



The Horsley, Ockham & Downside Group Ministry

Parish Profile

Ockham with Hatchford & Downside

www.ockhamchurch.org.uk



All Saints' Church, Ockham



St Michael's Chapel, Downside

OUR
COMMON PURPOSE

Growing Communities of Faith and Engagement



March 2015

BACKGROUND

The parish was created in 1964 by the integration of the parishes of Ockham and Hatchford (which included the village of Downside) after ten years of working together within a united benefice. It then became part of a united benefice with East Horsley in 2002, but continued to operate its own PCC. Following a period of growth the parish is now poised to become independent again within a new Group Ministry which is being formed with the parishes of East and West Horsley. All three are, or will shortly be, in interregnum. The aim of the Group Ministry is to grow our congregations by working together to undertake initiatives which we might not be able to do as individual parishes, to share each other's strengths and resources and present a coordinated face to the local community. A Group Council will be formed and its remit will be agreed as the Group Ministry takes shape. Another issue of significance is the Borough of Guildford's development plan which calls for a significant number of houses to be built in all three parishes. While there is considerable opposition to the Council's draft plan and numbers and timing are far from being finalised, this could present a significant opportunity for mission.

LOCATION

The parish of Ockham with Hatchford & Downside lies between Ripley and Cobham, near the junction of the A3 and M25 and equidistant from Heathrow and Gatwick airports. It is in the Leatherhead Deanery. Ockham and Hatchford are rural communities, without real village centres; Downside is more concentrated.



The neighbouring villages of East and West Horsley are different again, being more built-up, with their own shopping centres and a railway station. Ockham is in the Borough of Guildford; Hatchford and Downside are in the Borough of Elmbridge.

The church is an important focus of community life as there is no village shop or Post Office in the parish and the two pubs tend to cater mostly for visitors from outside the parish, as does Ockham Cricket Club. There is a residents' club at Downside.

The nearest local shops and Post Offices are in East Horsley and Ripley. The parish looks to Cobham, Guildford and Woking for supermarkets, more extensive shopping and entertainment. There is a fast train service to London and Portsmouth from Woking and a stopping service to London and Guildford from Effingham Junction and East Horsley. The nearest hospitals are the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford and St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey.

Most of the adult population are commuters, home workers or retired, but there are a number of families with young children, particularly at Downside. Agriculture and equine activities also provide some employment in the parish. The total adult population is currently about 850. 2011 census figures for the civil parish of Ockham show the population breakdown as: Under 25: 27%; 25-64: 52% and 65 and over: 21%. Of those aged 16-74, 69% described themselves as 'economically active'. 34% describe themselves as employed full-time, 10% part-time and 21% are self-employed. 16% are retired and 10% describe themselves as looking after the home. Students and unemployed make up the balance. Separate figures are not available for Hatchford and Downside as they are included with Cobham.

There is considerable pressure for the development of new housing in the area. Guildford Borough Council has prepared a draft local plan which proposes 13,040 new homes in the borough. This proposes 2,100 together with a school and community centre on the disused Wisley airfield in the northern part of Ockham parish and another 1,000 on sites in East and West Horsley. That part of the parish which falls within Elmbridge is under similar pressures. While there is considerable local resistance to these proposals, if they are implemented even in part we need to be prepared to minister to the newcomers.

At Downside there is a privately-owned retirement home, Cossins, where Communion Services are held twice a month. Ockham has a (civil) Parish Room, run by a trust, and Downside has a village hall.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

There are two places of worship in the parish, All Saints' Church at Ockham and St Michael's Chapel at Downside. The church at Hatchford was demolished in 1968, but the graveyard is still open for burials.



All Saints' Church is of ancient origin and parts may be Norman, although there have been many additions and alterations over the years. It is a charming rural church in an attractive setting, and can accommodate 120 in comfort and up to 220 with additional chairs and benches. The occupant of Ockham Park owns the land surrounding All Saints', including the church drive and the freehold of the car park. The church is frequently visited by historical societies and architectural groups and participates in the Guildford Heritage weekend. All Saints' is in a good state of repair. A restoration

programme costing over £200,000 was completed early this century, a new vestry with a WC with disabled access was built in 2010 and in the last three years a PA system has been added and lighting and wiring brought up to modern standards. A quinquennial inspection is due in 2016.



St Michael's Chapel is a former bakehouse, rented from the Cobham Park Estate. This has recently been tastefully extended and refurbished thanks to the generosity of the owner. It will now seat 40 in comfort, although more than seventy can be squeezed in. The extension provides kitchen facilities and a WC with disabled access. Other improvements include a central heating system, insulation and double glazing. New seating has also been provided with all but four of the chairs being paid for through donations. As well as being used for worship, the Chapel provides a venue for PCC

meetings, recitals to raise funds for parish charities and is available for hire by the community for appropriate events.

All Saints' churchyard is closed, save for the burial of ashes but a civil cemetery adjoins it. **Hatchford churchyard** is still in use and an Act of Remembrance is held every year at the war memorial there.

ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL, DOWNSIDE

St Matthew's C of E Infant School at Downside is a small but very successful village school, rated 'Outstanding' by OfSTED (October 2013) and SIAMS (June 2014). The school has a special, family atmosphere and the children are motivated and encouraged to reach their true potential in a happy, caring and supportive environment. It has places for ninety children and is currently oversubscribed.

The incumbent is a governor and the OLM is chaplain. There are strong links between the parish and school and these continue to be developed: St Michael's Chapel is regularly visited by the school; the school has a Christmas Carol Service and an Easter 'end of term' service at All Saints'; parties of children visit All Saints' during the summer term to find out more about the church. One of the clergy takes assembly each Tuesday and a service in the school one Sunday each term. Clergy attend the leavers' Service each summer and provide pastoral support to the school throughout the academic year. St Matthews's is an important source of young families for the parish and many are involved in our Pebbles children's church. There is further information on the school website:

www.stmatthewsinfantcobham.co.uk



St Matthew's is in need of a junior department in order to be able to provide education through to age 11 without changing schools. The PCC has offered St Matthew's the use of land which it owns in the village for this purpose. A proposal has been put to Surrey County Council with the support of the Diocesan Board of Education; however, opposition from a local environmental group has resulted in this being in abeyance for the time being. It is hoped that, as pressure for school places continues to increase, it may be possible to revisit this proposal.

SERVICES

All Saints', Ockham

First, second & third Sundays	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
Fourth Sunday	10.30am	Family Service
Fifth Sunday	10.30am	United benefice service (at present)

Special Services and Events at Ockham

Christmas: Carol Service by candlelight, Midnight Mass (CW), Family Service with carols

Easter: Coordinated Holy Week Services with St Martin's East Horsley

Other special services include:

Harvest Family Service, Harvest Supper following evening Communion Service (jointly with St Martin's East Horsley in Ockham Estate barn), Mothering Sunday, Remembrance Day, Ascension Day,
All Souls' Day



Harvest Communion & Supper, Guilleshill Barn



Candlelight Carol Service

St. Michael's, Downside

First & third Sundays	9.00am	Songs of Praise
Second and fourth Sundays	9.00am	Holy Communion (CW)

Special Services at Downside

Christmas Eve Crib and Carol Services, Christmas and Easter Holy Communion Services



Above: Children's church in the Pebbles cabin

Children's Church

Our children's church, 'Pebbles' has grown significantly during the past four years and we may see up to 20 children on a Sunday, although the average number is around 10. It caters for children aged approximately 2-9 years. They meet in the Pebbles cabin in the church car park, a log cabin which was bought and erected through the generosity of the congregation and many parents in 2013, and re-join the service in time for a blessing at Communion. Pebbles is run by a group of young mothers – and one father - and they have their own Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/pebbles.ockham.



Pebbles runs on the first three Sundays of the month, with the children leaving during the first hymn and returning in time for a blessing during the reception of Communion. They usually report on what they have been up to at the end of the service. On the fourth Sunday of the month they join in the Family Service, which is a more informal style of worship. The talk is currently given by one member of the Pebbles team who is proving very gifted.

Left: Family service talk

Churchmanship

Central. For formal services the NRSV Bible is used.

Clergy Dress for Communion Services

All Saints': Alb and Chasuble

St Michael's: Alb

Music

All Saints': Mostly traditional, small choir (not robed), 2- manual organ, director of music (RCM trained)

Children's orchestra formed on an ad hoc basis for some Family and Family Communion Services.

St Michael's: Traditional, piano (or CD if pianist not available)

THE MINISTRY

Presentation to the Benefice of Ockham with Hatchford & Downside was suspended for a period of five years in 1994 and it became part of a united benefice with St Martin's, East Horsley, in 2002. A pastoral measure is currently in hand to form a Group Ministry with East and West Horsley. Apart from the incumbent Ockham has an OLM and one member of the congregation recently completed the Occasional Preacher's course. Another has expressed an interest. Part-time voluntary secretarial /admin help is provided to the parish and there is a volunteer Sacristan who ensures that the church is open and ready for each service.

CONGREGATIONS AND THE ELECTORAL ROLL

The current number on the electoral roll is about 120. The average Sunday attendance is 8-12 at St Michael's and 45-75 at All Saints'. Around two-thirds of those on the electoral roll live outside the parish, mainly in the Horsleys but also in Cobham and Ripley, and the same is true of the Sunday congregation at Ockham. However, most of those who attend Sunday services at Downside live nearby.

ORGANISATION

Two churchwardens are elected annually, and there is a PCC of fourteen members including the incumbent and the OLM. Members serve for a maximum of three years, after which there must be an interval of one year before they can stand for re-election. In addition to the PCC there are the following sub-committees:

Standing Committee - comprising incumbent, OLM, churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary. Meets alternate months in between PCC meetings to discuss key issues and sets agenda for PCC.

Worship Committee – plans family services.

Buildings Committee - oversees repair and maintenance to the parish buildings and any new projects.

Charities committee – organises events to raise money for the parish's chosen charities. Usually one local, one national and one overseas charity are supported each year.

Sanders Fund Committee – responsible for the stewardship of this trust.

Parish Magazine - *The Parishioner* is published every month except that there are combined July/August and December/January issues. It is delivered free to every household in the parish.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

The parish is exceptionally well supported by the energy and generosity of its volunteers and supporters.

The Director of Music leads a small but enthusiastic choir which also performs at some of the parish social events. Young musicians are recruited to form an orchestra for some Family Services. The choirs of a local private school participate at events such as the Ockham Village Festival and during the run-up to Christmas. Concerts at All Saints' have raised money for restoration work.



Bell Ringers – There is an enthusiastic group of bell ringers who practise on Thursday evenings and ring three Sundays each month and for weddings. They are supplemented by ringers from outside the parish when required, particularly for greater peals.

The Friends of All Saints' Church, Ockham, have been a major source of funds for recent restoration work. Money has been raised through special events, from members of the community and livery companies.

A Flower Festival / Summer Fete has usually been held at Ockham once every three years, however security concerns have caused the owner of Ockham Park to close off one of her drives and erect security gates which makes access and egress difficult, so plans are currently in abeyance. A member of the congregation opens her garden for the National Garden Scheme and proceeds from selling plants go to All Saints' Church.

Mothers' Union, (MU4ALL) This Benefice-wide group was started six years ago as a part of Mother's Union. To avoid gender differentiation, it was decided to give it a name which encompassed all the Church family. A general meeting is held once a month and there is also a monthly afternoon meeting called the Beehive which meets in the St Martin's Court, East Horsley at which charitable craft projects are undertaken.

Social events – The Harvest Festival is followed by a Harvest Supper in Guileshill Barn, held jointly with East Horsley but organised by this parish. Various other social events are also held throughout the year to raise money for the parish charities.

There are well-supported groups who:

- lead the intercession prayers
- act as sidesmen
- clean the church
- tend the churchyard
- provide flowers and coffee
- undertake small maintenance tasks

Volunteers are generous with money as well as time. The parish rarely receives requests for reimbursement of expenses, whether petrol for mowers, light bulbs, flowers, coffee etc. Over the year this must amount to a considerable sum.



Ockham Village Festival, 2009

RELATIONS WITH OTHER CHURCHES

'Churches Together in Horsley and Ockham' comprises the Anglican parishes of East and West Horsley, Ockham with Hatchford & Downside, and the Methodist Church in West Horsley. The Roman Catholic Church in West Horsley closed a few years ago, but representatives of that congregation (now transferred to Effingham) continue to play an active role. In East Horsley there is an independent Evangelical Church.

BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE POLICIES

There is an open Baptism policy. Parents and, when possible, godparents are given instruction. All Saints' is a popular church for marriages. Applications for marriage are accepted in accordance with the Marriage Measure 2008. Marriage of divorcees is at the incumbent's discretion, each case being decided on its merits.

FINANCE

The parish manages to pay its Diocesan Quota and just covers regular expenditure. Its reserves are adequate; however, any unexpected or major expenditure could take the church into deficit. A decline in covenanted giving is a cause for concern and a stewardship drive is about to be launched to increase the number of planned givers and transfer those already giving to the new Parish Giving Scheme.

Significant amounts of money have been spent on All Saints' during the past 15 years including repairs to the stonework and renewing lighting and wiring. No major items of repair or restoration are currently foreseen. Items which may need looking at in the near future include draught-proofing some of the church's older windows, the provision of cushioning for the pews, a better arrangement of noticeboards and leaflet displays and the cleaning / repainting of the King Chapel.



OCKHAM RECTORY

Ockham Rectory, which provides accommodation for the incumbent, also serves as the parish office. It is a four-bedroom house, with living room, dining room a study / parish office. It was probably built in the 1960s. It is pleasantly situated just under half a mile from All Saints', adjacent to farm land. It has a large garden, mostly given over to grass and is in a good state of repair.

Parish of Ockham with Hatchford & Downside

Statement of Needs

Ockham with Hatchford and Downside is a small but busy parish with two places of worship, All Saints' Church, Ockham and St Michael's Chapel, Downside. The incumbent based in Ockham Rectory, is supported by an OLM

The new incumbent will be an equal partner within the clergy team in the new Horsley, Ockham & Downside Group Ministry and needs to be prepared to work with the incumbents to be appointed at East and West Horsley to develop and expand mission to the communities within the Group.

The appointment provides an exciting opportunity to review where we are and plan for the development of the parish and benefice.

Strengths on which we wish to build

- We are seen as a friendly, welcoming church with one congregation where old and young mix.
- We attract people from a wide area.
- Over the past 3½ years we have significantly increased attendance by young families, which has required us develop new accommodation for our children's church. We want to build on this.
- The parish is closely involved with and supports St Matthew's CofE Infant School at Downside. This is important work for us as it is a source of many of our young families.
- Lay members are closely involved in all aspects of parish life.
- Pastoral and spiritual care for the elderly is a strength. Communion is administered at Cossins the residential home within the parish.
- Social and outreach events provide a real focus for the local community. These include concerts, recitals and flower festivals.
- Money is raised from social events to support local, national and overseas charities.

Areas of need or development over the next five years

- To maintain the momentum which has been started and to continue to attract young families and children to attend church and to involve themselves in the life of the parish.
- To build on our existing children's work by developing facilities for the over-12s and other young people.

- To encourage members of both congregations to discover and to use their gifts. We would particularly like to encourage more to consider becoming an LLM, Occasional Preacher or Pastoral Assistant.
- To work with other members of the clergy team to develop mission and outreach throughout the Group Ministry.
- To maintain the traditions of central churchmanship.
- To develop the quality and depth of the discipleship and spiritual life of the worshipping communities of the parish.
- To encourage the congregation to discover the joy and adventure of following Christ.
- To reach out and to continue to develop links with the community at large and to raise awareness of the church and its activities in the local community.
- To improve communications, especially with new residents and younger people.
- To build on the work of Churches Together in Horsley and Ockham.

Person specification

The benefice is looking for a priest who will be:

- Energetic.
- Collaborative in working with colleagues and parishioners.
- Someone who can engage with young families
- A challenging preacher
- Encouraging of the lay ministry – it would be beneficial to have more LLMs, preachers and pastoral assistants.
- At ease with and prepared to involve himself or herself in the life of the different communities of the benefice.
- Central in churchmanship – there is an emphasis on the Eucharist, largely CW, but some BCP.
- Capable of deepening the relationships between the parishes and communities.

To achieve all of this you will need to be a thoughtful priest with a heart for people and a sense of humour. In return we offer a good four-bedroom rectory in a pleasant village setting close to All Saints’.

In addition you can be assured of a warm welcome.

The parish of Ockham has a website www.ockhamchurch.org.uk