



# **Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership has a vacancy for House for Duty Vicar (House for Duty 2 days plus Sunday) in the beautiful new city of Milton Keynes**



Caldecotte Lake is one of many in our city.



The ancient village of Milton Keynes gave its name to our city.



Milton Keynes Shopping Centre.



There are even Roman remains preserved at Bancroft in MK.



The famous codebreakers at Bletchley Park played a major part in winning World War II.

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# From the Area Dean



In considering ministry in Milton Keynes, you are considering an exciting thing!

This profile already provides a great insight into the unique nature of Milton Keynes, a place which many of us love and are proud of.

As you might expect, I believe that this moment is also an exciting - and important - time for us to minister in the city. The growth which will happen over the next few years is vast. Technological innovation, the pioneering spirit and the young demographic of MK all make our context one which excites us greatly. However, there is of course

plenty to do. The Stantonbury area is large and varied. The issues facing the people of the area are equally large. However, it is my belief that this is the very thing which gives us hope in the fruitful work of the gospel!

The local vision of thriving churches ministering to the locality is precious to us as a deanery. We want all churches to be free to creatively express the love of God through the 5 Marks of Mission. I hope that you will always feel the encouragement of a supportive deanery as you lead this.

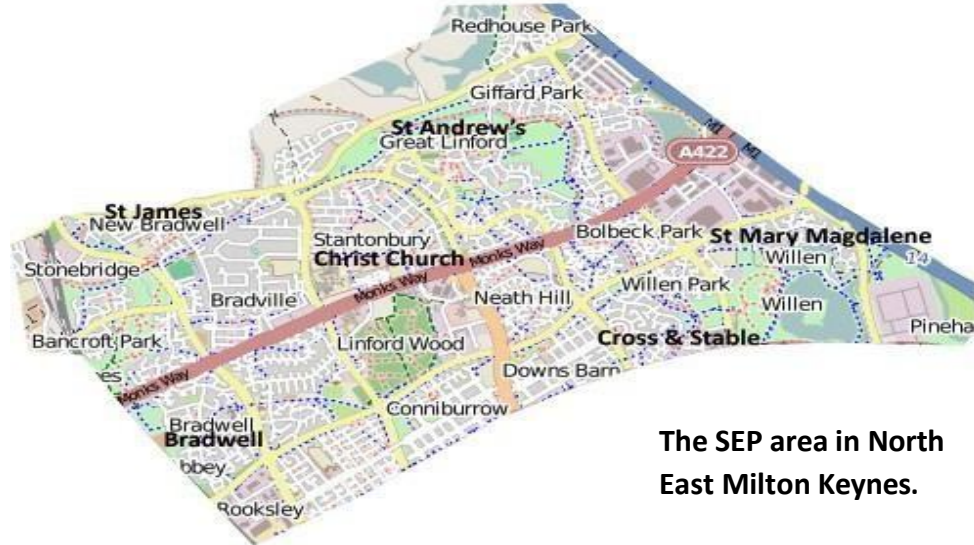
We are praying for you as you consider this post. If the Holy Spirit is leading you to creative and generous missional presence in an exciting city with beautiful parks and exciting plans...then we look forward to receiving your application!

Paul Oxley

Area Dean - MK



# Parish Profile



The SEP area in North East Milton Keynes.

## INTRODUCTION

We hope you find this partnership profile helpful and that it will whet your appetite to find out more, either on our website, in a phone call, or by paying us a visit.

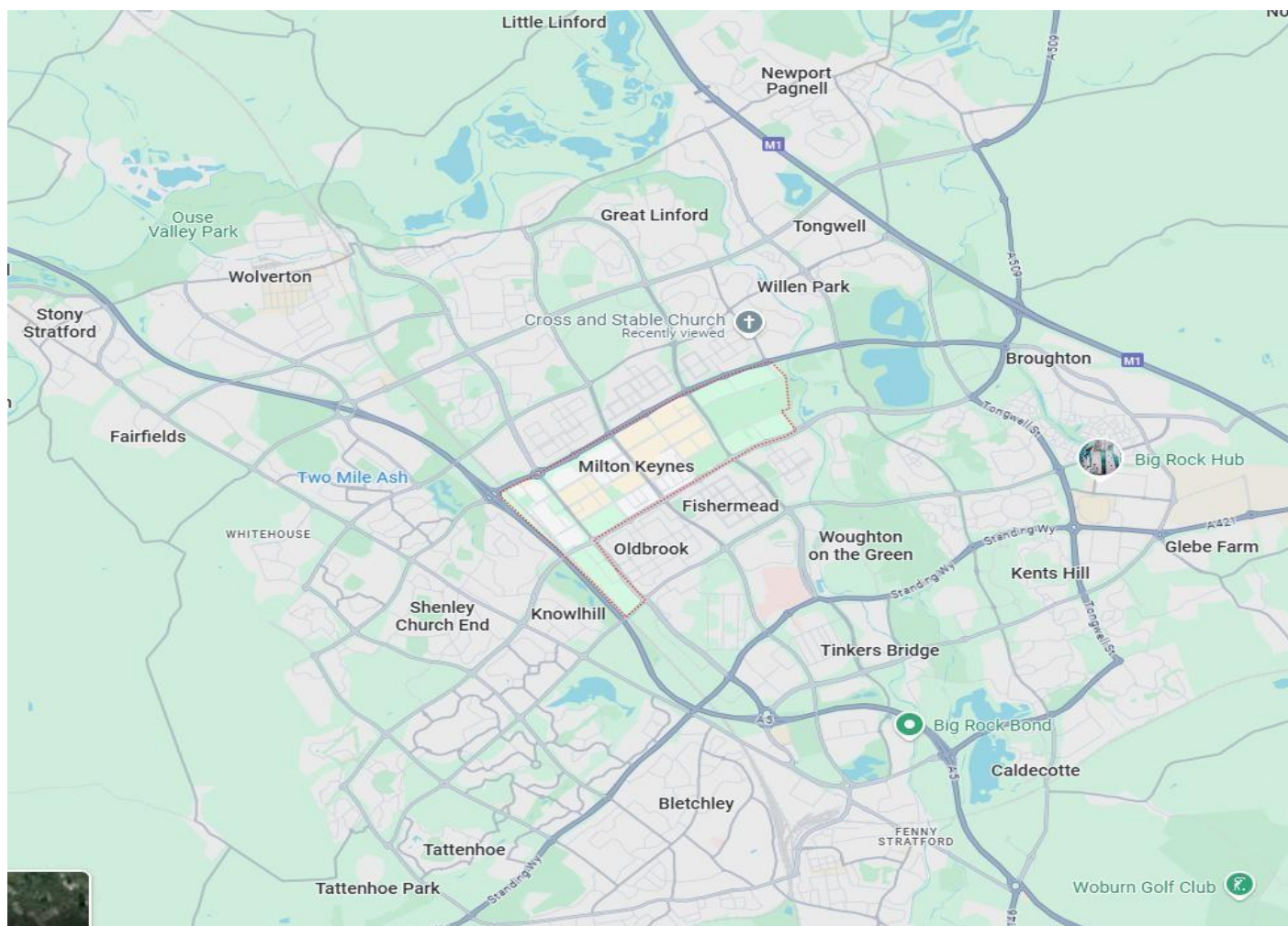
Although conceived as a city from its earliest days, Milton Keynes has only recently been visited by King Charles III to be given city status. Its current population is around 290,000 and is still growing and it is planned to grow to 450,000 in the next 15 years. It is an exciting place to pursue mission and ministry in the name of Christ. You may have heard of our roundabouts and cows, but we also have over 300 miles of separate pedestrian and cycling pathways that go under or around roads. It's very safe to travel around Milton Keynes and there are rarely any traffic jams; trees, not traffic lights, are what we see.

In our growing city and fast-moving world, we seek to offer the hope and vision of the Christian gospel to all. We thank God for His guidance and companionship on the journey and pray for the vision, faith and courage to carry forward His mission in an ecumenical partnership.

## Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership (SEP) is one of five Local Ecumenical Partnerships across the city. SEP is made up of six congregations in the North Eastern corner of Milton Keynes. The area served contains the civil parishes of Great Linford, Stantonbury, Bradwell and New Bradwell. The Ecumenical Partnership incorporates the Anglican Parish of Stantonbury and Willen. The total population of the SEP area is around 50,000 and it is socially, economically and ethnically diverse. There are 17 schools within the SEP area, which is a key opportunity for outreach. There are 5,000 houses being built in the east of Milton Keynes as well as a hotel, parking and high-rise flats in the center, near the gallery and theatre district.

SEP has recently registered as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organization) Charity number: 1200563, with a Partnership Agreement that includes the Church of England, the Baptist Union, The Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.



***Milton Keynes is a dynamic and well-connected city, ideally located just off the M1 at junctions 13 and 14, with excellent transport links north and south. The city boasts fast train services to London Euston in under 35 minutes, Birmingham in 55 minutes, and future connections via the East West Rail project to Oxford and Cambridge. Church House in Oxford and the new Area Office are both within easy reach, and the new Bishop of Buckingham will reside in Milton Keynes, underscoring the city's growing significance within the Diocese.***

The Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership was formed in June 1982 and in the early days there was substantial financial input from the wider church denominations in support of ecumenical projects, and for many years, each church had its own minister. Gradually, with rising costs and fewer clergy available, the numbers of ministers have reduced. However, the Deanery plan to and apply for National Funding to redress that balance, hopefully with funds available from late 2026.

We currently have one full time Anglican Team Rector and Team Leader. SEP has also a full-time Baptist Minister. There is a part-time self-supporting Anglican Minister and one vacant house for duty Anglican Vicar.

The ecumenical perspective is widened by having a minister from the Methodist Circuit working part-time in the Partnership. We are fortunate in the partnership to have excellent lay ministers and retired clergy from the various denominations supporting our mission and serving our congregations.



## WE OFFER YOU

- A beautiful and well-maintained home in a vibrant and growing community.
- Supportive colleagues and a collaborative ministry team, dedicated to helping you thrive in your role.
- Friendly, welcoming, and diverse congregations eager to journey with you in faith and mission.
- Access to spiritual direction and guidance to nurture your personal and ministerial growth.



Chatterbox Cross and Stable is a community initiative hosted at the Cross and Stable Church. The Cross and Stable Church offers free hot drinks and cake for local people of all ages, faiths, world views and backgrounds and the chance to meet new people, share concerns with one another and boost their mental health. Between 50 and 60 people are joining Chatterbox sessions every Wednesday morning



## OUR VISION

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*Six thriving and growing congregations,  
making Christ known in our area of Milton Keynes*

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The SEP seeks to help and encourage our six congregations as they engage with the needs and opportunities for mission in their local areas and through their congregational life, supporting one another where we can. We also work together in partnership in ministry and in mission. Each of these congregations has its own membership list. There are currently approximately 355 members in the SEP.

Each of the congregations has its own decision-making body; a Congregation Leadership Team. Each congregation nominates representatives to the 'Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Council'. SEPC meetings are combined with PCC meetings, and most of the PCC business is delegated to the SEPC, which is chaired by an elected Lay Chair, there is a smaller Partnership Leadership Team and so far, the Mission, Evangelism and Discipleship Team, recommended in our Review, has not started. The CIO Trustees make the overriding decisions of the SEP. The House for duty minister will be an ex-officio member of the trustee. Each congregation manages its local financial responsibilities and contributes a 'share' to the Partnership. The amount is agreed by each congregation, according to their capacity, after discussions between congregation treasurers and the partnership treasurer.

Congregations have largely operated independently, however, SEP want, and need, to work more closely together to share resources and a smaller number of stipendiary clergy. We have recently conducted an extensive mission-focused review of the Partnership, coordinated by an Interim Minister, recruited specifically with the Added Responsibility for conducting a Review. One of the outcomes was the setting up of 'role huddles'; groups with members from across the congregations with common interests; e.g., communication, finance, buildings, administration. The recommendations have been considered by SEC and a new path forward has been agreed and implementation has begun. The main desires are that we become a more mission-focused and a more collaborative, outward looking, Partnership.

## CLERGY TEAM



Rev Canon Chi Okpala is the full-time Anglican Minister, with oversight of St James' Church, New Bradwell, St Mary Magdalene Church, Willen and St Andrews Church, Gt Linford. Chi has recently joined us as Team Rector and Team Leader in September 2024.



Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe is the part-time non-stipendiary Anglican Minister at Cross and Stable Church, Downs Barn and St Mary Magdalene, Willen. His experience and dedication are very valuable to our team as we work together in mission and ministry.



Rev Phil Dunning has been recently employed as the Baptist full time minister with the added responsibility of the Vision enabler role. He also joined in September 2024. He has oversight of St Lawrence Church Bradwell village, Christ Church Stantonbury and also the Cross and Stable Church, Downs Barn



Rev Dave Haseldine has joined us from the Methodist Circuit on a part time basis. He supports St Andrews Church Gt Linford mainly and lives at the Manse nearby. Dave will be with till September 2025 when a new Methodist minister joins us.

The Partnership is also blessed with a strong team of 4 Licensed Lay preachers and 9 retired ministers who regularly lead our services and help with pastoral care.



## OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS AND CONGREGATIONS



### BRADWELL VILLAGE

Bradwell (St Lawrence), Bradwell holds one Sunday service, mainly traditional, with a monthly all age service aimed at families. The congregation has 86 on the membership list — most are at the mature end of the age range with a few new families responding to outreach activities. There are several house groups for Bible study and a gardening group meets regularly to

maintain the churchyard. The building was 800-years-old in 2023 and is in a village dating back many centuries. The building has been reordered with underfloor heating and has fully flexible seating arrangements. There is an annex suitable for small meetings and a kitchen. The church has excellent 4G Wi-Fi allowing services to be streamed regularly via Facebook Live. For more information visit [Bradwell Church website](#).



### DOWNS BARN

Cross and Stable is a modern, multi-purpose building managed by a separate charity (Charity number: 1017685). The space is used as church and community centre, with adjoining workshops.

This is a young and culturally diverse congregation, that currently numbers 43 people and is growing. The

church has also recently started a junior church. There is an active band of bellringers, and a range of community groups use the space in the week, including Yoga, University of the Third Age, Dance, Weightwatchers, Community Larder and groups from other churches.

Chatterbox meets every Wednesday at Cross and Stable and offers a place of welcome and belonging for everyone who comes through the doors. It now includes an element of praise and the team is working with the diocesan Greenhouse team to develop this group into a New Worshipping Congregation.



## GREAT LINFORD



St Andrew's dates from the 11th Century and is set in the grounds of the Manor.

Services are mainly traditional with Holy Communion on most Sundays at 10am. Evening prayers take place on Zoom at 5pm and morning prayer at 8.30am on Wednesdays. There are 81 people on the membership list. With its Grand Union canal-side

location and newly landscaped Manor ponds, the church is an ideal setting for the monthly Fiveways café, run in conjunction with Milton Keynes Parks Trust and the Friends of Great Linford Manor Park.



## NEW BRADWELL

St James' opens its doors every Saturday for coffee mornings. Each year it stages a Glow in The Dark Party on October 31 – a Christian alternative to Halloween for children.

The church is a popular concert venue owing to its relative size and up-to-date amenities. Seating capacity

is one of the largest in the SEP, accommodating up to about 200 people.

Sunday morning service at 10am is mainly traditional in style with both Anglican and Methodist Holy Communions. There are 50 people on the membership list. The building is Victorian, and it has been recently reordered to have fully flexible seating. Along with the adjacent school, it was provided by the railway industry, in the mid nineteenth century.



## STANTONBURY

Christ Church is on the same campus as a large comprehensive school, theatre and leisure centre. The church building is multi-functional with a large, fully equipped kitchen and hall adjoining the church. There is a comfortable lounge and reception area, suitable for small meetings. The building is hired by a range of groups including churches, choirs and dancers.

For much of the church's life, worship has often been in the Baptist tradition and Christ Church has usually had a lead Baptist Minister. There are 35 on the membership list.



The Under-fives group is a friendly, welcoming group for young children and their carers, which meets on Thursday mornings in term time, from 10:00 until 11:30am. Christ Church has three house groups for Bible study and on Wednesday mornings the building is open for a drop-in centre.

The main services are streamed on Facebook through the church's Wi-Fi.

## WILLEN VILLAGE



St Mary Magdalene is a Grade 1 Listed 17th Century church, built by Robert Hooke after The Great Fire of London. It is often called the jewel of Milton Keynes.

Close by is Willen Hospice, which was established by the joint efforts of the church and the then adjacent Society of the Sacred Mission Priory, about 40 years ago, (this Community has relocated to Durham in recent times).

There is one Sunday service at 9.30am. Services are varied by tradition. There is a monthly all age worship service and the classical religious music choir,

Quorum, lead evensong 6 times a year. There are 43 people on the recently growing membership list. Church activities are limited by the absence of a water supply, toilets and any social space – in recent years, social events have been held at the nearby Willen Pavilion.

Monthly lunch time concerts and weekly choir rehearsals make use of the building's excellent natural acoustics. Willen Lake is close by with its range of Parks Trust organised water and family activities and events. The Gardening Club meets weekly in good weather in the Garden of Remembrance.



## MEMBERSHIP

In addition to those members of the participating denominations, or other denomination recognised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland or the Evangelical Alliance, membership is on the basis of Christian baptism with a personal or public declaration of faith.

Those ecumenically confirmed are recognised as full members of the participating denominations. Baptism is administered in the partnership in accordance with the tradition of the participating denominations. Two churches in the partnership have baptismal pools. There is an annual service of adult baptism (Immersion or Sprinkling) and confirmation for members of all the Milton Keynes Local Ecumenical Partnerships.

## THE WIDER CONTEXT

**Churches Together in Milton Keynes** is a recently formed Trust, bringing together churches and other Christian organisations from across the city. It is intended to act as a forum for communication and will stage city-wide events. The most recent of these was a series of eight events held during the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. Please see the website - <https://www.ctmk.church> for further information.

**The Deanery of Milton Keynes** covers the area of the Borough of Milton Keynes. There are thirty churches in ten benefices, some of which are parts of LEPS. There is a part-time Area Dean, who regularly meets with all the Team Leaders and Lay Chairs of Local Ecumenical Partnerships.

**The Diocese of Oxford** is a large diocese with over 600 parishes serving more than two million people. It is divided into three areas and four archdeaconries. Milton Keynes falls within the area and archdeaconry of Buckingham. [www.oxford.anglican.org](http://www.oxford.anglican.org).



**Milton Keynes Methodist Circuit** covers an area extending beyond the borough. <https://mkmethodist.org.uk>.

**The Central Baptist Association** is the branch of the Baptist Union covering Bucks, Northants, Beds and Herts. It is active in supporting Baptist ministry across the region including LEPS. <https://centralba.org.uk>

**The East Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church** covers a very large area and is based in Nottingham. The Moderator and staff are very helpful and supportive of mission in the Milton Keynes area. <https://www.urc5.org.uk>

## THE RECTORY

The home provided for the appointed Anglican Minister is in the very desirable village of Great Linford. It is a four-bedroomed detached house, purpose-built in the late 1980s and has recently been refurbished.

Great Linford is one of the historic villages within the borough and has seen rapid expansion with new estates in the last forty years. It is only a 10-minute drive to the railway station with trains on the West Coast mainline to Euston (30 minutes) and Birmingham, Manchester (90 minutes), Liverpool and Scotland.



**Great Linford Vicarage is a four-bedroom detached house.**

## Appendix II: HOUSE FOR DUTY PERSON SPECIFICATION

Our Partnership has decided that in future we will appoint new ministers to the Partnership, rather than to an individual congregation. The trustees of the Partnership will develop a ministerial plan, with all the ministers, for the six congregations.

House for Duty Associate Priest will serve God as a member of a team across the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership.

We are praying for a new Anglican priest who is;

- an energetic and enthusiastic ordained minister with the ability to reach all ages.
- Able to inspire those who have so far stayed away to return, especially our young people.
- can identify, grow and develop the spiritual gifts and practical skills of all church members and to be more active in their discipleship and service and to build financial sustainability.
- a good communicator - self-motivated, with the ability to motivate others to put plans into action.
- Will inspire our very capable, faithful and willing members who seek to go further into the community to encourage people into the church, so that we are able to show them all we have to offer.
- passionate about lifelong learning and has experience of the nurture of new Christians as well as encouraging the ongoing discipleship of all the people of God.
- comfortable working with a variety of denominations and church traditions, e.g., Churches Together.

We expect our new priest to have;

- a strong faith rooted in worship and prayer.
- a pastoral heart and will encourage the community to be more involved in church life
- a friendly approach and good at listening
- good organisational and communication skills.
- a passion for Mission.
- a real gift for preaching and teaching in a way that relates the Bible intelligently to contemporary life.
- a sense of humour—this is **vital**



## APPENDIX II: PROVISIONAL JOB SPECIFICATION

*The following provisional job specification 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:** House For Duty Vicar

**Type of Role:** House for Duty 2 days plus Sunday

**Name of benefice:** Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

**Episcopal area:** Buckingham.

**Deanery:** Milton Keynes

**Archdeaconry:** Buckingham

**Conditions of service:** Please refer to Statements of Particulars document issued in conjunction with this role description

**Key contact for** Archdeacon of Buckingham

**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, Team Rector and Church Wardens about any issues exceptional or otherwise that have the potential to affect ongoing delivery of ministry.

**Additional Responsibility:**

### 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.

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 that all clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will want to commit to the [Diocesan Common Vision](#), to encouraging their benefices to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world and to [enabling all to flourish in ministry](#).

### 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 the Team Rector and 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, in hospital 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
  - attending MK Deanery Synod meetings (3 times a year)
- C. To share in the wider work of the deanery and diocese as appropriate, for the building up of the whole Body of Christ

#### 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 needs.
- Take care for their wellbeing including health and safety and building a good repertoire of spiritual, psychological and safeguarding strategies.

### SECTION FOUR: BENEFICE SUMMARY

Benefice: Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Patron(s): Team Ministry Patronage Board Trustees of Charitable Incorporated Organisation: Stantonbury Ecumenical Council (SEC)

**Benefice paid staff:** 1 (Anglican, full time); 1 Minister (Baptist, full time); 1 Minister (Methodist, part time)

**Benefice unpaid staff/ volunteers:** 1 Self-Supporting Minister (Anglican); 1 Associate Priest (Anglican, House for Duty - Vacant); several licensed lay preachers and retired ministers.

Buildings: 6

Churchyard(s): 4

Church Tradition: Ecumenical

## **SECTION FIVE: KEY CONTACTS FOR THE ROLE (we are lucky to have a strong structure of planned worship, ways to communicate and helpful support)**

### **Groups & committees in the SEP for reporting to, and/or working with.**

- Trustees
- Partnership Leadership Team and Mission, Evangelic and Discipleship Team
- Congregation and Church Meetings
- SEP Council

### **Support structure in the SEP and Diocese**

- Ministerial colleagues
- Chairs of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Council and CIO Trustees
- Area Dean, Deanery Chapter and Synod
- Bishop of Buckingham
- Archdeacon of Buckingham
- Oxford Diocesan Office for various aspects of support

## **SECTION SIX: OTHER**

This job specification 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

Attached papers

Ministry Action Plans (MAPs)

Any objectives discussed and agreed between the minister and trustees

Job Specification signed off by: The Venerable Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham

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Date: tba

To be reviewed next on: tba