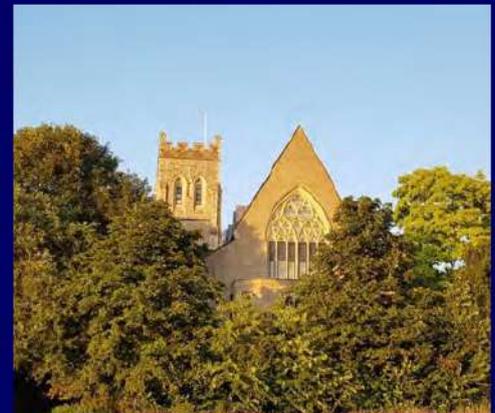


St. Mary's Church † Datchet

Rooted in Christ, reaching out to his world



BENEFICE OF ETON - ETON WICK - BOVENEY - DORNEY

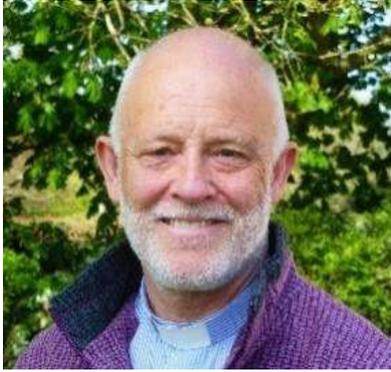


Priest - in - Charge of
Datchet, Eton, Eton Wick, Boveney
And Dorney



DIOCESE of OXFORD

A Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world



Message from our Associate Archdeacon

These three parishes have worked hard together to put themselves in a position to reach out with renewed confidence.

They have taken risks, in faith. They have doubled down and placed their trust in Christ and in each other. They have been patient whilst the paperwork catches up with the Spirit. They have sought wholeness, so that they may offer the same to their parishes.

The support you will find in these parishes is matched both by the hard-won discipleship these past few years have provided and the opportunities for mission that the community relations and schools work provide.

As Assistant Curate at Datchet and also Priest-in-Charge at Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney, and Dorney you will find one call unites the three and a scale of ministry ripe for your flourishing. Your application comes at a time when the tone and momentum of these three parishes are in accord, allowing you to hear the stories of the past and discern the whispers of the future, together.

Upon appointment, a successful applicant will be invited to take a lead in recruiting an Associate Minister colleague to assist them in raising smiles and curing souls.

It has been said that things of great value, carry great cost - but here a lot of the cost has already been born by wonderful local colleagues and dedicated volunteers. You are that added value.

From the exemplary Churchmead School with its roll-up-your-sleeves missional energy, to the wedding ministry that idyllic churches bring, there are well established opportunities for drawing people into a journey of faith.

There is also support - both practical and prayerful - for trying new things to reach out to people in new ways. Small, slow and sustainable approaches to mission, rooted in a much-loved setting will find fertile ground here on the banks of the Thames.

As ever, the new Priest will be committed to the diocesan vision of becoming a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's World -contemplative, compassionate and courageous- and to model and enable a flourishing ministry, for all, in line with the diocesan work in this area.

I commend this profile to you and I would welcome conversations about the role with interested candidates.

Associate Archdeacon Reverend Canon Christopher Bull
07481 343440 or christopher.bull@oxford.anglican.org



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**Are you bold, brave
 and courageous**

Joshua 1:9

Welcome

Priest in Charge and I welcome you to come visit and explore our churches and surroundings, both in person and through reading this Profile as a part of your discernment process, to see if this is the place God is calling you to. Informal discussions with the Area Dean, Revd Canon Janet Binns are encouraged.

The details of our parish, its life, activities and relationships with wider community are briefly covered within the pages of this Profile. We hope it will encourage you to want to find out more about us, and help you in the process of discerning if God is calling you to work with us, and help us grow into our full potential as disciples of Christ, rooted in and serving Him in Love and Light both as Church and as individuals. The Appendices at the end include some further information which may be of interest.

Our approach to preparing this document has had at its heart the commitment of the process to God at **every** stage, through prayer; through discussions etc. as well as looking at what we have to offer and what we would like to achieve in the future. In Datchet we included Lay-led Services where the people were invited to share their thoughts, ideas, concerns and anxieties: We also held wider consultations and have striven to represent as honestly as possible the parishes and local Communities understanding and thinking, We hope that what follows will help you see what our

- † Current situation is, as a base line foundation to build a strong, faithful service, together.

- † Where the areas of nurture, cultivation and pruning of the Vine are and the opportunities for rich growth they afford.
- † Our particular areas of priorities to revive, serve and share, rooted in Christ.
- † What our perceived strengths are
- † What our resources are currently
- † Our relationships with other churches
- † Relationship with other organisations
- † Vision, Mission and commitment to God is.
- † Identified ideas of the types of skills, Ministry and understanding the person who works with, and alongside, us should have.
- † Demonstrate that despite the challenges presented there is a wealth of opportunity for some one to further develop their own potential whilst helping us fulfil ours.

The comments from people who have assisted us in preparing this document have shown a caring and loving community; some struggle with change and uncertainty especially the past year; some desire to stand still and “catch breath”, but generally a feeling of “let’s get on with being Church, living Christ’s Gospel to do our duty with praise and thanksgiving” prevails. It is a committed parish, working hard at integrating with the wider community and Christ - centered; not afraid to speak out when it feels a need, but willing to listen to the still small voice in the thunder storm if given the opportunity.

I am your servant; give me discernment
that I may understand your statutes.

Psalm 119: 125

Datchet Village



Datchet is classed as a relatively large Thameside Village with a population of some 6,000 residents and with housing stock and a socio-economic diversity covering the whole range. The heart of the Village is very traditional, and features an attractive Village Green overlooked by a number of listed buildings. Additionally there is a small, discreet, but thriving Industrial Estate.

Datchet, a pretty Thames-side village in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is ideally located for commuting into London and further afield. It has a population of @5,139 (source: Census 21) Situated some three miles from both Windsor & Slough, five miles from Staines and seven miles from London Heathrow Airport; there are close motorway links to the M4, M25, M40 & M3, making the village very accessible to and from all parts of the country. South West Trains run a twice-hourly service to London Waterloo (50 minutes) and the Windsor & Eton Riverside station (5 minutes). Additional transport links are provided by regular Bus Services. Thus, virtually every required aspect of modern living is easily and conveniently available in the immediate area.

There are three principal places of Worship within the village. Apart from the Parish Church of Datchet, St. Mary's, there is a Baptist Church and the Roman Catholic Church of St. Augustine. We have recently re-established the Churches Together in Datchet and hold monthly meetings and enjoy warm ecumenical ties with our sister churches in Datchet. The three churches share in worship at services such as the Christmas Carol Service and Holy Week in Easter

Two of the three Schools in Datchet are designated as Church Schools. St. Mary's Church of England Primary Academy, part of the OSDT has been supported by us in many ways over the years. Churchmead is a secondary school which became a VA Church school in 2004. We have church members on the Governing Body of both. The village is also fortunate to have Eton End school which is private co

-educational school, and educates children up to the age of 11 years and has links with St Mary's.

Datchet is blessed with an excellent Health Centre which provides a very wide range of health care services, delivered by a professional, supportive and caring Team. The Healthcare trust serving the area is Frimley Health. The Hospitals - Wexham Park, is the main A&E for East Berkshire, and situated in Slough, as is Upton Park, King Edward VII in Windsor offers out-patient care and the newly rebuilt Heatherwood in Ascot; The Royal Berkshire Hospital is based in Reading and offers more specialist services not available in Wexham Park. Private Healthcare is available at Princess Margaret in Windsor and via The Spire across the Borough.

Apart from our own Church Community Centre there is a good-sized Village Hall for the many local social events held in Datchet, including until Covid the St Mary's Pantomime we are hopeful this will be reinstated for 2025. There is also a smaller WI Hall, a Library and "The Bridge" Coffee Shop, which is an ecumenical parish centre project now in its 30th successful year. All offer different spaces for the various uses the Community need for their activity or group.

For a small village, Datchet is well endowed with hospitality, retail and services. It benefits from many of its own retail outlets and services, which include the following:- (Not an exhaustive list, and is in no particular order.) Pharmacy, a Tesco

St Mary the Virgin

Registered Charity number: 1131279

Website :

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/416>



View of St Mary's from Vicarage Lane

St. Mary's is a village church which worships broadly in the central Anglican tradition. There is a wide range of worship and musical styles in some of the less formal services held at various times in addition to the monthly Lay Led service. There is a strong, connected congregation which has been in evidence during the challenges faced in recent times.

St Mary's has faced some unusual and difficult challenges in maintaining the energy, commitment and enthusiasm for sustaining developing and growing all the activities undertaken and regular worship of the church in the absence of the guiding Leadership of a working incumbent being in place, but still in role. Without the focal point of knowing when they would be able to return to take up the duties and re start the stalled processes (due to both covid and extended pastoral leave) this has had a dampening and depressing affect on progress and causing parishioners anxiety . This has been one of the biggest challenges and we are proud that despite concerns the parish has put their trust in the leadership of the Churchwardens, PCC and Area Dean and supported them, evidenced by new energy and enthusiasm is beginning to sprout new growth in the last 9 months or so.

In common with almost every church, the Covid era has had a devastating impact some of our most active disci-

plishment ceased as a result of all the restrictions, such as the Homeless Project shared with other churches in Slough and run by the Slough & London Run. Very sadly, during this time our previously thriving church community became isolated, fractured and dwindled as we found that many were unable to access the streamed services and a significant number of the people who carried out duties were no longer able to do so, due to ill health, death and moving away in retirement or for work leaving a church with a very different resource and community profile, which we have been striving to redevelop and grow since.

Our church community

The range of people worshipping in St Mary's is very diverse. Despite the strains of the past 4 /5 years, the people of St Mary's Datchet are all still keen to be a living church in the modern world, although a little tired in sustaining this. Whilst change is hard for any group, generally the people of St Mary's have and will continue to meet any challenges and tests presented, with prayer and thoughtfulness, sometimes a little resistance, but more usually will embrace with faith when it is presented in collaboration with them and as an identified need. Whilst not afraid to experiment, some concerns expressed during the consultation process, were a fear that too much change without due thought is not healthy, and as we have already seen, anxieties caused by uncertainty alongside this will make us "tired" by the energy required to "keep up", and will therefore be less affirming to our aims unless it is managed positively.

However, despite all, many of our members quietly get on with the response to Christ's Commandment - *'That you love one another as I have loved you'* : Natural and matter of fact support for others and organisations. Many take ministry to the community in simple ways, serving in the Bridge, assisting at services held in the local Residential Home, Eton House, and the natural acceptance and caring welcome, lasting friendships forged with the asylum seekers since October 2022, Music – worship and entertainment, The Link a community magazine delivered to every letterbox in Datchet now in its 25th year .. and many more areas : Just normal every day living, rooted in Christ.

There has been some amazing new growth - the

Express (with Cash Point), a Petrol Station, a Car Dealership, several Hairdressers, a Dry Cleaners, Sandwich Bar, A funeral Directors, an Indian fashion shop, a 'Stitch and Fix' shop for all repairs, A Computer repair shop, a Turkish Barber three small Grocery outlets, and an Off Licence. It also has many businesses from Accountancy through swimwear manufacturing and Wedding Planning to technical equipment.

In terms of hospitality, until 1st October 2022 the village was home to The Manor Hotel which forms part of the boundary with The Green. Pre – Covid it was a very popular hotel for weddings being next to The Green and also the attraction of the historical building. During Covid the Manor Hotel hosted many of those made homeless, under agreement with the local authority. From 1st October 2022, it became an Asylum for the Government and housed @ 60 + Asylum Seekers from several countries, approximately one third from Iran. St Mary's supported the Asylum residents as far as possible, in particular forging strong links with a number of the Iranians who were fleeing Iran for the persecution of their Christian faith: The Asylum will no longer operate from the end of April 2024, when it is expected the building will return to being an Hotel.

Other hospitality areas include eateries such as an Italian Pizza /Wine Bar, 3 Kebab /burger outlets- 2 shops and a popular mobile outlet which has served many a hungry village resident for at least 30 years, 2 Indian restaurants (at opposite ends of the village) and 2 Fish and Chip shops. Additionally, there are two coffee shops a Costa (previously a pub) and The Bridge. There is only one public house, the Royal Stag which lies in the heart of the village and is adjacent to St. Mary's Church where its building forms a boundary with the graveyard. This is a

significant building as, apart from its rich historical connections to the village and St Mary's, it also contributes, by its rent, to the maintenance costs of our Church, through the ecclesiastical branch of the Village's 'Barker Bridge House Trust.' (Church Branch.)

Datchet Village has its own Parish Council, (DPC) as well as three Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead representatives, one of whom is also chair of the DPC. It has, since Covid, undergone some radical changes and is more proactive than its parochial name would suggest: It also oversees the distribution of funds for the people of Datchet, by the non ecclesiastical part of the Barker Bridge House Trust .

Datchet has all the usual activities you would expect from WI to Football. Amongst the community activities there are Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Sea Cadets, A thriving Football Club with several youth teams as well as adult. There is a Cricket Club and a popular running club the Datchet Dashers, as well as a group called the Running Sisters : It has a very integrated historical society - the Datchet Village Society, as well as a more recently formed environmentally and climate focused group 'Wild About Datchet' who are currently working with St Mary's on a new project to look after the. Churchyard. There are very many other Clubs, Societies, Associations & Activities, far too numerous to mention here which all make Datchet a very pleasant and enriching environment in which to live.

A rich source of additional information may be found on the following websites:-

www.datchetparishcouncil.gov.uk

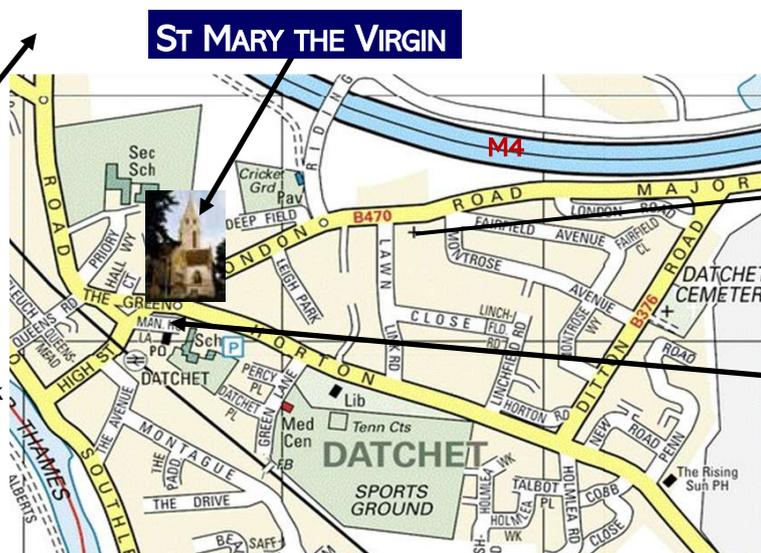
www.datchetvillagesociety.co.uk and the

www.rbwm.gov.uk



St Augustine RC

To
Eton,
Slough
Windsor,
Windsor Great Park
Staines



Baptist Church

To Heathrow, M25, M40 M3



The Manor Hotel, on the Green, Datchet

introduction of Messy Church at Christmas and Easter - each session being better attended than the previous one, and after the most recent, we found some of the children attended church for the first time following it. We have also have seen an increase, albeit slowly, in weekly attendances as well as a significant rise at the Christingle, Carol Service and Christmas 2023 and Easter 2024.

Worship and Study

Our worship patterns currently includes a monthly (said) Service of Holy Communion at 8.00 am, which is from the Book of Common Prayer, on the first Sunday of each month, Our main Sunday Service is a Holy Communion (sung) at 9.30 am except for the third Sunday, when it takes place at 11 am and is a more informal Lay-led service offering worship for all ages and is based on the Café style of worship within a loose formal structure.

In addition to these we have a regular Choral Evensong (BCP) once a month on the fourth Sunday at 6.30 pm. Every month on the first Wednesday, there is a (said) Service of Holy Communion (CW) at 11.00 am. There is also an annual Bereavement Service, celebration and other special services such as Mothers' Day, organised and led by Mothers' Union as either a lay led or integrated with Communion when it doesn't fall on a third Sunday. A group attends the Eton House service held on the last Thursday of the month and led by Revd Robert Spicer (retired) for Communion, or a lay leader for a Service of the Word. This is always very well received.

Occasional Offices in 2023 saw a rise in Baptisms

Baptism	Weddings	Funerals
16	1	2

St Mary's has three Bible Study groups with an average of between 8 –12 members each. One is specifically an ecumenical group, although all are open to anyone who wishes to join. One of our most successful periods was the attendance of our friends from Iran who joined in and shared their own thoughts, insights and views reading in Farsi alongside the English. This made for a unique and very enriching experience for those present.

Community

Until the onset of Covid, Church members had the option of belonging to a number of groups each of which was responsible for some aspect of the life of St. Mary's. For example, Mission & Social Responsibility, Worship & Study or Youth



1. The Stag pub from the Church Porch
2. Congregation members
3. The Church Community Centre
4. Mothers' Union at the Coronation Fete - turning water into Wine - a very popular stall!



. Sadly although we have maintained and are continuing with these in some basic form, looking at new ways of meeting the needs is one of our more exciting opportunities offered for a new person - as well one of the priorities for our own revitalised energy and Vision

There is a flourishing Mother's Union Group which meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 3.45 pm, currently in The Bridge Coffee shop..

Governance

St Mary's is a registered Charity 1131279 . This became a requirement when we were fundraising for the new Church Community Centre some years back as the amount took us over the upper threshold.

The PCC currently has 8 members, including ex- officio members and meet around 5 or 6 times a year to share in the responsibility of overseeing parish life.

Finances

Until very recently St Mary the Virgin has a proven track record of delivering on a strong commitment to stewardship and giving. We signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme in 2017 and pre-covid had a high percentage of sign up - @ 90% with a number of the remaining being committed to giving through Pledged Giving envelopes: Post covid and the departure away from the village of two treasurers in five years, combined with the extended pastoral leave interrupting the routines around Stewardship we are finding this area has become one of our most significant challenges and a key priority: We have taken steps to address this already alongside developing an events programme with both social and fundraising aims and hope to re-establish the Annual Pantomime for 2025,(Oh yes we do!) we have invited the Diocesan Giving Advisor help us assess, plan and implement a robust strategy to move forward and get back on track to return to a sustainable, well supported and effective Stewardship of our resources - human, assets (including volunteer time) as well as financial.

Up to the end of 2023, we managed our Share payments in full each year. However this was with the welcome receipt of several legacies. With our current position, the forecast is that for 2024 we will struggle to meet the full amount. Despite this, we are still able to pay 'Caesar' the majority of what is owed through the great blessing having the Barker Bridge House Trust Church Branch. This means we are to be able to plan works, meet the Quinquennial schedule, other repairs and maintenance

as required, and to currently pay off the increasingly high rising costs of utilities such as heating, energy use and similar through this fund. We are aware of how fortunate this Trust has made us and give thanks that it has been a particular blessing in helping us navigate through the past few years. We were also able to replace the totally inadequate and non functional sound system with this in 2023 as this was a significant barrier to effective engagement at services and events, as people found it difficult to follow what was going on due to the poor quality of sound and hiss. On at least one occasion the system managed to tune into a radio programme which caused great amusement, but was not helpful to the worship.

Children and Youth working

As a part of our commitment to inclusion, St Mary's offers communion before confirmation to suitably prepared children.

Until 2019/20 children and young people and work with them had always featured strongly in the life of our community and we had a series of Youth Workers for a period of 18 years or so until the last one left in 2015. Since then we have seen a decline in church attendance of children and young people, partly through the drop in birth, common to all organisations in Datchet, but also the pandemic. Another key factor, more noticeable since returning to 'normal' life, is through Sundays being a day in competition with other activities such as Drama clubs, football and other sporting events and other activities where the children can't access them unless they attend on a Sunday.

However during the latter half of 2023 we have seen a cautious increase in interest and attendance - especially at events such as the Messy Church events held, the Christingle and Nativity.

We have a strong desire to return to having a thriving Ministry to the young, led by a team of lay, authorised and ordained people. We have many people who are passionate about working with children and young people, and a number have identified this as one of their essential desires to see in a new Incumbent and expressed this as "someone who could help St Mary's look at the reason's why we appear to not meet the needs of this group

sufficiently, with ideas and drive to help build on existing, and develop new, approaches to the Ministry” – what we need to do, or do we have a need?

We have been trying to recruit a Schools Chaplain working in partnership with the secondary school, Churchmead, however due to various circumstances this has not been possible for the time being. We have not given up our vision of this and pray that God will guide the way to fulfil this in the future. . In the meantime, Churchmead has appointed a Chaplain for 1 year in the first instance, and we would envisage the person appointed to the Benefice would work in close partnership with them.

The Deanery is working to develop a Youth Work post across Deanery and is currently looking to make a bid from the ??? Fund

Music and choir

St Mary’s has a traditional robed choir, but also uses informal styles of music at various services from Mission Praise, Taizé to Iona and beyond. Some special services include a band.

Conclusion

Our challenge is to maintain the commitment and encourage new people to expand our ministry and mission.

We are therefore looking for someone with

- ◆ clear thinking,
- ◆ ability to identify needs, gifts and true paths
- ◆ facilitation of others’ gifts to nurture the slow growing seeds of this dream:
- ◆ from the the ability to draw out people’s gifts and inspire and empower them to serve God in new ways
- ◆ Discipleship growth in all ages
- ◆ Willingness to work collaboratively

In general, a more collaborative way of sharing our engagement, ministry and worship has grown in the dry ground of the past few years, both within and outside the church community.

We would very much wish to further build on and nurture this into a flourishing and fruitful Vine for Christ moving forward .



Eton, Eton Wick, Boveney and Dorney

LOCAL CONTEXT

Our benefice comprises the Parish of Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney and the Parish of Dorney. The two parishes adjoin and are bounded on one side by the River Thames and on the other by the M4 and A4.

Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough are all nearby, with a full range of shops, supermarkets, garages etc. as well as schools, leisure centres, hospitals, parks and, of course, Windsor Castle. We are a friendly Anglican benefice of three churches (plus one church managed by Friends of Friendless churches) within two parishes, although like any family, we do have our differences. Visitors, though, always compliment us on our welcome and easy style. The congregations consider themselves God's church in this place and our members often worship in any one of the three buildings, whilst retaining their affection for their regular place of worship. Overall, the three church buildings are in generally good condition. They are architecturally varied and each is particularly suited to one or more styles of worship.

But we can do more: whilst we are welcoming at the door, we feel we need to develop relationships with new and old faces and we would like our church community to have a deeper impact on the wider communities in order to bring God's love to them. To do this, the relationship that each church member has with God needs to be deepened and sustained. We want to strengthen the bonds and learn to share resources and ideas better between our two parishes.

Leadership

We appreciate and encourage input from lay leaders in different aspects of our church life, for example ministry (including 2 Licenced Lay Ministers who are on semi-permanent loan from the surrounding areas), children's work (toddler group leaders and helpers), prayer (including a prayer ministry team) but some leading church members have recently died, whilst others have left for various reasons, leaving gaps in our church family.

Therefore, we need our priest to be discerning and sensitive in how to feed those we still have and to nurture the skills of others in a range of leadership areas.

Ministry Team

Within the setting of village life, the 'vicar' is very important to the church and to the local community. We have a Ministry Team made up of the vicar, two Licensed Lay Ministers, and lay members. This leadership group meets periodically.

Members of the Ministry Team prepare and lead various services throughout the year. Two lay members are authorised to preach and one to lead communion by extension. Members of the Ministry Team usually put together some services for festivals as well as special services during the year including patronal services. We hope that we may be able to strengthen the team, both in numbers and scope.

Family and Children's Work

Ministry to our families comes in a variety of ways. We offer an All Age service once a month and those who attend seem to enjoy the friendly and informal atmosphere although attendance from young families has dwindled. We have two toddler groups, on a Tuesday and Thursday morning which are very popular and have a WhatsApp chat group to connect and support each other. A lay member runs the Tuesday group and can access funds to support families financially

We want to take hold of these successes and link these families into regular Sunday church and encourage spiritual growth.

The Christian faith enjoys a high profile in our three parish schools through the efforts of our previous vicar and those who are continuing to take assemblies, usually on a fortnightly basis. We present 'Open the Book' stories, encouraging children to act out Bible stories in all three

schools. Eton Wick First School have instigated that every other Open the Book session is held in the church so that the children become accustomed with being in the church and the wonder that this provides. A team of people also deliver Christmas Unwrapped and Easter Experience events to a class that visits their local church. Major festival and end of term events are also held in the school's local churches. We have been involved in a training event for 'Space Makers', a contemplative toolkit for schools which took place at Eton Porny School. The space makers scheme has also been taken up by Eton Wick First School. Both schools have been offered support for this and a lay member from Dorney Church is a Foundation Governor at Dorney School. The relationship between the churches and the schools is currently very important and friendly. The benefice would like to use better the opportunities this affords us to serve our local children and families.

Pastoral Care

Our weekly coffee morning is a positive initiative where Eton Wick church is opened on Wednesday mornings for anyone to come in for a tea or coffee and a chat, or simply to sit quietly in the church. It was started following a suggestion by a non-churchgoing resident. Once a month a representative from various support groups (Age Concern, government aid support etc) attends, which has proved very popular. Average attendance is 12. We would like to maintain this area of outreach, but need help to encourage people to offer their time, we presently have volunteer helpers from the community and the church.

A craft group has also been running for over two years to provide a space for people to regularly meet and develop friendships. This runs on the first and third Tuesday afternoon of each month and is mainly attended by people living in Eton Wick, only one a church member. They asked if they could make items to sell to raise funds for the church.

St John's, Eton has been open on a Monday morning throughout the summer when many visitors pass by. This has been appreciated and has raised the profile of the church in the town.

Discipleship and Spirituality

We have one Bible study group on a Tuesday evening in St John the Evangelist. This has been growing and is currently attended by members from all three churches. We ran the 'Come and See' catechesis Lent course by Bishop Steven which was well received. Following this we did a Bible study which was based on 'The Chosen' video dramatization of Jesus' life which inspired the people that took part. We recognise that 'home groups' are such a good way to learn through the Bible to follow Christ, grow in faith, explore ways of praying and simply to meet together. We would like every member of the congregation to be able to meet in this way – once again, it is a matter of drawing out and equipping leaders.

There is a team of three people that live stream Morning Prayer from a Monday to Thursday which reaches many people both live and later in the day. People can request prayer when watching live. This has formed a regular ministry to people, started during the Covid lockdown but valued so that it has remained, forming its own congregation of regular worshippers, some from our churches and some from different areas of the country.

Prayer

The life, worship and mission of our churches are rooted in prayer with specific opportunities to grow in prayer. Members of the congregations lead the Intercessions in services. We offer prayer in the Bible study, prayer ministry in services and other opportunities for individual prayer, especially during pastoral visits. Most of all we need a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit in our congregations, to be inspired and excited, open to recognise and respond to the will of God, empowering them to use their gifts for God both within and beyond the church doors.

Once a year we run a Baptism Bonanza where we encourage families interested in baptism or who have had their children baptized to attend. This is a fun interactive event looking at all aspects of the baptism service by using activities inside and outside the church in the grounds. This concept has been taken on by another church in the Deanery.

We also run Wedding Preparation events in St John the Baptist Church which consists of interactive activities for the couples to do. This helps them work through the promises they will be making on their wedding day, we also look at the wedding liturgy so that they understand what is involved in the service. The Wedding Preparation event has been taught to a church in the Chapter and they are now facilitating this for their wedding couples.

Healing

We offer the opportunity to be listened to and prayed for in total confidence. A group of trained prayer ministers offer healing prayer in some services, laying on of hands and occasionally anointing with oil. We have held occasional healing services.

Social

We get together for bring and share meals for festivals such as Harvest and also the Bible study has bring and share meals. This encourages fellowship and strengthens relationships and is valued by all who attend.

Giving

Our churches encourage regular giving, but the offering of our time, money and talents is one of the areas for review.

Eton Wick and Dorney support their choice of 2 charities and have encouraged speakers or held services to raise the profile of the charity. Occasional collections for a specific charity (generally a topical disaster or cause) have been welcomed by the wider congregation.

Eton Wick

Eton Wick is the largest of the communities and is a mainly residential area with some small shops, pubs and two restaurants. There is a village hall, a library, a church school (Eton Wick C of E First School) and a football team with a social club. Although now almost entirely a commuter village, Eton Wick still retains a 'working village' feel with a few farms remaining, together with some old village families. The lively community is varied, with all ages represented. St John the Baptist is the parish church for Eton and Eton Wick.



Boveney

Boveney is a small riverside hamlet, served by the church of St Mary Magdalene which is managed by Friends of Friendless Churches. It is normally permanently open to visitors and there are three services a year



Eton

Eton town is greatly influenced by the College but the area is also a thriving local community . The High Street in Eton supports a wide variety of businesses and whilst some relate at least partly to the needs of the College, others hold a wider appeal. Eton Porny C of E School is in the High Street. St John the Evangelist Church, is leased from Eton College and is above the local doctor's surgery . Holy Communion BCP services are held here twice a month.



Dorney

The population of Dorney is estimated at around 850, split between the village of Dorney itself and the larger community of Dorney Reach (where Dorney School and Village Hall are situated). Within the community is a garden centre with a café as well as two pubs, each with their own Restaurant. Historic Dorney Court is also in the village, and has been lived in by the Palmer family for around 400 years



Dorney Lake (owned by Eton College) was the venue for the rowing events of the 2012 Olympic Games and is a valued local walking place.

St. James the Less is the parish church with some parts dating back to the 12th century. Services take place every Sunday and there are a frequent weddings (circa 20) that take place each summer. There is both a churchyard and a graveyard opposite.

Music

We have used 'Mission Praise' throughout the parishes for around 20 years, augmented by other material (mainly from 'The Source').

Worship material is augmented from various sources (e.g. Iona 'Wild Goose Publications'). The organs in both Dorney and Eton Wick have both been refurbished within the last 15 years and are in good order. St John's, Eton has a modern digital organ installed at the time of rebuilding. At present we have a regular organist. Eton College boys play for special occasions such as Remembrance, we also have a parishioner and outside organists that can help on occasions.

Administration

We have a Church Administrator who currently works three afternoons a week, arranging the rotas, typing up the monthly diary, weekly sheets, and dealing with forms for fees etc.

Parochial Church Councils

The two parishes within the benefice have retained separate PCCs. Dorney PCC has 7 members while Eton and Eton Wick with Boveney PCC has 9. There are usually 2 joint meetings and 4 separate meetings each year. Financial commitments are shared appropriately between parishes and each supports the other. There are 82 on the Eton and Eton Wick Roll. There are 33 on the Dorney Roll.

Finance

Eton with Eton Wick & Boveney Financial Statement - Finances are healthy, allowing the parish to meet all of its financial commitments each year and there are no significant amounts owed by, or to, the PCC. There is also money set aside for possible improvements to the church buildings. Dorney Financial Statement - Dorney has managed to meet all its financial commitments each year and has paid its Deanery Share and over half of its Diocesan Share for this year.



Regular Services

St John The Evangelist, Eton

10am 1st and 3rd Wednesdays Holy Communion (BCP)

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

11:00am 1st Sunday All Age Worship

11:00am 2nd and 4th Sundays Holy Communion (CW)

11:00am 3rd and 5th Sundays Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

9:30am 1st Sunday Holy Communion (BCP)

9:30am 2nd and 3rd Sundays Holy Communion (CW)

St Mary Magdalene, Boveney (there are 3 services per year)

3:00pm Carols by Candlelight in mid-December

5:45am (approx.) Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday

4:00pm Patronal Festival Service on 22nd July

The Bridge Coffee Shop

Caroline Cole,
Chair of the management committee



The Bridge was set up in 1994 as a Village Hub, Help Point and Coffee shop by the three churches in Datchet. St Mary's, St Augustine's and Datchet Baptist Church. It is a bridge between the church and the community. It has been a very successful ecumenical project from the beginning and now draws a great deal of support, both volunteers and customers, from across the community. The Bridge welcomes those of all faiths or none, however, the Christian ethos is explicit with an information leaflet on each table.

The coffee shop is open from Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 3.30pm and is available after hours as



The Bridge in 1994

a meeting place. It is run entirely by volunteers with just one paid member of staff, the cleaner.

The three faith leaders are the Directors and there is a board of trustees; The Bridge is run by a Management Group which has representatives from each of the three churches. The Bridge is a registered charity and is run successfully as a small business. It is housed in a historic building in the centre of the village which is owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Council is very supportive of The Bridge and charges an affordable rent.

The Bridge is a valuable asset in the village as it offers low cost refreshments, company and opportunities for volunteering. We are able to share the love of Jesus Christ in a practical and normal way; The Bridge is a great blessing to all those who come as customers or volunteers.



Some of The Bridge Volunteers in 2024

Safeguarding

**"A new command I give you:
Love one another. As I have loved you,
so you must love one another.**

John 13:34

We take Safeguarding especially of children and vulnerable adults very seriously here at St Mary's.

Governance

The PCC adopted the Church of England policies relating to this, for both adults and children. We follow safer recruiting processes and all our personnel involved in working alongside children or vulnerable adults are required to be DBS checked and undergo relevant Safeguarding training which is appropriate to their role and function:

The PCC has adopted a Safeguarding Officer, and a Deputy Safeguarding Office and details are posted around the church and on the A Church Near You website

Dashboard

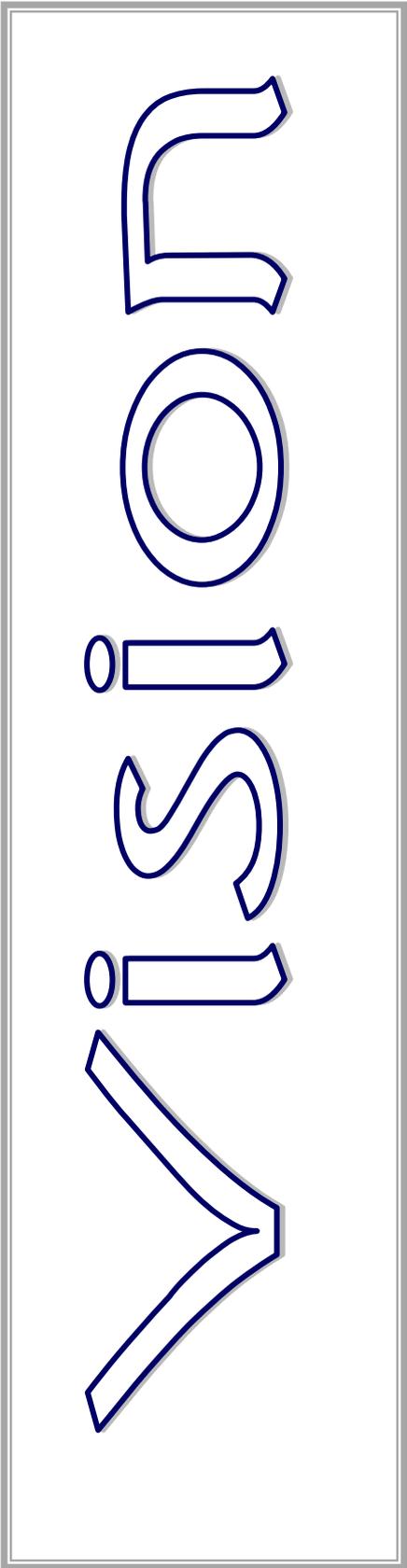
We have only recently been able to access this as named members of the PCC and are working with the SO to improve our level which is currently at Level 2

Training

St Mary's has adopted and uses the Church of England online training where a record of individuals' progress and outcomes of training can be monitored by the Safeguarding Officers, and follow up /further /updated training as required. IN addition to the SO we have several who have completed Safeguarding leadership training.

Monitoring

The PCC review safeguarding as a matter of course at each meeting to ensure training and other aspects are up to date and compliant. A report is provided to the APCM by the Safeguarding Officer.



Mission Action Plan - awaiting new energy

Being in limbo since 2019 when the then new incumbent arrived, just months before Covid hit, this is one of the areas that has stalled. We have identified it as a priority for our focus and understanding of the future development of our church - community, function and direction. We feel it is not just important, but vital to bring the community back together in a common understanding and shared Service.

We have been continuing to use the three year, 3 strand vision from 2015, and developed at a time when the Church could not envisage the fast paced changes of how to 'be church' resulting from the pandemic, juxtaposed with the new tests and challenges that and the post covid world we live in today. It is tired, has lost its impetus through all, but still provides a foundation to build upon.

VISION STATEMENT		
<i>"Rooted in Christ reaching out to his world"</i>		
Increasing our faith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing our Faith and Going Deeper with God 	Creating a vibrant Christian Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating and Vibrant Christian Community with Jesus at the Centre 	Making a difference locally & beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making a Difference Locally & Beyond in the Power of Spirit

The key objectives and tasks needed for us to deliver a Christ centred and focused mission are:

- ◆ To begin serious conversations around developing a sustainable, long-term Vision, to include
 - ◆ the shape of ministry and pastoral care within Datchet
 - ◆ and to carry this into working alongside, in collaborative ways, across the new proposed Benefice joining with Eton with Eton Wick and Dorney with Boveney.
- ◆ To strengthen our relationships with church and local communities; to be an active presence.
- ◆ To re-establish a supportive and effective Pastoral Ministry to include
 - ◆ Healing and Prayer
 - ◆ Training
 - ◆ Ensuring all are supported in faith, wellbeing and ability to carry out activities
- ◆ With the assistance of the Diocesan Generous Giving Advisor to develop a robust and sustainable Stewardship.
- ◆ To encourage a prayer based foundation to all we do and a belief we CAN.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible"
 - Luke 1:37

Role, Responsibilities and Skills

In drawing up this outline, we consulted widely. We have tried to make our expectations realistic and achievable, but are probably still aiming for the higher angels than mortal beings; However, the we are firm in the understanding that the overall purpose of the role is to advance the Kingdom of God through leadership, collaboration and example.

Our churches need a person, ordained and committed to collaboratively and be rooted in Christ, We envisage someone who will lead us in maintaining and developing existing relationships and helping us forge new ones . We will look to them to bring inspiring, spirit-filled, encouraging leadership, to follow new initiatives and facilitate our growth in commitment to God, to one another and to our communities.

Key Responsibilities :

- † Is Christ- centred, committed to and balanced in approach and faith of self and others. Has a broad experience of life, empathy and able to engage appropriately in the social aspects of Community, recognising boundaries, understanding of others' failings and application of Ministry to a diverse community.
- † Engage in and exercise the cure of souls, in collaboration with colleagues giving due regard to the calling and responsibilities of clergy as required and described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for Clergy, and any other relevant guidance and legislation during office.
- † Committed to working with the PCCs , Churchwardens and volunteers in positive and collaborative ways.
- † Holds forward thinking values within the central Anglican tradition, able to identify and interpret the Word using communication that empowers a wide range of people to understand the values and reality of Christ in the modern world, facilitating and affirming positive growth and development.

Mission and Outreach

- † To grow, nurture and develop disciples of all ages, identifying gifts, skills and talents encouraging & building confidence and involvement in appropriate leadership, activities and mission.
- † to work collaboratively in developing a Vision for the benefice enabling each parish to identify their own unique role and contribution to the whole.
- † Who will work collaboratively within Parish, Benefice, Deanery Southern Grouping and the broader community developing fellowships and building bridges; explore and progress new and emerging areas of ministry.
- † Encourage open attitudes and support for people on the fringes of society including the homeless

Leadership and working collaboratively

- † Can demonstrate good leadership, with a willingness and ability to delegate tasks and responsibility appropriately; has a good level of administrative skill, able to use modern technology. Able to manage often conflicting tasks positively.
- † Able to work with, and develop and grow, existing team structures to further nurture development of church life
- † Able to listen effectively, be solution centered and act as a sensitive mediator if and where necessary

Worship, study and preaching

- † Encourage study of scripture and discussions in groups and other activities
- † Can demonstrate insight and wisdom in discernment of God's word and enable others to come to know and develop their particular gifts, fostering a climate of encouragement and affirmation for all.
- † able to identify and interpret, and share the Word using communications that empowers a wide range of people and ages to understand the values and reality of Christ in the modern world, facilitating and affirming positive growth and development in Faith
- † Able to demonstrate ideas how to develop, and experience of, working with the 'new normal' styles of worship and outreach through live streaming, Zoom, pre-recorded, b/vlogging and social media etc

Pastoral Care

- † To care and tend to the needs of the parishes and of the benefice community with Compassion, empathy and loving service, and sensitivity dealing with those suffering from loneliness, grief or health concerns
- † To build upon encourage and develop teams of lay visitors and Pastoral Care workers ensuring appropriate training and Safeguarding is in place and monitored.

Stewardship and benefice organisation

- † To work with other churches in neighbouring parishes, who are in the early stages of exploring how they may work together more closely.
- † To embed the concept of being stewards of God's world and resources within every day thinking activity via the Vision and Stewardship teaching., encouraging sound and effective stewardship of finances, resources and care for the environment

Personal Development and Spirituality

- † Is able to evidence a deep prayer life, and spirituality, meet people where they are, walk alongside during their journey, encouraging and supporting without overwhelming.
- † Willing to update knowledge and experience through training and opportunities offered by Diocese or other
- † Demonstrate a deep commitment to, and faith in, God : Able to draw on a wide range of spiritual and theological resources and innovating styles of sharing this.

Other responsibilities

- † Exhibit a working knowledge and care for the health, safety and safeguarding aspects of the church building and church life.
- † Participate in the Bishop's Ministerial Development Review scheme and engage in Continuing Ministerial Development
- † Carry out any other duties and responsibilities as required in line with the Benefice, deanery or diocese needs.

Person Specification

Required

- † An ordained priest within the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, or a Church whose orders the Church of England recognises.
- † Is Christ-centred, committed to and balanced in approach and faith of self and others. Has a broad experience of life, empathy, compassion and good interpersonal skills. Able to engage appropriately in the social aspects of Community, recognising boundaries, understanding of others' failings and application of ministry to a diverse community.
- † Have satisfactorily completed Initial Ministerial Education
- † Have a working knowledge of the requirements of working within a C of E parish and evidence of having worked within one
- † A commitment to ensure Safeguarding and application of the Safeguarding Handbook is followed and monitored appropriately.

Experience

Demonstrate evidence of:

- † a commitment to and delivery of church growth, growing disciples in positive ways and reaching out to the community at all levels
- † an understanding of Church – School educational and relationship development; is someone who can facilitate and affirm Youth Ministry, and ministry to those on the fringe such as the homeless and hungry (not necessarily self)

Skills and Attitudes

- † Can demonstrate insight and wisdom in discernment of God's word and enable others to come to know and develop their particular gifts, fostering a climate of encouragement and affirmation for all.
- † Can demonstrate good leadership with a willingness and ability to delegate tasks and responsibility appropriately; has a good level of administrative skill, able to use modern technology, and able to manage often conflicting tasks positively.
- † Able to demonstrate strategic thinking, planning and implementation, but also to work in partnership to develop the Vision required to reflect the Kingdom of God in vibrant and affirmative ways to serve the different communities
- † Will embrace change management with tact, understanding, affirmation and encouragement, moving forward at a pace suitable to the community served.
- † Who will work collaboratively within Parish, Benefice, Southern Grouping and the broader community developing fellowships and building bridges, be open to and explore and progress new and emerging areas of ministry.

Aspirations

- † Be passionate about Social Justice, the environment and preserve God's creation, keen to develop the benefice in the application of Caring for God's creation centred thinking. Strategy and resourcing.
- † Keen to explore the use of new and innovative ways to share the Gospel
- † Keen to enhance and further develop the growing modern way of using technology to Communicate, worship, share and express views to both parishes and the wider world

Personal

- † Recognises their own need for Spiritual Direction, care and personal and professional development of themselves; the need to "top up" reserves, ensuring adequate time for self, friends and family during designated time off periods to affirm a healthy and balanced thinking, spirit and Ministry positive growth and development
- † Able to live in the property offered with the position

Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
Isaiah 6:8

Is it YOU?

Appendix 1



The Burnham & Slough Deanery

[Burnham and Slough Deanery \(burnhamsloughdeanery.org.uk\)](http://burnhamsloughdeanery.org.uk)

Burnham and Slough Deanery is a vibrant and diverse community that presents both opportunities and challenges for ministry and mission. The area encompasses a wide range of population demographics, from affluent areas to some of the most deprived in the country. Despite these differences, the deanery is committed to responding to the needs of its community and embracing the opportunities that arise.

As full time Area Dean, I am excited about the opportunities for ministry in the Benefice that includes the parishes of Datchet Eton, Eton Wick Dorney and Boveney. The urban community in Slough is growing and diverse, with the presence of one of the largest business estates in Europe. Additionally, the opening of the Elizabeth line in November 2022, offering a non-stop service to Paddington and through the city of London, presents a significant opportunity for new people to move into the area.

Despite the challenges of urban and rural life, as well as varying levels of affluence and poverty, the Burnham and Slough Deanery remains a strong, prayerful, and cohesive unit. The deanery is actively seeking to grow and develop new ways of being church in the 21st century and this is reflected in our Deanery Mission Action plan. The principles and values that underpin the deanery's determination to reach the community include:

Celebrating the diversity of cultures and churchmanship present in the deanery, as well as acknowledging and celebrating both large and small successes.

Collaboration is also hugely encouraged and emphasised, so that we can provide mutual support to individuals and parishes.

Effective communication, both in listening well and boldly embracing necessary changes, is valued.

Finally, there is a commitment to align with the overall vision of the Diocese to become a more Christlike church for the sake of the world.

However, there are ongoing challenges, including adapting to changing resources for ministry, strengthening, and supporting ecumenical links, working in a multi-faith environment, and addressing the diverse needs of urban and rural ministry. Despite these challenges, there is a firm belief that God is present and guiding our efforts to bring His Kingdom into people's lives. Overall, the Burnham and Slough Deanery offers a rich and intriguing context for ministry and mission in the Church of England, where the parishes are dedicated to embracing opportunities, addressing challenges, and working together to fulfil their vision in the 21st century.

Revd Canon Janet Binns
Area Dean



Appendix 2

Diocese of Oxford and the Archdeaconry of Buckingham

The Diocese of Oxford serves the mission of the Church in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The Diocese comprises over 600 parishes, with over 800 churches, serving a diverse population of more than 2 million people located in all types of settings.

Due to the size and complexity of the Diocese, we have three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic and pastoral oversight for their Areas. The late Rt. Revd. Dr. Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham since 2003, oversaw the eastern area on the map until February 2024 with his sad passing. The post is covered by the Archdeacon and 4 Area Deans to cover the Archdeaconry duties together. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is Ven. Guy Elsmore, appointed in 2016. In 2020, Revd. Canon Chris Bull was appointed Associate Archdeacon.

Through prayer, listening and discernment a common vision has emerged for the Diocese of Oxford. The vision is based on the qualities described in The Beatitudes and addresses what kind of church we are called to be:

Common Vision :-

A more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world: contemplative, compassionate, courageous.

Our Common Vision continues to emerge as we identify together areas of our common life where God is calling to focus. The [diocesan focal areas](#) are not a description of everything we do, but these priorities are being supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their clergy to share a vision rather than demanding a response, motivated by hope not driven by anxiety, and thereby to flourish in their ministry. It is hoped that clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will commit to this vision and encourage their benefice to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world.



Appendix 3

Churches Together in Datchet



After several years of not meeting due mainly to the Covid Pandemic Churches Together in Datchet finally started meeting again last year, with the first session being led by Revd Samson

Kuponiyi who was assisting at St Mary's Church until the end of January 2024.

People, usually from each of Datchet's churches, join together for a short time for discussion, a short service or meditation (whatever the leader for that meeting feels is appropriate) and prayers- for the world or specific thing those present wish to bring. The leader-

ship is on a monthly rota basis between the churches. It is good to meet in Fellowship and get to know each other better.

All are welcome: we meet
on the FIRST Thursday of the month
in The Bridge
at 7:30pm,

The CTID hold several services together through the year, including Holy Week, Easter and Christmas.

Schools

In Datchet



Eton End School

Eton End is a family school where the friendly, caring ethos goes hand in hand with high standards and outstanding academic success. The school stands for a solid foundation in education yet the importance of a happy and memorable childhood is never forgotten. Our stimulating environment encourages in the pupils an enthusiasm for learning, confidence in themselves and consideration for

others. A strong emphasis is placed on good manners and thoughtfulness.

Broadly Christian in ethos, we welcome all faiths and celebrate other faith festivals. Our aim is to promote an awareness of spiritual values. We consider our morning assemblies to be an integral part of school life as they present moral, cultural and topical themes in a simple and meaningful way.

Eton End holds services in St Mary's and attends and supports many events



Eton End School taken from the rear

Our School



Churchmead School is an currently oversubscribed 11-18 Voluntary Aided secondary school within the Diocese of Oxford and the local authority of Windsor and Maidenhead. Our PAN is 120 and the school currently has over 30 students on the waiting list for a Year 7 place. The Sixth Form started in September 2023 with Year 12 and the intention of growing to 100 by September 2025. The school is non-selective serving the communities of Slough, Datchet, Wraysbury, and Iver.

The school was recently awarded the top grade of “Excellence” in their SIAMS church school Inspection (March 2022) and the school has also been awarded the Gold Quality Mark for Religious Education.

Future Partnership

Looking to the future of our partnership, we are looking for a strong vision of the future of chaplaincy in the school and the local area. We have the unique situation of having Church of England primary and secondary schools on the doorstep of the parish church. In addition, we would like to have more frequent visits to the school to provide an opportunity for students to engage with our local clergy to support the pupils through guidance and prayer in our school chapel. We are keen to continue to develop the role of parish priest, so they are seen as an important member of our school community.



St. Mary’s and our School:

The school visits St Mary’s for our Christmas and Easter services in which the incumbent has been involved in the design of and provided a reflection for the different services. As a voluntary aided school there is a position of ex officio on our governing body for the parish priest. The school has been involved in supporting other activities at the church including the Homeless Project, Remembrance Services and the Church Christmas Fair.





The school was founded in 1843 as St Mary's School by a past incumbent of St Mary the Virgin Church, Datchet. Since then there has been a long history of strong if sometimes eccentric links with the school. The school currently enjoys a thriving relationship between school – pupils and staff, and Church - its members, leadership and clergy.

The school became part of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST) in January 2017. As a result, the structure of governance changed with the Governing Body becoming a Local Governing Body (LGB), overseen by a board of trustees, who in turn report to the Members. It is no longer a requirement for the local priest to sit on the LGB, but if there is a vacancy they would be very welcome. However interaction and working in partnership is both encouraged and expected.

The school ranges from Reception up to year 6, and follows a strict Admissions policy. It has a PAN of 30, being single form entry, and has an average of 200 –230 pupils in total. It draws pupils from a very diverse ethnic and cultural background. It has a strong ethos and demonstrates its Christian Values clearly in the lives and activities of the pupils.

The school has a philosophy of enabling children to reach their full learning potential appropriate for them in a supportive and friendly environment.

Members of the congregation and village attend to assist in reading and other activities and projects such as Prayer Spaces, more recently the 'Open The Book' initiative led by the Area Dean Revd Canon Janet Binns, as well as supporting the events hosted by the school such as the school Fetes and Sports Days where you don't have to have child attending the school to come along and shout encouragement.

The school holds several services a year in Church as well as learning events about church and community including within the church and church yard. Pupils are encouraged to attend events such as Messy Christmas and Easter, The Nativity and other church –led activities when they are held.

We look forward to working in partnership with the new Vicar and looking at ways we can bring church and school closer together.

On commenting on 'Open The Book' Nicola Green, Headteacher wrote in an e mail

...lovely seeing you at open the book which is a great success so please thank everyone involved. The children love it !!!



Datchet St Mary's Vision

We are one, we are strongest
working together in unity
1: Corinthians 12 - 14



Visit our website
<https://www.datchetstmarysacademy.co.uk>

Schools in Eton, Eton Wick, Boveney and Dorney

Our churches have close links with the state schools in their parishes. A team of volunteers, drawn from both the church and local communities, takes Open The Book into the primary/first schools twice a month in term time. Children from the older year groups are excited to volunteer to help deliver the stories through mime. Each school comes to enjoy Christmas Unwrapped in the church each year and Experience Easter.

Eton Porny School is located on Eton High Street, not far from St John the Evangelist, Eton. As with Eton Wick First school, they are very appreciative of their visits to the church for Christmas Unwrapped and Experience Easter. The close connections fostered through Open The Book mean that the children feel welcome as they see familiar faces. Their special school services are usually held in one of the chapels in Eton College. Eton Porny School states that



“Our vision, values and aims are at the heart of, and thread through, every aspect of school life and ethos as a Church of England School. Our children come from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds, which we believe enriches our school community. In sympathy with ‘Valuing all God’s Children’ and ‘The Church of England’s Vision for Education’ we welcome all children, including those with different faiths and beliefs, and pride ourselves on being an inclusive school” and that it “actively welcomes the involvement of the local community and benefits from strong links with our parent community, our local church - St. John the Evangelist, the Eton Community Association and a collaborative partnership with Eton College.”

Their vision statement is based on 1 Peter 4:10-11 : "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." [About Us - Eton Porny](#)



Eton Wick First School is located next door to St John the Baptist, Eton Wick. They are very proud of the links with 'their church' and regularly come into the church for school services. The school requested that every other Open The Book is help in the church. Their vision statement is "We are all growing, developing and learning; Achieving Success in a Caring Community" based on the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13.



Their Christian Values, as stated on their website are

"A school should enable every child to flourish in their potential as a child of God; our Christian Values are at the centre of everything we do at Eton Wick School, and they help us to live out our vision. Each half term, we focus on a different value. This is done explicitly through our Collective Worship time, but also throughout our curriculum. Children have regular opportunities to reflect on each value and to develop an understanding of the value in action. Each Friday, in our Celebration Assembly, we acknowledge children who have demonstrated these values."

Eton Wick School



Dorney Primary School

Dorney School is the primary school in Dorney and forms part of the Beeches Learning and Development Trust with Burnham Grammar School. Dorney School sits within a two-tier education system, catering for pupils from the ages of four (EYFS) to eleven (year 6), with circa 200 pupils.

Whilst not a C of E school, the church has forged a strong bond with the school with fortnightly assemblies being held for the whole school using 'Open the Book' and Easter and Christmas workshops taking place in the church for year 4."



Eton College

Aside from these schools, Eton College is also entirely within the Parish of Eton. There are good links with the college as well as their team of Anglican Chaplains.



Appendix 4 Finance

Datchet

; For the full set of Audited Accounts (2023) for Datchet please click here :-
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tjXqYAX-XOX57aDiC_RoNk4c6K58YKjU/view?usp=sharing

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary The Virgin, Datchet

Statement of Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted 2023	Restrict5ed 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
Income				
Donations and Legacies	38,376		38,376	72,347
Income from Charitable Activities	5,099	3,411	8,512	14,047
Investment Income	99	97	196	41
Other incoming resources	37,588		37,588	14,721
Total Incoming resources	81,162	3,510	84,672	101,156
Expenditure:				
Cost of raising funds	3,514		3,514	2,196
Charitable Activities	91,569	2,766	94,335	80
Total Expenditure	95,083	2,766	97,849	82,772
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds after transfers	(13,921)	744	(13,177)	18,384
Gross transfers between funds				
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds after transfers	(13,921)	744	(13,177)	18,384
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds	(13,921)	744	(13,177)	18,384
Total funds brought forward	22,773	15,909	38,682	20,298
Total funds carried forward	8,852	16,653	25,505	38,682

Eton and Eton Wick with Boveney

Full accounts for 2023 are available here

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21Arcq2Pp%5FjweQ9Sc&id=328E258CECFDF1E1%213018&cid=328E258CECFDF1E1>

An overview is below

Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney Parochial Church Council Statement of Assets and Funds at 31st December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £	2021 £
Assets / (Liabilities)			
M&G Investments -PCC Funds	348,937	352,320	255,769
M&G Investments -Other Funds	-	-	118,831
CBF Investments -PCC Funds	7,121	6,509	-
CBF Investments -Other Funds	461,574	421,882	478,171
Bank Current A/c	24,892	82,287	89,435
Bank Base Rate Reward A/c	102,238	6,606	6,604
Fees owed to Diocese	(845)	(80)	-
Total Net Assets	943,717	879,544	948,809
Closing Funds Balances			
General Fund	31,889	28,218	24,830
Reserve Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000
Designated Funds:			
- Maintenance Fund	38,263	25,961	53,651
- Church Improvement Fund	348,809	348,337	249,843
Restricted Funds	57,582	52,146	18,464
PCC Funds Subtotal	482,143	457,662	351,808
Other Funds Invested:			
- CBF Permanent Endowment Funds	146,215	133,642	151,473
- CBF Expendable Funds	315,359	288,240	326,667
- M&G Investments	-	-	118,831
Other Funds Invested Subtotal	461,574	421,882	597,001
Total Funds	943,717	879,544	948,809
Surplus/(deficit) arising in year:			
General Fund	1,265	3,388	(1,148)
- Gains/(losses) on Investments	2,208		
Designated Funds:			
- Maintenance Fund	12,302	(27,690)	10,428
- Church Improvement Fund	3,272	2	2
- Gains/(losses) on FCC Funds	-	(18,167)	12,967
Restricted Funds	5,436	33,603	(1,533)
Gains/(losses) on Other Funds Invested	39,892	(50,402)	66,364
	64,173	(69,266)	87,122
Funds Reconciliation			
Balance Brought Forward	879,544	948,809	881,667
Balance carried Forward	943,717	879,544	948,809

Investment assets are shown as market value.

The true values appearing in these accounts are formatted to the nearest £1.

St James the Less, Dorney
Accounts for the year to 31st December 2023

	Actual as at 31st December 2023	Designated	Restricted	Total 2023	Total Unrestricted 2022
Receipts					
<u>General funding</u>					
Parish Giving Scheme	£8,694.23			£8,694.23	£8,342.27
Standing Orders	£2,780.00			£2,780.00	£2,770.00
Plate	£5,941.02		£816.38	£6,757.40	£6,064.49
				£0.00	
Church Fees	£3,987.20	£1,807.00	£5,174.00	£10,968.20	£3,287.00
Donations	£84.89		£250.00	£334.89	£322.24
Fund raising - Church	£0.00			£0.00	£3,048.00
Fund raising - Charities			£0.00	£0.00	
				£0.00	
Guide Books, Post cards, etc	£141.50			£141.50	£146.02
Tax Refund	£2,039.41		£155.93	£2,195.34	£1,848.82
Parish Giving tax refund	£1,927.80			£1,927.80	£2,180.42
Insurance Refund	£0.00			£0.00	£0.00
Interest	£5,108.36			£5,108.36	£4,987.94
				£0.00	
Transfer from deposit account	£75,143.60			£75,143.60	£0.00
Transfer from 'Friends' a/c	<u>£1,098.24</u>			£1,098.24	£70.00
Total	£106,946.25	£1,807.00	£6,396.31	£115,149.56	£33,067.20

Payments					
ODBF Parish Share	£13,546.45			£13,546.45	13,068.00
Deanery Parish Quota	£252.80			£252.80	252.00
Lighting & Heating	£2,198.79			£2,198.79	1,831.73
Organ costs	£743.00			£743.00	1,333.00
Insurance	£2,196.23			£2,196.23	2,160.07
Parish Visitor	£0.00			£0.00	0.00
Vicar's & other staff costs	£3,658.98			£3,658.98	2,429.64
Parish Magazine	£200.00			£200.00	150.00
Donations to Charities	£1,026.00		£31,360.00	£32,386.00	540.00
Professional fees	£0.00			£0.00	0.00
General Expenses	£987.21			£987.21	1,139.08
Church fees to diocese			£2,333.00	£2,333.00	
Wedding Bell ringers & Verger			£1,140.00	£1,140.00	
Wedding Organists			£1,110.00	£1,110.00	
Church Repairs & Improvements	£1,308.24		£0.00	£1,308.24	408.00
Transfer to 'Friends' account		£46,198.60		£46,198.60	
Transfer to deposit account		£0.00		£0.00	
Total	£26,117.70	£46,198.60	£35,943.00	£108,259.30	£23,311.52

Bank Balance (Current Account)	
Balance as at 1st January 2023	£33,464.87
Receipts	£115,149.56
Payments	£108,259.30
Cash	
Balance at 31st December 2023	<u>£40,355.13</u>

Reserve Accounts		Opening Balance
Chancel Repair Fund (Valuation)	£4,521.08	£4,132.28
General Deposit Account	£7,754.88	£7,514.07
Restoration Reserve Account	£1,513.62	£30,742.06
Building & Maintenance account	£74,454.39	£80,588.52
CBF Investment	52,815.05	£45,965.45
M & G securities	61719.59	£63,204.75

Appendix 5

Charity and Other Trustee responsibilities

Barker Bridge House Trust –

This charity has a long and convoluted history, starting life as The Bridge House Trust set up in 1570 when the funds of the property rented out (the Bridge House, what is now known as The Royal Stag) were used for the upkeep of the bridge that spanned the water-course that ran from Slough Road to the recreational ground, pooling out in the heart of the village - the area we know as The Green, it was in the 1870s that the then trustees paid to have this waterway culverted under the Green.

Robert Barker, (of Wicked Bible fame) the Printer to the King (James 1st) lived in both London and Datchet : he was granted the license to print the King James' Bible in 1611, and gave his name to the Trust whenas the last surviving trustee in 1644, he regularized the process of trustees appointment and the duties.



The Royal Stag PH—its rent funds the BBHT

Today the

Trust is essentially made up of three sections, Church Branch, non-Ecclesiastical and joint Estate Trustees made up of the trustees from each branch with a Company Secretary. the Charity Commissioners reviewed the old trust schedule in the 60s, and updated them: The Estate disburses the income generated from the lease of the Royal Stag Public House, situated adjacent to the church, and a small sum from farm land on Southlea, to the two branches with 2/5 coming to St Mary's Church and 3/5 to the non Ecclesiastical.

The joint trustees meet approximately two or three times a year. They also contributed to our research into the type of person the

community would see as being the next Vicar, during the discussions, several expressed the concern that the Trustee vacancy traditionally held by the Vicar should be someone who is focused on Datchet. This would require and an amendment or a codicil from the Charity Commissioners to change the relevant part of the schedule to allow a regular member of St Mary's to be elected by the PCC in place of the Vicar should they not be focused on, or live in, Datchet

Church Branch : Has 5 trustees - which **must** include the Vicar and the 2 churchwardens . The income received can only be used for repairs and maintenance of the Church and grounds excluding the boundary wall (currently under discussion with CC to include this.) The accumulated funds are often far greater than the sums paid out; the last major significant expense was the repair to the steeple in 2016. Codicils added in the early noughties allow for the Utilities (not phone) to be paid. During Coivid the Stag was unable to trade and an agreement was reached with the lease holders regarding reduction of rent for a period.

Governor duties currently at both Churchmead and St Mary's C of E school

Datchet United Charities Committee

This is a charity made up of several smaller ones and which distributes small grants to those demonstrating a need for it for their wellbeing,

Director of the Bridge Ecumenical Centre. The Bridge is a self supporting company, registered with Companies House. It serves the community in many ways, provision of refreshments, a meeting place, a place to talk to someone and a resource of information. It is run ecumenically and volunteers operate the service on a rota basis. The building is leased from the Parish Council and has privately rented accommodation, which has in the past been used for the Youth worker upstairs.

Appendix 7 The Vicarage

The ground floor has a large study by the front door, a dining room, a large living room opening onto the terrace. There is a brand-new kitchen and utility room, a small room that could be a fourth bedroom or an extra study and downstairs WC. Upstairs, there are two large bedrooms, a small bedroom and a bathroom. The ground floor has been re-carpeted. There is also a garage and a conservatory.





Appendix 8

The Church Community Centre, Datchet

St Mary's Church Community Centre, CCC for short, was built in 2014 after a huge fundraising drive and at a cost of @ £300,000. It is much appreciated by the congregation and is used every Sunday by the choir, and for coffee and tea after the service, also for Messy Church and other activities, and Lay-led or more informal worship on occasions (particularly when it is cold outside as it is warmer than Church)

The CCC has a flexible working space with a soundproof folding partition which can be used to divide the room allowing for two events to be held at the same time.

It is also used by groups in the community, such as the regular PiYo & keep fit classes, parties, groups for meeting and other uses. A donations to the Church funds is made rather than a fee charged. We will be reviewing this policy during 2024 now that the building is 10 years old. The CCC has a kitchen, toilets (one disabled) and baby changing facilities.



Appendix 9

Datchet Miscellaneous

Parish Office & Administrator

Fiona Norton Started working as the Parish Administrator at St. Mary's Church in March 2007, so has now been the Parish Administrator for 18 years. She has proven to be a valuable person and asset over that period, and ensure continuity as far as possible. Fiona works part time, usually Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 /10am to 3:30/4:00pm .

The Office is situated to the end of the Vicarage and has a separate entrance and separate letter box. It is not the most ideal work environment for anyone , being built before current H & S rules applied, and lone working is a growing concern which the PCC wish to address ASAP

Population data Census '21

Datchet

- 5,139 Population [2021] - Census
- 6.667 km² Area
- 770.8/km² Population Density [2021]
- 0.45% Annual Population Change [2011 → 2021]

Datchet: village in the United Kingdom - Local dialing code: 01753 - Postal code: SL3 - Near waters: River Thames

South East England Region 8,000,645 8,634,750 9,278,065

Source: UK Office for National Statistics (web).

Explanation: Parishes as at May 2022. All population and corresponding area figures of parishes are based on assigning output areas by using population-weighted centroids. Thus, slight discrepancies are possible compared to the actual parish boundaries that are depicted in the map. No population figures (and the actual area) are provided for parishes smaller than output areas.

Further information about the population structure:

Males	2,478
Females	2,660

0-17 years	1,052
18-64 years	3,176
65+ years	910

80+ years	221
70-79 years	430
60-69 years	520
50-59 years	790
40-49 years	786
30-39 years	712
20-29 years	538
10-19 years	551
0-9 years	590

UK	4,019
EU	402
Europe (other)	45
Middle East & Asia	155
Africa	408
Other country	103

White	3,677
Asian	1,038
Black	58
Arab	37
Mixed/multiple	195
Other ethnic group	134

Christian	2,442
Muslim	304
Hindu	235
Sikh	502
Buddhist	18
Jewish	9
Other religion	25
No religion	1,330

REGULAR WORSHIP PATTERNS

Day	Week	Time	Style of worship	Average Attendance
Sunday	1st	8:00am	Holy Communion (Usually BCP)	5
Sunday	1,2, & 4	9:30am	Sung Eucharist (<i>usually with robed choir</i>)	34
Sunday	3rd	11:00am	Informal Lay - Led (no communion)	34
Sunday	4th	6:30pm	Choral Evensong	20
Sunday	5th	9:30am / 11am	Currently still holding a JOINT service with St Thomas Colnbrook: time is whichever church is hosting	33
Wednesday	1st	11:00am	Holy Communion	6
Thursday	Last of month	11:00am	Eton House Residential Home	N/A
Remembrance	Closest to 11th Nov	10am	Civic Service with RBL , Parish Council and uniformed organisations	300

A Parish in transition

As mentioned previously, the Deanery has been working on re-organising the way the parishes are grouped to enable more cohesion, more geographical proximity and greater opportunity to work in partnership, collaboratively.

Datchet was part of the Benefice, Colnbrook with Datchet, which was suspended as a benefice for two years at the beginning of the year. This was as a first step to facilitate the movement of Colnbrook to Horton & Wraysbury Benefice and Datchet to join Eton, Eton Wick with Boveney, and Dorney: The post this Profile is being used for is not related to this now defunct Benefice, but we are still in transition whilst we move through the legal stages required to confirm the membership of the new benefice, Datchet, Eton, Eton Wick, Boveney and Dorney

The PCC had agreed to move forward on this proposal and in April we met with members of the PCCs and leadership of the existing benefice of Eton, Eton Wick, Boveney and Dorney at St Mary's. It was a very positive and encouraging meeting - already signs of collaboration were sprouting in the offer to include Datchet on the website (with separate pages etc) which was a great relief and blessing - although we have not as yet, formally agreed to this. We are a little low on human resources to develop a new website which we have

been planning to do, but have had greater priorities to manage over the past year during the incumbents' extended leave.

On the initial meeting it seems we have much in common and appears that there are good foundations to build upon. Of course it will be challenging at times as we negotiate through the processes and we are aware that the needs of each parish may not be the same, but are looking forward to working collaboratively and supportively, together, finding the middle path through when a need to do so arises.

So whilst the legalities and intricacies to forming the new benefice are managed, we will support the new minister and our sister parishes in Prayer and Fellowship in particular, but are keen to work towards a common path and understanding, together.

*All things in God's time -
we put our trust
and faith in Him*



REFLECTIVE Service Installation
Water in the Desert



Churches Together in Datchet Walk of Witness 2024



One of our parishioner receiving Maundy Money in 2021



Bereavement Service Candles

Church

is



the

People of God