

## **EAST HOATHLY PARISH CHURCH - WHAT THE CHURCH HERE DOES**

**We are one of the two churches serving the United Benefice of Chiddingly with East Hoathly**

**Here at East Hoathly we:**

### **VALUE OUR BUILDING**

Providing a special place to encounter God and grow as a Community in a building which keeps safe so many community memories across generations.

- We maintain and preserve our ancient building at the heart of our community.
- We offer quiet prayerful spaces – our building is open daily during daylight hours and is there for anyone to use.
- We provide the 'oldest' building in the community and this is one of the few buildings that can provide a focal point for the community as a whole. It preserves so many community memories and holds a special place in many people's hearts.
- We host space for community activities including concerts, school events and amateur dramatic productions.
- We have Friends Groups to provide a way for the wider community (and for former residents who have moved away) to directly contribute to the maintenance of the church buildings.

### **SERVE THE COMMUNITY**

Putting Faith into action through loving service

- We are committed to offering pastoral care to every person in our community.
- We provide a full time Priest to serve here.
- We form part of the biggest volunteer network in the Country and people who are part of our Church Community are part of almost all the village organisations, societies, clubs and statutory bodies including the Parish Council and School Governing bodies.
- We encourage people to have fun through social events and also through UBenDS (United Benefice Dramatic Society).
- We support our local Foodbank, Water Aid, and Christian Aid.
- We support Christian led work in the wider world serving the whole community.

### **WORSHIP TOGETHER**

Enabling People to encounter God's presence

- We provide more than 100 opportunities for worship and prayer throughout the year, on Sunday and during the week. The worship is open to all and all are invited.

- Our worship ranges from the deeply traditional to the very modern and typically 20-80 people worship at any one main Sunday service.
- Twice each month our churches join together on Sunday to worship in one of our buildings.
- We hold occasional 'one off' services with specific themes (such as a pet services) and events such as 'walking the Labyrinth'.
- We baptize, on average, 3 people (mainly young children) each year.
- We bring together families and the community to celebrate the marriage, on average, of about 4 couples each year and, on average, for the funerals of 10 people each year.
- We provide regular worship for our school, Lydfords residential care home and, where necessary, for people at home.
- We expect our church to be between 'full' and 'packed' for services at Christmas, Easter and Remembrance and throughout the year for weddings, funerals and special services.

## **SHARE OUR FAITH AND VALUES**

Enabling people to grow in a relationship to God

- We help people on their spiritual journey through courses and home groups open to all.
- We lead, on average, around 10 funerals each year joining friends and families in giving thanks for loved ones.
- We provide marriage preparation.
- We work with the Church school at East Hoathly in providing a Christian led education for children here.
- Our 'Open the Book' initiative at East Hoathly School aims to share the Christian story with the children in a lively and engaging way.
- We have activities and worship for Children – The Bacon Butty Club - running alongside the main Sunday worship on the first Sunday in the month.
- We have a branch of the Mothers Union which supports our work here and the work of the church nationally and internationally.