

Parish Profile

Benefice of Dorking with Ranmore



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Welcome from the Churchwardens

Welcome to the Benefice of St Martin's Dorking, St Mary's Pixham and St Barnabas Ranmore. We are looking forward to a new chapter in our churches and we are delighted that you are considering coming to Dorking to join us. Our wonderful mix of churches cover a wide range of activities and services. Our prayers join with yours as we discern God's will for the future ministry and mission of the Benefice. May God bless us all as we journey onwards in faith.

Robin, Nicholas, Judy and Felicity (Churchwardens)



Message from the Bishop of Guildford, Rt Revd Andrew Watson



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 on 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 the 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!

+ Andrew

Message from Venerable Martin Breadmore, The Archdeacon of Dorking & Acting Archdeacon of Surrey



Dorking, a popular market town, is situated in the Mole Valley, close to the M25 and 13 miles from Guildford. It has a significant shopping area and some good local amenities, with the beautiful Surrey Hills, Box Hill, and Leith Hill on the doorstep.

The community of faith, which makes up the United Benefice of St Martin's Dorking, St Mary's Pixham, and St Barnabas Ranmore, and is also part of the Dorking Group ministry, offers the successful applicant a commitment to engage in the ministry and mission of God in this part of Guildford Diocese. After a period of discernment across the churches in Dorking, a renewed vision for ministry to the whole Town has emerged.

There is huge potential here for growth in numbers and discipleship.

This parish has been through a period of change which has not always been easy, but in recent months considerable effort has enabled firmer foundations to be built which is leading to greater stability, unity, and growth. To that end, Bishop Andrew has agreed that this appointment is for a full time Interim Minister for an initial period of three years, with the hope that all being well, the successful candidate might become the incumbent of this Benefice in due course. The successful candidate will need to embrace Bishop Andrew's specific expectations relating to this post, which are:

- > Prioritise reaching all generations, especially families and young people, with the good news of Jesus. Do this by ringfencing 30% of your ministry time to this missional task.
- > Focus on the formation of missional Disciples who in turn will disciple others to do the same, working with the Mission Enabler for Revitalisation to achieve this.
- > Prioritise strong community collaboration, particularly with the neighbouring parishes within the Dorking Group.
- > Commit to a diversity of Christian mission, ministry, and worship in the town centre of Dorking.
- > Be faithful to your calling in serving your community, in caring for the marginalised and be integrated in the civic life of your town.

This appointment is perfect timing for receiving resource and support from the wider Diocese. 2024 marks the beginning of the second cycle of our Parish Needs Process, which is a brand-new way of working whereby the Diocese will seek to walk alongside each parish to help it with vision and whatever needs it might have arising out of this.

Message from Venerable Martin Breadmore, The Archdeacon of Dorking & Acting Archdeacon of Surrey *contd*

I am very enthusiastic about the opportunity that this post offers. For the person that God calls, there is so much to offer here: the warmth of a great church family 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; and the privilege of living and working in a beautiful part of the country with so many opportunities for clergy and families!

If you'd value an informal conversation about this post, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me at archdeacon.dorking@cofeguildford.org.uk, so that we can arrange a time for us to speak.

Venerable Martin Breadmore

Archdeacon of Dorking & Acting Archdeacon of Surrey

Our New Interim Priest – Statement of Need

As you read the profile of the Benefice you will understand that we are at a very important strategic and pivotal moment in the life of our three churches. We have now been without a Vicar for a year and a half and we are very much looking to welcome a priest to lead us forwards.

This is a complex, fascinating and challenging position and as such we are looking for an experienced parish priest of a broadly central Anglican tradition who is keen to renew and develop the many opportunities for mission and ministry which exist in Dorking, Pixham and Ranmore.

- > A prayerful spirituality and ability to lead and encourage people of all ages into deeper worship and prayer which respects and develops St Martin's eucharistic tradition building on our musical heritage and the different patterns at St Mary's and St Barnabas.
- > An understanding and action of all five Anglican 'marks of mission'.
- > An ability for intelligent communication of Christian faith for the 21st century in a context which is deeply secularized.
- > An ability to engage with the whole community of Dorking including the civic and town centre ministry and to build the relationship between church and town.
- > A desire for engagement with local schools and enabling the development of ministry with children and young people.
- > A genuine pastoral heart who can build a caring outward looking church at every level and age.
- > Ability to work in a collaborative way – ready to work proactively with other churches in Dorking including Anglicans (via the Group Ministry, Deanery and Diocese) and ecumenical (via Churches Together in Dorking) and to explore our links with the Methodist owned Christian Centre next door.

Introduction to the Benefice



The Benefice of Dorking with Ranmore has two parish churches and one daughter church. Together, the churches offer a broad churchmanship. Each has its own distinctive role and character and each has a warm and welcoming worshipping community.

- > St Martin's Church is located in the heart of the market town of Dorking (parish population 8,500) within a town population of 17,500, just off the High Street. There has been a church on the site for over one thousand years. The current building dates from the 1870s and has a magnificent interior which is very conducive to worship. The church is visible from many points around the town. Its worship tradition is sacramental and broadly central, with a choral tradition. The Church is open 7 days a week. (Electoral roll for the parish including St Mary's 2023: 87).
- > St Mary's Church, a daughter church of St Martin's, serves the community of Pixham (population 800) about 1km east of Dorking. It offers a variety of services and community activities and has a lower church tradition. The population of Pixham is expected to increase significantly soon with plans to redevelop a large site at the North End of Pixham Lane. About 200 dwellings, a mixture of apartments and some houses, are anticipated, plus a possible retirement community of about 150 apartments.
- > St Barnabas Church on Ranmore Common was originally built for the Ashcombe Estate and is located two miles north-west of Dorking. The parish of Ranmore has few residents (population 280) and the majority of the small but faithful congregation come from outside the parish. Most services follow the Book of Common Prayer. (Electoral roll 2023: 52)

The Benefice has been without an incumbent since August 2022. Rights of presentation to the Benefice were suspended for five years from October 2022 to allow consideration of the future relationships with neighbouring parishes to better serve the needs of the people in the area.

All three of our churches share a vision to grow our ministry and mission to the communities we serve. Since 2018, the Benefice has been part of a Group Ministry with St Paul's Church, Dorking and St John the Evangelist, North Holmwood. Our aim is to develop the established Group Ministry and continue the link with Churches Together in Dorking.

Our Vacancy Team



Rt Rev Dr Richard Cheetham
(Assistant Bishop and Co-Director Equipping
Christian Leaders in an Age of Science)



Rev Gerard Mee
(Chaplain St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey)



Rev David Cowan (PTO)



Rev Barbara Steadman-Allen (PTO)



Rev Caroline Lazenby
(PCC Chair, St Barnabas) (PTO)



Rev David Williams (School Governor,
St Martin's Primary School) (PTO)



Rev Stuart Peace (PTO)



Dr Chris Watts (LLM)

Our Vacancy Team *contd*



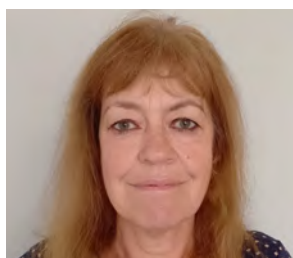
Canon Peter Bruinvels (PCC Chair & School Governor, The Priory School)



Mr Nick Hands-Clarke (Treasurer, St Martin's & St Mary's)



Mrs Judy Peace (Church Warden, St Martin's)



Mrs Anne Whibberley (Benefice Safeguarding Officer)



Mrs Felicity Cheetham (Church Warden, St Martin's)



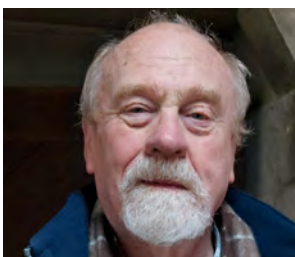
Mr Stephen Hope (Director of Music, St Martin's)



Dr Robin Luff (Church Warden, St Barnabas)



Mrs Vicki Judd (Benefice Administrator)



Mr Nicholas Grealy (Church Warden, St Barnabas)

The Parish of St Martin's Church, Dorking and St Mary's Church, Pixham



Church Buildings

St Martin's Church (Grade II*) is a large Victorian Gothic building with a 200 foot spire. The Church dates back to the 12th century. In 2024, we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the re-opening of the current nave.

Currently, the building offers a children's corner and a prayer corner but it has great potential for future development. The Lady Chapel is used for the midweek communion service and serves as a meeting place.

There is scope to develop the back of the church to provide an improved space for hospitality after services and other events, a kitchenette and toilet facilities. There is also potential to develop the Lady Chapel so that it can be a self-contained space as and when required for quiet services and for small meetings. There is a substantial crypt which has been used in the past for a youth club and church office. This space could be used for future initiatives.

The Friends of St Martin's Church was set up in 1981 to provide funds for the building and fabric of the Church (see page below for further details).

The tower houses a fine ring of 10 bells which are rung every Sunday and on special occasions.



St Mary's Church (Grade II*) building was built in 1903 (seats 90+) to a design by Sir Edwin Lutyens with the intention that it could be used for worship and community meetings. There is a small kitchen and wheelchair accessible toilet facilities, as well as a working internet connection.

Our Vision

St Martin's Church with its presence in the town centre is a popular place for people to either visit or sit in the Churchyard (with pathways to shops/high street/car park). The building itself, as beautiful and awe inspiring as it is, lacks some basic facilities and by improving these we hope to develop more regular activities to better serve our community. We long to share and develop an understanding of the Christian faith within the context of a broad and central churchmanship and recognize there are many ways in which we can meet the spiritual needs of adults, young people and children in the town.

St Mary's Church is situated in Pixham and has much potential to engage with the growing population.

The Parish of St Martin's Church, Dorking and St Mary's Church, Pixham *contd*



Our Mission

The three churches in the Benefice with their distinctive characteristics give a wide range of mission opportunities and within the wider Dorking Group of Churches.

We welcome the opportunity to work with other churches in Dorking to promote Christianity to individuals and to community groups of all kinds.

We especially value our links with the Anglican evangelical St Paul's Church, sited up the hill on the south side of town and we wish to strengthen this contact whilst retaining our own ways of mission.

We are members of Churches Together in Dorking which since the pandemic has been less active. The main current ecumenical event is a Good Friday service in St Martin's churchyard/church. There is scope to spearhead new initiatives

including some joint services and mission events. CTD was instrumental in starting the Dorking Food Bank which continues to operate from the Christian Centre. We would like to strengthen our links with St Joseph's Catholic Church, the URC, and Crossways Baptist Church and other faiths.

St Martin's, as the civic church for Dorking, hosts the annual Remembrance Sunday service and leads the town in worship at the Dorking War Memorial. Recently we hosted a formal Civic and Dorking Deanery service to welcome the new Bishop of Dorking. We participate regularly in special events in the town. For example, we offer hospitality in the church on the town's Christmas Gala event and offer tours of the building and the bell tower during Heritage Weekend. We aim to have an active and lively presence in the town and this is beginning to grow again. St Martin's church is used for concerts by local groups as is St Mary's.



At St Martin's we are developing special Sunday services on Harvest, Christingle and Mothering Sunday which have a broader appeal, and our Harvest service attendance was 174. This year for the first time we produced two large banners advertising all the Christmas services and we intend to continue this increased profile along with our social media links. This is all part of our mission to build up our presence in the town.

St Martin's Church building is open 7 days a week and it is striking how many people come through the doors during the week to light a candle, to pray and reflect, or just to look around. There are many opportunities here for mission and ministry. Many people leave a written prayer in the prayer corner. Our Lay Minister organizes a Julian meeting held monthly in his home and this is advertised in the parish magazine.

The Parish of St Martin's Church, Dorking and St Mary's Church, Pixham *contd*

Rainbows and Brownies meet in the Dorking Christian Centre every week and uniformed organisations attend the church on Remembrance Sunday and this year at our Harvest Festival.

The smaller Church of St Mary's was designed for worship and community meetings as only the Chancel is consecrated. Various activities take place including Messy Church on an ad hoc basis for members of the local community. Details of activities are advertised in the Pixham Post which is delivered by the Residents Association. St Mary's Church uses electrical heating and energy is obtained from a green Parish Buying contract.



St Mary's liaise closely with the Pixham Residents Association to support each other in fundraising and social activities during the year. The church takes part in local Heritage celebrations with a special service, displays and refreshments.

Peter Shelley, a member of St Mary's and attends St Martin's PCC.



Activities in St Martin's including making posies for Mothering Sunday and crafts for children.

The Parish of St Martin's Church, Dorking and St Mary's Church, Pixham *contd*

Our Services

St Martin's Church, Dorking

Sundays

8.00am Service of Holy Communion
every Second Sunday
(Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Service every Sunday (Common
Worship, 2nd Sunday non-
eucharistic)

6.00pm Choral Evensong every first Sunday
of the month

Wednesdays

11.00am Service every Wednesday (Common
Worship)

St Mary's Church 10.30am

First Sunday Holy Communion
(Common Worship)

Second Sunday Morning Prayer

Third Sunday Pixham Praise Followed by a
short Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday Songs of Praise



Events held in St Martin's such as a stained glass workshop and a talk on Vaughan Williams.

The Parish of St Martin's Church, Dorking and St Mary's Church, Pixham *contd*

Challenges and Recent Developments

We have a wonderful team of non-stipendiary and retired clergy and an LLM who have been leading our worship and ministry. They are supported by our churchwardens, the PCCs of the two parishes and a team of volunteers.

The congregation at all three churches has declined in recent years, exacerbated by the pandemic. There have been very encouraging developments during 2023 and the congregation has started to grow again at St Martin's. Some members are returning after absence and others are new to the church. There is a renewed sense of excitement about the future and we look forward to working with the new Interim Priest.

The Christian Centre (adjacent to St Martin's) is owned by the Methodist Circuit (see page 25 for further details). This has left St Martin's Church without its own refreshment facilities and toilets and parish hall and whilst use is still made of the Christian Centre a permanent arrangement will have to be agreed. In the meantime we are looking at ways of improving facilities within St Martin's Church and large crypt. The Benefice Administrator, Vicki Judd, has an office in the Centre.

Co-ordinated by the Diocese, during 2023 the Benefice joined with St Paul's Church to look at the opportunities for mission and ministry in Dorking. It has helped to highlight the many opportunities for strengthening our outreach to Dorking with new ways to engage.

All three of the congregations in our Benefice are ready to develop our ministries to engage as widely as we can in a community where most people are not regular churchgoers.



Pupils from St Martin's School worked on their own ideas for stained glass.

The Parish of St Martin's Church, Dorking and St Mary's Church, Pixham *contd*

Current Engagement and Future Opportunities

Children and Families and Young People

St Martin's has close links with St Martin's Church of England Primary School and these have been significantly strengthened in the vacancy. We welcome the whole school, together with the children's families, to St Martin's for services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival. We also host the Year 6 Leavers' service. We have recently further developed these close links with the school by introducing an annual assembly in the church for each year group.



Bishop Richard and Di Sutherland at the Christingle Service December 2023

In 2023, for the first time, St Martin's School choir sang at our Harvest Festival service which was a very joyful occasion with the children's families and staff from the school joining us as well. Our plan is that this will become a fixture in our calendar. At the Harvest Festival service a window was dedicated to the school. Di Sutherland, our Youth Organisations Co-ordinator, plays an important role with links to the uniform organisations.

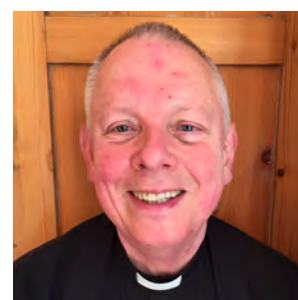
Members of our vacancy team support collective worship at St Martin's School and one of our team members is a School Governor. A monthly prayer group is held on a Monday morning at the School which includes small

groups of pupils and adults from St Martin's and other churches. Monthly meetings take place between the Co-headteachers and St Martin's Church Wardens and our School Governor representative. We are planning to develop a project about Saint Martin with Year 6 pupils.

We would like to develop a stronger focus on ministry and mission to **children and families**. This could include launching a new family friendly service at St Martin's and other children's activities such as a children's choir. This would be an opportunity for outreach to local children and families who do not currently engage with church.

We would also like to begin a new ministry to **young people** via our two local secondary schools in St Martin's parish: The Ashcombe School and The Priory. The Priory School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Comprehensive School and will be hosting a hub leader funded through Guildford Diocese's Youth Catalyst project. The Chair of St Martin's PCC is a Governor at The Priory.

At St Mary's, Messy Church takes place for members of the local community on an ad hoc basis and features an appropriate theme for the morning. 20 adults and 18 children attended the last event.



Rev David Williams links with St Martin's School.

The Parish of St Martin's Church, Dorking and St Mary's Church, Pixham *contd*



*Cathy Merrikin,
Pastoral Assistant*

Pastoral Care

Our St Martin's Pastoral Assistant (Cathy Merrikin) visits the Christian Centre every day during the week, chats with those who are lunching there, and offers support to those who are in need. A small pastoral team meets monthly and we are seeking to develop this further.

There are two residential care homes in St Martin's parish: Deepdene Care Centre and Downsvale Nursing Home and currently one member of St Martin's holds a monthly service (Downsvale). We would like to re-invigorate our links with both of these homes.

There are opportunities to offer worship in other places in the parish, for example at the Dorking Almshouses. Currently one of our PCC members is on the management team there.

St Martin's is exploring the possibility of establishing a listening ministry which would be available for all, initially on a weekly basis. We would also like to develop our support for all those who engage with the church through the Occasional Offices.

Every year Christmas presents are collected by all three churches and collated by St Mary's to give to children who have a mother in nearby Send prison. In 2023 at Easter over 100 Easter eggs were donated, with 40 being given to the men's prison at Coldingley.

At St Mary's Church Harvest and Christmas hampers are made and given to local people in need. Mary's Quiet Garden is a small group which meets twice a month in a domestic garden.

Evangelism and Discipleship

We would like to offer opportunities to those who are interested in exploring the Christian faith by running a Christianity Explored (or similar) at least annually. An ecumenical Lent course is planned for 2024.

Prior to the pandemic, we ran home groups during Lent in conjunction with other churches. As our congregation grows, we aim to develop our discipleship through offering more frequent opportunities to meet together in small groups.

St Martin's has achieved Eco Church Bronze Award status and is working towards the Silver Award. We have recently upgraded our lighting system which will help us towards the Silver Award. Replacement gas boilers are being installed as sadly at present there is no suitable alternative. Further eco projects with St Martin's Primary School are being considered. There is a designated wild area in the churchyard of St Martin's.

The development of sustainability is central to our Christian discipleship and worship at Creationtide helps to embed this aspect of our faith.

An important aspect of our faith is to explore an open dialogue across the town on subjects such as conflict/peace, social justice, poverty, climate change and how we live our lives, to enhance and strengthen our understanding of the Christian faith in a complex world.

The Parish of St Martin's Church, Dorking and St Mary's Church, Pixham *contd*

Communications

St Martin's has recently re-launched its website and appointed a media coordinator (Robina Williams) to oversee the website and Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). Our online presence is growing and is closely monitored. The Christmas Eve service attracted much attention online as did the Christingle Service (see photograph on p16). The monthly Choral Evensong has a regular 150-250 views. A monthly magazine is produced and available across the Benefice and to the wider community and there is a weekly newsheet, also accessed via the website.

Finance

The finances of the two parishes are largely separate. The Diocese apportions parish share between the two PCCs with St Martin's paying 7/8th and St Barnabas 1/8th. Nearly two thirds of annual expenditure for St Martin's and St Mary's is parish share. For 2024 this is £75.5K before an allowance is made for the extended vacancy period.

In 2024 there are projected to be 42 regular givers raising £36K annually plus gift aid at St Martin's. The other major sources of regular income are from a legacy from which a flat was purchased and is currently rented out (£10K pa net) and investment income from endowments and restricted funds.

Recent annual shortfalls have been met from unrestricted income. For 2023 and 2024 the PCC has agreed that some funding will come from unspent income within the George White Trust which exists to meet clergy costs and currently has over £83,000 available to use. The PCC recognises the need to increase regular giving and as a first step in this a stewardship campaign was held in September 2023. A review of the restricted and endowment funds was undertaken in July 2023 by an external chartered accountant which made various recommendations about the use of these funds including a reserves policy in the future. The most recent balance sheet which gives details of these funds is shown in the Appendix.

The major income for St Mary's Pixham comes from regular giving and from hiring the premises. There are 7 further regular donors giving £4K annually plus gift aid. The major expenditure items

are a contribution towards parish share and the cost of electric heating.

The historical consolidated accounts for St Martin's/St Mary's and several associated charities are available via the Charity Commission online.



The Parish of St Martin's Church, Dorking and St Mary's Church, Pixham *contd*



Two of the original founders of the The William Cole Church Music Trust: Michael Kent and Martin Ellis.

Choral Scholarships, training courses for choristers and assist with funding of music. It is completely self-financing and over the years has run regular daytime recital series and many one-off events. There have been 6 Organ and 4 Choral Scholars to date, with a further Organ Scholar in the wings. Nearly all previous Scholars have gone on to study music at a higher level and some have won very prestigious prizes. We regularly welcome back former Scholars as recital artists.

Other Supporting Charities

The William Cole Church Music Trust

The William Cole Church Music Trust St Martin's is home to a well-established and active music Trust, founded in 2007 by a former Director of Music, Martin Ellis, who served St Martin's for 28 years until 2014. The Trust was named after Dr William Cole, who was appointed as organist at St Martin's aged 19, who took over from Ralph Vaughan Williams as conductor of the local Leith Hill Music Festival in 1954.

There are 5 local Trustees and 8 distinguished Patrons. The Trust's aim is to promote and further the appreciation of church music and to fund Organ and

Friends of St Martin's Church

A separate independent charity, the Friends of St Martin's church, was formed in 1981 to raise and provide funds for preserving, maintaining and renewing the building and its fabric, furniture and fittings. In recent years, the Friends have funded non-routine maintenance items such as chancel re-decoration, a new LED lighting scheme and have agreed to fund the boiler replacement. The most recent publicly-available figures from 31 December 2022 showed that the charity had around £600,000 of funds. The Trustees have agreed that around half of this sum will be kept on deposit for the future needs of the church, with the remaining balance being available for maintenance and to contribute to major changes to the church fabric. Thus, the church benefits greatly from the generosity of the Friends and those who have donated money to it.

There are currently five Trustees, and a sixth is being actively sought. When there is a priest in post, he or she joins the committee *ex officio*.



Mosaic commissioned by the Friends of St Martin's to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

Parish of St Barnabas Church, Ranmore



Overview

The Parish of St Barnabas Ranmore lies to the northwest of Dorking; part of its boundary is contiguous with the Parish of St Martin's, Dorking. It forms part of the United Benefice of St Martin's Dorking and St Mary's Pixham with St Barnabas Ranmore, the Rector being the Vicar of Dorking. The Benefice together with St Paul's Dorking and St John's North Holmwood comprise the Dorking Group of Churches. The parish is financially sound and able to meet its parish share annually.

The Environment

The North Downs are chalk downland derived from the northern edge of the Weald. The scarp slopes of Ranmore face south whilst the dip slope eventually merges to the north with the London basin. The complex geology of the lower slopes results in a terroir ideal for viticulture leading to part of the parish containing vines from one of the largest vineyards in England.

Demography

The parish extends over several square miles of the North Downs with residences being sparsely scattered over this area. The population is approximately 280, almost all of whom are adult and of retirement age. The cost of housing together with the absence of new building – Ranmore Common is an area of outstanding natural beauty, an area of special scientific interest

and almost entirely owned by the National Trust – means that young families are unlikely to move into any property that falls vacant. The parish electoral roll for 2023 was 52.

Vision

Recognising that the church is the only communal structure in the parish, St Barnabas Church will continue to be centre of Christian worship for the congregation and act as the focus of community activities in the parish. The parish thus takes on the responsibility of maintaining the Grade II* listed building and enhancing facilities where appropriate to ensure continued access and use.

Mission

This has been the subject of much effort within the Benefice and the wider Dorking Group of Churches. St Barnabas Church shares this mission, summarised as developing church interaction with the town of Dorking such that our welcoming churches in the Benefice work closely with the other churches in Dorking to promote Christianity to individuals and to community groups of all kinds.



History of the Parish

In 1850, Thomas Cubitt purchased Ranmore Common with a view to developing a country seat, having made a large fortune developing and building in London. He set about building a country house – “Denbies” – and developing the rest of the Common as an estate. His son, George Cubitt (later Lord Ashcombe) was denied his wish to be ordained and perhaps in compensation built himself a church – St Barnabas Church – for his estate workers. At this time, there was no parish linked to the church although the parish of St Barnabas Ranmore was established shortly after the church was consecrated in 1859.

The Cubitt family provided a rectory, church school, school house, dispensary, post office, estate staff housing and a public house on the estate. All of these buildings are now private houses.

St Barnabas Church

Gilbert Scott designed and oversaw the construction of the church in the Gothic Revival style, one he much favoured. Externally clad in river washed flint, the building contains extensive use of polished granite and marble and is markedly ornate for a country church, especially so in the sanctuary and at the font. The south transept was re-ordered after the First World War to commemorate the three elder sons of Lord Ashcombe who died in the War and are remembered in the chapel that features a fine mural and altar piece by Reginald Frampton. The organ is a two manual Walker instrument kept in excellent order. The tower houses a fine ring of eight bells that again are in excellent order and regularly rung.

Remarkably, the church has hardly changed from its consecration. Lighting and heating have been greatly improved whilst the organ siting and action have been subject to repeated improvements. Within the curtilage a “waterless loo” has been installed and the area of the churchyard extended, meaning that St Barnabas Church is the only church in the Benefice able to offer burial in sanctified ground. Regrettably, car use is essential for most people who attend the church but thanks to the generosity of the land owner opposite the church an area has been fenced off to provide parking for attendees to church events. The recent pandemic raised the profile of service streaming and the church now has full fibre broadband.

The last Quinquennial Inspection was in 2022 as was the last Inspection of Portable (electrical) Appliances. Much of the work identified has been addressed although a few matters outstanding are proving challenging. It should be emphasised however that the church is sound and in perfectly usable condition.

The church takes its responsibility for the environment seriously and works with the Eco Church organisation to attempt to achieve net zero carbon. However, the design of the church and its construction mean that the building is thermally inefficient. Despite this, it has been possible for St Barnabas Ranmore to achieve a Bronze Eco Award.



Worship at St Barnabas Church

From its opening, St Barnabas Church used the Book of Common Prayer as the core of its churchmanship and remains a prayer book church with close links to the Prayer Book Society. Regular services comprise Matins (first and third Sundays in the month) and Holy Communion on the second Sunday with lay led Evening Prayer on the third Sunday. Evening Prayer is also said every Sunday in Lent whilst

fifth Sundays are used for a Benefice wide service. St Barnabas Church uses this occasional Sunday to read lay led Compline. Tenebrae is performed in season as is a memorable Service of Remembrance.

Occasional offices are performed on request, the Church being a popular venue particularly for weddings. In 2022 there were nine weddings, ten baptisms and three funerals at the church. There were fourteen events other than services during the year.

The Church is a corporate member of the Prayer Book Society and welcomes the Society to worship led by the Society's area chairman. St Barnabas Church is open to other liturgies: three children's services each year, a combined Nativity and Christingle service and a service for pets, for instance.

Attendance at worship is variable, averaging 30 (3% children) over the last year with high attendance for choral Evensong and usually a low point in mid February. The Liturgy for the death of the late Queen was said in 2022 and we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with Choral Eucharist (90 attended) followed by a parish picnic in the churchyard when more than 100 attended. Of note, other services attracted the following attendances: Mothering Sunday (43), Tenebrae (75), Easter Eucharist (49). It is hoped that our new mission for Dorking will lead to increased attendance, however we recognise the niche nature of St Barnabas churchmanship.

Communications

As well as the traditional means of communication – lych gate and porch notice boards – the church uses every reasonable means to which we have access. The church has a digital long term planner that links with the A Church Near You website and publishes its own Newsletter in both print and digital forms. We share information with St Martin's Church via their Church Magazine and Newsletter. The church has an extended emailing list used for passing on day to day information and notice of Zoom services (said Evening Prayer, Compline). The community of Ranmore Common is kept informed of church activity via WhatsApp groups and we are exploring the value of a presence on social media.



The celebration of the coronation of King Charles III.

Activities

St Barnabas Church conducts activities organised both by the church and by wider Christian organisations e.g. a group of parishioners, almost all not regular congregation members, joined the walk led by the then Bishop of Dorking from Ranmore to Guildford.

Approaches from parishioners to use church facilities are welcomed and accommodated, the most recent being a curry supper held in the social area of the churchyard.

We have also welcomed singing groups, music groups,

concerts and groups of walkers to the church and St Barnabas is a regular visit for pilgrims following the route from Winchester to Canterbury. The church and churchyard have also been considered as filming locations. Heritage Open Weekends are used to allow as many people as possible to enjoy the church and its environment.

Much activity centres around fund raising as St Barnabas has no endowment, relying on giving and fundraising to remain financially sound. Apart from regular giving and the income from weddings and Occasional Offices, the principle source of income is from our two fairs: the Cherry Fair in July and the Christmas Fair in November. These events involve the whole parish and are much enjoyed, forming an important part of our mission to the parish. Interactions take place with wider groups of people that come to our regular Sunday Teas held in the summer months when we welcome walkers, cyclists and other users of our wonderful location.

Music

This forms an important part our worship. Our regular group of guest singers ceased to function during the recent pandemic but has been replaced by monthly visits from an excellent a cappella choir whose contributions to Holy Communion particularly provide a profound choral eucharistic experience. The congregation – and our organ – benefit from the regular attendance of an excellent organist who is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. With this support, the congregation is confident in singing not only hymnody but responses, versicles and canticles. A good friend of the church is an internationally renowned trumpeter who is delighted to perform in St Barnabas within worship. The church has an excellent acoustic for vocal and instrumental performance involving solo singers and the playing of string instruments, guitar, lute etc.

"The Staff"

St Barnabas Church has no employees but benefits from a strong cadre of volunteers both clergy and lay. Our organist is paid per service.

The Clergy Who Support Our Worship:

Reverend Caroline Lazenby (officially has permission to officiate but known to us as "our" curate)
Christopher Watts, Anglican Reader
Less frequently the Reverend David Cowan, the Reverend David Williams and the Reverend Stuart Peace.

Our Volunteer "Staff":

Two Servers, Two Chalice Assistants.

Our organist – Martin Hall FRCO

The Parochial Church Council: Chairman – the curate (but this will be the priest in charge when appointed); Treasurer – Ian Hudson; PCC Secretary – Robin Luff (acting);

Minutes Secretary – Sandra Skelt

Verger – Brian Belton

Honorary Churchyard Manager – Sandra Luff

Churchwardens (one year into their second terms) – Robin Luff, Nicholas Grealy

Bell ringers – the tower has a full ringing team with a number of ringers in training, thanks to an enthusiastic Tower Captain.

Summary

The Church of St Barnabas, its congregation and its community are in good heart and look forward to welcoming the next Priest in Charge.

Dorking Christian Centre



The Centre was created in the mid 1970s following the decision by the Anglicans and Methodists to join together as a Shared Church. For many years the Centre was managed ecumenically; following the closure of the Dorking Methodist Church in 2021 it is now run by the local Methodist Circuit. The Christian Centre has a part-time Chaplain and a small team of staff and volunteers. The Chaplain runs various groups during the year.

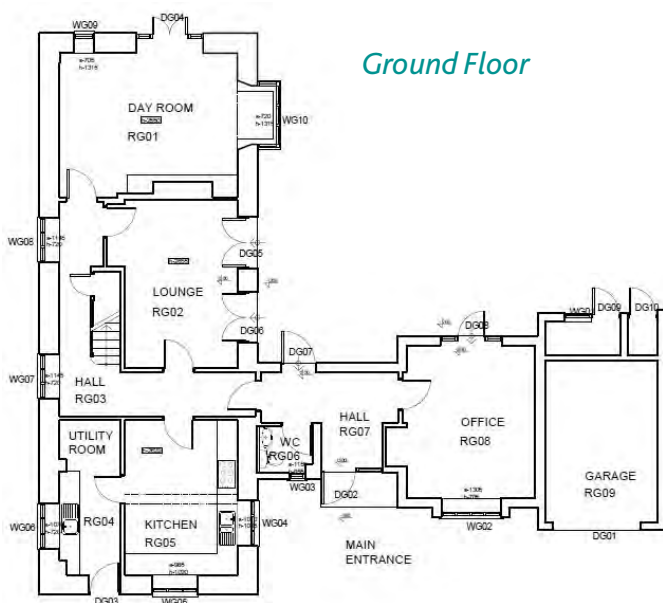
The Centre operates a café serving morning coffee and good quality low cost lunch every weekday. There is a Community Fridge, stocked with food surplus from supermarkets, and the Dorking Area Foodbank, which is operated by Churches Together in Dorking, is run from the Centre. The Centre also hosts a range of local community groups and activities throughout the week.



The Christian Centre and the ever popular Spring Plant Sale.



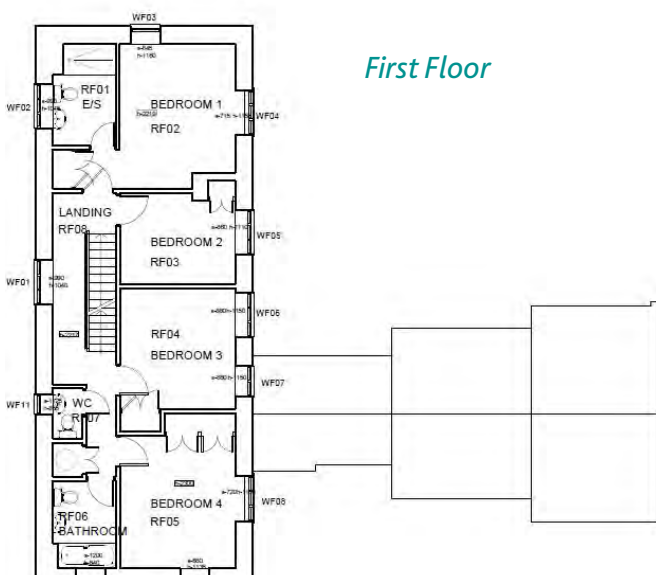
Benefice Vicarage



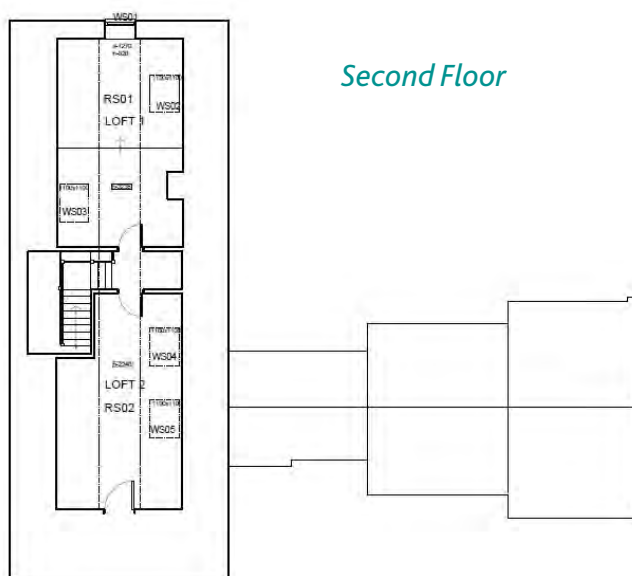
Ground Floor

The vicarage is an attractive house, converted from the stable block of the previous vicarage in the 1980s. It is situated just five minutes' walk to the west of St Martin's church.

The house has four bedrooms (one with a small ensuite bathroom and kitchen), a sitting room, dining room and kitchen with a separate utility area, and a study which is separated from the rest of the house. There is a large walled garden, integral garage and off-road parking for several cars.



First Floor



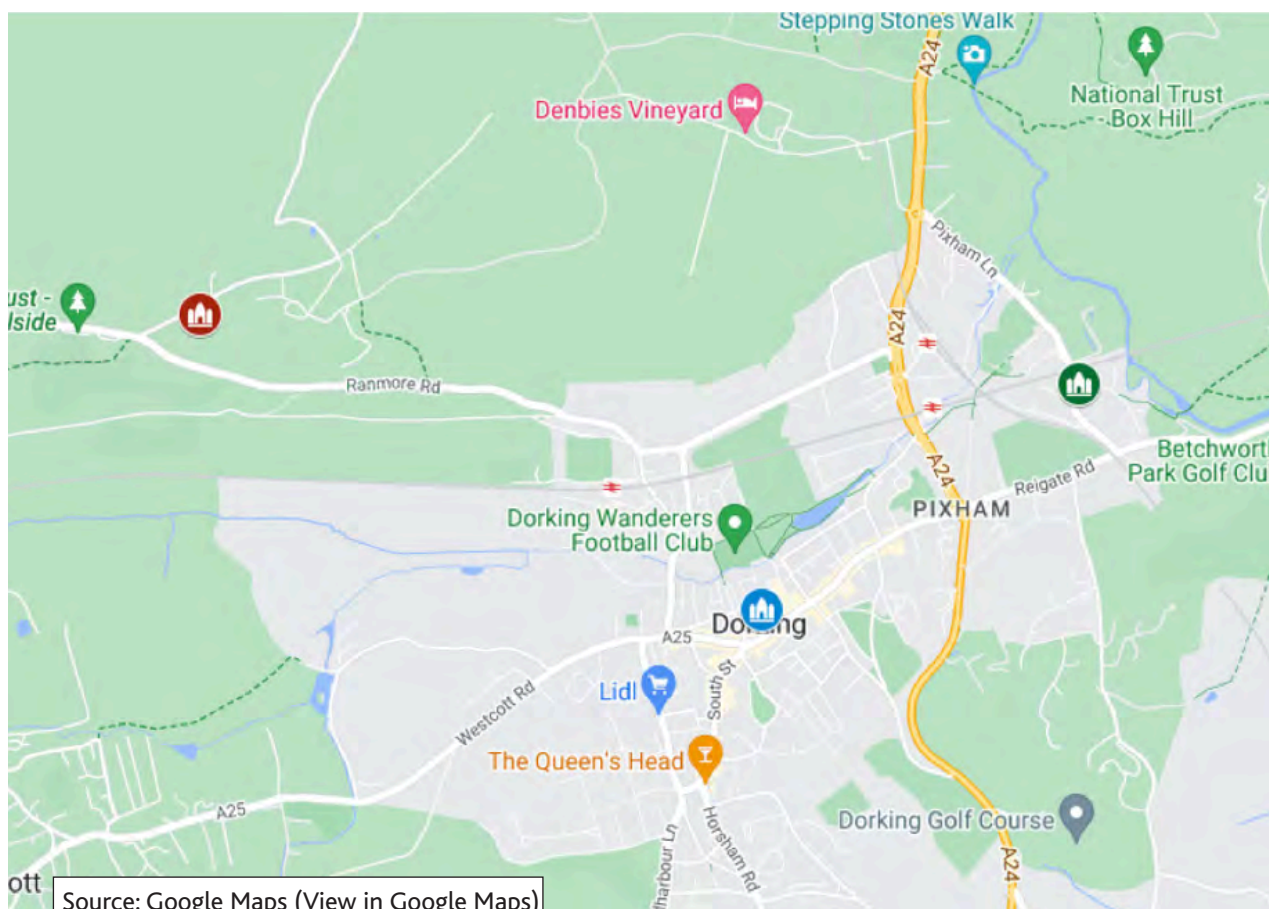
Second Floor

Description of Dorking, Ranmore and Pixham

The historic market town of Dorking nestles between the hills of Ranmore, Box Hill and Leith Hill. All of these are areas of Green Belt or Outstanding Natural Beauty, yet Dorking is only an hour by train into central London and an hour's drive from the south coast. Much of the countryside around is owned by the National Trust and there is much to explore on foot or by bike.




The town has a population of approximately 17,500. Its amenities include a cinema and concert hall, a sports centre with swimming pool, a football stadium, a library and a small museum. There are five primary schools and two secondary schools. The High Street has a mix of national chains and independent shops, cafes, restaurants and pubs and there are some antique shops in West Street. There is a thriving musical life and several excellent choirs in and around the surrounding areas. The town hosts the annual Leith Hill Music Festival. Denbies Wine Estate is award winning as are our local breweries!

Pixham is a small community with around 800 residents and lies close to the Surrey landmark of Box Hill and two railway lines. It is less than a mile east of Dorking town centre and has its own identity. Local housing is varied in nature including many smaller homes close to St Mary's. The population of Pixham is expected to increase significantly.



Source: Google Maps (View in Google Maps)

Benefice of Dorking with Ranmore

-  St Martin's Church
-  St Mary's Church
-  St Barnabas Church, Ranmore

Appendices

Appendix i

Summary Income and Expenditure for St Martin's and St Mary's Churches

The table below combines figures for St Martin's and St Mary's Churches with separate Vicar and Churchwarden charities.

INCOME	2022	2021	EXPENDITURE	2022	2021
Regular giving	46,034	46,812	Parish Share	73,134	70,468
Donations	7,263	5,962	Administration	20,016	18,126
Tax refund	11,556	12,356	Running Costs	19,624	16,117
Grants	2,300	2,300	Maintenance	14,154	12,433
Magazine	386	1,619	Music	10,657	8,738
Fees	2,149	2,123	Sub-total	137,585	125,882
Hire [#]	30,371	5,280	Lighting project	67,030	–
Legacy	–	50,000	Total	204,615	125,882
PCC Investments	15,675	14,316			
Other charities	17,600	14,669			
Other income	1,031	4,402	Net	(6,860)	33,957
Sub-total	134,365	159,839			
Friends of St Martin's	63,390	–			
Total	197,755	159,839			

[#] There was exceptional hire income for St Mary's Pixham just for 2022.

Appendices

Appendix ii

St Martin's: Balance sheet at December 31st 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investment property	–	–	340,000	340,000	340,000
Investments	96,293	–	413,073	509,366	560,246
Total fixed assets	96,293	–	753,073	849,366	900,246
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and prepayments	4,575	158	–	4,733	2,858
Investments (short term)	3,797	5,411	–	9,208	30,809
Cash at bank and in hand	24,435	178,052	9,336	211,823	201,280
Total current assets	32,807	183,621	9,336	225,764	234,947
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: due in 1 year	7,534	–	–	7,534	9,856
Net current assets less liabilities	25,273	183,621	9,336	218,230	225,091
Total Net Assets	121,566	183,621	762,409	1,067,596	1,125,337
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
CHARITY FUNDS 2022					
St Martin's	77,560	30,107	426,097	533,764	591,985
Pixham (see note)	44,006	10,213	0	54,219	33,691
Other Charity		143,301	336,312	479,613	499,661
Total Charity Funds	121,566	183,621	762,409	1,067,596	1,125,337

Note: In 2022 Pixham Church received an exceptional amount of income from hirings.

Appendices

Appendix iii

Summary of 2022 and 2023 Income and Expenditure – St Barnabas

Incoming Resources	General Fund 2023	General Fund 2022	Outgoing Resources	General Fund 2023	General Fund 2022
Income from Donors			Grants and donations	2,195	2,687
Planned Giving (Gift Aided)	10,900	12,080	Activities		
Other Gift Aided Receipts	1,831	2,821	Parish Share	13,848	14,844
Offertories	5,920	6,415	Salaries & Fees	4,019	4,301
Income Tax recovered	4,707	5,432	Wedding expenses	1,419	4,076
Other donations	1,011	676	Funeral expenses	751	80
Diocesan Grants	1,000	2,000	Heating, lighting & water	3,474	3,323
	<u>25,370</u>	<u>29,424</u>	Insurance	3,562	3,254
Chasuble Fund (Restricted)	0	869	Repairs to Paths	0	26,822
Legacy (Designated)	0	5,000	Maintenance other	2,135	2,223
	<u>25,370</u>	<u>35,293</u>	Upkeep of Services	1,067	1,346
Income from Operations & Fund-Raising			Miscellaneous expenses	1,051	848
Cherry Fair	2,426	2,016	Churchyard maintenance	<u>6,822</u>	<u>1,625</u>
Christmas Fayre	1,931	1,866		38,148	62,743
Commission from Easy Fundraising	126	60	Cubitt Bench	<u>375</u>	<u>1,586</u>
Film Location Fee	2,500	0		38,523	64,330
Concerts	0	120	Administration	<u>1,007</u>	<u>322</u>
Awards from 100 Club	3,650	3,740	Totals	41,725	67,338
Wedding fees	3,382	9,583	Surplus/(Deficit)	4,626	(10,193)
Funeral fees	3,231	1,814	Parish Funds		
Teas	1,095	959	General fund	62,977	57,977
	<u>18,340</u>	<u>20,159</u>	Unrestricted funds	6,287	6,287
Trust income & bank interest	2,640	1,873	Restricted Funds	<u>15,759</u>	<u>16,134</u>
Totals	46,350	57,325	Net Current assets	85,024	80,398

Appendices

Appendix iv

Baptism, Wedding and Funeral Statistics for Parish of St Martin's

Weddings	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	1	–	2	3	2

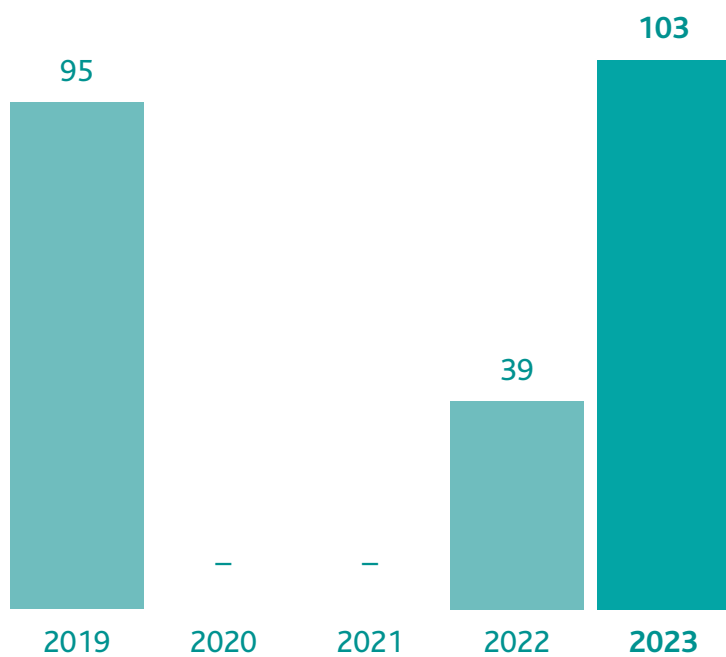
Baptisms	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	12	–	10	8	4

Funerals	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	11	15	8	3	8

Appendices

Appendix v

October Attendance Figures (average week) for St Martin's Parish



Appendices

Appendix vi

Vision Statement

Document from Jens Mankel, Diocesan Mission Enabler – Revitalization following extensive consultation across the Group Ministry.



Dorking Town Centre Mission and Ministry

- Unity
- Valuing diverse worship styles
- Growing community engagement
- Reaching families and young people

- Compassion
- Community
- Congregation
- Culture
- Commerce

- Ministry resourcing
- Timeline to sustainability
- Developing the building of St Martin's as a resource for mission



#Love Dorking

- We prioritise:
- strong community collaboration
 - reaching all generations including families and young people with the good news of Jesus.

We are united and committed to a diversity of Christian mission, ministry, and worship in the town centre of Dorking.

We want to be faithful to our calling in serving our community, caring for the marginalised and to be integrated in the civic life of our town.



Appendices

Appendix vii

Contact Us and Useful Links

St Martin's Church	https://stmartinsdorking.org
Church Street, Dorking RH4 1DW	
St Mary's Church	www.pixhamresidents.org
46 Pixham Lane, Dorking RH4 1PT	
St Barnabas Church	www.ranmorewarmemorial.info
Ranmore Common Road, Dorking RH5 6SP	
St Martin's Church of England Primary School	www.stmartins-primary.surrey.sch.uk
The Ashcombe School	www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk
The Priory Church of England School	www.thepriorycofe.com
Diocese of Guildford	www.cofeguildford.org.uk
Dorking Sports Centre	www.better.org.uk
Dorking Halls	www.dorkinghalls.co.uk
Denbies Wine Estate	www.denbies.co.uk

St Martin's Church PCC is a registered charity 1133695

St Barnabas Church PCC is an excepted charity

