



# The Parish of Holy Trinity Headington Quarry, Serving Headington Quarry, Risinghurst and Wood Farm in Oxford

‘To be an open door between heaven and earth,  
showing God’s love to all.’

**Parish Profile 2025**

**Our prayers are with you as you read this - please also pray for us**

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# Contents

- Statements from Bishop Steven and Revd Canon Geoff
- Who we are
- The parish
- Heritage and history
- A village church in the city
- Opportunities for growth: our buildings & surroundings
- Opportunities for growth: C.S. Lewis & broadcasting
- Finances
- Our aspirations
- We believe God has called us to seek ...
- How we will support our new incumbent
- The Vicarage and curate's house

# Statement from the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry is a lively, vibrant, inclusive parish with significant potential for further growth and development. The parish has completed a major building project during the tenure of the previous incumbent. The challenge now is to build on this to further deepen congregational life, the very lively connections with C.S. Lewis and the mission reach of the parish in Headington and beyond. The congregation appreciate good liturgy and preaching and offer a supportive context for ministry. The parish offers an excellent training opportunity for curates. A vital part of the next chapter of mission and ministry will be working more closely with the three other parishes in Headington and in particular with All Saints Highfield.

# Statement from Revd Canon Dr Geoff Bayliss, Area Dean of Cowley

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry is a Church with an active and strong congregation who welcome all. Their members have many gifts which they use to care for each other. They have big hearts that strive to reach out into the local community. The church has administrative structures that are well developed and well-conceived. There will be good support for the incoming incumbent from a broad team of both lay and ordained members. The recent building project is enabling them to increasingly realise their desire to offer welcome and care for friend and stranger. It is a sign of the way they work together to achieve positive goals. Holy Trinity has a tradition of strong support and involvement with the rest of the deanery.

Cowley Deanery serves Oxford City to the East of the River Cherwell. It includes areas of wealth alongside some of the most financially and socially challenged communities in the diocese of Oxford. There are parishes of 'Presence and Engagement', alongside academia and the industry that is at the heart of Oxford City economy. The parish is a microcosm of the broader deanery.

The Chapter meets monthly and provides collegiality, support and a place for discussion and reflection. Although theologically

diverse, and serving a great variety of needs, we are very much a caring 'Team'.

The deanery is in a season of change and discovery. Increasingly we see neighbouring parishes as colleagues working to build the Kingdom of God. Over coming years, we must prioritise and strengthen the relationships between our Churches, Schools and Homes. As we move forward, we are looking to establish structures that are 'light footed' enough to resource church growth, whilst increasingly calling out, commissioning and honing the gifts of all believers. It is hoped that the new incumbent will be able to share their experience and vision as we continue this journey.

There are ongoing conversations about how the parishes in Headington might work more closely together. The relationship between Holy Trinity and All Saints will need to be investigated more fully in the coming months. This might include both formal and informal structures.

Holy Trinity has lots to offer and great possibilities to further grow God's kingdom. We need a passionate gifted, and Spirit filled leader to journey with us. Thank you for considering it!

# Who we are

- We are a varied and welcoming congregation in terms of age, income, education, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and personality.
- Our services are liturgically focused, and our clergy wear vestments. The style of worship at our church is Eucharist-based, with a liturgical tradition. We follow a printed order of service, with hymns mostly from *Ancient & Modern*. Services usually include an organist and a music group/choir.
- We respect our Anglo-Catholic heritage while latterly being more liberal Catholic, yet always welcoming Anglicans, people of all traditions and those with none. We offer a wide variety of services, ranging from Holy Communion (Common Worship) and Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer), to informal modern services including Taizé.



- We aim to be outward-looking to show practical concern for the poor and disadvantaged and to fulfil our responsibilities for the environment.
- We are registered as an Eco Church (silver award) and are recognised by the diocese as a family-friendly church.
- Please take a moment to watch [this video](#) from 2019 about our church, made for visitors interested in C.S. Lewis.

# The parish

The population of the parish in 2019 was 11,746 and there are 176 people on the current Electoral Roll. We are a single church parish/benefice looking to develop our existing partnerships within the Deanery.

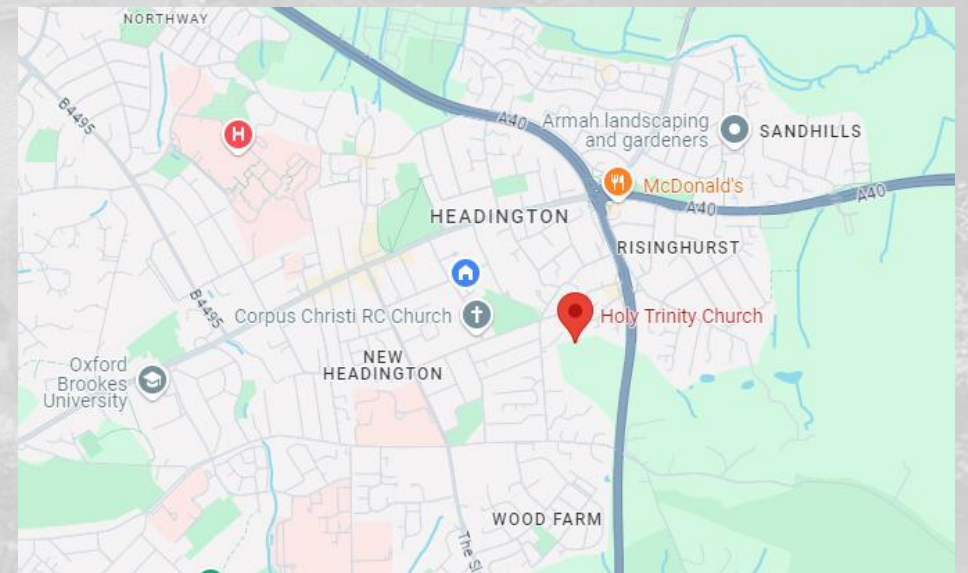
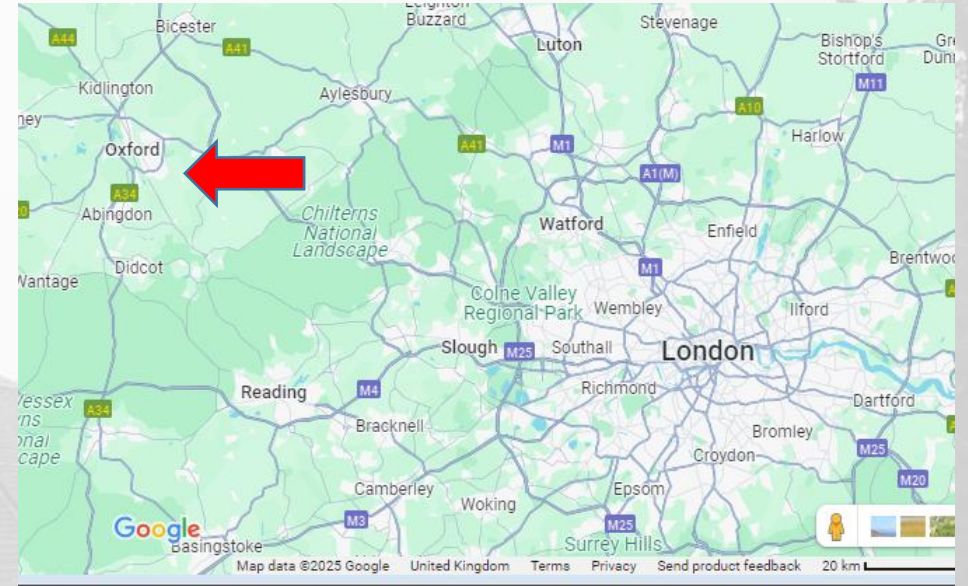
Headington is on the eastern side of Oxford. Our parish has three distinct areas: the Quarry, immediately around the church; Wood Farm; and Risinghurst. Each has a variety of housing and income levels, including some former council estates, now mainly owner-occupied. The Churchill Hospital also falls within the parish.

Other churches in the parish include a Roman Catholic Church, a United Reformed Church and the Cornerstone Christian Centre. We support Churches Together in Headington with representatives on the committee.

We are in the Cowley Deanery and have four lay representatives.

Headington Quarry Foundation Stage School is very near the church. There are two other primary schools in the parish. For more details about the demographics of the parish, visit [the church website](#).

The church can seat comfortably 160 people. The 2021 quinquennial inspection stated that the church is generally sound and there are no major problems. A church extension including a new meeting room, kitchen, disabled toilet and storage was completed in summer 2024.



# Heritage and history



Our church was designed by architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, in the mediaeval Gothic style and was consecrated in 1849 by Bishop Samuel Wilberforce. The church has an excellent organ built by Kenneth Tickell in 1992.

Headington Quarry was designated a conservation area in 1971, noted for its narrow winding roads and little alleyways. The parish includes people whose family history goes back to the quarry days of the 19th Century, as well as people who have recently moved to the area (from all corners of the globe).

Many old Quarry surnames proudly live on, e.g. Kimber, Coppock, Trafford. These are the descendants of those whose names are inscribed on the War Memorial outside the

church, on tombstones in the churchyard, and in the names of alleyways and cul-de-sacs in the Quarry. There are still burials in the churchyard but it is very nearly full.

## **William Kimber and the Morris Dancers** -

The Headington Quarry Morris Dancers have a long and fine tradition. Quarryman William Kimber (born in 1872) played the concertina for the Morris dancers and his tunes were behind the revival of English folk music and dancing. Kimber is buried in the churchyard and the Quarry Morris Dancers still play at our summer fete every year.

**C.S. Lewis** - Details about our connection with C.S. Lewis are included [later in this profile](#).



# A village church in the city

- Our community café is a new venture, using our new extension to provide a warm place to gather on a Tuesday morning, with toys for toddlers and preschoolers
- We broadcast our services to all of the city's hospitals through [Radio Cherwell](#), which is also available online
- [The Coach House](#) is a popular gathering space and event venue for the wider community

Our church life also includes a number of groups and committees that serve the congregation and the wider community:

- Flower arranging
- Church cleaning
- Churchyard committee
- Forest Sunday school
- Family services
- Pastoral care
- Racial Justice group
- Home groups
- Empowered group for young women
- Eco group
- Fete committee
- Music group
- Julian group
- Choir
- Sustainable heating group





# Opportunities for growth: our buildings & surroundings

The church itself, its beautiful grounds and the Coach House provide a resource base from which a myriad of new events and activities could be developed.

**Extension:** We have just completed an extension to our church building, which includes a meeting room, kitchen, and accessible toilet. We are exploring ideas for how to best use this new space to serve the congregation, our community, and our visitors from all over the world. For example, we have just launched a weekly community café, providing a space for people to get together with tea and cake, with toys and play space for young children. We look forward to working with the new incumbent to explore other ways we can use this space to share God's love and minister to the needs of our community.



**Coach House:** The [Coach House](#) was built in the 1990s to provide a meeting space for the church and for local residents. It is well used by many local groups and individuals. The Coach House is currently managed by the Martha Jackson Trust and is financially self-sustaining but in need of investment to ensure it remains in good shape.

**Churchyard Extension:** In the last 12 months, some funding has been raised towards extending the churchyard, reviving a long-intended project.

# Opportunities for growth: C.S. Lewis & broadcasting

Holy Trinity's most important assets are intangible, namely its committed, enthusiastic and capable core community and the wider - and still largely untapped - worldwide community that its C.S. Lewis heritage provides. As well as extending Holy Trinity's reach locally, the church's modernisation has made it possible to broadcast activities and events around the globe.

**C.S. Lewis** lived in the parish, worshipped at Holy Trinity, and is buried in the churchyard. Several members of our congregation still have personal memories of Lewis. This is a historical point of interest for many visitors to the church and, throughout the year, visitors explore the church, the pew where he sat, the door handle that he turned so loudly, and his grave. C.S. Lewis' home, the Kilns, is in Risinghurst, an easy walk from the church. It is owned by the C.S. Lewis Foundation (based

in the USA). Our Verger and several members of our congregation are very proactive in welcoming our C.S. Lewis visitors. We also have an annual visit from the Student Leadership University - there were 350 people in last year's group.

At the back of the church is the C.S. Lewis corner, which sells Lewis-related items, e.g. tea towels. There is opportunity to bring this heritage into the mainstream of the church's life, which, as well as enriching everything the church does, could provide significant additional income.

**Church radio and livestreaming:** we broadcast our services through the local hospital radio, Radio Cherwell. This serves both patients and staff in hospital, as well as members of our own congregation who are not able to attend services and listeners around the world. We can also livestream services, including weddings and funerals.



# Finances

Holy Trinity's financial landscape has been shaped recently by our project to extend the church, which was completed in 2024. The congregation gave generously with over £250,000 raised, unlocking charitable grants of around £200,000. A 20-year loan of £250,000 from the Methodist Chapel Aid Fund completed the project's financing. Holy Trinity has several years of loan repayments in reserve, providing breathing space for strengthening its finances.

In this context and despite its unrestricted income declining over recent years, Holy Trinity has opportunities to increase its income substantially. To explore these, the PCC commissioned Professor Paul Hare to carry out a strategic review. The Hare review identified exciting opportunities for growth once the church extension was completed and its recommendations were accepted in 2023.

A Finance Strategy Group was set up in 2024 to develop the review into detailed implementation plans.

The group's initial work concerns a campaign in Lent 2025 to increase regular giving, with a target increase of £25,000 in Holy Trinity's income over the full year.



The focus will then switch to developing growth opportunities. The successful realization of these plans will put Holy Trinity's finances on a secure long-term footing. This will allow us to meet our current obligations comfortably and to develop new and wider activities so that we can fulfil our aspirations better.

These obligations include annual Parish Share, which will be £50,204 in 2025 and maintaining

Holy Trinity's annual charitable giving at a minimum of £4,000, both having been under some pressure in recent years. At the same time, having set up funds to cover maintenance and depreciation, unrestricted reserves should now be restored to earlier levels.

With the church's regular finances managed carefully over recent years and improvements made to financial controls and budgeting, the opportunities for growth that are not being developed provide an exciting agenda for coming years.



# Our aspirations

**‘To be an open door between heaven and earth,  
showing God’s love to all.’**

- To be a welcoming church for everyone and grow our congregation in faith and numbers
- To increase our support for children and young people
- To use our resources for God’s plan – the completed new extension now needs to be used to its full potential to serve our parish community and visitors
- To continue our tradition of thought-provoking sermons, teaching and spirituality
- To support the continued work of all the volunteer groups within the church, e.g. fair trade, eco group, racial justice
- To do everything possible to extend Holy Trinity’s engagement across the whole parish, including with those who have little to do with the church



# We believe God has called us to seek....

We know that it is very important to get the right person as vicar for our church, our communities and our parish and look forward to appreciating the new and unique range of skills that the incumbent will bring. We seek an incumbent with these essential characteristics:

- Godly, faithful and prayerful with eagerness and vision to lead us further on our Christian journey
- Instinctive pastoral skills and the time and inclination for pastoral care for both young and old
- Willing to encourage, engage and support the development of many talents within the congregation
- Effective communication skills: listening ear, warm, approachable, and able to empathise with all
- A unifying proactive personality; a people person with a collaborative progressive style of ministry, a team person
- Enthusiasm for leading us in the use of our new facilities
- Thought-provoking preacher with liturgical skills, biblical knowledge and discernment to embrace and respect the variety of worship enjoyed by our congregation
- Financially minded
- IT savvy
- Values music in worship



# How we will support our new incumbent

**Ministry team:** consists of a non-stipendiary associate priest, stipendiary curate and our pastoral care coordinator. Holy Trinity is a training parish with a tradition of having curates and students on placement.

**Additional clergy:** we are fortunate to have several additional clergy among our congregation, with ministries focused elsewhere or who have retired, and who are happy to officiate and preach on occasion.

**Lay ministry:** the pastoral care team consists of five lay people who visit the elderly and take communion to those who are unable to attend church. We have a very competent and dedicated verger, a team of sacristans and a team of servers. We are currently supported by a commissioned Church Army Evangelist who works full-time at a local United Reformed Church.

**The PCC:** consists of the incumbent, associate priest, curate, two church wardens and 13 committee members, plus four Deanery Synod representatives. Four PCC representatives are on the Standing Committee.

**Paid staff:** the PCC pays for a Parish Administrator (paid for 10.5 hours a week) and a Verger (who assists with weddings, funerals as well as regular services), and a Director of Music (interim).

**Enthusiastic volunteers:** an extensive group of volunteers support church life in roles including welcomers, readers, servers, acolytes, Sunday school leaders, cleaners, flower arrangers, sound engineers, choir and bell ringers. There is also a Parish Planning Committee that supports the ministry team in the planning of services and special events throughout the year, as well as a Children and Families Committee, which works with the ministry team to organise services and events for children and young people and ensure they are incorporated into church life.



# The Vicarage and curate's house

The Vicarage is a large, homely, modern four-bedroom house with a separate study, two reception rooms, a garage and ample parking. There are solar panels on the roof. The Vicarage is self-contained but adjacent to the church grounds.

It has a large garden, which backs onto the glebe, and is surprisingly rural despite being near the ring road. The 'Vicar's path' leads from the Vicarage through a narrow belt of woodland to the churchyard, which surrounds the church.

The church also owns a three-bedroom semi-detached house in Binswood Avenue, about five minutes' walk from the church, where the curate has traditionally been housed.

Both the Vicarage and the curate's house have good access to public transport into Oxford and London. Both are within walking distance of Headington shops, local schools, many parks and a nearby recreation ground.



# The Parish of Holy Trinity Headington Quarry, Serving Headington Quarry, Risinghurst and Wood Farm in Oxford

**Thank you for looking at our profile**

We are looking for a vicar who will walk with us on our Christian journey, unite us, encourage and enable us to grow and serve God in our daily lives in the parish and beyond.

Are you the person God is calling to help us move forward as we seek to discover God's plan and purposes for us?



**We pray that you will hear God's calling for your future**

[hthq.uk](http://hthq.uk)