

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, TURVEY  
PARISH PROFILE



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## **Turvey**

### **Location**

Turvey is a lovely riverside village on the borders of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. It is approximately halfway between London and Birmingham and less than an hour from Oxford and Cambridge. It is centrally positioned between Bedford, Northampton and Milton Keynes.

The village is set in a beautiful part of North Bedfordshire, with many of its houses built in limestone. Surrounded by parkland it is the centre for many country walks, and owes its origins to an early settlement by the River Great Ouse.

The A428 passes through the village, with regular bus services to Bedford and Northampton. The nearest Rail Station is Bedford, with a direct line to London St Pancras; the quickest journey is 35 minutes. The M1 motorway is accessible at Milton Keynes and Northampton.

### **Village Description**

According to the 2011 Census the population of Turvey was 1225, and the age breakdown

was as follows:	0 – 15	18%
	16 – 29	11%
	30 – 64	53%
	65 – 85+	18%

92% of the population was described as “White British”.

The village is mainly residential, with a good range of housing ranging from small terraced cottages through to large detached houses. Some 70% of these are owned and 30% are social or privately rented. There is an Almshouse development of 26 bungalows for the elderly on the eastern extremity of the parish, and outline planning consent has been granted for the construction of a Retirement Village nearby.

There are two general stores (one containing a sub Post Office), a butcher, a car repair garage, a small number of light industrial units and two Public Houses.

The village has a good social mix, with a number of very active Clubs and Societies and its own Parish Council.

There is a Medical Centre in the neighbouring village of Harrold.

A number of local people work within the community or from home, but the majority work in the nearby towns or commute to London.

## **Education**

The village has a highly regarded Lower School which takes children up to the age of 9, after which children move on to Harrold Middle School from ages 9-12 and then Sharnbrook Upper School at 13 which, in addition to a separate Sixth form unit, also contains a Community College and runs local evening classes.

Turvey Lower School, which is not a Church school, is regularly visited by our priest and the school Harvest Festival and Nativity Play are held in the church.

There are a number of Independent schools in Bedford, and the Harpur Trust oversees three schools with excellent reputations, providing for some 4,000 children from a wide area.

## **Community Life**

There is a Mother and Toddler group, a Pre-school Playgroup, a Nursery School and Beavers, Cubs, Brownies and Scouts.

There are also many flourishing groups including amateur dramatics, football, tennis, carpet bowls, gardening and a community choir.

The Parish has a Village Hall, which is used by many of the groups for a variety of activities, and there is a large recreation ground with all weather tennis courts and a children's play area.

A well-attended Luncheon Club for older parishioners is held each month in the Village Hall.

## **All Saints' Church**

### **Worship and Tradition**

The parish is part of the Sharnbrook Deanery within the Diocese of St. Albans, and the Priest-in-Charge ministers to our "sister" parish of St. Mary, Stevington. There is no Curate, Assistant Minister or Licensed Lay Reader.

Common Worship is used for the weekly Sunday morning Eucharist, (one a shortened form for the family service and one using traditional language with the Merbecke setting). BCP is used for Evensong, held on two Sundays in the month, and evening Holy Communion, held once a month. The pattern of services is currently under review by the PCC.

Rotas operate for the readers of Old and New Testament lessons and for Intercessions, and there are normally two altar servers at Sunday Eucharist, who are also licensed to administer the chalice.

All Saints has a strong tradition of music which forms an important part of Sunday worship and Easter and Christmas services, as well as weddings, funerals and baptisms. There is an organist and a four-part choir of 20 members. A recent substantial bequest, specifically for the purpose of renovating the Hill organ, will enable us to attract visiting organists to give recitals and draw more people to the church.

There is also an active team of over 20 bell ringers of whom ten are aged under 18, and the bells are rung before Sunday services, weddings and on other occasions. Visiting teams visit regularly throughout the year.

### **Attendance Details**

Electoral Roll 98.

Sunday attendance at the main morning Eucharist service varies between 40 and 65, with much smaller numbers for Evensong and Holy Communion.

Attendance on special occasions such as Remembrance Sunday, Easter and Christmas can be in excess of 150.

There is a "Little Lights" group for pre-school children which meets monthly, and "Bright Sparks" for Key Stage 1 and 2 children which meets quarterly, both in church.

### **Pastoral and Ecumenical Activity**

Turvey has a Roman Catholic Order of Benedictine monks and nuns. They have been based at Turvey Abbey since 1981 and All Saints enjoys a close relationship with them. Several of their number attend All Saints' festal services and some members of All Saints attend prayer groups at the Abbey. There are some couples attending services at All Saints and the Abbey, where one partner is Roman Catholic and the other is Anglican.

Pastoral care, such as hospital and home visiting, is currently done on an ad hoc basis when members are known to be ill or bereaved.

### **The Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The PCC consists of the Priest-in-charge, two Churchwardens, two representatives on the Deanery Synod and ten elected members including the Secretary and Treasurer. Meetings are held approximately monthly and sub-groups are appointed as and when needed.

The Patron is Mr. Daniel Hanbury and Suspension of Presentation currently applies.

A monthly Church Newsletter is produced and distributed to subscribers, with additional church information provided via the village magazine, Turvey News, which is distributed quarterly to every house in the village.

### **Church Buildings**

The church of All Saints, situated in the heart of the village, is a fine, Grade 1 Listed Building featured in Simon Jenkins' book "England's 1000 Best Churches". The original building dates from Saxon times and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Over the centuries it has been added to, and considerable extensions and renovations were completed in the 1850s, when a fine Hill organ was added. Over a period of time the eight bells have been added and are rung every Sunday.

In 2007 a small kitchen and W.C. were installed at the base of the bell tower, and in 2013 the church was entirely re-lit. A medieval wall painting in the south aisle was the subject of conservation work at the same time.

The assets of the PCC include the Manor Room, formerly a private room and museum remote from the church, which is used for small functions and meetings. It is, however, in need of extensive work to bring it up to a standard which might open it up for wider use.

The present Rectory was purchased by the Diocese following the sale of the old Rectory, and is situated in the heart of the village. It is a modern, five bedroomed detached house with a large sitting room, dining room, study, kitchen, double garage and garden.

## **Finances**

The PCC and Church members work hard to meet the Parish share to the Diocesan Common Fund (paid in full in 2013 and on target for 2014) by means of fund raising activities such as monthly coffee mornings, a Christmas bazaar, cream teas during the summer months and other events. Regular income is provided by church collections, an envelope scheme and Gift Aid. The Church donates annually to numerous selected Charities and has recently decided to “adopt” a charity each year, for which funds will be raised throughout the year.

A Charitable Trust, Friends of All Saints Turvey (F.A.S.T.) is a fundraising body for major works of repair and has contributed to repairs to the nave roof and the provision of the kitchen and W.C. Fundraising events are run by F.A.S.T. independently of the PCC.

## **Looking Forward**

Turvey is a very active village and the church is at its centre in both spiritual and physical terms. Church life is alive and well and continues to attract members from within and without the village, but we are not complacent and are committed to reach out to younger parishioners and children in the community, who are the future of the church in Turvey. Plans to re-order some of the pews in the church are in hand in order to provide a versatile area to accommodate children, young people and adults for a wide range of activities, and this will provide a dynamic approach to the provision that we are able to offer our young people.

A group of recently confirmed adults calling themselves GIG (Growing in God) has set goals and objectives under the banner of “Living God’s Love” with the guidance of the outgoing Priest-in-Charge, who has coined the Mission Plan “Becoming the Becoming Church”. The group are determined to carry on with this plan, and to communicate its future plans to those in the congregation and the community who are interested in the work All Saints is doing, and to bring it to the forefront of our thinking. To this end, we will be seeking a priest who will embrace the mission and carry it forward.

Repair of the South Aisle roof, improved tower access and repairs to the church clock are all part of the continuing maintenance programme to ensure that the church is available for a wider congregation for church services as well as for concerts and other events. These include the staging of Tony Harrison’s cycle of Mystery Plays, which began earlier in 2014 with “The Nativity”. In 2015 the second of the cycle, “The Passion”, will be performed in church.

Further information can be found on the church website [www.allsaintsturvey.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsturvey.org.uk).