



PARISH PROFILE

WINSLOW BENEFICE

◦ WINSLOW ◦ GREAT HORWOOD ◦ ADDINGTON ◦



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[St Laurence Church, Winslow](#) 

[@WinslowBenefice](#) 

[Winslow Benefice](#) 

This Benefice is an interesting mix of rural and market town within a wider context of the development of the Oxford-Cambridge arc. Work is underway on Winslow Station, which will bring further investment in the coming years.

The churches have been working together more closely through the vacancy with the support of a stipendiary curate and a self-supporting minister. Their vision is to continue this closer working relationship as they seek to develop their worship and reach out into the communities. The Benefice fared reasonably well through COVID and now seeks to rebuild and re-establish worship and finances. The churches are in the liberal catholic tradition and focus on excellence and inclusivity in worship. Music is an especially important part of worship at St Laurence.

The role calls for a priest who will support and develop the existing worship and ministry and be creative and courageous in leading the churches to engage more fully with their communities and new developments. As they have identified, they need to be better at going out to the people, instead of expecting the people to go to church. Finance needs to be a focus to put the Benefice on a firm footing for the future.

For a priest who is Eucharistically centred, community focused, inclusive and an enabler of lay ministry, this role offers many exciting opportunities. The new rector will be committed to the diocesan vision of becoming a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's World – contemplative, compassionate and courageous – and will model and enable a flourishing ministry for all, in line with the Covenant for Care & Wellbeing of Clergy.

I commend this profile to you and warmly encourage those who want to discuss the post [to contact me](#).

THE RT REVD DR ALAN WILSON
THE BISHOP OF BUCKINGHAM

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WELCOME



Our Benefice is located within the Aylesbury, Milton Keynes and Buckingham triangle in north Buckinghamshire.

We are three churches, each with its own identity and traditions, addressing our different communities:

St Laurence in the market town of Winslow (population ~5,000), St James' in the village of Great Horwood (pop. ~1,000), and St Mary's in the hamlet of Addington (pop. ~60).

Although the benefice is rural in nature, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury, with their wide range of sporting facilities, theatres, cinemas and shopping centres, are only a few miles away, and London can be reached by frequent, direct rail links in under an hour.

St Alban's Chapel – the Roman Catholic community - with permission of the diocese, also hold their services in St Laurence Church since they lost their place of worship in Winslow Hall.



WHAT WE OFFER

**Lively, supportive
communities in the church & beyond**

**Regular day off for incumbent with support from
committed churchwardens and laity to manage fees,
administration etc**

**Church communities who actively support church
activities and are eager to grow and change**

**Well maintained, historic church buildings, a church
office and an attractive four-bed modern vicarage with
large garden**

**CE primary & secondary schools, including
'Outstanding' grammar schools in Aylesbury and
Buckingham and an 'Outstanding' CE secondary school
in nearby Waddesdon**

Beautiful countryside surrounding the Benefice

**Excellent transport links to London, Aylesbury
and Milton Keynes**

WINSLOW

Winslow is a small, vibrant market town, likely to grow as a consequence of the new East West Rail link, due to be completed between Oxford and Bletchley by 2023/4. Construction of a sports hub and light industry site is planned adjacent to the station as part of the Winslow Development Plan.

Winslow has three pubs, a post office, and a variety of food shops and sports clubs. The Public Hall and St Laurence Room (church hall) are available for public hire.

It has a Church of England primary school (Ofsted rating 'Good') and the new incumbent would be a school governor. The school holds regular services in the church, and a member of the St Laurence ministry team supports a weekly assembly.

Sir Thomas Fremantle is a non-selective secondary school, with Ofsted rating 'Good', with whom the church has made some links. The town also has Furze Down School for children aged 5-19 with special educational needs that holds regular, though infrequent, services in the church.

GREAT HORWOOD

Great Horwood has a population of around 1,000 and was first recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of 792. It has a number of conservation areas with 46 Grade II listed buildings, and recent housing developments have seen up to 80 new homes built or nearing completion.

There is a wide range of activities supported by the village, from the football and cricket clubs to The Swan public house. Groups use the village hall and Scouting & Guides meet in the scout hut. It also has a CE primary school rated 'Good'.

ADDINGTON

Addington is a small rural hamlet three miles from Winslow at the end of a no-through road, with a total population of about 60. The village consists of just 21 dwellings, and its only 'community facility' is St Mary's Church.

All three churches are planning for the future and look forward to a new Rector leading us in the spiritual mission, growth and development of our churches in their communities.

We have been fortunate to start the vacancy period with a Curate, as well as a regular Self-Supporting Minister and the services of a range of lay members and retired clergy, who work closely together as a ministry team.



Winslow Ministry team

L - R: Revd Daphne Preece, Revd Canon Alan Hodgetts, Revd Didier Jaquet (SSM), Revd Mark Nelson (curate)

OUR VISION

Our aims for the Benefice are to work together to:

- Grow in faith and worship;
- Support our communities, developing our individual visions and missions;
- Develop closer working relationships between the churches in the Benefice.

We are looking for a Rector who will help us make stronger connections with our towns and villages, the schools and the new developments. As growth continues in our area, with a significant amount of new housing, we need to understand how we can reach out and be relevant to both existing and new inhabitants.

PERSON PROFILE

We are looking for a Rector who can work with us, support us and lead our churches to growth, both spiritually and in number, particularly with families and younger members of the community.

We want someone open to new ways of doing things, but who will be supportive of our churches' identities and our inclusive liberal catholic tradition.

Our ideal candidate would be expected to demonstrate the following personal qualities and skills.

PEOPLE SKILLS

- Evidence of excellent people skills; an ability to relate to others and get on with people both in and outside the church;
- Empathy and ability to care for the specific needs of older people, the sick, dying and bereaved in our communities;
- Strong experience of being a leader and team player, understanding the importance of delegation;
- Evidence of excellent skills in compassion and approachability; someone who is a good listener, values other opinions and sees pastoral care and home visiting as a key part of their job;
- Demonstrable enthusiasm and willingness to become involved in the wider community;
- Proven experience of being both innovative and proactive.

WORSHIP

- Someone comfortable with our tradition of inclusive, liberal, catholic Anglican worship but eager and able to explore new approaches;
- A keenness to bring in young people, without alienating older members of the congregation;
- A willingness to engage with training curates for ministry.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BENEFICE

- Proven commitment to working with lay people and experience in making full use of people's talents, particularly with regard to mission, pastoral care and fundraising;
- Willing to work to develop both the benefice as a whole and each church within the benefice.

ADMINISTRATION

- Demonstrated competency in administrative, organisational and communication skills, including IT.

During the early part of the vacancy, we canvassed for feedback during coffee mornings as to what parishioners might be looking for in a new incumbent.

Some of the feedback included:

has a good sense of humour

engages with the congregations

consults with parishioners on change

is friendly and inclusive, and engages with older members of the community

has drive and energy

is approachable and informal

is involved in local community issues and has a visible presence

ST LAURENCE, WINSLOW

WHAT DO WE DO?

Worship in St Laurence is based on the liturgical, sacramental and choral traditions of the Church of England, and we hold a wide range of services:

- Sung Eucharist;
- BCP;
- Creative Communion;
- Reflective Eucharist;
- Online worship.

We have a flourishing choir, which plays a central role in the life of our church.

We support a range of charity initiatives and hold fundraising events several times a year, with frequent social events.

WHY DO WE DO IT?

We believe that we should offer inclusive and wide-ranging worship, and our focus is the continuing growth in faith and numbers of our church members and our involvement and contribution to the local community.

We believe strongly in inclusivity and are members of [Inclusive Church](#).

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR IN THE FUTURE?

We want to continue to develop and grow in numbers and giving, and ensure that our activities are driven by the three core values of [Holiness](#), [Healing](#) and [Hospitality](#).

We feel we must continue to develop the part we play in our local community as Winslow continues to grow.

HOLINESS

MUSIC IN ST LAURENCE

St Laurence has a long-standing choral tradition, with a robed choir dating back to at least the mid-1800s. The choir is integral to the worship and mission of the church, as part of our liturgical, choral and sacramental tradition. Parish priests have traditionally been supportive and encouraging of the choral tradition regarding its centrality to mission and worship.

The choir:

- Has a remunerated Director of Music (responsible for choosing music), and a regular organist, with others to call on as needed;
- Averages 30 on a normal Sunday, increasing to 50 for special occasions, with an age range of 5–85, both male and female. Young mums are encouraged to bring their babies;
- Remained active through the pandemic, with recorded hymns and the mass setting played at live and online services;
- Has close links with the CE school, the source of most junior recruitment. The Director of Music runs a weekly assembly there and the school regularly visits the church;
- Is fully choral (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass), and is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. Choristers are encouraged to earn medals, and we have a high number of Bishop's Choristers;
- Has sung for ordinations, civic services, weddings, funerals and more, is responsible for the annual Nativity and leads festival services at Addington.

The hymnbooks used are "Hymns Ancient and Modern" and "Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship". The Mass Setting is the Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne, which is enjoyed by choir and congregation.

ORGAN

A very fine Bevington, dated 1911, has recently been restored to its original glory. The recording function enables music to be played as live without an organist.

PRAYER BOOK

We have a strong tradition of regular services, including some using the Book of Common Prayer, and are members of the Prayer Book Society.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our children's ministry is a hugely important part of our church, both in outreach and looking after and teaching our younger members.

Currently, we take out our youngsters during the main 9.30 service to provide an opportunity for them to interact in ways that help them develop their faith and understanding. It is led by members of the congregation, including parents, and we feel that this is still an area for further development.

JULIAN MEETINGS & HOUSE GROUPS

We have monthly online and onsite Julian Meetings with upwards of ten participants, and there are a number of regular house groups, one of which was the birthplace of the [St Laurence Food Cupboard](#).

SWAN HOUSE

A monthly service is held at Swan House, the local care home, run by a lay member of our choir. For the last two years, members of the choir and congregation have also sung Christmas carols from the House garden.



HEALING

HEALING & WHOLENESS

Prior to COVID, we ran monthly services with the laying on of hands with prayer for healing and wholeness, using a team of lay people who were trained in the laying on of hands for those seeking healing and support.

ECO CHURCH

After assessing how we were engaging with the environment, we decided to explore further issues around social justice, our relationship with God's creation and how we worship as the people of God.

There have been particular challenges caused by the pandemic, but we have looked at the opportunities we have and decided to progress within the restrictions we have faced.

We produced online children's services, held outdoor Mossy Church sessions to continue engaging with families, have been involved with diocesan environmental projects and strategies, and have been reframing how we see our buildings and land. We are looking to further develop this.

REPAIR CAFE

We recently started a Repair Cafe, initiated by our curate, Reverend Mark Nelson. This has gained an enthusiastic volunteer base, many of whom do not attend church.

OPEN CHURCH

The church is unlocked and open every day during daylight hours, and we actively encourage people in to visit or to use it as a quiet place to sit.

FOOD CUPBOARD

The Food Cupboard launched in 2017 from a house group meeting, as a way of engaging with those in Winslow in need of support and without access to Food Banks in nearby towns. As of Dec 2021, the Cupboard has a team of eight helpers who have supported over 40 households in total (the most at any one time was 28) and currently help around 20.

We have good relationships with our families; not only are families being fed but they are given support in all sorts of ways, from lifestyle to signposting to help them in their life choices. The Food Cupboard provided particular support during COVID, with a surge in families affected by job layoffs, but the need in the community shows no sign of reducing as national social changes impact families across the board.

The Food Cupboard co-ordinator, Joanna Anderson, a former churchwarden, was awarded the British Empire Medal in 2022 for her work in this area.

St Laurence Food Cupboard co-ordinator Joanna Anderson with the Bishop of Oxford



CHARITY SHOP

St Laurence runs a charity shop in Winslow Market Square via a limited company (St Laurence Trading Limited), established in Oct 2020. Around 80% of profits go to the church and the rest to local charities. It is staffed by volunteers with some paid specialist support.

The shop runs effectively thanks to the generosity of the owner of the building it works from, however it is unclear how long it will remain available to us beyond 2022. We will certainly try to keep it going, where it is or elsewhere, if we can.

Not only does it raise money for the church and charities, but it is a great link to the Winslow community generally - it provides a valuable service, helps keep activity in that part of the town, and is staffed largely by volunteers who are not regular members of the congregation.

FRIENDS OF ST LAURENCE

Friends of St Laurence was launched in 2021 in response to our latest finance review and aims to encourage residents of Winslow to support St Laurence as a key part of our community, even if they are not regular churchgoers. We currently have around 30 members.



FLOWER GROUP

A group of volunteers help decorate the church for major festivals, as well as weddings and funerals when requested. The group is self-funded by coffee mornings, commissions and donations. We have a smaller group who decorate the church for Sunday services (with the exception of Lent and Advent) on a fortnightly rota.

CHURCH GROUPS

We have a serving team, bell ringers and a book group, and volunteers undertake church cleaning, grounds maintenance etc. Lay members look after fees and much of the administration associated with baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as verging duties at these events.

SOCIAL EVENTS

A strong social team organises events including quizzes, Harvest lunch, refreshments etc. Volunteers organise Christmas fairs, coffee mornings run by a range of organisations to support church funds, a stand at the Winslow Show and Lent Lunches.

WINSLOW PARISH NEWS

The church magazine has a circulation of 1,100 and includes church and town news. The magazine allows us to reach out into the community and provides valuable financial support.

WINSLOW CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

St Alban's Catholic Chapel, Winslow Christian Fellowship and St Laurence work together with a common purpose to do God's work in Winslow.

Since the local Roman Catholic congregation lost their place of worship, they hold their services in St Laurence Church by permission of the diocese. There are a range of organised activities run by the Churches Working Together.

ST LAURENCE FESTIVAL

A festival is held in June every year in St Laurence Church, with exhibitions, talks, concerts and more, involving as many organisations in the town as possible. The by-line for the Festival is "Church and Community Together".

ST JAMES', GT HORWOOD

HOLINESS

- We have a thriving all-age group of musicians who lead music at our Come & Praise service on 2nd Sundays of the month;
- The Church has strong links with the Church of England village primary school, with church members on the governing body and leading assemblies. A weekly assembly is held in church, currently led by our curate, Revd Mark Nelson, and the school uses the church for major festivals;
- A small team of bell ringers is established, and the six bells are rung regularly for weddings and for some services.

HEALING

- The Church is open daily and offers a quiet, reflective space in the heart of the village for the whole community.

HOSPITALITY

- Hot bacon and sausage rolls, coffee and orange juice are served from 10.30am before Come & Praise services;
- "Focus", a parish magazine published by the church, features articles relating to village life, with prominence given to the Christian message. Copies are delivered free to every household in Gt Horwood & Singleborough;
- A wide range of social and fundraising events occur throughout the year, including Lent Lunches, plant sales, church fetes, cake stalls, a Harvest auction and supper, quizzes, a Christmas raffle and a variety of music concerts. Refreshments are served after church services.



St James' congregation



St James' Church



Gt Horwood CE School's Leavers' Service 2022

ST MARY'S, ADDINGTON

HOLINESS

- As the church is too small to be COVID-safe, worship has been limited to occasional outdoor services for the last two years. In 2021, we held a wedding and two baptisms, a successful Harvest Festival and a walking Carol Service, singing outside the homes of those unable to attend;
- We have seven services planned for 2022: a Holy Week Compline; a Rogation Sunday service in May; outdoor Pimms & Hymns in July; a Harvest Festival; a Taize service, an Advent Compline, and Nine Lessons and Carols.
- The church is well attended by residents of the village for major festivals, particularly Harvest and Carol Services;
- The churchyard is cared for by both parishioners' efforts and routine mowing by a local contractor.

HEALING

- The church is normally opened every day; walkers on the North Buckinghamshire Way often stop by for a time of quiet reflection.

HOSPITALITY

- Following most services there are snacks and drinks, including sausages and wine, which the congregation and visiting choir always enjoy. As the population of Addington is very small, this is a conscious decision to encourage local residents to attend church, which is well supported;
- The church is supported by the community with monthly cleaning and flower-arranging rotas;
- We also have occasional fundraising events, such as a stall at the Winslow Show, or other events in the church.

The parish benefits from an investment which generates around £4,000 per annum of income. The total additional income from regular giving, together with collections etc, comes to around the same again, and the investment income enables St Mary's to routinely meet its Parish Share in full.

Preservation of the capital of the investment is of paramount importance. Major maintenance work carried out on the church building in around 2012 depleted the parish's capital resources, but the building is now generally in good condition, and it is not currently anticipated that further major maintenance will be required for some time.



A wedding at St Mary's Church (C) Robert Cronk



St Mary's Church (C) Robert Cronk



Refreshments after a service

OUR WORSHIP

Our Benefice has three churches which all have mixed ages in their congregations. The present service pattern is:

ST LAURENCE – WINSLOW

8am: Holy Communion BCP

1st & 3rd Sundays (~10)

9.30am: Sung Eucharist

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays (~80)*

9.30am: Creative Communion

3rd Sundays (~80)*

6pm: Evensong/Evening Prayer

2nd Sundays (~10-35)*

6pm: Reflective Communion

4th Sundays (~1-20)

12pm: Eucharist

Wednesdays (~5-10)*

9am: Zoom Morning Prayer

Tuesdays & Thursdays (~5)

8pm: Julian meeting

1st Mondays (~10)

ST JAMES' – GT HORWOOD

11am: Sung Eucharist

1st, 3rd, 4th Sundays (~20)

11am: Come & Praise Family Service

2nd Sundays (~25)

11am: Morning Prayer

5th Sundays (~16)

ST MARY'S – ADDINGTON

11:15am: BCP with Hymns

Occasional services (~15-25)

October: Taize evening

Advent Sunday: Compline

*Numbers include the choir. Church congregation increases to 100+ for special services at Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Sunday. Numbers given are current figures which are increasing, although still not quite at pre-pandemic levels.

St Alban's Roman Catholic Church has permission to use St Laurence Church for services and currently holds a 6pm Mass on the first Saturday of the month and an 11.30am Mass on Sundays, excepting the Sunday after the 1st Saturday Mass.

We livestreamed and recorded services during lockdown and have a range of AV and filming equipment to allow this to be done again in the future.

WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS

Baptisms, thanksgiving, wedding, funeral and memorial services are held in all three churches.

SERVICES	ST LAURENCE			ST JAMES'		ST MARY'S	
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2020	2021
Weddings	2	4	9	0	1	0	1
Baptisms	0	5	9	0	1	0	2
Funerals	8	18		0	4	0	0
Electoral Roll		135			46		44



Easter Fire at the 2022 Easter Vigil



St Laurence wardens by the Easter Cross

OUR CHALLENGES

We recognise that the developing profile of the Benefice's population, particularly in Winslow, will mean that the three Churches, together with the other denominations in Winslow, will need to address changing circumstances and work more closely together.

We are good at events where people 'come to us', but not very strong at engaging in mission involving us 'going to them'. We recognise the demands placed upon all parish clergy and are committed to continuing to grow and develop lay ministry, especially if we are to reach out to young families.

ST LAURENCE, WINSLOW

- **Finances:** We have not been able to pay our Parish Share in full for some years, a situation which has not been helped by the pandemic and a reduction in congregation numbers – this is an issue of concern to the PCC. Through hard work we have begun to tackle some of the underlying issues, but this will need ongoing attention. We are also currently fundraising to repair the North Aisle roof, which has a leak.
- **Family worship:** How do we reach out and encourage young families to be part of our worshipping community?
- **Ministry to young people:** Recent years have seen a significant reduction in the facilities and activities for younger people in Winslow. We feel the church should take a leading role in seeking growth in this area, particularly as the population increases with housing growth.
- **Growing in faith:** We would like to continue to develop study groups, and explore other ways in which we could deepen the prayer life of the church and community.
- **Pastoral care:** We would like to be more active in how we approach pastoral care with the clergy team and church members.

ST JAMES', GREAT HORWOOD

- **Music:** How do we improve the music in our Eucharistic services? We have a thriving group of musicians playing a variety of instruments at our Come & Praise service, but we do not have a choir, which could enhance our enjoyment of music at Sung Eucharist services.
- **School links:** We would like to continue to develop our relationship with the village CE school by looking at ways to involve the school community with church activities, such as the choir.
- **The church in the community:** We are looking to enhance the presence of the church within the community as the rector resides in Winslow. This can be achieved by visiting the school, community events, the weekly Post Office and coffee mornings and home visits.

ST MARY'S, ADDINGTON

- **Worship:** Due to our small congregation, we do not tend to have many services through the year – however, we are very open to innovation and new forms of worship as appropriate to interest and attract the members of the community.
- **The church in the community:** We would welcome the widening of the presence of the church in the life of the village community, with informal visits from the rector and attendance at the occasional events held in the community.

Outdoor church service 2021



OUR FINANCES

The Benefice Parish Share has been difficult to meet, but our goal in recent years has been to work to increase our contribution. This remains our aim, despite the impact of the pandemic in the last two years.

St Laurence has the greatest Parish Share of the benefice, and the PCC has worked hard to increase regular giving and seek new forms of giving over the last two years. The new incumbent will be a key player in nurturing the growing generosity of our congregation.

		INCOME	COSTS	SHARE	SHARE PAID
ST LAURENCE	2020	£65,469	£32,654	£65,000	£32,000 (49%)
	2021	£77,193	£41,193		£36,000 (55%)
ST JAMES'	2020	£12,499	£8,153	£7,600	£4,500 (59%)
	2021	£17,015	£9,404		£7,909 (100%)
ST MARY'S	2020	£9,916	£7,251	£3,000	£3,923 (100%)
	2021	£9,557	£8,073		£4,095 (100%)



St Laurence Choir



New Sum-Up machine

ST LAURENCE, WINSLOW

The latest quinquennial report indicated that there were no urgent repairs required to the building. Over the last few years substantial money has been spent on the tower, nave roof, organ and electrics.

At present we are raising money to replace the lead roof over the north aisle.

We have also used grant money to purchase equipment to help deliver online services and are currently seeking to get wifi into the church.



St Laurence Church (C) Robert Cronk

BUILDINGS

ST JAMES', GREAT HORWOOD

The last quinquennial noted the church was in reasonable repair.

The main area of work at present is the replacement of church roof, following the lead being stolen in 2019, as well as internal redecoration.

Work on installing the new roof commenced in July 2022.



St James' Church (C) Robert Cronk

ST MARY'S, ADDINGTON

The church was shown to be in generally good order at the last quinquennial inspection, particularly following recent investment in refurbishing the tower's stonework.

The three bells are ringable by swing chiming only, and the refurbishment of the frame and bells that would be necessary to allow full circle ringing is beyond our means (and a lower priority) at present.



St Mary's Church (C) Robert Cronk

ST LAURENCE ROOM, WINSLOW

The St Laurence Room is a separate building, 50m away from the church and in an excellent position on the edge of the market square. It has a small hall, with attached well-fitted kitchen and toilets, and is used as a focus for the church and the community e.g. for public consultations from developers and East West Rail, local health authorities, many local organisations and private functions.

It also has a well-equipped office with a phone and wifi and the Lowrey Suite upstairs for smaller meetings.

BUILDINGS

THE VICARAGE

The Vicarage is a very attractive detached house, located centrally in Winslow and surrounded by a large but easily manageable garden.

It has large, light rooms with a lounge, separate dining room, large study, large open-plan kitchen/diner, utility room, cloakroom and a modern wheelchair accessible wet room downstairs. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a family bathroom and a family shower room, and another large room lined with bookcases above the garage.



The enclosed, half-acre garden is laid out mainly to lawn and is well cared for. There is a direct path from the rear garden to the churchyard and church with the town centre about 100 yards away. There is an integral garage and driveway parking for several cars.





David Meakin, Deanery Lead

CLAYDON DEANERY

Claydon Deanery consists of two teams (Claydons & Swan, and Schorne) and one united benefice (Winslow, Gt Horwood & Addington). Within the deanery there are many small and medium-sized villages and the market town of Winslow.

The deanery includes a number of places of interest, including Buckingham Railway Centre, Waddesdon Manor and Claydon House.

The deanery usually holds four Synod meetings a year and the Deanery Chapter meets regularly. Ministry provision is varied, with both teams making good use of House for Duty Team Vicars and local lay ministry caring for particular village communities.

The deanery is affected by the HS2 construction and subsequent road closures etc. East West Rail is also currently under construction across the deanery, connecting Winslow with existing rail infrastructure at Bletchley and Bicester from December 2024, ultimately enabling rail travel between Oxford and Cambridge and beyond. A link to the existing Aylesbury railway, enabling direct connection from Winslow to London Marylebone, is also planned as part of the project. The improved connections coming to Winslow are expected to bring further pressure of development and growth to the area.

Chapter meetings are informal; an opportunity to share food and fellowship and air areas of concern. The Rural Dean is available to offer help and support as needed.

THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD

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 over two million people located in all types of settings.

Due to its size and complexity, the diocese has three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic and pastoral oversight for their Areas. The Bishop of Buckingham is the Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson, who has been the Area Bishop since 2003. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is the Ven Guy Elmore, who has been in post since 2016. In September 2020, the Revd Canon Chris Bull was appointed Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham.

Through prayer, listening and discernment, a common vision for the diocese has emerged, based on the qualities described in the Beatitudes, addressing 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 vision continues to develop as we identify together areas of common life where we believe God is calling us to focus. The diocesan focal areas are not a description of everything we do, but these priorities are supported centrally by resources, training, workshops, and much more.

The diocese invites benefices and 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 clergy appointed into this Archdeaconry will commit to this vision and encourage their benefice to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world.

HELPFUL LINKS

[Twitter \(Benefice\)](#)

[Facebook \(St Laurence, Winslow\)](#)

[YouTube \(Benefice\)](#)

[Benefice website](#)

[Winslow history](#)

[Winslow Town Council](#)

[Great Horwood Parish Council](#)

[Winslow CE School](#)

[Great Horwood CE School](#)

[Winslow Wikipedia](#)

[See the latest eNewsletter](#)



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 POST

Role title:	Rector
Type of role:	Full-time stipendiary
Name of Benefice:	Winslow with Great Horwood and Addington
Episcopal area:	Buckingham
Deanery:	Claydon
Archdeaconry:	Buckingham
Conditions of service:	Please refer to Statements of Particulars document issued in conjunction with this role description.
Key contact for Clergy Terms of Service:	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.
Accountability:	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 churchwardens about any issues exceptional or otherwise that have the potential to affect ongoing delivery of ministry.
Additional responsibility:	N/A

SECTION TWO: WIDER CONTEXT

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

Our common 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.**

It is hoped all clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will want to commit to the diocesan common vision, to encourage their benefices to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world and to enable all to flourish in ministry.

SECTION TWO: LOCAL CONTEXT

The Benefice is located within the Aylesbury, Milton Keynes and Buckingham triangle in north Buckinghamshire and is made up of the town of Winslow, the village of Great Horwood and the hamlet of Addington. Each church lies centrally within its community and has its own identity and traditions, addressing our different communities and being well supported by them in turn.

Our aim for the Benefice is to work together to grow in worship, supporting our communities, developing our individual visions and missions, and working more closely as PCCs. We wish to make stronger connections with our towns and villages, schools and new developments. As growth continues in our area, with significant new housing numbers, we need to understand how we can reach out and be relevant to both existing and new inhabitants. All three churches are planning for the future. For more information, [see the Benefice profile](#).

SECTION THREE: ROLE PURPOSE AND KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

General:

A. To exercise the cure of souls shared with the bishop in this Benefice 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 baptism and confirmation;
- Diligently visiting the parishioners of the Benefice, particularly those who are sick and infirm;
- Providing spiritual counsel and advice;
- Consulting with the Parochial Church Council on matters of general concern and importance to the benefice;
- 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.

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:

- Lead and support churches to grow both spiritually and in number, particularly with families and younger members of the community;
- Be open to new ways of doing things while being supportive of the churches' identities and inclusive liberal catholic tradition;
- Help the churches make stronger connections with their towns/villages, schools and new developments in and around the benefice and make new disciples;
- Help the benefice work together to grow in worship and supporting our communities, developing our individual visions and missions;
- Support the PCCs in working more closely together.

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 Benefice's needs;
- Take care for the Benefice's wellbeing, including health and safety and building a good repertoire of spiritual and psychological strategies.

SECTION FOUR: BENEFICE SUMMARY

Benefice:	Winslow with Great Horwood and Addington
Patron(s):	Oxford Diocese Patronage Board
PCCs:	3
Churchwardens:	5
Benefice paid staff:	1 curate in training, 1 part-time administrator
Benefice unpaid staff:	1 self-supporting minister
Buildings:	4
Churchyard(s):	3
Church tradition:	Liberal catholic
Pastoral reorganisation proposals:	None

SECTION FIVE: KEY CONTACTS FOR THE ROLE

Groups & committees

- The PCC(s);
- Deanery Chapter;
- Deanery Synod;
- Deanery Pastoral Committee.

In the benefice

- Churchwardens;
- Ministerial Colleagues;
- Head teacher(s) of local school(s).

Support structures

- Area Dean;
- Area Bishop;
- Area Archdeacon;
- Spiritual director, work consultant, etc;
- Staff at Diocesan Church House with key responsibilities for various aspects of supporting

SECTION SIX: OTHER

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;
- Parish Profile;
- Ministry Action Plans (MAPs);
- Any objectives discussed and agreed between post holder and supervising minister.

ROLE DESCRIPTION SIGNED OFF BY:

The Venerable Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham .



St Laurence Shop on Market Day

All photos (C) Winslow Benefice unless otherwise stated.