



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Danehill

with Chelwood Gate

Growing together in Christ

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The Parish

Growing Together in Christ:

Danehill with Chelwood Gate is a single benefice, centred on the two villages of Danehill and Chelwood Gate just south of the Ashdown Forest in East Sussex. With a population of around 1,800, many in scattered little communities around and between the villages, it is just the sort of parish that might have been expected to decline gracefully to the point where it was absorbed by a neighbouring church, with a limited number of services to minister to the faithful few. But, about twelve years ago something out of the ordinary happened. The then incumbent, Canon Peter Dominy, decided to recruit a youth work leader, shared with another parish, and expand the number of services to include two all age, comparatively non-liturgical, services a month. This entailed a quite a leap of faith for the existing church members, who had to raise the money to make it work. But work it did, and the church started to attract younger families, with small children.



Peter retired a couple of years later, and, after a short interregnum, David Hall arrived in his first parish as Priest-in-Charge and later Vicar. The pattern of services at Danehill was changed to include an all age service every Sunday, and great efforts were made to provide junior church for as wide an age group as possible. It soon became apparent that a second congregation had effectively been planted, and the terms “nine thirty congregation” and “eleven

o'clockers” became current. The number of regular church members has more than doubled over the last decade, and there are now a crèche and four junior church classes at eleven o'clock and resources for children during the sermon at nine thirty. The eleven o'clock service has an adult oriented talk, with a music group and structured order of service, projected on a screen, while the nine thirty retains more formal services supported by the organ. Both have an evangelical character, tempered by the need to cater for the broad range of traditions to be found in any rural congregation. There is a coffee break attended by both congregations between the two services. The daughter church at Chelwood Gate has early morning BCP Holy Communion two or three times a month and an evening service at six o'clock, with an informal service on the first Sunday of each month. Sermons and service profiles are posted on the parish website at www.allsaintsdanehill.org.uk.



The necessary expansion in resources for all this and for a wide range of extra-mural social and teaching activities was made possible by the recruitment of a full time youth minister shortly after David's arrival, who then went on to train for the ministry. He was followed by a stipendiary curate who will complete his training in the middle of 2013.

Over the next five years, the parish is seeking to build on what has been achieved so far, to promote a greater cohesion between the two congregations, to increase the level of discipleship - especially the level of lay ministry - and extend our outreach to the local community.

Accordingly, we are looking for someone with dedication and vision who is able:

- To be a person of prayer able to help develop the prayer life within the two churches, maintaining the current Bible based preaching and teaching of the Gospel of Christ;
 - To recognise the importance of two main morning congregations, their diversity of styles of worship and musical traditions, and feel comfortable leading both of them;
 - To seek to create opportunities to bring the two congregations closer together;
 - To further our growing work with children, particularly on Sundays;
 - To relate to people in the local community, and provide pastoral care and support;
 - To encourage younger men and women to come forward for lay readership training;
 - To develop and support home groups;
- so that we may truly be said to be a Church "growing together in Christ". And we therefore trust that the Holy Spirit will call someone who is:

- A biblically-based minister of the gospel with an enthusiasm for teaching and mission
- An evangelical who can accept and engage with those of other traditions, understanding the diversity inherent in rural parishes and the necessity for an open and inclusive approach
- Able to minister to two different congregations, understand their diverse needs and encourage links between them
- At ease with a whole range of services from BCP matins in robes to all age talks in shirtsleeves with computer supported visual aids
- A good communicator and listener, actively committed to inspiring people to participate in church life and meet new residents
- Able to relate well to young and old and to teach and lead children and teenagers
- Willing to encourage and develop leadership in lay men and women in all aspects of church activity
- Willing to have a high profile, being known by and knowing as many parishioners as possible, churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike
- Willing to engage actively with local schools and establish links with staff and parents

What happens in the parish:

What happens on Sundays

The usual monthly pattern of services is as follows:

| | | |
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| First Sunday: | 8:00 am | BCP Holy Communion |
| | 9:30 am | BCP Matins |
| | 11:00 am | Family Service with children's teaching groups |
| | 6:00 pm | Informal service |
| Second Sunday: | 9:30 am | CW Holy Communion |
| | 11:00 am | Family Service with children's teaching groups |
| | 6:00 pm | CW Evening Prayer |
| Third Sunday: | 9:30 am | BCP Matins |
| | 11:00 am | Family Service with children's teaching groups |
| | 6:00 pm | CW Holy Communion |
| Fourth Sunday | 8:00 am | BCP Holy Communion |
| | 9:30 am | CW Holy Communion |
| | 11:00 am | Family Service with children's teaching groups |
| | 6:00 pm | CW Evening Prayer |
| Fifth Sunday | 8:00 am | BCP Holy Communion |
| | 9:30 am | CW Holy Communion |
| | 11:00 am | Family Service with children's teaching groups |
| | 6:00 pm | no service |



There are normally between thirty and forty people at a nine thirty service, and sixty or so adults and twenty to thirty junior church at eleven. There is usually Holy Communion at one of the eleven o'clock services every month. Joint services at ten thirty are held at Christmas and Easter, which usually pack the parish church to over capacity - the pews in the nave and aisles can accommodate 120 in reasonable comfort, but congregations of the order of 250 have been known. When there is a village weekend in early June, a marquee is put up on the recreation ground, and a joint service held there on the Sunday. There are no regular services during the week, except over Easter and for Holy Communion services at Danehill on Ascension Day and All Saints' Day.



What happens during the week:

Noah's Ark parents and toddlers
Local primary school assemblies
JAM Club at the primary school
Home groups
Evening discipleship and Bible courses
TNT youth group



all of which are covered in more detail below.

And from time to time:

Summer socials in the Vicarage garden
Harvest Saturday: pruning the lime walk and picnic lunch
A service of confirmation in the parish church (usually one a year)
A baptism, usually during the eleven o'clock service
Weddings (6-8 a year) and funerals (6-8 a year)

Further opportunities for outreach:

Danehill Social Club
Historical, photographic, bridge and whist societies
WI and SCF
Exercise, dance and badminton groups
Bowls and other sports clubs
Chelwood Gate Village Market quarterly in village hall and church grounds
Village meeting place, a monthly drop in coffee morning in Chelwood Gate village hall



Ministry

Support in Ministry:

As in most parishes, nearly everybody exercises some form of ministry, from churchwardens to coffee makers, flower arrangers to bell ringers, house group hosts to prayer-chain members, sidesmen to sound system setters up. At the more formal



level, there is a curate, who will complete his training in mid-2013, and is able to take communion services until then, and three licensed readers, all of them in their eighties. In addition, several members of the eleven o'clock congregation preach and lead services at both Danehill and Chelwood Gate. Pastoral co-ordinators advise the Vicar on the need for home and hospital visiting, and ministers of Holy Communion are available to take home communion to the housebound. On

the administrative side, the churchwardens have regular meetings with the Vicar and readers, and the PCC, which meets every two months, is supported by highly experienced individuals in the vital capacities of PCC secretary, treasurer and fabric officer.

Youth and Children's Ministry:

There has been a heavy emphasis on youth and children's ministry for many years, not only at Sunday services but during the week as well. With the arrival of the youth work leader, and subsequently the youth minister, there has been a regular youth club in Danehill village hall on Thursday evenings, called TNT (Thursday Night Together), which has shifted over the years from being contact to gospel based. This was run by the youth minister and then the curate in the early years of his title and has recently been taken over by lay members of the eleven o'clock congregation. There is JAM (Jesus And Me) Club after school once a week at the local primary school and regular school assemblies. Noah's Ark, a weekly mothers and toddlers group that meets at All Saints, attracts several members that are not regular churchgoers.

And on Sundays there has been a steady build up of Junior Church, starting with young children, but now offering four classes to all ages including teenagers. In addition there is a crèche at eleven o'clock that allows parents to take part in the main service, and separate teaching for children during the sermon at nine thirty. Naturally all concerned have current CRB clearance.



Mission and Discipleship:

Besides a comprehensive programme of teaching and discipleship courses, a wide variety of social events have built up over the years. The three or four summer socials every year are open to everybody in the parish free of charge, and have included barbecues, musical evenings and other get-togethers in the Vicarage garden, as well as a shed crawl for men. On the Saturday of harvest weekend, the adults set to pruning the lime walk in the churchyard (forty trees in three to four hours), while the children have a crafts morning to be followed by a harvest lunch for all outside, provided by the catering team.



Teaching started with the Alpha course, and developed into "The Bible Book by Book", the "If" (you could ask God one question) course, a "Discovery" programme, the "Ignite" teenage discipleship course, and this year a parenting course, "Identity" and "John's Gospel Explored" courses and "Bibles Blokes and Butties" for men in the Vicarage kitchen on Saturday mornings. In addition, there are regular house groups, two regular prayer meetings a month, a prayer chain for those in need, "Coffee plus" for women, the "All Saints Fellowship" for older members and "Food for Thought", a monthly soup and cheese lunch in Chelwood Gate church open to everybody.



The Villages and Church Buildings:

The whole area was more or less open country until the middle of the nineteenth century, when the railways brought in more people. The parish was created a little later and the church of All Saints was built at Danehill in 1892, when the population had outgrown the former chapel of ease that had become the first parish church. There has never been a traditional village street or village green, but the population has grown to some 1,800, much of it in a mixed housing association and owner occupier estate, and the rest in a long residential road in Chelwood Gate or scattered around the surrounding countryside. Quite a few people are retired or work from home, some are employed locally at Freshfield Lane Brickworks, Curtain Craft or the National Cat Centre, but most work in the surrounding towns or commute to London.

The parish church was designed by C F Bodley, very well known at the time as a church architect, and was the gift of a local landowning family. The church stands in open ground, the burial ground across the lane being the responsibility of the civil parish council. Built in the local sandstone, it has the external appearance of a late mediaeval church, but inside it looks more like a small cathedral, with a colonnaded nave and aisles, a side chapel, and pipe



organ built on the oak rood screen between nave and chancel. It is very much Oxford Movement in origin, and retains many high church features, although it has been evangelical in tradition since the Church Society bought the patronage in the 1920's. There is a remarkably fine set of Kempe stained glass windows. A glass partition was built across the west end of the church about twenty years ago to form three separate rooms and toilet facilities, and later on the lighting and heating systems were completely refurbished. The vestry has facilities for hot drinks and washing up, and the vestry and north porch have recently been converted to provide extra rooms for Junior Church classes.



Chelwood Gate church was built in 1897 as a chapel of ease for those who found it difficult to travel the two miles odd to the parish church. It is in the form of a single room, with a vestry to one side, with sink and hot water. It is furnished with chairs that can seat sixty, and it is used principally for early morning and evening services. Because it can be heated up quickly and the chairs are easy to move, it is also often used for prayer and other meetings and soup and cheese lunches.



Relations with Other Parishes:

Danehill with Chelwood Gate is part of Uckfield deanery in the diocese of Chichester, the diocese effectively covering the whole of East and West Sussex. Uckfield with a population of nearly twenty thousand, is the only market and light industrial town in the deanery; the remaining parishes are rural, some being single benefices like Danehill, others having two or three parishes in united benefices or pluralities. Danehill clergy and readers regularly officiate and preach in neighbouring parishes, particularly during vacancies, and the Vicar also visits and sometimes officiates at St Raphael's RC care home within the parish itself.



Additional Information

Finance:

The financial position of the parish is generally sound. We are managing to pay 95% of our estimated costs to the diocese, and are aiming for 100%, while also supporting the accommodation and expenses of a training post. The last two years have seen budget deficits, but in both cases the outturn has been a slight surplus. Liquid reserves are limited, but the parish does own property (see below). The independent Friends of Danehill charity exists to help out with fabric repairs and runs fund raising events attracting non-churchgoers as well as regular members of the congregation. The Friends paid for the refurbishment of the lighting and heating systems in All Saints - fortunately the recent re-tiling of one half of the main roof was covered by insurance.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is situated in Danehill itself, a few minutes walk from All Saints and two odd miles from Chelwood Gate church. It was purpose built in 1989, within the grounds of the then vicarage, which was subsequently sold. It is a four bedroom detached house, with a kitchen/breakfast room, two reception rooms separated by sliding doors and a study and downstairs cloakroom independent of the main body of the house. It has oil fired central heating and has recently been double glazed at the expense of the diocese. There is a separate single garage and the house stands in what is still a large garden, with a wooded area at the bottom. The garden is eminently suitable for entertaining, for which reason the PCC provides for some of its maintenance.



Other Property:

The parish was bequeathed the three bedroom Marten Cottage and about six acres of land some ten years ago. It lies about half way between the two villages, and was used as accommodation for the youth work leader, youth minister and curate. However, it proved less than satisfactory in many ways and the decision was taken to move the curate and his family out and sell the property, and purchase a more modern and more suitable house in the Chelwood Gate area.

Local Schools:

There is a Church of England controlled primary school, within easy walking distance of the Vicarage. The Vicar is an *ex-officio* governor and the church has other links with assemblies, JAM Club, and the use of the parish church for end of term services. There are bus services to secondary schools at Chailey and Haywards Heath, both some miles distant. There are two independent prep schools in the area: Cumnor House is between Danehill and Chelwood Gate, and the boarders there go to the eleven o'clock service from time to time. Great Walstead is a bit further away in the Haywards Heath direction, and some members of staff are regular members of the congregation in leadership positions.



Local Facilities:

In common with many other villages locally, Danehill and Chelwood Gate had several shops and post offices until very recent years, which have now all disappeared. There is, however, a farm shop at Furners Green on the southern extremity of the parish, mobile fish and vegetable vans on a weekly basis, and a quarterly village market in the grounds of Chelwood Gate church and Chelwood Gate village hall, which is actually an adjunct of the church building itself. The nearest general store and separate post office are at Horsted Keynes, a couple of miles to the west of Danehill, and main shopping centres in Uckfield, Haywards Heath and East Grinstead, all around seven miles from the village. More limited facilities, including health centres, can be found a bit nearer at Forest Row and Lindfield.

There is a recreation ground, with a children's play area, tennis courts and football field near the Memorial Hall, the proper title for the village hall at Danehill. The two pubs in the parish are both well patronised and serve full meals as well and beer and wine, and there is a social club in the centre of Danehill.

