

*“Green Sussex” by Alfred Tennyson, 1st Baron Tennyson:  
You came, and looked and loved the view  
Long-known and loved by me,  
Green Sussex fading into blue  
With one gray glimpse of sea.*

# **THE PROFILE OF THE PARISH OF BURY, COLDWALTHAM, HARDHAM & HOUGHTON**



# Letter from the Bishop of Chichester

## Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith

In 2025 this diocese celebrates the 950th anniversary of witness and evangelisation from a mission base in Chichester, building on the earlier mission founded by St Wilfrid at Selsey.

2025 also marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea with its reminder of the formative claim upon us of the catholic creeds.

These anniversaries are more than historical footnotes. They speak powerfully about the richness of faith and mission that is our inheritance locally and universally.

Inspired by that inheritance, we seek to be a household of faith that is endlessly curious about how the Holy Scriptures and the sacraments of the New Covenant enable us to know, love and follow Jesus Christ in today's noisy and distracted world.

If God is calling you to join us in the task of proclaiming the mystery of faith in some part of this diocese, we pray that the contribution of your gifts and experience will enrich our witness and deepen your own discipleship.

We take very seriously the call to diversity and radical inclusion as characteristic of the Church's mission. For this reason we welcome applications from ordained women and Global Majority Heritage clergy, who are under-represented in those who serve this diocese.

+Martin





# Introduction

In 2020 the three Parishes of Bury with Houghton, Coldwaltham and Hardham in West Sussex unified as the single Parish of Bury, Coldwaltham, Hardham & Houghton.

As a result we have established a streamlined Parish, minimising administration and bureaucracy, therefore enabling a greater concentration on ministry.

- A single, effective Parochial Church Council
- A single Safeguarding Officer
- The appointment of an external Parish Administrator, employed for 10 hours per week. This will continue
- The appointment of an external bookkeeper. This will continue.

We are a member of The Prayer Book Society and hold regular BCP Services.

[www.arunchurches.com](http://www.arunchurches.com)

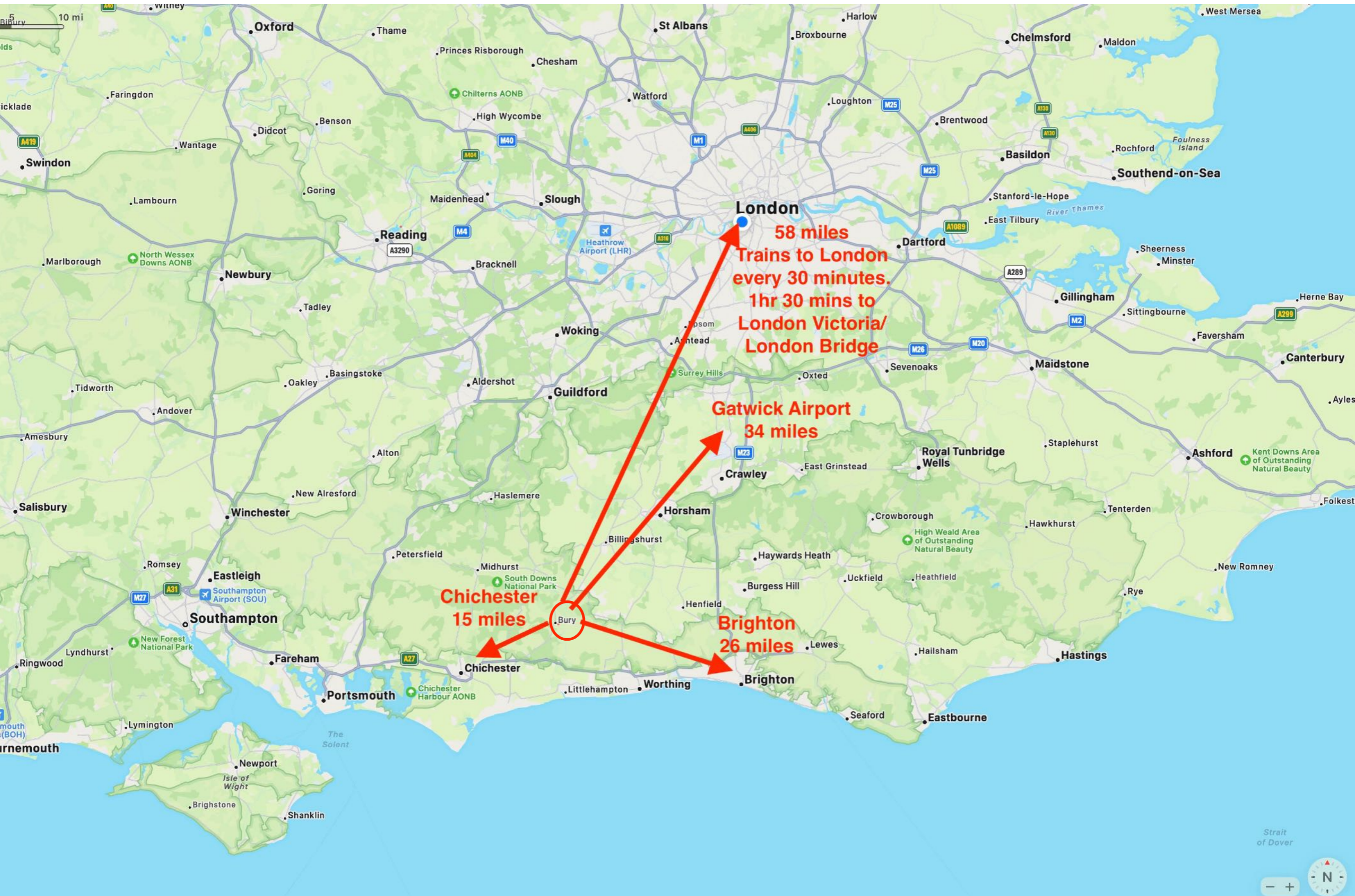
<https://www.facebook.com/arunvalleychurches>

<https://www.instagram.com/arunvalleychurches/>





# Location





# We are looking

## to attract a Half Time Vicar

- To reinvigorate and enthuse our Parish to know, love, and follow Jesus Christ
- To be a visible priest and pastor, ministering the Gospel within our local communities
- To be forward thinking and to carry the congregation with the vision
- To lead us in liturgical and eucharistic worship and to have courage to introduce change, for a never-changing Gospel to reach an ever-changing world
- To build upon the relationships with our schools, encouraging them to become a more integral part of our church community
- To be a gifted communicator of God's grace and truth across all age ranges and socio-economic groups
- To be a prayerful, joyful priest and to serve us with a sense of humour





# Services

In addition to Feast and Saint's Days, before the interregnum we held two services each Sunday, rotating around the Parish. Typically,

09:15 St Botolph's, Hardham

10:30 St John's Bury

or

09:15 St Nicholas, Houghton

10:30 St Giles, Coldwaltham (St Nicholas is not used during the winter months other than at Christmas)

In addition there is a 0930 service each Thursday at St Giles, Coldwaltham. Services at St Botolph's and St Nicholas have traditionally been BCP (Holy Communion and Matins)

Normal weekly attendance is 30 but the average per year rises to 70 if Easter, Christmas, Remembrance etc are included.



**Electoral Roll**

YEAR	BAPTISMS	WEDDINGS	FUNERALS
2022	9	8	14
2023	2	15	8

YEAR	ST JOHN'S, BURY	ST GILES, COLDWALTHAM	ST BOTOLPH'S, HARDHAM	ST NICOLAS, HOUGHTON
2021	75	33	16	Joined with St Johns
2022	75	33	16	Joined with St Johns



# Our Churches

We are blessed to have four very distinct churches within our Parish., All of them are important historic buildings as well as places of worship, dating back 1000 years. It is quite extraordinary that one of our churches was providing ministry prior to the Norman Conquest in 1066.





# The Vicarage

The Parish Vicarage is located on Church Lane in Bury, in close proximity to St. John's Church and at the very heart of the village. It boasts five bedrooms providing ample space.





# Inclusion

We are proud to be inclusive and welcome a wide congregation celebrating the diverse community different individuals cultivate.

We do not discriminate against race, colour, sex, age, sexual orientation or disability.

Each and every member of our community should be encouraged to contribute, allowing us to speak openly and be bold.

We are hoping for a new priest to lead us in a journey of change that will energise and reinvigorate our congregation and wider community; change that reflects the Church of England and Christian ministry in the 21st century.



“We moved to Bury four years ago from London. As a gay married couple we felt some anxiety about how we might be received in rural England! The parish could not have been more welcoming and we have been embraced with open arms by the church and the community. We have been treated as a ‘normal’ couple and our sexuality is frankly a non issue. We love it here - it’s a wonderful place to live and the church is a key element of our lives”.

John and George



“I have attended many Churches during my life, but none of them has been as welcoming, inclusive and friendly as the Churches in this Parish. I am partially sighted, but everyone is very understanding and I have enjoyed singing in our Church Choir.”

Diana



# A Vibrant Hub of Heritage and Community

Jean's life story is interwoven with St. John's Church. Baptised, confirmed, and married within these walls, Jean's connection to this sacred space spans generations. She has never worried walking around the village after dark as she feels very safe. "If you are new to the village you will soon make friends".

For Graham, St. John's is the backdrop to countless cherished moments. It has witnessed the unions of four children and welcomed six grandchildren through Baptism. Communion each Sunday serves as a spiritual cornerstone, setting a positive tone for the week ahead.

In the words of Caryl, the church is an unwavering beacon, providing hope and grounding in a world of constant change. It's a place of worship and fellowship, a cornerstone to navigate life's twists and turns.



Carolyn says that she and her husband love living right next to St Nicholas. They take care of the church and its immediate surroundings. Although there are not many services in St Nicholas they still feel valued members of the parish.



As we embark on a new chapter, we eagerly anticipate a dynamic, forward-thinking vicar who will guide us toward a vibrant future. Embracing the rich traditions that define the parish, we aim to be a beacon for all, especially the younger members of our community. In the heart of Arun Valley, amidst the rich tapestry of life, our churches continue to thrive, providing a strong foundation for all who seek faith, fellowship, and a sense of belonging.



# Fundraising

The Bury Fete is held every July at Bury Manor. It's reputation regularly draws people from far afield and is a wonderful community event as well as being very important for fund raising.

“Under the guidance of the Bury Parish Council, the ‘Bury and West Burton Volunteers’ have been formed to work on social interactions, community projects and other tasks identified around the village. Recent projects have included arranging the renowned Bury Fete, in support of funds for upkeep of the church and other events such as Apple Day, Jubilee and Coronation celebrations, Christmas lunch and monthly coffee mornings.”

“The Coldwaltham Coffee Shop started in 1993 with the aim to provide the community with a meeting place where, once a week, people could come for a cup of coffee and a chat and meet neighbours. The funds raised have gone towards maintaining the church and churchyards.”

There are ad hoc events during the year including lunches, garden parties, concerts, craft fairs and regular coffee mornings.





# Finances

Without doubt, the last few years have been difficult for all Parishes as we came through the Pandemic and entered a period of economic turbulence. Whilst we appreciate that we cannot maintain a Full Time appointment we are certain that we can provide our Parish Share going forward to sustain a Half Time appointment.

Year	St John's/St Nicholas	St Giles	St Botolph's	Total
<b>2021</b>				
Income	£33,817.11	£27,450.70	£19,274.79	£80,542.60
Expenditure	£26,650.80	£20,197.94	£16,315.16	£63,163.90
Balance	£7,166.31	£7,252.76	£2,959.63	£17,378.70
<b>2022</b>				
Income	£55,026.86	£27,968.47	£12,625.84	£95,621.17
Expenditure	£41,790.88	£26,498.61	£8,234.24	£76,523.73
Balance	£13,235.98	£1,469.86	£4,391.60	£19,097.44
<b>2023 (to 30.09.23)</b>				
Income	£49,596.86	£24,702.85	£9,935.25	£84,234.96
Expenditure	£32,056.34	£21,079.70	£8,080.60	£61,216.64
Balance	£17,540.52	£3,623.15	£1,854.65	£23,018.32
Current Funds				
General NatWest	£38,346.01	£16,278.22	£8,125.28	£62,749.51
Restricted NatWest	£11,121.95	£8,915.89	£4,014.55	£24,052.39
General CCLA	£380.97	£4,565.49	£30,820.00	£35,766.46
Restricted CCLA	£54,670.07	£17,996.63	£0.00	£72,666.70



# Schools

## There are three schools within the parish:

Bury CofE Primary School ([www.bury.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.bury.w-sussex.sch.uk))

“Bury CE Primary School is proud of its close connection to St John’s church which has been in place for over 175 years. We look forward to building a strong relationship with the incumbent, welcoming them into school to help us to build on our Christian distinctiveness and also looking forward to what other skills they would like to share and further enhance the learning experiences for our children.” Thomas Moore, Head.



St. James CofE Primary School, Coldwaltham ([www.st-james-coldwaltham.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.st-james-coldwaltham.w-sussex.sch.uk))

“We enjoy a positive and friendly relationship with St. Giles. The church has been kind enough to host us for special celebrations such as Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle, Christmas Epiphany, Lent and Easter. We also have enjoyed welcoming the clergy to the school to be part of our weekly worship. The church has also been supportive of the children coming to visit St. Giles – we have visited the church to learn about baptism and weddings but have also used the beautiful grounds to support learning in other areas. We look forward to being able to continue the strong relationship between the school and the church – it is a cherished and valued part of our school life.” Lizzy Martin, Head.

Dorset House School ([www.dorsethouseschool.com](http://www.dorsethouseschool.com))

“The Church of St John the Evangelist in Bury and Bury Manor, which is home to Dorset House School, were built at around the same time. The church is not just physically close to Dorset House School however, it has formed an integral part of the life of the school since it moved to Bury Manor in 1964. Children, staff and parents gather for regular services and at special times of the year. There is an important annual Act of Remembrance in the churchyard each year when children from Dorset House and Bury Primary School join together – reading out the names of the fallen of the parish. The annual church Fete is held in the school grounds every July and is a great opportunity to bring the village together whilst raising funds for the church.” Matt Thomas, Head.



# There are many Secondary schools and Further Education Colleges in the vicinity

The Weald, Billingshurst ([www.theweald.co.uk](http://www.theweald.co.uk))

Steyning Grammer School, Steyning & Storrington  
([www.sgs.uk.net](http://www.sgs.uk.net))

Bishop Luffa School, Chichester ([www.bishopluffa.org.uk](http://www.bishopluffa.org.uk))

Midhurst Rother College ([www.mrc-academy.org](http://www.mrc-academy.org))

Collyer's, Horsham ([www.collyers.ac.uk](http://www.collyers.ac.uk))



## Preparatory

Dorset House School, Bury ([www.dorsethouseschool.com](http://www.dorsethouseschool.com))

Windlesham House School, Washington ([www.windlesham.com](http://www.windlesham.com))

Great Ballard, Eartham ([www.greatballard.co.uk](http://www.greatballard.co.uk))

Westbourne House, Chichester ([www.westbournehouse.org](http://www.westbournehouse.org))

## Secondary

Lancing College ([www.lancingcollege.co.uk](http://www.lancingcollege.co.uk))

Hurst, Hurstpierpoint ([www.hppc.co.uk](http://www.hppc.co.uk))

Seaford College, Petworth ([www.seaford.org](http://www.seaford.org))

Slindon College, Arundel ([www.slindoncollege.co.uk](http://www.slindoncollege.co.uk))



## There are two elected Parish Councils within our Community

[www.buryparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.buryparishcouncil.org.uk)

Richard Champness, Chair:

“The Church and Bury Parish Council both, in their own way, play a central role in supporting the local community, often working together to achieve their aims. There are social events in the local calendar, be they regular or seasonal, where this collaboration is most obvious such as the monthly coffee mornings at Bury Village Hall; The Annual Bury Fete which raises funds for the Arun Churches; or Bury Apple pressing and Social Day. Both Church and Council are fortunate to have loyal groups of volunteers who pull together and make these occasions successful and enjoyable.

Mutual support is also evident when marking national events such as, the annual Act of Remembrance, including a service for Bury schools and last year when the community gathered for the



Proclamation and services at the passing of our late Queen.”

[www.coldwalthampc.org.uk](http://www.coldwalthampc.org.uk)

Guy Nelson, Chair

‘The Parish Council has long supported the local churches and has contributed to the upkeep of the churchyards and has made donations to the Village Hall which is owned by the Church.

We recognise the active roll members of our local churches play in our community life, particularly supporting the weekly coffee shop at the Village Hall, which is a key event for many vulnerable residents. We consult and engage with church members in supporting improvements in our local area and environment. We are very conscious of how hard they work to raise money for the churches in our parish and to support local residents.’



# Local life

Bury and Coldwaltham offer a vibrant local life, anchored by two cherished pubs that play an integral role in village culture. The Labouring Man in Coldwaltham ([www.labouringman.com](http://www.labouringman.com)) and The Squire & Horse in Bury ([www.squireandhorsebury.co.uk](http://www.squireandhorsebury.co.uk)) serve as lively hubs for residents to gather, unwind, and connect.

For everyday needs, the well-stocked "Charlie's" village shop in Bury provides convenience. For more extensive shopping options there are supermarkets in Pulborough and Storrington. Chichester's appeal is heightened by the renowned Chichester Festival Theatre and a selection of restaurants.

Keeping the community informed and engaged, 'The Link', a community magazine, is published every two months and is delivered free to all households within the Parish. It serves as a valuable resource for news, events, and updates. The Churches also have a dedicated four pages section in each edition, fostering a strong sense of community and connection.





# Contacts

[www.arunchurches.com](http://www.arunchurches.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/arunvalleychurches>

<https://www.instagram.com/arunvalleychurches/>

For an Application Form please email Imogen at [applications@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:applications@chichester.anglican.org)

And for an informal conversation about the vacancy please call Archdeacon Luke Irvine Capel on 01243 680251

or Bishop Ruth Bushyager, on 01403 599260

