sunday. Children from the village school lead parts of the service.

Palm Sunday. Donkey Walk. A joint service with the Baptist Church. The story is brought to life through dramatic readings as we walk around the village.

Good Friday Walk of Witness. A joint service with the Baptist Church. The cross is carried around the Village as the story of the Passion is told.

Easter Sunrise on Pitch Hill. A Joint service with the Baptist Church to celebrate and worship as the Easter-Day dawn breaks. Bacon butties served afterwards.

Summer Songs of Praise. In a marquee in the gardens of The Old Rectory Nursing Home. Music and readings are selected by the congregation.

Harvest Festival. An interactive all age service with input from the village school. Fireworks and hotdogs afterwards. Our harvest gift collection is for British Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine.

All Souls. A quiet service to remember those we have loved and lost with reflective words and music.

Remembrance Sunday. The village community meet at the War Memorial to remember the fallen, before we move to the church for a memorial service.

The Churches

St Peter and St Paul, Ewhurst, is a grade 1 listed building, it has stood at the heart of our village both as a building and part of the community for around nine centuries. The church is supported by the Friends of St. Peter and St. Paul. Our church dates from medieval times with the oldest surviving walls of the Norman nave dating back to 1140, making it one of the oldest churches in Surrey. Its peace and charm make it a popular choice for weddings and for all events of Christian life.

There are services each Sunday of different styles to meet the needs of our worshippers young and old.

The south transept contains an area for children with bookcase and bags of toys.

Forest Church services are held monthly in conjunction with Ewhurst Baptist Church. This takes place in the grounds of St. John the Baptist Okewood and occasionally at St. Peter and St. Paul Ewhurst. All are welcome but the sessions are particularly designed for school- aged children. Time is spent considering a different topic each month based on a bible reading. Prayers are shared, games and craft activities are enjoyed, ending with refreshments.

Church Bells and Ringers

There is a long tradition of bell-ringing in Ewhurst. The oldest bells date from the 15th Century and are probably amongst the oldest in Surrey. Bells are rung every Sunday and by special request. Bell-ringing practice is every Wednesday evening. We have handbell sessions which are a highlight of the advent services.

The Wilson Room

A welcoming and a popular social area where refreshments are served after services. The church room was built in 2010 in the churchyard and has easy access from the church and rectory. It



has a beautiful oak-beamed, large communal room, a fully-equipped kitchen, disabled toilets, and is home to the Parish Office. The Wilson Room has allowed the church to broaden its ministry with a range of activities and groups:

- Informal services
- Early morning coffee, predominantly for school parents
- Baby and toddler group
- Social and fundraising events
- PCC meetings.
- Winter warmer lunches run by the charities group
- Listening Lounge

St John the Baptist, Okewood

The church dates back to 1220. Nestled in woodland between Ewhurst and Ockley, it ranks as one of Surrey's most beautiful churches.

Originally a Chapel of Ease in medieval times, the Church is a popular attraction for visitors to the area. The church exudes a calm spirituality much enjoyed by its faithful congregation and visitors alike. Extensive modifications have resulted in a wonderful space for worship and celebration.

Okewood has for many centuries been associated with lively spirituality, and in the early nineteenth century there were reports of revival centred on our church. The last decade of the 20th century and the early 2000's witnessed an exceptional period of growth in our congregation when we enjoyed a modern worship group and live music covering contemporary worship songs at our Services

The current congregation for our regular 10:30am Sunday service is between 25 and 35. Although numbers are currently modest, we are very fortunate to have a core of worshippers who are committed not just to maintaining the church but to seeing growth.

The service style is informal with a combination of hymns and worship songs, anchored in Anglican liturgy. We have among our congregation an Ordained Local Minister and a Licensed Lay Minister in training. Several other mature Christians in our congregation preach and lead services.

The fourth Sunday of the month sees our All-Age Service, led by our dynamic youth team. These action-packed services are enjoyed hugely by both adults and children.



The Ark

As with Ewhurst church, there is an associated building, The Ark, which contains four separate teaching spaces, a small kitchen and a disabled and additional WC. There are some 20 car parking spaces externally. The Ark is available for church use and community hire. Given its quiet location, The Ark is also perfect for retreats and away/vision days and is offered to church communities within and outside the Diocese.



Holy Trinity, Forest Green

This is the daughter Church of St John the Baptist Okewood. A most attractive and intimate building of the Victorian period, Holy Trinity hosts evensong once a month and it also holds a monthly joint parish worship service. The church was built as a memorial chapel by the parents of a young man who was



tragically killed in an accident. The interior exudes light and warmth and features a recently refurbished organ. The church is served by a combination of visiting clergy, the parish OLM and LLMs and occasional preachers. The local community have been very supportive of the church, which has become a much-loved feature in Forest Green. The church is further aided by The Friends of Holy Trinity, Forest Green (charity number 1157902)

Community Links

We have strong links with our Church School and Rainbows End Pre-School and other village education establishments. There is a long-standing partnership with the Baptist Church, with whom we hold a weekly joint coffee morning at the Glebe Centre which is open to all. There is also a very close relationship with The Old Rectory Nursing Home adjacent to the church. Residents regularly attend morning services when able to do so.

Communications

Information about church activities is publicised via the weekly pew sheet, the website, and Facebook. The pew sheet is published on the website and Facebook and e-mailed to 150 addresses. The quarterly magazine is delivered free to every house in the parish and can be read on the website. Posters for special events are displayed around the parish.

Parish Website

Please see our new website that contains much more information, details of activities, the parish magazine, the individual church profiles and live services.

www.eofgparish.org.uk

We also have a Facebook page that shows live service recordings.



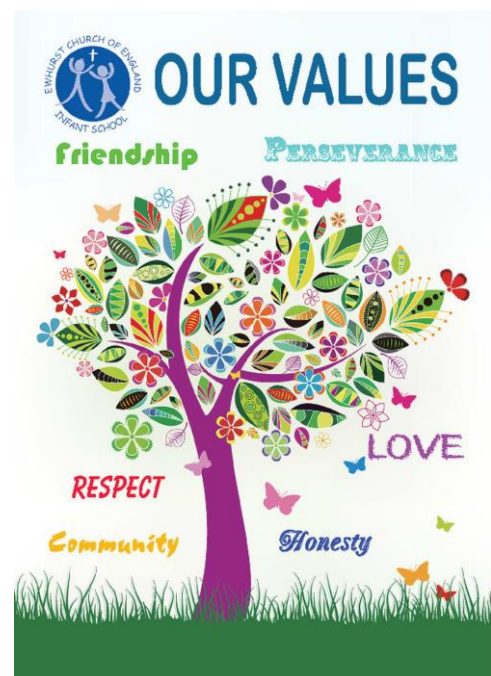
Ewhurst CE Infant School

Our parish is blessed in having Ewhurst Church of England Infant School, a very successful voluntary aided school rated “Outstanding” by Ofsted. The last SIAMS judgement was also “Outstanding”. Located opposite the church, it is a single-form entry school with capacity for 90 pupils.

The school's Christian ethos is strengthened by the school values:

- love
- friendship
- honesty
- perseverance
- respect
- community

These are integrated into school life and impact everything the children do.



Assemblies are regularly taken in the school by a member of the Ministry Team of St Peter and St Paul's church. All school End of Term assemblies are held in the Church and led by the Ministry Team. These assemblies are well-attended by parents.

A key role of the incumbent will be to maintain and develop the links with the school. The person appointed will be a Foundation, Ex-Officio Governor. They will be part of the Governing Body which has the following key roles:

- to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- to hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- to oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

Seven of the eleven governors are Foundation governors. Foundation governors have the responsibility to secure the character of the school as a Church of England voluntary school, that it is preserved and developed in accordance with the school's trust deed and its ethos statement.



For further information, visit the school website: <http://www.ewhurst.surrey.sch.uk>

Fundraising

Every year the Friends of St. Peter & St. Paul charity hold fundraising events for the necessary work on the church which is currently in need of restoration to the south transept roof and stonework. The events involve the whole village and the wider area. The following three events are the largest:

The Big Family Fun Day Out

Held every two years at the Sayers Croft Rural Centre, Ewhurst. The event features vintage bikes display, children's activities, entertainment and trading stalls. Additionally this year hosted a Roman reenactment and display.

Easter Market

An annual event, offering a chance to sample and shop from local producers and craft stalls. Held at The Parrot Inn, Forest Green.



The Rectory Fete

Held annually. A local village event with the focus on fun rather than fundraising!

Youth work

All our Churches are committed to providing worship opportunities for families, and Christian teaching for children and young people.

The Rectory

Accommodation for the new incumbent is Ewhurst Rectory, situated adjoining the St Peter & St Paul's Church in the centre of the village.



The Rectory was built in the late 1950s and has been modernised over the years. Double glazing is provided throughout and there is full gas-fired central heating.

On the ground floor there is a central entrance hall, good-sized living room, dining room, fully-fitted kitchen with gas cooker and hob, utility room with its own sink and internal access to an attached garage. An outer hall, giving access to a study and WC enables this area to be separated from the living accommodation.

On the first floor, a large landing giving access to four double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, a separate WC and airing cupboard. Fitted cupboards are provided in three of the bedrooms and two bedrooms have a wash hand basin.

In front of the house is a tarmac area for parking, with a side area reserved for church disabled parking. The large garden is mainly grassed, with a woodland area and includes a long zip-wire for the thrill seekers among you! There is a small, separate secluded garden to the rear of the property.

The Area

All communities in the Parish enjoy wonderful countryside with our proximity to the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The miles of footpaths and bridleways are perfect for outdoor pursuits especially

cycling, walking and horse-riding. The area has many attractive villages and excellent amenities available – whether for shopping, dining or culture. Ewhurst is a large village with good access to the market village of Cranleigh and the University town of Guildford, whilst to the east and south of the Parish, the noted market towns of Dorking and Horsham are readily accessible. There is good rail access to London and an excellent range of educational facilities from nursery and pre-school through to secondary education, both state and private.



Parish Organisation

The three churches are in one Parish. The Rector is integral in developing an exciting future for all the communities represented in the Parish. All Churches are well served by experienced Churchwardens. The churchwardens from the three churches have frequent meetings and communication is excellent between them. Members of the PCC are working together and look forward to working with the Rector.

The rector is supported by a local priest, an Ordained Lay Minister, a Licensed Lay minister and a strong and experienced lay team.

Part-time administrative support for the Parish on three mornings a week is based in the Ewhurst Parish office which is located in the Wilson Room office, very close to the Church and Rectory.

Parish Data

St Peter and St Paul

Number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals including Cremations:

Year	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
2021	3	0	8
2022	5	3	9
2023	0	4	2

Average Sunday attendance Adults 15 - 25

Okewood and Forest Green

Number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

Year	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
2021	0	3	3
2022	3	6	2
2023	1	2	1

Average weekly attendance

St John the Baptist Adults 25-35 **Holy Trinity** Adults 7-15

The three Friends groups contribute generously to maintaining the buildings. The wider population base and the collaboration between the churches is a real opportunity to develop this. Expenses are reimbursed in accordance with Guildford Diocese guidelines.

The village communities have always responded well to specific fundraising to maintain church buildings and assets. Additionally, St Peter and St Paul are applying for National Heritage Lottery funding contributing to the cost of restoration of the south transept roof repairs.

Diocesan Vision

The new Parish will subscribe to the excellent vision of the Guildford Diocese entitled *Transforming Church, Transforming Lives*. This sets out the following twelve transformation goals:

- making disciples
- increasing believers
- growing youth and children's ministry
- developing lay leaders
- recruiting more clergy
- cultivating community partnerships
- reaching beyond borders
- nurturing education
- encouraging generous giving
- sharing expertise
- communicating effectively
- improving church buildings

Deanery Vision

Cranleigh is the largest geographical deanery in the diocese and possibly the most rural. All the parishes are villages, although Cranleigh, reputedly the largest village in the country, has a population of over 10,000. The parishes all lie within the London commuter belt which shapes their character. There is a good deal of wealth within the area, but in each village greater social diversity can be found than might initially seem apparent. There are thirteen parishes, fourteen churches and a population of about 30,000. Each parish operates well within its own community and there is general goodwill towards the church throughout the area. There are a number of church schools, and parish involvement in them is positive.

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year and looks at ways in which the Diocesan Vision, *Transforming Life, Transforming Church*, can be developed at deanery level. The Chapter meets six times a year and is well attended with good working relationships amongst all the clergy.

Statement of Needs and Personal Qualities

The person we are seeking

The House for Duty Rector (Sunday two services plus two days a week) we are seeking to lead and facilitate our future will:

- Be a visionary leader able to guide us in worship and passionate about their faith.
- Have a heart for outreach and will be visible in our community and participate fully in rural life.
- Be inspiring, energetic, enthusiastic, motivational, open and approachable, and a good communicator who can relate to all, and have a warm sense of humour.
- Be an enthusiastic supporter of our school and be committed to growing disciples of all ages and to the development of lay ministry and pastoral care.
- Have experience of bringing parish growth, ideally in a rural parish.

Additional responsibilities

The Rector will be:

- a Foundation ex-officio Governor of Ewhurst Church of England Infant School
- an ex-officio Trustee of the Friends of Okewood and Okewood Hill Village Hall
- ex-officio Trustee of the Friends of Holy Trinity Church Charity
- ex-officio trustee of the Friends of Ewhurst Church Charity

The position will be under common tenure, based upon working Sundays with two services, plus two other days per week, and officiating at Weddings and Funerals.

Parish Development Plan FEBRUARY 2024

#	Wider Aim	Diocesan Goal	Specific Action Points	Owner	Review Date
1	To be welcoming and inclusive to everybody as we seek to grown in the knowledge and love of Christ		<p>Wednesday coffee morning cafes in Ewhurst & Ockley</p> <p>Good welcome in the church buildings & Wilson room</p> <p>Buildings open each day and welcoming as much as possible</p> <p>Maintain and grow small groups</p> <p>Provide variety of worship suitable for all family</p> <p>Facebook & Website live broadcast of services</p> <p>Men's breakfast meetings at Okewood village hall</p> <p>Monthly Listening Lounge in Wilson room</p> <p>Gathering for prayer Sundays at 9:30am in Okewood</p> <p>Ewhurst church welcome packs for new residents</p>	PCC & Leaders	Every PCC Meeting
2	Reduce the average age of our congregations	Grow diverse	<p>Flourishing Forest Church first Sunday in the month</p> <p>Engagement with school – 1 school governor from the PCC every year, Each Friday school assemblies, reading with children, end of term services, after school club,</p> <p>Baptisms</p> <p>Confirmation classes - at least one per year</p> <p>Nurseries - at least a monthly visit, end of term visits</p> <p>Toddler groups - Friday mornings in Wilson Room</p> <p>Grow the youth choir for Ewhurst & the whole Parish</p> <p>Monthly All-Age services in Ewhurst & Okewood Hill</p>	<p>Amber Wood / Ben Scadden</p> <p>Liz Tingley</p> <p>Rosemary Mason</p> <p>Rosemary Mason</p> <p>Rosie</p> <p>Pam Childs</p> <p>Val Henry</p>	Every PCC

3	Gain a Bronze Eco Church award	Grow Community	<p>Work with the A Rocha system to gain this award</p> <p>Reduce our energy bills</p> <p>Litter picking</p> <p>Tidying church yards and churches</p> <p>Making sure we are buying sustainable goods</p>	<p>Joanna to lead</p> <p>Michelle Mathews LEAF team</p> <p>Jon Rapley</p> <p>Michelle Mathews</p>	Every PCC
4	Cost of all parish mission and ministry funded by regular giving.	Generosity	<p>Finance / Standing team monthly meetings</p> <p>Preaching on generosity and giving</p> <p>Clear information about costs of running the churches</p> <p>Develop the system of contacting donors</p> <p>Gift aid donor envelopes at each service</p> <p>More methods of giving that are easy with the bacs system</p> <p>Electronic pay machines at each service</p> <p>Regular prayer about giving</p> <p>Churchwardens team to lead by example</p>	Standing Committee	PCC Standing Committee