

Parish Profile
July 2018

FRANT & ERIDGE



WHY US?!

What we offer

- Two vibrant communities
- Established and enthusiastic lay leadership team
- Attractive rural location
  - Proximity to Tunbridge Wells
  - Commutable to London
  - Modern four bedroom rectory with large garden
  - In the heart of a village
  - Next-door to the church primary school
- Multi-generational affluent population
- Recently built church hall
- Youth leader







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WELCOME

- The Church Wardens and PCC of the combined Parish of Frant with Eridge are delighted to introduce our Parish and churches to you through this Parish Profile, which we thank you for taking the time to read.
- The Parishes consist of two churches with congregations drawn from different traditions. The tradition at Frant is Evangelical, while Eridge has a central Anglican approach.
- Reflecting these differences our churches have a rich and diverse history and membership, encompassing a broad range of ages and worshipping style, all centred on Bible-based teaching. These differences are reflected accordingly in our profile.
- We are known for our inclusivity, fellowship, a warm welcome, and strong pastoral care. Frant has a particular focus on families and youth and this is a growing section of our congregation which is drawing members from beyond the parish boundaries.
- Across our churches we support a broad range of activities catering for all parts of our community, including mums and toddlers, prayer groups, house groups, and youth groups, to name a few.
- We recognise that this interregnum period is a time of change and uncertainty, but also of opportunity and hope. Our churches have seen great achievements in the last ten years, but challenges remain and we still have much to do in spreading God's word.
- Through this process and by God's grace, we pray that he will bless us with the right leader, someone with the passion and enthusiasm to grow and develop our churches, and to reach out to all members of our community.
- We are praying for you as you search your heart to find where God is leading you and wants you to be. If our Parish is the way for you, we look forward to meeting you. "Whether you turn to the right or the left , your ears will hear a voice behind you saying 'this is the way, walk in it'". (Isaiah 30:21).

Our Church Wardens



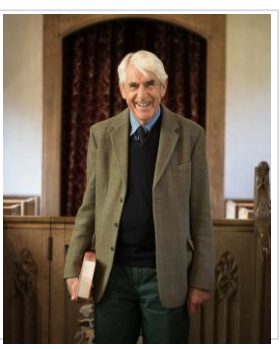
Crawford Burden - Frant



Jane Emler - Frant



Jonathan Lynn - Eridge



Christopher Hall - Eridge

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Key roles

- Interpret and preach the gospel in a way that will encourage faith development, adapting content and style for different worshippers, occasions and purposes.
- Oversee the teaching programmes of the church so that they support the church community, develop its faith and respond to the needs of different ages and levels of faith and knowledge.
- Inspire more of us to share the transforming news of Jesus Christ with family, friends, neighbours and colleagues so that those outside the church come to faith.
- Move us forward as a church and help us to engage with the community outside our church buildings whilst maximising the use of our buildings for the community.
- Work with our paid staff and volunteer team to build and develop our vision.
- Provide leadership of the team as they manage the day-to-day activities of the church.
- Review how our Sunday services and midweek activities meet the needs of those outside the church as well as church members.
- Work with and encourage our youth leader in the growth of our youth membership and their faith.

Key attributes

- An enthusiastic Bible-based teacher and preacher who can effectively communicate and engage with young and old alike.
- Comfortable with a broad range of Anglican traditions and leading two different churches.
- Committed to the special revelation of Scripture but acknowledges that God reveals himself in many different ways.
- Committed to thinking and learning together so we can give reasons for our faith without conflicting with modern science.
- Someone with a passion for growing and nurturing the youth in their faith.
- An enabler, encourager and inspirer who supports and develops suitable leadership structures.
- Recognises the importance of liturgy, using both Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer.
- Someone who is in touch with the modern world.
- Willing to engage with all people living in the Parish.
- Someone who is committed to pastoral care across the Parish.
- A man or a woman. If the Rector is a man he will encourage women to take an equal role in the life of the Church including preaching and officiating at services
- Reverence that is relaxed and fun!

LEADERSHIP TEAM

- We recognise that pastoral care is two way, and that a healthy and strong church requires a healthy and strong leadership team!
- Reflecting this we recognise the need for a more active contribution from our lay membership in the running of our churches, and this is reflected in the fact that our staff and ministry team has grown over the past few years.
- Our team consists of:
    - Imtiaz Trask, who served his curacy with us. He now works for us as a part time Non-Stipendiary Assistant Minister.
    - We have one licenced Lay Reader (Roy Goodship), and one trainee Lay Reader (Lesley Lynn) who will be licenced in September this year. There are a number of trained Lay Ministers of Holy Communion, and two people who have the Bishop's consent to lead services and preach.
    - Ed Pascoe is our paid Youth and Children's worker. He lives with his wife and family in the flat above The Stables.
    - Rosie Karim is our paid Administrator. She works ten hours a week and we also have an experienced volunteer who helps with administration.
    - In 2017, under the Parish Nursing Scheme UK, we were offered the services of a Parish Nurse, Caroline Thomson, who gives one day a week, to looking after the physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing of the community.
    - A very accomplished organist who plays at both churches
- Under new leadership we would like to see our lay ministry team grow and develop further.

PCC

- In addition to our Ministry Team we have an active PCC which meets six times a year and as necessary.
- A vacancy seems to have caused a Spirit led upsurge in willingness to serve on the PCC with seven new members coming forward to serve including David Torr, who leads the Frant Church Fabric team, and Roy Buchanan who has taken on the critical Parish Safeguarding Officer position.
- We have a highly experienced Secretary and the Wardens in both churches were re-elected to serve for another year.
- However, we remain without a serving Treasurer, although by God's grace a volunteer has been identified who will take over in that position in July 2018 when her other commitments permit.
- It is fair to say that the PCC, which consists of 22 members (excluding the incumbent), contains a good mixture of experience and enthusiasm.
- All PCC members are encouraged to join sub-committees which are responsible for overseeing the different areas of church life; these include Finance, Pastoral care, Church Fabric, The Stables, Evangelism & worship, and the Eridge Committee.



OUR PARISH

There are just under 2,000 residents located in & around the three main population centres of Frant, Eridge and Bells Yew Green.

Our parish ranks low on the CUF poverty related index, making us one of the wealthier parishes in the country, with little pensioner poverty, but there is relatively little social housing in the parish and we still have a significant number of lone parents.

An effective form of outreach to the Parish is through Parish News. This is a high quality, popular, and free magazine that is edited by a member of the church and distributed around the parish by hand by volunteers. In a print run of 750 around 200 are hand delivered to homes in Eridge, and 400 in Frant and Bells Yew Green, with the remainder left in churches and local pubs/shops.

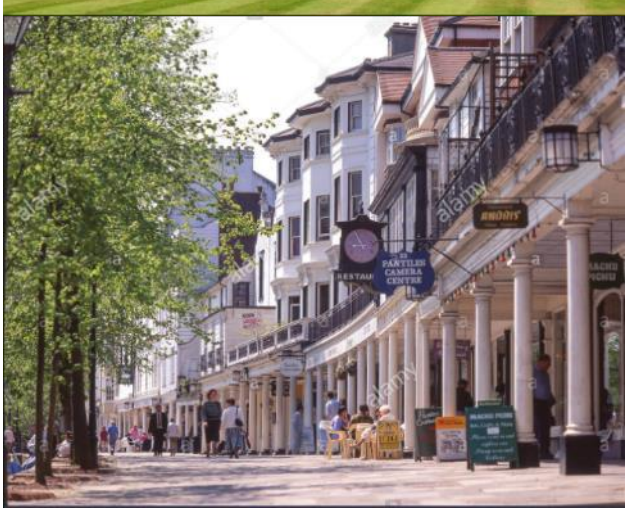
It is issued every other month and has prominent features from the church (including a letter from the Rector).

We receive a grant of £600 pa from the Parish Council which combined with advertising revenues more than covers its production costs. As a result, as well as being an effective form of outreach, it is also a valuable fund raising exercise.









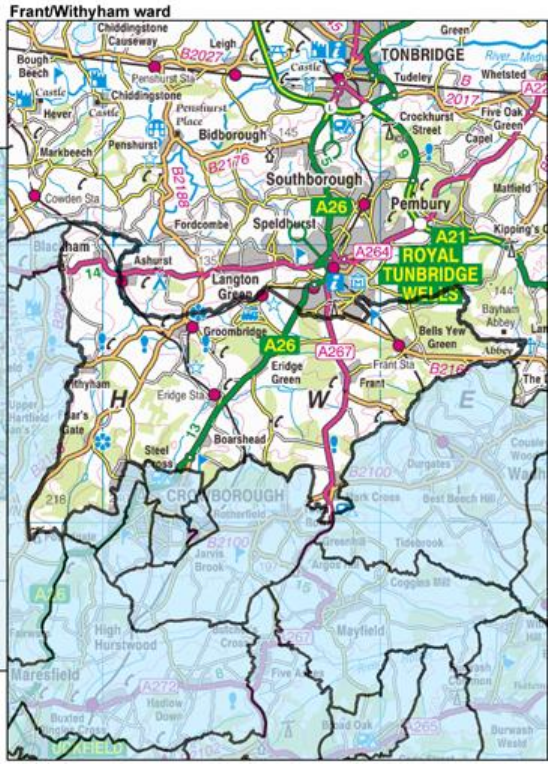
GEOGRAPHY & ECONOMY

Wealden District



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Frant/Withyham ward



- Our Parish is situated on the Kent-East Sussex border in the District of Wealden.
- East Sussex comprises the coastal urban boroughs of Eastbourne and Hastings, and the geographically larger, more rural districts of Lewes, Rother and Wealden. It has a population of just over half a million people and covers an area of 1,725km² (660 square miles). Over three-quarters of the population live in urban areas or market towns. However the county is predominately rural geographically with almost two-thirds falling either within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the South Downs National Park.
- The closest town is Tunbridge Wells which is immediately to the north of the Parish. Tunbridge Wells is a large and affluent town and popular tourist destination, with a broad range of amenities and services, including a number of top rated state and private secondary schools.
- Frant, Eridge, and Tunbridge Wells all have mainline stations with direct access to London. Gatwick airport and Ebbsfleet are only a 45min drive away.
- Census figures from 2011 show that in the ward of Frant and Withyham unemployment was low at 1.6% of the population, compared with a national average of 4.4%.
- Our Parish is predominantly rural and farming is a key part of our economy employing 2.8% of the local population versus 2.1% for East Sussex and 2.3% for England and Wales.
- The wholesale & retail trade sector is the largest employer (13.1%) followed by the finance and real estate sectors (12.8%) reflecting the influence of Tunbridge Wells and good access to London.
- This is also reflected in the types of employment, with over 40% being from professional occupations and managers and above. This is significantly ahead of the district, county and SE as a whole.
- Reflecting the rural nature of the Parish, population density is low at 0.6 people per hectare and 93.9% of the population is classed as rural.
- The majority of the population is of working age (56%) with the greatest proportion (31.3%) in the 45-64 age bracket. The lowest age group is 18-29 (9%) reflecting the appeal of larger towns as working and living alternatives.

OUR SCHOOL

There is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School in Frant, situated about 100m from St Albans Church.

The school is federated with Mark Cross C of E Primary School with an Executive Head, Mrs D Bennett who oversees the strategic running of each school, and a Head of School, Mrs A Gander-Miller dealing with the day to day running of Frant school.

The Vision for the federation is that it will ensure that both schools offer excellent education for children in small communities in a context of Christian and family values whilst capitalising on the advantages that being part of a larger organisation can offer.

The school has good links with Frant Church. At present, our Youth & Children's Worker takes a religious assembly every week, and runs an after school kids club. He has also been involved in their year 5/6 residential trips and different sporting events.

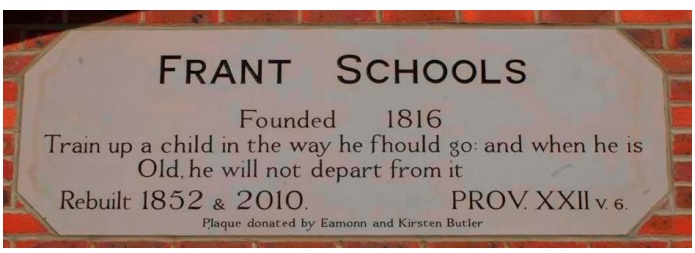
The Church hosts the school's special services throughout the year including Christmas, Easter, Harvest and end of year services.

The current school building was built in 2010 and now houses over 100 pupils, with an OFSTED grade of 'good'. The school is in a federation with Mark Cross primary school.

For more information, please visit:

www.frantcep.e-sussex.sch.uk





ERIDGE

The village of Eridge is in the west of the parish between the village of Groombridge and the two thousand acres of the Marquess of Abergavenny's estate at Eridge Park. It lies on the main A26 about 1 ½ miles from the outskirts of Tunbridge Wells, and it is that town that is the "centre of gravity" for those who live in the village.

Houses of all sizes and ages are widely spread out with no obvious centre to the village apart from Holy Trinity Church and the village hall. The area around the church is now a conservation area. There is no longer a village shop but there are two pubs and a railway station.

Approximately one third of the residents commute to London, a third works locally or in Tunbridge Wells and a third is retired.

The RSPB and East Sussex Wildlife Trust both have wildlife sanctuaries in the village, which attract walkers and rock climbers on the famous "Eridge rocks". The are two business parks where units made from agricultural buildings are let out to local enterprises.

The Village Hall was extensively modernised a few years ago and is a highly appreciated amenity for the village and a venue for a whole range of clubs and societies.



FRANT

Frant is a welcoming, friendly village set in beautiful countryside and within easy reach of Tunbridge Wells, London and the coast. It has a regular bus service and there are three railway stations within easy reach. The village has two Public Houses, a Post Office and General Stores with adjoining Coffee Shop and Hair Salon. There are a number of other businesses and offices in or near to the village.

Frant Memorial Hall is adjacent to the Bowling Green and overlooks the Village Green. It is in constant use for private functions and activities ranging from The Garden Club, Flower Arranging classes and Badminton, to Frant Film Club, Pantomimes and Plays. The Nursery School is held daily during term time in the smaller of the two function rooms. There is a designated and well equipped children's play area on the green and cricket matches can often be enjoyed on a Sunday afternoon. Currently there are plans for specific areas of the green to create a wild life habitat, and encourage the growth of original flora.

The village has a wide range of housing, from large country houses and listed buildings, to newly built houses. There are two areas of social housing with another development planned, and there is a sizeable retirement complex near to the church.

Events that have taken place in the village over the years have been many and varied, the latest being the Christmas Market in December 2017. This took place in the High Street which has proved to be an ideal place for street parties and fairs away from the main thoroughfare. St Albans church is at the end of the High Street, and the church Primary School is nearby in Church Lane.

Frant is a truly delightful place to live, with a growing, active and thriving community.



BELLS YEW GREEN

At the eastern end of the parish is Bells Yew Green. The village is small, with most houses being of modern design, and includes a local village shop and a pub. The community is growing, with a mixed demographic from young families to retired residents.

There is a well-equipped village hall which hosts a variety of activities and is available to hire. It has a recently built children's playground which is fenced in. Beside the hall is 'Minor Mania' – an indoor soft play venue for young children. The is also a village Cricket Club which is very popular.

Many residents commute to work, and there is a mainline station in the village (called Frant station) which runs between Hastings and London. Buses run through the village from Lamberhurst / Wadhurst to Tunbridge Wells.

There is a small independent chapel (Countess of Huntingdon) in the village which has Sunday services, although many families travel to St Alban's in Frant to worship.



OUR CHURCHES - A BRIEF HISTORY

The first definite reference to a place of worship in Frant occurs in the 1090's in an undated document quoting a "gift by Gilbert de Clare of a church at Rotherfield with a chapel at Frant which pertaineth to it." This gift was formally confirmed in 1103. Almost certainly this chapel would have been constructed in timber and thatch – building in stone followed slowly in the later centuries and at an unknown stage Frant parish became independent of Rotherfield. The pattern of the village, with its single High Street pointing directly from the church to the cattle stockades which once existed around the now vanished dewpond on the Green, makes it likely that this first chapel was on or near the site of the present church, which anyway occupies the highest point in the village and therefore a natural place for early worship. By the beginning of the 19th century the church was in a semi-ruinous state and when a boy was killed by a falling stone the decision was taken to rebuild it. The cost was largely borne by the local landowners, the Earl of Abergavenny and Lord Camden, whose shields adorn the crossing. Only part of the tower's interior remain of the early church.

Some of the vicars of Frant (it became a rectory in the 19th century) are interesting! One was imprisoned for riot when he led villagers to reinstall the Abbot of Bayham by force after he had been ejected by Cardinal Wolsey, who wanted the revenues for his new Cardinal College at Oxford (now Christ Church). Another Catholic priest was so well loved by his congregation that Queen Elizabeth left him in post under an assumed name when religion changed again on her accession. The successive parishioners have gifted the interior in various ways and much of the woodwork was created by Frank Rosier, a Frant postmaster and gifted craftsman.

Eridge church dates from the early 19th century when the Nevills returned to live permanently in Eridge, creating many new jobs, and residents of Bells Yew Green clubbed together to build a non-conformist chapel there around 1840. The gift of the parish living is jointly in the hands of the Bishop of Chichester and the Marquess of Abergavenny.

FRANT CHURCH

Where We've Come From

A lot has changed over the past decade in our church. The key developments are:

- There is a gradually growing Sunday attendance, and we have increased from 2 homegroups to 5.
- We have a flourishing youth group and a growing number of families in the church.
- Sunday Club has grown from one small group to three age-specific groups.
- We now do weekly assemblies in the school and run an after-school club.
- The redevelopment of The Stables has given us a fantastic venue for ministry and mission, as well as housing our operations in the Church Office and our Youth & Children's Worker with his family.
- We have a strong link with the Sussex Gospel Partnership – so far 6 church members have attended the SGP Ministry Training Course.

Membership

We have 136 on our electoral role, with a regular attendance each Sunday of approximately 60 adults and 20 children, which during festivals can increase to anything up to 300 and standing room only.

All ages are represented in the congregation, except that there is no-one in their 20s (this reflects the local demographic) and we are also a bit thin on the ground when it comes to people who have recently retired.

A lot of the congregation live within the Parish, but about 30% come from a wider radius (i.e. the surrounding villages and Tunbridge Wells) reflecting the popularity and success of the church.

Theological Basis

There is quite a wide range of preference in our congregation when it comes to styles of worship, but our unity comes from our shared fellowship. Our Sunday services are evangelical with all teaching, worship and mission strongly bible based. We take our authority from the Bible. We believe in the authority and all sufficiency of the Bible. We accept the position adopted by the apostles recorded in the early chapters of Acts which declares that the fact that Jesus rose from the dead and all that the Old Testament looks forward to is fulfilled in Christ. We believe that Jesus died in our place for our sins (substitutionary atonement) and we believe that salvation is procured by the finished work of Christ and appropriated by faith.

We follow common worship, the elements of which are Biblical – confession of sin, confession of faith, intercession and the ministry of the Word sustained by expository preaching. We believe our worship is heartfelt and upholds the truth. We aim to grow in love of the Lord Jesus Christ training in discipleship and sharing the gospel with all.

FRANT CHURCH (CONT)

Sundays

We meet each Sunday at 9:30am. There is a great unity amongst the congregation, and there is a very friendly atmosphere in the church that is often commented upon. Children are always welcome. We are very social, and very often it is a long time before the church is empty after the service!

On the 1st Sunday of each month we have an all-age service, with all elements (including the Bible talk) aimed to be accessible for all-ages. This service is a very joyful occasion and has a real family feel. There are instruments for the little children to shake during the first hymn, and as part of the service we celebrate any birthdays coming up that month. We are led in our singing by a very accomplished pianist in both traditional and modern child-friendly songs. She also leads our all-age orchestra, which gives the children a chance to lead us in one of our songs. After the service we have refreshments (including birthday cake).

The 2nd (and 5th) Sundays of each month are communion services, with the 3rd and 4th being a Service of the Word and Prayer. The children join us in the service for the first 10 minutes, and then go to their Sunday Club groups, returning towards the end of the service. These services offer a quieter, more reverent, atmosphere. We enjoy thought-provoking sermons and being accompanied by a very accomplished organist. A projection screen aids our singing and learning week by week.

At present there are no evening services. There was a contemporary evening service and also a traditional BCP service each month, but they were discontinued due to lack of numbers and resources.

Occasional Offices

We have a number of funerals in church each year, with more taking place at the local Crematorium in Tunbridge Wells. There are usually about 3 weddings each year, and roughly 6 baptisms, although in early 2018 we enjoyed 5 baptisms on one Sunday (two of which were adult baptisms). We have also recently had 10 people Confirmed, the previous Confirmation service being 3 years ago.

The Rector leads an annual act of remembrance at Frant village Memorial Hall for the local community.

FRANT CHURCH (CONT)

Youth Activities

Our youth activities cater for all age ranges, and includes both discipleship and evangelistic groups. We can see up to 60 different young people come to our groups or at Church in a week.

'Encounter' is our secondary school aged youth group that meets each Friday evening. We focus on discipleship and always share a meal together along with Bible study. There are between 12-14 energetic and passionate young people who regularly come each week.

We also have outings and special events including; summer camps, Christian concerts, youth weekends and trips out.

As the majority of the group are either musical or love music, we have created a Youth Worship Band, nick named 'Encounter In Worship'. They practice straight after the youth group on Friday nights and play modern worship songs in their own unique style, by artists such as: Rend Collective, Matt Redman, Hillsong United and Phil Wickham. The band have played in church and also have opportunities to play at community events.

'Ignite' is our after-school club run on Thursdays after school. This club is more evangelistic so we try to create a relaxed and open environment. We walk up to 15 children up from school to The Stables for snacks, games, fun and a short talk from the Bible.

'Sunday Club' runs during the service on Sundays for children and young people. We have three different age groups which, depending on their group, undertake activities and crafts, play games and have discussions around a particular Bible passage. All age groups read the Bible.

All start together in the Church Service for 10 minutes before going out to The Stables. All children and young people then have a time of sung worship together before splitting into their groups.

We have on average 17 children and young people take part in Sunday Club each week it runs. Our last count showed 20 children and young people worshipping at our Church, however not all come each week.



FRANT CHURCH (CONT)

Other Activities

Every Wednesday there is a prayer meeting at 10am in St Albans Church. Approximately 12 people gather to read a small portion of Scripture and spend some time praying for the church and people linked with the church. Once a month this becomes a traditional BCP communion service.

Immediately after this each Wednesday (10:30am-12noon) is our outreach coffee morning. This happens in The Stables, with the host-team offering coffee and home-made cakes for a small donation. This draws in people from across the community. We see about 20 to 30 people each week, and occasionally more, at least half of whom don't attend church.

'Little Fishes' is the name of our Baby & Toddler Group that meets on Tuesdays from 10-11:30am. There are 29 children on list and mums, grandparents and carers enjoy coming for the social aspect as well as the nursery rhyme singing accompanied on the piano. There is always a prayer at the beginning and some 'Jesus-songs'.

There is a box in church where people can place prayer requests. A group meet to pray for these requests after the service each Sunday morning.

We have a team of bell ringers who ring our six bells most Sundays.

There are a number of groups that look after various aspects of church life, from the linen to the church clock.

Another valuable resource is Frant School Trust, a charitable Trust set up in the 19th Century to provide education for the people of the Parish of Frant. The Managing Trustees of this charity are always, as laid down by the Trust Deed, the incumbent and wardens of St Albans Church. The Trust owns a house which generates income from rent, this income is used to make grants for educational projects in the village. Our ministry is able to benefit from the Trust in that it receives a grant each year towards paying for our Youth and children's worker, and by paying for teaching material.





FRANT CHURCH VISION

We want to see lives transformed by JESUS, by:

- **Growing as disciples in our own lives**



- **Making a difference in the lives of others**



This is the current vision. We look forward to working with our new Vicar to develop it.

FRANT CHURCH (CONT)

Strengths

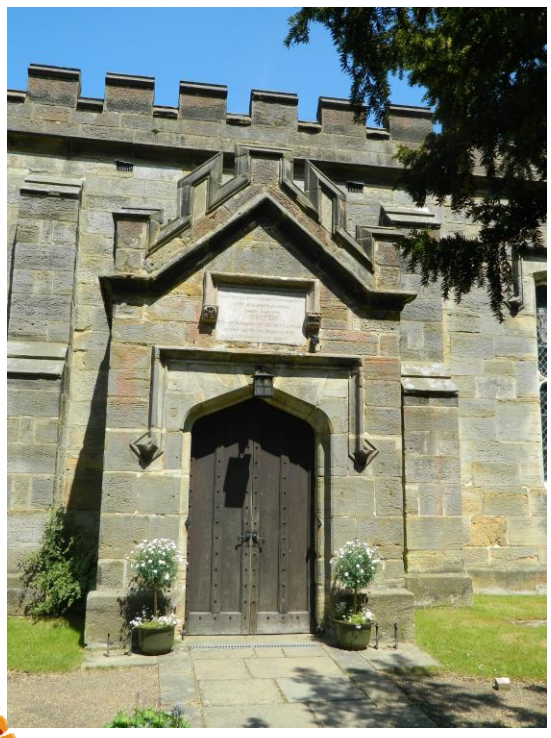
We love our church! Here are some of the reasons we think it is a great church to be a part of:

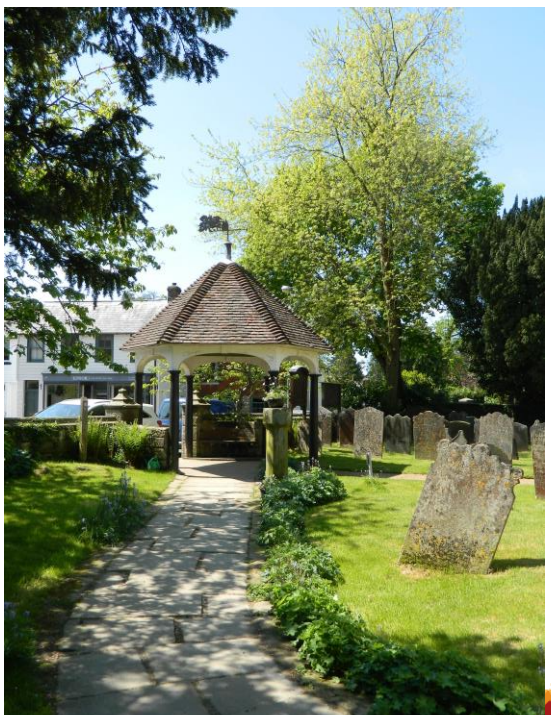
- Visitors often comment on the fact that we are a welcoming and caring community. There is a lot of joy in our fellowship, and people will generally stay for a very long time after the services have finished.
- Another strength is the growth and enthusiasm of our youth group – they love it, and we love the fact that they love it and are growing closer to Jesus.
- We have great links with Frant Church of England Primary School and there are lots of opportunities to develop stronger links.
- We are strongly Bible-based and keen to learn and grow in our faith.

Challenges

There are some challenges that we are facing at the moment.

- Our finances need firming up. We have benefitted for a number of years from grants that have supported our youth and children's work, but we now need to fund this all ourselves. Once our new treasurer is in place we plan to actively engage in a stewardship campaign to help remedy this gap in our finances.
- Many of our volunteers have been retired for a number of years, and our families are stretched in their time commitments, so we need to think carefully about getting people to serve and how we can have effective succession planning.
- We would benefit from help with focussing our attention on outreach and mission and giving us the training and tools so that we can be more effective witnesses for Jesus in our local community.





ERIDGE CHURCH

The congregation in Eridge can best be described as Traditional Anglican, holding firmly to the Anglican belief in the importance of scripture, tradition and reason.

There are 90 on the electoral roll, about 75% of whom live within the official parish boundary, and the rest live in close proximity to the church and describe where they live as Eridge. Holy Trinity is a typical local village church, rooted in the community.

Normal weekly attendance at services varies enormously and can be anything from 9 to 40 and at festivals anything from 30 to 100.

The congregation is middle aged in part because of the timing of the services.

Sundays

The main Sunday service is at 11:15 – two Sundays a month are Holy Communion. There is also a BCP communion service at 8:00am on the first Sunday of the month. The congregation prefers topical as well as expository preaching. Coffee is offered before the 11.15 service because people generally want to leave for lunch afterwards.

Occasional Offices

In 2017 there were no baptisms, 3 weddings and the occasional funeral.



ERIDGE CHURCH (CONT)

Other Activities

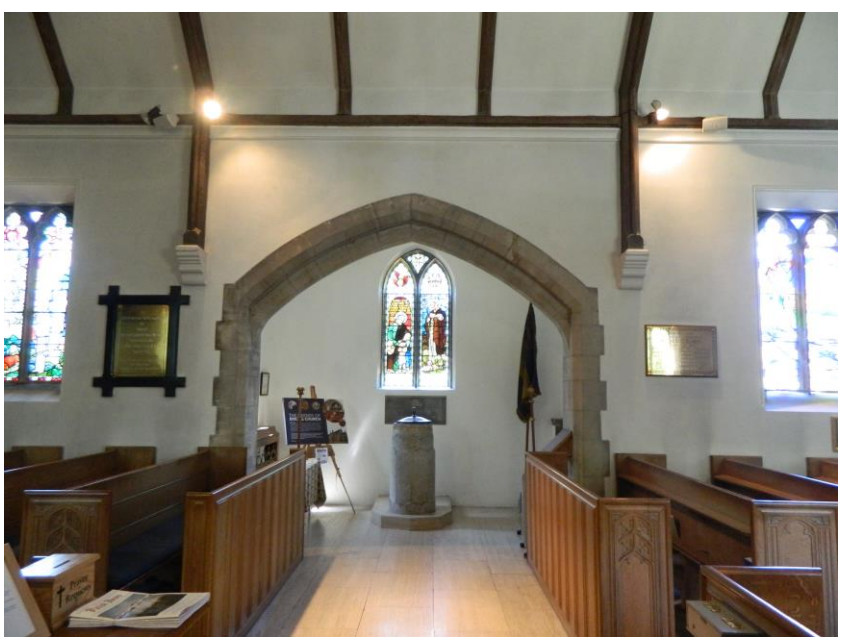
A Church Committee, which consists of the Rector, Wardens, Eridge PCC representatives and volunteers meets regularly to discuss church matters and advise the PCC.

- There is a bible study group which has widely varying attendance but enjoys thriving fellowship with a BBQ every summer.
- The church has a choir which sings at several major services during the year.
- The church is well integrated into the life of the village and a number of events are organized jointly by the church and the village hall.
- Every other year the village fair takes place in the Marquess's garden for the benefit of the church (which has received as much as £8,000 from a single fair) and other charities. Up to fifty village residents - most of whom are not regular churchgoers - give up a weekend to work for the fair,
- A few years ago a Friends of Eridge Church Society was a local initiative which now raises enough in subscriptions annually to pay for all church maintenance and in addition runs events such as quiz nights, bridge drives, visits and concerts for general church funds.
- In view of the geographical spread of the village, the demographics, and the fact that the Rector lives in Frant it is considered particularly important that he or she is able to participate in village events and undertake visiting of parishioners.

Policies

Eridge church has the following policies:

- We support an open baptism policy
- We are willing to remarry divorcees in accordance with Archbishops guidelines
- The churchyard remains open
- We support confirmation on leaving primary school (aged about 12).



ERIDGE CHURCH (CONT)

Strengths

- Lesley Lynn who will be licensed as a Reader at Chichester Cathedral on 29 September lives next to the church and is willing to lead Morning Prayer and preach ten times a year and wishes to help with pastoral work.
- The church is well integrated into village life and is in touch with a large number of village residents.
- There is a healthy number of volunteers helping in all areas of church life.
- Located beside a popular walking route, Holy Trinity is often enjoyed by visitors who appreciate the space for prayer and contemplation.
- Village events in which the church participates give opportunity for outreach.

Challenges

- A service time of 11.15AM is inconvenient and may be responsible for our variable congregation numbers.
- We are in touch with a large number of village residents and we need to try to draw them closer to the church.
- There is no village school in Eridge, most of the children in the village go to school in Groombridge or Rotherfield. There are currently no children regularly attending church in Eridge . Up until about ten years, children did attend and the challenge is to now to attract families with children who don't go to Groombridge church.



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care and Loving Others

Caring pastorally for people is an important part of life within the Parish of Frant with Eridge.

We believe that we are loved by God and that our mission is to share His love with others. Our aim is to offer care and support as part of the pastoral team, or informally, as part of a small group, or in our everyday relationships, both within our church family and in the community. We have a Pastoral Care Task Group which meets regularly to review what has been accomplished, to plan what we still need to do and to consider any new initiatives that might help us to get alongside more people in an informal, yet, meaningful way.

We seek to follow our "Guidelines for Good Practice in Pastoral Care", which we recently formulated and which is intended to focus our attention on working within the "Parish Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults".

We keep in touch with people who come to our church services on Sundays and to regular events during the week. We offer "Home Communion" to members of the parish who are sick or infirm and unable to come to church. We visit people who have moved into care homes or sheltered accommodation. We offer support to our Parish Nurse and act in a supervisory role for her.

Three special events are currently being planned

- "Grave Talk" Café (the Church of England initiative)
- All-age breakfast on a Saturday morning (an outreach event)
- An "Awayday" (or an "Away Weekend") later this year or early next year



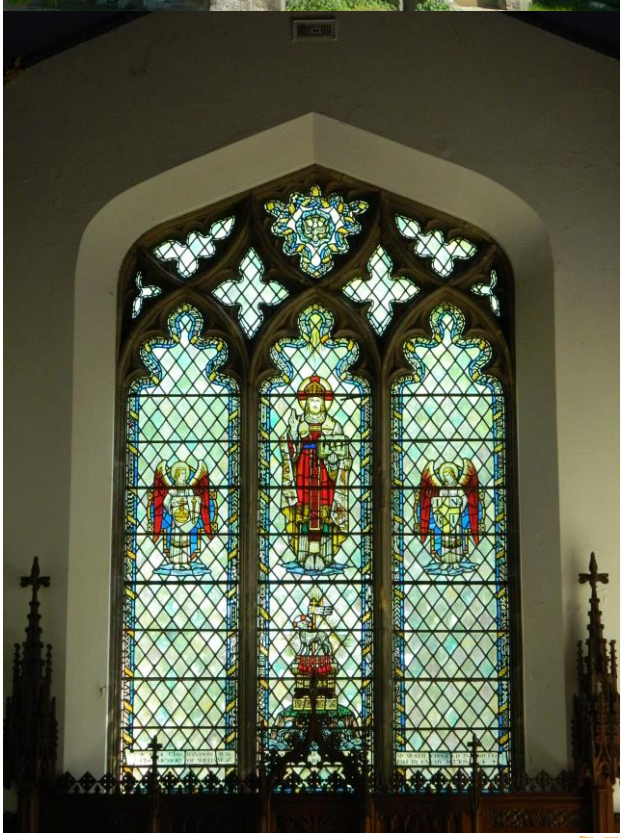
RESOURCES

Frant Church Building

St Albans Church in Frant stands in the heart of the village. It was built in 1821 of sandstone on a site where previous churches have stood since the early 16th century. For such a small village the church is remarkable for its spaciousness and its fine organ, and it is open daily for visitors to come and pray. The church building is generally in good condition, but inevitably there is work to be done. We have a specific fabric fund available to meet some of these costs, which has benefitted greatly from concerts with renowned performers over the last decade (e.g. John Williams, Nigel Kennedy, Sir Thomas Allen, Dame Felicity Lott and many others).

We have an open churchyard (about two burials a year) that has been well tended for many years by a group of volunteers, but now as the current team ages and retires more help is needed. The path through the churchyard is used to access the Wealden Way, so is used daily by ramblers and dog walkers.





RESOURCES

Eridge Church Building

Holy Trinity, Eridge was consecrated as a church in 1856 and is also the family chapel of the Marquesses of Abergavenny.
In 1950 the 4th Marquess of Abergavenny paid to have the church completely refurbished with quite beautiful carved oak woodwork, and for this reason the church is now a listed building. In 2017 a new stained glass window in memory of the 5th Marquess and his wife was dedicated.

In 2015 a £60,000 programme of repairs to the roof was completed, largely funded by the Listed Places of Worship Scheme with a contribution from the Friends of Eridge Church. The fabric is now considered to be in generally good condition.

The church is open most days.

There is an open churchyard.

There are currently no lavatory facilities in the church and this may be subject of future fundraising/ grant application.





RESOURCES

The Stables

The Frant Church Hall is known as 'The Stables'. It was built six years ago on the site of the old stable building which at one time was part of the former Rectory in Church Lane. The new building is steel framed with timber cladding. On the ground floor it provides one large function room (with a removable partition to form two rooms), a good size kitchen, 3 toilets (one is a disabled toilet) and a boiler room. On the first floor is the Parish office and a residential flat. The flat has 2 bedrooms and was built for the purposes of housing a youth worker or other staff member. There is parking for ten cars at the rear of the building, and an area of landscaped garden to the front. As well as being a wonderful resource for the church, The Stables is widely used by the community.



RESOURCES

The Rectory

The Rectory was purpose-built as a Rectory in 1988. It is a modern, attractive, double-glazed house next to the church and accessed by a driveway from Church Lane. On the ground floor it comprises two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, study and toilet. On the first floor there are four generous double bedrooms, a bathroom and separate toilet. There is a brick garage and a substantial garden, plus a paddock which has been used for youth activities including camping out. The Rectory is due to undergo some refurbishment before the new Rector takes up residence, including a new shower, new worktops in the utility room, and a new gas boiler.

There are extensive local amenities and shopping in Tunbridge Wells, which is easily reached by car or bus in under 10 minutes. Tunbridge Wells has two centres of commercial gravity, the older high street and the pantiles which is generally considered higher end, has a number of boutique shops and restaurants, and the Victoria Place shopping centre which caters for a board range of tastes. On the outskirts of the town there are a number of major supermarkets, and an industrial estate with a multi-screen cinema, bowling complex, and a number of DIY and home improvement stores.

There is no secondary school in the parish, but there are excellent secondary schools in the locality, including those in-county (Uplands in Wadhurst and Beacon in Crowborough) and also the Kent Grammars & Bennett Memorial.

Bennet Bennett is a Church of England School, rated Outstanding by OFSTED and with a strong Christian ethos. Many of the Frant Church youth currently attend Bennet and consider it an excellent school.

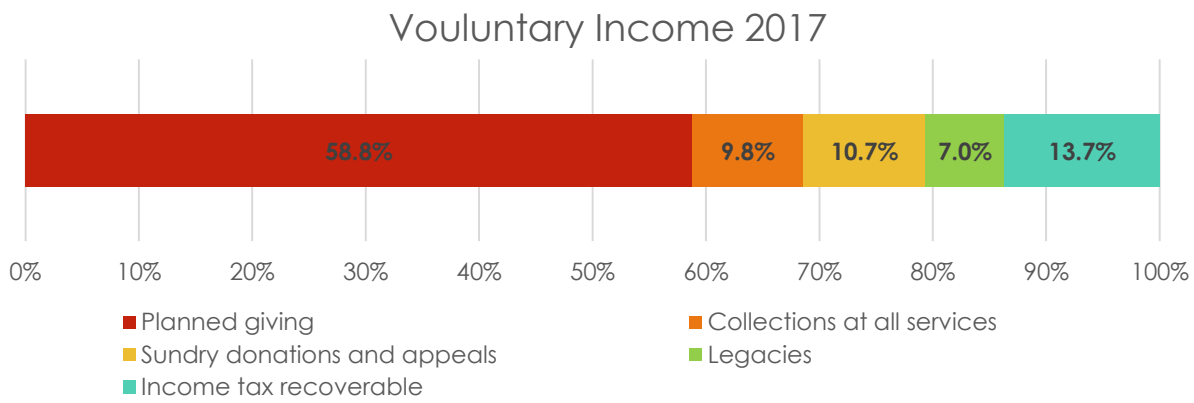




FINANCES

Income

Regular Voluntary income comes in three main categories, The Parish Giving scheme, Standing Orders and weekly collections. Most of our regular givers are on the Parish Giving Scheme which is very efficient in terms of Gift Aid collection.



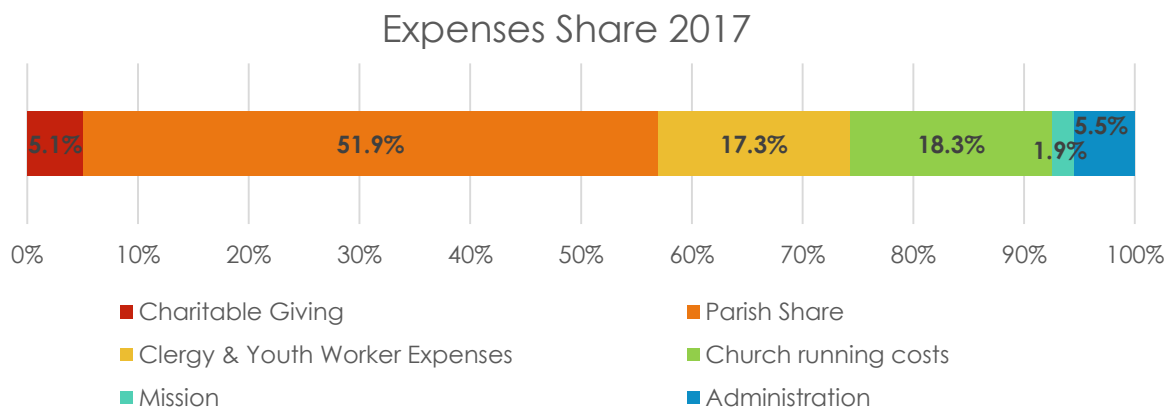
Frant voluntary income fell in 2017 compared with the prior year by 7.5% reflecting some generous givers leaving the congregation. The shortfall was made up through a legacy of £6,500 received in 2017. Eridge saw a slightly smaller decline at 5.5% but as 2017 was a Fair year the overall position was acceptable. Declining regular giving is an issue which the PCC recognised needs a renewed campaign. Eridge has experimented with "easyfundraising" which in 2018 has already generated over £400.

The parish has not had a Treasurer in post since May 2017 when the past Treasurer left for another church. Book-keeping is done by our Parish Administrator and the 2017 accounts were pulled together by the retired Treasurer for which we are very grateful. In April 2018 Katie Coxon volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer, but so far in 2018 we have been operating without a budget

FINANCES

Expenses

The PCC has a target to meet 100% of our Diocesan parish share by 2020. In this current year 2018 we are on target to pay 90% of our parish share. This cost is split 70% Frant and 30% Eridge. If we are to meet this target set against ever increasing costs at the diocesan level for training, central support, clergy pensions and maintenance of the parsonages, our level of regular giving must increase. Our parish share payable to Chichester DBF represents 52% of total expenses.



We have also set a target of holding a minimum of four months of our outgoing regular expenses in general uncommitted reserves.

Frant General Reserve at 31 December 2017 stood at £18,750 which is slightly less than two and a half months of 2017 general expenditure of £91,160. However, during 2017 an expected £3,000 grant for Youth Work from the Frant School Trust was delayed and will be received in 2018 together with another grant for 2018, and in January 2018 an interim payment of £17,500 was received on a legacy with an expectation of a further £4,000 to come later this year. Those sums will boost Frant's general reserve and restore the situation.

Eridge General Reserve of £13,384 covers over 5 months of general expenditure in 2017 of £29,489. The biennial Eridge Fair is a significant factor in the finances of the church in Eridge. In 2017, a Fair year the church received £5,500 from the Fair proceeds which goes to general reserves. 2018 will not see a Fair and so other fund raising events are being held to keep the general reserve at the 4 months' level.

Our policy is to give 10% of each church's voluntary income to charity. Our Churches support a broad range of mission partners supporting Christian missions at home and abroad. These include Tear Fund, Release International, and locally-based charities such as Empathy Action and the Woman's Refuge. We look forward to reviewing our charity partnerships with our new Rector.

