

The Parish Profile for:

Ewhurst



Okewood



& Forest Green



July 2024

Letter from the Bishop of Guildford



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!

Every Blessing

Bishop Andrew

Letter from the Area Dean

Ewhurst, with Okewood 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 Natural Beauty.

The Parish of Ewhurst, Okewood and Forest Green was formed in 2018, when Okewood 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 how to work together as a unit. However, there is a strong commitment to making the unit work, and there is 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. 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)

Letter from the Churchwardens

Welcome to our three church benefice, in the beautiful setting of the Surrey Hills. We are delighted that you are considering coming to our rural parish. Our churches play a key role within our local community, and you will be assured of a warm welcome from our friendly congregation and parishioners.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to visit us or have an informal conversation about the role. We can be contacted via the church office

EOFGParish@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

With our best wishes,

Tony Gauvain, Liz Tingley & Tom Murphy

EOFG Churchwardens

The Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood and Forest Green

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the vacancy for the House For Duty Rector 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.



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	
OKEWOOD	10.30am Holy Communion 3pm Forestchurch	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; A quiet service to end the day. Book of Common Prayer Evensong with choir.

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

Morning Worship: At Ewhurst: a traditional, non-communion 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.

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. Collections go to the Children's Society.

Nine Lessons and Carols. A highlight of the Christmas season with readings by the village community.

Carols round the crib. A special Christmas Eve service. Children perform the nativity story.

Mothering Sunday. We give the women of the village community hand-tied posies as we celebrate Mothering Sunday.

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

All Souls. A quiet service of remembrance .

Good Friday Walk of Witness. The cross is carried around the Village as the story of the Passion is told.

Easter Sunrise on Pitch Hill. Joint service with the Baptist Church. Celebration and worship as the Easter-Day dawn breaks.

Summer Songs of Praise. In the grounds of the Old Rectory Nursing Home gardens.

Harvest Festival. An interactive all age service with the village school.

Remembrance Sunday. The village community meet at the War Memorial to remember the fallen and we move to the church for the service afterwards.



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 oldest surviving walls of the Norman nave date 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 other celebrations. 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 books and bags of toys.

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 with new youngsters joining in. Hand bell sessions are also a highlight of the advent services.

The Wilson Room

A welcoming and a popular social area especially for refreshments 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

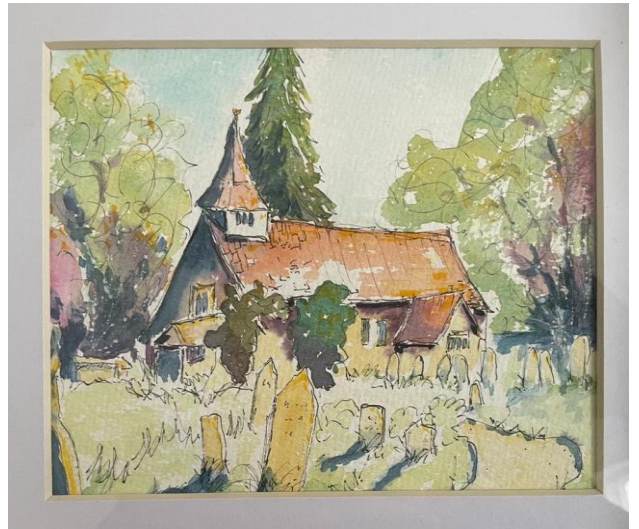
activities and groups, including:

- informal services
- PCC meetings
- baby and toddler group
- social and fundraising events



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 current congregation for our regular 10:30am Sunday service includes 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 Lay 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 and a small kitchen. There are some 20 car parking spaces externally. 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).

Forest Church

Services are held monthly in conjunction with Ewhurst Baptist Church. This takes place in the grounds of Okewood Church and occasionally at Ewhurst. Sessions are particularly designed for school-aged children. A different topic is considered each month based on a bible reading. Prayers are shared, games and craft activities are enjoyed and the session ends with refreshments.



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 will be supported by two local priests and an LLM.

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.

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 also shows live service recordings.

Ewhurst CofE Infant School

Our parish is blessed to have Ewhurst Church of England Infant School, a very successful voluntary aided school. Located opposite the church, it is a single-form entry school with capacity for 90 pupils.

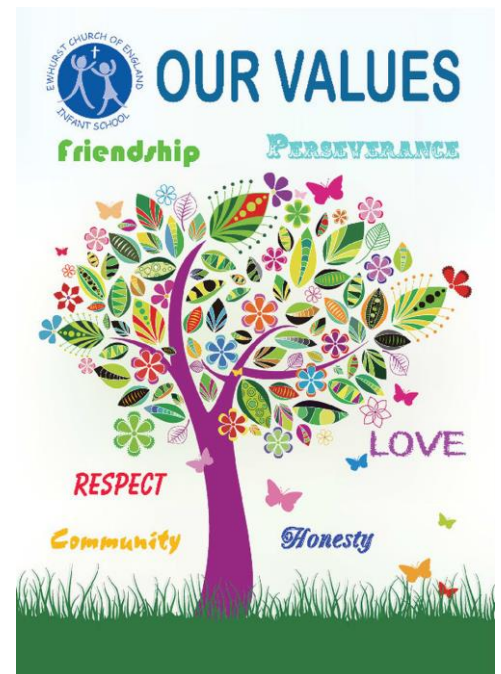


"There is a close link with the parish church through the regular opportunities to worship there. Pupils regard the church as a natural extension of the school." (SIAMS inspection report, 2015)

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.

"The relationship with the parish church is the foundation for all the fun, laughter and love that has been so effective in my child's development."

We would like the incumbent to maintain and develop our links with the school. The person appointed will be a Foundation, Ex-Officio Governor.



Fundraising

Every year we hold fundraising events which 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. During the day: with vintage bikes display, children's activities, entertainment and trading stalls. Plus this year a Roman re-enactment and display.

Easter Market

Yearly. A chance to sample and shop from local producers and craft stalls. Held at The Parrot Inn, Forest Green.

The Parish Fete

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



Youth work



Thanks to FSPSP

Our Churches are committed to providing worship opportunities for families, and Christian teaching for children and young people. Our youth ministry has not yet fully regained momentum after the pandemic, although all-age services have recommenced at Okewood, and our Youth Team is exploring other initiatives.

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. Double glazing is provided throughout and there is full gas-fired central heating. It provides, 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. On the ground floor there is a central entrance hall, good-sized living room, dining room, fully fitted kitchen, utility room with its own sink and internal access to an attached garage. An outer hall, gives access to a study and WC. 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.

The Area



Geographically, 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. 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 Data

St Peter and St Paul

Number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals including Cremations:

Year	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
2021	3	0	3
2022	5	3	6
2023	0	4	9

Average Sunday attendance Adults 15 - 30

Okewood and Forest Green

Number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

Year	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
2021	0	3	5
2022	3	6	8
2023	1	2	3

Average weekly attendance

St John the Baptist Adults 20-30 **Holy Trinity** Adults 7-13

Maintaining three churches is challenging in the current climate. Planned giving meets all general expenditure. Our plan, when the new House for Duty priest arrives, is to attract more planned giving to develop further our ministries.

Expenses are reimbursed in accordance with Guildford Diocese guidelines.

Each of our churches is supported by a charity which raises funds for the maintenance of church buildings. Additionally, St Peter and St Paul is applying for National Heritage Lottery funding to contribute to the cost of restoration of the South Transept roof repairs.

The Deanery Context

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, which is served by a good number of clergy and lay people. 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 good.

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

The Local Context

Our churches are supported by Friends charities, of which the rector will be an ex-officio member. These are:

- The Friends of St Peter and St Paul Church, Ewhurst
- The Friends of St John the Baptist Church, Okewood
- The Friends of Holy Trinity Church, Forest Green

The Ewhurst Charity and Ellen's Green Mission Hall Trust manage Trust Funds which donate annually to organisations in the parish, especially those with a social or educational focus. The rector has traditionally been an ex-officio trustee of these bodies.

Statement of Needs and Personal Qualities

The person we are seeking

The House for Duty Rector we are seeking to lead and facilitate our future will be:

- A visionary leader who is passionate about their faith
- Inspiring, energetic, enthusiastic, open and approachable.
- A good communicator with a warm sense of humour.
- Willing to embrace a wide variety of worship styles.
- An enthusiastic supporter of school and youth work.

The Key Roles will be:

- To lead pastoral and ministry teams.
- To strengthen and develop our community presence.
- To develop our youth work and enhance links with our church school.
- To grow disciples of all ages and to encourage the further development of our lay ministry

The position will be under common tenure, based upon working Sundays, plus two other days per week.