The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul

Butchers Hill, Shorne, Gravesend, Kent. DA12 3EB

www.shorneparishchurch.co.uk

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Parish Profile

August 2016
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Introduction

The parish church of St Peter & St Paul Shorne, in the Diocese of Rochester (www.rochester.anglican.org), stands at the centre of the parish and village of Shorne, and has been a local focal point of the village for over 1,000 years.

We regard our church as belonging to all our parishioners, and seek to use it in serving their needs. It is the home of the local Christian community, and that community offers a welcome to Christians whatever their previous faith background, to those of different faiths or of no faith.

Together we work to keep the name of God alive in our community by demonstrating our response to His love in sending His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be our Saviour. Our aim is to seek God's grace in all that we do so that by His grace we may be empowered by His Holy Spirit to be the Body of Christ in this community and beyond though our pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical roles.

The post of Vicar of St. Peter and St. Paul, Shorne is half-time.

What we are looking for in our new priest

- We hope that you will have Jesus Christ at the centre of your life and ministry, enabling you to focus on bible-centred teaching and to help us to understand and further our faith.

- We hope that you will work to promote pastoral care with people of all ages within our community, and will encourage others to involve themselves in the spreading of our Lord's word and love.

- We hope that you will continue to support our Church School and all children and family organisations.

- Our church needs to grow to maintain itself as a viable concern for the future. To this end, we hope that you will help us to expand work with younger people and their families.

- We hope that you will lead us cheerfully, with a forgiving sense of humour and prayerfully guide and engage us in mission, scripture and worship.

- We hope that you will help us to develop our own gifts and talents as we carry out our various duties and tasks within the church community.
What we can offer in return

- We can offer a friendly and helpful congregation who are waiting for a new leader to help them grow in faith and mission.
- We have a beautiful, ancient church building, rich with history and the many prayers said within its walls for over a thousand years.
- The church building is set in a picturesque village of North Kent, offering views over the River Thames, with easy links to London and the Kent coast, the Bluewater shopping centre, and is close to a much loved Country Park with fine walking and rambling opportunities and activities for children.
- We can offer a lovely four-bedroomed vicarage with an established garden, situated close to the church yet in a secluded wooded area.
- Overall, we feel that we have an attractive package to offer our new vicar and we will love to help that person and their family settle into our community.

The local area

The village of Shorne lies on the north slope of the North Downs, Kent, which is an area of outstanding natural beauty overlooking the River Thames. The Parish lies between the A2/M2 to the south and the Thames on the north, the outskirts of Gravesend 3.5 km to the west, and approximately 3 km to the east, the outskirts of the Medway towns including Rochester and its beautiful cathedral.

The Parish is the same as the civil parish and consists of the village itself, including The Ridgeway and Lower Shorne, and the two small hamlets of Upper Shorne (or Ifield) and Thong. In the south west corner, is part of a housing estate on the edge of Gravesend, known as Shorne West.

The population of the parish is around 2,800 of which about one third live in Shorne West.
The parish is largely houses, farmland and woods. There is no significant industry or commerce so few people are employed in the parish; most commute to London or other nearby towns. There are three shops in the village centre, a small but well stocked general store, a beauty parlour and a hairdresser. There are two pubs, 'The Rose and Crown' and 'The See Ho'. Both also have restaurants. The nearby village of Higham also provides a Post Office, a pharmacy, a fish and chip takeaway, a Chinese takeaway, a greengrocer, a homemade bakery and a hairdresser.

A wide choice of shops, including several supermarkets, are a short journey off the A2/M2 in Strood, Gravesend and Northfleet and the Bluewater Shopping Centre is just a 15 minutes’ drive away. This offers a wide range of retail stores including M&S, John Lewis and House of Fraser.

The doctor’s surgery is situated at the north end of the village centre and is part of the Downsway Medical Practice. Patients are guaranteed to see a doctor if they attend the surgery any weekday between 9.00am and 10.30am. It offers an efficient, friendly service and has its own pharmacy on site. Prescriptions can be delivered to anyone who is unable to get to the surgery easily.

There is a good sized modern village hall (http://www.shornevillagehall.org/) which is well used throughout the week. The various groups meeting there include: Northfleet & District Probus Club, the Local History group, STAGES, which organises various outings by coach plus an annual holiday, Shornara, the active retirement group, Shorne and Thong WI, Short Mat bowls, Slimming World and a pre-school playgroup. Other organisations include: the bell ringers, The Garden Society, Shorne Flower Arrangers, Dicken's Country Protection Society, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

The Parish Church is at NG reference TQ691710 on the southern edge of the village centre, tucked out of sight on the side of Butchers Hill behind houses, with farm land on the south side and with several historic houses in the vicinity including the old vicarage, now privately owned, which was built in the 15th century, and the old parsonage which was built in the 19th century. It has no car park and only very limited parking in the adjacent road. Parking in the village is limited but often the modest village hall car park can be used.
There is only one other place of worship nowadays (the Methodist church having closed in 2008) being St. Katherine's House and Chapel in Forge Lane. It is run from St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Gravesend. Mass is now being said in the chapel on the first Saturday of every month at 11.00am.

The present rectory was built in 1950. It is double glazed, has a separate single garage and there is parking for several cars on the drive. On the ground floor are a hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, study, WC and larder. On the first floor are four bedrooms, bathroom and WC. There are two store rooms attached to the house and at the rear is a terrace overlooking the garden with a fine view over the church and village. It is a short walk from the church to the vicarage at the top of Butcher's Hill.

Public transport is provided by Redroute buses, the services being numbers 416/417 which travel between Gravesend - Shorne - Meopham/Cliffe and back. These buses stop in Shorne at Shorne Crossroads, The Street (in front of the village hall), Shorne Ridgeway (opposite Racefield Close) and Shorne Woods Country Park. A more regular service is the 190 which runs between Gravesend and Chatham Bus Station along the Gravesend/Rochester Road (the A226). In order to use this service it is necessary to walk down to the bottom of Forge Lane, where the two bus stops, on either side of the Gravesend Road, can easily be seen.

One of the main threats to the village at present is the proposed Lower Thames Crossing – an alternative crossing point of the River Thames to that at Dartford. Plans have been put forward by Highways England for consultation, with ‘Option C’, to the East of Gravesend, as the preferred route. This has two options attached to it: the Western Route would skirt around the western part of the village; the Eastern Route would potentially cut through swathes of the village and would have a considerable impact on the local community. An active campaign group opposed to Option C is based in the village. The period of consultation has ended, and a decision by the government is awaited.

Ebbsfleet International is a 10 minute drive along the A2. A high speed train service into London St. Pancras stops here with a journey time of only 18 minutes, together with Eurostar services providing links to Paris and Brussels. Southeastern railways provide additional links with London, the Kent coast, Canterbury and Dover from Gravesend, Higham or Sole Street (about 6km away) railway stations. The main A2 (linking to the M2) London to Dover road passes along the S. boundary of the parish.
Statistics (in 2011)
Population: 2800

Age profile:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 4</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 15</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 – 64</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>65 +</td>
<td>26%</td>
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</tbody>
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Approximations:

Over 16s:   Single 400  Married 1,395  Divorced/widowed 288  With long term illness: 369  Providing unpaid care: 281
Age 16-74:  Economically active employed: 1,162  Economically unemployed: 40  Economically inactive: 672  Females employed: 508  Males employed: 654
Families:   All couple families: 755  Female lone parent: 43  Male lone parent: 11

Average church attendance at 8 am: 15  10 am: 40
Baptisms (by arrangement): 10
Weddings: 6 a year
Funerals: In church: 6 a year  At crematorium only: 10 a year

Shorne Country Park

Shorne Country Park is situated on the southern side of the village and is one of the most popular parks in Kent, providing 288 acres of woodlands, lakes, wetlands and meadows. There are marked paths all around the park, plus cycle and horse trails. There is an eco-visitor's centre with display areas showing the diversity of flora and fauna in the park, a shop, plus refreshments and a stone baked pizza oven operating at weekends in the summer months. Some areas of the park are of Special Scientific Interest and archaeological digs have been carried out here, the main excavation being Randall Manor. This was the home of Sir Henry de Cobham from 1360 to 1400. His effigy lies in the Randall Chapel in the Parish church.

Church tradition

As the only church in the village we try to serve the whole parish by being open and inclusive. We welcome Christians of all churchmanship and denominations to our services and to receive Communion. Services are relatively formal in structure but relaxed. Forms of liturgy or ceremonial that might be uncomfortable to some people are avoided so in this respect services are relatively simple.
**Lay Ministries**
Lay reader - Dennis Usher.

There is currently an informal Ministry team to plan services and pastoral work consisting of the lay reader, churchwardens and four others.

**Church Building**
For a detailed history of Shorne Church, please see the link on the parish website:


Nearly £250,000 was spent in 2014 on repairs to the south aisle and tower, following a fundraising exercise and through the provision of grants.

**Schools in the parish**
Shorne Church of England Primary School is the only school in the village ([http://www.shorne.kent.sch.uk/](http://www.shorne.kent.sch.uk/))

The vicar is *ex officio* a foundation governor and the deputy chair of the governors. The PCC recommends two further foundation governors for appointment by the diocese.

The relationship between the church and the school is very strong. The incumbent Vicar usually takes assemblies every Thursday, and there are recent encouraging developments in the participation by the school in services throughout the year.

The school visits the church by year groups and studies the building on the first occasion as an historical symbol and on the second as a symbol of the Christian faith. It holds occasional services in the church. Over the last seven years it has allowed the church to hold lent courses and large meetings there without charge.
Other schools in the area
There are nearly 40 state schools (infants, primary and secondary) within a five mile radius of the village. They include grammar schools and St Georges Church of England comprehensive school, and details can be found on the following website:
Details of independent schools in Kent can be found on the following website:

Youth & Children’s Work
The church does not currently run any groups. Recent discussions regarding the implementation of ‘Messy Church’ currently remain unformulated owing to the lack of leaders. There are active Scouts, Cubs and Beavers in the village which have a good relationship with the church.
There is good co-operation with the primary school - see above.

Co-operation with local Churches
Gravesend Deanery

Shorne is the most easterly parish in Gravesend Deanery, which comprises 12 parishes and 14 churches, largely in the area between the A2 and the River Thames, extending to Greenhithe in the West.

Deanery clergy meet at Chapter 6 times a year, as well as at social and retreat events. There is close co-operation between the churches of the Deanery including an agreed Deanery Mission Plan – a new Mission Plan is close to completion, seeking to make our mission in this area more effective by mutual support and sharing of resources.

Shared Deanery projects include a newly-established CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Advice Centre, and a Chaplaincy team to visit Gravesham Place Hospital.

The Deanery has an agreed protocol for the sharing of Occasional Offices – a copy of this policy is available on request. The Deanery faces some changes ahead, as a large building development (new town) known as Ebbsfleet Garden City, will be built towards the West of the Deanery over the next few years. Deanery churches are supporting one another through this time of change and are working with the Diocese to establish the shape of ministry in the new development.
Accounts
A copy of The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2015 is available on the parish website:

Service Programme
**Sunday**
- 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10 am Holy Communion (CW) except first Sunday All Age Worship (no communion).

The All Age Worship is currently held at Shorne C/E Primary School, and is to move to the second Sunday in the month from October 2016 to avoid bank holiday weekends.

**Festivals**
- *Mothering Sunday*: Family service at 10 am
- *Palm Sunday*: special service at 10 am

*Easter:*
- Ash Wednesday: 8 pm Holy Communion (BCP)
- Maundy Thursday: 8 pm Holy Communion, special service
- Good Friday: Church open for private prayer 12 to 2 pm
- Devotional service 2 pm
- Easter Sunday: Family communion service 10 am

*Patronal & civic service*: nearest Sunday to 29 June
Harvest festival and Back to Church Sunday, special service
10 am

Remembrance Sunday: Parade at War
Memorial followed by service at 10 am

Christmas:
  Last Sunday before Christmas, Candlelit carol service: 3 pm
  Christmas Eve: Service of remembrance: 2 pm
  Combined Crib /Christingle service: 4pm
  Midnight Communion: 11.30 pm
  Christmas Day: 10 am Family service with Communion

Music
There is a small but committed choir which practices regularly and is not afraid to try out new, modern pieces of music in order to add variety to Sunday worship.

Two music teachers from Gravesend Grammar School have recently started to provide live musical accompaniment at the All Age Worship services, and have been a refreshing addition to our worship team.
Church Organisations
Fellowship Group: Monthly informal bible study in a parishioner’s home.
Members of the congregation are involved in groups such as a Baby & Toddler Group and several non-church organisations in the parish.

Teaching Programmes
Confirmation preparation held in a parishioner’s home and run by the vicar and lay reader.
Fellowship: an informal bible study meeting held monthly in a parishioner's home.
Lent course: four meetings in the school preceded by simple meal.

Mission Statement
The PCC would welcome working with the new vicar on a mission statement fit for the next phase of church life.

Activities 2015/16
Throughout the year we have held several successful events, beginning with and Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, a Quiz Night (where about seven teams competed and enjoyed a very sociable evening), a Strawberry Tea, a Harvest Lunch and a birthday tea to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday. We have recently started running a Coffee Morning on the last Thursday of every month.

On Red Nose Day, the church was invaded by children running about and throwing paper planes, a painted balloon face contest, Ultimate Lemons and Marble Mayhem. On the church Open Day we had church tours and afternoon teas with stalls selling crafts made by several local organisations. This was the same day as the Friends of Kent Churches sponsored ‘Ride and Stride’ in which two from our parish participated.

SWOT analysis
(a) Strengths: Inclusive, united & friendly congregation, prepared to accept change, attractive services, no serious problems in parish, good parish magazine, attractive ancient church building, support from non-worshipers and parish council. Very good relationship with the vicar and his Curate of our closest neighbouring parish of St Mary’s Church, Chalk, Gravesend.
(b) **Weaknesses:** Shortage of people to take responsibilities, congregation not good at drawing in new people, ageing congregation, few children, mostly middle class, lack of income, Shorne West too far away, poor promotion of activities, church inflexible, inaccessible and has no parking.

(c) **Opportunities:** Potential congregation in Shorne West, more involvement with children (incl Scouts), involvement with primary school (though most pupils live outside village), scope to involve more in different services and home groups.

(d) **Threats:** Loss of congregation not made up by new members, ageing congregation, competing secular activities/ lack of time, growing secularisation of society.

**Church Publications**
Shorne Parish Magazine, 10 a year, circulation about 500. Back numbers are available on the parish website.

http://www.shorneparishchurch.co.uk/parish-magazine/

Weekly notice sheets distributed at services and by email *

Details concerning the church history, war memorial and other memorial can be found on the parish website.

http://www.shorneparishchurch.co.uk/history/churchyard/

* Sample copies of these can be provided.