

## WELCOME TO THE LENBOROUGH BENEFICE

*Set in the beautiful countryside of North Buckinghamshire these four delightful rural parishes offer a warm welcome and an excellent opportunity to continue to explore and develop the place of real community in God's kingdom.*



### Could this be your next job?

*Lord, give us the courage to push past  
the boundaries set by the world,  
Give us the strength to keep going  
when the journey gets tough.  
Give us the patience to wait upon you.  
Give us the wisdom to recognise and use our gifts.  
Give us the grace to work together.  
Give us the guidance to go where you want us to go.  
Amen.*

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# Foreword - The Ven Guy Elsmore

The Lenborough Benefice in North Bucks is looking for a priest to lead them on the next stage of their pilgrimage.

The previous incumbent encouraged a spirit of welcome, of creativity and of joyfulness as well as having a significant emphasis on lay leadership. All this remains evident to me as I assist occasionally in leading worship during the vacancy.

However, there were some difficult years owing to a long period of ill-health and then the retirement of the previous incumbent. The Benefice is now seeking to move forward with creativity and energy as they embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The task for the new interim vicar will be to build on the enthusiasm of parishioners to help shape a vision for the future.

With East-West Rail bringing new housing and younger families to the Benefice in the coming years, excellent links with the local schools, an enthusiastic group of local leaders and a supportive Deanery, there is much to build on.

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

I am delighted to commend this parish profile to you and would be very happy to discuss the Benefice further.

Please contact me initially by email [archdeacon.buckingham@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:archdeacon.buckingham@oxford.anglican.org)

*Guy Elsmore*

Archdeacon of Buckingham

# Welcome to the Lenborough Benefice

The Lenborough Benefice is an interesting mix of historic rural villages, not only based conveniently close to the development of the 'Oxford-Cambridge arc' but also within easy distance of local country towns, the city of Milton Keynes, and London just an hour and a half by car.

Although geographically close, each village has its own distinctive character, history and traditions with some local amenities. The Church's role remains distinct in parish life offering occasional offices, Sunday services but also over these last few years becoming an active place of community outreach.

We pride ourselves on providing churches that offer both traditional and non-traditional worship as well as lots of community outreach and it remains our collective vision to bring God's kingdom into focus by listening to how we can serve our villages best.

The Benefice fared reasonably well throughout COVID, particularly via the use of online tools. Wi-fi has been installed both at Hillesden and Padbury and the other two churches are looking into having Wi-Fi access. Three of the four churches have been reordered offering toilets and kitchen service. All churches are ready to explore further development if necessary.

This role calls for a priest who will enjoy embedding themselves into community, who isn't afraid of challenge and change as we as a nation discover how the church can continue to serve its many communities in a new and lasting way.

You will not be expected to do this alone; we are looking for someone who can lead us on a journey as we learn together.

We are looking for someone who recognises the importance of lay ministry in the countryside. We currently already have excellent lay work and support within our Benefice but would welcome further develop and enabling of new ministries.

This post offers a well-appointed large vicarage and garden in Padbury with easy access to local amenities. It also comes with the bonus of a Christchurch living.

Finally, the new priest needs to embrace the Diocesan vision of becoming a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's World - contemplative, compassionate and courageous - and will model and enable a flourishing ministry for all, in line with the Covenant for Care and Wellbeing of Clergy.

# Person Profile

*Thank you so much for your interest in our Benefice,  
we do hope that God may be calling you to be our next Vicar!*

## What we are looking for in our new Vicar

In drawing up this spec we have consulted widely and tried to make our expectations as realistic and achievable as possible.

- A Priest who is an approachable visible presence in the villages and who has good interpersonal skills to communicate with all ages.
- Someone with a knowledge and understanding of rural ministry who knows the different expectations and ministry patterns between rural/town/city churches.
- Who is a strategic/visionary thinker with good leadership skills who can discern with us the way forward during the first three years of their Interim Ministry.
- A priest who is Christ-centred with a good knowledge of the bible, theologically mindful and who can incarnationally live out the gospel.
- Someone who is comfortable with a variety of traditions and styles of liturgy and who is eager to explore new and relatable ways of worship.
- A minister who is interested in working with our schools, and who will attempt to inspire young people and young adults to explore their Christian faith.
- A priest who has a real desire for pastoral work, who recognises the importance of care in our community and who will encourage, affirm and work within our growing ministry team.
- A person who can hold a space: allowing voices with different views to be heard and respected, creating a culture of trust.
- Someone blessed with creativity and wisdom to work collaboratively across the Benefice helping each parish identify their own unique role and contribution to their community.
- A minister who can draw on a wide range of spiritual and theological resources, teach, encourage and bring hope to others.
- A priest who seeks God at work in the community, who is willing to meet people where they are, build bridges and encourage those on the fringes.

## Lenborough offers you the following support:

This is a challenging and fulfilling role, and we want you to enjoy a sustainable and healthy work-life balance so you can give your best to it. We recognise the importance of personal and professional care, and actively support and encourage your regular time off for rest and spiritual development. This is vital for you, your family and for us too.

## Care Package

- A generous Christchurch living.
  - A paid Parish Administrator who will work to your needs.
  - A developing but strong Ministry Team - you are not alone.
- Together we are committed to supporting you spiritually and practically.

*Thank you for taking the time to read our profile.*

**Could this be your next great adventure?**

If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat. *John Ortberg*



# The Vicarage

The Vicarage is situated on the Buckingham side of Padbury and is set back off the road in a quiet location. It has a long drive, garage and parking for three cars.

It is surrounded by a large beautiful garden.

The house has a main entrance with study including separate toilet, enabling privacy for the home.

Downstairs offers a large comfy lounge with an open fire and large windows that overlook the garden, a modern kitchen and dining room, and wooden floors throughout. Upstairs has a very generous space providing five bedrooms, a family bathroom and a separate shower room.



## Local Links and Amenities

### *Supermarkets*

Less than 3 miles from Padbury the town of Buckingham offers several major supermarkets, plus smaller convenient stores.

**Bus links** Padbury to: Aylesbury, Buckingham, Milton Keynes, Bicester & other smaller villages.

### *Schools*

**Primary Schools** Padbury Church of England and several other primary schools in Buckingham and Winslow

**Secondary Schools** - 1 secondary school in Buckingham

1 Free school in Winslow *both non selective.*

1 Grammar School in Buckingham *selective*

There are many Further Educational establishments across the whole area.

**Doctors** The Swan Practice, Buckingham or '3W' Winslow

**Dentists** There are both private and NHS dentists in the area

**Hospitals** Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust including Stoke Mandeville, Amersham and other hospitals in Buckinghamshire. Milton Keynes University Hospital

**Vets** Several vets in Buckingham and Winslow, both Independent and National chains

# Adstock - St Cecilia's

Church End, Adstock MK 18 2HY

## The Church

The lower walls are almost certainly Norman and the vast majority of both the nave and the chancel were probably constructed during the late 15th Century.



A recent quinquennial report highlighted some minor works to be carried out and called for a report on some of the roof supports, which may need attention.

In the bell chamber there are two large bells and a smaller Sanctus bell. The treble bell was made by John Sturdy who died in 1458 and is one of three bells made by him now to be found in this country.

We have a playable manual pedal pipe organ which was built by Rest Cartwright & Son (London) 1928.

Overall, the church is well organised and in good order offering regular Sunday and occasional services. The Churchyard remains open and is well looked after.

## Mission

The PCC organises monthly coffee mornings, harvest lunch/auction, Christmas services and is involved with bi-annual Open Gardens (the main fund raiser for the church) and Ride & Stride.

The village is very supportive of the church in terms of fundraising and participating in annual churchyard clean-ups, supplying flowers, helping clean the church, as well as helping at coffee mornings and at other events.

However, we are currently challenged to make it more relevant. Although the average regular congregation is low in attendance, we can see upwards of 70 people at seasonal services. Therefore, we are seeking someone who is willing to help change that perception so we can keep the church relatable and offer an opportunity for others to grow in their faith.

## The Village

The village has an excellent local hostelry and a well-equipped village hall. The Hall committee organises events for villagers including quiz nights, safari suppers, Pilates, yoga etc. It is available for hire and can seat 50 or 100 standing.

"Rural Ronnie's" (just outside the village) organises events which are open to all villagers including a Wassail which the last Vicar was involved in and Adstocktoberfest, primarily raising funds for Afghan Aid. Clubs and Societies in the village include History, Science, Choir, Book group, Parish Council and Village Hall Committee. There is a regular village paper which includes all events, news items, notices and advertisements for goods and services.

The village has a Facebook page.

## Contact

Churchwarden: Alan Sinclair - [agwsinclair@btinternet.com](mailto:agwsinclair@btinternet.com)



The church and village  
of Adstock  
work closely together.  
The pub is renowned  
throughout the district  
for its excellent food.



# Gawcott - Holy Trinity

Church Street, Gawcott MK18 2HY

## Our Mission Statement:

**“We are here to love and serve God, one another and our community.”**

Gawcott is a lively village community of around 900 situated one-and-a-half miles from Buckingham. Roundwood School is a thriving Middle school (8-11) joined with Tingewick (Infants). We have an active Parish Council and linked Community Group which organises various activities such as the Fete, Christmas tree lighting, etc. Along with Holy Trinity Church there is a Methodist Chapel, a Pub, Village Hall, Sports Field (football and cricket), Allotments, Amenity Woodland, Vineyard (Chafor Wines), Facebook Page (All Things Gawcott), Red telephone box free library and a monthly Seniors group.



The church is a light, Georgian-inspired building designed by the then Vicar, father of George Gilbert Scott. Some of the pews have been removed and replaced by padded red chairs. It has seating for approximately 120. We have a good sound system with hearing loop and a small well maintained chamber organ

We have successfully reordered a small room under the tower that serves as a vestry and kitchenette. There is an accessible toilet with baby-changing facilities adjacent to the church. We have an open churchyard and another burial plot which lies opposite the church in Church Street.

Plasterwork and roof repairs have been recently completed and redecorating took place this summer. Many successful fund-raising events for this and other work continue to be organised including Beatles Tribute Bands, folk concerts, singers at tea parties, quizzes, etc.

Our congregation is extremely helpful, welcoming and friendly and is served by a committed PCC who work well together, with each member having a particular responsibility. We have an experienced Licenced Preacher who leads a monthly, all-age, informal Cafe Church, with the help of others who read, say prayers, crafts, etc. Our age range is 2 - 99, with an average attendance of around 25. We have a variety of music using an i-pad. We also hold a monthly “Care and Share” meeting in Church on the third Sunday at which we share aspects of our faith, discuss, pray, sing and share in the leading of this service.



We continue to celebrate monthly Holy Communion Service and have enjoyed hearing different preachers during the vacancy. Although our congregation is small, we are slowly growing and can attract around 50/60 people at special services throughout the year including Good Friday meditation, Harvest outreach, Remembrance, Carols by Candlelight, Christingle and Christmas Day.

We hold Study/Fellowship Group meetings which have included Alpha, The Bible Course, Take Ten and a monthly prayer group. We support the Children’s Society, local Food Banks, Toilet Twinning in Africa, etc at one-off events.



The school uses the church building for rehearsals and concerts. Year groups come into church to learn about Communion, Easter etc led by our Authorised Preacher. There is a small Chapel congregation who join with us for Remembrance, Carols, etc. They are very supportive about sharing resources.



Many of our congregation are involved in other village activities including the Seniors' Fellowship Group, the telephone box library, the village hall committee, and school groups for RE lessons. We run a free weekly Village Lunch on Mondays serving home-made soups, toasties, drinks... as an outreach to the village. Organised by our Deputy Church Warden, we have achieved a 5-star Hygiene Award. We host an annual two-week Art Exhibition for Bucks Art Week. Everything is advertised through local media.

### The best things about our church

- Warm, friendly, welcoming, inclusive and supportive of anyone who attends
- Informal but “on message” Café Church.
- A community hub for fund-raising, social events, village lunches and activities.
- Attractive building with flexible interior configuration and comfy chairs.

### The challenges we face

- We are mostly an aging (but enthusiastic) congregation.
- We have only a few children/families attending regular celebrations.
- Fundraising events are well-supported by the village, but few attend church.



### PCC (From L-R)

Beverley Maggs (Asst. Church Warden)  
Anne Clark (Grants)  
Sue Ambrose (Licenced Preacher)  
Jean Spicer (Flowers)  
Sue Herring (Fund Raising)  
Andrew Pollard (PCC Chair)  
Mary Russell (Treasurer)  
Martin Burke (Church Warden)

### Contact:

**Church Warden: Mr Martin Burke - 01280 812204**

# Hillesden - All Saints

Church End, Hillesden, MK18 4DB

## ‘The Cathedral in the Fields’

All Saints is a magnificent Grade 1 Listed building rebuilt in 1493 and listed as one of England’s best 1,000 Churches. Subsequently it has become a good tourist attraction and is very popular for weddings.



It has a large and airy interior and has been reordered to accommodate toilet and kitchen area. The inside is well maintained, and we currently have a comfortable community space for reflection, local dog walkers and a small community library.

In the wider Deanery it has been an ideal location for ‘Quiet Days’.

The church, and the manor house which once stood adjacent to it, was the scene of an assault by the Parliamentarians during the Civil War and there are still musket ball holes in the door! There is a working manual pipe organ, Wi-Fi, but currently no sound system.

The PCC has completed much maintenance work, and our building repairs have been prioritised with roof repairs to be completed this autumn. Other works will follow as will grant applications.

Currently, there is one Holy Communion, Common Worship service each month, but we are looking forward to exploring the development of more services that can connect more strongly with our village community.

## Community

This is a strong farming community with a gathered population of just over 200 including approximately 50 children, so a strong opportunity for mission is high!

The church is the only public building around so it is used for Parish Council and other meetings, as a polling station, for music events and a monthly village pop-up bar from May to September all contributing to our funding..

The PCC is actively fundraising with well attended talks, classical music concerts, and seasonal fairs.

We believe our hidden gem has so much to offer, so we are looking for a priest who understands the development of sacred space for the community and the wider world it serves.



You will notice the deer paddocks and the lovely wildflower verges on your way to the Church!

## Contact

Churchwarden: Mrs Heather Lines 01280 813914

# Padbury - St Mary the Virgin

Church Lane, Padbury MK18 2AJ



## Our Village

The village name is Old English in origin (Padda's Burgh), and means 'the borough or stronghold of Padda' and is in the Domesday Book of 1086 recorded as 'Pateberie' remaining as one of the few villages in the country still owned by a native, rather than a Norman.

It's a busy village with two public houses, a lovely locally owned butcher's shop and an excellent village hall.



Padbury Church of England Primary School with strong Christian Values serves right across our rural area. The flourishing village allotments are owned by the church. There is newly refurbished pavilion, two tennis courts, a football pitch, playground and a multi-use games area. Importantly, there is a strong commitment to greener issues within the community - an ethos fully supported by St

Mary's. The Greener Padbury Group works hard to bring green issues to the village and Padbury boasts a well-cared for and well used Millennium Wood.

## Our Church

St Mary's Church is a Grade II\* Listed building with parts dating from the beginning of the 13th Century, including several original medieval wall paintings - the latter include depictions of The Wheel of the Seven Deadly Sins, St George and the Dragon, The Legend of St Edmund and The Martyrdom of a Saint.



The building has been reordered well with access to a toilet, kitchen and moveable space at the back. The 2022 quinquennial survey identified no significant issues. The roof was recently renewed, following a lead theft. The church and grounds are regularly maintained by volunteers. We have a ring of six bells and a good team of bellringers, the bell ropes have just been renewed. We welcome visiting groups of ringers on tour from neighbouring counties throughout the year.

We are fortunate to have one of the finest organs in the area. It is tuned and maintained regularly and was the subject of an extensive programme of revision during 1996. We are delighted to have an excellent organist who is extremely skilled. During Covid he provided some recordings to support the online worship which continued throughout the pandemic. He is always looking to develop a choir for further worship.

At St Mary's you will find an inclusive and varied range of worship from sacramental traditional to more community driven services. We recognise that it is important to listen to the needs of the parish we serve, so we have set our mission agenda to be based on the three core values of:

**Holiness, Healing and Hospitality.**



A typical month will involve:

**Sung Eucharist - Common Worship**

**Holy Communion - Book of Common Prayer**

**Village Praise - Cafe Church - All age worship**

*Anna Chaplaincy Gatherings: Fellowship with older folks found in informal worship, refreshments, and crafts and technology.*



The church remains unlocked every day and visitors are always welcome. It also has Wi-Fi and lots of opportunities to reflect or even do a jigsaw! We have recently invested in an e-Payment system at the church door for those wishing to make donations.

Set apart in our churchyard you will find a small, but well-maintained prayer garden with a seat for quiet reflection.



Mindful that Padbury lost 17 servicemen in the Great War, as a tribute to them, 17 silhouettes with names and rank join us in church every Remembrance Sunday. It is a moving sight.



**Our Mission: *Church and Village side by side - Children's Ministry Growing in Faith***

Whenever possible, we will always reach out to support our village on any projects that we can do together. This was especially important during the pandemic where we were able to be a place of hope as well as practicality. This 'oneness' of going through it together has continued in these post Covid days.

Children's ministry is hugely important in our church, our Village Praise/Café Church with Breakfast service each month offers great opportunities for us to interact with the children in ways that help them develop their faith and understanding. With Padbury school being so nearby we are hoping to develop even closer relationships.

Currently our LLM leads regular acts of Collective Worship, and the whole school attends a service in church at the end of each term, plus specific year groups as appropriate, attending relevant services throughout the year. At the end of each academic year, each child leaving the school will be presented with a New Testament.

This summer, at our allotments we have been working with a local group to develop professionally led 'Muddy Toddlers'. The school and Pre-School also use the allotment area for Forest School - an excellent example where using our resources has given us the opportunity to really help make a difference to young people.

We are always ready to explore and grow in faith so we are looking for a priest who will be confident and able to guide us on new journeys.

There is currently a bible study group that has been meeting in the Benefice for over 30 years, often those taking part do not just come from Padbury, newcomers are always welcome to join the group.

We would very much like to continue to develop study groups and other ways in which we could deepen the prayer life of the church and community.

**Contact: Church Warden: Mrs Kay Bradley - 01280 812965 - [kaybradley@sky.com](mailto:kaybradley@sky.com)**

# Benefice Ministry and Pastoral Care

Within our Benefice there is a great deal of pastoral care and mission activity that is willingly done behind the scenes, these are the essence of what mission writer George Lings declares as the 'Lay Lay' In addition, there are 4 more visible active ministries including:

## A Licensed Local Lay Minister (Sandra Cosby)

Sandra has a distinct and developing ministry and enjoys ministering with others.

She currently is working with Padbury School and leading assemblies.



## Authorised Lay Preacher (Sue Ambrose)

Sue is extremely mission-minded and has worked closely with her church family in Gawcott to develop and lead new and innovative lay led services that relate better to the community she serves.

## Retired PTO (Revd Jenny Shields)

Jenny remains a known presence in the villages and has been helping to cover Sunday worship and at times occasional offices. She remains a wealth of information about the church's history.

## Anna Chaplain (Kay Bradley)



Kay enjoys working across all four parishes to ensure that older people are well supported both emotionally and spiritually. Whether one to one or in a group event this this work continues to flourish and grow, not only fostering relationships within our own Benefice churches but also across other faiths and communities.



Anna Chaplains are there for people of any, little or no faith.

The Lenborough Lantern: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/27-299CM/news/117249/>

Website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/27-299CM/news/117249/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1178541469182435/>

Current benefice email: [kaybradley@sky.com](mailto:kaybradley@sky.com)

# Our Current Sunday Monthly Service Pattern

As requested by Canon B 14 we celebrate at least one Holy Communion in the Benefice each week and ensure that each church has at least one Holy Communion each month.

Fifth Sundays are celebrated as a Benefice Holy Communion Service and is shared across the Benefice in rotation.

	Adstock	Gawcott	Hillesden	Padbury
Week 1	9 am Holy Communion (BCP)	10.30 am Café Sunday	10.30 am Holy Communion (CW)	10.30 am Village Praise - Café Church
Week 2				10.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
Week 3	10.30 am Morning Worship Service of the Word	10.30 am Care and Share		9 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Week 4		10.30 am Holy Communion (CW)		

As with all rural churches our congregations always thrive during festivals and special occasions. We see these as excellent opportunities for mission.

The four churches of our Benefice have a variety of age profiles across their congregations so it is hoped that our new priest will work with us to develop more mission-based services for the many communities we serve.

# Governance and Finance

	Adstock	Gawcott	Hillesden	Padbury
Population 2021	365	906	199	888
Parish Share 2023	6,878	7,442	6,724	13,858
2024	7,222	7,814	7,060	14,551
Electoral Roll	9	23	14	33
Total Receipts 2023	£10,525	£27,583	£5,344	£17,652
Total Payments 2023	£13,232	22,903	£6,895	£18,121
Surplus/Deficit	(£2,698)	£4,680	(£1,551)	(£469)

As a rural Benefice finance remains challenging, especially because of the various demands to maintain our buildings and resource mission and ministry.

However, we have always ensured that each parish attempts to pay its Parish Share. Lately there have been more challenging situations that have compromised complete payment and in response there remains a strong determination across all four PCCs to correct this.

We are pleased to share that each parish has its full complement of PCC members and there is a Churchwarden in each Parish.

There are several restricted funds within the Benefice and an active interest in the Parish Giving Scheme.

There remains a real spirit of optimism and a determination to move forward.



# Buckingham Deanery

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Buckingham Deanery and group ministry.

The Buckingham Deanery is a small, mainly rural, Deanery comprising of five Benefices. The Deanery is within the Archdeaconry of Buckingham and has an Area Bishop. Currently the post is vacant with an appointment expected by Spring 2025 (a long process to be gone through!)

The Deanery centres on the town of Buckingham which has a growing population - at present it is in the region of 15,000, but rising every year. More than twenty villages and hamlets surround Buckingham. One village has a closed church and one has no church building but regular services are held in the village school. There are plans to build a new church eventually. A few villages have no church building.

The Deanery is divided into five Benefices - North Buckingham and West Buckingham Benefices, each with six churches; Blackthorn Chase and Lenborough Benefices, each with four churches and Buckingham Benefice which includes the town of Buckingham and the village of Radclive.

All the villages will see some development in the future, some larger than others.

We feel this is an opportunity not to be missed. As a Deanery we would like to use the gifts and skills of our allocation of five stipendiary ministers across the Deanery as a Group Ministry (which has been formally established for some time). This means, broadly, that the incumbent of each Benefice in the group is expected to co-operate with colleagues and has authority to perform in any other Benefice all the duties that would normally be performed by the incumbent of that Benefice. Importantly it is the duty of all the incumbents to assist each other to make the best possible provision for the cure of souls throughout the area. The incumbents in a group ministry are required to meet as a chapter for the purpose of discussing and reaching a common mind on all matters of general concern or special interest to the group ministry.

After some years of irregular meetings the chapter now has an established pattern of 6 meetings a year, plus 2 'Greater Chapters' which include the LLMs. Clergy with PTOs are invited to all chapter meetings. There is a strong expectation that the new incumbent will support and attend the chapter and group ministry.



# Buckingham Deanery (continued)

As a Deanery we face new challenges with major infrastructure projects which will increase the housing in the Deanery area considerably. These will create exciting new opportunities for Mission and outreach in these areas but will need to carry with them their faithful rural communities.

Currently we are considering how to respond to the Diocesan Children, Young People and Families' Initiative. Buckingham Church does very good Families and Schools work with two specialist staff employed to run and develop it. In 2/3rds of our villages there are children and family events, sometimes quite small, and good engagement with some of our schools, staffing and sustaining this in multi parish Benefices is a challenge, and we want to explore new ways of fostering this work. We are working on resetting the Parish Share allocations so that they are more equitable across all the parishes. Over the years the current formula has become untenable.

Each Lent, the Deanery organises a series of Lent Deanery Evensongs, sometimes on a chosen theme and with some guest speakers. These services rotate round the churches in the Deanery so that each church has a service every three or four years. These services are well attended. (an average of over 30 in 2024). We also often have a joint Ascension Day service attended by 40 this year.



The Deanery, along with three other local rural Deaneries runs a successful ministry every year at the Buckinghamshire County Show providing a space 'to rest a while' and enjoy refreshments on the busy showground. Many fruitful and supportive conversations have come out of

this for the visitors to the tent.

Deanery Synod meets three times a year.

Lay participation within the Deanery is being actively encouraged. We are looking to providing relevant training courses on an occasional basis.



**Rev Maurice Stanton-Saringer: Area Dean**

**Rev Canon Val Plumb: Area Dean for Rural Mission and Ministry**

**Mrs Georgie Christopher: Lay Chair**



**DIOCESE of OXFORD**

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

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

Due to the size and complexity of the Diocese, we have three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic and pastoral oversight for their Areas. Sadly, the Bishop of Buckingham, Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson died earlier this year. Having been our Bishop since 2003, we are in the midst of an episcopal vacancy. We expect a new appointment in early 2025. In September 2020, Revd Canon Chris Bull was appointed Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham.

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

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

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

# Provisional Role Description

The following provisional role description will apply from the date of licensing. It will be reviewed by the postholder and the Archdeacon of Buckingham approximately six months after the date of licensing. Amendments will be made where necessary, by agreement.

## Section One—Details of the Post

<b>Role title:</b>	Interim Rector (initially for 3 years) – Lenborough Benefice
<b>Type of Role:</b>	Full-time Stipendiary
<b>Name of Deanery:</b>	Buckingham
<b>Episcopal area:</b>	Buckingham
<b>Archdeaconry:</b>	Buckingham
<b>Conditions of Service:</b>	Please refer to Statements of Particulars document issued in conjunction with this role description. Archdeacon of Buckingham. This role falls within the Clergy Terms of Service formally known as Common Tenure. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is the designated person by the Bishop of Oxford to issue the Statement of Particulars for the post holder.
<b>Accountability</b>	Priests share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church. Whilst, as an office holder, the individual is expected to lead and prioritise work in line with the purpose of the role, they are encouraged to inform the Archdeacon and Church Warden/s (in case of incumbents) about any issues exceptional or otherwise that have the potential to affect ongoing delivery of ministry.
<b>Additional Responsibilities</b>	As per interview and Profile

## Section Two - Context

### Wider Context

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

Due to the size and complexity of the Diocese, we have three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic and pastoral oversight for their Areas. The post of Bishop of Buckingham is in Vacancy after the death of Rt Rev'd Alan Wilson who has been the Area Bishop since 2003. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is Ven Guy Elsmore who has been in post since 2016. In September 2020, Revd Canon Chris Bull was appointed Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham.

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

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

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

# Section Three: Role Purpose and Key Responsibilities

## General:

- A** To exercise the cure of souls shared with the bishop in Deanery in collaboration with colleagues including the praying of the Daily Office, the administration of the sacraments and preaching.
- B** To have regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy (as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy) and other relevant legislation including:
- bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making him known to those in your care.
  - instructing the parishioners in the Christian faith.
  - preparing candidates for confirmation.
  - diligently visiting the key members of the Deanery, particularly those who are sick and infirm.
  - providing spiritual counsel and advice.
  - consulting with the parochial church councils on matters of general concern and importance to the Benefice and wider Deanery.
  - bringing the needs of the world before God in intercession.
  - calling your hearers to repentance and declaring in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.
  - blessing people in God's name.
  - preparing people for their death.
  - discerning and fostering the gifts of all God's people.
  - being faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.
  - working closely with ecumenical partners.
- C** to share in the wider work of the Deanery and diocese as appropriate, for the building up of the whole Body of Christ

**Key responsibilities specific to the local situation:** the role calls for a priest who will support and develop the existing worship and ministry whilst being creative and courageous in leading the churches to engage more fully with their communities and vice versa. Growing the congregation is a priority. Finance also needs to be a focus to put the Benefice on a firm footing for the future. Another area for development could be the enhancement of the sharing of talents, skills and resources across the Benefice.

The key responsibilities listed above may be supported by long and short-term objectives to be agreed between the post holder and the Archdeacon.

## Other responsibilities

- Participate in the Bishop's Ministerial Development Review scheme and engage in Continuing Ministerial Development.
- Carry out any other duties and responsibilities as required in line with the Parish needs.
- Take care of their own wellbeing including health and safety and building a good repertoire of spiritual and psychological strategies

## **Section Four: Deanery Summary:**

### **The Deanery**

The Deanery centres on the town of Buckingham which has a growing population - at present it is in the region of 15,000, but rising every year. More than twenty villages and hamlets surround Buckingham. One village has a closed church and one has no church building but regular services are held in the village school. There are plans to build a new church eventually. A few villages have no church building. The Deanery is divided into five Benefices - North Buckingham and West Buckingham Benefices, each with six churches; Blackthorn Chase and Lenborough Benefices, each with four churches and Buckingham Benefice which includes the town of Buckingham and the village of Radclive. All the villages will see some development in the future, some larger than others.

For more detailed information, please refer to the **Parish Profile**.

## **Section Five: Key Contacts for the Role**

### **Generic and specific to the role**

**Groups & committees - as per interview and profile.**

### **In the Deanery**

Deanery Chapter	Deanery Synod
Ministerial Colleagues	Churchwardens

### **Support structures**

Area Bishop	Archdeacon	Spiritual Director
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Staff at The Diocesan Office with key responsibilities for various aspects of supporting parochial ministry.

## **Section Six: Other**

### **Relevant Documentation**

This role description is issued alongside and should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

The Ordinal

The Canons of the Church of England

Guidance for the Professional Conduct of Clergy

Bishop's Licence

Statement of Particulars issued to the office-holder on successful appointment.

Diocesan Clergy Handbook

Diocesan Handbook for Area Deans and Lay Chairs

Deanery Profile

Ministry Action Plans (MAPs)

Any objectives discussed and agreed between the post holder and the supervising minister.

Role description signed off by The Venerable Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham

# *Appendix*

# Padbury Church of England School

Padbury Church of England School is a small friendly school where children thrive in the love and care of the adults and community around them. The most important concept to all of us at Padbury is Family. Everything we do reflects the fact that we work as a Family. We are very proud of the way in which children develop their sense of self, character and have the confidence to grow from a small community and move to the larger secondary schools successfully.

The school currently has 102 pupils, and they are organised into four classes. These are Reception, Yr1/2, Yr3/4, Yr5/6. Our maximum capacity is 105 so we are very nearly full!

Ofsted last visited in April 2022 and said:

*'This is a friendly, welcoming school. Leaders know pupils and their families well. They want the best for all pupils. Leaders have ensured that the schools' values of love, courage, respect, hope, fellowship and trust are at the heart of the school. Pupils thrive in this atmosphere of care. They feel happy, safe and valued. Parents are very positive about the school. All those who completed the Ofsted online survey Parent View would recommend it.'*



Our school vision of 'Shine as a Light in the World before Others to be the Best that You can Be,' drives everything we do. That vision is underpinned by our Christian values of Love, Respect, Courage, Trust and self-control. Examples of these values in action are evident through the school.

We work closely with the church to build the sense of community and to support children in understanding Christianity and what that looks like in action. Assemblies are held weekly which explore the Bible and help children



understand more of the Christian faith.

Our most recent Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection was in January 2019 and demonstrated how our vision and values support children in developing their Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural SMSC understandings.



**Whole class music lessons.**

*'Inspired by the vision, relationships at the school are based upon respect for others and their inclusion. This clearly impacts the pupils' exemplary behaviour and the sense of team for the staff. The school's Christian values are shaping pupils who express a definite sense of right and wrong. Pupils have opportunities to lead and to test out their moral compass, for example, through the school council. Where things do go wrong in relationships, pupils are well supported in making moral decisions and considering forgiveness and reconciliation where appropriate. The school's anti-bullying and safeguarding practices are robust, and reflect the Church of England's statement of best practice, 'Valuing All God's Children.'*

The school curriculum is strong. All subjects are taught in a way that builds on prior knowledge and learning is then secured. The school is well resourced in order to teach the different subjects effectively and learning is fun! Outdoor learning is key for all of our children. We visit our allotment across the road, or we walk to



**Science experiments outdoors!**

Millennium woods with the children in year groups weekly in EYFS and KS1. We are trying to develop the outdoor learning experiences for our KS2 children so that everyone has at least 10 outdoor learning sessions a year!





Collective Worship is at the very heart of Padbury Church of England School and the community it serves. Our daily worship is inclusive for all pupils, staff, parents and visitors whilst recognising and respecting the different beliefs and cultures within our school community. At Padbury we offer a richness and variety of worship from the traditional Anglican with Bible readings, prayers and children's hymns to the more reflective and contemplative calming style worship.

Our pattern of Worship follows the Church Year and Anglican traditions and the children enjoy planning and leading some of our favourite services such as Advent, Christingle, Candlemas and Pentecost.

The new incumbent would also become part of the Padbury CE School's Local Governing Body in an ex-officio role so that they can be fully involved in the life of the school and community.



Parents are very supportive of our school and surveys conducted annually reflect their support and appreciation. We really are part of a very positive family. Last year, the survey showed 100% of parents happy with the education provided and the support their children received. We also have an active parents' association (PFA) who help raise funds for the additional extras that make the education of children even more enjoyable.

As part of our service to others and developing our community links, we meet termly with the Padbury Friendly Club to play games, share tea and cake and enjoy learning more from the older residents in our community.

**We would welcome anyone considering applying for the role to come and visit us and talk to the staff and children so that you can get a feel of what this lovely school is all about.**

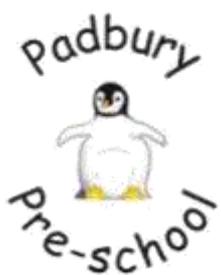


**Celebrating success is key** in any school and Padbury is no different. We celebrate success in many ways from Star of the Week certificates which celebrate academic achievement and effort to Bucket Fillers to celebrate seeing our values

in action. As a result of the positive behaviour approach, our behaviour in how we treat each other as well as our behaviour for learning is excellent.



Bucket fillers are shared every week to remind us who has shown our Padbury Values.



These three groups all use an area specially provided for them, on the site of the allotments owned by St Mary the Virgin. It is lovely that a piece of ground unsuitable for growing vegetables can be utilised for the joy and education of our 'little people'.

*All Health and Safety procedures are in place*

