

Parish Profile: Holy Trinity Church, Crockham Hill

Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6RP



www.crockhamhillchurch.org



Introduction

Welcome to Holy Trinity Church, Crockham Hill.

Crockham Hill has a reputation for being a very friendly and hospitable village where everyone gets a warm welcome. The church is part of a great community – caring and social; it enjoys strong financial support from the village and provides well-organised pastoral visiting for new residents, the sick and the frail. There is good outreach and an enthusiastic congregation prepared to adapt. There has historically been a close and beneficial association with Edenbridge church. We have high musical standards, a very competent adult choir for festivals and special services and a first class organist, who also runs a thriving secular children's choir.

In this Parish Profile we detail first our vision, the spiritual needs of our parish, and the sort of person who may answer these needs. We outline what we think the position will entail, how our strengths might be used and the spiritual opportunities in the village might be met.

We describe the vicarage, our community and the local schools, towns, villages and transport network.

The spiritual development of the children and their parents in our local school is an important part of this job, and working closely with the head teacher a crucial element of this role.

We outline our parish organisation, the church and its music, our patterns of worship and the outreach both within the parish and externally. We also explain how the work of the parish is spread among lay helpers, and we outline our finances, and the key personnel who support the parish.

Our Vision

- We wish to use the opportunity of a change in spiritual leadership to reinvigorate the work of Holy Trinity Church and to raise its profile in our village as the spiritual glue to support and enrich the diversity of life within our local community.
- We seek to attract the interest and support of young families, but also to maintain the continued support of our traditional, older membership.
- We want to maintain and extend a vibrant Anglican tradition in the village; see the church community promoted as a positive, creative, and active part of the life of the village, serving the needs of all, regardless of religious affiliation. We want to find ways of engaging with those that have doubts about their faith or have dropped away from Christianity.
- We want to play an active role in the thriving church primary school and strengthen its Anglican ethos and outlook, working towards building close and trusting relationships with parents, pupils and their teachers, and with those families with children at other schools.



Our Prospective New Vicar

We want to attract someone who will meet the needs of both the local community and the local school; who will be sympathetic to young families, but with the energy to connect with parishioners of all ages; who will attract a wider and younger element to our regular congregation but also retain our more elderly members.

We hope we will be able to appoint someone who:

- will attract those who currently come only to the Christingle, Easter Day, or Mothering Sunday services to come more often,
- can help us explore alternative and more flexible ways of worship.

We are in great need of someone who can guide and help us along this path. We can offer the appointee an enthusiastic congregation with a desire to learn and a willingness to utilise their skills to help.

The Appointment

The Bishop of Rochester is seeking to appoint a new incumbent for Holy Trinity in a part-time post (four days per week including Sunday duties), combining a house-for-duty basis with an additional stipend of approximately £7,000 per annum. The post will be held on Common Tenure.

Within the usual duties of an incumbent parish priest, albeit in a part-time capacity, priority would be given to:

- Offering spiritual leadership, with particular attention to young families and their children, including attendance and encouragement of the First Tuesday Group, and working with the PCC and parishioners to develop suitable new family services.

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- Taking the Crockham Hill School assembly/act of collective worship once a week, and hosting the school services about six times a year in the church in place of a school assembly. The Vicar may also choose to serve as one of three Foundation Governors on the Crockham Hill School governing body.
 - Chairing the PCC (currently about five PCC meetings per annum).
 - Taking baptism, wedding and funeral services, and preliminary pastoral meetings for them.
 - Taking part in the services of the Edenbridge Churches in Covenant (approx 5 per annum).
 - Pastoral visiting of the sick, frail and bereaved.
 - Occasional attendance at the parish and external outreach (ie mission and charity support) group meetings.



The incumbent is encouraged to take the opportunity for personal spiritual development and ministerial development by attending appropriate courses, retreats and conferences.

Because this appointment is to a post which is not full-time, we will do our best to ensure that the boundaries between time on duty and time off duty are appropriately respected. We shall provide as much active lay support as possible.

The Vicarage



Crockham Hill has its own vicarage of modest size (reasonably large living/ dining room, three bedrooms, study, kitchen and utility room, upstairs bathroom/WC, downstairs WC). Built in the early 1970s as a small family home and acquired by the Diocese in 1980, the vicarage is close to the village centre, Church and school. There is a small garden and a single garage.

The Diocese will be responsible for external repairs and decoration and for insurance of the building; the PCC will be responsible for paying Council Tax and water rates, and for redecoration of the interior prior to it being occupied.

Crockham Hill Church Of England Primary School

Our small primary school is very popular and well rated by Ofsted. It is a voluntary controlled Church school with a strong Christian ethos, although many of the families it serves choose it for reasons other than its church status. It has a maximum roll of 140 pupils and is nearly always full with waiting lists for many age groups. Pupils come from the village and surrounding areas of both Kent and into Surrey, serving roughly a three mile radius.

The school and the church are next to each other in the heart of the village and the school is very keen to maintain and strengthen its links through the clergy role.

We would like the vicar to take Assembly once a week and host (already well-attended) school services at least six times a year in the church, in place of a school assembly. The incumbent can, if he or she wishes, be a member of the governing body as an ex officio Foundation Governor.

It is strongly hoped that the new appointee will be able to spend time in support of the school and be the face of the Church for its pupils, families, staff and governors.

The school is very open to new ideas and new initiatives in strengthening its Christian ethos and outlook with a new vicar.



Information about the school is available at www.crockhamhill.kent.sch.uk.

Felicity's Nursery School



Felicity's Nursery School is a successful, independent, private nursery that has been part of the community of Crockham Hill for 60 years. It operates out of the main village hall and is open five mornings and two afternoons a week, during term time.

Felicity's would welcome any visits from a new vicar. This would help familiarise the children with the local church, where they hold an annual church service during the summer term and sow the seed of "community" with the families that come to the nursery.

It has a maximum of 30 children per session from 2-5 years for a minimum of two sessions per week. Their intake comes from the village and surrounding area with the children moving on to a mixture of private and state schools – the majority to Crockham Hill Primary School.

Felicity's is keen to establish and maintain links to the school to make transition as smooth as possible for the children and families involved. As the stepping stone between home and school, its aim is to provide a safe and secure environment where children can develop and learn to their full potential whilst nurturing their individuality and growing independence.

The Parish

Social life

The parish has a thriving social life and a warm welcome will be extended to our new priest.

The Royal Oak and the Village Hall are the centres of the social life of the village.

The annual church fete is a “whole village” affair and raises a quarter of the church’s income.

The Shrove Tuesday Hot Pot Supper, typically attended by some 130 people, is one of the most popular village events with highly acclaimed entertainment each year.

Coffee and biscuits are served after most 10 and 11.15am Sunday services; and there is a harvest lunch (60 people).

CHIPS is our amateur dramatic society, which puts on occasional plays as well as a pantomime every two years.

Musically, we have the Crockham Hill Youth Choir, the Chart Singers for adults, and CHUMS – the Crockham Hill Ukulele Music



Society – this meets in the pub every other Sunday evening.

We have a thriving Women's Institute, which besides its regular meetings and outings, runs a monthly market in the Village Hall.

The Brownies meet weekly in the Village Hall.



The Bonfire Society organises an annual torchlight procession with bonfire and fireworks, and has been running for over 50 years.

There is a popular tennis club which plays on two courts in the Memorial Playing Fields. Football and cricket are played on the playing fields.

Crockham Hill – location and environs



The village lies in lovely countryside on the Greensand Ridge with magnificent views over the Weald.

The 2011 Spotlight (for full details visit www.rochester.anglican.org and see "Spotlight on your parishes" within "News in Brief") shows that the Crockham

Hill population is about 600 – 24% are 65 and over, 58% are between 16 and 65, 13% are between 5 and 15, and 5% are under 5 years old.

Unemployment is comparatively low. A high proportion of those in work are connected with the financial and property sectors and related professions (for example, lawyers, accountants, surveyors, etc.)

The housing stock is generally of good quality. House prices vary widely, but are generally well above the national average. There has never been much social housing in the village: most of what there was disappeared as a result of “right to buy,” and only about nine houses/flats now remain.

There are no longer any shops in the village. The one public house - The Royal Oak - is owned by a small consortium of locals and is well supported by residents and regularly frequented by groups of ramblers.

Secondary schooling, in both public and private sectors, is to be found in Oxted, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, and Tunbridge Wells (The Bennett Memorial Diocesan School is rated “Outstanding” by Ofsted.)

The B2026 runs through the village and most of the houses lie either along this, together with the Royal



Oak pub, or on the various rural lanes and roads that branch off the main road. The Village Hall (1997), Primary School (1867 with several additions up to 2009), and Holy Trinity Church (1842) all lie along the 300m cul-de-sac of Church Lane.

A notable National Trust property close to Crockham Hill is Chartwell, the home of Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965).

Crockham Hill is some 25 miles south of London (about three miles beyond the M25 - Junctions 5 and 6 are about ten minutes away), between Edenbridge (4 miles), Oxted (4 miles), and Westerham (3 miles). Other local population centres are also within easy reach, for example Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and East Grinstead to the south, Sevenoaks to the east, Bromley and Orpington to the north, and Redhill and Reigate to the west. Gatwick airport is just under 30 minutes away by car.

There are excellent train connections to London - three trains an hour from Oxted to Victoria or London Bridge (30-40 minutes), and four fast trains an hour from Sevenoaks (seven miles away) to London Bridge/Waterloo East/ Charing Cross/Cannon Street (25-35 minutes). There is also an east-west train service from Tonbridge through Edenbridge to Redhill, with connections to Gatwick airport, London, Guildford and Reading. In addition a (rather limited) bus service runs every two hours between Copthorne and Oxted.



Existing And Future Parish Organisation

Sometime before 1980-81 the then Bishop of Rochester suspended the living of Holy Trinity, and Holy Trinity Crockham Hill and Ss Peter and Paul Edenbridge shared clergy. Associate Vicars served approximately two thirds of their time at Crockham Hill and one third at Edenbridge. The formal links between the two parishes will come to an end when a new incumbent starts his or her work here. However it is the clear wish of both parishes that the 30-year close existing relationship should continue, albeit on an informal basis. It is strongly hoped that the appointee will work with the Parish in supporting any appropriate joint initiatives.

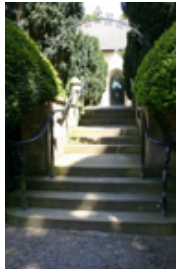
Church Building

Holy Trinity can seat a congregation of up to 150. It was built in 1842 in the Early English style by the Warde family of Westerham. The church and churchyard are well maintained. The Church comprises nave and chancel with a tower at the west end, a vestry towards the back of the church on the north side, and a south porch with additional glass doors. There is a disabled WC off the ground floor of the tower.



There is a high-quality electronic organ (Copeman-Hart) which drives 24 speakers (16 in the tower and 8 in the chancel) and accordingly has excellent acoustic properties. The tower has easy and safe access following the recent installation of a steel spiral staircase; in addition to the organ loudspeakers, it houses a single bell and a rather fine and recently restored and electrified clock.

Our most noteworthy former resident was Octavia Hill (1838-1912) who is buried in the churchyard and to whom is dedicated a stone effigy next to the altar. She was a leading social reformer in the field of housing for the poor, but



is better known as a co-founder of the National Trust.

There is a window towards the rear of the church celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Trust and the church attracts numerous visitors each year.

Worship

Pattern of Services

The parish website shows the current timings of services, which is influenced by the availability of the present clergy. The congregation would probably prefer a pattern consisting of a Sunday 8am said Eucharist with a Family Eucharist - or other family service – at 10am.

Until recently, a monthly midweek Eucharist was also held, and interest has been expressed by some people in having occasional sung Matins and Evensong (possibly once or twice a year).

Other services (average attendance in brackets)

- During Holy Week there is an 8.00pm Maundy Thursday service (25), a family Good Friday drama/service (60), 8.00am Easter Sunday Holy Communion (25), 11.15am Festal Eucharist (100).
- During the Christmas season there is a Carol service (120), a Christingle service (240), Midnight Eucharist (50), 8.00am Communion (25), 11.00am Family service (120).
- There are major services for Mothering Sunday (90) and Remembrance Sunday (90).
- In an average year there are usually between 2-4 baptisms, 2 weddings, and 4 funerals (2 at the crematorium).

Current Parish policies/practice

Our policy has been that everyone in Crockham Hill, and those who have left the village, can be baptised; including those who are not regular church members.

With regard to re-marriage, the Bishop's advice is sought if either party has been divorced, or the spouse is still living

The congregation and activities

The 2011 census showed that 69% (400) of the parish population were Christian.

As in many Anglican churches, the average age of the congregation at Holy Trinity is quite high. Many of the attendees are over 60, but there are



a few young families and we want to attract many more. There is a regular core congregation of approximately 30 - 35 individuals.

There are 117 members on the electoral roll.

The congregation has been very stable over the past decade or so. There has been a certain amount of natural attrition, largely attributable to death or individuals moving out of the village. However some new residents, including a few young people, have joined the church during the last fifteen years. There is a team of 21 sidesmen/women, plus others who act as readers, lay intercessors, flower arrangers, church cleaners etc.

Worshipping tradition

Our regular services are mostly Eucharistic, with some non-Eucharistic family services. We use Common Worship, with BCP once a month at the 8am services (and occasional Matins). We have tended towards being “central” in our churchmanship. There is no strong desire from the congregation to change from this.

Church music

The Musical Director plays the organ on most Sundays (and all festivals) in the church year. He is responsible for directing the choir, and currently chooses the hymns. We have traditionally used the Dom Gregory Murray “Peoples’ Mass” as our Communion setting, but will be experimenting with other settings in the near future.



There is no choir at regular Sunday services, but an adult choir comes together to sing for festivals and special services. The choir numbers between 15 and 20+ and is made up almost entirely of local singers, with some solo-quality voices in all parts. The majority of the choir are members of the regular congregation. The aim is to be inclusive and encourage people of all abilities

to be part of the choir. To this end, The Musical Director has set up a choir website which contains music and sound files to help the less experienced sight-readers to learn their music. He believes that music can and should form a key part in enhancing the quality of worship.

Future aims are to continue to develop the choir and to draw in new members and to develop, where possible and appropriate, the participation of children in aspects of some services. We have also recently discussed the involvement of the congregation in occasional, informal practices before services to help with learning new hymns and other music, and to broaden generally the range of music used within our worship.

Mission Within The Parish

The Newsletter, Fete and Hot Pot supper (referred to elsewhere) are looked upon as significant forms of mission to the local community. Others are as follows:

Women's Christian Fellowship

Women's Christian Fellowship was founded almost 30 years ago as an ecumenical group, meeting to discuss and deepen Christian faith, for fellowship and sharing problems. It seeks to promote Christian family life within the community. At the moment, we meet monthly on the second Wednesday at members' homes and have a range of speakers, discussions and Bible studies. We help with the distribution of Harvest gifts and with the making of Christingles. We co-ordinate the parish support for Women's World Day of Prayer.

Discussion Group

There has been a monthly discussion group led by the laity for the past 20 years or so. This used to meet on a Sunday morning before church, largely for bible study. It now meets on a Tuesday evening and covers a wide range of issues relating to faith that are of common interest.

The Prayer Group

The Prayer Group is a small group of faithful worshippers who meet on a monthly basis to pray for the needs of the World, Diocese, Deanery and the Parish.

Visitors to new people and the sick

We have a group of people who are responsible for different areas of the village to greet new residents and visit anyone who is sick. This information is added to the parish list and reported to the clergy for information.

First Tuesday Group

This is for mums and dads, with or without children, to come for coffee, a chat and mutual support. It meets in the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month.

Sunday Fun

On the first Sunday of every month we hold a Sunday Fun session in the school hall, adjacent to the church. We also meet on the third Sunday of every month at the back of the church. The session is open to all children and combines craft, games, song and prayer on a particular theme eg: Noah, Creation, and Our Mothers. The themes are chosen to complement the time of year or the subject of the church service. We often take the children up to church for the blessing at communion and to share the work we have been doing.

Sunday Fun participants range in age from 18 months to 14 years old. We have recently introduced a Messy Church afternoon to the parish. Sunday Fun is led by mothers and grandmothers from the church community and everyone is welcome.

External Mission And Charity Support

Holy Trinity's external mission takes on a number of forms. Support for projects in the developing world is provided through (amongst other things) participation in Christian Aid Week over many years through a house to house collection carried out by members of our congregation. The Leprosy Mission has been supported by the church for a number of decades, and we continue to have a retiring collection for its work on World Leprosy Day, as well as collecting used stamps in the church, and encouraging people to take boxes for loose change. We also have a representative on the Edenbridge Fairtrade Group (Edenbridge was the first Fairtrade town in Kent) and Holy Trinity is a Fairtrade organisation.

Annual Church Fete



A portion of the fete proceeds is donated to local and national/international charities. Holy Trinity also specifically supports a number of local causes in Edenbridge and South-East London.

Bridges

In 1995 an ecumenical Christian Trust (Bridges) opened a community pop-in centre in Edenbridge with the aims of providing a friendly and supportive meeting place with affordable refreshments for all sections of the community, and devising projects to bridge gaps in the local provision of statutory and voluntary services. Holy Trinity currently provides both its Chairman and Treasurer.

Eden Christian Trust

The Eden Christian Trust is an ecumenical youth work charity working with young people aged 10-18 years old. It is supported by the four Edenbridge/Crockham Hill churches (two Anglican, one Baptist, and one URC). Activities are carried out by a full-time Youth Worker and 23 volunteers. Holy Trinity contributes financially, and for many years the main fund-raiser for the charity has been one of our church members.

All Saints New Cross

We have close links with All Saint's Church, New Cross, and our relationship goes back many years. We provide clothing and bedding, also some financial assistance in connection with an annual holiday for children of that parish.

Graham House, Bondway, Thames Reach

This is the main recipient from our Christmas appeal, which is also supported by The Royal Oak pub. There is a need for clothing and for some food.

Edenbridge Churches in Covenant

The Edenbridge Churches in Covenant (ECC) comprises Holy Trinity, Crockham Hill, St Peter & St Paul in Edenbridge, the Catholic and Baptist churches, and the URC church at Marsh Green. The ECC was formed so that all denominations in the Edenbridge area could meet and liaise, holding some joint services, usually extra to their own morning service.

Lent studies or lectures are also arranged, and group carol singing in the town at Christmas. It is also a chance to invite other churches to anything special a particular church is organising. The ECC also supports the Eden Christian Trust.

Administration

The PCC believes that the incumbent should be free of as many of the organisational and administrative chores as possible. We try where possible to spread the work widely. Members of the congregation organise fabric maintenance, churchyard maintenance, flower arranging, readings, intercessions, sidesmen, sacristan, chalice assistants, cleaning, coffee rotas and organisation of parish and external mission.

The PCC meets five times a year and sends representatives to attend the deanery and diocesan synods. In addition there is a PCC standing committee.

Key personnel

- Rev'd Dr Stephen Mitchell (Vicar of Ss Peter and Paul, Edenbridge and currently Priest-in-Charge at Crockham Hill) and Rev'd David Flagg, who is retired, are alternately taking the Sunday services during the vacancy period.
- There are no lay Readers in the parish, but there are two in Edenbridge who are licensed to both Crockham Hill and Edenbridge.
- There has been no lay pastoral assistant since the recent retirement of Mrs Trish Proctor. However she is available to give advice as required.
- The current Church Wardens are Ian Maple and Christopher May.
- The musical director and organist is Graham Dinnage, GTCL, LTCL, LGSM, a resident in the village. He is an accomplished professional singer and organist, and works part-time at the Guildhall School of Music.
- The current PCC Secretary is Mrs Mandy Maple.
- The current Treasurer is Tom Brown.
- During the next year one of the church wardens and the Treasurer will retire. Successors will be in place by the AGM in April.

The Deanery of Tonbridge

The Parish lies in the Deanery of Tonbridge which has had a good recent history of working together - it is hoped that the new Vicar will similarly be actively engaged and support parishioners in their own involvement.



The activities and aspirations can be summarised as follows:

- Increasing numbers of the clergy enjoy and benefit from a Deanery-wide Retreat at Worth Abbey for 48 hours. This takes place in mid-November before the busy Christmas period.
- The Deanery has put on joint training courses and will be seeking to do some again in the future. There was particularly good attendance at the Mission-Shaped Growth course.
- Support is given to larger outreach type events centred on nearby larger towns - for example The Passion Play at Tonbridge and a presentation from the Bible Society at St Stephen's, Tonbridge.
- The Deanery gathers every year at Ascension-tide to express its corporate life together.
- It has a group of Deanery prayers with representatives from each Parish supporting this faithful group who meet regularly.
- There has been an expectation - and continues to be so - that the Pastoral Assistants meet together for mutual support and encouragement and it is hoped to extend this to other commissioned or authorised ministers.

The clergy fraternity is supportive and the Synod has a range of open meetings for the encouragement of its wider membership - many are made open meetings - for example the visit of the Director of Education and Diocesan Spirituality adviser.

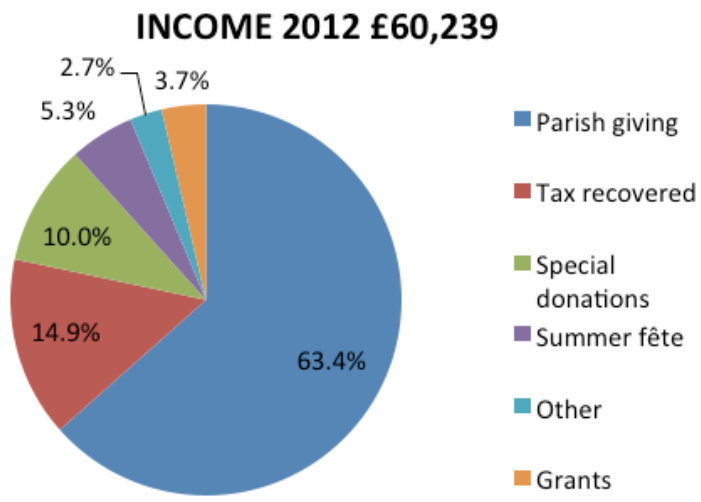
Finance

Holy Trinity has solid financial support from 50 or more regular donors, mostly from monthly, quarterly or annual standing orders, others from envelope collections, and these cover over 50% of our normal outgoings (including clergy stipends). Other income from Gift Aid claims, fund raising (annual fete and ad hoc events such as a flower festival or concerts) provides a further 25%. The balance of income comes from one-off donations, fees, sundry income and a grant towards Churchyard maintenance from Westerham Town Council. Income during 2012 was £60,239.

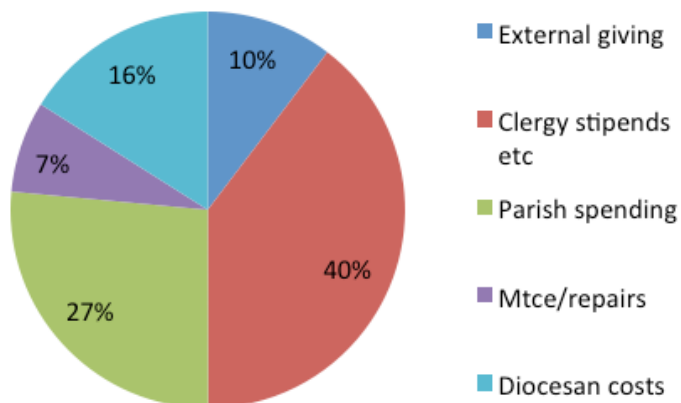
The Church building only requires maintenance repair, for which we have a reserve account. These repairs are usually specified at quinquennial inspections. Outgoings are carefully monitored - the largest costs being clergy stipends and expenses, heating and lighting, and our Parish Share contribution. Expenditure for 2012 was £59,855.

The PCC makes Away Giving grants of up to £2,500 each year.

The following is a summary of the main headings of income and expenditure in 2012:



OUTGOINGS 2012 £59,855



A copy of our latest financial statements – for the year ended 31st December 2012 – is available on request (by phone from Tom Brown on 01732 866326 or download from the Parish website – see next page).

Communications

The Parish website address is: www.crockhamhillchurch.org

The Diocesan website address is: www.rochester.anglican.org

Crockham Hill C of E Primary School's website is:
www.crockhamhill.kent.sch.uk

The village website is: www.crockhamhillevents.co.uk

Within the village Holy Trinity also communicates with parishioners through:

- The Monthly Newsletter which is hand-delivered to every house in the village, and displayed on the parish website.
- Four church notice boards in the village
- Posters which advertise the weekly theme and services
- Weekly pew sheets in Church

To Summarise

Crockham Hill has a huge amount to offer an incoming priest. A welcoming community in a beautiful part of the country, the village and its environs offer a breadth and a diversity which we hope will appeal to potential applicants.

Most of all, we hope that the successful applicant will help us to:

- **Re-invigorate the work of Holy Trinity and raise its profile in our village and beyond, and**
- **Support and enrich the diversity of spiritual and everyday life within our local community.**



