



SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN
BUSCOT

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EATON HASTINGS

BADBURY & BENEFICE



ALL SAINTS
COLESHILL

SAINT GILES
GRAYCOCKWELL

WHEELER

Dear potential applicants

I am delighted that you are reading this profile and encourage you to pray about whether this Incumbent House for Duty position (2 days + Sunday) might be the role to which God is now calling you.

If beautiful places are important to you, I dare to suggest you look no further than the parishes that make up this benefice! From the idyllic meandering Thames to the National Trust land, here is rural life that attracts tourists and those who value artisan crafts. Whilst the benefice describes itself as being 'far from the maddening crowd!', it is also within easy reach of cultural, academic and practical amenities and attractions.



If this appeals to you and you appreciate the joys of rural ministry, as well as its challenges, please read on and let me tell you a little more about this role, the churches, and the people. The benefice priorities are to offer worship and to bring the teaching of Jesus and the Christian faith to the people of the communities, particularly the younger generation. They are praying for a priest who can lead well, inspire and develop people's gifts and who also has the ability to laugh with them and has a sense of joy.

You are assured here of the warmest of welcomes and the loyalty and commitment of down-to-earth, practical people, including highly competent and experienced churchwardens. The churches are well managed and in good financial positions with projects in hand. You will be joining a team of lay people with whom to serve, including a lay minister, retired clergy, and people who would like to continue reducing the time administration takes up. The beautiful settings of the churches, the traditional services and the space they offer for contemplation and reflection are greatly appreciated, as are the wonderful local traditions. You will find a friendly deanery with supportive colleagues. Our episcopal area and diocese are in good heart, expectant for all that God will do and thankful for all that God is doing. Please pray about whether you might be the right minister to join us. If you decide to apply, I would be delighted to receive your application for this key position and look forward to the possibility of welcoming you as a potential colleague and partner in the Gospel.

With every blessing

+ Gavin Dorchester

Profile of the Badbury Benefice

The Badbury Benefice is that little corner of Oxfordshire that will be forever England. It consists of four village parishes each with its own beautiful church, character, people and history. We fall within the in the southwest corner of the corner of the county. The deanery and local administrative council are the Vale of the White Horse. We border the Cotswolds with Gloucestershire and Wiltshire to the south and west, and the upper navigable reaches of the Thames to the north. We are a bit tucked away. "Far from the maddening crowd and roaring Southeast," as one parishioner recently remarked.

The Badbury Benefice is named after a prominent hill site of an Iron Age hill fort with extensive views over the benefice and surrounding countryside. The National Trust owns two large tracts of farmland that makeup the Coleshill and Buscot estates with various Oxford colleges owning others. The overall feel and character of the parishes is that this is a rural community.

The four parishes consist of:

Buscot: Church of St Mary the Virgin



Buscot and Buscot Wick, consists of sixty-nine houses, with one hundred and fortyeight voters, the Church electoral roll has thirty names upon it and a typical Eucharistic service would have an attendance of twenty. The church building is grade one listed, remote from the village, with the old rectory (now owned and let by the National Trust) adjoining. The river Thames meanders past the garden of the Rectory and path to the village of Buscot and

the lock and weir pool. The Trust owns Buscot village and the surrounds of the pool. It draws tourists and bathers during the summer months many visit St Mary's and leave charitable donations.

The congregation was historically drawn from farmers and farm workers. Although more than half of regular service goers are now from nearby Lechlade, Highworth and Faringdon, drawn to the beautiful setting and traditional service. The church and churchyard are well maintained and financed. The church has benefitted from a strong, happy and well supported PCC completing a major project in complete restoration of the Burne-Jones designed 'Good Shepherd' east window in the past year. The churchwarden of the past five years is Jonny Farnol, he is well supported by, his predecessor of many years' experience, John Burrows.

A typical Buscot PCC meeting



Coleshill: All Saints Church



Coleshill consists of seventy-three houses and four farms with one hundred and twenty-eight voters. The Church electoral roll is twenty-seven with an attendance at Eucharist of fifteenish. The church building is grade two listed and set in the heart of the village. Coleshill overlooks the Cole river which forms the boundary with Wiltshire.



The 18th century village and the Coleshill estate with its model farm was given to the National Trust in the 1950's when Coleshill house was destroyed by fire. The village still principally houses Trust farm estate pensioners and employees. The Trust runs courses for artisan crafts at the model farm; this attracts like-minded people to the village. The church

has a very experienced and capable Churchwarden, Sue Homersham, who is particularly adept at organising services and events that appeal to children. This is significant as the village school building was recently sold to the financial benefit of the church. Sue along with the PCC hope to make the church building the hub for the village by making improvements with the addition of a kitchen, lavatory and meeting room well as improving access and heating.

Eaton Hastings: Saint Michael and all Angels Church



Eaton Hastings is a tiny village but the most widespread of the four parishes. It is situated between Buscot to the west, Faringdon to the east and hugs the Thames along its northern boundary. The parish consists of thirty-two houses with fifty-eight voters, an electoral church roll of sixteen with a typical attendance at Eucharist of between twelve to fifteen. The church building dates from the eleventh century, is grade two listed and stands on the banks of the Thames. It is very much visited by Thames path walkers and those interested in the William Morris stained glass windows.



Despite being very rural and spread out the community with the managerial skills of Churchwarden, Suzanne Tearle, can still muster an enthusiastic group of regular worshippers who favour the Prayer Book service. There are several farming families and three working farms in the parish which is almost completely owned by the National Trust. The Benefice patron, Lord Faringdon has his home at Buscot Park (also National Trust owned) with its extensive grounds stretching across this, and the neighbouring parish, of Buscot.

Great Coxwell: The Church of Saint Giles



Great Coxwell is the largest village in the Benefice consisting of one hundred and fifteen houses with two hundred and forty-four voters. There are twenty two on the church electoral roll and average Eucharist attendance varies between fifteen and twenty. Michael Heathcoat is acting Churchwarden here.

Saint Giles is twelfth century grade two starred listed building surrounded by a closed churchyard which is currently maintained by the council. However, a new open churchyard lies a very short walk away through the old churchyards wall. It has extensive views over the countryside and is a space of contemplation and reflection for all.

Great Coxwell is home to the Benefice vicarage but also has the resources of the Reading room a few metres away which acts as a small village hall which the Women's Institute regularly use along with the Church. Friends of St Giles has been established by villagers to help support the Church and indeed are taking the lead on raising money for the repair of the Church roof.

The village also has an historical tithe barn built by the monks of Beaulieu Back in the days of yore. It is an atmospheric large, covered space now managed by the National Trust. Each Christmas a life-sized illuminated crib is installed by the villagers and the blessing of the crib on Christmas Eve has become a local tradition attracting more than three hundred people to a torch lit Carol Service.



The Badbury Benefice

The Benefice has been a legal entity since 1980. However, it is only more recently that we have had the momentum to develop the Benefice identity. Each church still has its own PCC and Churchwarden, who treasure their own parish's identity. The need to consolidate and simplify has however become more apparent as volunteers are not readily found for roles within individual PCCs.

During the previous incumbent's time several developments were introduced to move forward with a more integrated Benefice and simplify the administration of the four parishes. As such we now have a Benefice treasurer, Helen Woof, who deals with all four churches accounts. Similarly, the Benefice has appointed an administrator, Dee Gallagher, who assists the Vicar and provides secretarial support. Notably Dee also designs and desktop publishes the quarterly Badbury newsletter, plus assisting the Vicar with secretarial support as well as co-ordinating with the warden's information distribution. At time of writing, we are investigating whether we can pool purchasing, for insurance, electricity, oil etc. The wardens meet on a regular basis with the Vicar. It is the intention to work towards a quarterly Benefice council, where it is hoped we will have parish groups represented, this is the ambition we have.

Worship

A Holy Communion service is held in a parish each Sunday. The parishes share the fifth Sunday Communion on a rotational basis. A morning, or evening prayer in the summer months, and a Eucharist are held in the benefice each week. Family services are held in all the churches when appropriate and these services are being constantly developed with lay

assistance. Special services are celebrated throughout the benefice, on Good Friday and Remembrance Sunday a short service is held in each of the parishes.

The tradition of worship is diverse and its outlook relatively liberal. We celebrate the major festivals of the Church's year, all four farming festivals and all four Feasts of Dedication. Gt Coxwell and Coleshill use Common Worship Order 1, whilst Buscot and Eaton Hastings use Common Worship Order 2 for the Eucharistic services. Coleshill and Gt Coxwell use Common Worship for Morning and Evening Prayer, whereas Buscot and Eaton Hastings use the Book of Common Prayer for these services. Modern language services are used for most of the festivals, for which there are special service booklets.

We have a ministry team to support the Vicar. This is led by our lay preacher, Jan Hall who has the authority to preach and distribute communion by extension. We also have two retired clergy who can stand in during holidays and indeed are helping us through the interregnum. In the past year the Archdeacon has led services for us and this summer our Bishop is also preaching in the Benefice during the interregnum. Our regular, and most talented organist, is Oliver Fox with two other organists who assist when required. Finally, our benefice safeguarding officer is, local teacher Becca Vardy, who also co-ordinates the bell ringing for our churches.

The Role

Our focus remains the worship of God to all. Our vision is the delivering of the teachings of Jesus Christ to our communities. Our ambition is the bringing together of our four diverse church communities into a unified Benefice. We seek your help in leading us in these challenges.

It goes without saying that we seek an energetic saint with every skill available to man or woman. We are aware that we all have shortcomings and appreciate that we may have to settle for less!

The qualities we seek are:

- A preacher who can inspire, enable and develop people's gifts
- A thoughtful and engaging preacher who can communicate Christ's teachings
- The capability to lead four Parish communities into an administrative Benefice
- A sense of humour
- A priest who understands the joy, and challenges, of rural parishes
- A positive mental attitude
- Experience of building fabric and maintenance projects would be advantageous

The Benefits of Badbury Benefice

The Benefice is a stand-alone benefice, and the priest is a house-for-duty incumbent two days a week and Sunday. The Vicarage is a substantial modern four-bedroom home with a large garage and well stocked gardens in the heart of our beautiful village of Great Coxwell.



The walled rear garden is totally enclosed with well-established fruit trees and pond. Previous incumbents have held Benefice Easter egg hunts, Summer Barbeques and a Vicars Tea Party here in the past. However, we do realise it is your home not our facility, the good news is that it's only fifty yards to St Giles churchyard and set in a beautiful village.

This house backs onto beautiful countryside with the opportunity for long country walks. Indeed, through the gate at the bottom of the garden and all of England seemingly unwinds in front of your eyes.

Oxford is a twenty-five-minute drive away with all its academic and cultural delights. It is a similar distance to Swindon, albeit in the opposite direction, with its own more practical attractions, the Great Western hospital, shopping malls etc. It is a local bus journey to either, which departs every twenty minutes from just outside the village. Faringdon is the nearest market town, two miles away, with retailers such as Waitrose, Tesco and Aldi represented. The town has a good sports centre with pool and other facilities at Folly Park for Rugby, Cricket and a delightful public library. Faringdon has preschool, infants, junior and the Cambrian Learning Trust Community college. St Hugh's, which is an independent CofE school, is at Carswell Manor just outside of Faringdon. A new SEND school, the Artemis Academy, is currently under construction in Faringdon

Deanery Information

The four churches of the Badbury Benefice form an important component of the 27 churches in the Deanery of the Vale of White Horse, and are located in the west of the deanery. It is a predominantly rural deanery, situated within the administrative area of the Vale of White Horse District Council, and stretches from Shrivenham in the west to Longworth in the east, and from the River Thames in the north to the Downs in the south. Although agriculture is the most visible economic activity, all villages and the only town in the deanery, Faringdon, principally serve to provide dormitory housing for the major employment centres of Oxford, Swindon, Bristol, Cheltenham and beyond.

The benefice is physically delightful and overall is part of a region of great natural beauty. It attracts many visitors, partly drawn by the position of the National Trust in the area. Most of the churches in the deanery are open daily. Many of the villages in the deanery have small populations, though a number of villages strongly retain their schools and other facilities such as public houses and the larger villages have one or more shops. Unsurprisingly, there is extensive new housing development especially in Faringdon and Shrivenham. In terms of public transportation, the busy A420 road from Swindon to Oxford is the main artery.

There are six benefices in the deanery, with five full-time stipendiary clergy, and three house for duty clergy (the Badbury one being an incumbent). There is a significant number of licensed and authorised lay ministers, and retired clergy with permission to officiate. The clergy meet regularly as a welcoming and mutually supportive chapter, and there is an annual meeting of the chapter which include lay ministers and clergy with PTO. In common with deaneries throughout the diocese, the Deanery Synod, meeting three times a year, allocates parish share to the benefices. To ensure that all that the Deanery does for the parishes is grounded in prayer, a weekly on-line prayer meeting is held, its agenda shared widely across the deanery for personal devotions.

Many of the schools in the deanery are members of the Faringdon-based Cambrian Learning Trust Academy of Schools (one secondary, and seven primary schools) but there are also four voluntary controlled or voluntary aided schools, and there good church involvement with several of the primary schools, particularly in relation to the Open the Book project.

Our commitment to you

We offer you our warmest of welcomes to our Benefice.

We offer you our commitment, our loyalty, our hard work and our support.

Our Parishes are all in a good financial position, and well managed.

Our church building projects are in hand with a plan for achieving completion.

Our Benefice is very well supported by our Patron, Lord Faringdon and his family.

Our Benefice is a loving country community which seeks to share the love of Jesus in everyday life.