

Who can I contact?

Vicar of the Beacon Parish (Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston)

Reverend David Wallis

The Vicarage, 2 Charlton Gardens
Lewes Road, Ditchling, BN6 8JS
Tel: 01273 843165

The Beacon Community

We are a welcoming community so come along and introduce yourself to the Vicar, the Church Wardens or Sidesmen. Young and old are welcome at ALL our church services.

- **St Margaret's Church** has an All-Age Eucharist with Junior Choir and percussion on the first Sunday of every month.
- **St Margaret's Choir** rehearses every Friday at 6.15 pm and sings at all main services in Ditchling and the **Jubilee Choir**, based in Streat and Westmeston, sings on special occasions.
- An informal **Children's Church Service** takes place on the third Sunday of every month at Streat Church. This is for 0 to 8 year olds, but older brothers and sisters may come along to help. The Service consists of Bible stories, action songs, prayers and a talk with activities and games.
- The **Beacon Youth Group** meets at St Margaret's School, Ditchling, on Sundays from 4.30 pm (in the winter) and 6 pm (in the summer). Activities include Danish long ball, Treasure Hunt, Ultimate Frisbee, Karaoke, Quiz Night, Film Night, Jewellery and loads more.
- There is a close affiliation between the Church and **St Margaret's C of E School**, Ditchling.
- Other church activities include bell ringing, flower arranging, social and fund-raising events and home groups for learning, fellowship and support.

The Beacon Parish

There are three churches in the Beacon Parish.

- St Margaret's Church, Ditchling
- St Martin's church, Westmeston
- Streat church

The Beacon Parish was formed in October 2007 and is in the Hurst Deanery in the Diocese of Chichester.

It is located in East Sussex, east of the A23 and north of the A27. At the northern end of the Parish is the town of Burgess Hill. To the south is the newly created South Downs National Park, which includes Ditchling. Further south is the coastal resort of Brighton.

Please see the map below for the Beacon Parish and its location in Sussex.



Welcome to St Margaret's Church, Ditchling



*At the spiritual heart
of Ditchling for 1,000 years*

**in the Beacon Parish of
Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston**

www.BeaconParishes.org

✠ Welcome to St Margaret's Church, Ditchling

Introduction

For over 900 years people have been coming to this sacred place to worship God and meet one another. I hope that you will enjoy your visit to this church and find a moment to offer a prayer to our creator as so many have done before you.

Almighty Father, I thank you for the peace and beauty of this house of prayer. I pray that as I go from here I may share this peace with those I meet. Amen.

Short History of the Church

The Church of St Margaret of Antioch is the centre piece of the ancient and historic village of Ditchling. The present building dates from the late 12th century, sited on the sandy knoll overlooking the village. It is built on top of the earlier Saxon church referred to in the Domesday Book. Remains of the Saxon church are to be found in the lower walls of the nave.

The south aisle, displaying fine foliated capitals to its columns, is the earliest part of the present church, built by the Cluniac monks from Lewes in the 12th century. The chancel was built in the 1260s. The tower dates from the late 13th century and has a ring of eight bells.

A major restoration was carried out in 1863 when three windows were pierced in the north wall of the nave. The carved oak door and screen of the south porch were installed in 1929. The east window was designed in 1947 by Charles Knight, a leading member of Ditchling's artistic community.

The Abergavenny Chapel was built in the 14th century. It has a wall monument to Henry Poole who owned Wings Place and died in 1580. The carved oak screen was designed by John Denman and carved by Joseph Cribb in memory of the artist Louis Ginnett. The font and the lettering of the 10 Commandments tablet were by Joseph Cribb.

The churchyard contains a number of significant graves, gravestones and carvings by nationally known artists, particularly those associated with arts and crafts, a movement for which Ditchling is nationally known.



Services in the Beacon Parish

First Sunday:

8.00 am	Eucharist BCP	Ditchling
9.45 am	All Age Eucharist	Ditchling
9.45 am	Morning Prayer/ Eucharist	Westmeston

Second Sunday:

9.45 am	All Age Eucharist	Ditchling
9.45 am	Morning Prayer/ Eucharist	Streat
6 pm	Choral Evensong	Ditchling

Third Sunday

8.00 am	Eucharist BCP	Ditchling
9.45 am	Morning Prayer	Ditchling
9.45 am	Children's Church	Streat
6 pm	Eucharist	Streat/ Westmeston

Fourth Sunday:

9.45 am	Beacon Eucharist	Ditchling
6 pm	Songs of Praise	Streat/ Westmeston

Fifth Sunday:

9.45 am	Beacon Eucharist	Ditchling/ Streat/ Westmeston
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Weekday Services in Ditchling

Monday to Friday: 9.00 am Morning Prayer
Wednesday: 9.30 am Eucharist

Special Services and the weekly pattern of worship are displayed on the church notice boards and our website:

www.BeaconParishes.org