

# BENEFICE PROFILE

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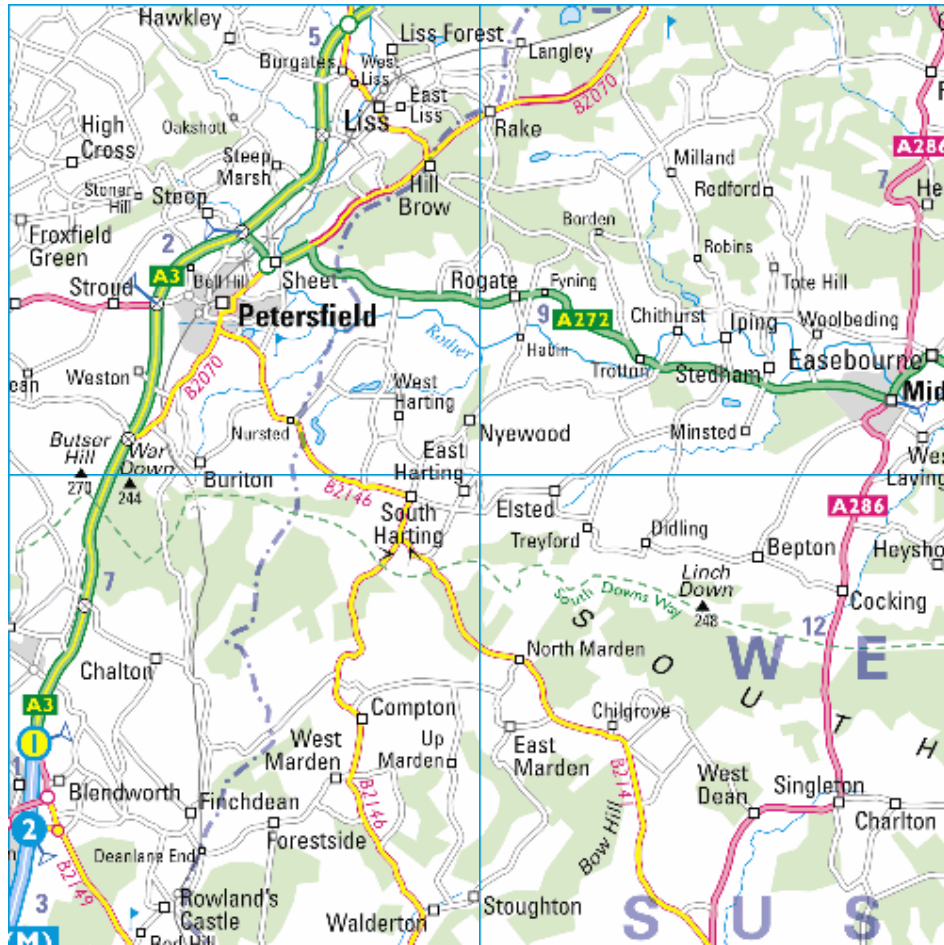
# Harting with Elsted and Treyford-cum-Didling

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# BENEFICE PROFILE

## 1. MAP OF THE BENEFICE



# BENEFICE PROFILE

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## Harting with Elsted and Treyford-cum-Didling

### 2. THE BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT:

The Benefice sees its mission:

1. To grow the kingdom of heaven in this community.
2. To deepen people's faith, understanding and commitment to God.
3. To nurture and minister to all ages; from infants to elderly.
4. To become a beacon of grace and unity within the wider Downland community.

### 3. THE PRIEST TO GUIDE US FORWARD

We are seeking a new incumbent who will:

- Be a Bible-based, Godly and challenging preacher, sensitive to both liberal and orthodox views.
- Enjoy living in a rural benefice and be part of the wider rural community
- Understand the need for different worship styles to bring new people in and yet maintain services for our usual worshippers. Be happy with Common Worship, BCP, Taize and Informal services aimed not only at the established congregation, but youth and children too.
- Be able to work in a collaborative way with the Congregational Church in our village; and the other Christian denominations within the Deanery, diocese and Nationally, and indeed with people of other faiths in a way that can broaden horizons and promote understanding and stability for our villages.
- Recognise and be willing to nurture talent; encourage lay participation in the church ministry, and build up people's potential for service in Christ's name.
- Have mature counselling and listening skills and a sense of humour. Able to relate to people from all walks of life.
- Be pastorally minded in visiting the sick, bereaved, new families. Encourage baptism and wedding preparation.
- Build on the good connections that exist with the primary school, encouraging them to be part of the worshipping life of the church.
- Have a sound knowledge of and pleasure in church music and liturgy.
- Be ready for the fun and reflection a rural benefice enjoys in the full round of the church's year.
- Work constructively and collaboratively with both our PCCs recognising the importance of both the differences and needs of the churches within our Benefice.

## 4. THE BENEFICE

The Benefice is within the Deanery of Midhurst and the Diocese of Chichester and has been a United Benefice since 1993. It consists of two parishes, Harting and Elsted with Treyford-cum-Didling. Harting is the larger, with 210 on the Electoral Roll while Elsted and Treyford cum-Didling has 60. Typical attendance at a Benefice Eucharist (held in either Church on alternate Sundays) in either Harting or Elsted is between 50-60, with significantly more at festivals. Didling attracts a regular attendance of 15-20 for Matins or Evensong, but also a very significant flow of visitors throughout the week given its beautiful position.

### LOCATION

As shown on the map, The Benefice lies on the county border of West Sussex and Hampshire and has good road and rail communications. It also lies on the diocesan border of Chichester and Portsmouth.

It is a rural area, nestling under the South Downs, but over recent years agricultural activities have been reduced. Many people work away and are involved in various professions. Others have retired to the area and few have grown up as children here. There are also those who have second homes in the Benefice and are in residence mainly at weekends and holidays, many of whom are very actively involved in village life.

The two communities, Harting and Elsted, though sharing some activities, each organise their own communal life.

The Rectory is situated in the main street in South Harting, quite close to the church.

### POPULATION

The population of the Benefice is about 2,500.

Approximately 2000 of these form an all-age community in the parish of Harting. Elsted and Treyford-cum Didling is a more rural community and consequently more dispersed, with only a pub and village hall in Elsted as meeting points apart from the Churches. Treyford and Didling are small hamlets approximately 3 miles from South Harting.

## 5. BENEFICE SERVICES

The normal monthly pattern of services is as follows, using Order One of Common Worship Sung Eucharist at 10am services and the Book of Common Prayer at both 8.00 am Communion and the Didling services.

Evensong is held at Harting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, and at Elsted on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Didling evensong is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the summer months and Mattins as an alternative in winter months.

Three or four times a year, a service of Informal Evening Worship, is taken in the Henry Warren Hall, Nyewood, which replaces one of the Evensong services.

Weekday services are: Tuesday 9am – Morning Prayer and Intercessions; Wednesday 10.00 am – Holy Communion (with Healing Intercession on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed), Thursday 9.30am prayers for the interregnum.

## NORMAL PATTERN OF SERVICES

### FIRST SUNDAY:

Harting Parish Church	08:00	Holy Communion (BCP)
Harting Parish Church	10:00	Family Service with Eucharist (CW)
Elsted Parish Church	18:00	Taize

### SECOND SUNDAY:

Harting Parish Church	08:00	HC (BCP)
Elsted Parish Church	10:00	Benefice Eucharist (CW)
Harting Parish Church	18:00	Sung Evensong

### THIRD SUNDAY

Harting Parish Church	08:00	HC (BCP)
Harting Parish Church	10:00	Benefice Eucharist (CW)
Didling Parish Church	10:00	Mattins (Oct-April)
Didling Parish Church	18:00	Evensong (April-Oct)

### FOURTH SUNDAY

Harting Parish Church	08:00	HC (BCP)
Elsted Parish Church	10:00	Benefice Eucharist (CW)
Harting Parish Church	18:00	Evensong

### FIFTH SUNDAY

Harting Parish Church	08:00	HC (BCP)
Harting Parish Church	10:00	Mattins
Didling Parish Church	10:00	Benefice Eucharist
Nyewood (Henry Warren Hall)	16:00	Informal Worship

## 6. ACTIVITIES IN THE BENEFICE

### Pastoral and Outreach

- Pre-School Praise meets every Tuesday where a team leads songs, Bible stories, Godly Play and Craft, are served a drink and fruit and the (mostly) mums have a chance for a pray, a tea/coffee and a natter. When a new baby is born a rota is made up to supply the new parents with meals for a week or two.
- Bell ringers at Harting, enhance the period before a service with their ringing on at least three Sundays out of four as well as for occasional offices.
- At Christmas the Posada figures are welcomed into many houses in the Benefice, encouraging people to get together and pray.
- Co-ordinators deliver Christmas cards and notices, keeping a watching brief for people in need and welcoming new-comers. Also the Harvest offerings are given out around the villages to those housebound and most in need.
- Concerts are often booked in our church, as well as plays and these are always well attended with people coming from around the area.
- United services with the Congregational church . A tent service in the summer, making use of the Horticultural Society's Flower Show marquee; All Souls service; Remembrance Day service; United Carol Service; Palm Sunday procession; Good Friday workshop, and 'The Old Club' service at the start of the Harting Festivities.
- There is an annual Bring and Share Lunch held at the Old Rectory in Elsted for all ages, to encourage fellowship between the generations.
- There is a Monthly Prayer meeting to pray for the Benefice and its mission.

### Fellowship & Community

- "Christian Family Fellowship, and MU meet jointly in the Benefice once a month, and also once a month our MU Branch Leader holds a get-together for some exploring the Mothers Union, and learning craft too.
- Summer Teas are organised annually through June, July and August in Harting and have become well known far beyond our boundaries. Not only is money raised, but more importantly, fellowship and friendship is created between the volunteer teams who are not necessarily church-goers.
- A biennial Flower Festival is held at Elsted, which also brings visitors from far and wide to enjoy the displays, tea and a concert on Saturday and an early evensong on Sunday.
- The Harting minibus which runs nearly every day, after it has taken local children to senior school in Petersfield, goes to the market in Petersfield (which is twice weekly), and down to Chichester. This marvellous facility is run and manned by volunteers. It is available for hire when not in use.
- Once a month a fully cooked lunch is provided for a very small fee and many people come together to enjoy fellowship in the village hall. This is organised and cooked on a rota by volunteers.
- There are many clubs within the Harting area, to only name a few we have the : British Legion, The Old Club, Horticultural Society, Wild Flower Group, Music Club, Men's Club, Youth Club, CFF and MU, Angling, Darts, and the list goes on....
- There is an annual bike ride in aid of the Sussex Historic Churches Trust, well attended by parents and children.
- An Annual Rogation walk takes place in May following Evensong in one of the Churches.
- Teams of volunteers regularly dust, clean, polish and tidy our Churches and maintain the Churchyards in a tidy condition.

## **7. MINISTRY**

### **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS**

There are two PCCs in the Benefice. Each parish has two Church wardens and separate treasurers. The PCCs meet separately, but decisions of mutual interest are made jointly.

### **CHILDREN**

The links with the local school in South Harting are very important, but all children are welcomed, whichever school they attend and are encouraged to take part in all events and services.

#### **St. Mary and St. Paul First School, Harting**

This Church of England School provides an excellent foundation for children between the ages of 5 and 11 who live in the Benefice. The Head Teacher, Mr Johnny Culley warmly supports and encourages links between the school and the church. Clergy and other church members are regularly involved in school assemblies. Visits to church form a regular part of the curriculum, especially for their own acts of worship. There is involvement too in such special occasions as Harvest, Mothering Sunday etc.

Many church members are among those who assist regularly with literacy and numeracy. A valuable facility for the community is the adult evening classes in computer studies provided by the school.

### **MUSIC**

There is a Director of music who plays for at least one Sunday service a week and who conducts the choir. Harting has an enthusiastic and proficient choir of around 12, which sings for the main Sunday services. They also sing for occasional offices and on special occasions, singers from other parts of the Benefice swell the numbers. There are five organists available in addition to the Director of Music, and between them, they are able to provide support for all three churches.

### **LAY MINISTRY AND SERVICE**

The Benefice is fortunate to enjoy the services of one retired clergyman and a deacon. In addition, there are two Readers and a number of lay assistants who help in the sanctuary and seven people who share the responsibility of home communions. There are about 5 or 6 people receiving housebound Holy Communion on at least a monthly basis. The aumbry is situated at Harting.

Separate Men's and Women's groups meet weekly to study the Bible and pray. The men's group has completed a pilot Alpha course and intends to launch a full Alpha programme this autumn in Harting church for up to 30 people from the Benefice.

There are Study Groups of mixed denominations which meet during Advent and Lent, and have gradually increased to about 50, spread over 3 groups. Shared meals e.g. on Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day give an opportunity for fundraising and Christian fellowship.

A Julian group meets monthly for contemplative prayer.

There is an active Healing group in the Parish which meets regularly for study and prayer, and meets for prayer before Healing Services prior to the laying on of hands.

There is a Bible and breakfast meeting on the first Saturday of each month.

There is also a link with the Brighton Housing Trust – 1<sup>st</sup> Base Day Centre where the clothing, bedding, food and Christmas gifts are welcomed.

An efficient Hospital Car Service is provided by volunteers.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Each parish has its own monthly magazine, with the Elsted magazine run by the Church. These provide good opportunities for including church notices and articles.

Church Chat – is a locally produced informal sheet of activity within the benefice which is distributed monthly and includes the Diocesan newsletter.

## **OCCASIONAL OFFICES**

On average there are 10 baptisms, 8 weddings and 12 funerals in the Benefice and the families are well-prepared by the clergy.

Neither parish has a verger, but volunteers and churchwardens help with these services.

## **WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHERS**

The Benefice is part of the Rother Valley Churches Together, a multi-denominational group within the Deanery. Working closely with the local Congregational Church, the following services are shared: Patronal Festival for St. Paul, Women's World Day of Prayer, Maundy Thursday, Christian Aid, Harting Festivities, All Souls, Remembrance Sunday and Carols.

## **FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED**

Improvements to the access for wheelchairs have almost been completed with our new Extension, called The Law Memorial Room, providing a large washroom suitable for wheelchairs and with baby changing facilities. A new path and handrail has been laid from the steps at the front, and access for wheelchairs through the main gate to Harting Church have been completed and further access through the West gate will be completed in September 2010.

## **HARTING AREA PRAYER CHAIN**

This is a service for the community, offering confidential focused prayer for all, supported by all denominations, but not run by a specific church. Each month an updated leaflet is circulated to each of the 30 or so members of the chain

# **8. FINANCE**

The churches are solvent and pay the full Diocesan contribution.

Both PCCs have benefitted from endowments in the past, but currently are relying mainly on stewardship contributions. Elsted and Treyford-cum-Didling have significant endowment funds for use on the maintenance of the Church and Churchyard, although recent works on the Church ceiling were funded by a fund raising campaign.

Collections for specific charities are taken as appropriate, sometimes jointly, sometimes separately.

## **9. INFORMATION FOR THE NEW PRIEST**

The Benefice is served by Petersfield to the west and Midhurst to the east. Each has wonderful facilities: a good range of shops, medical centres, cottage hospital, library and in Petersfield, a rail station on the Portsmouth – London line.

Principal hospitals are situated in Chichester and Portsmouth, and a hospice in Chichester. The nearest crematorium is in Chichester.

South Harting has a Post Office, Village Store, Hairdressers, Carpet Shop and two Public Houses. Elsted also has two Public Houses. The hostelrys offer accommodation and there are several private houses B & B can be found.

The Rectory is an old building, parts of it dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It has 5 bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, study, dining room, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom and a large secluded garden. It is expected that the kitchen facilities will be improved before the new priest takes up residence.

Attached to the Rectory is the Malthouse (known at Church House as The Maltings) which has quite a history. This room is used, with the permission of the Rector, as a Parish Room for Benefice business and is also let for certain community activities. It has its own toilet and kitchen facilities.

The standard of the local primary education is excellent and students go to Midhurst or Petersfield for Secondary education, where the standard is also high.

## **10. THE PARISH OF HARTING**

Electoral Roll: 210

The Church of St. Mary and St. Gabriel enjoys an elevated position dominating the village of South Harting and is blessed with floodlighting, which emphasizes its architectural features. It forms a well-known landmark with its light green steeple and serves East and West Harting as well as Nyewood.

The Church has its origins in the thirteenth century but these have been blended into an attractive and well laid out form. The organ has been rebuilt; incorporating a mobile electronic console, enabling the pipes to be relocated in the rear of the church. This has opened up the North Chancel enabling the installation of a suspended statue of the Angel Gabriel by the world famous sculptor, Philip Jackson.

A new wing has recently been added on the south side offering facilities for Sunday School play groups, meetings and social functions. It opens out onto a landscaped graveyard with outstanding views of the Downs. Communal facilities include a toilet and service area.

The Churchyard is in excellent condition and regularly maintained. It has ample space for burials and internment of ashes, together with walls for memorial plaques.

A Church support group, the Friends of Harting Church, contribute generously to major church maintenance and support projects.

## 11. THE PARISH OF ELSTED WITH TREYFORD-CUM-DIDLING

Electoral Roll: 60

**The Church of St. Paul** is centrally situated in the village of Elsted.

It has Saxon origins and is a simple typical downland church with a nave, chancel and vestry.

The Church is in an excellent state of repair with significant refurbishment having been carried out in the past 5 years. The Church has seating capacity for around 80 and is often full for festivals, baptisms and other services. The Church has a good acoustic in which music is enjoyed by many.

The Churchyard is surrounded by a stone wall, much of which was in disrepair but which has been almost completely rebuilt and is expected to be finished by the autumn of 2010 thanks to a very generous donor.

**The Church of St. Andrew at Didling** is a gem. Simon Jenkins includes it in his "Thousand Best Churches".

Built in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century and known as "The Shepherds' Church", it enjoys an isolated position at the foot of the South Downs. The Church has also been subject to significant refurbishment in the past 5 years and is in an excellent state of repair. There is no electricity in the building, so light comes from 84 candles and heat from calor gas heaters. Music is supplied by a battery powered keyboard.

Seating capacity is around 40 and attendance can range from 10 to multiples of this. It is particularly popular for its summer evensong from May through to October. The Christmas day service is also a very popular event.

This churchyard is also well maintained and managed. In addition, there is a burial ground in Treyford around the site of the former Victorian church and it is used for interment from time to time. It is kept as a natural conservation area by a small group of people.

The churches also serve the residents of Lower Elsted and Ingrams Green.

September 2010.

### **Churchwardens:**

South Harting: Philippa Good and Roger Holmes

Elsted and Treyford cum Didling: Andrew Fellows and James Simpson.

For additional information see our website: [www.harting.org.uk](http://www.harting.org.uk)