

The Cherwell Valley Benefice

Ardley with Fewcott

Fritwell

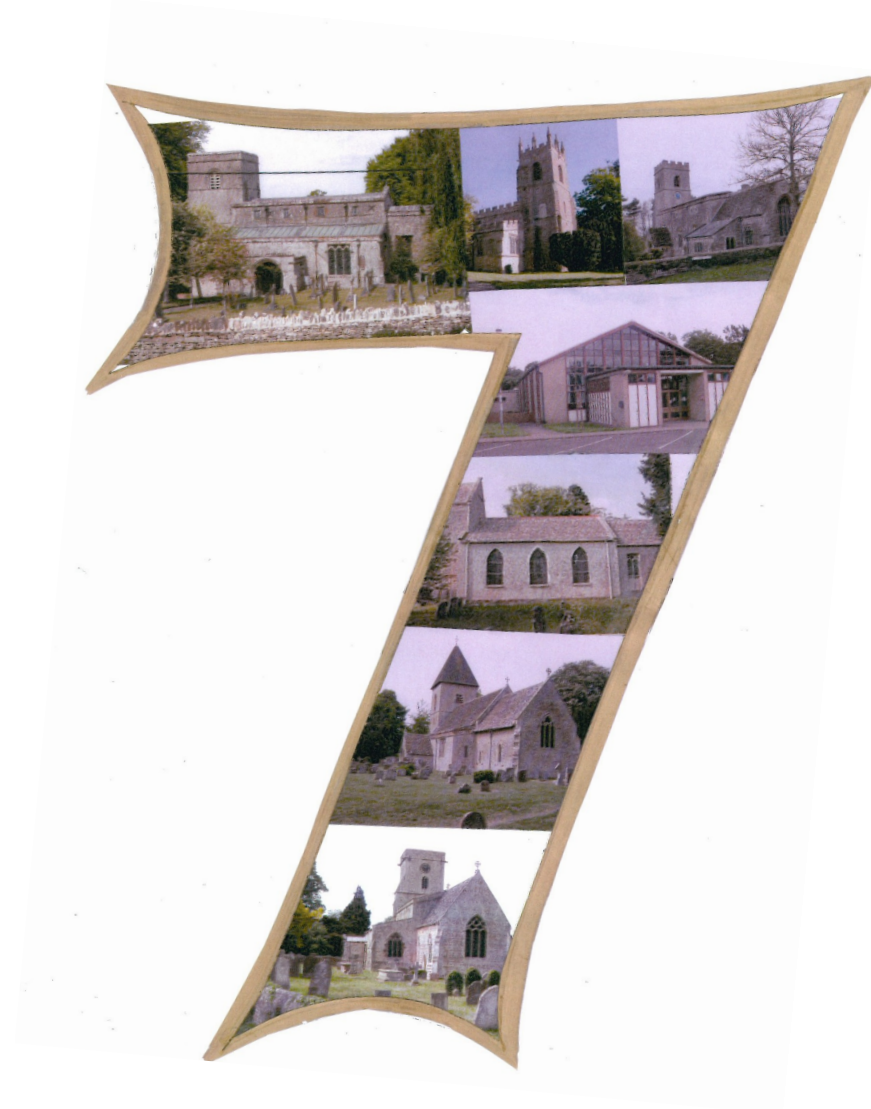
Lower Heyford
with Caulcott

Somerton

Souldern

Upper Heyford

Heyford Park



In the Diocese of Oxford

Dear potential applicants

I am delighted that you are reading this profile and encourage you to pray about whether this position might be the role to which God is now calling you.

The benefice is not just a beautiful place (although it certainly is that)! It's a place where people of all ages and backgrounds live out their lives in this fast-paced world.

The benefice prayer is therefore clear. They are praying for a new Team Rector who is a 'people person': someone who is down to earth, approachable and able to lead and develop a team; someone with a passion to reflect the image and hospitality of God to everyone.

There's a wonderful hope expressed in these pages that, just as the Cherwell valley is nourished by many streams, so might the church communities themselves become increasingly like streams of living water, nourishing others.

There are plenty of opportunities in and across the parishes and communities to work towards making this image a reality. If you are someone who appreciates the value of being a pastoral presence and would be keen to bring your experience, energy and enthusiasm to lead and share in new initiatives and existing activities this could well be the place for you.

And you won't be on your own in this. The benefice recognises that this is a fulfilling but challenging role for the right person. They will offer support through the current ministry team, through well organised and efficient parishes, through being willing to try new things, through respecting your time for rest, renewal and retreats and by making sure you are never short of cake!

You will find a friendly deanery with supportive colleagues. Our episcopal area and diocese are in good heart, expectant for all that God will do and thankful for all that God is doing.

Please pray about whether you might be the right minister to join us. If you decide to apply, I would be delighted to receive your application for this key position and look forward to the possibility of welcoming you as a potential colleague and partner in the Gospel.

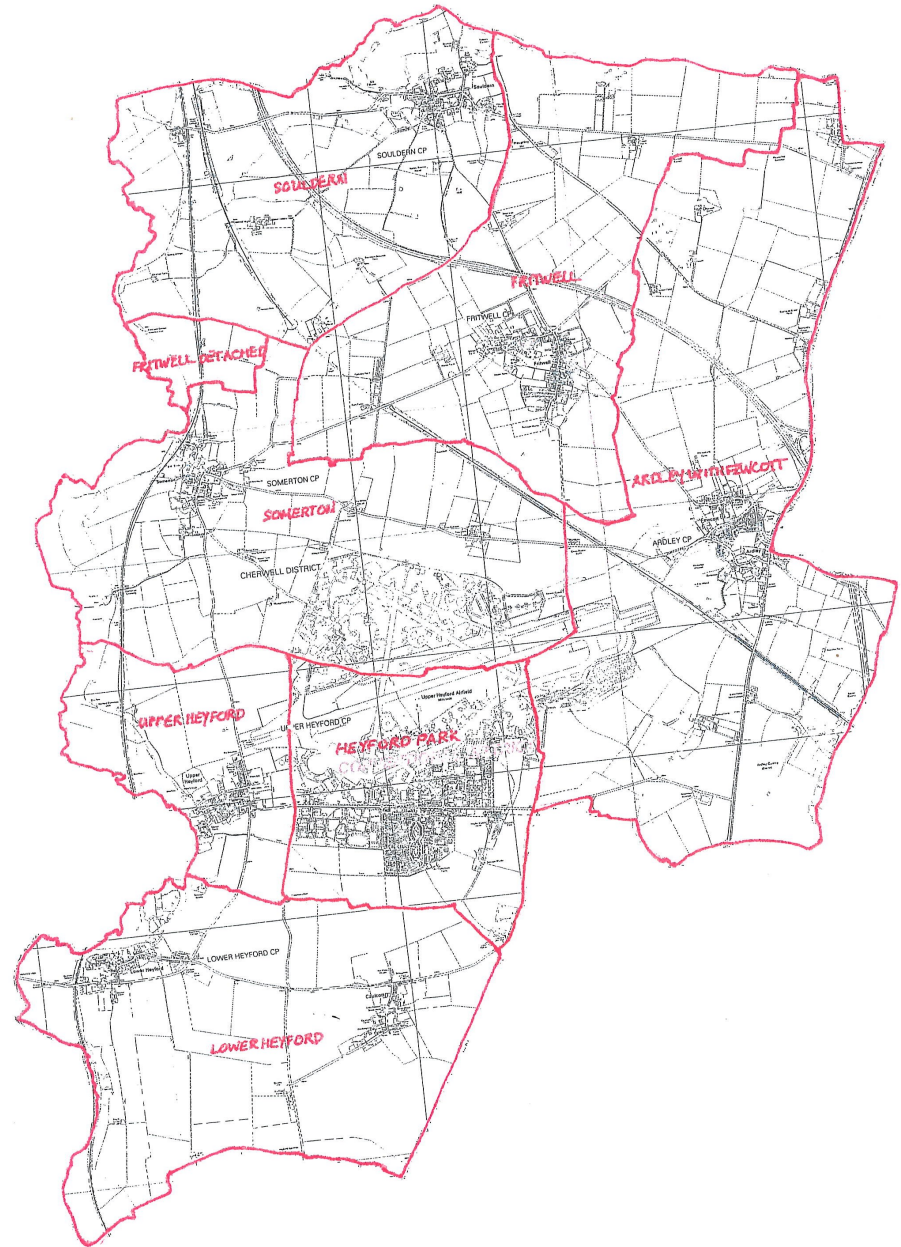
With every blessing

+ Gavin Dorchester



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WELCOME

We are delighted that you have taken the time to read about our Benefice. It's a great place to live with stunning countryside, small villages and the rapidly expanding area of Heyford Park. The people who live here are friendly with a lot of social life and good schools.

On the east bank of the River Cherwell from the village of Souldern in the north to Lower Heyford in the south we are in easy reach of the City of Oxford, Banbury and Bicester which allows access to leisure opportunities.

Our benefice is more than just a place; it has families that support each other in our fast changing world, change that is taking place in employment, housing, education and transport. Here in the benefice our aim is to become a part of community life, with a wide range of social events and gatherings throughout the year and to provide opportunities for worship to our people.

We are committed to serving the needs of our local community and hope that this profile will bring us to life and hope that you will be interested in taking us on the next stage of our journey and will encourage you to find out more.



OUR BENEFICE

The Cherwell Valley Benefice is set in a beautiful patchwork of villages, water meadows and fields, with good access to shopping and culture in Oxford, Bicester and Banbury.

Set among the 6 Cotswold stone villages and country pubs of the valley is the growing community of Heyford Park, on the site of the former Heyford airbase. A conventional district Heyford Park is currently experiencing large scale housing growth. This requires us to be flexible in responding to change without losing sight of traditional values.

We have started the process of updating our vision, to show us how best our benefice might thrive for Christ and grow its connection and witness to the parishes we serve. There is energy and positive commitment to continuing this process and we look forward to having your support and leadership alongside us.

Each parish has a PCC but there are regular combined meetings of church wardens with a willingness to co-operate for the mutual good and plan collaboratively.



OUR PARISHES

The Benefice has six parishes and one conventional district (population numbers are from the 2021 census):

Ardley with Fewcott 740 residents

Fritwell 711 residents which includes a House for Duty Vicar located within the village

Lower Heyford & Caulcott 484 residents

Somerton 281 residents

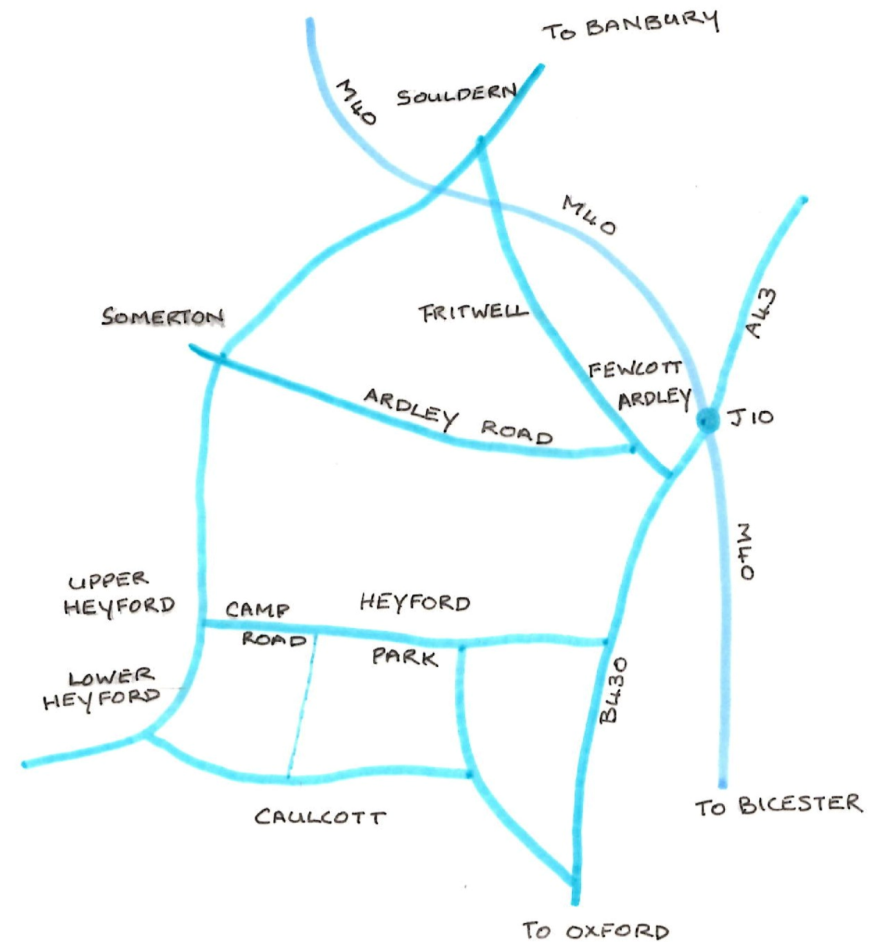
Souldern 398 residents

Upper Heyford 333 residents

Heyford Park 821 residents (the current population is probably nearer to 2,000 as the area is experiencing large scale housing growth— see the Heyford Park page for further information).

In addition to the House for Duty Vicar there is also an Associate Priest

Our parish churches span the breadth of Anglican tradition, with modern, traditional, and non-traditional services found in the regular pattern of worship. Our churches are actively engaged in the life of the villages they serve, working alongside other community and voluntary organisations. Many parishioners are prepared to support fund-raising events and other activities associated with the church as their contribution to our ministry and mission, even if they are not regular worshippers.



MISSION AND OUTREACH

Key to our thinking for mission and outreach is engaging in the wider community and particularly with the influx of young working families who are now moving into the villages and Heyford Park where we also see a real need to grow the church alongside the fast expanding population.

We have a good relationship with the two schools in the area and hope to increase our partnership with them in the future.

The list below gives you some idea about the sort of events that we are currently doing to engage with the wider community.

- Pet services
- Cream teas
- Lent courses
- Study groups
- Art exhibitions
- Flower festivals
- Curry & Quiz evenings
- Concerts
- Barbecues
- Churchyard clear-ups
- Wild Worship
- Choir
- Bell ringing
- Food bank support



THE MINISTRY TEAM



Vicar (House for Duty) - Rev Kath Cooke (part-time)

I'm married to Phil and we have two children in their twenties who are (mostly!) no longer living at home. I grew up in Essex and before ordination worked with adults with learning difficulties & as a childminder. Phil works for Oxford Diocese where he heads up LLM and authorised ministry training. We moved to Cherwell Valley in 2024, having previously been associate ministers in Abingdon. I enjoy walking, reading, Zumba in Fritwell and meals with family & friends.



Associate Priest—Andrew Foran (part-time)

For the majority of my full-time ministry I have been a prison chaplain culminating in a post in a prison near Bicester. After several years in this post I retired in 2018. Since then, whilst assisting the Cherwell Valley Benefice with a significant range of priestly duties, I have also trained as a Registered Councillor, working for several agencies. I enjoy travel, walking and music, including choral singing. Tending to my strawberries and tomatoes keeps me sane.



Benefice Administrator—Barbara McGarry

I have been the Benefice Administrator for the past 15 years and work part-time. I am based in the Benefice office in Heyford Park. I work closely with the PCC's and congregations across the Benefice and am only too happy to help out where I can.

I am also instrumental in the running of the family worship at Souldern where I live.



Benefice Treasurer—Philip Boxall

I took on the role of Benefice Treasurer 5 years ago, dealing principally with Parish Share, Diocesan Fees and the costs of the Benefice office. I am in my second year as churchwarden of Lower Heyford & Caulcott, and also play the organ both there and on occasion elsewhere in the Benefice. I am interested in classical music, both as used in worship but also as a means of fundraising and community outreach.



Team Rector—your role

The Team Rector leads the ministry team and conducts services in all our churches, in various worship styles. We are seeking a Team Rector who actively engages in existing outreach, mission, and discipleship activities, and provides pastoral ministry throughout the benefice, with support from the ministry team and the PCCs. Currently, we are specifically looking for someone to help us in developing our vision for engaging with the communities of the benefice and who has the enthusiasm to grow new initiatives, particularly in areas where the communities are rapidly expanding.

OUR WORSHIP—SUNDAYS

A TYPICAL SUNDAY ROTA

	Ardley St Mary	Fritwell St Olave	Lower Heyford & Caulcott St Mary	Somerton St James	Souldern Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary	Upper Heyford St Mary	Heyford Park The Chapel
1	9.30am 1662 HC		11am 1662 HC	6pm Evensong	10.30am Wild Worship	9:30am Family Communion	4:00pm Taize (Mar-Sept)
2	9.30am Family Communion	8.30am 1662 HC	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Sunday Club	11am Sung Communion		
3	9.30 MP	9.30 Family Communion	11.00 Family Worship	11am Matins/HC			
4	9.30am Lay-led Family Service	6pm Evensong	11am Family Communion	9.30am Family Communion	10.30am Family Church w HC	9.30am 1662 Holy Communion	
5	Benefice Communion Service (Rotating round the Parishes)						

OUR WORSHIP—MIDWEEK

SINGING & RINGING

MID-WEEK SERVICES

10am Mid-Week Communion Service at Heyford Park Chapel

(On alternate Wednesdays)

Recorded Morning Prayer on Tuesdays

10:45 Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at Heyford Park Chapel

(Including Lent & Advent courses)

SINGING & RINGING

7:30pm on Wednesdays Choir Practice at ABVM Souldern

Bell Ringing Practice at St James, Somerton and other local churches

OUR WORSHIP—Groups



Create Faith in Art evolved following a local art exhibition held in 2011 at Souldern Church as part of a Benefice mission week. It is a group of like-minded people of varying experience and media preferences who enjoy expressing their faith through art and creativity.

The group meets once a week and projects have included creative support for Christian charities, seasonal Christian festivals and exhibitions and experimenting and sharing different media and ideas. Equally important is the shared Christian fellowship.



Bible Study Group



Meets weekly at
Heyford Park Chapel
On Wednesdays at 10:45am
Lent & Easter courses
Are also run as part of the Bible
Study group

Somerton Bell Ringers



The Somerton bellringers are mainly from Somerton but also from surrounding villages. They ring at Sunday services, weddings and other special occasions.

Souldern Church Choir



The choir sing regularly at the Souldern Sung Communion service and also at special services including the Christmas Carol Service.

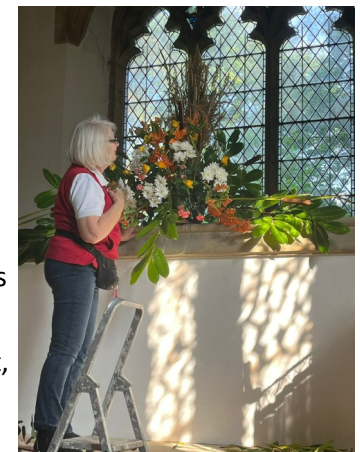
Concerts are always a special treat and funds raised at these are either donated to the church and to other charitable funds.

Lower Heyford Singers & Souldern Choir team up for a Christmas Concert



Flower Arrangers

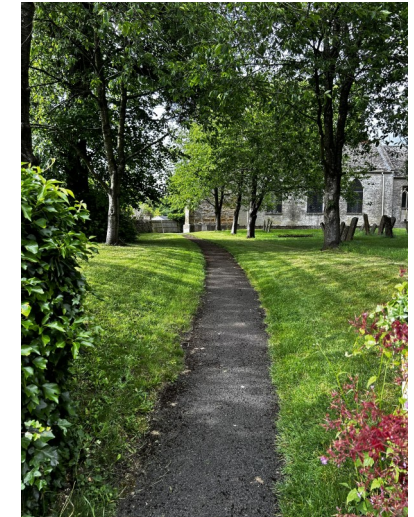
Our churches always look lovely thanks to the willing volunteers who regularly arrange fresh flowers and keep the buildings clean. This is particularly the case at special times such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.



ARDLEY WITH FEWCOTT—St Mary

The Village

The village lies just off junction 10 of the M40, with a population of around 740. The original villages of Ardley and Fewcott were farming and quarrying communities, however, sizeable housing developments bridged the villages to form one large village. There's a well-equipped village hall that seats 110 people which holds a weekly Community Café and exercise classes, along with annual events such as a garden produce fete and Christmas parties. It has a playing field with a children's play area and well-supported football club. There's a thriving, family friendly, public house hosting coffee mornings, twice-weekly eat-in or take-away food trucks, book club, quiz, screen for major sports events and seasonal celebrations. There is a nature reserve popular for dog walking. "The Fewcott Fuel Allotment Charity" gives grants to students and other people in need residing in the village, with the Rector representing the Church.



The Church

Despite Ardley with Fewcott being one of the largest parishes, it has the smallest church, although always with a warm welcome. St Mary's is a Grade II listed Saxon church with strong Norman influences. There is off-road parking, a Churchyard and a further field for parking/future graves. The Churchyard is largely maintained by voluntary help, along with twice annual working parties. Inside there is a small gallery containing a now redundant, small pipe organ. The maternal grandfather of Flora Thompson, author of "Lark Rise to Candleford", used to play the violin in the Choir-Band which sat in this gallery. The Church seats around 80 with an improved vestry, chairs rather than pews making it easier for functions, a servery and lavatory. The Church is kept unlocked during daylight hours in the summer only.

Worship

Sunday services each month include a 1662 Communion, Common Worship Communion, Morning Prayer and a lay-led Family Service. There are 26 currently on the electoral roll and average Sunday attendance is eight, although at special occasions the congregation can exceed 40-50. The preference of most of the congregation is towards a low church, evangelical tradition of worship. While it is believed the Church has much to offer the village community, the immediate priority is to find ways to encourage more worshippers and supporters, ideally with a wider age profile.

FRITWELL—St Olave



Fritwell is a thriving, rural community with a population of about 700. It maintains many of the traditional village aspects with much of the village designated a conservation area. Village facilities include a CofE primary school, village hall, and popular butchers/post office. There are several village organisations and interest groups. A small housing development is in progress on the edge of the village.

The Grade II* listed church enjoys a peaceful setting within the village. The churchyard is closed to new burials but a civic cemetery is adjacent to the lychgate. St Olave's is one of the few churches in this country which are dedicated to the Norwegian St Olaf, and has several interesting architectural features, with parts of the building dating from the mid-12th century. It can currently seat 120 people and is open daily.

In addition to Sunday Services, major festivals such as Christmas and Easter attract a wider congregation. After-service refreshments are made available whenever appropriate. The installation of kitchen, servery, and toilet facilities, means that the church is able to host activities such as musical concerts, fundraising and social events. The church plays an active role within the village community, and has a mutually supportive relationship with the local Wesleyan Reform Chapel.

Whilst we value our small core congregation and wider community support, we are very aware of the need to extend our ministry to attract new, or returning, worshippers to our church and see this as a priority. In addition, there are major and on-going challenges with the aisle roofs and the plaster ceiling in the nave and the necessary fundraising this will entail.



LOWER HEYFORD & CAULCOTT—St Mary

St Mary's serves a population of c500. Lower Heyford & Caulcott is the southernmost Parish in the Benefice. The church is probably the most significant building in the village. As well as being the worship focus for the regular congregation and a location for significant events such as weddings and funerals which are often very well attended by the village community, the church is used by residents who pop in, and visitors who pass by from all over the world. A number of villagers visit the church yard to attend graves, get exercise or simply sit. There were around 900 church service attendances in 2024 and over 500 further footfall from other visitors and activities in the church. It is estimated that around 700 different individuals used the church at least once during the year.

Including a monthly lay led service, there is a service every Sunday at St Mary's, which the PCC holds to be important. Although only numbering about a dozen, most faces of the core worshipping community are seen most Sundays, at the different services across the monthly rhythm. We aim to offer a warm and family-friendly welcome. With the benefit of a small kitchen and toilet, we offer coffee and homemade cake after the morning service. The PCC has been trialling a weekday toddler friendly story telling/all age coffee morning.



The improving weather in June meant that the Little Fishes story of feeding the Five Thousand, with fish shaped biscuits and coffee for all, could take place outside in the churchyard.

Fundraising and community outreach events over the last year or so have included a range of concerts, a flower festival, an informal choir at the carol service and silver band in the square for community carols. Young people have helped with the churchyard maintenance as part of their DofE.

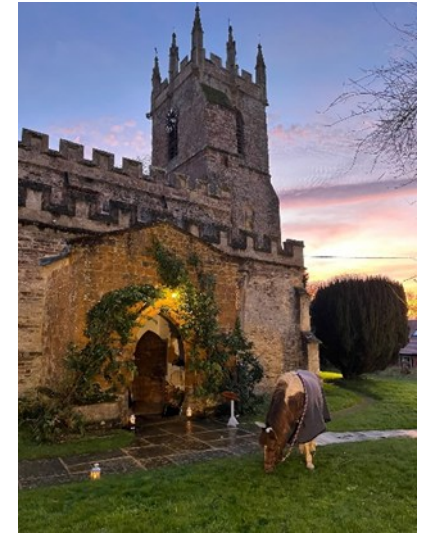
As a PCC we are conscious that St Mary's future as a living village church is dependent on our connection, service and witness to those around us. We are looking to maintain and widen our community presence and welcome in new faces.

Attractively positioned alongside the river and canal, the parish has two pubs and a sports and social club. The (unmanned) Heyford Station, offering local connections to mainline services at Oxford and Banbury, is used by a considerable number of commuters.

SOMERTON—St James



Somerton is a small village with an exceptionally strong community in a spectacular setting in the Cherwell Valley. The ancient, Grade 1 listed church of St James is open daily to visitors and is the centre for the village's spiritual life and a focus for social activities.



Our magnificent building has benefited from a generous bequest and significant grants. These have been used for major maintenance and to provide a WC and servery.

The current PCC is strong, giving effective and active support to both church and village life. Ongoing challenges include fundraising to cover our current costs and filling the building with life.



SOULDERN—The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Village

A Cotswold stone village with many pretty cottages and listed buildings including Souldern Manor, much of which is set in a conservation area. From the 2021 census there were 398 residents who enjoy social events both in the Village Hall and the local pub, The Fox. There are many wells in the village and the village pond, fed by a spring, has never run dry – the outflow from the pond runs down by the lane and passes the church.

Villagers are very supportive and generous towards the church and also help with the maintenance of the churchyard which is partly closed and partly open.



Worship

Currently first and last Sunday services every month are family focused – Family Church with optional Communion and Wild Worship, both of these services are very successful. On the second Sunday Sung Communion is held where the Souldern Church Choir sing, they also sing occasionally at the other churches in the benefice. We are currently looking at a service for the remaining Sunday.

The Church

Often found on maps as St Mary's the correct name of this stone built church is 'Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary'. It is a Grade II* listed with the oldest part dating from the 12th Century. The pews are Victorian with the Chancel being rebuilt in 1896 by Ninian Comper, and the tower entirely rebuilt by G.F. Bodley in 1906 due to it leaning.

We currently have a faculty to install a WC, servery, new heating, and lighting – now we just need to raise the money!



UPPER HEYFORD—St Mary



Upper Heyford is a small village of around 700 people, and the closest parish in the Benefice to the new large development of Heyford Park. St Mary's church sits at the bottom of the village, where its twice monthly services (one BCP and one formal CW) attract a small but loyal congregation. Unlike other parishes, we do not currently have any lay-led services, but would like to start doing so, and would welcome a Rector who can encourage and empower new lay leaders to take this on.

Our challenge in the last couple of years has been the challenge of fundraising, both to cover ongoing costs such as our parish share (which the small congregation cannot on its own cover) and with the goal of funding essential repair works to the church fabric. We recognise the urgent need to grow our congregation and we have a heart for mission to the wider village community; again, we would love to have a Rector who can fill us with the confidence and encourage us to gain the skills we need to fulfil this calling.

Our Christmas services draw a larger congregation from the village and Heyford Park, with our formal Midnight Mass proving especially popular, and in recent years we have hosted a well-attended carol service at the village hall.



Remembrance Sunday is also hugely important in the life of St Mary's given its links with the former RAF and USAF site that is now home to Heyford Park; many visitors come each year to pay their respects to the 42 casualties of war who are buried in Upper Heyford's cemetery.

HEYFORD PARK—The Chapel

Heyford Park is a Conventional District with its own PCC distinct from Upper Heyford in which ecclesiastical parish it sits. The current place of worship is Heyford Park Chapel which is due to be replaced, possibly in a shared space, in the next three to five years. The hall, one of the largest indoor spaces on the site, is also hired for private and community events as well as being home to the Benefice office and Clean Slate, a charity working with victims of abuse. The Chapel has links with Heyford Park School and is used by them for special services and some of their larger projects.

Heyford Park is very different from the surrounding Parishes; it is, mainly, a new development, comprising private ownership, shared ownership and affordable rental properties, some of which are ex-military dwellings. The current population of around 2000 is set to increase to 8000 by 2040. There is also a light industrial sector based on the former RAF Upper Heyford airfield. It is expected that Heyford Park will eventually become a town.

The congregation attending the Eucharistic Worship on alternate Wednesdays is



currently small but growing. There are occasional services of Remembrance as well as Taizé during the summer months. These attract worshippers from across the Benefice along with local residents. The Chapel hosts the Benefice Lent and Advent courses plus a Craft and Bible Study Group.



The development of Heyford Park presents a challenging, unique and exciting opportunity to replant the Church in our community. The PCC are enthusiastic and already work with and in the community. We have close ties with the community centre next door hosting dance classes, various groups and Heyford Park Pantry. There are a growing number of families with children and they present an opportunity for mission in Heyford Park, which would bring them in to the wider loving Church family and the good news of Christ



THE RECTORY



The Rectory is located on the periphery of Heyford Park. Built approximately ten years ago, it is a five-bedroom home with an open plan kitchen and family area featuring integrated appliances and French doors, an adjacent utility room, sitting room with bay window, dining room, and study. On the first floor, master bedroom with en suite facilities and built-in wardrobes, a further en suite bedroom, and separate family bathroom. A paved area gives access to a small enclosed rear garden. Garage with ample parking and turning area.



OUR SCHOOLS

Fritwell Church of England Primary School

“Growing and learning together with God”

This popular, successful and happy school is a Voluntary Controlled Church School serving the whole benefice community. There are around 140 children in the school who are taught in five classes with mixed year groups, each child is special, nurtured and unique. The school provides wrap-around care, as well as a wide range of extra-curricular activities. The Christian ethos and clearly defined Christian values underpin everything that goes on in the school. There are close links with the village church; RE is embedded throughout school life; collective worship takes place daily and children plan and lead worship. The school also has a chaplain who works closely with staff and the clergy team. Recent Ofsted and SIAMS inspections have assessed us as a “Good” school, with ‘outstanding’ behaviour. For more information see www.fritwellprimaryschool.co.uk

A close working relationship exists between the school and the benefice, and in particular Fritwell church. The school uses Fritwell church for services and teaching. Advent, Easter and Pentecost workshops in the church have proved popular with the whole school. Clergy regularly lead whole school worship and participate in social events and special occasions in the school. The input of the church and clergy is welcomed by children, staff and governors in the school which seeks to serve the needs of the whole community in all its variety. The school enjoys working with the clergy on specific projects to bring the church and school closer together, for example most recently, establishing a church pupil leadership group and refreshing the school vision.

Heyford Park School

Offering all-through education from 4-19 Heyford Park School is a warm and welcoming school rated as ‘Good’ in the last Ofsted inspection. Pre-school and nursery provision are also available. The careful adaptation of the stunning RAF Officers’ Mess as the main school building retains a link to the heritage of Heyford Park. There is a positive relationship with Heyford Park Chapel and the clergy team, there are opportunities for clergy to lead assemblies and services such as Remembrance and Harvest. The school also uses for the Chapel for special events and services throughout the year. For more information see heyfordparkschool.org

TIMES & SEASONS – A time of Change

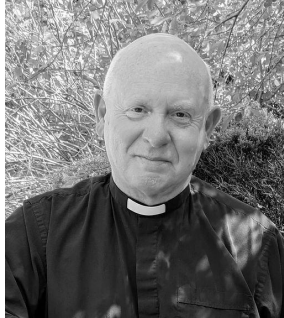
There are many things that we celebrate about our churches and parishes – this profile aims to show just some of these. Rooted in the beauty of the Cherwell Valley which is nourished by many streams, we pray that our church communities will increasingly be like streams of living water – bringing hope, refreshment and new life to all.

We hope and pray that you sense God's calling for you to explore further the great potential of this Benefice. As communities we are excited to see how we can journey further in the adventure of faith as we continue to seek God together.

As we look to the future we remain committed to growing in faith, serving our communities and sharing the love of Christ with all. We are noticing signs of hope and life and longing to join in with the work which God is already doing. In many ways it is a time of change bringing new opportunities, new challenges, and new hope across the Benefice

We are actively praying and listening to God, so that we grow together and encourage one another through this time as we seek the appointment of a new Team Rector.

THE DEANERY—Bicester & Islip



Gareth Miller
Area Dean

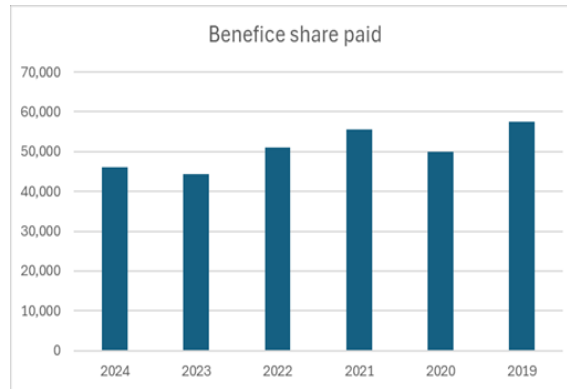
The Deanery of Bicester and Islip is a happy place, with good relations between clergy and lay people, who have a strong role in the leadership of the deanery. Bicester town is at the centre, and is surrounded by four largely rural benefices. There are five rectors and a number of other clergy and lay ministers. We meet together regularly as chapter and synod to pray and discuss the life of our parishes, and endeavour to address the issues that are of importance in the Church and in the world. We have 38 churches, most of them ancient, and buildings and finance are often on the agenda, but we also try to keep our focus on outward-looking matters. We are pleased to be part of the Dorchester Episcopal Area, and we get good support from our bishop, archdeacon, and the team at Church House.

OUR FINANCES

Our Benefice share for 2025 is £63,139. This is initially allocated between the 7 parishes equally i.e. about £9,000 each. However, some struggle to pay this whilst others contribute more if that they can. In practice we have managed to pay 75% to 80 %of our share in recent years, and it has been relatively stable at this level.

We are also blessed with a part-time paid administrator, who in good years has been funded (along with office and service expenses) from fee income. Post the pandemic, fee income (particularly weddings) has fallen – though shows signs of recovery in 2025 with 6 weddings booked - and the shortfall has been picked up by the parishes, in effect diverting money from parish share. Team expenses are also funded by the contributions from the parishes.

Summary of 2024 Benefice A/C	£
Parish contributions	53,400
Fee income	7,611
Donations for gifts	335
Total income	61,346
Team expenses	1,006
Administrator + office	12,079
Fee payments to diocese	1,598
Costs of services	411
Gifts	335
Other costs	1,055
Total expenses	62,484
Net expenditure	-1,138
Total reserves	1,096



Craft sales

Coffee Mornings

**Flower
Festivals**

BBQ's

Quiz Nights

PERSON SPECIFICATION—Team Rector

We are praying for a Team Rector who is welcoming and reflects God's hospitality in their attitudes and actions; someone who plays an active role in a rural community, is an effective communicator, understands people from various backgrounds, and has a visible pastoral presence. This person should be creative, energetic, enthusiastic, empathetic, respectful, and supportive.

The ministry team of the Cherwell Valley Benefice is led by the Team Rector who together with the Team Vicar (House for Duty) will lead services and minister pastorally throughout the Benefice and become involved in new initiatives and existing activities. Additionally, there is support from an Associate Priest who leads services and engages with the benefice. The administrator is also part of this central team.

We are seeking a prayerful priest who is able to:

- help to develop our vision of engaging with all the communities of the benefice and building the church in the rural villages and the fast-growing population of Heyford Park.
- reach out to people of all ages and walks of life, offering a pastoral presence and meeting people where they are, be it pub, club, street or school gate
- communicate effectively, including sharing the gospel message through words and actions and showing its relevance today
- be flexible in their approach to the different worshipping styles in our churches and have enthusiasm for new initiatives in the growing communities
- demonstrate the relevance of God's Word in today's world

Given the rural setting of our benefice, the ability to travel between parishes is important. Access to suitable transport will be necessary to fulfil the role effectively.

These are exciting times – older parishes with their changes and also the challenge of the fast-growing population of Heyford Park.

So, we are not asking much! Do you think you are up to it?

We do hope that you are that person.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

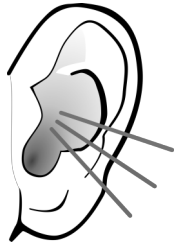
- a great location and rural environment with beautiful countryside walks yet with good transport links and within easy reach of Oxford, Banbury and Bicester
- a strong ministry team including a House for Duty team vicar, an associate priest, a benefice office and administrator, a benefice treasurer, and supportive churchwardens and PCCs
- diverse and engaging parishes yet ones that are well organised and work together efficiently and effectively, with a shared commitment to meeting challenges and a willingness to try new things
- a pledge from our friendly congregations to a ministry that's realistic and enjoyable by respecting your time for relaxation, family life, friendships as well as learning and development, renewal and retreats
- good links to schools within the benefice
- a modern 5-bedroom house at Heyford Park with schools nearby
- and lastly, and very importantly, some excellent cake makers!

Safeguarding

We have a Safeguarding Officer for the Benefice. All members of the ministry team, Churchwardens and those who have responsibility for children or vulnerable adults are DBS cleared. Church officers, parish leaders and PCC members are aware of the significance of safeguarding and the availability of training. We encourage wider training across all PCCs in order to promote good practice and the ethos of a safer church. A safeguarding report is issued quarterly.

We have reached a crossroads, a time of new opportunities, new growth and new enthusiasm

We are looking for someone who will help us move forward and achieve our goals. Someone who will



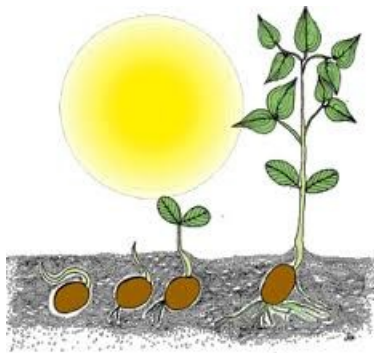
....listen, be understanding and approachable. Responsive to the needs of both church and community.



....be open to development and new directions enabling us to be courageous



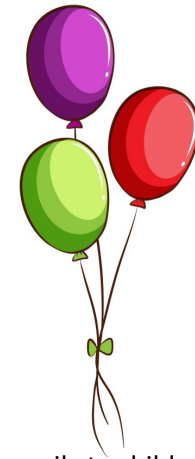
....be a team player, willing to share and develop ideas with others.



....develop confident leaders to enable us to grow deeper and increase our outward focus



....be active, oversee and enable spiritual growth, pastoral care and support



....relate easily to children, young people and families both inside and outside the church



....be bold and imaginative in developing multi-generational worship

AND FINALLY.....

Thank you for reading our profile
If you think God is calling you to our Benefice
and would like to find out more about us

We would love to meet you.

For an informal discussion, please contact Associate Archdeacon Jane Haslam at

jane.haslam@oxford.anglican.org

Loving God, we thank-you for Your constant presence, especially in this time of change.

Grant us patience, wisdom and unity as we seek Your will for the future.

We pray for all who serve, please give them strength, energy and times of rest.

Bless our communities with Your peace, joy and love.

Help us to trust in Your perfect timing and that you are already preparing the right person to come here as team rector.

May we continue to grow in faith to serve one another and You with joy

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen