

Fr Jonathan Jong
Cocking Rectory, Mill Lane
Midhurst GU29 0HJ

Having just been installed as Rector of Cocking with West Lavington, Bepton, and Heyshott, I now have the pleasure of serving as your parish priest.

I hope you will take me at my word that I am *your* priest: this holds unconditionally, whether or not you come to church. It is a rather lovely old-fashioned idea that the Church of England exists for everyone in this realm. This is why you have various rights—for example, to be married in the parish church, and to be buried here—simply by virtue of where you live. By the same token, I have a duty towards all who live here, traditionally called the *cure of souls*, though perhaps better rendered “care of people”. It is not easy to say what the remit of a priest’s duty is, but we take a broad view. As a general rule, if something is weighing on you, and you would like to talk about it, I’m here.

Especially while we still enjoy these warm days, I shall be spending a lot of time walking around all four villages, getting to know my new home better. If you see me, please do not hesitate to introduce yourself. Otherwise, the easiest way to reach me is either by email (frjonathan@underthedowns.co.uk) or by phone (07799 271913).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan' written in a cursive, slightly stylized script.