

THE BENEFICE OF ELLESBOROUGH, THE KIMBLES,
AND STOKE MANDEVILLE
HAS A VACANCY FOR A RECTOR (HOUSE FOR DUTY)
- 2 DAYS A WEEK PLUS SUNDAY



We are a united group of four churches who help one another to grow in faith, and share with all, through words and actions, the love, forgiveness and acceptance we have found in Jesus.

A Beacon of hope, living & sharing the love of God.



love....forgiveness....acceptance

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1. FOREWORD FROM THE ASSOCIATE ARCHDEACON



During this vacancy, there was a meeting attended by one of my colleagues in supporting these three parishes. They arrived in good time, to find that room was already filled with PCC members eager to join in with all that God has in store. I remember them saying subsequently how lovely the tone was at that meeting and how special that had been.

Having been exceedingly patient following the retirement of the previous parish Priest and despite opportunities where paperwork could so easily have sapped hope, this lovely tone has been maintained throughout. Naturally, the curated profile modestly omits that glad truth – but any successful applicant will benefit from it in spades.

This is evidenced by the ongoing discussion, by the parishes, to provide ringfenced monies for mission for the new incumbent to utilise upon their commencement. This novel approach is now being touted as best practice across the Archdeaconry and speaks to the heart for mission that is present in Stoke Mandeville, Ellesborough and the Kimbles.

There are challenges, in keeping with the mostly rural context, but also significant opportunities given the expected new housing and the increasing proximity of Aylesbury. This profile does a candid job of outlining them and capturing the urgent hope present in the gathered worshipping communities therein.

With substantial support from the Diocese and the Deanery, any appointee will also find gifted, talented and skilled congregants to help them on their way.

As ever, the new Priest 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 to model and enable a flourishing ministry, for all, in line with the diocesan work in this area.

I commend this profile to you and I would welcome conversations about the role with interested candidates.

2. THE BENEFICE

Introduction

The Benefice is composed of the parishes of St. Peter & St. Paul, Ellesborough, All Saints, Little Kimble, St. Nicholas, Great Kimble, and St Mary's, Stoke Mandeville. The churches in Ellesborough and Little and Great Kimble are all listed buildings with origins going back as far as the 12th and 13th centuries. The present church in Stoke Mandeville was built in 1865-66 replacing a former church built some way away from the village in the 9th -10th century. The present church is Grade 2 listed.

Location



Map reproduced by permission of Ordnance survey

The Benefice lies to the south of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire and extends from the increasingly urban area of Stoke Mandeville into the more rural areas of Ellesborough and the Kimbles. Much of Ellesborough village and parish is located within the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now known as the Chilterns National Landscape).

High Speed Rail 2 (HS2) which is currently under construction will run roughly from south east to north west through the Benefice.

Recent Changes and Current Status

Due to previous plans to work towards the separation of the parishes and their possible realignment with larger churches or adjoining deaneries, the Benefice has been without the services of a permanent priest for the past seven years. Our last full time rector retired in 2018 and for most of the subsequent period our spiritual affairs were the responsibility of an interim house for duty

minister charged with progressing the reorganisation plan. For various reasons it proved impossible to agree any change in the current Benefice structure.

During this period of review, negotiation and discussion none of the parishes have received the spiritual and pastoral support that they most urgently require. This has been exacerbated by the major planned new housing developments in Stoke Mandeville and to a significant but lesser extent in Great Kimble. In addition there have been the effects of the construction of HS2 and the SEALR (south east Aylesbury link road).

Following the decision that the existing Benefice should continue in its present form, and remain as an entity with the Wendover deanery, the parishes have been re-establishing their previous links and endeavouring to work more closely together. Throughout this interim period some good and effective links have been maintained, but these are now being consciously strengthened and developed further.

Major internal improvements have been made in recent years at St. Nicholas, Great Kimble (re-ordering project), and St Peter & St. Paul (toilet and servery project).

The future of All Saints, Little Kimble which has important medieval wall paintings is uncertain, although initial steps have been taken to bring about its closure as a place of worship. The church remains open but no services have been held in the church for the past year.



A Meeting of PCC Representatives

Church affairs are managed by three Parochial Church Councils (Ellesborough, The Kimbles, and Stoke Mandeville). The financial position of Ellesborough PCC is secure, The Kimbles is satisfactory but is subject to some uncertainty regarding the extent of building repairs at St. Nicholas, and future costs at All Saints. St Mary's Stoke Mandeville church and hall(The Ark) remain financially marginal.

3. OUR VISION

Our vision is for our new Rector to be a visible presence in our communities, providing leadership to all three parishes, and playing a major role in the rebuilding of our church memberships and attendance. This will require new imaginative approaches, new initiatives, and new forms of service, while respecting the existing forms of service and the preferences of current church members. Change will be effected by sympathetic evolution rather than revolution.

Thus, our vision is to achieve increases in church attendance, through more varied forms of service, with an increasingly visible presence for the church in all three local communities. We would aim to create closer working relationships and greater collaboration within the benefice, sharing manpower, physical resources e.g The Ark, and expertise where this can be of benefit.

We aim to enhance the facilities of our churches where this can realistically be of benefit to our local communities, within the constraints of what our finances and available funding can afford.

4. MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING OUR NEW RECTOR

- Providing leadership and support for the PCCs, and particularly for the lay leaders in the three parishes
- Rebuilding the generally small congregations for Sunday services, with particular emphasis on attracting a wider age range, and the residents of the new housing estates in Stoke Mandeville and Kimble
- Building on the success of the monthly St. Nic's Kids', and the St. Mary's All-Age services ,and achieving greater attendance at other Sunday services of St Nics' Kids' families
- Helping Stoke Mandeville achieve financial stability
- Fostering increased co-operation and sharing of skills and resources between the parishes
- Developing and implementing new forms of service where this will meet a need and enhance the attractiveness of church attendance
- Using any available Mission Fund in new and imaginative ways
- Maintaining a friendly, approachable and constructive demeanour

5. WHAT WE REQUIRE OF OUR NEW RECTOR

We want a person who is able to reach out and effectively communicate with all members of our communities, both church goers and non church goers in an open, friendly manner. Our new minister should be flexible and approachable with a good sense of humour. We want someone who will be a champion for our small church communities, who will see our potential and want to help us not just survive but flourish and grow.

Both Kimble and Stoke Mandeville have strong links with the primary schools in their parishes, so we would love a minister who has plenty of energy, and is especially good at communicating with children and can embrace all ages in a sermon. Our minister will need to become a familiar face at Great Kimble School as well as Griffin House, a prep school in Little Kimble, and Stoke Mandeville Combined School, to maintain these strong links.

We envisage that our current pattern of services will need to change particularly if new forms of service are introduced , but we hope that our new minister will be able to conduct services in each of our parishes at least three times a month, and that their time will be allocated effectively and equitably between the three parishes so that each can benefit from the leadership, imagination and initiative that will be required for the minister's role to be fully successful.

We recognise that change may be necessary if all the churches in the Benefice are to thrive, and would be open to suggestions of combining some services with other Benefice churches. Apart from the St. Nic's Kids service at Kimble and the All-Age service at Stoke Mandeville, we mainly use traditional orders of service and sing largely traditional hymns played on the organ. However Kimble recently trialled a new informal, café-style service for adults, and all parishes are open to having a variety of services in order to entice new people to church.

The PCCs want the churches to be central to the life of their village communities, with imaginative and inspirational worship and effective pastoral ministry.

We are praying for a minister who will:

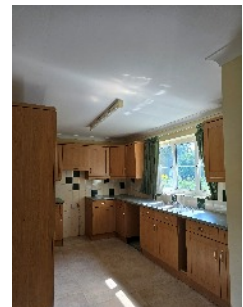
- be a prayerful and inspirational team leader who will encourage and support the gifts of the laity and will help us move forward together
- lead in outreach and be an approachable and visible presence in the villages and the schools
- willingly and enthusiastically participate in village events and join in village life
- be at ease with all ages and able to undertake pastoral work with warmth, friendliness and approachability
- encourage more families by spreading the good news of Jesus Christ within the different communities with a variety of services in various local community venues -
- hold a balance between respect for the past and encouragement of new growth

- welcome the challenges and opportunities of ministry in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the outskirts of a developing urban area and help us to work even more closely as a Benefice
- value the variety of services within the benefice and the different identities of the parishes
- be a good communicator using a variety of media to maximise impact
- be aware of their own need for ongoing spiritual development and refreshment

6. WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

The Benefice can offer:

- An attractive, modern detached house in the heart of the village of Stoke Mandeville, close to new developments as well as the older parts of the village. The house offers generous living accommodation, a study/office, up to date facilities, an integral garage and front and back gardens



- The Ark, adjacent to the house, includes a hall/meeting room, kitchen and office administration accommodation.
- Excellent transport links in form of a rail and bus services, and convenient road connections between the three parishes
- The support of three experienced, hard working and committed PCC teams
- The support of a licensed lay minister (based in The Kimbles but able to assist elsewhere)
- A possible Mission Fund to support new initiative and projects
- Overall financial stability, with all parishes having some reserves to cover unexpected repair and maintenance costs
- Well maintained and cared for churches
- Support from small but committed congregations, generous financial support from local communities in some areas for special appeals and projects
- The opportunity to carry the word of Jesus to the new areas of housing development, and make a real impact on the viability of the three parishes
- Easy access to the Chilterns National Landscape (AONB)

7. WENDOVER DEANERY

Wendover Deanery is made up of large and small villages to the south of Aylesbury with the edge of the Diocese of St Albans to the east and Amersham to the south. It is an area of outstanding beauty as well as good road links.

Over recent years there has been significant housing development in some parts of the deanery; most notably Aston Clinton, Stoke Mandeville, Weston Turville and Great Kimble with more planned.

The deanery sits with the Archdeaconry of Buckingham in the Diocese of Oxford. We are 20 churches grouped together into 8 benefices. These are ministered to by 6 stipendiary clergy and 2 House for Duty priests (when appointed). There are also a number of retired priests who have permission to officiate, living in the deanery and several of our parishes have licensed lay ministers.

The Area Deans are Rev'd. Canon Sally Moring and Rev'd Sally Bottomer and the Lay Chair is Gavin Oldham OBE. There is an active Deanery Chapter, and the Deanery Synod normally meets four times each year covering a wide range of topical subjects.

We encourage every church community to flourish within their wider communities, sharing the gospel in ways appropriate to them and endeavouring to support one another as we do so.

8. 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 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 previous Bishop of Buckingham, the Rt Rev'd Alan Wilson sadly died in February 2024. He had been our Area Bishop since 2003. We are now served by Rt Rev'd Dave Bull who was consecrated Bishop in Lent 2025. The Rev'd Gavin Knight was recently appointed as Archdeacon of Buckingham and will take up his position in November 2025. In September 2020, Rev'd 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.

9.1 THE PARISHES - ELLESBOROUGH

The Civil Parish and Village Community

Ellesborough Parish includes Terrick, North Lee, Ellesborough and part of Dunsmore; four fifths of the parish is designated as Greenbelt, and the same area is defined as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Village facilities include a public house/restaurant, village hall, sports field and children's playground. There is also a local brewery, a garage, and a filling station. Ellesborough Golf Course lies mainly within the boundaries of the village.

The population of Ellesborough was recorded as 799 in the 2021 national census. There has been very little housing development in recent years due to its location with the Chilterns AONB' .

The Church



St. Peter & St Paul is a grade II* listed building with origins in the 13th Century. The church was extensively renovated in the 19th Century. Over recent years we have undertaken extensive repairs and renewals, and have made improvements including the installation of a sound system and provision of a servery and toilet. We have enjoyed excellent community support for specific projects and we are confident that this support will continue as we plan further improvements in church facilities

The church has a fine Bryson pipe organ c1870 that has been well maintained and regularly tuned and is currently the subject of an extensive maintenance programme. The church also has a team of enthusiastic bellringers.

The closed churchyard to the south and south west of the church is maintained as a wildflower meadow and is designated as a Local Wildlife Site.

The church is set on a hill on the periphery of the village and looks both architecturally pleasing and spiritually uplifting. Unfortunately the hill and the peripheral location cause problems of accessibility particularly for older residents and the disabled. However, we have tried to reduce these problems with new handrails, and are planning to make access easier at the church door.



The Congregation



St Peter & St. Paul currently has 32 on its electoral roll and Sunday services are normally attended by between 12 and 18 people, some of whom live outside the parish. The congregation is composed mainly of older members of the community. Christmas services are well attended by a wide cross section of the village community.

In spite of the small number of regular attenders we have been able to maintain a small choir. We regard music as being a very important part of our services.

At present all regular services are held on Sunday mornings. The normal pattern being:

First Sunday in the month	Songs of Praise (Lay Led)
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Second Sunday	Holy Communion
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Third Sunday	Matins (Sung)
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Fourth Sunday	Holy Communion
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Christmas services and the annual carol service are well attended

Visitors and Occasional Users

Chequers, the prime minister's country retreat, lies within the parish and we welcome visitors from Chequers at our services. The current Prime Minister regularly attends morning services with members of his family when his commitments elsewhere permit.

The church is also used from time to time for exhibitions by local art groups, and for concerts and recitals by local musicians and music societies. The church has good acoustics and its attractive location is much appreciated by all visitors. We also welcome visiting bellringers and organists' groups. From time to time we also welcome groups from Ellesborough Guide Centre.



The Parochial Church Council

We are fortunate in having a committed and hardworking group of church members willing to plan, organise and carry out the basic tasks which allow the PCC to operate efficiently. Over the past few years we have suffered from the absence of guidance and support of a priest with adequate time to devote to the parish and have had little capacity to develop the Christian message in the community, and increase attendance at our church. We hope that the appointment of a new minister will help us to address these issues.

Fundraising and Special Events

This is an area of considerable success for the church community. With the support of the wider community we have established church teas on Sundays and bank holidays as an important source of income. We are fortunate in being located on a number of well used footpaths, and have become well known to walkers visiting the Chilterns. In the past we have held a variety of fundraising events including talks and musical evenings held in the church, and other events held in the village hall and supporters' houses and gardens, and our aim is to continue to do so.



Sunday Afternoon Teas



A Musical Evening

The PCC's Finances

Largely as a result of the PCC's fundraising efforts over the past twenty years or more, and a high level of support for major repair and improvement projects from the wider community the PCC's finances are on a sound footing. We have recently received a legacy from a former long term member of the church which has been set aside to help cover the cost of future maintenance and improvement projects.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Despite the lack of leadership and spiritual guidance in the last 18 months, the PCC and other volunteers have managed to maintain the weekly schedule of services and other activities. This has helped to confirm our strengths and weaknesses, which we can summarise as:

Strengths

1. Small but committed and hardworking PCC team, with widespread support from congregations and other volunteers
2. Very successful fundraising by church teas team and helpers
3. Well maintained church building and facilities
4. Financially secure at present levels of giving and fundraising
5. Widespread support from local community for major projects
6. Location within Chilterns National Landscape (AONB)

Weaknesses

1. Small, mainly elderly congregation,
2. Limited pool of successors for existing central team
3. Village has no school and families with children more likely to attend Kimble church
4. Current lack of pastoral care and presence in the village community

5. Accessibility issues - church is away from village centre and has steep path
6. Possible future high levels of expenditure maintaining the church building

Future Developments

Although the church's location is not ideal we plan to make further improvements to facilitate access and to offer more comfortable surroundings. This might include new unobtrusive weather proof doors, improved heating, and readily available seat cushions. Such changes need to be made sensitively without upsetting the traditional appearance and furnishings of the church.

9.2 THE PARISHES - THE KIMBLES

The Civil Parish and Village Community

The parish of Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh is located 5 miles to the south of Aylesbury, at the foot of the Chiltern Hills. The area has long been a farming community and part of the parish falls within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The two main villages are Great and Little Kimble.

The population of the parish is just over 1,000, however this is an expanding community with a number of new developments springing up in the past three years. It is a vibrant and busy community, with many active societies, groups, talks, and activities taking place each month.

The pub in Great Kimble, The Swan, is a real hub of the community, and the landlord frequently runs community events in the pub garden or on the green outside, which has a children's play area. Notable events in recent years have been hog roasts and celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and the Coronation. The pub hosts a regular quiz night and live music events. There is also a lovely carol singing event at the pub every Christmas Eve, when the pub is always packed.



Great Kimble C of E School

There are two primary schools located in this community; Great Kimble Church of England School and Griffin House., which both use the church for occasional services,.St Nicholas' Church has used the school hall as a venue for a children's provision when the church has held the café church.

The parish has a Village Hall, located in Little Kimble: The Stewart Hall. This is situated in the heart of the village and is the venue for a number of adult and children's activities. To name a few – Whist evening, Pilates, dog training, the Chiltern Ladies Society, and the Horticultural Society. The church also uses the hall for occasional events such as the Harvest Lunch.

The Churches

In the Parish of the Kimbles we are fortunate to have two beautiful, Grade 1 listed churches. We will focus primarily on St Nicholas' Church in Great Kimble, as All Saints' Little Kimble (the smaller of the churches) currently has no congregation and no regular services, and is in the initial stages of being closed.



St. Nicholas, Great Kimble



All Saints, Little Kimble

The Congregation:

The congregation at St Nicholas' is small but vibrant. On an average Sunday there are between 8 and 15 individuals, most of whom are regular attendees. Our numbers swell to around 60 on a third Sunday when we host St Nic's Kids, a lively and informal family service. Most of the regular attendees also serve in the church, whether as sidesmen or serving coffee, doing the flowers or the cleaning. There is one family with children who attend regularly, and there is a small children's area at the back, although we would like to do more to make the church welcoming to families with children.

We believe God is for everyone, and we hope we give a warm and enthusiastic welcome to anyone who attends one of our services.

St Nic's Kids:



St Nic's Kids was started in September 2022 and was the idea of Barbara and Heath Drewett, who asked if they could try a new type of service to replace our old all-age service. The congregation at St Nicholas' was very happy to let them try something new, and almost all of the existing congregation became involved in the wider team in some way. The service consists of an initial time of play with activities and refreshments, followed by an interactive church service, and ending with small groups divided by age. Barbara also started a choir at the school, which was

instrumental in building numbers at the services, as the children in the choir bring their parents to the services to hear them sing. We frequently get around 60 attendees but have had as many as 100. As yet this hasn't translated to more attendees at our other services, but this is certainly an area to build on.

Having started with a small core team made up of Barbara and some regular churchgoers, we now have a larger team of volunteers who help to make these services happen, including parents of children who attend St Nic's Kids but who are not churchgoers. Great Kimble School is very supportive of the services and advertise them in their regular newsletters.

During the last year we have trialed two informal cafe-style services for adults, with children's provision in the school hall, in the hope of attracting some of the parents of children who attend St Nic's Kids. These were fairly successful but really need someone to lead them if we are to make it a regular service. Our congregation is open to trying new types of services.

Wednesday Worship:

A small group of parishioners meet every Wednesday at 9am for a short service, coffee and fellowship. There are usually 6-8 regular attendees.

Visitors and Occasional Users

Both churches are always open for visitors and private prayer. There are a large number of public footpaths nearby and many walkers and hikers come past the churches and often look in. All Saints' Church also attracts visitors because of its medieval wall paintings.

Great Kimble C of E School and Griffin House School hold regular termly services at St Nicholas, including Harvest and Christingle Services, for example. The children are very familiar with the church and love going there.

In September each year there is a Ride and Stride event in aid of the Bucks Historic Churches Trust, where cyclists cycle round many of the churches in the area to raise funds. We often receive quite a few visitors on that day, and provide drinks and snacks for the cyclists. We would love to do more on these occasions to make the church really welcoming to new visitors.

Roger Howgate, our organist and a local historian, gives talks at the churches on their history. He has given talks to pupils from Griffin House and to members of the University of the 3rd Age.

We have a team of regular and very enthusiastic bell-ringers, who ring most Sundays as well as for special events.

In May 2025 we hosted an event run by the Chiltern Arts Society for the first time, which was a cello concert for which we provided tea, coffee and cakes before and after. This was well-attended and we would like to do more of these events in the future.

The Parochial Church Council

There are 8 PCC members, made up of 6 lay members, our LLM who lives in the Parish, and our Treasurer Paul (also Treasurer at Ellesborough, where he attends church). We meet every other month, usually in person. We have not had a Churchwarden for the past year, so this role is fulfilled by a committee of 4 PCC members. We are fortunate to have a spread of ages on the PCC, as well as a mix of very long-standing members of the church, together with more recent arrivals.

Fundraising and Special Events

Prior to Covid, Kimble used to host many social/fundraising events. There have been cream teas either in gardens or in St Nicholas' Churchyard, which were well attended by the community. There were regular quiz nights with supper at the Stewart Hall. We have also had garden BBQs, a fashion show in the church, a walk along the Phoenix Trail with BBQ, and Harvest Lunches. Sadly fundraising has had to take a back seat as the church got back on its feet after Covid, and while we have been without a minister. However we would love to do more of this in the future; there is a strong community feel in the parish and we feel there are events that non-churchgoers would get involved in.

The PCC's Finances

The PCC's finances are currently in a satisfactory state, with adequate reserves to cover the cost of a normal level of repair and restoration to be expected in old buildings. Future financial health will be dependent on the PCC being relieved of the cost of heating, insuring and maintaining All Saints, Little Kimble, and avoiding the need for extensive repairs to the fabric of St. Nicholas, Great Kimble, as well as the maintenance of current income levels.

Strengths and Weaknesses

In common with other rural churches we have a small and ageing congregation, and our finances have suffered as a consequence. The church buildings also require quite a lot of maintenance. And as one of three churches in the Benefice it has always been difficult for a minister to allocate sufficient quality time to each church.

However there are many positives to find in our church:

- The church is generally well-maintained
- The church is open all the time, and we receive plenty of visitors
- We have a good core of volunteers for e.g. cleaning, flowers, church duties
- The organ is well-maintained and we have a regular organist
- We have an experienced LLM who requires no hand-holding
- We try to keep on top of our Health and Safety and Safeguarding requirements
- We are open to new ideas, e.g. St Nic's Kids and the café church
- We have a monthly newsletter which is delivered to everyone in the parish by a group of volunteers

- The church is often packed on Remembrance Sunday and at Weddings and Funerals; there is a positive attitude in the community to the church

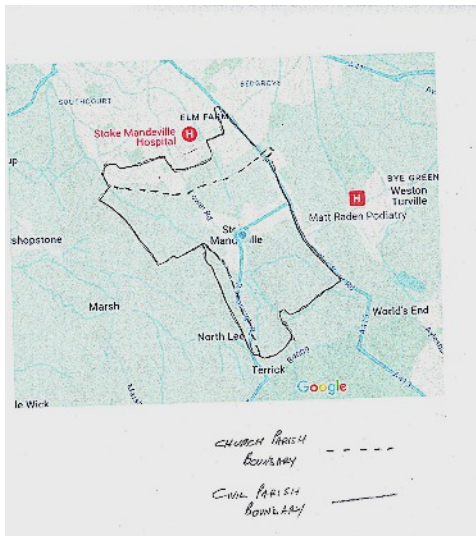
Future Plans and Developments

- There are several new housing developments in the parish, so we need to integrate the new population into the community, and hold events linking the church with the community
- We'd love the church to be seen as a hub of community events, e.g. the Light Party which attracted both St Nic's Kids families and non-churchgoing families and was very much enjoyed
- We used to have joint services with the Free Church in Little Kimble and we would like to revive this
- There are improvements we'd like to make to the church, such as a hearing loop and a more accessible path

9.3 THE PARISHES - STOKE MANDEVILLE

The Church Parish and Civil Parish

History and Development



'Stoces ('where there's more crows than folk') is mentioned in the Domesday book as a rural collection of farmsteads. There was scant expansion until the late 18th century when travel routes became more formalised and roads became metalled / turnpikes. Following the enclosures of the late 18th / early 19th centuries, the 'village' took shape around what was the green on the secondary route from High Wycombe to Aylesbury.

By this time, the village church was situated some way from the centre (in the grounds of what was to become Stoke House.) It had existed since Norman times and was in a poor state of repair.

A new church was built 1865-66 in its present location and was consecrated by Bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce on 9 July 1866. The location of the church brought it into the heart of the developing village at what has been a key junction of major routes for almost 250 years.



Burials of village residents continued in the Old Church graveyard until it ceased to be used in 1908. The new churchyard, adjacent to the Parish Council Burial Ground and effectively surrounding the current church, became the main churchyard until it closed for burials in 1999, remaining open now only for the interment of ashes.

St Mary's is the parish church of Stoke Mandeville. The church parish is smaller both in area and population than the civil parish of Stoke Mandeville. This comes as a great surprise to many. According to the Church of England Parish Map data from the 2021 census, the area of the church parish is 1.9 square miles with 799 occupied households being home to 1,997 residents. The civil parish has an area of 2.456 square miles and 6,648 residents in approximately 2,290 households. (See appendix 3)

Having grown steadily since the 1950s, Stoke Mandeville and the south and south west of Aylesbury have become an area of major development plans. There are currently applications for the development of some 2,650 houses in this area. Through all this proposed development will run the South East Aylesbury Link Road, the route of HS2 and an upgraded railway line to carry an extension of East-West rail.

Despite development and disruption, the village of Stoke Mandeville retains much of its rural character though, in terms of the benefice, it is the most "suburban" of the three churches.

The Church Fabric and Monuments

Curtained by tall hedges and even taller mature trees, St Mary's churchyard provides a sheltered oasis of calm from the village bustle. Members of the village community use the seats available for a moment's rest or perhaps for reflection or meditation.



The church itself with its calm, serene atmosphere provides further opportunity for private prayer and introspection. Open from 10:30am to 4:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the months from March to October inclusive (other times by appointment,) the church also offers services on Sunday mornings every week, except on a fifth Sunday in the month.

Church Fabric

The church is built on soil that is heavy with "blue clay." As a consequence, the whole structure of the church is subject to movements resulting from the drying and wetting of the soil and substructure. The result of the movements is a range of cracks appearing inside the church which are monitored by surveyors who assure us that neither will the tower fall away from the church nor the church fall apart.

The detailed structure of the church is monitored through quinquennial inspections (next due 2026) which have provided us with lists of work that needs to be done to the fabric, graded from priority 1 to priority 5, according to the urgency of the work. In 2024/25, we have carried out work to dampproof the vestry toilet floor, to provide a soakaway in the churchyard to manage rainwater run-off, and refurbish the mountings on one of our 8 bells. We would not be able to manage such projects without considerable grant assistance.

Since 1999, the churchyard is "closed" and responsibility has been taken on by the County Council for major works and routine maintenance (grass cutting, etc) in accordance with their published plan for "Maintenance of closed churchyards." Sadly, the Council has not been able to fulfil this obligation regularly for some years. Consequently, the PCC uses the services of a local contractor who follows the basic plan for grounds maintenance.

Monuments

There is only one monument for which the church is responsible and that is the Brudenell family monument. This was transferred from the Old Church, along with other artifacts, and installed into the wall at the altar end of the South Aisle. It was last refurbished in 1985 and was already in a state of disrepair. Following a period of dry weather in 2024, we had the monument reviewed by a firm of conservators. They reassured us that there is no urgent work needed.

The Church Community

The Congregation

As can be seen from Appendix 3 attendance at our Communion Services is on average 18 per week. However, this is increased by attendance at our All Age services, and we have had a significant increase in baptisms this year.

Visitors and Occasional Users

Being situated in the centre of the village and close to the school we have many people passing through the cemetery and churchyard as a short cut. It is a place where people come and sit to be at peace or to enjoy a natter with a friend. We also open our church at least twice a week for visitors to enjoy the beauty and serenity of the building, or to pray quietly.

The church has good acoustics, sound system, hearing loop and Wi-Fi and is used for many fundraising and joint church and community events, including concerts, exhibitions and cream teas. We also welcome visiting bellringers and organists' groups.

We have close links with the local school and they attend a number of services through the year as well as being involved in community and fundraising events at the church.

The Parochial Church Council

The Leadership Group

Instead of Churchwardens we have a Leadership Group of 5 committed and hardworking people who do the work of a Churchwarden between them. There are regular meetings to ensure the safe running of the Church and the Ark, including the provision of regular services, repairs, cleaning, upkeep and fundraising. The Leadership Group report to the PCC and to the Incumbent, as well as being members of the PCC.

The PCC

Our PCC comprises both older and younger members of the congregation as well as some co-opted members who have expertise in certain areas. All have worked hard to keep the church running efficiently and smoothly, but as with other churches in the Benefice, with lack of support and direction of a priest, we have had little capacity for outreach and mission to increase attendance at our church.

St Mary the Virgin Leadership Team and PCC



David Starr
Treasurer

01296
613430



Ellen Cowley

01296
415615



Henry Tettey

07808
477871



Pat Gurton

07817
990038



Lesley Turner
PCC Sec'y

07740
795899



Liz Bonner

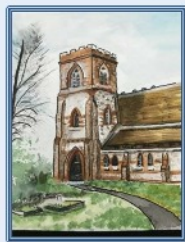
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Fundraising

Our Fund-raising Strategy is to reach out to the widest possible village community, attracting 'groupies' from far and wide. We plan an annual programme of fund-raising events, alternating between those for church funds and those for national charities close to people's hearts; all chosen to encourage and maximise the involvement of the widest community.

We use a range of facilities available to us, the church building, The Ark, (Church Room), Community Centre and Playing field. We have had considerable success working in partnership with Village Society and most recently with Parish Council celebrating National Commemoration.

Fundraising & Events at St Mary's Church



Venue: St Mary's Church

- Choir (Village Society)
- Open Music Evening
- Concerts
- Art Exhibition
- Gift Day attractions
- Flower Festival (sponsored by local businesses)
- Xmas Tree Festival (supported by community groups)

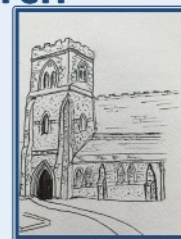
In conjunction with Stoke Mandeville Combined School

- Coronation hangings in church
- Signing choir performing at Gift Day
- VE80 celebration of villagers' war memories and exhibition



In conjunction with the Stoke Mandeville Parish Council

- Party in the Park Event used to promote ways local people can support the Church:
 - Flower arranging
 - Bell ringing
 - Cleaning
 - Joining the PCC
 - Church Yard maintenance



Venue: The Ark, St Mary's Church Room

- Weekly Coffee Stop
- Warm Welcome (during winter months)
- Occasional Quiz
- Easter Egg Raffle
- Harvest Bring & Share
- Exercise classes weekly
- 2 toddler groups
- Children's parties

Charities supported annually

- Water Aid
- Christian Society
- Macmillan
- Ride & Stride
- Historic Churches Trust
- Royal British Legion
- Storehouse Foodbank

Venue: St Mary's Church

- Flower Festival (sponsored by local businesses)



In conjunction with Stoke Mandeville Combined School

- Coronation hangings in church
- Signing choir performing at Gift Day
- VE80 celebration of villagers' war memories and exhibition



In conjunction with the Stoke Mandeville Parish Council

- Party in the Park Event used to promote ways local people can support the Church:



Venue: The Ark, St Mary's Church Room

- Occasional Quiz
- Easter Egg Raffle



The Ark



The “Ark” is St Mary’s Church Hall, and is situated on the Risborough Road which is a short distance from the church. It is utilized for church events e.g. Harvest Lunches, Quizzes, Macmillan Coffee Mornings, PCC and Leadership Meetings and weekly coffee mornings (Coffee Stop) which is very well attended by both members of the congregation and local parishioners. We welcome a group from a local Special Needs Centre to the coffee morning, for craft activities and a drink and cake, which is enjoyed by all.

There are 5 regular users from the local community:

- A Parent and Toddler Group for 2 mornings a week, which is well supported, giving parents the opportunity to meet others for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee and the children to play.
- A Tai Chi Class meets weekly
- Alcoholics Anonymous meet weekly
- A group of local childminders meet fortnightly to have a chat and for the children to play together and do craft
- AITC (Active in the Community) this is a new initiative in local villages to encourage older people to exercise even if they have limited mobility, and they have recently started a weekly class at The Ark, alternating between seated exercise and seated cycling.

The Ark is also available for one off events and parties, and we have seen an increase in bookings in the last year, mostly from local residents, which fits perfectly with our mission as a church to reach out to the wider community.

Parish Finances

Current Financial Position

It has long been the objective of the PCC to have reserves covering at least one year’s expenses. This objective has barely been achieved. The parish is financially “marginal” insofar as in one year we may have a small surplus of income over expenses and in the next, we may have a small deficit of income. It is now some years since the Treasurer was able to transfer funds from our current account to our CCLA deposit account. As a consequence, the PCC is properly careful about any item being spent.

Currently, our major expense, is our Parish Share contribution which amounts to some 26% of our total spend. For 2025, our required contribution is as yet unclear. Accordingly, payments are being made at the same rate as 2024, with a small monthly amount put aside to cover significant excess if required.

What people say about Coffee Stop:

We enjoy coming to coffee stop because it's a happy place, full of good company and laughter and in winter it becomes a warm and welcome place so there is no reason for people to be lonely in this village.

I am new to the social meetings but enjoy the company and meeting new people. Michelle

We all enjoy Liz making us tea and coffee and the company we meet here.

Chris

I enjoy meeting everybody and trying to put the world to rights, plus the refreshments really are to die for!

Peter G.

Good place to meet people, to chat and share happy and sad events with support and laughs.

Anon

The Church Room (Ark) is a place that many parishioners go to for a weekly "anchor" to their social lives. Some are regular church-goers to St Mary's parish church, but the cross section is varied from all parts of the village, and all are good courteous folk who welcome newcomers.

Peter C.



Strengths and Challenges

Strengths

St Mary's is set in a beautiful part of Buckinghamshire with the church building and churchyard lying at the centre of the community. Many people use the churchyard as a shortcut or for somewhere to sit, and the church is open at least twice a week for people to come in and look around or pray quietly. The church is kept clean and in good condition and has a positive and spiritual "feel" to it. We are an inclusive and welcoming church and have good access for disabled people and a hearing loop for the hard of hearing.

We have a strong All-age service with good attendance which we hope to grow further.

We have kept our "fringe" attendance during Covid times and our interregnum.

Close links with the community with joint events and support from the Parish Council and Village Society.

Close links with Stoke Mandeville Combined School which is located close to the church.

The Ark is an attractive venue which provides an office to work from, space to have meetings, and facilities for Community events. It is currently used for toddler groups, exercise classes, Coffee Stop and hired out to the community. It has a lot of potential to be used for Messy Church, youth club, breakfast or teatime church.

The Vicarage is a comfortable 4-bedroom house with garden, located next to The Ark.

Coffee Stop is held weekly on a Thursday morning at The Ark and provides refreshments and companionship to anyone in the community. It is well attended by those in the village including 2 different groups of young people with special needs who enjoy coming for craft activities as well.

Leadership Group is comprised of 5 people working in the same capacity as a churchwarden, dealing with the smooth running and upkeep of the church, but spreading the tasks between themselves. They report to the PCC and the incumbent. The advantage of having a leadership group is that they can support the incumbent more effectively than just one person could.

We have strong support and back-up from retired clergy living in the Benefice when required.

Current Challenges

Under interim ministry we haven't developed our future plans or direction.

Stable but aging congregation.

The urban character of the parish means the centre of the village is not well defined and being essentially a commuter village for London there is a relatively weak sense of Community to call on.

Future Plans and Developments

- We are looking for leadership and drive from the new incumbent to the Benefice.
- We look forward to working together with him or her and our partner churches to find innovative ways to engage our growing communities, particularly those on new housing estates, the school, Parish Council and Village Society.
- We have a beautiful new path to the church and would like to continue improving the interior facilities in order to enhance the use of the church space.
- We welcome a new incumbent to the Benefice and hope that by working together, over time, they are drawn to becoming part of the village communities, providing spiritual guidance and pastoral care to parishioners.
- By working together and in harmony with our Benefice partners we would like to grow our church and achieve greater financial stability.

APPENDIX 1

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The Benefice needs a minister who will show leadership and give guidance to the PCCs and lay leaders in a friendly, collaborative and supportive way. We believe that the personality of the minister is of primary importance. The three parishes operate individually and collectively in a harmonious and supportive way and it is important that the minister builds on this base of co-operation, support, close and friendly relationships and stimulates and further encourages these relationships within each parish and between the three parishes.

We are praying for a minister who will:

- be a prayerful and inspirational team leader who will encourage and support the gifts of the laity and will help us move forward together
- lead in outreach and be an approachable and visible presence in the villages and the schools
- willingly and enthusiastically participate in village events and join in village life
- be at ease with all ages and able to undertake pastoral work with warmth, friendliness and approachability
- encourage more families by spreading the good news of Jesus Christ within the different communities with a variety of services in various local community venues -
- hold a balance between respect for the past and encouragement of new growth
- welcome the challenges and opportunities of ministry in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the outskirts of a developing urban area and help us to work even more closely as a Benefice
- value the variety of services within the benefice and the different identities of the parishes
- be a good communicator using a variety of media to maximise impact
- be aware of their own need for ongoing spiritual development and refreshment

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.

APPENDIX 2

PROVISIONAL ROLE DESCRIPTION

SECTION ONE: DETAILS OF POST

Role title:	Rector
Type of Role:	House for Duty - Two Days plus Sundays
Name of benefice:	Ellesborough, The Kimbles, and Stoke Mandeville
Episcopal area:	Buckingham
Deanery:	Wendover
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:	Archdeacon of Buckingham <i>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.</i>
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: 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 Bishop of Buckingham is the Rt Rev'd Dave Bull who was appointed Area Bishop in February 2025. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is the Rev'd Gavin Knight who will be taking up his appointment in November 2025. In September 2020, Rev'd 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.

Local Context

The Benefice comprises three parishes and extends south from the urban areas of Stoke Mandeville into the Chilterns National Landscape and from east to west between Wendover and Monks Risborough, incorporating the mainly rural parishes of Ellesborough and The Kimbles.

For more information, see the parish 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 Councils 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

See Parish Profile - WHAT WE REQUIRE OF OUR NEW MINISTER

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 and psychological strategies

SECTION FOUR: BENEFICE SUMMARY

The Benefice of

Benefice: Ellesborough, The Kimbles, and Stoke Mandeville

Patron(s): Chequers Trustees

PCCs: 3

Churchwardens: 2 churchwarden committees; 1 leadership group

Ministers: position currently vacant

Benefice paid staff: none

Benefice volunteers in total 20 PCC members; plus 10-20+ volunteers in each parish

Buildings: 4 churches, one church hall/admin centre

Churchyard(s): 4

Church Tradition: Modern Catholic

Pastoral Reorganisation proposals: None planned

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

The PCCs
Deanery Chapter
Deanery Synod
Deanery Pastoral Committee

In the benefice

Churchwarden Committee /Leadership Team members
LLM and lay leaders
Head teachers of local schools

Support structures

Area Dean
Area Bishop
Area Archdeacon
Spiritual director, work consultant, etc
Staff at The Diocesan Office 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 the post holder and the supervising minister

Role description signed off by:

Archdeacon of Buckingham

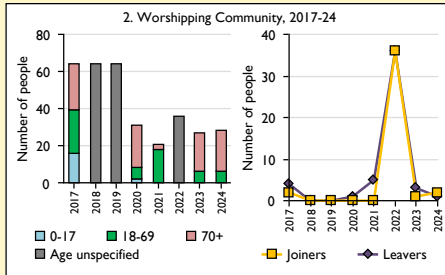
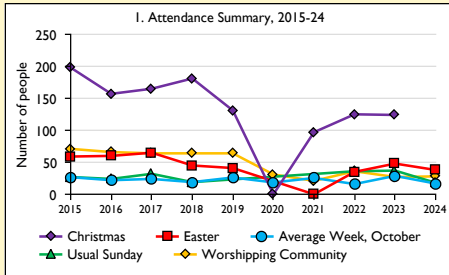
Date: tba

To be reviewed next on: tba

APPENDIX 3

ELLESBOROUGH

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Ellesborough in the deanery of WENDOVER



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 992

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	18%	24%	23%
% aged 20-44	17%	33%	33%
% aged 45-69	41%	30%	31%
% aged 70 & over	23%	12%	14%
% Christian	57%	45%	46%
% non-Christian religion	2%	13%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 9674

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,178=least deprived)

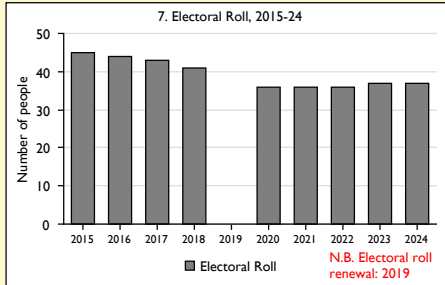
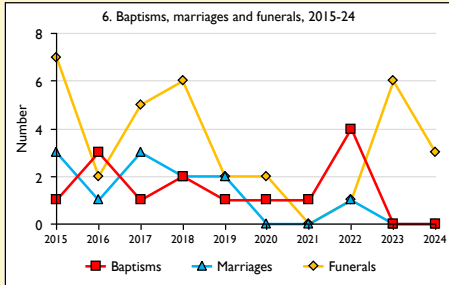
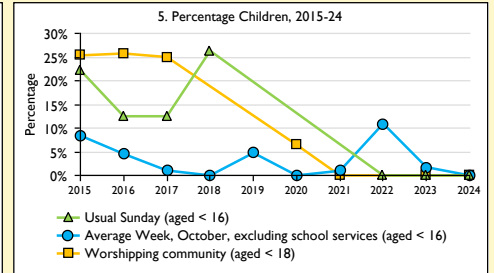
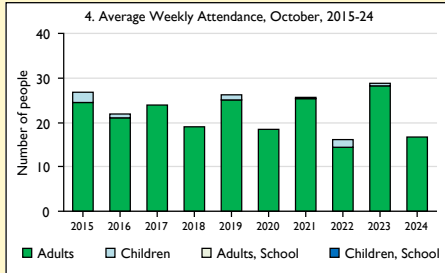
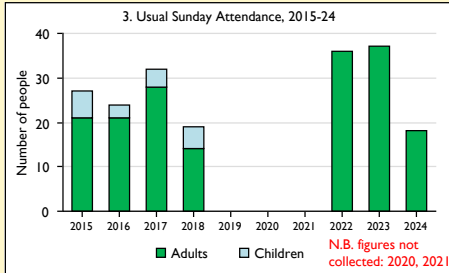
For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1Ra54CS>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and

<http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2024): 1

Parish Code: 270780



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish

Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 1;2016 1;2017 1;2018 1;2019 1;2020 1;2021 1;2022 1;2023 1;2024 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 06/05/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org



SfM Dashboard Data for the Parish of Ellesborough in the deanery of WENDOVER

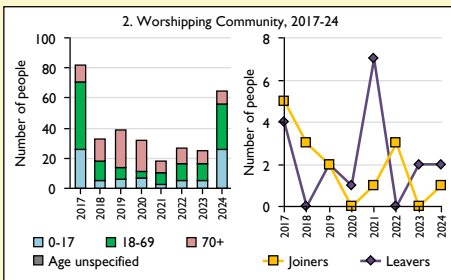
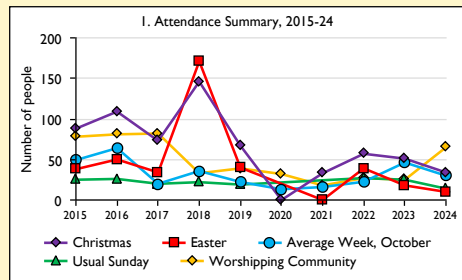
Report	Field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Attendance Summary	Christmas	198	157	165	181	131	0	97	125	124	-
	Easter	59	60	65	45	41	-	0	35	48	38
	Average Week, October	27	22	24	19	26	19	26	16	29	17
	Usual Sunday	27	24	32	19	-	-	-	36	37	18
	Worshipping Community	71	66	64	64	64	31	21	36	27	28
2. Worshipping Community	Total			64	64	64	31	21	36	27	28
	0-17			16	0	-	2	0	-	0	0
	18-69			23	0	-	6	18	-	6	6
	70+			25	0	-	23	3	-	21	22
	Age unspecified			0	64	64	0	0	36	0	0
	Joiners			2	0	0	0	0	36	1	2
	Leavers			4	0	0	1	5	36	3	1
3. Usual Sunday Attendance	Adults	21	21	28	14	-	-	-	36	37	18
	Children	6	3	4	5	-	-	-	0	0	0
4. Average Weekly Attendance	Adults	25	21	24	19	25	19	25	14	28	17
	Children	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0
	Adults, School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Children, School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Percentage Children	Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	22%	13%	13%	26%	-	-	-	0%	0%	0%
	Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	8%	5%	1%	0%	5%	0%	1%	11%	2%	0%
	Worshipping community (aged < 18)	25%	26%	25%	-	-	6%	0%	-	0%	0%
6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Baptisms	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	4	0	0
	Marriages	3	1	3	2	2	0	0	1	0	0
	Funerals	7	2	5	6	2	2	0	1	6	3
7. Electoral Roll	Electoral Roll	45	44	43	41	-	36	36	36	37	37



APPENDIX 3

THE KIMBLES

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Kimble in the deanery of WENDOVER



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 1049

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	22%	24%	23%
% aged 20-44	21%	33%	33%
% aged 45-69	41%	30%	31%
% aged 70 & over	17%	12%	14%
% Christian	56%	45%	46%
% non-Christian religion	3%	13%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 10586

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,178=least deprived)

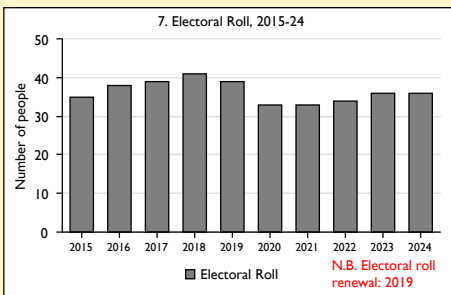
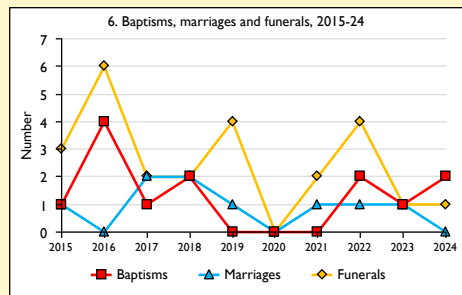
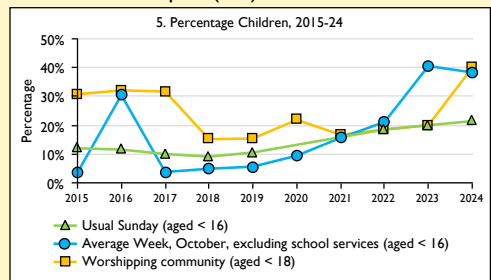
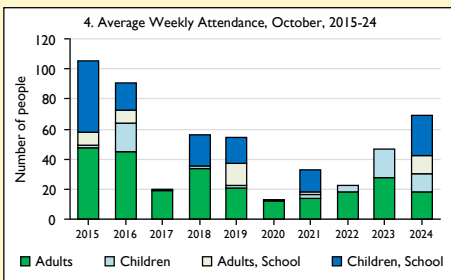
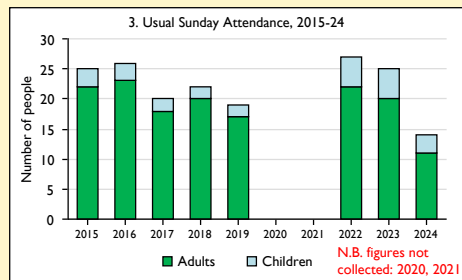
For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1Ra54CS>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and

<http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2024): 2

Parish Code: 270606



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish

Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019. The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 2:2016 2:2017 2:2018 2:2019 2:2020 2:2021 2:2022 2:2023 2:2024 2.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 06/05/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org



SfM Dashboard Data for the Parish of Kimble in the deanery of WENDOVER

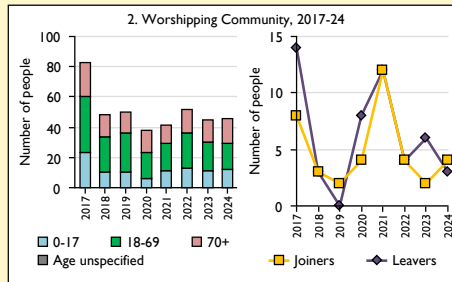
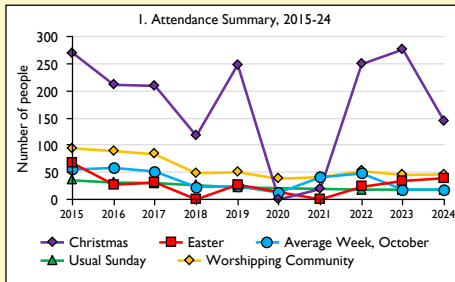
Report	Field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Attendance Summary	Christmas	88	109	73	146	67	0	33	57	51	34
	Easter	38	50	34	171	40	-	0	39	18	10
	Average Week, October	49	64	20	36	22	13	16	23	46	30
	Usual Sunday	25	26	20	22	19	-	-	27	25	14
	Worshipping Community	78	81	82	33	39	32	18	27	25	65
2. Worshipping Community	Total				82	33	39	32	18	27	65
	0-17				26	5	6	7	3	5	26
	18-69				45	13	8	4	7	11	30
	70+				11	15	25	21	8	11	9
	Age unspecified				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Joiners				5	3	2	0	1	3	0
	Leavers				4	0	2	1	7	0	2
3. Usual Sunday Attendance	Adults	22	23	18	20	17	-	-	22	20	11
	Children	3	3	2	2	2	-	-	5	5	3
4. Average Weekly Attendance	Adults	48	45	19	34	21	12	14	18	28	19
	Children	2	20	1	2	1	1	3	5	19	12
	Adults, School	9	8	-	0	15	-	2	-	-	13
	Children, School	48	19	-	20	18	-	15	-	-	27
5. Percentage Children	Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	12%	12%	10%	9%	11%	-	-	19%	20%	21%
	Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	4%	30%	4%	5%	6%	9%	16%	21%	41%	38%
	Worshipping community (aged < 18)	31%	32%	32%	15%	15%	22%	17%	19%	20%	40%
6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Baptisms	1	4	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	2
	Marriages	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	0
	Funerals	3	6	2	2	4	0	2	4	1	1
7. Electoral Roll	Electoral Roll	35	38	39	41	39	33	33	34	36	36



APPENDIX 3

STOKE MANDEVILLE

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Stoke Mandeville in the deanery of WENDOVER



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 1997

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	20%	24%	23%
% aged 20-44	26%	33%	33%
% aged 45-69	35%	30%	31%
% aged 70 & over	19%	12%	14%
% Christian	55%	45%	46%
% non-Christian religion	6%	13%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 11798

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,178=least deprived)

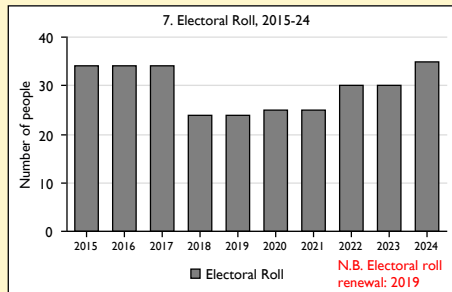
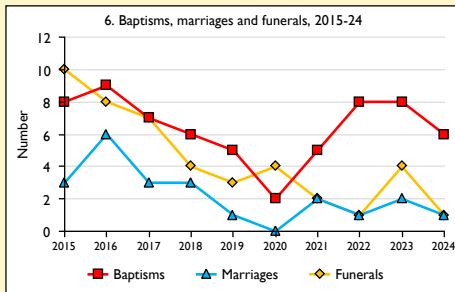
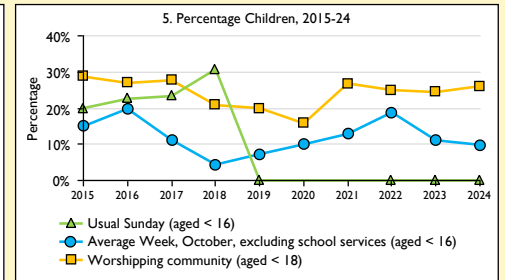
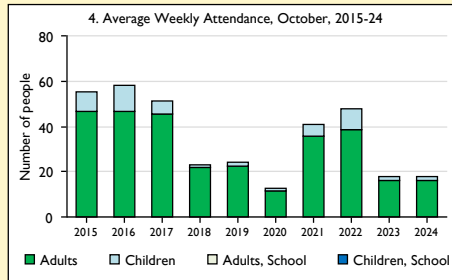
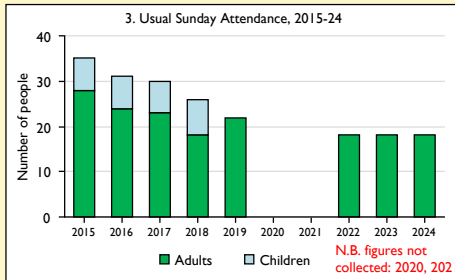
For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1Ra54CS>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and

<http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2024): 1

Parish Code: 270792



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish

Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 1; 2016 1; 2017 1; 2018 1; 2019 1; 2020 1; 2021 1; 2022 1; 2023 1; 2024 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 06/05/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org



SfM Dashboard Data for the Parish of Stoke Mandeville in the deanery of WENDOVER

Report	Field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Attendance Summary	Christmas	270	211	209	117	248	0	19	249	276	144
	Easter	67	27	31	0	27	-	0	23	34	39
	Average Week, October	55	58	51	23	24	13	41	48	18	18
	Usual Sunday	35	31	30	26	22	-	-	18	18	18
	Worshipping Community	94	89	83	48	50	38	41	52	45	46
2. Worshipping Community	Total			83	48	50	38	41	52	45	46
	0-17			23	10	10	6	11	13	11	12
	18-69			37	24	26	17	18	23	19	17
	70+			23	14	14	15	12	16	15	17
	Age unspecified			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Joiners			8	3	2	4	12	4	2	4
	Leavers			14	3	0	8	12	4	6	3
3. Usual Sunday Attendance	Adults	28	24	23	18	22	-	-	18	18	18
	Children	7	7	7	8	0	-	-	0	0	0
4. Average Weekly Attendance	Adults	47	47	46	22	22	11	36	39	16	16
	Children	8	12	6	1	2	1	5	9	2	2
	Adults, School	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Children, School	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Percentage Children	Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	20%	23%	23%	31%	0%	-	-	0%	0%	0%
	Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	15%	20%	11%	4%	7%	10%	13%	19%	11%	10%
	Worshipping community (aged < 18)	29%	27%	28%	21%	20%	16%	27%	25%	24%	26%
6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Baptisms	8	9	7	6	5	2	5	8	8	6
	Marriages	3	6	3	3	1	0	2	1	2	1
	Funerals	10	8	7	4	3	4	2	1	4	1
7. Electoral Roll	Electoral Roll	34	34	34	24	24	25	25	30	30	35

