

The Church of the Holy Spirit, Fetcham

This is the Roman Catholic Church, currently con-joined with Our Lady of Sorrows at Effingham. 1941 saw the first Mass in Fetcham since the Reformation. About 25 Catholics met at the home of Mr and Mrs Rutherford, 50 Lower Road. They became part of Our Lady and St Peter's, Leatherhead. In 1953 they moved to Fetcham Village Hall then in 1960 Father Albert Hadshar, parish priest of Leatherhead, purchased Bell Cottage in School Lane, the site of the present church, and later St Mary's Lodge which is now the Presbytery. In 1966 his successor Father Dilger asked architects to draw up plans for the church. In 1967 Father Thomas Purcell, curate at Leatherhead, was appointed their first resident priest. The church, which is modern in style, was blessed and dedicated on 25th October, 1968 then in 1971 it became a parish itself, separate from Leatherhead.. On Shrove Tuesday 1987, the church was damaged by fire but the main structure of the building was not seriously damaged. It was rebuilt and refurbished ready for the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, 1987. The blackened Madonna, the statue of St Joseph and the Stations of the Cross have been retained as a reminder of the fire. In 1988 the church was rededicated by the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton