

# East Meon and Langrish Parishes

In the Church of England Diocese of Portsmouth



The Parishes of East Meon and Langrish form part of a cluster of four parishes, the other two being West Meon and Warnford. A Priest-in-Charge (Lionel Stock) was recently appointed to West Meon and Warnford, and was also licensed as Assistant Curate for East Meon and Langrish. We seek a Vicar to minister to the parishes of East Meon and Langrish, who will similarly be licensed as Assistant Curate for West Meon and Warnford.

Both East Meon and Langrish are rural villages situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the recently created South Downs National Park. They are active and welcoming communities and are attractive places to live and work.

**Our Vision is to be a growing Christian family reaching out to all members of our diverse communities**

## Profile of the Incumbent We Seek

- It is of overwhelming importance that our new incumbent is strong in faith and prayer, inspired as a biblical teacher and enthused by a mission for growth. We are seeking a leader who is comfortable with being highly visible and who has good communication skills to lead worship and to shape the life of the Church in the two parishes. We welcome both male and female applicants.
- Langrish is the smaller community while East Meon is much larger and has the highest proportion of social housing of any village in East Hampshire. Both parishes have a diverse population with differing needs and aspirations across broad sectors of society. The new incumbent will have to be sensitive to this and be keen to engage all the different sectors of the two parishes.
- Despite the efforts of the Church community, we are conscious that we need to engage more with children living in both parishes and with the pupils of East Meon Church of England Primary School. The introduction of “Messy Church” in East Meon has been a step forward but still a great deal remains to be done. The new incumbent will, we hope, have the inspiration to make a particular commitment to children in both parishes, their parents and the East Meon School community.
- Both parishes are keen to increase the commitment to worship from the many that show their support for the Church in other ways. We seek an incumbent who will be able to relate to all ages, both male and female parishioners and lead the disengaged so as to provide a welcoming and inclusive ministry.
- We appreciate that the new incumbent will need support in carrying out his or her vision for the parishes and we are happy to accept that role. We seek a motivated leader with executive organising skills who will be prepared to encourage and provide guidance to parishioners to take on responsibilities, thereby freeing him or her to concentrate on mission.
- Those who attend the traditional services in East Meon and Common Worship services in Langrish hope that these will continue in their current form whilst some members of the East Meon congregation are looking for a contemporary, less formal style. We seek someone who is happy to deliver a broad range of worship from BCP to liberal in order to appeal to a wide congregation. In this context it is very much hoped to protect the inclusion of music in worship in both parishes.
- East Meon and Langrish are vibrant village communities with a number of important annual events. The new incumbent will have to be comfortable with taking a leadership role and playing a full part in village life
- We would hope that the new incumbent would be keen to have a role beyond the parishes by supporting our established links with the Church in Ghana and working within the diocese, proactively engaging with new ideas and teaching and bringing these back to the parishes.

Prior to compiling the profile a questionnaire was sent to all 235 on the East Meon Electoral Roll. 31% responded and the “Profile of the Incumbent We Seek”, reflects their views. The opinions of the East Meon school children and Sunday Club members were also sought.

## The Vicarage

The Vicarage is situated in Church Street in the heart of the village of East Meon. It was built in 1983 and is situated in a large garden in the centre of the village, well back from the road. The church is a two minute walk away.

The accommodation is arranged as follows

- Ground Floor
  - Front porch with Study/Office and WC, separated from the rest of the house by double doors.
  - Living Room
  - Dining Room
  - Kitchen and Utility Room
  - Rear Porch
  - Double Garage.
- First Floor
  - Four bedrooms (three with built in wardrobes)
  - WC with bath and shower.
  - WC
  - Airing Cupboard.
  - Boarded Loft (runs length of the house)
  - Oil fired Central Heating (no mains gas in village)
  - Large garden mainly laid to lawn front and rear.
- Long Drive, with ample parking



The Vicarage



The Vicarage Garden

## Our Worship - Church Services: when, where and how often

Services	All Saints	St. John the Evangelist
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month</b>	8am Communion (BCP) 10.30am All Age Service	9am Parish Eucharist
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month</b>	8am Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist	9am Parish Eucharist
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month</b>	8am Communion (BCP) 9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am All Age Service
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month -</b>	8am Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist plus Sunday club	9am Parish Eucharist

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5th Sunday of the Month (if applicable)      10.30am Cluster service is held between the parishes of East Meon, Langrish, Warnford and West Meon.

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All Saints



St. John the Evangelist

## The Parish of East Meon

Situated at the foot of the South Downs, with its attractive High Street and the River Meon running through its centre, East Meon provides a pleasant environment for its population of 1,257. The parish has acreage of 46 sq miles making it the largest parish in East Hants, the boundaries of which date back to 1894. The area is mainly agricultural although nowadays comparatively few people work on the land. A number of local residents commute to London and other towns and cities. There are 481 households of which 58% are owner occupied. East Meon has the largest proportion of social housing of any village in East Hampshire. The villagers comprise of a mix of families, single households and pensioners and a handful of “weekenders”, who can all enjoy, if they so wish, the supportive and inclusive lifestyle an active community brings.

The village is 4.4 miles west of the market town of Petersfield which has excellent communication links, including a main line railway station (Waterloo 1 hour, Portsmouth ½ hr) and a good road network, including the A3 to London/Portsmouth. Journey times by car to London have been much improved following the opening of the Hindhead tunnel.

The cities of Winchester and Guildford, and the towns of Alresford, Bishops Waltham, Fareham and Alton are all within half an hour’s drive or less, and are in the main served by a regular bus service.

Situated in the peace of the countryside but within easy reach of urban amenities, it could be said East Meon enjoys the “best of both worlds”. [www.eastmeon.net](http://www.eastmeon.net) / [www.alongthemeon](http://www.alongthemeon)

## Our Church

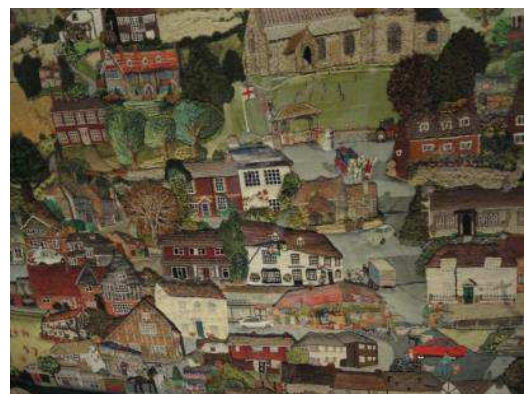


The 12<sup>th</sup> century black marble  
Tournai Font

All Saints Church at East Meon is described by Pevsner as ‘one of the most thrilling village churches in Hampshire’.

The size and majesty of the original Norman building, completed in about 1150, reflected the importance of East Meon parish in mediaeval times. This was cruciform in shape, consisting of nave, chancel and transepts, and its original form is still clearly identifiable in the round-topped Norman arches or Romanesque style in the West and South doorways. The only major addition, made in about 1230, was the South Aisle and Lady Chapel - in the new Early English style with pointed arches and larger windows. The spire was also probably added at this time.

The most recent addition is a fine adjacent Church Hall completed in 2000. Although designed in sympathy with the church’s Norman appearance, this palpably modern building demonstrates our determination to meet the needs of a 21st Century community. Inside the people of East Meon are wonderfully represented in a magnificent Millennium Embroidery depicting the village in the year 2000. The work of a parish team of forty skilled needle-workers, it took several years to complete before its installation in 2008.



Millennium Embroidery

## East Meon Finance

The Church is fortunate to have a very sound financial situation. The mainstay of our income is from voluntary receipts, the majority of which are regular donations from people in the parish. This has been supplemented by a series of very successful fund raising events, a recent highlight being the Flower Festival held in June last year which raised nearly £ 18.000. The Church has also benefited over the years from a number of bequests and generous gifts from anonymous local donors. In addition, some two years ago the PCC set up a "100 Club" whereby 100 people have agreed to pay £10 per month in return for participation in a monthly prize draw. Out of a monthly income of £1,000, some £450 is distributed in prizes with the balance held by the Church. This has been very successful with the net proceeds helping to maintain the fabric of the Church, particularly its grounds.

Total receipts in 2012 were £102,510 of which £27,810 was spent on Christian ministry, including the contribution of £23,537 to the diocesan parish share. There was an excess of receipts over payments for the year of £13,303 and as at 31.12.12 the assets readily available (being those funds not restricted nor set aside) totalled £78,111.

## East Meon Church Activities and Facilities

### Service Numbers

Average Sunday attendance in 2012 was 38 adults and 4 children. However, generally speaking families attend the first and fourth services each month when there are usually around 12 children present. 189 people attended Church on Easter Day 2013 and 238 people on Christmas Day 2012. Services on Remembrance Sunday and the Harvest Festival are equally well attended.

In 2012 there were 4 baptisms (fewer than usual), 8 weddings and 11 funerals.

### Sunday Club

The Sunday Club meets every fourth Sunday of the month in the Church Hall and is run by two members of the congregation, one of whom has attended a Child Welfare course and a Youth Leader's course. The Club averages about 10 children, predominantly girls, ranging from 4 up to 9 years old. Each session there is a theme linked in with a bible story, prayers and of course lots of craft. The children are encouraged to "show and tell" to the congregation afterwards what they have learnt and made. This is very popular with both young and old. Sunday Club leaders have also been involved in the planning of All Age Services.

### Messy Church

As a congregation we have been trying to find ways in which we can outreach into our community. We researched the Messy Church initiative and had our first session in October 2012. We have just had our third successful Messy Church, or "Families @ 4" drawing on members of our Church of all ages to help. Our aim is to make each afternoon simple, fun and messy (!) and to bring families and people together who wouldn't otherwise meet.

## Bible Study Group

This group meets every fortnight for fellowship and to follow a course of study, sometimes using DVD's. Some members of the group have participated in a ten week Alpha Course titled "Questions of Life".

## Embroidery Group

The East Meon Embroidery Group was started in 2000 when a Millennium Embroidery of the village (now housed in the North Transept of the church) was first discussed. When the embroidery was completed in 2008, the group continued by making kneelers for the high altar which match the altar hangings, then going on to make cushions for the pews.

The group, which numbers about 25 in total, meets in the Church Hall every Thursday afternoon. It is made up of all ages, male and female, and all sewing abilities. Some are regular churchgoers but some are not. All enjoy the camaraderie and friendship the group brings.

## Church Music

We have a fine pipe organ built in the 1980's and regularly tuned. It has 2 manuals and pedal board and has recently been extensively overhauled. In order to overcome the acoustic problems of Norman church architecture inherent in the physical separation of organ, choir and congregation, the organ was built at the rear of the Nave, and the choir also sits there, between organ and font.

We have an enthusiastic choir, which supports main Sunday services, and is augmented for major festivals and events. It rehearses every Wednesday evening in the Church Hall. The size of the choir (currently 15-18) tends to fluctuate, year by year.

At Christmas it is particularly busy with a range of carol services including the hugely popular Carols at the Court Hall accompanied by a local brass ensemble, which is a real village event.

## Bells

In 1990, after a successful fund raising campaign by the village, the eight bells were removed from the tower and re-tuned. A further two bells were added to make All Saints the only ring of ten in the Alton and Petersfield District. Membership currently stands at thirteen ringers and the bands strength has been demonstrated by winning the annual District shield and cup competitions eight times in the last ten years. While the main purpose of ringing is a welcome to Sunday service, the bells are also rung for weddings and as a celebration for special occasions.

A Ringing Master and Tower Captain are responsible for day to day running of the tower with the Vicar being the President. The band is financially in a healthy state and is self-supporting. There is a video of the bells and ringers in action at the tower website "East Meon Ringers"

<https://sites.google.com/site/eastmeonringing/>.

## Newcomers

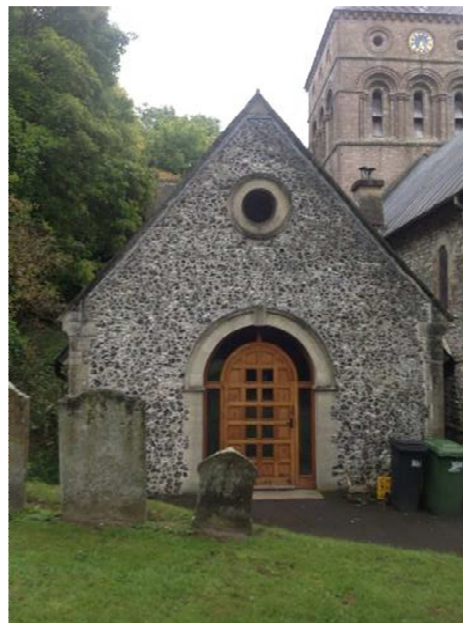
Newcomers to the village are welcomed by a member of the PCC and provided with a pack of useful local information. Every three years or so we hold a party for newcomers, which might be a picnic or drinks in the Church Hall. These have been very well attended.

## The Almshouses

The Forbes Almshouses Trust was set up in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and funds and administers the 7 almshouses situated in Church St. The residents are all elderly and generally of very limited means. Three of the 5 Trustees are the incumbent and 2 churchwardens.

## The Church Hall

The Church Hall provides a 60m<sup>2</sup> meeting room, with facilities in support of Church activities, including PCC and Deanery Synod meetings, children's Sunday Club, tea and coffee after services, choir practice and a children's Christmas party for up to 70. It is connected to, and accessible via the North Transept of the Church.



The Church Hall



## East Meon Church of England Primary School

***“This school provides a good standard of education. Pupils want to learn because they feel settled and safe and this in turn is the result of outstanding care guidance and support” OFSTED 2010.***

### Our School

East Meon School is small but incredibly busy, with currently 91 pupils on roll divided into 4 classes. It has an energetic approach to learning, encouraging the use of exciting, hands-on activities to stimulate intellectual, physical and emotional maturity. It offers an education led by creativity, exploration and innovation. It is proud of its strong Christian values and its sense of community. There is good knowledge of each individual child and it is proud of the very personal approach that the school provides. The School works closely with the village preschool (Sunny Smiles) to provide smooth and continuous provision for the children in our community. Our church link has also enabled the school to work closely with St Cyprians School in Ghana and this has an important impact on curriculum links as well as spiritual, moral, multicultural and global awareness.

[www.eastmeon.web6.devwebsite.co.uk](http://www.eastmeon.web6.devwebsite.co.uk)



School Children of East Meon

### Head Mistress Comment

“We value and enjoy our close links with All Saints Church and we would want this to continue with the appointment of a new Vicar. An important aspect of East Meon School is the Christian ethos and this is enhanced by regular assemblies led by the Vicar which we would hope would be continued as well as possibly involving other members of the Church. Our end of term services at church are well attended by families and members of the village and we would hope that the new Vicar would enjoy leading and continuing these. A Communion Service held twice a year in the school hall is a special reflective time that the children, staff and members of the village participate in and we would hope this would continue as well. We are always keen to explore new ideas and approaches and would welcome new suggestions and ideas about how links could be strengthened.”

## Local Amenities

### East Meon Community Life

- Within the village are two public houses; Ye Olde George Inn and the Izaak Walton.  
[www.yeoldegeorgeinn.net](http://www.yeoldegeorgeinn.net) <http://www.izaakwalton.biz/>
- Meon Matters – a bi-monthly magazine containing articles of interest about the community and informing the village of local events
- East Meon Stores is located in the centre of the village providing provisions as well as a post office service. For more shops, Petersfield town provides a mixture of independent and high street shops including three supermarkets
- Mobile Library Services – once a month on a Thursday [www.hants.gov.uk/library/mobilelibraries](http://www.hants.gov.uk/library/mobilelibraries)
- Village Hall – busy and well used by many organisations within the village. Its committee organises the annual May Fair held on The Green which attracts around 3,000 visitors from outside the village and raises considerable funds for varied organisations within the community. [www.eastmeonvillagehall.org](http://www.eastmeonvillagehall.org)
- Allotments – there are two sites; and both have a waiting list
- Recreation Ground – this beautiful setting is the home of the well supported East Meon Cricket Club and it's recently built clubhouse
- Tennis Court – open to all residents of the village
- Football Pitch

### Local Charity

- East Meon Care Group is run by local volunteers who give up their time to help others by, arranging transportation to the elderly and disabled of East Meon and Langrish, visiting the sick and housebound on a weekly basis, hosting monthly tea parties and bingo
- The trustees of the Good Causes Fund administer the money raised by the Garden Club village open days. Numerous causes have benefited from the £29,000 donated since the fund's inception, including the Village Hall, youth organisations, the Luncheon Club, East Meon Church School and many more.

### Clubs, Groups & Societies

The village has a number of well supported clubs for a variety of interests for both adults and children:

- Garden Club – The club organises events throughout the year including 2 open garden days which attract visitors from all over. The annual show takes place in August with many entries from all ages. [www.eastmeongardenclub.com](http://www.eastmeongardenclub.com)
- Cricket Club – A very well supported club playing throughout the spring and summer with matches every Sunday and a variety of events during the year [www.eastmeoncricketclub.org.uk](http://www.eastmeoncricketclub.org.uk)
- Golf Society – Currently about 20 people play at the monthly matches at different clubs around the area. [www.eastmeongolfsociety.org](http://www.eastmeongolfsociety.org)
- East Meon Toddler Group – Meeting every Thursday morning during term time. It is a great opportunity for new families to meet other parents and children, and to make new friends.
- Knitting Class – Meeting once a week in the village hall.

- The History Group - This small, informal society was founded in 2009 and today offers a full programme of events, talks, visits and activities. [www.eastmeonhistory.net](http://www.eastmeonhistory.net)
- Karate Club – For children from ages 6 – 12.
- Music Group for pre-school children – A lovely opportunity for young children to have an hour of song and music.
- Beavers, Cubs & Scouts – Beavers and Scouts are held at West Meon Village Hall, with Cubs being held at East Meon. [www.ehvscoouts.com/east-meon](http://www.ehvscoouts.com/east-meon)
- Table Tennis
- Yoga Classes. [www.yogahub.co.uk](http://www.yogahub.co.uk)
- Zumba Classes. [www.zumba.co./en-US/instructor/137801](http://www.zumba.co./en-US/instructor/137801)

## Local Amenities beyond the Parishes

### Sunny Smiles Preschool

Sunny Smiles located in the village hall provides high quality affordable child care and is part of the community. [www.sunnysmilespp.co.uk](http://www.sunnysmilespp.co.uk)

### The Petersfield School

The Petersfield School located in the town itself for pupils aged 11-18, is officially an "Outstanding" Academy. It has many strengths: it is large enough to offer a full range of subjects, yet it strives to know every individual well. Classes are kept as small as possible. Pupils join one of 8 Houses of 160 pupils. [www.petersfieldschool.com](http://www.petersfieldschool.com)

### Perins School

Perins School is a comprehensive school for students aged 11-16 in the Hampshire market town of Alresford. It was converted to Academy status in August 2011 and there are just over 1000 students on roll. [www.perrins.net](http://www.perrins.net)

### Others

There are also three private schools near Petersfield;

- Churchers College [www.churcherscollege.com](http://www.churcherscollege.com)
- Bedales [www.bedales.org.uk](http://www.bedales.org.uk)
- Ditcham Park School [www.ditchampark.com](http://www.ditchampark.com)

### Health

There are Doctors surgeries available in both West Meon and Petersfield.

Petersfield provides a minor injuries hospital. Queen Alexandra's in Portsmouth ([www.qahh.org.uk](http://www.qahh.org.uk)) and the Royal Hampshire in Winchester ([www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk)) provide an A&E department and many other services. There is a NHS mobile dental unit that visits East Meon on a regular basis; alternatively there are a number of dental surgeries in Petersfield.

## Langrish Parish Profile

### Description of Langrish with Ramsdean Today

The parish consists of two settlements: Langrish is the larger, sitting astride the busy A272 and along the East Meon Road, while the hamlet of Ramsdean lies one mile to the south. The two villages of Langrish and Ramsdean are in what was formerly an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but is now incorporated in the South Downs National Park. Farming continues to be the main land use in the parish.



View of St John's and the Old Vicarage

There is a successful country hotel (Langrish House), a small industrial site with a prestigious engineering facility and in which the Rosemary Foundation, a charity dedicated to providing a 'Hospice at Home' service to the Petersfield area, has its head office. Some farm buildings have been converted to commercial activity, notably Hounds for Heroes and holiday cottages in Ramsdean, while in Langrish, Manor Farm has a scramble track which usually hosts the Ken Hall International Moto Cross meet on August Bank Holiday.

With the gradual advent of Broadband some residents now work from home, but most work outside the villages.

Both villages have some houses of historic interest but there is no shop or public house and children of primary-school age attend the school in the neighbouring parish of Stroud although this is still named Langrish School. There is a normal distribution of ages of residents in the two villages and the population is about 290.

### Brief History of Langrish with Ramsdean

The earliest mention is of 'Langerisse' in the Royal Close Rolls of the 13th century. This has always been a farming community and so has experienced the fluctuations in population familiar throughout the countryside. Certainly there was a sharp fall in numbers as a result of both world wars, as evidenced by the memorial rolls in the church. It seems quite a strong possibility that there was a manor at Manor Farm, formerly named Court Farm, and it has a sixteenth-century dovecote. George Waddington bought a farmhouse on the site of Langrish House in 1840 and extended it to make a country house. The picture shows how it makes a splendid backdrop for the Annual Church Fete.



Langrish Church Fete 2013

His sons George and John built the church, vicarage, school and schoolhouse between 1869 and 1872. The major portion of the surrounding land was gradually acquired and came to be known as the Talbot-Ponsonby estate since this family inherited through marriage. There were three main tenant farmers, and gradually the land was sold off to them in the 1960s. During the Second World War, New Zealand troops were billeted at Langrish House and Italian prisoners of war were housed at the nearby Stroud village hall. Both the troops and the prisoners were involved in operating the sawmills that were established at the site now occupied by The Close. The school became too small to cope with demand and was moved to Stroud in 1914 but retained the name Langrish School.

Ramsdean features in the Domesday Book and has always been a farming community although the number of farms has reduced from seven to three. The village had a chapel of its own at one time. The parish of Langrish with Ramsdean was established as an ecclesiastical entity with the building of the church in 1871 and as a civil parish in 1894, before which it was part of the parish of East Meon.

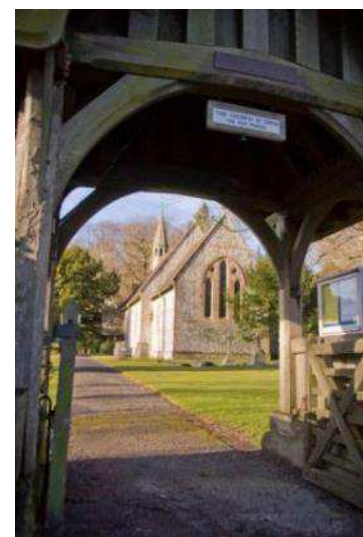
### The Church Building And Finances

The Church of St. John the Evangelist is Victorian, built by Ewan Christian in 1870 with coarse flint walls and Bath stone dressings in the Early English style with a modest bell tower and spire. It is in a good state of repair and all the items identified at the last quinquennial report have been dealt with. A sound system with a loop has recently been installed, the footpath has been re-surfaced and the installation of extra gullies has solved the main road flooding problem.

A project to install a lavatory, basic kitchen facilities and a meeting area in the north nave aisle has been approved by the DAC but has not been progressed for lack of funds. Parking is a perennial problem and detrimental to the mission of the church but a solution is being sought in an area adjacent to the churchyard.

The church finances are healthy with an annual income and expenditure of approximately £17,500 - essentially a break-even budget and a reserve currently of £11,400. The accounts for the year ending 31 December 2012 are available on this website. The parish share is paid promptly; the clergy costs are shared proportionally with East Meon and the PCC lives within its modest means, making good use of gift aid with an envelope scheme and standing orders to encourage regular giving. The accounts are audited without charge, a modest donation from the Parish Council helps the maintenance of the church grounds, the annual fete usually produces about £2,000 and the Friends of Langrish and Ramsdean respond to requests for funds for particular items.

Until recently the church received about £2,000 a year from the proceeds from paper recycling, some of which was donated to the Kings Arms youth project, but the bins have been greatly reduced and the scheme is likely to end. The congregation supports the Ghana link through personal donations.



St John's Through the Lychgate



St John's Interior

## Church and Community Life

The style of worship at Langrish is broadly traditional with a 9.00 a.m. Parish Eucharist (Order 1) from Common Worship on the first, second and fourth Sundays of the month.

On the third Sunday there is an all-age service at 10.45 a.m. and, if there is a fifth Sunday, a cluster



Village Lunch

service is held in one of the four churches in rotation. Each Friday there is a short service of reading and prayer at 9.30 a.m. and there are various special services during the year including a Christmas Carol Service with the East Meon & Langrish Choir, a Scratch Nativity/Crib service on Christmas Eve and a Patronal Festival. On average there are one or two weddings and funerals in a year and the congregation join the Plough Sunday cluster service and the Rogation service for the three parishes whose parish boundaries meet on Butser Hill. The acoustics in the church are very

good, concerts have been successfully held in it in the past, and it is firmly believed that music adds to the spirituality of the services. There is a regular organist for most services and an occasional 'band' of musicians for services such as Harvest. CDs with accompaniment for hymns have been bought and it is intended to use these on occasions when there might not be an organist.

The churchwardens, Charles and Jane Sprinks, have been in post for 15 years and are happy to continue. They have earned the trust and admiration of the community for their undemonstrative but deeply conscientious care for the church and the time and effort they put in to the role. There are seven other members of the PCC, two of whom are members of the Deanery Synod and all of whom are active and attend meetings: this is a good number but there is room for one or two more prepared to take some of the responsibility off the churchwardens. The parish roll has 40 members; regular attendance on a Sunday is about 14 but there were 90 at the Carol Service last year and 100 came to the Scratch Nativity. For an isolated farming community (Ramsdean) and a ribbon development along two roads (Langrish) with no village centre or public amenities, other than the church, there is a surprising amount of social mixing and cohesiveness to this small parish.



Fancy dress Competition - Church Fete

The annual Church Fete held at Langrish House and Village lunch, which rotates around various private houses, are very well supported; the Friends of Langrish and Ramsdean hold dinners with lectures in winter months, also in Langrish House, and a small volunteer editorial team produces a quarterly magazine called The Squeaker. This buoyant community spirit has been fostered by some long-term residents, is led in the main by members of the church congregation and has created a sense of

belonging and a modest social life into which newcomers are warmly welcomed.

Langrish has played its part in the diocesan link with Ghana and has a parish link with Jameso Nkwanta in the Cape Coast diocese. The retiring incumbent was the diocesan IDWAL link, as well as for the parish, so we are in the process of finding a new parish link.

## Priorities for the Future

Most of these ambitions have found expression in the person profile but are listed here as they are distinctly those emerging from Langrish and Ramsdean.

The PCC and congregation are keen to foster and grow the community life that currently prevails in the two villages and would wish the new priest to be visible to the whole community and not just to the regular congregation.

The size of the worshipping congregation has remained unchanged for years and efforts should be made to increase the commitment to worship from the many that show their support for the church in other ways. In this context it is very much hoped to protect the inclusion of music in parish worship.

It is accepted that ministry and mission are corporate activities and the PCC would work with the new incumbent to seek ways both to encourage the congregation, and others, to take on new roles and to increase his/her profile and presence in Langrish and Ramsdean in an attempt to grow the size of the congregation.

Provision of better car parking remains a priority as this is seen as crucial to that main aim of attracting more of the community to worship.



Good Friday 'Walk of Witness' Start at Langrish

The PCC would willingly consider radical changes to the re-ordering of the inside of the church to allow more flexible uses if that would assist the better use of the church as a whole community facility.

The PCC fully supports closer co-operation across the cluster in worship, training and education and it would very much want to preserve the link with Ghana.

## References / Links

Langrish church website: <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/langrish-st-john-the-evangelist>

Langrish Parish Plan <http://www.squeaker.org.uk/media/Langrish%20parish%20plan%202011.pdf>

'Aspects of Langrish Life' by Evelyn Hickox (1919-2002)

The Squeaker ([www.squeaker.org.uk](http://www.squeaker.org.uk))

## And finally, we asked the children and our Bishop...

The Sunday Club said that they would like a Vicar who would:

- Bless them every week
- Sing jolly hymns
- Teach them to pray
- Talk about God a lot

The Children at East Meon School said they would like the new vicar to:

- be kind and wise
- cheer people up that might be feeling down
- come into school and lead assemblies
- tell us stories about Jesus
- know lots about God
- be nice, caring, generous and enthusiastic
- have lots of bibles so he or she can tell us things
- love God



## Bishop Christopher

... hopes that the new priest will lead the parishes forward with both conviction and collaboration. This requires someone with strong skills in working with others (lay and ordained) and across boundaries, in particular the cluster with West Meon and Warnford. The 'inheritance' is a good one in both congregations and communities. The benefice has a strong history of full participation in the deanery and diocese; the expectation is that this will continue and develop with the active participation and leadership of the new priest.