

Northanger Benefice Profile

For an Assistant Priest (House for Duty)

Including:

St Nicholas, Chawton,
St Peter ad Vincula, Colemore St James, East Tisted,
St Leonard, Hartley Mauditt,
St Mary the Virgin, East Worldham All Saints, Farringdon,
All Saints Kingsley,
St Mary the Virgin, Newton Valence, St Mary Magdalene, Oakhanger,
St Mary the virgin, Selborne St Nicholas, West Worldham



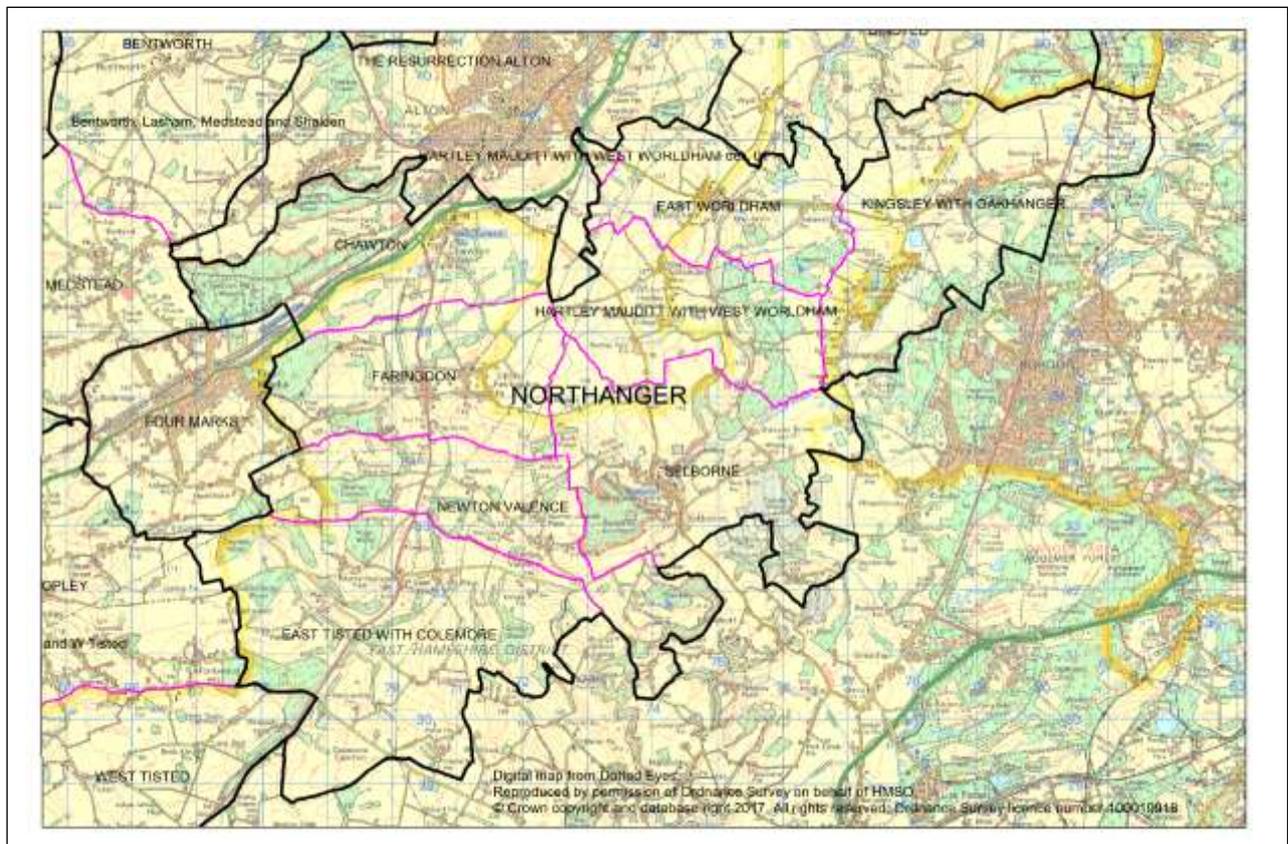
Benefice Profile

The Northanger Benefice has 8 parishes: Chawton, East Tisted, East Worldham, Farringdon, Kingsley with Oakhanger, Newton Valence, Selborne and West Worldham with Hartley Mauditt. Each has its own Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council.

The Churches are:

- St Nicholas Chawton
- St James East Tisted with St Peter ad Vincula, Colemore
- St Mary the Virgin, East Worldham
- All Saints, Farringdon
- All Saints Kingsley with St Mary Magdalene, Oakhanger
- St Mary the Virgin, Newton Valence
- St Mary the Virgin, Selborne
- St Nicholas, West Worldham with St Leonard, Hartley Mauditt

Insert map



All eight rural Hampshire parishes are close together geographically covering a combined area of approximately 60 square miles to the south of the market town of Alton within the boundary of the newly formed South Downs National Park. The parishes have much in common socially with a high proportion of professionals and retired professionals, but also a strong farming tradition; the total population is around four thousand. The congregations range widely in age from children to those in their nineties, many have lived in the area all their lives. Each parish has its own individual foci for mission, but two areas are shared, the first is to maintain a visible Christian presence in the community. The second to be as 'salt and light' in the villages, loving their neighbours and supporting all that goes into building a community and common life.

All of the villages have very active communal social lives and village events. Village fetes, Open Gardens, Lent lunches and concerts are just a few of the important ways to encounter parishioners who may not be in church Sunday by Sunday. During the course of a year the clergy team would estimate that they have contact with around 70% of those who live in the benefice, with Occasional Offices providing other opportunities to engage and serve. We surveyed the congregations asking them to list anonymously those things they did which they considered to be 'faith in action'. Below are some of their replies:

Churchwarden, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, Parish Councillor, on the flower rota, cleans the church, walk the neighbour's dog, pray, sit on a charity committee, visit a lady in a care home, support three charities with annual funding, fund raiser, PCC secretary, sit on village hall committee, take elderly lady for hospital visits, am friendly and approachable to all members of the village, W.I Committee member, help with Mother and Toddler group, help neighbour with heavy shopping, repair and maintain vestments, assist U3A, collect prescriptions, arrange a lunch for those who eat alone, give lifts to those unable to drive, organise a weekly scrabble evening, involved with old company's pensioners association, help a man whose wife died of cancer, write for village magazine, make books which I sell to friends giving any profit to charity, good neighbour, lead worship, support cancer relief, Poppy Day organise, parent, local councillor, school governor, furnished a home for the homeless, set up a charity, set up 'Riding for the Disabled' group, Gift Aid secretary, give financial advice to an old lady, registered carer, help my neighbours, support Treloars, support Wooden Spoon charity, seek the good in situations and people, Sacristan, chair village fete committee, organise teas for fete, trustee/committee member village hall, co-ordinate catering for senior citizens Christmas meal, keep in touch with a depressed friend in hospital, visit the sick, chair the PCC, fundraiser, Christian Aid collector, donate raffle prizes, help with Sunday School, smile at my neighbours, trustee of handicapped children's society, Rotary committee, support RNLI, member of Alton College Foundation, treasurer RDA group, Chair of Kingsgroup Fund for Sailors, clear the village pond, sick visitor to terminally ill, Chair of Village hall management committee, school governor, charity trustee, visit and help elderly neighbours, assist churchyard clean up, deliver village magazine, run a junior cricket team, sing in a choir, design tickets, flyers and publicity material for local events, ride in the annual 'Ride and Stride' day, give lifts to and from church, support Woodland Trust, WDCS, RSPB, Pastoral visitor, Verger at funerals, Annual bike ride co-ordinator, Hospital visitor, WI support member, Red Cross supporter, NSPCC supporter, Gift Aid organiser, Washer-upper at Lunch Club, Christian Aid organiser, Chaplain to Alton British Legion, hospital driver, U3A leader, support Marie Curie nurses, Lent lunch organiser, teacher, visitor, 60+ party organiser, sit on Local cancer research Committee, visit the elderly, Kings World care driver, Village magazine editor, grow plants to sell for charitable causes, cook for the Winchester Night Shelter. Chair/Treasurer Alton Cancer research charity.

Benefice Vision

The Benefice Mission Action Plan is intended to feed into and support the objectives of the Winchester Diocese which are:

We grow authentic disciples going out as individuals passionately, confidently and courageously sharing our faith, and coming together as creative church communities of prayer and worship that live out Kingdom values.

We re-imagine the Church intentionally connecting and engaging with our local communities in culturally relevant ways. We will rejoice in the richness of the 'mixed economy' of all ministry and proactively promote vibrant parochial and breath-taking pioneering ministries amongst 'missing' generations, e.g. children, young people, under 35's.

We are agents of social transformation using our influence as a Diocese to transform public and personal life. We will demonstrate loving faith at work in local communities and across the globe bringing healing, restoration and reconciliation, e.g. through education, social enterprise, health care, spiritual care teams.

We belong together in Christ, practicing sacrificial living and good stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us. We will combine radical generosity, care and capability building with a clear focus on directing finance into the mission of Jesus. Sharing and multiplying local good practice, using people, buildings and other resources wisely, we will seek to prune, plant and invest boldly in building for the Kingdom.

Deanery Vision

In response to the diocesan family lead, the Alton Deanery's mission is:

'We grow authentic disciples' by providing accessible worship opportunities alongside training for mission and ministry.

'We re-imagine the church' by training the laity for mission and ministry and increasing our resourcing of youth and children's work.

'We are agents of Social Transformation' by our renewed worship and training of lay workers.

'We belong together in Christ' by committing to doing this together; sharing resources collaboratively, for the sake of the Kingdom.

In support of these objectives the Northanger Benefice Mission Action Plan is:

'We grow authentic disciples'

To review and develop our All Age Services in order to involve and attract more children, young people and their families.

To encourage participation in study groups.

To further encourage lay-led worship.

To further develop our excellent relationships with the two church schools and to raise the standard of worship and Christian teaching in the schools.

'We re-imagine the church'

To find new ways to make the church buildings available to be used by the community for community events.

'We are agents of Social Transformation'

To further encourage members of our congregations to find ways of showing their love for God and their neighbours by active engagement in the community through volunteering to offer help and support.

'We belong together in Christ'

To develop opportunities for congregation members to invite their friends and neighbours to social events and also to invite them to worship; Harvest Suppers for example followed by worship in church the next day.

St Nicholas, Chawton

The church is an unspoilt example of late Victorian Architecture representing the work of Sir Arthur Blomfield and others. It is open daily for use by the local community and has national and international significance because of its links with Jane Austen. A special service is held on the Saturday nearest to 17 July each year and attracts hundreds of 'Janeites'. Chawton has a Church



School with which it has very strong links. Members of the clergy team lead worship assemblies in school every week of term and also sit on the board of governors. The school come into church at Christmas and Easter as well as for Harvest and Leavers' services. The Diocese recently inspected the school and found it to be outstanding.

Chawton has a population of about three hundred and because of the link with Jane Austen, attracts a large number of tourists who often combine their visit with a trip on the nearby Watercress Line steam railway. There is a pub and tea room as well as Jane Austen's house, which is now a very successful museum. The village has a beautiful cricket pitch and a team that compete in the local Hampshire league.



**Jane Austen's
House
Museum,
Chawton**

St Nicholas church has an electoral role of 34 and a regular Sunday attendance of about 12. In common with all the churches in the benefice, there are lay led services each month. St Nicholas has a newly built toilet and a kitchen area, which enables the church to be used for concerts and other social events. Recently six newly cast bells were installed into the tower, and a band of ringers has formed to ring them. Due to its location, the church is very popular with couples wishing to be married there.

St James, East Tisted with St Peter ad Vincula, Colemore

East Tisted is located off the A32 just over three miles from Alton with the main part of the village lying to the east and with Rotherfield Estate being to the West.

There are approximately 100 dwellings with about one third being privately owned and the remainder being owned by the Rotherfield Estate.



There is no pub but there is an excellent farm shop and a post office which includes B&B. The newly refurbished village hall is actively used, particularly on a Friday night when the social club congregates and a specially licensed bar is open. There is a village cricket field and pavilion and various playground equipment for children of the village.



The Church has an electoral role of 35. There are two lay led services of matins and two Hold Communion services each month, typically a dozen or so regularly attend.

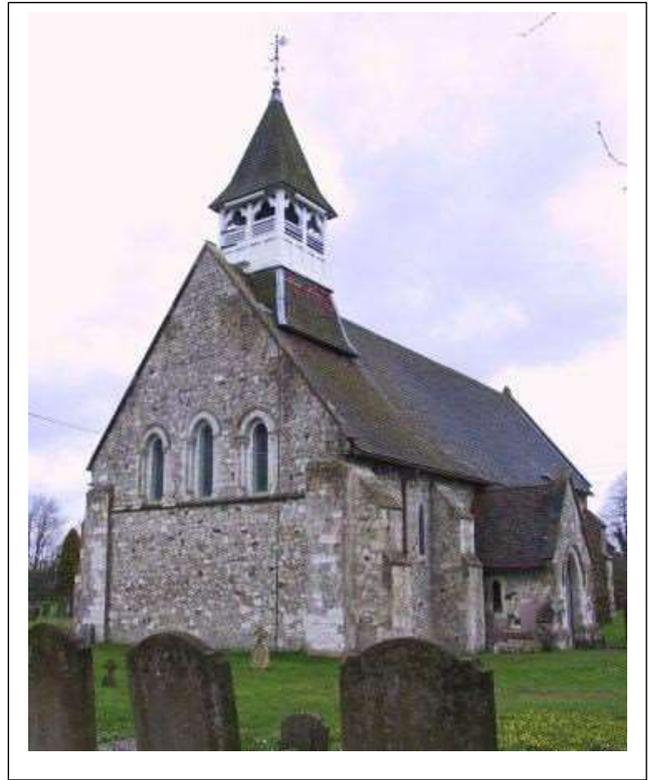
During the summer months there are also services of Evensong in the redundant church of St Peter ad Vincula in the neighbouring Hamlet of Colemore. St Peter's also hold a very popular Carols by Candlelight service in December each year. Colemore is a tiny community of a dozen or so dwellings and about thirty inhabitants.





St Mary the Virgin, East Worldham

The parish is bisected by the Hangers Way footpath and is surrounded by farmland, although farming is no longer a major employer. There was a time when in the summer, people would come to the village from all over the country to help bring in the Hop harvest. Nowadays, that tradition of welcoming strangers to the parish continues as over 20,000 Moslems gather each year for a religious festival held in the village. Many of the population are professional people either working locally, commuting or retired. The village is fairly affluent with predominantly owner occupied houses, but there is a housing association development and several houses are rented. The village has a village hall and a pub, with a popular curry and quiz night. There is also an 18 hole golf course.



A former Churchwarden founded a village choir, which as well as performing at concerts, also sing in church at major festivals and on other special occasions throughout the year. This choir supplemented by the choir of Selborne church also sing at the very well supported services held on Fifth Sundays of the month around the benefice. (Each church hosting in turn and using Common Worship, modern language and singing the St Thomas setting of the Mass). The village also has an active Woman's Institute group and a fledgling mother and toddler group who meet in the village hall.

The church which has an electoral role of 48 and a congregation of about 20 worship at 9.30am each Sunday. On the first Sunday there is a lay led service of Matins, on other Sunday's there is Holy Communion. Last year we introduced evensong on one Sunday a month through the summer, and four times a year there are lay led family services, which are well supported. Recently they raised over £30,000 to restore the steeple. An amazing achievement which indicates the goodwill there is for the church in the community.

All Saints, Farringdon



Farringdon occupies two main areas of settlement, covering the upper and lower parts of the village. The lower astride the A32 includes a pub and two industrial areas. The upper part of the village has a second pub, All Saints Church and the Rectory where the incumbent lives.

The village is about 2 miles south of Alton. Whilst agriculture used to be the main occupation of the residents in the village, there are now only 3 significant farms and large bull breeding unit. Most of the

inhabitants now commute to work in London or the larger nearby markets towns. There are about 250 dwellings in the village, housing a population of about 500. There is a good mixture of ages with about 20% being under the age of fifteen. The majority of the 25 or so regular church goers are older folk. The electoral role currently contains 82 names.

Church services are generally 1662 Prayer Book Holy Communion on three Sundays and matins once a month. There is a very popular lay led Family service on the first Sunday of the month which regularly attracts 20 children and their parents. Evensong is held once a month.



In common with all the other parishes in the Benefice, it is the church folk who play an important part in organizing the main village events, fetes, progressive suppers etc. The greatest success in recent times has been the raising of over £200,000 for the refurbishment of

the church.

All Saints, Kingsley with St Mary Magdalene, Oakhanger



Situated 3 miles from Bordon (Guildford Diocese) and 5 miles from Alton, Kingsley is a rural village of some 420 souls. There is a spread of age groups across the population, quite a large number of whom live in local authority and housing association properties. The MOD control much of the land around the village. Within the

village is the church of All Saints, the Cricketer's pub, the Kingsley Centre, housed in the old village school building. The Centre is run by volunteers, many from outside the village and activities include training for those with special needs, a post office, village shop and Montessori nursery. There are also several rooms suitable for use as meeting and conference rooms.

There are a number of groups and organisations in the village, amongst them are the Kingsley Sports and Social Centre, two cricket teams, an indoor tennis centre and golf course, the W.I. and a wildlife conservation group.

Several businesses are located in the Gander and Kingsley Business parks. The majority of the children attend Binsted Primary School and the Secondary Schools in Alton.

The combined Electoral role with Oakhanger is 53 and about 10 regularly attend church services. The monthly pattern of services are 8am Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of the month, a clergy led family service at 11am on the second Sunday and a Common worship of Holy Communion in traditional language at



11am on the fourth Sunday. All Saints has a small garden of Remembrance for the burial of cremated remains. There is also the redundant church of St Nicholas in the village maintained by the Local Council. It is now only used for burial services and Christmas carols, as well as occasional concerts.



Oakhanger is situated 2 miles from Kingsley and borders the village of Blackmoor (Portsmouth Diocese) and Bordon. The village is surrounded by MoD land and has several of their radar tracking facilities within the boundaries. Shortheath common is a special conservation area and is much used by

wildlife. There are several small businesses and a village pub, the Red Lion. Although smaller than Kingsley the village has a high profile social calendar. Its many organized events including a May fayre and an annual Village/Flower event are evidence of a high level of effort and hard work amongst the villagers. Village children attend either Blackmoor or Binsted schools. Combined use of the Church and the very popular village hall bring the community together on many occasions.



The church of St Magdalene is situated next to the village green opposite the village hall. Services are held on the first and third Sundays of the month and 8 people regularly attend. A figure that represents about 10% of the adult population.



St Mary, Newton Valence

The village is situated about 4 miles south of Alton and is in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The population of the village has remained remarkably static over a long period; the 2001 census shows a population of 191. There has however recently been something of a baby boom in the village, and we now have enough children to be able to hold a Family service in the church 4 or 5 times a year. The average attendance at church is 12 and there is an electoral role of 53. Typically of all the Benefice churches, Christmas, Easter Remembrance

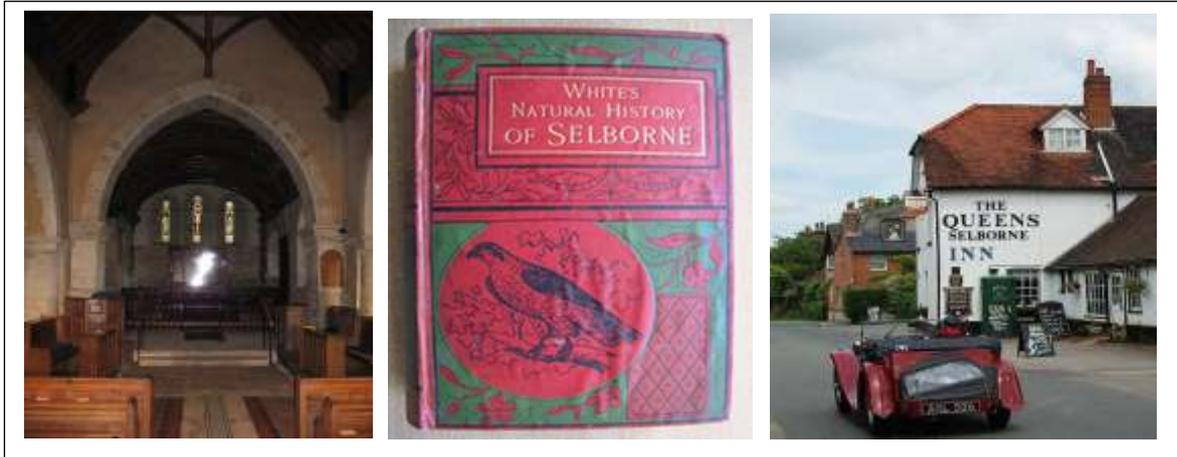


Sunday and the Harvest service are very well supported by the whole village. As with all the churches in the Benefice, the church building is in excellent order and good repair. Apart from the church the only community centre is the village Sports and Social Club, which meet in the old school room, which now belongs to the village. It hosts social functions, meetings and a licensed bar one evening each week. Primary schooling is at Selborne and Secondary in Alton, where there is also a Sixth Form College.



St Mary the Virgin, Selborne

Five miles from Alton and 7 from the market town of Petersfield, this beautiful village is home to about 820 souls. Most are owner occupiers, although there are 2 estates of housing association homes. There is a church aided village school with which St Mary's has excellent relations. The clergy lead worship in



school each week and the school come to the church 4 or 5 times a year. This friendly village has a huge number of activities and social gatherings. There is a pub, a post office/general store, an art gallery, potter and two shops selling decorative items for the home. There is also an exhibition of Romany life. Selborne is perhaps best known around the world as the home of the proto-Naturalist Revd Gilbert White who was a curate here when he wrote his, never since out of print, book the Natural History of Selborne.

White attracts large numbers of tourists to the village who visit the church and the Wakes house in which he lived. This is now home to an exhibition of his life and achievements. White's simple gravestone marks the place where he is buried in the churchyard.



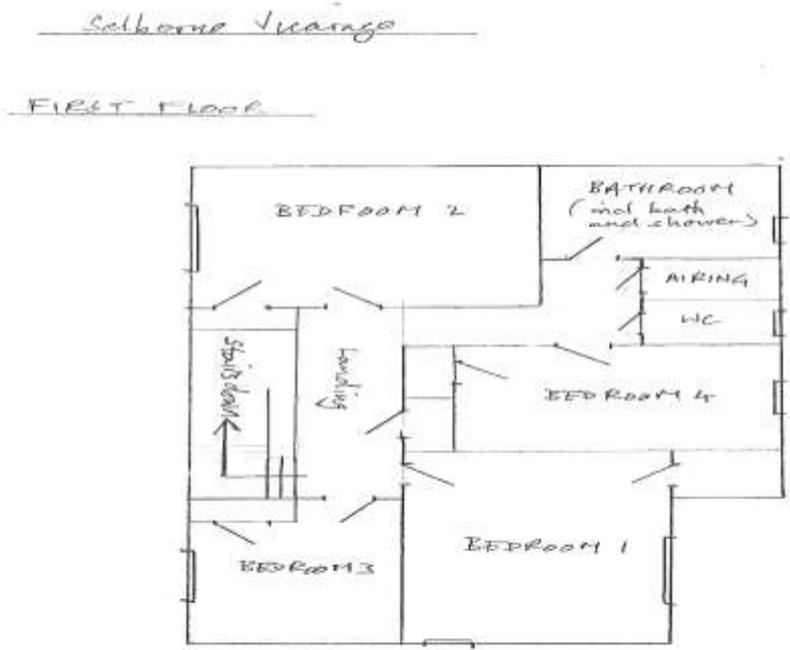
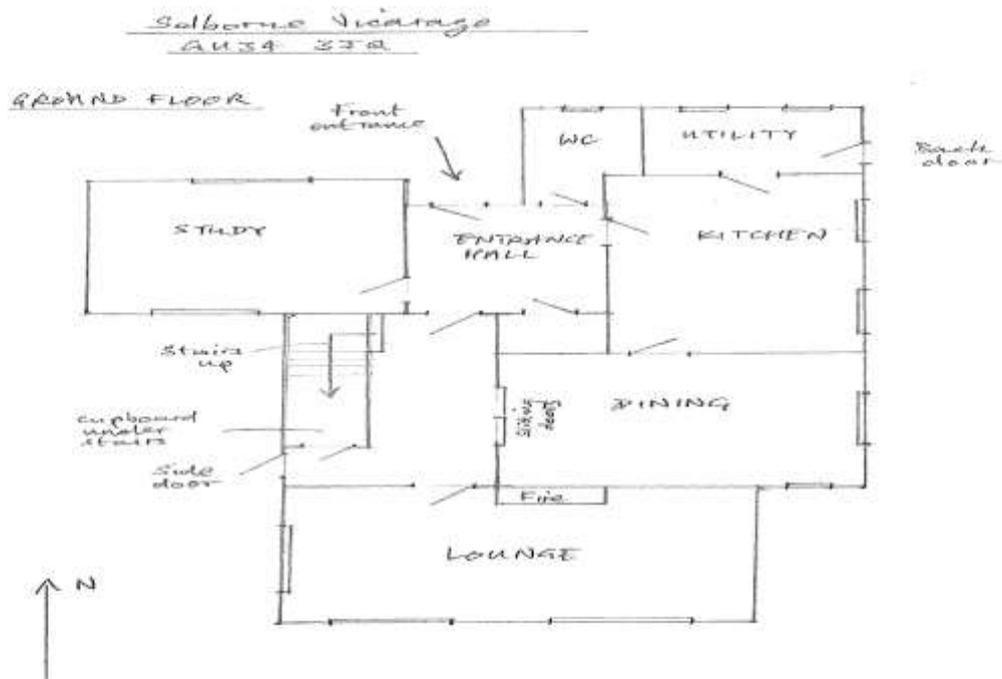
St Mary's church is situated at the heart of the village and next door is the vicarage which is to be used by our House for Duty Priest. The Vicarage was built in 1978, behind the village green which is known as Plestor. It has 4 bedrooms, a sitting room, dining room and study and is surrounded by an easily maintained garden.



The church services are traditional with lay led Family services and lay led Matins on 2 Sundays, as well as Holy Communion and Evensong. There are 63 on the electoral role and about 20 average Sunday attendance. There is a robed choir and a very active band of bell ringers.

There is no church hall, but an award winning refurbishment has been completed at the village hall which is home to many organisations and activities. The church generally hold their annual Harvest Supper there. Selborne has a very rich cultural and artistic tradition.

Floor plans not to scale



St Nicholas, West Worldham with St Leonard, Hartley Mauditt

West Worldham and Hartley Mauditt are two small hamlets with only 45 houses between them. They are centered around 2 small farming enterprises with a number of residences scattered between them. There are no schools and apart from the churches there is only 1 community building, the village hall.



The villages have two small churches, St Leonard in the lost village of Hartley Mauditt has electric light, but no heating and is used in the summer, with services on three of the four Sundays in the month.

St Nicholas, West Worldham is used on every Sunday through the winter and one Sunday a month through the summer. At Rogation tide the congregation process to Hartley Mauditt to officially re-open St Leonard's for the summer. There is an electoral role of 27.

