

Headington Saint Andrew

Parish Profile

2025



St Andrew's Church from St Andrew's Road

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Headington St Andrew

Worshipping. Loving. Serving.

“Come follow me and I will make you fish for people.” *Matthew 4:19*

Introduction



There has been a place of worship on the site of St Andrew's in Headington for over 900 years. We are an ancient church, but more importantly we are a living community, here to follow Jesus Christ and serve the needs of our parish and local area now.

Vibrant, inclusive and diverse, we are a single-church benefice composed of people from all walks of life – including the two primary areas of our Parish, the Village of Old Headington and the Northway Estate, as well as others from around Oxford – who come together to worship Christ in the modern catholic

tradition. We are sustained by Scripture, the liturgy, and the sacraments, in which we encounter the reality of God's love and Christ's reconciliation in our lives, our community, and our world. Our worship together encourages us to go out into the world to live in the service of others: nurturing the next generation, caring for God's creation, and reaching out to those in our local community. We seek to be a visible presence of hospitality and welcome, praying that those who enter our space will know more of Christ's all inclusive grace and love.

We are now looking for a vicar who joyfully embraces and enacts God's love for all people. We pray this person will guide us in liturgy and prayer, nurture us with the sacraments and pastoral care, support our service to our community, and lead us into a deeper relationship with Christ.

Reflections on St Andrew's from the Bishop of Oxford

St Andrew's Headington is one of four parish churches which serves this key part of the city of Oxford and the Cowley Deanery. The parish is warm, welcoming and has been very well served by the recent parish priest and ministry team. A new incumbent will find excellent support within St Andrew's and for the wider community of Headington. There is openness to new vision and direction building on all that has gone before.

It will be particularly important for a new priest to bring gifts in education and formation both of adults and children and young people and a commitment to engage well with the schools in the parish. The next decade



will be one in which the distinctive parishes in Headington will want and need to work more closely together and so a desire to work collaboratively and bridge traditions will be helpful. There is significant transition each year within the Headington community and continual new possibilities for growth and outreach.

The Diocese of Oxford as a whole seeks to be a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world: more contemplative, compassionate and courageous. We very much welcome expressions of interest and applications for this key role and ministry.

Steven Oxford

The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft
Bishop of Oxford

Reflections on St Andrew's from the Area Dean

The Parish of St Andrews is key within the Deanery of Cowley. It has a tradition of enthusiastic and constructive engagement with the Anglican churches in the deanery and also ecumenical partners in Headington. It has an openness, offering warmth and hospitality to all. Following last year's Remembrance Day service a group of Rainbows (small Girl Guides) talked to me about the 'warm welcome' they experienced at St Andrew's. The children, parents and leaders all felt very cared for in the church.

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

The Chapter meets monthly and provides collegiality, support and a place for discussion and reflection. Although theologically diverse and serving a great variety of needs, we are very much a caring team.

The deanery is moving into a phase of change and discovery, where we see neighbouring parishes as colleagues working to build the Kingdom of God. We are working to prioritise and strengthen the relationships between Church, Schools and Home. As we move forward, we are looking to establish structures that are 'light footed' enough to resource church growth, whilst increasingly calling out, commissioning and honing the gifts of all believers. It is hoped that the new Vicar of St Andrew's will be able to share their experience and vision as we continue this journey.

There are ongoing conversations about how the parishes in Headington might work more closely together. Such possibilities will need to be investigated more fully in the coming months. Part of this conversation has considered how we might work more collaboratively in supporting children and families in the area.

There is excitement over the possibilities ahead alongside a commitment to support a colleague whom God is calling to serve in this place. I encourage you to consider the possibility that God is calling you to this role. We need a passionate, gifted, and Spirit-filled leader to journey with us.



Revd Canon Dr Geoff Bayliss
Area Dean Cowley

Our History

“How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” *Genesis 28:17*



One of our 900th Anniversary Windows by local artist Nicholas Mynbeer

For 900 years St Andrew’s church has brought the love and faith of Christ to the population of Headington. Like many ancient churches, the architecture of St Andrew’s is a wonderful mix of different styles including Norman, Romanesque, and Victorian. The glory of our church building is our Norman Chancel Arch. Even now, green, blue and red pigments from the Middle Ages painting appear on the stone of the Norman Arch when the sunlight streams in. Over its lifetime the building has been adapted and modernised in the way that all working buildings must be. Built to the glory of God and dedicated to Saint Andrew – the first disciple

called by Jesus – the building serves the needs of a twenty-first-century community of Christians.



The earliest known mention of the royal village of Headington is in a deed of King Ethelred, dated St Andrewside (7 Dec) 1004. Headington was a seat of royalty during the reigns of the later Anglo-Saxon Kings. King Ethelred is thought to have been christened here. Henry I (died 1135) was perhaps the last king to reside in the parish. According to an eminent historian, by the time St Frideswide founded her church in Oxford the nearest centre of government was Headington. The first reference to the church is in a Charter of Henry I in 1122.

St Andrew's Headington has had several patrons through the centuries. Until the suppression of the priory in 1542 the benefice of Headington was in the gift of the Prior and Canons of the Priory of Saint Frideswide. Thereafter the patron became successively Cardinal College, King Henry VIII College and finally Christ Church College. In 1545 the patronage was sold to John Browne who was by then lord of the manor of Headington and it remained with the manor until it passed into the hands of Keble College in 1928.

Within the priest's sacristy, you will find a list of Vicars, which is incomplete. While it does not begin until long after the first mention of the church, the list does continue without a break through the Reformation Period.

Our previous incumbent led the parish through several historic changes, including the welcoming of women priests to the altar, the Covid-19 pandemic, and our 900th anniversary.

In 2009, the parish took the decision at the retirement of the then incumbent to pass resolutions concerning the ministry of women priests. In 2017, after slowly introducing the presence of female leadership in our liturgy – as ordinands on placement, a deacon at our patronal festival, and preachers – the PCC decided to end the resolutions and shortly after that point, our current NSM priest (now licensed to the parish) celebrated mass at our Thursday evening service. The change was implemented carefully and gradually and no one left the church over the decision. We are a parish that wholeheartedly supports the priestly ministry of both women and men.

The story of St Andrew's throughout its history is one of hospitality and service within the Headington community. We are proud that our doors are open all day, every day and that people come in from the local community as well as the John Radcliffe Hospital to sit in prayer, light a candle, and find a place of peace. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we ensured that daily mass was said and prepared weekly prayer guides for all and lectionary-based activity packs for our young people. A parishioner who works for a lighting company lit up the church throughout the lockdown making it a beacon of hope and prayer, visible from the windows of the JR Hospital and to the local community on their daily walk. With all safety precautions and risk assessments in place, we were the first church in the Deanery to open its doors for prayer on 5 July 2020.



St Andrew's Church as a beacon of hope during the Covid-19 Pandemic

St Andrew's is guided by a liturgical rhythm of worship kept throughout our week. Morning and Evening prayer are said in the church Monday-Friday, with the Eucharist offered on Monday and Wednesday mornings. In our main Sunday Eucharist – we have two Sunday masses: 8am BCP and 10am Sung Common Worship – our choir raise their voices to the glory of God, while our growing Young Church meets to learn of Christ's love for them.

Who We Are Today

Our Values:

Worship of God rooted in the modern catholic tradition

At the heart of our community is our commitment to worship God through the sacrament, prayer, and music. Our worship is centred on the Eucharist and the Daily Offices, which are kept throughout the week. The beauty of our sacramental worship seeks to reflect the overwhelming beauty of God's love for us, and to bring God's holiness into our midst.



Benediction for Corpus Christi at St Andrew's

Sacraments and liturgy, with preaching that expounds the Gospel for us today

The Eucharist is at the heart of our gathering as a community on Sundays and during the week. We regularly celebrate baptisms and weddings, and our clergy visit



The Altar of Repose

the sick in our local care homes and hospitals, offering last rites. We value liturgy that is to the glory of God, led with confidence and clarity, and not fussy or precious. We are grateful for a well-maintained, cared-for, and uncluttered church. We value preaching based on the lectionary which expounds the Gospel for our lives today. We enjoy hearing sermons from the different priests who minister in our parish.

Nurturing the next generation through our growing Young Church and the formation of ordinands and curates

Formation is one of our core values and we seek to nurture the next generation of Christian leaders, both through our work sharing the Gospel with children in Young Church, and through our identity as a training parish. In addition to training curates, who have become a close and valued part of our church family, we regularly welcome ordinands on placement or preaching from St Stephen's House, Wycliffe Hall, and Ripon College Cuddesdon, and we have a Parish Intern



A Curate's First Mass at St Andrew's

jointly with our Patron, Keble.



Young Church at St Andrew's

We seek to walk alongside one another in personal and corporate formation. Each September, a group of faithful pilgrims from St Andrew's goes on an annual pilgrimage to Walsingham. We have a growing Young Church programme (more on this below) with an average of 11 young people at our 10am service every Sunday, sometimes as many as 20. One of our additional weekday ministries is a toddler group that reaches out to local families and carers (see Little Fishes below). We are committed to the schools in our Parish,

especially St

Andrew's Church of England Primary School where numerous people from our Sunday congregations have served as governors, including our previous incumbent, who was the chairman of the governors for most of his time with us. We welcome children from St Andrew's School to the church throughout the year and maintain a strong, positive relationship with the school's Headteacher.



St Andrew's School at Christmas

Visible presence in Headington



*View from the church doors
to the White Hart Pub*

One of our core values is being a visible presence of Christ's welcome and hospitality in Headington. We are visible from the JR Hospital in the parish and regularly welcome family members searching for a place of quiet and prayer. Numerous members of the local community are clear that St Andrew's is their parish church, even if they are not present on most Sunday mornings. We are committed to ensuring our doors are open all day.

A place of prayer for life's transitions

A significant number of people from the wider parish seek out St Andrew's to support them in life's transitions, both in joy and in sorrow. We celebrate many baptisms, confirmations, and weddings each year. We also give thanks for many of those departed from this life both, through funerals at the church and at the crematorium, only a few miles away in Barton. Many funeral directors based in Headington who trust the clergy of St Andrew's and regularly rely on us to support grieving families.



A Baptism at St Andrew's

Music

We place a high value on music in our parish community with an active parish choir to support our worship on Sunday mornings, major festivals, and holy days. We also, on occasion, host musical concerts for the wider community to enjoy. We enjoy singing as a congregation, embracing the words of St Augustine that the one who sings, prays twice. (For more detail on our musical life see below, page 21).

Who are some of the people in our community?

Clergy

St Andrew's is blessed with a number of clergy to support the incumbent in our Sunday and weekday services. We have been a training parish for the last 8 years and greatly enjoyed the ministry and leadership of our curates. Our current curate, Fr Luke Norman, is in the final year of his curacy with us and is helping to lead us through the interregnum period. Other clergy in the parish include Mtr Jenn Strawbridge, a NSM priest licensed to the parish who works during the week as a professor of New Testament studies at the University of Oxford. We also enjoy sharing the ministry of two priests recently retired to the parish and who have PTO, Mtr Ginny Thomas (most recently vicar of The Tew Benefice) and Fr Gordon Jeanes (most recently vicar of St Anne and St Faith, Wandsworth).



Christmas at St Andrew's

PCC

St Andrew's has an engaged and committed PCC whose membership incorporates a



APCM at St Andrew's

wide-ranging skill set. The PCC meets at least six times a year to conduct parish business. The diversity of the congregation is well represented in its PCC membership. As well as coming together to look after our building, and systems (sound, electrics), the PCC reviews how our worship, outreach and

activities are working to embody our Christian values. In 2024, the PCC unanimously voted to approve the use of *Prayers of Love and Faith* at St Andrew's.

The PCC recently had a fruitful and reflective retreat at Ripon College Cuddesdon to pray about and discuss where God is calling us as a church. Members of the PCC

have expressed interest in making such a retreat perhaps an annual event, to keep prayer, fellowship, and the voice of God central to our work as a PCC.

Administration

We are fortunate to have a Parish Administrator, which is a paid post. Our Parish Administrator currently works 8 hours per week in the vestry office and from home. Working under the guidance of the incumbent, churchwardens and PCC she runs the various functions of the parish office:

- Replying to emails
- Maintaining various parish databases and sending out material as required
- Filing and archiving
- Keeping posters, notices, leaflets and other material in the church up to date
- Assisting with the printing of weekly pew sheets and the monthly magazine



Snowdrops in our Churchyard



Harvest Lunch

- Maintaining the church calendar and maintenance schedules
- Ordering office supplies and maintaining the photocopier/printer

- Compiling some rotas for volunteer groups in the church

She also functions as secretary to the PCC, preparing the agenda, taking and distributing minutes and supporting documents as required as well as responding to emails and requests from the Diocesan office.

Parish Intern

In 2023, St Andrew's launched an exciting Parish Intern scheme in partnership with its patron, Keble College. This unique position is aimed at candidates in the discernment process for ordained ministry in the Church of England. Now in its second year, the Parish Intern programme offers



Keble College Chapel

individuals a combined experience of parish ministry and college chaplaincy. During the academic term, our intern spends most of their time at Keble, helping the chaplain with events and ministry aimed at the college and Chapel community. After a week in College, our intern joins us for our Sunday morning Eucharist, gaining experience in youth ministry, choral and music outreach, preaching, and parish life. Out of term time, the intern spends the full week in the parish. The aim is to expose the intern to as many aspects as possible of this broad and diverse ministry. The intern is line-managed jointly by the incumbent of St Andrew's and the Chaplain of Keble College.

What We Are Looking For



A Sunday at St Andrew's

Our new vicar will join a warm, varied, and faithful community that looks to follow Christ in all that we do. We are seeking someone who will joyfully enact the inclusive love of God in our parish and our community. This person will inspire us in their own close walk with God, their focus on prayer and sacrament, and their desire to share Christ with others through theological reflection and preaching. They will be warm,

approachable, and compassionate to all in and out of church. They will nurture and support our young people, in church and in our schools, and make a place for all in our worshipping community.

Below are some key values, skills, and personal traits that we are seeking in our new vicar:

Faith & Values

- Holds sacred the Eucharist and our liturgical pattern of catholic worship
- Preaches the Gospel with theological knowledge, wisdom, and clarity
- Combines theological insight and learning with simple, warm, approachable pastoral care
- Shows a deep commitment to our Young Church and our schools, understanding that Christ called the children to him
- Values the opportunity to nurture those in discernment; trains curates, interns, and ordinands with dedication
- Embodies the inclusive love of God for all people, regardless of gender, sexuality, class, or ethnicity



Our Chancel

Leadership

- Is visible, known and approachable throughout Headington
- Organised and efficient in running the parish, to best facilitate the focus on collective worship and fellowship
- Leads proactively but cooperatively; delegates, shares and listens to lay people and appreciates their gifts
- Embodies humility and is willing to seek help if overwhelmed
- Embraces and values us as we are as a community, while also guiding us in a future vision and leads us into deeper community with each other and Christ
- Is serious about safeguarding and protecting all those whom are vulnerable in our community

Personal Qualities

- Approachable, caring, compassionate, inclusive
- A good listener; curious, interested in parishioners and their stories
- Engages with all parts of congregation
- Wise and discerning, can recognise gifts in others and help them to discern their path with Christ
- Has joy and enthusiasm for our church, as well as an interest in people and a sense of humour
- Has sufficient musical ability to take a full part in the sung Eucharist on Sunday morning. (We are not expecting an operatic level of performance!)



Vicarage Garden Party

Our Worship

Our Worshipping Community

We at St Andrew's are a liberal, inclusive and affirming congregation. We are composed of people from all walks of life who seek Christ within the beauty of sacramental worship and Christian community.



St Andrew's Tower

A friendly and committed church, we seek to ensure that anyone who comes through our doors is greeted with the warmth and dignity that Jesus exemplified in his ministry. Our beautiful and historic church building offers an atmosphere of quiet sanctity and respite from the busy nature of modern life. We are a church made up of God's people: lively children and families, adults of all ages, people with longstanding connections to the church, and

others, including students, nurses, doctors, and academics, who have joined us for a fixed period of work in Oxford. Whoever you are, there is a place for you at St Andrew's and we welcome all into the rich history of Christian worship and fellowship in our church.



Coffee after Mass in the Church Room

Worship

St Andrew's liturgy is deeply sacramental in the modern catholic style. At the core of our worshipping life is the Eucharist and the Daily Office as we seek to respond to the God who in Christ is reconciling the world to Himself. Morning and Evening Prayer is said publicly most days and in addition to the two Sunday services, the Eucharist is celebrated on Monday (CW)



Our Nave Altar

and Wednesday (Prayer Book). During the interregnum the PCC have suspended the Thursday evening Eucharist (CW). We would like to see it resume and possibly take the role of a Healing Service, which it has been in times past. Attendance for Weekday masses average between 4–10 communicants.

On Sundays the 8am Eucharist is said according to the Prayer Book. This is a quiet and contemplative service, with usually 8–12 communicants.

Our Sung Parish Eucharist then begins at 10am, with a tradition of concelebration and a full team of servers. A variety of congregational mass settings are sung and the choir sings an anthem. Vestments are worn at all Eucharists, the Sacrament is reserved and incense is used at Festivals. The church has a strong tradition of high quality preaching, which is intelligent, informed and challenging, while being accessible to all.



Our Lady Chapel



Reserve Sacrament

The 2024 Electoral Roll stands at 104, which represents a good increase this year. The average Sunday attendance is 70, with 10–15 under 16s. There is a wide age range of worshippers, including many regular young families who make up a vibrant Young Church community. We have several committed volunteer teams, including servers, readers, intercessors, sidespeople, first responders, a coffee and hospitality team, and dedicated music and flower arranging teams, all of whom work to support our shared worshipping life.

A majority of those on the electoral roll are resident within the parish. The rest are residents of other parts of Headington, with a small number of people from other areas of Oxford who have a special connection or commitment to our church and have chosen to be a part of our community.

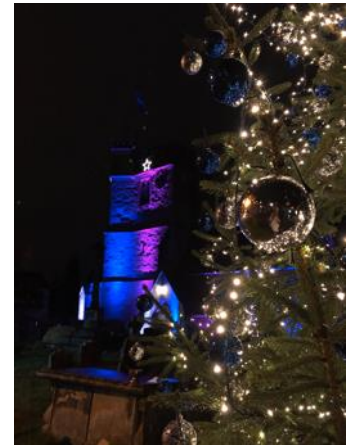
Festivals



Our Crib

Within our catholic liturgical style of worship, festivals are focal points for St Andrew's throughout the Church year. Each festival is an opportunity to celebrate and meditate upon important parts of the Christian faith.

Christmas is one of our busiest seasons, which brings large numbers from the local community in the church doors for our services. St Andrew's offers a variety of services and celebrations of the holiness of Christmas. We come together for carols in the churchyard for the lighting of the village Christmas Tree, after which our local pub provides mince pies and hot chocolate. We always welcome new faces to our Lessons and Carols, our children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve, our beautiful Midnight Mass, as well as our Eucharist on Christmas Day.



The Village Tree in our Churchyard

Holy Week and Easter follow the traditional liturgical



The Easter Garden

pattern and form the holiest time in our Christian year together. Our observation of the Triduum begins with Maundy Thursday's Foot Washing at the Sung Eucharist followed by Procession and the Watch until midnight. On Good Friday we have Stations of the Cross (very well attended) and the Good Friday Liturgy with Veneration. The Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter is increasingly popular and marks a joyful time where we come together to celebrate Christ's Resurrection.

Corpus Christi is marked with a Sung Eucharist with Procession and Benediction. The other 3 Headington parishes are invited to share with St Andrew's on Corpus Christi and St Andrew's Day. Holy Trinity Headington Quarry hosts the Ascension Day service for the Headington parishes.



St Andrew

Young Church

Young Church at St Andrew's is a vibrant and growing community of parents and children who meet each Sunday during the Parish Eucharist. Our Young Church programme is going from strength to strength and is a source of particular pride and excitement for our current church community.



Young Church Creations

We have a regular attendance of 8–12 children with their parents and carers (depending on age). Children of all ages are welcome, and activities are planned so there is something for all, with the older children helping the younger ones or following a lectionary based course. We are working towards the preparation of 7+ year olds for first Communion.

Our Young Church community (parents and carers) take part in the opening procession at each Eucharist. This ensures that the children feel welcomed at the heart of our sacramental worship. Following Christ, who said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these,” we seek to make the altar and sanctuary approachable, open-armed



Children's Christmas Stable



Our clergy also help with Young Church

places in our church, to which children feel called and in which they feel loved. To symbolise this embrace of children, the celebrant hands each child a candle (battery powered!) from the altar during our processional hymn. Especially for those children who do not yet receive Holy Communion, this act offers something tangible to take away from the heart of the church: a light to represent Christ's light.

Children move from the altar to gather in the Church Room, where we open in prayer and a child-focused

hymn or song. A small but dedicated group of adult volunteers prepare a lectionary-based craft, discussion, and activity, which draws on the Gospel.

The children have their own Young Church Garden and have been learning gardening skills and about caring for creation, as well as letting off steam! The children rejoin the congregation for Communion and are welcomed to the front of Church after the final hymn to share their crafts and learnings with the congregation.



Young Church Garden

Music

Music plays a vital role in the liturgy at St Andrew's and is much valued and well supported. This is evidenced by the many unprompted positive comments about music in the recent parish survey. As well as compliments about the quality of the music, it was cited by many as a reason for them coming to worship. The music of the liturgy is led by Richard Bennett, who has been Director of Music at St Andrew's since 2012. There is a



A glimpse of the organ

dedicated voluntary choir of 12 singers who, each Sunday, sing the psalm and an anthem, lead the singing of the hymns and the congregational Mass setting as well as attending weekly rehearsals on Fridays. We are hoping to form a children's section of the choir. We use seven different settings of the Mass: two of these were composed for St Andrew's and one of which was arranged by Richard.



The back of our choir and our organ

In 2009 the parish acquired a new pipe organ which was built and installed by Kenneth Tickell & Co. In 2022, the pipework was re-voiced by Nicholson & Co, Malvern to better suit the tone of the worship at St Andrew's. As a

result, the stops are better blended and the volume is suited to the size of the building. The changes have been a huge success.

In addition, the church has a 10-year-old grand piano which is played every Sunday during the distribution of Communion. There is also an 8-year-old upright piano, which is ideal for choir rehearsal and school services.

The church building has proved ideal for concerts. Prior to the Covid pandemic, regular recitals were organised, with visiting musicians being a popular and regular feature of our musical life, and we would welcome the opportunity to start these recitals again.



St Andrew's in the Snow

Study Groups

St Andrew's has offered Advent and Lent study courses, as well as other Bible studies across the Church Year. Such studies are often offered in the evening or after the 10am Eucharist on Sundays and are well attended, attracting as many as 15 people. We have offered series on a particular New Testament book, a specific topic (e.g. The Lord's Prayer), and have also used books recommended by the wider Church via SCP or SPCK press.

Pastoral Offices

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baptisms	2	13	11	15
Weddings	3	11	5	9
Funerals	28	19	27	20
Confirmations	-	11	-	9 in early 2024

Baptism and confirmation preparation is organised by the Vicar. Baptism is by arrangement with the Vicar and Confirmation is offered annually with Headington School.



Our Font

St Andrew's has a good reputation for the quality of the pastoral offices which it offers. We are open and inclusive in our welcome. We have a strong relationship with the local funeral directors, who recommend the church positively to their clients. Since COVID we have seen the number of church funerals outstrip those that are crematorium only.

Baptisms are celebrated at the Parish Eucharist or at a stand-alone service usually at 12

noon on a Sunday. Our

congregation and clergy warmly welcome the opportunity to meet families within the parish, or with a connection to the parish, who seek the sacrament of baptism in our church. Our Young Church children are always invited back into the service at the time of baptism, to remind them of their own entrance into God's Church. Members of the PCC write a card to each person baptised in our church on the anniversary of their baptism; this arrives by post to remind each family that they remain in our prayers and are always



Some of our Young Church

welcome back to our church.



Wedding Flowers

We also have a number of weddings throughout the year with numbers comparatively high for our area. Couples reflect very positively on their experience of the church. We also offer marriage blessings and welcome the opportunity to affirm loving relationships within the love of Christ, including the use of *Prayers of Faith and Love*.

We believe in welcoming and serving all in the love of Jesus Christ, as he welcomed and served others. The St

Andrew's community remains engaged with the "Living in Love and Faith" discernment process in the wider Church of England and is committed to inclusivity in its worship and parish life.

Our Parish

Headington & Oxford

Originally a village, Headington is now a substantial suburb to the east of Oxford with excellent transport links to the city centre and to London. The parish has a population of approximately 7500 (2021 census) and is well served by shops, restaurants, and cafes, a farmer's market, several popular charity shops, as well as a variety of specialty stores selling food from across the world. Headington's diverse and bustling high street reflects the vibrancy of our parish.



As Headington grew through the 19th and 20th centuries, parts of the original village became separate parishes with their own churches: Holy Trinity Headington Quarry, All Saints Highfield and St Mary's Barton. However, the age and central position of St Andrew's has allowed it to retain a sense of being the "mother" church of the area. Traditionally, only the incumbent of St Andrew's can use the title "Vicar of Headington."



Outdoor Carol Service and Lighting the Village Tree

The parish is bounded approximately by the London Road on the south, Headley Way on the west, and the Oxford ring road to the north-east. An area of fields beyond the bypass was originally part of the parish, but when the new development of Barton Park was created the boundary was adjusted to allow it to become part of St Mary's Barton.

The church is located at the centre of the historic "village" of Old Headington – a conservation area which predates the City of Oxford – but the parish as a whole is

diverse in terms of housing stock and socio-economic profile. There is a particular contrast within the parish between the wealthier area of Old Headington and the Northway Estate down the hill. When a substantial legacy allowed the church to buy a house for our curate, the property was sited in Northway in an effort to reduce the effect of this division, and to make the ministry of St Andrew's visible and tangible in all parts of the parish.

Within the parish are a considerable number of institutions, including:

- The John Radcliffe Hospital, which has its own chaplaincy team
- St Andrew's Church of England Primary School (Voluntary Controlled)
- Headington Rye School Oxford, a girl's independent boarding school with a mixed sex preparatory school,
- New Marston Primary School (River Learning Trust)
- A campus of the University of the West of London on the site of the former Ruskin College,



John Radcliffe Hospital



St Andrew's Lane by a Church Gate

Our clergy also regularly attend several retirement and nursing homes in the parish, ministering to elderly and convalescent groups and bringing them the Holy Sacrament.

The patron of St. Andrew's is Keble College in Oxford. The relationship has been a close one in recent years with St Andrew's joining with other Keble parishes in a corporate act of Communion every year, a valued occasion for both spiritual and social interaction between the College community and the parish.

Schools

There is a very strong relationship with St Andrew's Church of England Primary School (VC). The school is a single-form school with 210 pupils. It is a very popular primary school, and always over-subscribed.



St Andrew's C of E Primary School

Pupils come from a wide range of

backgrounds with more than 45 first languages spoken across the student body. The



St Andrew's School at the Church

school consistently maintains a Christian ethos, while being inclusive to all. The vicar (and curate) leads the weekly act of Collective Worship, and is one of the three Foundation Governors appointed by the diocese. The School has at least 4 annual services in church.

Headington Rye Oxford School is an independent day and boarding school for girls and boys aged 3-11 and girls aged 11-18. The

school population represents diverse backgrounds and cultures with numerous international students. The relationship with

Headington Rye School is flourishing, including a connection with the school's chaplain and St Andrew's welcomes

Headington Rye to the church each year for Confirmation. Our previous incumbent served as a

governor. Continued work is needed to identify an effective way of supporting and serving New Marston Community Primary School, a multi-form state primary school. It is part of the River Learning Trust on the Northway Estate, which specialises in the education of deaf children both through a specialist unit and classroom integration.



Headington Rye Oxford School

Buildings

The most important thing to say about our building is that it is open every day and it is used every day. The church is much loved and cared for and is in excellent condition.

Although the site as a place of worship is thought to pre-date the reference to the church in the royal charter of Henry I, St Andrew's Church is of Norman origin with subsequent additions throughout the centuries until the present day. It is a listed grade 2 star church building within the Headington conservation area.



St Andrew's in the Spring



*2024 Scaffolding at
St Andrew's*

The last Quinquennial Inspection was completed in 2020 with the observations noted and implemented in subsequent building works. Some work to the stonework and fabric was completed in 2021, and the cost in part met from the fabric fund, a dedicated allocation within the funds of the church, built up over the last twenty years. At the present time further work in the form of roof repairs and maintenance, as well as repairs to stonework is underway, again with part of the cost met from the fabric fund.

There have been many improvements to the building fabric in accordance with a Development Plan commissioned by Revd Michael Brewin and the PCC in the late 1980s. This included the provision of a church room, kitchen, and WC, improved vestry facilities, and the provision of a first floor office.

Under our previous incumbent a major conservation project to the tower masonry was carried out in the summer and autumn of 2015. The work received a conservation award from Oxford Preservation Trust in 2016.



*Some of the 1000s of
daffodils in the Churchyard*

In August 2022 two new stained glass windows were installed to mark the 900th



Installation of the new windows

Anniversary of the charter referring to the present church. These were designed by the local artist Nicholas Myeer and include religious allegories to St Andrew and the Bible, as well as references to local, historical, and contemporary life within the parish.

The new organ (see entry under Music) exposed the stained glass West Window, which has been refurbished and re-installed. Other stained glass windows in the church have been restored as well.

In the church tower, over the last 30 years two of the bells have been re-cast, and all eight re-hung. We have a committed and active team of ringers.

While the current lighting system is effective and versatile the PCC has been exploring future options in the light of the recent Energy Audit.

St Andrew's also owns a curate's house: a four-bedroom house with a reception room and a nice garden on the Northway Estate directly across from the church tower. Ever since the Northway estate was built it has been the parish tradition for the curate to live there, originally accommodated by the council. Northway was built as post-war social housing to support the local car industry. It is a relatively quiet estate and now has high levels of private ownership with some HMO's, largely occupied by nursing and other medical staff connected to the John Radcliffe Hospital.

The Vicarage



Front of the Vicarage

The Vicarage is sited in St Andrews Road, very close to the church, and was built in 1940, and is an end-of-terrace house. It has been used as the Vicarage since 1977.



Back of the Vicarage

The accommodation consists of 2 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms (with two additional WC). It benefits from off-road parking for one car, a small garage, a separately accessible study with a WC, a utility room, and a large rear garden.



Upstairs in the Vicarage



Vicarage Kitchen



Vicarage Garden



Vicarage Study



Vicarage Floor Plan

Parish Outreach

St Andrew's is an outward-looking church. Who we are is grounded in our willingness to volunteer time to care for ourselves and our community. We pray for a new incumbent who will be excited to join this community's way of life and can guide us in developing further and enriched outreach activities.

I. Tea on Monday and Knit & Natter

Many years ago, members of St Andrew's launched an outreach project called 'Tea On Monday' (TOM) to provide a social drop-in to help reduce loneliness and isolation in the community. A fresh approach was considered after the pandemic to encourage a wider range of socialisation by adding 'Knit and Natter' to TOM.



Recent Projects by Knit & Natter



*Knit & Natter Donations to the
Oxford Night Shelter*

This friendly community group was established in 2021 and meets in the church room for tea and cake every other Monday, apart from bank holidays. We welcome all levels of knitters and crocheters and all other crafts, and numbers of attendees are currently 12-18. We are happy to show people how to knit or crochet, or to help out if we can with any questions. In the spirit of TOM, non-knitters are also welcome to come along for a chat and to meet others in a relaxed atmosphere – we cater for all ages and have plenty of toys for our youngest members.

The group also makes items for charity, and this extends beyond the meeting times with a 'Knit and Natter' box in church where any members of the community can collect wool and deliver their squares to be assembled into blankets for local organisations. The group also knits hats, gloves and scarves for the Mission to Seafarers and at Christmas time we make gifts for the 'St Andrew's Boat' to be distributed by the Salvation Army to those in need. We also support church projects such as knitted sheep for baptismal gifts and in 2024 we made poppies for the Remembrance display.

Tea on Monday and Knit & Natter



II. Little Fishes

Little Fishes is our parent/carer baby and toddler group, which runs in the Church Room on Thursday mornings in school term time, for no charge. It was started in 2016, and has been well-supported since then, typically attended by 8-12 children and a similar number of adults. Its need has increased since Oxfordshire closed most Children's Centres. We have a good range of toys for preschool children, and offer fruit, snacks and drinks. The adults are a range of parents, grandparents and carers and many come regularly and enjoy the opportunity to chat together. The church provides a volunteer leader from a small rota, to set up and clear the room and provide the refreshments.

III. The Parish Magazine

The Norman Arch is published ten times per year with a circulation of approximately 100 copies. It is also available in digital form on the website. Each month the magazine includes a column from the vicar, reports on pastoral offices, upcoming Sundays, feasts, and lectionary readings, the churchyard and music, our monthly mission, and numerous other activities within the parish. It includes local advertisements and is distributed by volunteers and available for collection across the month.

IV. Monthly Missions & Charitable Work

The parish is committed to using ten percent of its budgeted income to support charities. We have a “Mission of the Month” which includes the Children’s Society, Christian Aid, Home Start Oxford, Emmaus. This is overseen by the Missions Committee.

The Vicar of St Andrew’s has also acted as Chairperson of Headington Parish Charity, a fund dating back to 1902 whose sole remit is to make yearly gifts, usually in December, to needy people within the Parish of Headington. There is an annual meeting of trustees and nominations for recipients are requested from St Andrews Headington, St Marys Barton, All Saints Highfield, and St Ebbs Headington. In 2024, 14 cash gifts were made.



St Andrew’s Boat for the Salvation Army

V. Friends of St Andrew’s Church (FOSAC)



Our Community Quilt

The Friends of St Andrew’s (FOSAC) was established over twenty years ago. This is an organisation which exists to help preserve the church as a local amenity and is a secular group. Originally financed by donations, it has raised and invested a considerable capital sum which supplements the church’s own fabric fund and pays for projects which enhance the look and the fabric of the building. FOSAC also holds an annual Christmas Carols and Readings event which raises a small amount but is primarily a social event which draws in many people who are not regular members of the congregation. It has a constitution and money raised is restricted to use on the fabric of St Andrew’s Church, Old Headington.

In 2015 100% of the cost of conservation work on the church tower was undertaken (£141,000). FOSAC has recently agreed to fund 50% of the cost of a proactive roof

maintenance project. The project will come with a 20-year guarantee and lead work of exceptionally high quality and specification that is expected to last 100 years. We retain an architect who is a conservation specialist and is also currently working on the restoration of the Marble Arch in London.

VI. Churches Together in Headington

CTiH is an ecumenical grouping of churches in Headington, Oxford. There are approx. 15 church communities in the organisation (4 Anglican, 1 Roman Catholic, 1 Methodist, 1 Baptist, 1 URC and a number of independent churches). St Andrew's has remained committed to local relationships and this year has been very active in furthering the Eco-Church agenda.



CTiH also provides the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service, Priory Prayers and Christmas cards. Until recently it also put on an annual fun day in the local park. The local clergy group is beginning to meet again after a number of years of not meeting,

and we have ambition to expand our engagement with other churches in our community.

VII. Eco-Church

At a recent PCC meeting our curate, Fr Luke Norman, presented a paper on the A Rocha Eco-Church project which has enjoyed growing support from many churches in our area. St. Andrew's is already close to achieving the Bronze Award in many areas and to Silver level in at least two. The PCC passed a resolution at that meeting to move towards completing the remaining items for Bronze and begin working towards Silver as a tangible sign of our commitment to creation and our community.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is taken very seriously at St Andrew's. The Parish Safeguarding Officer has been in post since 2010, and prior to that was the Child Protection Officer for the parish. Diocese Safeguarding policies are followed, including :

- having a Parish Safeguarding Policy
- having a Safeguarding report agenda item at PCC meetings
- having a parish procedure in place for dealing with any allegations
- carrying out DBS checks on volunteers involved with children's activities and on PCC members
- advising and monitoring C of E Safeguarding training as required by volunteers' roles, in particular ensuring that all church leaders meet current requirements
- maintaining information on the Safeguarding dashboard



Sunday Flowers at St Andrew's

Finance

Planned giving by regular attenders and supporters of the church is encouraged particularly through the Parish Giving Scheme. We also receive Sunday collections and other donations via our card payment machine inside church and cash via our 'wall safe'. Our income is occasionally boosted by significant legacies, although of course these are unpredictable.

Despite this solid base of regular giving, we struggle to cover our annual operating costs. This is not currently a cause for major concern, given our significant assets and strong balance sheet. We are in the fortunate position of holding significant investment funds which are invested with the CCLA Church of England CbF Investment Fund. These had a total value of £523,648 at the end of 2023 (represented by several Restricted and Designated funds: Fabric, Altar, Organ, Bells

in addition to our General fund). The growth of these investments has in recent years more than covered any shortfalls in our budget.

We are also enormously fortunate to have a separate charity – the Friends of St Andrew’s Church (FOSAC) – which exists to support work on the fabric of the church building. (See separate section above).

St Andrew’s has always fully funded its Parish Share commitments: £46,682 in 2023. When we are able, we have, in past years, often paid more than this in order to support other parishes within the Deanery which are less-well endowed.

10% of our disposable income is tithed through our monthly mission grants made to a range of local, national and international charities. In addition, collections from our Christmas services are divided amongst three Oxford-focused homeless and alcohol and drug rehabilitation charities. We also have a special Lent Appeal each year: in 2024 £2,240 was raised for Turning Point. In 2022-23, we raised £44,000 to install two new stained glass windows to celebrate our 900th anniversary.

The PCC pays for a parish administrator to work 8 hours a week and the incumbent’s and curate’s expenses (travel, office, communication, hospitality etc) are fully covered.

Your Next Steps

If you've reached this page of the profile, we are grateful for your time getting to know us in this way. Please pray for us, for our time of transition, and for our new incumbent. If you'd like to know more, please see the options below:

The Assistant Archdeacon of Oxford, Fr Peter Groves: Peter.Groves@oxford.anglican.org

The Chaplain of Keble College, Fr Max Kramer: max.kramer@keble.ox.ac.uk



Young Church member praying at the Christmas Crib

Website

Our church website can be found at: www.standrewsheadington.co.uk