



A Church which is Caring, Sharing and Daring



PARISH PROFILE 2024

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

St Nicolas, Cranleigh

A Church which is Caring, Sharing and Daring

WHO WE ARE:

There has been a church on this site since 1170. St Nicolas Church is very much at the heart of Cranleigh, well loved by the worshipping congregation and the wider community. St Nicolas is a large, welcoming parish church, catering for a broad spectrum of worship traditions, whilst also seeking new ways to engage with those who have little or no experience of church. Our Mission Statement calls us to be 'Caring, Sharing and Daring' - whereby we strive to show Christ's love, share the gospel message, and not to be afraid of new approaches to outreach and worship.



There is a wide range of theological and ecclesiastical traditions, so, to reflect this, there is a variety of services including Parish Communion, All-age Services, Choral Evensong, Choral Communion and Discovery, our contemporary all age service. The church boasts strong choral and bell-ringing traditions, a variety of home-groups and social groups, and many people who take an active part in running the church on a daily basis. The whole community values the church building highly, with our annual Heritage Gift Days raising significant funds from many in the village. The congregation turn their hand to maintaining and keeping St Nicolas and the churchyard in good order.

Our beliefs permeate into the community. Church members have an allegiance to, and are involved in, the management of many of the village's secular organisations. This provides a Christian presence and a positive influence in the village environment. We have a close relationship with the church school and good ties with other schools in the village. Clergy and lay people lead services in care homes in the village as well as at Elmbridge Retirement Village.

The present Rector, the Revd Roy Woodhams, has been with us for more than 10 years, bringing experience from his previous two incumbencies: a rural parish in Oxfordshire, and a large urban parish in Hampshire, as well as from his previous career in Education and music. He is also Area Dean for the Deanery of Cranleigh. Other members of the Ministry Team include a training Curate, an LLM Reader and three retired Priests. We also have two lay people who have completed the Diocesan Preaching Course. They are all supported by our Parish Administrator, and an array of experienced lay helpers.

Against a backdrop of nationally falling statistics, congregation numbers have remained reasonably buoyant in recent years, averaging around 120 across our main Sunday services.

THE VILLAGE OF CRANLEIGH:

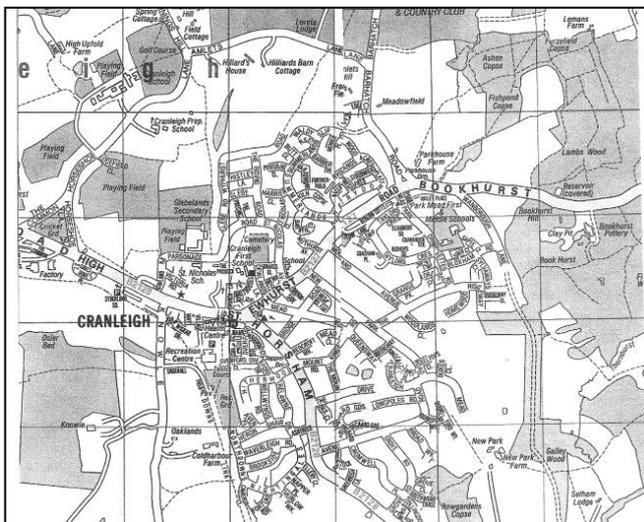
WHERE WE ARE

The parish is primarily the village of Cranleigh in South West Surrey, claiming to be ‘the largest village in England’ with a motto of “Cranleigh Cares”, though it also extends into a few nearby settlements and covers a lot of land.

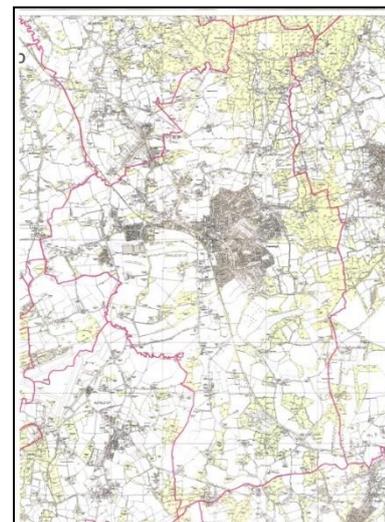
Cranleigh lies eight miles south east of Guildford, in the borough of Waverley, just off the A281 and close to the West Sussex border. Horsham is 10 miles to the south and Cranleigh benefits from frequent bus services to both Guildford and Horsham. Situated in beautiful rural surroundings, with views of the Surrey Hills, Cranleigh combines the intimacy of a village with the facilities of a small town.



Location Map



Street Plan



Parish Boundary Plan

HOUSING

The parish of Cranleigh has a population of around 13,000 living in a variety of housing. There are pre-war and 1950's council estates, newer estates and smaller infill developments as well as larger detached houses, rural cottages and big estates with grand houses and land. It is a growing community with several current building projects nearing completion and more proposals for housing which could easily grow the village by another 2,000-3,000 people in the next 5 years.

AMENITIES

Driving into Cranleigh from Guildford, one encounters a large cricket field to the left, followed by common ground with a small pond and an avenue of trees bordering the road.



Cricket Ground



Overlooking the Pond



View towards War Memorial

To the right, on entry, is further common ground, on which, in November, the largest bonfire party in the area is held. Upwards of 20,000 people attend. There is a fair and a wonderful fireworks display. During the summer, the Lions organise a carnival, at which St Nicolas has been involved, both with judging and the running of a stall. On a daily basis, the village is bustling and busy, with a High Street of local and national shops, two supermarkets, post office, butcher, baker, fishmonger and a weekly market which is held each Thursday in the main car park.



LEISURE

In addition to the cricket ground already mentioned above, there are the Snoxhall playing fields, on which football and village competitions are played. In the same area is a large, recently refurbished and popular play park. A smaller one can be found to the west of the village. Almost opposite the Rectory drive is a modern, well-stocked and busy library.



Cranleigh Leisure Centre serves the community and outer areas. It is about to undergo an extensive refurbishment to enhance its offerings. It currently has two pools; one, a 25 metre six lane pool and a smaller teaching pool. There is also a well-appointed gym, soft play area, crèche, squash courts and dance studios. Rugby, football, cricket, bat and ball, golf, bowls and even polo are all available to residents. Additionally, there are three pubs, plenty of restaurants and coffee shops, a band room, youth centre, village hall and The Cranleigh Arts Centre, adjacent to the church and with which St Nicolas has a good working relationship.

ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS

Organisations and clubs abound – Rotary, Lions, WI, St John Ambulance, Choral Society, Scouts, Guides, Rugby, Football, Cricket etc, U3A, DFAS, Probus, art classes, writers' group. Many charities operate from Cranleigh including Riding for the Disabled – there is something for everyone.

SCHOOLS

There are three state primary schools in the parish: Cranleigh Church of England Primary, Park Mead Primary and St. Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Primary School. Glebelands is the state secondary school for 11-16 year olds. Cranleigh School (a public school with its own preparatory school and an Anglican chaplain) and St Joseph's, a school and college for children with special needs, as well as several nursery schools are also within the parish. At the Parish boundary, 3 miles south of the village, there is The Rikkyo School, a Japanese Anglican Boarding School which has its own chaplain. The Rector and Curate regularly take assemblies at the C of E Primary School and have links with the others.



Cranleigh C of E Primary



Glebelands



Cranleigh School

OLDER FOLK

There is a purpose-built retirement village, Elmbridge Village, on the edge of Cranleigh, some sheltered housing and three care homes.



Cedar Court



Moat Lodge

DOCTORS

A brand-new medical centre opened in 2013, with a large team of doctors, nurses and medical staff.



OTHER CHURCHES

As well as St Nicolas, there are Baptist, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches in the village. All the churches come together under 'Churches Together in Cranleigh' for events and joint services such as on Remembrance Sunday, for Christmas Carols and on Good Friday.

The **Baptist church** in the High Street is a recent new-build attached to the older property. It has a thriving congregation.



The **Methodist church** again is in the High Street and in the main is attended by an older section of the community. They have a hall, which is used for pre-school and dancing classes.

The **Roman Catholic Church – Jesus Christ, Redeemer of Mankind** is a relatively modern building and has recently had the addition of a Parish Room. It serves the Catholic faithful in the area and their primary school abuts the church.



PROPERTY

The Church Rooms behind the church are used daily by various groups and provide an income. There are four rooms, one of which is The Parish Office used by the Curate and the Parish Administrator. Adjacent to the Parish Office is our Youth Office, and then there are two Halls, one large and one smaller. It is on a pedestrian 'through route' to schools and is in a good position for connection and outreach to the community.



We also own 22 Orchard Gardens in Cranleigh, a modern three bedroom detached property situated in a pleasant estate within easy walking distance of the village. Normally used as accommodation for curates under training (and family).

OUR TRADITION AND SERVICES:

Ecclesiastical tradition

We cater for a wide range of ecclesiastical traditions and styles of worship. At the more traditional services Priests reflect the formal approach to Communion Services by wearing alb, stole and chasuble. Servers and chalice administrators follow this trend of wearing albs. All age services, conducted by clergy and laity, are informal, unrobed, and interactive within a liturgical framework, while Discovery services are even more informal.

Our main services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel, and we benefit from projectors and screens to facilitate our worship.

The organ is the principal musical instrument at traditional services with some use of a keyboard, although at Family and Discovery services we have a band with a singing group, instruments and sometimes drums.

We have a congregation with a wide range of theological views, but there is unity, harmony and respect within the differences with a recognition we can learn from one another.

Pattern of Sunday worship

First and Third Sunday in the month:

8.00 am Holy Communion BCP
10.00 am All Age Worship (1st) / All Age Communion (3rd)
6.30 pm Choral Communion (1st)/ Choral Evensong (3rd)

Second and Fourth Sunday in the month:

8.00 am Holy Communion CW
10.00 am Parish Communion CW
11.30am Discovery with Children's Church

Fifth Sunday in the month:

8.00 am Holy Communion BCP
10.00 am Parish Communion CW
11.30am Discovery with Children's Church



This pattern varies around major festivals and when there are other important events and celebrations. Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Remembrance Sunday are celebrated both at St Nicolas and outside in the village with the other churches.

Weekday Services

A regular Holy Communion (BCP) is held at 12 noon every Tuesday in the Lady Chapel and Common Worship Holy Communion is held monthly for the Mothers' Union. We have Communion (every fortnight) and Evensong (once a month) at Elmbridge retirement village and Holy Communion monthly at the Nursing Homes - Knowle Park and Cedar Court.

Daily Offices

The Morning Office is said at 8.00 am daily in the church, by clergy and lay people. Usual attendance is two to six. The Evening Office is said privately.

Occasional Offices

This is a major part of our parish ministry, with 40 to 50 baptisms and 10 to 20 weddings annually. There are about 60 to 70 funerals per year taken by clergy at the church or Guildford Crematorium.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM:



Rev'd Canon Roy Woodhams
(Rector)



Rev'd Erik Heemskerk
(Curate)

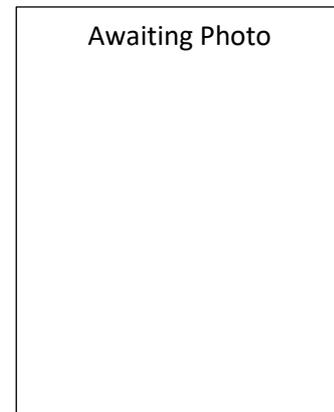


Rev'd Martin Booth
(Retired Priest)

Rt Rev'd Peter Hancock
(Honorary Assistant Bishop)



Rev'd Rodney Hill
(Retired Priest)



Claire Oxborough
(Leader of Discovery Team)

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK:

Below is a list of our current groups and activities for the children and youth of Cranleigh:



Our **Parent and Toddler** group meets every Friday during term time. There are growing links with the Church, as the group is well attended by the wider community.



Trackers – our group for all primary aged children – runs on the 3rd Sunday of the month in our 10am service, and on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month in our 11.30am Discovery services.



Toddler Praise takes place each Wednesday morning at 10am, during term time. This is a St Nicolas led group, but takes place at the Methodist Church.



Our **Teenagers Group** meet at the Church Rooms between 5 and 6pm on a Sunday night, have some snacks, play table tennis, pool, table football, and other games for about 40-45 minutes and then have 15 minutes of discussion and reflection until 6pm. This group is open to all teens and tweens!

SCHOOLS WORK:

Cranleigh Church of England Primary.

Each week the Ministry Team take a Thursday assembly as well as the assembly on Monday (Open the Book team). Throughout the year the school holds services in the Church for festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, St Nicolas Day, Advent and Easter, as well as their beginning and end of term services.

Other Schools

We have a link with the Rikkyo school in England (Japanese Christian boarding school) which is situated 3 miles from the village but partly in the parish. Open the Book is also taken to the other two Primary Schools in the Village. We have good relationships with all the schools, and especially with Cranleigh School (Independent) which is an Anglican foundation.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

Through the year including:

- Walks
- Social evenings
- Harvest supper
- Breakfasts
- Many of the church groups organise their own social events
- The Fete is held each July and, through a lot of hard work, creates great fun and income
- Christmas Tree Festivals and Nativity Festivals are very popular with the community, are very well attended and raise funds for the church.
- A number of concerts are held in the Church during the year
- Spring Harvest is attended by several families most years

SAFEGUARDING:

At St Nicolas, we work very hard to make sure that our church, hall and events are safe for everyone and to ensure the care, well-being, and protection of all our children and vulnerable adults.

As a church, in all we do we are committed to safeguarding children, young people, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults.

We have a Parish Safeguarding Officer and a Parish Safeguarding Policy which is reviewed annually by our Church Council.

In addition, all those who work with children and vulnerable adults have gone through the 'DBS' vetting process to ensure that they are safe to carry out their work.

<http://www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk/>

Find us on



@ St Nicolas Church Cranleigh