



# Parish of Corfe Mullen

## *The Churches of St Hubert & St Nicholas*

Wimborne Deanery, Diocese of Salisbury



## Parish Profile

## **Introduction from the Rector**

My name is Jane Burgess and I have been the Rector of Corfe Mullen since July 2017. The process of discerning a parish in which you as a Community Pioneer Minister can flourish within your role and as part of the church leadership team is rarely straightforward and therefore I hope you will find this profile helpful in deciding whether Corfe Mullen would be a good fit for you.

I am excited to be here and as you read through I hope you will begin to share that sense of excitement and expectation. We are a parish which in recent years has been through difficult times but one which is turning a corner and rediscovering a renewed sense of vision and direction. St Nicholas church, a modern building has some of the best facilities of any church I have seen and sits in the heart of the large and thriving community of Corfe Mullen. Our community includes people from across the socio-economic spectrum, of all ages and many young families. Literally hundreds of people from the wider area use our facilities each week and so the potential for mission, outreach and ministry to young families is huge, particularly for those with a pioneering heart, not afraid to take risks and willing to try new things.

At the heart of my calling is a desire to see the Church be effective and fruitful in reaching out to people with the Good News and in enabling each and every church member to grow deeper in their own faith. To this end, a key part of my role and indeed other leaders within the church is to release and help nurture the many gifts that God has given us within the church body. I also believe that the healthiest churches foster a culture of leadership which is genuinely shared and transparent; one that builds trust, a good sense of team and a willingness to take risks. Supporting me in this task is my husband Charles, also ordained and Associate Vicar here, who is a Leadership Specialist with CPAS. In June 2020 we were joined by our Curate Matt. My earnest desire for whoever serves as our Pioneer Community Minister would be first and foremost they would find it a safe, friendly and fun place to exercise their ministry; one in which they themselves are able to develop their gifts and skills, sometimes stretched beyond their comfort boundaries; and a place in which they feel able to share my passion in identifying and nurturing those within our church body with the gifts and skills to work with younger people and families Please be assured of my prayers as you reflect and consider your next steps.

## **The Journey of Our Church**

St Nicholas and St Hubert are two church buildings but one church family with a shared vision to grow closer to God, closer to each other and closer to our community. We seek to be a welcoming community of all ages on a journey of Christian faith. We express our worship in both traditional and contemporary ways and seek to make known the love of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond.

St Nicholas is a modern building with extensive facilities and in the early years the church family enjoyed a significant period of growth and had members drawn from across the age spectrum. Around five or so years ago, the churches experienced significant difficulties and the main impact was a large drop in overall numbers attending. Our new Rector Revd Jane Burgess arrived in June 2017 and since then we have established a new vision and a new sense of direction. Key initiatives have been a new service pattern, the establishment of Life groups and various new and existing ministries seeking to engage with and serve our local community. Church members also describe a change in the way the church feels, the overall tone being one of friendliness and informality, with

lots of opportunity to talk with each other over coffee and each month at St Nicholas, a light breakfast before the Family service. These values of welcome and hospitality are important to us and newcomers consistently remark on how friendly and informal they find the welcome.

Nevertheless, it still feels early days and we are still very much on a journey of change in turning our vision into reality. We want to see our churches full of all ages, serving our community in various ministries and also being confident in living out our faith as followers of Christ in the places God has placed each of us during the week.

## **Our People and Sunday Services**

Typical total attendance across our two Sunday services is approximately 70. Whilst there are noticeably a larger number of older/retired members, there is a small group of Millennials who meet in a Life Group and who all serve within the wider church. Our services embrace the span of traditions that is reflected within our congregations ranging from a broadly central tradition to open evangelical.

St Nicholas Church has a regular Sunday congregation of around 55 people; gradually this number is growing. Before the pandemic, we had recently moved to a new pattern of services, all beginning at 10 AM, which rotate around a monthly cycle of Holy Communion, an informal and a family service. Our sung worship is a mix of mainly contemporary and some traditional, led by an excellent worship group of younger and older church members, this will all be reviewed when the church reopens.

St Hubert church has a Sunday congregation of around 15 people and a traditional form of service.

As a two-church Parish, we have one PCC and its 15 members are drawn from across both churches and represent the core leadership team within the church. We have two wardens, an LLM in training and a team of Lay Pastoral Assistants.

Two part-time office staff support the Rector and enable our Parish Office at St Nicholas church centre to be open each day Mon-Fri. We also employ two part-time cleaners at the church centre and part time maintenance support staff.

## **Investing our Gifts and Resources**

Most people within our congregations are involved in some sort of ministry either within the church or outside during the week. These include the Corfe Mullen Food Bank, a Lunch Club and Day Centre for the elderly together with ministry to those living in a local sheltered housing facility. We run a café every Saturday morning in St Nicholas and this is attended by many locals who are not regular churchgoers. During the week we run a toddlers group which is proving very popular. Our other groups include a bereavement support group "Compass" and a sewing group "Threads of Faith".



## Our Buildings and Facilities

### St Nicholas



The church building is on the main road that runs through Corfe Mullen and was completed in 1997. The facility is a multi-purpose complex open daily through until the evenings comprising the main church space (multi-purpose worship space for 300), a separate Chapel (smaller worship space), a large Narthex common area, large and small halls, a lounge, well-equipped kitchen, vestries, meeting rooms and offices. Two rooms to the rear of the building are currently sublet as the administrative offices of the Bishop of Sherborne and Archdeacons of Dorset and Sherborne.

The facilities are let for the use of the local community; both regular weekly bookings and one-off events/room hire. Many different groups hire these facilities, including choirs, an orchestra, lunch club for retired people and a slimming world club. These provide us with a key source of income and each week sees the building used by several hundred people from the wider community. The complex is also used for Diocesan events including Diocesan Synod, Archdeaconry Days and training events.

An annexe building is used by a children's nursery throughout the day Mon-Fri. The site includes a large car park, small garden areas and even a small woodland area to the rear.

### St Hubert



The building has Norman origins and is located about a mile from the main part of the village. It sits in a churchyard, with designated car park and an adjoining field. It is used on Sundays for a weekly 8.00am service and on a regular basis for baptisms, weddings and funerals and for special occasions such as a candlelit Christmas service.

## Our Community

Corfe Mullen was an ancient settlement in a valley between two hills. The old village has grown to an urban fringe with a population of over 10,500 comprising an age range of around 25% <18 and 25% >65. We have excellent local schools: two First Schools, a Middle School and just over the parish boundary an Upper School.



The main street through Corfe Mullen has a number of retail and commercial premises including two supermarkets, hair/beauty salons, an Indian restaurant and various takeaways. There is also a library, doctor's surgery, pharmacy, dentist and veterinary practices, filling station, a Post Office, a number of children's nurseries and 4 children's play areas.

Immediately adjacent to St Nicholas is a small leisure centre, recently refurbished with swimming pool and gym facilities. Corfe Mullen also has a large recreational area boasting cricket green, football pitches and tennis courts. As well as the village hall and Scout & Guides huts there is a youth centre and The Royal British Legion premises.

There is an annual village carnival which celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year during 2016.

Other churches in Corfe Mullen include an independent Baptist church, an independent Evangelical church and a Mission church. Both Methodist churches have closed in recent years.

## Our Vision and our Values

As a church body we have a vision to grow deeper in our faith and to see this out-worked in our commitment and care to one another and to the wider community including the places that God has placed each of us during the week.

The Bible matters to us and our preaching and teaching aims to help us better understand its truths but also how these can be practically worked out and applied in our lives through the week. We believe that God has given each of us gifts and as a church body we increasingly want to give everyone the opportunity to grow in their discipleship and nurture their gifts and talents. We also believe that there must be opportunity for all of us to share our experiences, questions, ideas, doubts and fears and simply to engage at a deeper level with one another because without the space to do this, it is difficult to grow deeper in our faith. Hence the formation of Life Groups but also a more interactive culture within our services and the many opportunities to share over a coffee or tea and various other social events.

Increasingly, we are also seeking to enable prayer to shape and underpin all we do, endeavouring to listen to what God is saying to us, both individually and corporately.



St Nicholas church in particular enjoys extensive facilities and has become a significant hub within our local community, not only for the groups that use us each week but other major local events including those we have organised. For example, we host the annual remembrance service of The Royal British Legion which is attended by the village Scout and Guide movement and a Christian-based pantomime we held last Christmas, with Saltmine theatre company, attracted large numbers of families. St Nicholas also hosts Christmas concerts for schools in the village. The potential therefore to build upon our existing ministries and links is huge.



We want to be a church of all ages that is representative of our community. Therefore, we endeavour to be accessible to everyone, wanting to be good listeners and starting where people are at.

Key to our vision is the recruitment of a Pioneer Community Minister, a post which is funded by Trust money we have inherited. We see this role as key in beginning to forge links with younger people and families within our community and equipping us as a church to better support and serve a demographic which is under-represented within our Church family.

## Appendix A

# The Wider Area

## Wimborne Deanery

The Deanery is in the Dorset Archdeaconry, and consists of fourteen benefices in East Dorset. There are some small villages, established towns and areas of high population growth as new housing developments are added to existing villages. The Archdeaconry covers the eastern half of Dorset, and consists of four deaneries: Purbeck, Milton & Blandford, Wimborne, and Poole. With the Sherborne Archdeaconry it forms the Sherborne Episcopal Area.

The deanery embraces both the suburban and rural and has a clear plan and good leadership. It has adopted the diocesan vision strapline of Renewing Hope - Pray, Serve and Grow - very much as its priority.

Ministry in Dorset is rewarding and enjoyable. In recent years significant changes have been made in the way clergy are supported and encouraged, leading to a greater sense of collegiality.

## Beyond Corfe Mullen

The village of Corfe Mullen sits on the outskirts of coastal Poole, close to the historic market town of Wimborne; gateway to the beautiful rural Dorset. The beaches and attractions of Poole and Bournemouth are within easy reach, as are the areas of outstanding natural beauty of the Purbecks and Jurassic Coast including Lulworth Cove. Poole itself is at the end of the South West Coastal Path.

Dorset has a multitude of local attractions, (Brownsea Island, Gold Hill, Bovington Tank Museum, Monkey World, Sea Life Adventure Park, Swanage Railway to name only a few), country parks and manor homes to visit and also, the New Forest is only a short drive away.

Poole is only two hours from London direct by train and has a local international airport at Bournemouth.

