

**PARISH PROFILES and
PERSON SPECIFICATION for
ST NICHOLAS', CHARLWOOD and
EMMANUEL, SIDLOW BRIDGE**





Welcome to **St Nicholas Church, Charlwood**

Name of Parish: Charlwood, Surrey
Diocese ; Southwark
Deanery: Reigate, Surrey
Address : The Street, Charlwood, Surrey, RH6 0EE
Church Website:
www.stnicholaschurchcharlwood.co.uk

The Parish

Charlwood is a remarkable village. It is on the edge of Gatwick Airport, the second largest airport in the UK, but retains its historic character and supports a busy, jolly and thriving community. The 2019 census lists a population of around 1000 (479 males and 492 females). It also indicates there are 163 young people/children between the ages 0-17.

Charlwood parish has an outstanding collection of ancient houses: over 80 listed buildings and other features. Yet most of them are tucked away out of sight, with Victorian or more modern houses built in front of them.

At the centre of the village stands the church, originally built around 1080, nearly a thousand years ago. Much of the Norman architecture remains, together with lively and nationally important wall-paintings. There is a Parish Council and Charlwood is within the Mole Valley District with Surrey as the County Council.



A good Primary school, a fine church, a few remaining shops and two pubs together with clubs and societies, make Charlwood a friendly, happy village with something for everyone from toddlers to the most seniors.

Many people commute to the nearby towns/London for employment. Horley and Crawley district are adjacent areas which contain multi-faceted services including shopping facilities, train stations and restaurants/pubs.

The village has a centrally located recreation ground and pavilion which serves local football and cricket clubs. Other facilities include a Parish Hall and a Grade 2* Chapel now used by the local school and other hirers.



The Church Building

A Grade 1 listed building, the first part of the church was built around 1080, only 14 years after the battle of Hastings. A new aisle was added on the south side in 1280. Further additions were made in 1480. The main wall in the south aisle, contains wall paintings originating in the 1300's depicting stories of St. Margaret. They are considered to be of national importance. Most of the stained glass dates from 1860-70 and the church boasts an outstanding Holditch organ which originated in 1860. The church seats around 150 -180.

In 2009, a new extension was built to provide a church room, kitchen and toilet. In 2019 the church was rewired and a new flexible lighting system installed. A new sound system has also been installed.

The church tower contains a ringing chamber and a belfry with six bells which was used regularly until the Covid restrictions were applied.

There are grounds which have burial graves and a separate area for the burial of cremated remains.

The Church Family

St Nicholas is part of a joint benefice shared with **Emmanuel Church** in nearby Sidlow Bridge. The congregation averages around 30 with the greater proportion being elderly.

Families are attracted once a month when a Family Service is held on the first Sunday of the month.

The electoral roll currently numbers 80.

There are 6 Members of the PCC which meets around 6-7 times a year.

We have one Churchwarden but no Deanery Synod representatives at the moment.

There are no Lay Readers at St. Nicholas but there are a core of people who read lessons and who lead intercessions and take part in the services in other ways.

We have a small, robed Choir numbering around six members, a small music group which plays at the Family Services. We also have an organist who leads the choir and music group plus a singing group of small children called The Larks and Linnets, who perform at the Family Service.

Coffee and tea and other refreshments are served after each main service which gives us an opportunity to welcome newcomers and to share fellowship with each other. Church and brass cleaning, flower arranging and churchyard maintenance is carried out by a team of volunteers.



A **Prayer and Study Group** was formed in 2019 and regularly meets on Thursday Mornings. A weekly fellowship letter and bible study notes has grown from 8 members to 30+ many of whom are outside the church.

Worship at St. Nicholas'

1st Sunday - Family Service 9.30am

2nd Sunday - Common Worship Communion 9.30am

3rd Sunday - Sung Matins 9.30am

4th Sunday - Common Worship Communion 9.30am

5th Sunday - Joint Service with Emmanuel Church 10.30am (with joint choirs)

At present we use Anglican Hymns Old and New hymn books in all services although particular songs not in the hymn book are sung in the Family Service.

Baptisms tend to be held after Sunday Services in the afternoon.

During the last year there have been 5 Baptisms and 9 funerals.

Since October 2021, following the vacancy, services have been led by a variety of Clergy and Readers from other churches in the Deanery.

Mission Action Plan

At their meeting in September 2021, the PCC reviewed the Church's existing Mission Action Plan and established the following priorities:-

- A revamp of the Parish Magazine
- Parish breakfasts to be held after Family Services
- More family orientated activities

Special Services

Lent and Easter

We join together with Emmanuel church for an Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes Service. A Maundy Thursday evening meal and service is held at St. Nicholas. A pancake evening is organised on Shrove Tuesday and is open to all.

On **Good Friday**, a children's workshop is held followed by a Veneration of the Cross service in the afternoon.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is normally incorporated into the Family Service where posies are given to Mothers and any other ladies present at the service!

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival service is always well attended, and the Church is beautifully decorated; Donations of food stuffs and monetary gifts are donated to a local charity who support vulnerable families



Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Sunday the Church is always full and the service starts at the village war memorial where there is a wreath laying ceremony before continuing the Service in the church. A Role of Honour is read for those who lost their lives in the various conflicts.

Christmas

At Christmas there are a variety of services including a Family Patronal Service where children bring toys for the local family charity, a candle lit Carol Service shared with Emmanuel choir, a family Crib Service and Christmas Day Communion Service. There is also a special Christmas tree event for families and their children undertaking a variety of craft activities and decorating the tree.



Fellowship and Social Activities

Throughout the year, on the second Tuesday of the month, a session of Tea and Chat is organised in the local Parish Hall for the elderly members of the village. An average of 24 attend each session who enjoy sandwiches, cake, tea and conversation.



During the Summer St. Nicholas hosts a free Music Festival attracting numerous musicians who perform in the churchyard (weather permitting) on a Saturday. The Sunday service incorporates associated musical performances.

Another summer activity is **Venture Week** which is supported by the church and is a weeklong activity-based holiday club for over 100 young people living in the village and surrounding areas.



Concerts are organised in the church during the year to encourage people into the church and performers are both locally based and from further afield.

Covid has been quite destructive in seeing both activities and helpers diminished by church closure during the lockdowns and it is now looking to regenerate life within the church and its contacts. The social events are organised by the Social Committee who report to the PCC.

In addition to the church website, information about church events and activities is published in a weekly church newsletter and on the church Facebook page.

Links With Other Churches in the Deanery

St. Nicholas and Emmanuel churches belong to the Upper Mole Group of Churches in adjacent villages consisting of St. Bartholomew in Leigh, Christ Church in Brockham, St. Michael's Church in Betchworth and St. Mary The Virgin Church in Buckland.

Financial

The Treasurer produces a budget each year which is discussed by the PCC prior to the ACPM each year. A report on financial matters is presented to the PCC at every meeting and the Treasurer is fully supported by his colleagues. Support is given to a number of charities either through donations and collections at special services or by retiring collections.

The church is finding it increasingly difficult to remain self-sufficient and it is only the return on investments that enables it to remain in the black. Full details of the accounts can be obtained from the Treasurer.



Going Forward

We need to grow the church family and as well as caring for the older members of our congregation, we want to build up our young people's work and encourage greater participation and involvement by members of the local village.

We want to build on our strengths to make St. Nicholas a centre of Christian influence in Charlwood. However, we sometimes feel that 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.'

PARISH PROFILE

Emmanuel Sidlow Bridge



Situated in a rural part of East Surrey, Sidlow Bridge is located in the Southwest of the Diocese of Southwark, with good commuting links to London and Airports and although not a formal joint benefice time would be equally split between both parishes. Emmanuel is rural in nature consisting of the small communities of Sidlow Bridge and Irons Bottom isolated Hamlets and dispersed dwellings and is situated alongside the A217. There is no centre to the parish although Reigate and Horley both outside the parish boundary are only a short distance away; where there are a range of shops, supermarkets, restaurants and schools.

For the person God calls there is much to offer; the warmth of a small congregation, the opportunity for leadership and development and a living in a lovely Surrey Village. Emmanuel is a beautiful and peaceful church, well maintained and regularly decorated with floral arrangements and has its own Car Park.

It was built in 1861 and consists of a Nave with some very beautiful stained glass windows, a Chancel, Vestry and Tower, with a single bell.



A Screen and Altar Rail were added in 1891 and to the rear of the church is the Font, Choir Vestry, an area for serving refreshments after services and stairs leading to the organ gallery and meeting room with kitchenette.



The Lych Gate was erected by George Henry Lindsey-Renton as a memorial for members of his family who fought and for all those who fell during the First World War. This beautiful, listed memorial stands at the entrance to the churchyard and is used every year on Remembrance Sunday to lay our poppies as a reminder of all those who have died in defence of their country.



Worship

The main Sunday Service is a Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) at 11 a.m. on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month and a Sung Matins on the 2nd Sunday.

On the 5th Sunday there is a Joint Service with St Nicholas Charlwood alternating between the churches. Both churches have robed choirs and have choir practice every two weeks.

Every Sunday Evening at 6pm we have an Evening Prayer Service by telephone. This was introduced during Covid and by request has been continued.

Other Activities

'Coffee and Chat' on the last Wednesday morning of the month, which is open to all and is advertised on a large board in the church yard, as well as in our weekly Parish News Sheet.



We continue to collect and support the local Food Bank.

In August we intend to introduce a 'Knit and Natter' Group (and possibly other crafts too) meeting once a month as part of our efforts to try and encourage new people to Sidlow. We hope it may lead to other things,

A Joint Venture Week (holiday scheme for young people) is held annually at Charlwood regularly accommodating 100+ children between the ages of 5 – 15 years. It had to be cancelled of course in 2020 because of Covid but did take place in 2021 adjusted to meet the Covid regulations.

Emmanuel and St Nicholas Churches are both part of the local Upper Mole Group which was formed in 1995 to forge links between six neighbouring rural parishes these being Betchworth, Buckland, Brockham and Leigh. Together we meet for joint services, Lent Courses, Quiet Days and any other events which benefit, from a wider catchment group. The Clergy of the group meet monthly for Morning Prayer and support each other's ministry.

Facts and Figures

Current Electoral Roll – 34

Parish Statistics from the Church of England Parish Census Summary 2022 figures from 2011 census updated with 2018 estimates and deprivation scores based on 2019 figures

Area of Parish	5.1 sq miles
Population density	151 per sq mile
Population	773
Occupied households	300
Age ranges %	Pre-school 3.6 School age 14.4 18 – 29 yrs 9.1 30 – 44 yrs 16.9 45 – 64 yrs 37.5 65 and over 18.7
Deprivation score	11.5 (larger score means more deprived range in Reigate Deanery 4.7 – 25.6)
Deprivation ranking	9,116 of 12,307

Strengths

We are a small friendly welcoming congregation, numbers have been effected by Covid and our regular congregation currently stands around 15 – 20 but we are seeing our numbers grow as people become more confident about returning to church. Our strengths are the loyalty that we hold most dear to our Faith, Church and Fellow Parishioners.

Emmanuel is a traditional Church with a love for music and we have a small very loyal and enthusiastic choir, Choir Director/Organist and a Relief Organist. We enjoy a Choir led Carol Service and the Choir sings anthems at various times during the year. Services are accompanied by an Organ situated in the gallery at the west end of the Nave and an Electronic Organ situated near the Choir Stalls.



Challenges

The congregation is an ageing one and more attention is needed to provide better pastoral care. Perhaps a small care team could be developed to assist the new Priest with visiting. The Team/Priest could provide a welcome contact and that friendly chat that some parishioners would welcome whilst delivering the Parish News Sheet/Magazine. This could also be an opportunity to develop a feeling of belonging for those who can no longer get to church.

Numbers have been slowly reducing over the last 10 years and one of the most urgent tasks would be to identify what the community at large needs from the church.

One of our challenges is of course to grow our numbers and also to attract and encourage a younger element perhaps with a more enlightening service once a month. To introduce a Family Service if we could ascertain that there is a need in the Parish. We do have a small children's play area at the back of the church and an upper room which in the past was used for a Sunday School and could be used again.

Vision

It is therefore so important for the new Priest to be an effective leader, a visionary with experience and enthusiasm to help achieve the above and more.

Someone who can encourage and inspire us in our need to grow in faith, who is prayerful with a love of scripture and tradition and has a love for music.

They must be confident, caring and a wise communicator.

The Priest is the focal point of the parish taking services on Sunday at both churches and other services during the year which would include Marriages, Funerals and Baptisms, providing Pastoral Care visiting the sick and bereaved and others who generally are in need of support and guidance. Obviously, they must be able to drive and have their own transport.

Both Churches have hard working Church Wardens and very willing PCCs and although they do their best to ensure the most efficient and effective ways of running a parish more inspiration and guidance would make a big difference in enabling growth and financial viability.

We have an approved MAP which is probably in need of revision; the COVID crisis and the retirement of our previous Priest in Charge has delayed much progress and there is room for more to be achieved but is probably best left for when our new incumbent is in place.

The incumbent will be ably assisted by our Licensed Lay Reader and Church Warden.



Also desirable would be to strengthen links with St Nicholas Charlwood and bring our congregations together while respecting our diversities. We do have some joint services where the choirs join together for more impact. We also need to develop stronger relationships with the other churches in the Upper Mole Group from which we could all benefit.

Finance

The financial viability for the future is a concern and we need to be more proactive in raising money. We have to date met our Parish Pledge each year however at the time of writing the situation is still of some concern. The numbers of people giving regularly has fallen. Perhaps we should consider launching a new 'Giving Campaign' in the Parish or researching as to whether we could lease out the Upper Room to local organisations. At the moment the Local Council uses the Church as a Polling Station for which we receive a fee. Also the local branch of the W.I. use the upper room for their regular meetings and pay a fee. The W.I ladies are also very helpful with the flower arranging at Church Festivals.

The size of the church lends itself to holding small musical events and this has been successful in the past where the Arts Council supported the promotion of performances by Young Musicians.

Prior to Covid we regularly held an annual Fish & Chip Quiz Night, a Christian Aid Asian Lunch, and a Sponsored Hymn Sing. It is hoped that all of these events will be reintroduce in the not too distant future and others too as these have always been good fund raising events.

We have a very efficient and experienced Treasurer who has been with the

Church for many years, and has done an excellent job in keeping the church finances but we do need to be more innovative in the future.

The Future

During the Inter regnum we have been fortunate to welcome many visiting Priests, all have expressed complimentary comments of our small, lovely church and how they have enjoyed taking the services. They have all said how much they would welcome being asked to visit again. This says a lot.

The final sheet of this Profile has been assembled showing a few of many various comments by our faithful congregation.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

What the PCCs are looking for in a new Priest-in-Charge

We have taken time during the interregnum to consider carefully what sort of Priest in Charge we should seek. We will be looking for someone who:-

- Can stimulate us in our journey through faith and has the vision and commitment to lead two traditional 'middle of the road' loyal and faithful congregations.
- Can be inspirational, friendly and approachable to all in worship and witness to Christ in the diverse communities of St Nicholas and Emmanuel.
- Will lead us in improving our work with the present St Nicholas families and will reach out to new families bringing energy and fun to our family work.
- Is capable of encouraging and developing new ideas for growth and has the ability to inspire change where appropriate.
- Can support and work with us to develop pastoral care teams.
- Has musical appreciation and be supportive of the strong musical traditions of both churches.