

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, TURVEY

PARISH PROFILE

JANUARY 2011



Location

Turvey is a lovely riverside village on the borders of Beds/Bucks and Northants. 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 Ouse.

The A428 passes through the village. 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

Population is approximately 1200.

The village is mainly residential with a good range of housing, from small cottages through to large Country Houses.

There is an Almshouses development of 26 bungalows for the elderly, and planning permission has been applied for in respect of the construction of a Retirement Village on the outskirts.

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.

Employment

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

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 and then Sharnbrook Upper School at 13. In addition to a separate Sixth form unit, this also contains a Community College and runs local evening classes.

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

Community Life

There is a Mother and Toddler group, a Playgroup, Beavers, Brownies and Cubs.

There are also many flourishing groups including amateur dramatics, football, cricket, tennis, carpet bowls, gardening and Wednesday group (formerly W.I.).

The Parish has a Village Hall, large playing fields and all weather tennis courts.

Worship and Tradition

The parish is part of the Sharnbrook Deanery within the Diocese of St. Albans.

Worship is in a traditional form with an excellent robed choir and a processional cross at morning Eucharist service and special services.

There is no Curate, Assistant Minister or Licensed Lay Reader. Two Lay members of the Church are permitted to lead services, including Communion by Extension.

A rota operates for the readers of Old and New Testament lessons, and there are normally two altar servers at morning Eucharist, who assist with administration of the chalice. Common Worship is used for morning Eucharist, and BCP for Matins and evening Communion, both of which are held once a month.

The Church has a strong tradition of music with an organist and choir of 22 members. There is also an active team of bell ringers.

Attendance Details

Electoral Roll 117

Sunday attendance – typically 65

Special occasions such as Remembrance Sunday, Easter and Christmas can be in excess of 250.

There is a Little Lights group for pre-school children and Bright Sparks for Key Stage 1 and 2 children, which meet in Church once a month.

Pastoral and Ecumenical Activity

The village has a Roman Catholic Order of Benedictine monks and nuns, based at Turvey Abbey since 1981. Several of their members attend All Saints festive 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 a Roman Catholic and the other is an Anglican.

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

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC consists of the Priest-in-charge, two Church Wardens, the deputy Warden, two representatives on the Deanery Synod and ten elected members including the Secretary and Treasurer. Meetings are held every two months and sub groups are formed as and when needed.

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

The Church has a website (www.allsaintsturvey.org.uk) which is administered by the PCC Treasurer.

Church Buildings

The original building dates from Saxon times and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Considerable extensions and renovations were completed in the 1850's, when a fine 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.

A legacy left by the late Emily Osborn helps to provide for the annual maintenance of the fabric.

A Charitable Trust (Friends of All Saints Turvey) exists to carry out fund raising primarily for roof repairs, and over £100,000 was paid in 2005 for replacement of the Nave roof.

An audio and Loop system was installed in the Church, donated by the late Lady Hanbury. Her son Daniel is currently the Patron. Suspension of presentation currently applies.

The assets of the PCC include the Manor Room, formerly a private room and museum, which is used for small functions and meetings.

The Rectory was purchased following the sale of the old Rectory, and is situated in the heart of the village. It is a 5-bedroomed detached house with a large lounge, dining room, study, kitchen and a double garage.

Finances

The PCC and Church members work hard to meet the Parish share to the Diocesan Common Fund, by means of fund raising activities such as coffee mornings, Christmas bazaars and other events. Additional income is provided by an envelope scheme and covenants. It donates annually to selected Charities.

Looking Forward

The priest-in-charge will have an excellent base to work from and develop, especially with the existing connections with the Abbey and Lower School. The Little Lights and Bright Sparks groups that meet monthly continue to go from strength to strength, and are clearly the future of the Church in Turvey.

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 both within and without the village.

We are looking for a priest who will be part of the community and administer to the whole village. Continue existing links with the elderly at Barton & Royle homes, including a monthly Eucharist service, and enjoy the excellent tradition of music within the church.