



PARISH PROFILE

Following in the footsteps of the Son, living in the Spirit's power, to show the Father's love

WELCOME



FOREWORD

St Mary's Church Greenham sits on the southern edge of Newbury, an historic town in West Berkshire, an area of outstanding natural beauty. There is easy access to the M4 and regular trains to London.

The church community is lively, joyful, welcoming and Christ-focussed with a passion to reach out to their local parish.

The church building is well appointed and there is a parish centre with excellent facilities next door.

Berkshire archdeaconry sits within Oxford Diocese and together we aspire to be more Christ-like by being courageous, compassionate and contemplative.

As a diocese we have agreed to pay specific attention to caring for God's creation through environmental action, nurturing discipleship and everyday faith, growing new congregations and seeking to address issues of poverty and inequality. We are particularly focussed on growing our engagement with children and young people and seek to make this a priority in all our churches.

If you are excited by mission, long to live incarnationally and can share the love of Jesus I invite you to consider ministry at St Mary's Greenham.



Reverend Canon Liz Jackson

Associate Archdeacon of
Berkshire

FOREWORD

Reverend John Toogood

Area Dean

The Parish of Greenham sits on the southern boundary of both the town and deanery of Newbury. The deanery is comprised of some 11 benefices and teams, with a total 42 churches and staffed by dedicated teams led by 14 full-time stipendiary clergy (a 15th post is currently suspended), and 1 House-for-Duty priest alongside a host of active, licensed and authorised lay ministers, retired clergy and others with permission to officiate (PTO). The clergy meet regularly as a Chapter, and there are 2 meetings per year which include lay ministers and clergy with PTO.

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year to consider matters of concern and interest to the Deanery as a whole. Within the last 8 months new appointments have been made to the roles of Area Dean, Lay Chair, Deanery Treasurer and Deanery Secretary, and we are now beginning a review of the Deanery Mission Action Plan to ensure we can properly address the needs of the Deanery and the Diocesan Synod's call to significantly increase our engagement with children, young people, families and schools. We hope to welcome a colleague to the parish of Greenham who will be eager to work with us in this vital mission.



NEWBURY DEANERY
Diocese of Oxford



OVERVIEW



We are excited to invite applications from those wishing to work with us to further nurture and spiritually develop our community and to actively reach out to the people in our parish to bring them to a living faith in Christ.

We believe that this is an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate **vision** and **leadership** whilst working **collaboratively** with a **team** of self-supporting clergy and active laity in pursuing the direction in which God is calling us.

We believe Greenham will be a great place for you to grow and flourish in ministry and mission.

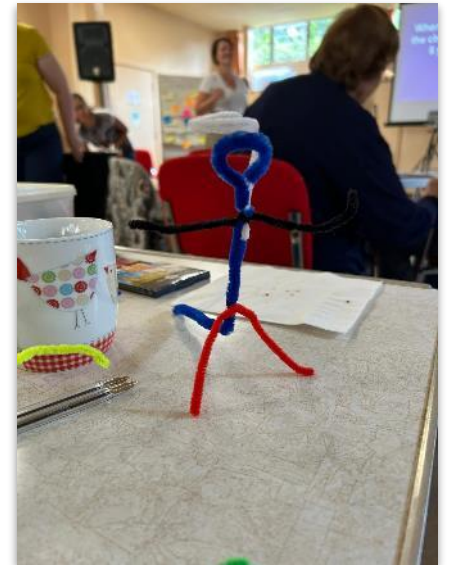
OVERVIEW

participative relevance encouraging
bible based opportunities
social events talent show
warm welcome people supporting
supportive presence good worship prayer
community welcoming family
no-barriers Holy Spirit friendly family engaging
informal open door honesty gospel



Top words taken from our all-church day to describe our experience of what is best about St. Mary's (August 2024)

OVERVIEW



NewWine
Local churches changing nations



evangelical alliance
together making Jesus known



VISION



VISION



During our all-church day, children and adults used Lego to express their vision of St. Mary's of the future (August 2024)

VISION

everybody welcome
growth-mindset
Holy Spirit led
relevant worship
more-children
use gifts
visionary-leadership
worship
engaging
community
welcoming
together
alive
stream services
friendly
families
loving
safe place
traditional-service
caring
schools
hub
nightingales
talents
people
dynamic
racecourse estate
modern
young people
outreach



Top words taken from all-church day to describe the best of what might be in five years
(August 2024)

VISION

Through prayerful discernment, we feel that God is directing us particularly towards these areas:

- Develop a 'team ministry', encouraging all to contribute to the life of the church and its mission
- Energise and support the growth of the church congregation
- Build upon existing and develop new links with the community
- Welcome and disciple new people into the life of the church
- Focus on families and young people



Will you join us to work with our leadership team and wider congregation to clarify our vision and enable the church to engage with the changing demographics and social challenges of our community?



PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES



Top words taken from all-church day to describe the person we are looking for
(August 24)

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

We pray that God calls to Greenham someone who:

- has a heart for mission, a love for Jesus, a willingness to be led prayerfully by the Holy Spirit and is excited about reaching out in our community to develop and grow the church
- cares about and relates well to a broad range of people, including those on the margins, and who longs to show the love of God
- is as quick to listen to the ideas of others as they are to share their own, with a strong sense of church family
- is team-orientated, fun and energetic, with a people-centred approach to ministry and a commitment to working collaboratively with lay, ordained and ecumenical colleagues to develop the vision and then implement it, working alongside people of all walks of life
- is able to grow a leadership team, nurturing a collective sense of responsibility and willingness to adapt to challenges
- inspires and supports with understanding, enabling and developing gifts, helping all in the church to grow and to reach out to others in their social circles, work environment and local neighbourhood
- understands the opportunities and challenges offered by Greenham, located on the edge of Newbury but with its own parish council
- comes with resilience, courage and conviction, and can respond to the needs of a largely more mature congregation who are keen to embrace change and grow



- is a Bible-centred, engaging teacher who can communicate effectively with those who are not regular churchgoers, as well as those who are.

LOCATION

The parish of Greenham is situated to the south of Newbury and comprises an industrial estate, Newbury Racecourse and several housing developments.

There are a number of privately owned estates and two separate housing association/part-ownership estates.

A retail park, superstore and hotel as well as Greenham Common are all easily walkable from the church, as is a primary school and a private co-educational independent day school.



The population of the parish is currently approximately 10,000. Within the parish boundaries, there are a full range of socio-economic groups, including two of the most disadvantaged estates in West Berkshire.

The church is positioned on a hill at the upper end of New Road, which is on the edge of several housing estates. The road and footpath through the church grounds are used by many from the community to walk from Newbury to Greenham Common.

The parish forms part of the Newbury Deanery, which is within the Diocese of Oxford.



LOCATION



HISTORY

- 1086 ● Greenham recorded in the Domesday Book
- 1300 ● An old chapel occupied a site just a few metres to the northwest of the present church
- 1857 ● The Parish of Greenham was created
- 1872 ● Lord of the Manor, Lloyd Baxendale, provided the catalyst for building the present church
- 1875 ● The foundation stone of the new church was laid on 31 July
- 1876 ● The new church cost £3,455 and was consecrated by the Bishop of Oxford on 24 October
- 1900 ● A porch, north aisle, baptistry and vestries for choir and vicar were added
- 1980s ● A new vicarage was built and the church centre added



BUILDINGS

The church, a stunning Grade 2* listed building where conservation work has enabled the retention of its distinctive feature whilst incorporating support for contemporary worship with audio, WIFI and projection systems together with improved lighting and heating.



A detailed overview of the many mural decorations and stained-glass windows in the church can be found at:

<https://www.stmarysgreenham.org/history>



BUILDINGS

The church centre, which is owned by the PCC and held in trust by the diocesan registrar, is continually being improved to both reflect church needs and act as a focus for the community. It is self-financing and is a popular hub for community hires, with many regular and one-off bookings.

The ground floor contains an entrance lounge, toilets, kitchen and a large function hall, together with storage for equipment.

The first floor was added partly by funds generated by the hall. It comprises a circulating area, prayer room, toilet, youth room, office, small kitchen, storage and a comfortable meeting room for up to 30 people. With cleaning and maintenance carried out by volunteers.

Funds generated by the centre are donated annually to help balance church books.

The vicarage is adjacent to the church and the church centre.

It comprises an entrance hall, study, toilet, kitchen, utility room, dining room and lounge with patio doors out to the garden on the ground floor, and four bedrooms, a bathroom and toilet on the first floor.

There is an adjacent garage and parking for a caravan and additional visitors' cars.



SERVICES

08:30

A traditional, reflective service (BCP),
occasionally with hymns accompanied by our organ



A family-friendly service, with an informal atmosphere and modern
music, a creche area for parents/carers and tots, and a children's group,
followed by refreshments in the church hall

10:30



A family-friendly service held in the church
centre with all-age games, refreshments and
contemporary worship



SERVICES

Current service plan *(during the vacancy)*

1 st Sunday	10.30am	Café church in the church centre
2 nd Sunday	8.30am	Traditional communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Morning worship and children's group
3 rd Sunday	10.30am	Holy communion and children's group
4 th Sunday	8.30am	Traditional communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Morning worship
(5 th Sunday)	10.30am	Morning worship



SERVICES



Services – out and about

- The CTNA (Churches Together in Newbury Area) Easter Sunday Sunrise service has been hosted by St. Mary's at Greenham Control Tower.
- St. Mary's has also been involved with singing Christmas carols in the community; at the racecourse, outside Greenham Community Centre and in a local pub.



PART OF OUR TEAM



Brian
Self-supporting minister



Martin
Retired PTO



Sam
Children's work, Cafe church
and home group leader



Liz
Safeguarding officer



Rachel
Treasurer



Chris
Churchwarden



Rob
Churchwarden

Greenham PCC currently meets
once a month. It has 14 members.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Teas, Toys & Tots meet every Monday in the church centre. Numbers average between 12 and 20 mums, bringing babes in arms upwards.

Activities include the indoor teddy bears picnic, a Christmas party and an Easter garden. There are always a lot of craft activities and plenty of time to share together



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

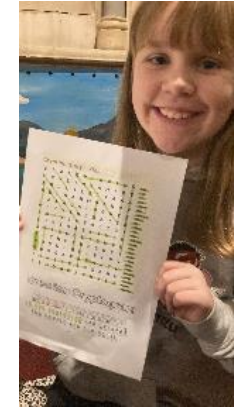
We have a small but consistent group of children coming to **All Stars** ranging in ages from 4 to 13 years+.

We are averaging around four children a week, with some weeks seeing up to eight come and join us.

The group has enjoyed a range of topics including a series on kindness, books of the Bible and the Christmas and Easter stories.

Crafts and wordsearches prove to be popular with the children, and they enjoy creative ways to pray, read the Bible and determine how many digestives can be sandwiched together but still fit in their mouths!

There is also a **Youth Alpha**, which is being run as a preparation course for two young people who are looking to be confirmed.



“We like sweets, colouring, word searches, videos, games, spot the difference and learning about God”

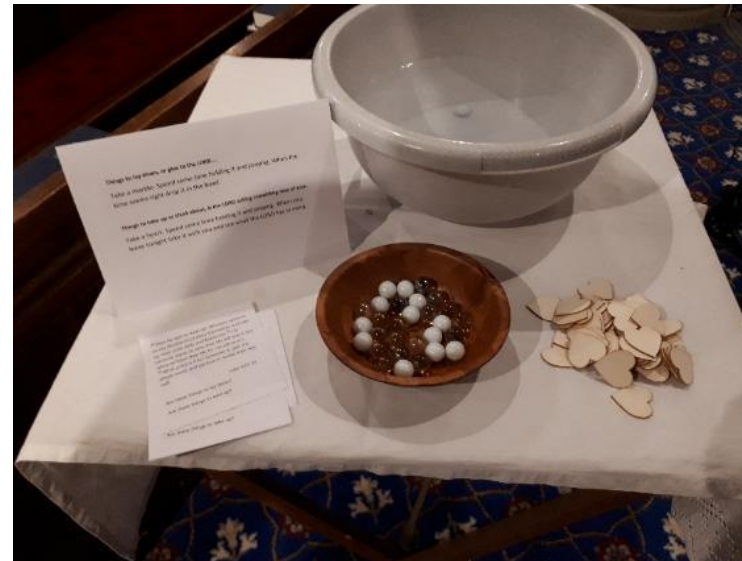


PRAYER

Regular prayer meetings include:

- Meditative and open prayer encouraging participation, receptive to the leading of the Holy Spirit
- Monthly prayer meeting on a Wednesday in the church building

There is also opportunity for individual prayer at services



Value every
member of our
fellowship.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for
at the proper time we will reap a harvest if
we do not give up.
(Galatians 6:9)

MORE LOVE

Renew us by His
Spirit

Revival

Dependant on
Him, NOW

Let God break our
hearts with
His love.

PASTORAL CARE

Home communion

We have two members of the church who have been authorised to administer communion in the homes of those who are unable to attend the services at St Mary's, when requested.

One has also been trained as a bereavement counsellor and can provide valued support in that role when needed.

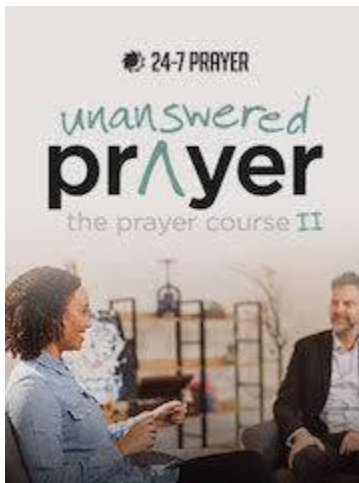


HOMEGROUPS

Our **Wednesday morning group** meets most weeks, and those who attend support each other throughout the week in practical ways.

Each week prayers are said for the needs of the group and others who have asked them to pray. Christmas, Easter and birthdays are celebrated with a social time of food, chat and laughter.

During the spring and summer season, the group did the Bible Society's Bible Course, followed by the life of Peter and studies on 1 Peter. During the autumn season, it studied the Bible Society's course on Romans.*



Our **Tuesday evening group** is a fun, thought-provoking and prayerful time, covering a mix of topics. It has a regular 11 people attending.

During the spring season, the group studied The Prayer Course 2 – Unanswered Prayer, the book of Luke, Embrace the Middle East's lent course and regularly enjoyed great socials with rather competitive quizzes. During the autumn season, the group studied Bible Society's course on Romans.*

**The Romans course was also being used in morning services and for All Stars.*

OTHER GROUPS

Open Vine

The Open Vine Fellowship began in 1988 to respond to the social and pastoral needs of women of all ages. Now generally just known as the Open Vine, the group continues to meet each Thursday morning in term time. The women come together in friendship and fellowship, to share the love God has shown through Jesus Christ, and to learn from one another.

The group enjoys quizzes, games, photographic talks, craft activities or discussions on the week's talking point. Occasionally they go out for coffee or enjoy a Christmas lunch together.



Sorellas

This evening group for women meets on an irregular basis. Sorellas is Italian for “sisters” and it is an opportunity for the sisters of the church to get together for some “us time”. The group meets in someone's home or the church centre, with the highlight of the year being Pancake Evening.



OTHER GROUPS

Wednesday choir

The church has recently formed a choir made up of members of the congregation, with the aim of improving their singing as a group. The choir meets monthly and is supported by two members of the worship team, who also provide the music.

At the carol service, the choir shall be singing a song that was especially learnt for the occasion. It will also take part in the midnight Christmas service.

"We enjoy our Wednesday sessions, the fellowship of being together and gradually gaining confidence in our abilities. We hope to become an asset for bridal couples who want a choir at their wedding."



Socials

Socials are arranged for a Saturday evening around once a month. They include talent shows, quizzes and other events. Starting at 6.00pm they are designed to be family-friendly and provide an opportunity to meet together, often around food.



OUR VERY OWN RAILWAY



GREENHAM RAILWAY



Originally started as a church group for men, the group's skills range from carpentry, modelling, electrical, welding and general fitting. Soon the group renamed as the Greenham Railway. Members of the group have also become a key part of the church's maintenance team for the wider church grounds and buildings.



Work commenced on an SM32-scale exhibition layout, which quickly showed its potential to draw in members of the community. A live steam was introduced on an indoor layout one Christmas, which proved extremely popular with members. Outdoors the group has moved to a dual gauge line, which has allowed them to build a "ride-on" railway.

It is now a permanent layout in the church paddock and has become an asset to the church in reaching out to the community. Fun-day events have an additional attraction, with queues for free rides always stretching out!



COMMUNITY



LINKS WITH OTHER INITIATIVES

St Mary's Partnerships 2024

CAP Newbury Branch
(Christians Against Poverty)

COINS

(Christian Outreach in Newbury Schools)

Good News for Everyone
(Newbury Branch)

Newbury Street Pastors

West Berks Foodbank

Yeldall Manor, Reading



CMJ

(Churches Ministry with Jewish People)

CPAS

(Church Pastoral Aid Society)

Home for Good

Open Doors

Tearfund

UCB

(United Christian Broadcasters)

**We are committed to the Christian ministries we have
chosen to support - by prayer, financially and in
practical ways.**

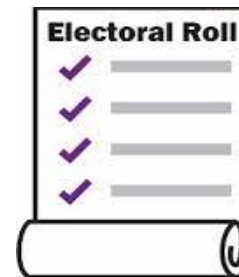


PARISH ACCOUNTS

The church is financially viable, but there are challenges in this area as the main General Account operates at a loss. Funds generated from hiring out the church centre help to fill the gap.

Although the church does have some investments and endowment funds, in the main, it is dependent on current income generated by a mix of regular givers, in-church collections and fundraising for specific projects. We make use of Gift Aid and the Parish Giving Scheme.

In 2024 the church paid its Parish Share in full by the required dates.



	2024	2023
The number on the roll	80	78
The number resident in the parish	45	37
The number non-resident	35	41

