

Parish Profile

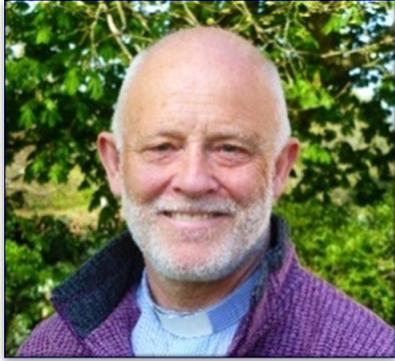
for the role of
Associate Minister (House for Duty)

in the benefice of
**Datchet, Eton, Eton Wick,
Boveney and Dorney**
(Jubilee River Churches)



DIOCESSE *of*
OXFORD

March 2026



Foreword from our Associate Archdeacon Reverend Canon Christopher Bull

As a potential candidate for the position of Associate Minister (House for Duty) we welcome you to explore our churches and surroundings, both in person and through reading this Profile.

Our approach to preparing this document has had at its heart the commitment of the process to God at every stage: through prayer; through discussions etc. as well as looking at what we have to offer and what we would like to achieve in the future. Each church held Lay-Led services where the people were invited to share their thoughts, ideas and concerns. Wider consultations were also held and we have sought to represent as honestly as possible the parishes' and local Communities' hopes.

The comments from people who have assisted us in preparing this document have shown caring and loving communities. Some struggle with change and uncertainty especially over the past years; some desire to stand still and "catch breath". For your encouragement though, a feeling of "let's get on with being Church, living Christ's Gospel to do our duty with praise and thanksgiving" prevails.

The details of these parishes, their life, activities and relationships with the wider communities are briefly covered within the pages of this Profile. We hope it will encourage you to want to find out more

about us and help you in the process of discerning if God is calling you to work with us in growing into our full potential as disciples of Christ, rooted in and serving Him in Love and Light both as Church and as individuals.

There is a commitment in this benefice-to-be, working hard at integrating with each other and the wider community, unafraid to speak out when need arises, but always willing to listen to the still, small voice.

We hope that what follows will help you see that the current situation is one of hope and positivity about what is God is doing in our midst and what you will bring to help us build a strong, faithful service together.

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.

Reverend Canon Christopher Bull,
Associate Archdeacon
Psalm 119: 125

Message from Revd Andreas Sistig

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07595542143



Hello! And thank you for taking the time to read our parish profile for the position of a House for Duty clergy post in our benefice!

The three parishes of Datchet, Eton and Eton Wick with Boveney, and Dorney have continued to journey together over the past months as the process of the establishment of the joint benefice has entered into its final stage and will hopefully be concluded during the course of 2026.

Over recent years these parishes have taken risks in faith, learned patience, and sought wholeness -not as an end in itself, but so that it might be offered generously to others and become a genuine, contextually appropriate expression of God's kingdom and a blessing to all who live in our communities.

That same spirit now shapes the next stage of our common life as we, six months on from my appointment as Rector Designate (currently still Priest-in-Charge in Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney as well as in Dorney and Associate Minister in Datchet), are now seeking to appoint a House for Duty Associate Minister to join us.

Our parishes are united by a shared call that offers both breadth and depth. There is strong support here - practical, prayerful and relational - matched by established opportunities for mission through community engagement, schools work and the rich pastoral life that flows from occasional offices and well-loved churches in a variety of different settings. Alongside this is an exciting opportunity to develop a joint mission for the benefice in a context of genuine openness

to trying new things and to become more missional, sustainable, and responsive to the Spirit's leading.

It is my hope that you, as Associate Minister, will work in tandem with me, sharing fully in the cure of souls and the leadership of worship, mission and pastoral care across the whole benefice. Together, I hope that we will help the parishes to listen attentively to the stories of the past and to discern, prayerfully and confidently, the whispers of the future. I invite you to be fully and actively involved in the strategic development of the benefice, including the shaping of a Mission Action Plan in 2027, and to take on specific areas of responsibility according to your experience, passion and gifting.

Much of the cost of the recent changes has already been carried by faithful local clergy, committed volunteers, and supportive, generous communities. Through it all, we remain devoted to the diocesan vision of becoming a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world — contemplative, compassionate, and courageous.

We are now seeking an additional gift: a Christ-centred priest who brings wisdom, warmth, and creativity, and who has a deep desire to see people grow and flourish in faith and in life. Might that person be you? We warmly invite you to consider whether God may be calling you to share in this next stage of our journey.

I commend this profile to you and would be very glad to have a conversation about the role

Revd Andreas Sistig

Parish Profile

Jubilee River Churches

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**Are you bold, brave
and courageous**

Joshua 1:9

Introduction

As a potential candidate for the position of Associate Minister (House for Duty) we welcome you to explore our churches and surroundings, both in person and through reading this Profile. Informal discussions with the Reverend Andreas Sistig are encouraged.

Our approach to preparing this document has had at its heart the commitment of the process to God at every stage: through prayer; through discussions etc. as well as looking at what we have to offer and what we would like to achieve in the future. We held Lay-Led services where the people were invited to share their thoughts, ideas and concerns. We also held wider consultations and have sought to represent as honestly as possible the parishes' and local Communities' understanding and thinking.

The comments from people who have assisted us in preparing this document have shown caring and loving communities; some of whom struggle with change and uncertainty especially over the past years; some desire to stand still and "catch breath", but generally a feeling of "let's get on with being Church, living Christ's Gospel to do our duty with praise and thanksgiving" prevails.

The details of our parishes, their life, activities and relationships with our wider communities are briefly covered within the pages of this Profile. We hope it will encourage you to want to find out more about us and help you in the process of discerning if God is calling you to work with us in growing into our full potential as disciples of Christ, rooted in and serving Him in Love and Light both as Church and as individuals. The

Appendices at the end include some further information which may be of interest.

We are a committed benefice-to-be, working hard at integrating with each other and the wider community, not afraid to speak out when we feel a need, but also always willing to listen to the still small voice.

We hope that what follows will help you see:

- That we are all genuinely excited at the thought of having you join our benefice;
- That our current situation is one of hope and positivity about what is God is doing in our midst and what you will bring to help us build a strong, faithful service together;
- Where the areas of nurture, cultivation and pruning of the Vine are and the opportunities for rich growth they afford;
- What our strengths, resources but also challenges are;
- What we can offer you;
- Our relationships with other churches and organisations;
- Our Vision, Mission and commitment to God.

**I am your servant; give me discernment
that I may understand your statutes.**

Psalms 119: 125

Opportunities and Challenges

WE CAN OFFER YOU

- *A true partnership in leadership* - You will share the cure of souls, leadership and strategic development with the newly appointed Rector Designate committed to working collaboratively in a relationship marked by trust, openness and prayer.
- *A hopeful new beginning* - Our church communities are at a significant and hopeful moment as the new joint benefice takes shape, offering the genuine opportunity to help form its culture, shared vision and Mission Action Plan from the outset.
- *A supportive and collaborative ministry team* - in addition to working alongside Andreas Sistig, our Rector, you will also be supported by his wife Jennifer who shares in leading services while serving full-time as a hospital chaplain. The benefice is further strengthened by an experienced Licensed Lay Minister (Anne Casson), a former RS teacher who enjoys working with children and contributing across many areas of parish life. Together they are keen to encourage and grow wider lay leadership across our churches.
- *Faithful and outward-looking congregations* - Our prayerful and caring communities have weathered recent challenges faithfully and are now looking outward with renewed energy, hope and willingness to grow.
- *Rich parish and pastoral ministry opportunities* - A visible parish presence includes strong occasional offices (averaging around 13 weddings annually, alongside baptisms and funerals), providing natural pastoral connections across the wider community.
- *Strong community engagement* - Well-established links with church schools, charities and local organisations, including outreach initiatives such as The Bridge ecumenical café, offer wide-ranging opportunities for relational, outward-facing ministry in villages and town contexts where the parish priest remains valued and visible.
- *Collaborative and supported ministry culture* - Active lay leaders, authorised ministers, volunteers and ministry teams are ready to share responsibility and grow in confidence, within a benefice that values sustainable ministry, realistic expectations and healthy rhythms of prayer, rest and development.
- *A commitment to protect and safeguard* the boundaries that come with your role as House for Duty role, especially the fact that there will be days during a normal week when you will not be working in the Parish
- *A supportive setting for life and ministry* - A spacious four-bedroom vicarage in Datchet provides comfortable family accommodation with excellent and direct transport links to London, Windsor, Slough and beyond, alongside space and encouragement to develop your gifts creatively within a supportive deanery and diocesan family.

AND WE ASK YOUR HELP AND WISDOM IN SOME OF THE CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING:

- As our newly formed benefice develops, we continue to grow into shared ways of working, communication and decision-making across our parishes, balancing collaboration with respect for each church's local identity.
- After a demanding period shaped by a two-year vacancy in all three churches, the after-effects of pandemic disruptions and the relocation of several former key leaders, some congregations feel understandably tired, and we are seeking to rebuild confidence, participation and sustainable patterns of ministry for the future.
- Although stewardship across much of the benefice is stable, we recognise some areas where further work is needed and are committed to strengthening giving and long-term sustainability so that our shared ministry and mission can continue to flourish.
- Several important building projects lie ahead, including the refurbishment of the church room in Eton Wick, improvements to the heating system in Datchet, and roof works at Dorney, all of which will require careful planning, and some require additional fundraising.
- Like many churches, we are seeking to strengthen ministry with children, young people and families, building on encouraging recent developments while creating structures that are sustainable for the long term.

Role description

In shaping this role, we have consulted widely and reflected carefully on the needs, gifts and aspirations of our churches at this point in their journey. We are seeking an ordained priest, rooted in Christ and committed to working closely alongside the Rector in the shared life and ministry of the benefice and we will embrace either, an experienced priest or somebody competent, but relatively new to ministry (with plenty of friendly support for a recently ordained). We envisage an Associate Minister who will help to sustain and deepen existing relationships, while also enabling us to build new ones within our communities.

It is envisaged that the Rector and Associate Minister will work in tandem, sharing in the life, leadership and ministry of the benefice. The Associate Minister will contribute actively to the strategic development of the newly formed benefice, including the prayerful discernment, development and implementation of a Mission Action Plan to be agreed in 2027.

Rather than focussing on a geographical area or a specific church, areas of specific responsibility will be discerned, agreed and reviewed collaboratively, taking account of the Associate Minister's experience, gifts and passions.

In particular, the Associate Minister will:

- Help develop and deliver a shared benefice vision, honouring the distinctive identity of each parish.
- Lead worship and teaching across the benefice, preaching faithfully and creatively in ways that are pastorally sensitive, theologically grounded and appropriate to each context, while encouraging Scripture study, theological reflection and discipleship for all ages.
- Work collaboratively with PCCs, Churchwardens, staff, volunteers and ecumenical partners, fostering healthy relationships, good communication, shared responsibility, and the growth of ministry teams and lay leadership through encouragement and appropriate delegation.
- Share in pastoral care across the benefice, responding with compassion and discernment to illness, bereavement, loneliness and other challenges, while supporting and developing lay pastoral care teams.
- Promote an open, outward-facing church, engaging with the wider community and those on the margins, encouraging good stewardship of finances, buildings, gifts and creation, while sustaining personal prayer, well-being, and ongoing ministerial development for faithful and joyful long-term service.
- Participate, by agreement, in leadership roles within the wider community, including local schools, The Bridge, The Barker Bridge House Trust and Datchet United Charities, and demonstrate strong organisational and administrative skills together with sound safeguarding practice to help ensure a safe and nurturing environment.

Person Specification

Qualifications and Training

We are looking for a priest who is confident in their ministry and well-equipped for the role, ordained in the Church of England or in a church in communion with it (or whose orders the Church of England recognises), and who has completed Initial Ministerial Education.

Knowledge, Skills and Competencies

- The benefice is seeking a prayerful and approachable priest, whose faith is lived out with warmth, energy and authenticity.
- The right person will enjoy relating to people of all ages, backgrounds and stages of faith, offering pastoral care that is attentive, compassionate and practical.
- An ability to communicate and teach the Christian faith well is important, including preaching that engages and encourages people to grow in their relationship with God.
- The role calls for a collaborative and mission-hearted leader who enjoys working with others, encourages lay ministry and helps people discover and develop their gifts, while supporting practical Christian action both locally and globally.
- A willingness to be a visible and welcoming presence in the community is essential, representing the church within the villages of the benefice and building positive relationships beyond the church walls.
- The associate minister should also be comfortable building relationships across a diverse spectrum of local communities (including occasionally working with and alongside the Eton College community as well as the local Traveller community) with openness, respect and understanding.
- A strong commitment to safeguarding is essential. The successful candidate will be familiar with the Church of England Safeguarding Handbook and committed to promoting safe and healthy church communities.
- As the benefice covers several villages, the role requires someone able to travel easily between them and therefore someone who has access to a car and is able to drive around the

Experience

- Ministry within an Anglican parish context is important, together with a track record of encouraging and developing lay leadership.
- Interest in helping churches navigate change thoughtfully and supportively, along with familiarity with ministry in a Church of England or wider Anglican parish context, would be particularly welcome.
- The ability to contribute to vision-setting and team development, and to work collaboratively across a benefice or deanery. Familiarity with church administrative software such as ChurchDesk or ChurchSuite would also be helpful.
- A proactive approach to pastoral ministry with people of all ages - both within the church and in the wider community - is also essential, alongside experience of creative and engaging ministry with children and families.
- The role also calls for thoughtful leadership of worship, balancing cherished traditional services alongside more contemporary and informal expressions, while remaining sensitive to the character and traditions of each church.
- A collaborative approach to working with community organisations.
- A good understanding of safeguarding policy and practice, including the use of safeguarding dashboards or hubs.

Special Requirements

The successful candidate invited live in the accommodation provided (Datchet vicarage) with the post.

Safeguarding

“A new command I give you:
Love one another. As I have loved you,
so you must love one another.

John 13:34

We take Safeguarding especially of children and vulnerable adults very seriously.

Governance

The PCC's have adopted the Church of England policies relating to this, for both adults and children. We follow safer recruiting processes and all our personnel involved in working alongside children or vulnerable adults are required to be DBS checked and undergo relevant Safeguarding training both of which are appropriate to their role and function:

The PCC's have a Safeguarding Officer, a Deputy Safeguarding Officer and details are posted around the churches and on the

Dashboard

We have only recently been able to access this and named members of the PCCs are working with the SOs to improve levels

Training

Our churches have adopted and use the Church of England online training where a record of individuals' progress and outcomes of training can be monitored by the Safeguarding Officers, and follow up /further /updated training as required. In addition to the SO we have several others who have completed Safeguarding leadership training.

Monitoring

The PCCs review safeguarding as a matter of course at each meeting to ensure training and other aspects are up to date and compliant. A report is provided to the APCM by the Safeguarding Officer.

“Bear one another's burdens,
and so fulfill the law of Christ.” -
Galatians 6:2

The Datchet Vicarage



Front : Showing Lobby entrance, Parish Office &

The Diocese built the current vicarage as a new detached building in its own grounds about 38 years ago. Access to the Vicarage and two other properties is via a single-track lane, Vicarage Lane, which opens onto London Road (B470). The lane runs alongside the eastern boundary wall of St Mary's churchyard.

The Vicarage is a four-bedroomed property with a large garden to the rear and space for several cars in the driveway. The front door opens into a lobby which has doors to a study to the left, a cloak-room facility to the right, and the front door to the home. The ground floor of the home has a lounge, dining room, large kitchen and utility room with access to the separate garage. On the first floor are four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

The Parish Office is accessed from the Vicarage driveway. It has an interleading door to the study which opens into the lobby.



Rear elevation (Parish office to right at back)



Back garden



Vicarage Lane looking towards St Mary's Church



Living room



Front with garage



Study



Kitchen



Utility Room



One of the Bedrooms



Front showing Parish Office , study and forecourt

Worship Patterns around the benefice

St Mary's Datchet

11:00am	1 st Wednesday	Holy Communion
9:30am	1 st , 2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Sunday	Holy Communion (sung)
9:30am	3 rd Sunday	Café style service (often Lay-Led)
6:30pm	3 rd Sunday	Choral Evensong

St John The Evangelist, Eton

10:00am	2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays	Holy Communion (BCP)
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St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

11:00am	1 st Sunday	All Age Worship
11:00am	2 nd and 4 th Sundays	Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	3 rd and 5 th Sundays	Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

9:30am	1 st Sunday	Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am	2 nd and 3 rd Sundays	Holy Communion (CW)
9:30am	4 th and 5 th Sundays	Morning Worship

St Mary Magdalene, Boveney (there are 3 services per year)

3:00pm	Carols by Candlelight in mid-December
5:45am (approx.)	Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday
4:00pm	Patronal Festival Service on 22 nd July

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Psalm 100:1-2

Attendance and occasional offices across the benefice in 2025

Attendance Statistics 2025	Datchet	Eton Eton Wick Boveney	Dorney	Total
Christmas	427	150	105	682
Easter Day	tbc	67 (incl. dawn service)	32	

October average				
Church adults	26	19	22	67
Church children	3	1	1	5

Worshipping Community				
0-17	6	1	1	8
18-69	16	15	17	48
70+	21	5	14	40
Joiners	2	1	4	7
Leavers	1	1	2	4

Life Events				
Baptisms	2	4	4	10
Confirmations	0	0	0	0
Marriages	0	0	12	12
Funerals	4	6	4	14

For the promise is for you and for your
children and for all who are far off,
everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Acts 2:39

Finance

Parish Accounts 2025	Datchet	Eton/Eton Wick/Boveney	Dorney
Income	£		£
Collections & Pledges	£22,884	£9,153	£20,453.00
Gift Aid Recovered	£5,471	£1,200	£1,691.00
Other	47,530	£30,000	£32,349.00
Total	£75,886	£40,000	£54,493.00
Outgoings			
Parish Share	17,948	£27,000	£14,930.00
Charitable Donations	tbc	£600	£1,098.00
Utilities and Expenses	26,830	£19,000	£24,890.00
Other	33,227		
Total	78,005	£41,600	£40,918.00
Reserves (Balance Sheet)			
Restricted	13,312	£ 150,000	£217,865
Unrestricted	9,373	£374,000	£60,895
Designated	0	£12,000	

Parish Offices & Administrators

Two Church Administrators serve the three parishes, handling responsibilities such as scheduling rotas, preparing monthly diaries and weekly sheets, and supporting administration of occasional offices, forms, and other related tasks.

The Parish Administrator for Eton, Eton Wick, Boveney, and Dorney has held the position for three years and typically works part-time during the afternoons on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The office is located in the vestry at St John's in Eton Wick. However, maintaining adequate heating during winter is challenging due to its location beneath the organ, which cannot be properly insulated. The PCCs acknowledge that this is an unsuitable working environment and are actively considering alternative locations, including the Shepherd Room at St John's Eton or establishing a central benefice office in Datchet. Discussions regarding these

options are at an early stage, and the Associate Minister's input will be vital, as detailed below.

The Parish Administrator for Datchet has served in her role for nineteen years. She works part-time, usually Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 or 10:00am until 3:30 or 4:00pm. The office is accessed via the Vicarage driveway and is situated to the left of the Vicarage, with a separate door and letter box.

Consideration is being given to creating a combined office for the benefice. One proposal is to create the combined office in Datchet by swapping the office and the study around. This proposal requires further discussion among all relevant parties.

The Parish of Datchet



Datchet is classed as a relatively large Thameside Village with housing stock and a socio-economic diversity covering the whole range. The heart of the Village is very traditional, and features an attractive Village Green overlooked by a number of listed buildings. Additionally there is a small, discreet, but thriving Industrial Estate.

Local Context

Datchet, a pretty Thames-side village in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, is ideally located for commuting into London and further afield. It has a population of approximately 5,139 (source: Census 21). Situated some three miles from both Windsor & Slough, five miles from Staines and seven miles from London Heathrow Airport, there are close motorway links to the M4, M25, M40 & M3, making the village very accessible to and from all parts of the country. South Western Railway runs a twice-hourly service to London Waterloo (50 minutes) and the Windsor & Eton Riverside station (5 minutes). Additional transport links are provided by regular Bus Services.

There are three principal places of worship within the village. Apart from the Parish Church of Datchet, St. Mary's, there is a Baptist Church and the Roman Catholic Church of St. Augustine. We have recently re-established the Churches Together in Datchet and hold monthly meetings and enjoy warm ecumenical ties with our sister churches in Datchet.

Two of the three schools in Datchet are designated as Church Schools. St. Mary's Church of England Primary Academy, part of the ODST, has been supported by us in many ways over the years. Churchmead is a secondary school which became a VA Church school in 2004. Eton End school is a fee-paying co-educational school.

Datchet has an excellent Health Centre.

Wexham Park Hospital in Slough contains the main A&E for East Berkshire. There are other NHS community sites providing care and private Healthcare is available at The Princess Margaret in Windsor and via The Spire.

Apart from our own Church Community Centre there is a good-sized Village Hall for the many local social events held in Datchet. There is also a smaller WI Hall, a Library and "The Bridge" Coffee Shop, which is an ecumenical parish centre. For a small village, Datchet is well endowed with hospitality, retail and services.

Datchet has all the usual activities you would expect from WI to football. Amongst the community activities there are Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Sea Cadets, a football club, a cricket club and a popular running club, the Datchet Dashers. It has an historical society - the Datchet Village Society - as well as an environmentally and climate focused group, Wild About Datchet. There are very many other clubs, societies, associations & activities, far too numerous to mention here, which all make Datchet a very pleasant and enriching environment in which to live.

A rich source of additional information may be found on the following websites:

www.datchetparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.datchetvillagesociety.co.uk
and the www.rbwm.gov.uk



Churches Together in Datchet (CTID)

Churches Together in Datchet **meet at 7.45pm** on the first Thursday of the month in The Bridge. People from each of Datchet's churches, are invited join together for a short time for discussion, a short service or meditation and prayers. The leadership is on a monthly rota basis between the churches. The CTID hold several services together through the year, including Holy Week, Easter and Christmas.

The Bridge Coffee Shop registered charity no: 1063290

Housed in an historic building in the centre of Datchet, owned by the Parish Council, The Bridge was set up in 1994 as a Village Hub, Help Point and Coffee shop by the three churches in Datchet – St Mary's, St Augustine's and Datchet Baptist Church. It is a bridge between the church and the community. It has been a very successful ecumenical project from the beginning and now draws a great deal of support, both volunteers and customers, from across the community. The Bridge welcomes those of all faiths or none, however, the Christian ethos is explicit with an information leaflet on each table. It is both embedded in and a valuable asset to the community.



The coffee shop is open from Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 3.30pm and is available after hours as a meeting place. It is run entirely by volunteers with just one paid member of staff, the cleaner. There is a board of Trustees, the three church leaders are directors, alongside the two churchwardens of St Mary's. The Associate

Minister would also be welcome to take a role in this alongside the other church leaders. The regular management is undertaken by a management Committee made up of representatives from each of the three churches, and more recently, the wider community. The Parish Council is very supportive of The Bridge and charges an affordable rent.

St Mary the Virgin



View of St Mary's from Vicarage Lane

St. Mary's is a village church which worships broadly in the central Anglican tradition. There is a wide range of worship and musical styles in some of the less formal services held at various times in addition to the monthly Lay-Led service.

Our members quietly get on with the response to Christ's commandment *'That you love one another as I have loved you'* through natural and matter-of-fact support for others and organisations. Many take ministry to the community in simple ways, serving in The Bridge, assisting at services held in the local residential home, Eton House, through music (worship and entertainment), delivering The Link community magazine to every letterbox in Datchet (now in its 25th year), and the natural acceptance and welcome leading to lasting friendships, such as those forged with asylum seekers since October 2022.

In addition to the regular services there is also Messy Church at Easter and Christmas, an annual Bereavement Service, and other special services such as Mothers' Day, organised and led by The Mothers Union'. As a part of our commitment to inclusion, St Mary's offers communion before confirmation to suitably prepared children. St Mary's has a very talented, traditional robed choir but also uses informal styles of music at various services from Mission Praise, Taizé, Iona and beyond. The choir draws in other singers for special occasions (such as leading services at St George's Chapel this past October) and has a tradition of singing in Cathedrals and other places.

St Mary's has three Bible Study groups with an average of between 8 –12 members each. One is specifically an ecumenical group, although all are open to anyone who wishes to join. There is a flourishing Mother's Union Group which meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month in The Bridge Coffee shop. We are growing our Children's Ministry and alongside Messy Church will be rekindling the Junior Church

The Parochial Parish Council

St Mary's is a registered Charity 1131279. The PCC currently has 7 members, including ex-officio members, and meets around 5 or 6 times a year to share in the responsibility of overseeing parish life. It has members who represent us on both Deanery and Diocesan Synods

The Church Community Centre, Datchet

St Mary's Church Community Centre (CCC) was built in 2014 after a huge fundraising drive and at a cost of approximately £300,000. It is much appreciated by the congregation and is used every Thursday and Sunday by the choir, and for coffee and tea after the service. Also, for Messy Church and other activities, as well as Lay-Led or more informal worship on occasions. The CCC has a flexible working space with a soundproof folding partition which can be used to divide the room allowing for two events to be held at the same time. It is also used by groups in the community, such as the regular PiYo & keep fit classes, dog training sessions, parties, and group meetings.



Website :

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/416>





Stella (centre), one of our church members receiving Maundy Money from King Charles III



Churches Together in Datchet Walk of Witness 2024

The LINK



The LINK is Datchet's popular Community Magazine, first published in March 1999 and the brainchild of the then Curate Revd Robert Spicer. It serves as a link between Church & Village life, and it is delivered to every

house in the village, free of charge, by a group of dedicated volunteers. It is also sent out across the world to past residents and other interested parties who have requested their regular copy! It is a not-for-profit publication, run and edited by volunteers with professional printing to ensure quality of print. It is now also made available as an electronic flip book in colour. The funding is met largely through the advertising. The contents cover a wide range of topics both sacred and secular, including Parish/Church News, the Datchet Village Parish Council News, future Church & Village Events, school news, information about local services other organisations. The LINK Editorial Team is always on the lookout for those who would like to contribute ideas, news, articles & local Information or offer their e-skills and gifts especially in helping us to develop our online presence. You can view some samples by scanning the QR codes below.



Summer 2025



Spring 2025



Winter 2025

Think of us in this way,
as servants of Christ
and stewards of God's mysteries "

1 Corinthians 4:1

The Parish of Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney and the Parish of Dorney

Local Context

Our benefice comprises the Parish of Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney and the Parish of Dorney. The two parishes adjoin and are bounded on one side by the River Thames and on the other by the M4 and A4.

Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough are all nearby, with a full range of shops, supermarkets, restaurants, garages etc. as well as schools, leisure centres, hospitals, parks and, of course, Windsor Castle.

We are a friendly Anglican benefice of three churches (plus one church managed by Friends of Friendless churches) within two parishes. Visitors always compliment us on our welcome and easy style. The congregations consider themselves God's church in this place and our members often worship in any one of the three buildings, whilst retaining their affection for their regular place of worship. Overall, the three church buildings are in generally good condition. They are architecturally varied and each is particularly suited to one or more styles of worship.

Eton village



Eton High Street

Eton town is greatly influenced by the College, but the area is also a thriving local community. The High Street in Eton supports a wide variety of businesses and whilst some relate at least partly to the needs of the College, others hold a wider

appeal. Eton Porny C of E School is in the High Street. St John the Evangelist Church is leased from Eton College and is above the local doctor's surgery. Holy Communion BCP services are held here twice a month.

Eton Wick village



View along Eton Wick Road from the Eton end

Eton Wick is a village of about 3000 residents. It is mainly a residential area with some small shops, pubs and two restaurants. There is a village hall, a library, a church school (Eton Wick C of E First School) and a football team with a social club. Although now almost entirely a commuter village, Eton Wick still retains a 'working village' feel, with a few farms remaining, together with some old village families. The lively community is varied, with all ages represented. St John the Baptist is the parish church for Eton and Eton Wick.

Boveney village

Boveney is a small riverside hamlet, served by the church of St Mary Magdalene which is managed by Friends of Friendless Churches. It is normally permanently open to visitors and there are three services a year.

Dorney village



Palmer Arms PH, Dorney

The population of Dorney is estimated at around 900, split between the village of Dorney itself and the larger community of Dorney Reach (where Dorney School and

Village Hall are situated). Within the community is a garden centre with a café as well as two pubs, each with their own restaurant. Historic Dorney Court is also in the village and has been lived in by the Palmer family for around 400 years. Dorney Lake (owned by Eton College) was the venue for the rowing events of the 2012 Olympic Games and is a valued local walking place.

St. James the Less is the parish church, with some parts dating back to the 12th century. Services take place every Sunday and there are frequent weddings (approximately 15) that take place each summer. There is both a churchyard (closed) and a graveyard (open) opposite.

Leadership

We appreciate and encourage input from lay members in different aspects of our church life, for example ministry in children's work (assemblies and seasonal schools activity afternoons), in music ministry, and in leading Bible Studies. Within the setting of village life, the 'vicar' is very important to the church and to the local community. We have a Licensed Lay Minister and lay leaders who assist in the life of the benefice.

Worship

Worship leaders prepare and lead various services throughout the year. Two lay members are authorised to preach and also to lead communion by extension. Planning for festivals as well as special services during the year including patronal services is shared.

Family and Children's Work

Ministry to our families comes in a variety of ways. We offer an All-Age service at Eton Wick once a month and those who attend seem to enjoy the friendly and informal atmosphere; attendance from young families has grown in recent months. Until early 2025 we had two toddler groups, on a Tuesday and Thursday morning which were very popular and had a WhatsApp chat group to connect and support each other. This is an area of outreach and ministry the PCC would like to reinvigorate.

The Christian faith enjoys a high profile in our



Outside St James the Less, Dorney



After morning service St James the Less, Dorney



Walk of Witness Eton, Eton Wick with Boveney

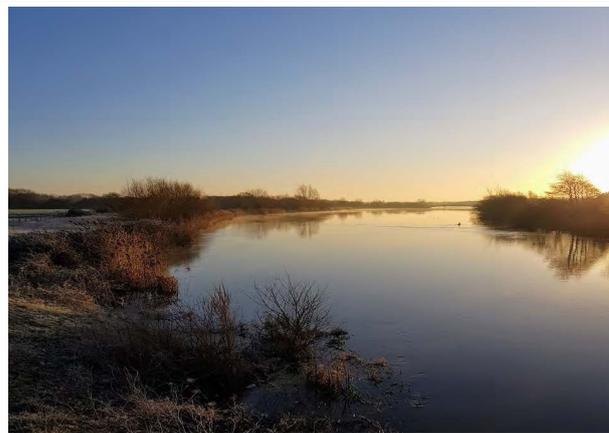


After morning service St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

three parish schools through the efforts of our previous and current incumbent via assemblies, services and Open the Book. We present 'Open the Book' stories, encouraging children to act out Bible stories in all three schools. Eton Wick First School have instigated that every other Open the Book session is held in the church so that the children become accustomed to being in the church and the wonder that this provides. A team of volunteers also delivers Christmas Unwrapped and Easter Experience events to Year 4 pupils in their local churches. Major festival and end of term events are also held in the schools' local churches. We were involved in a training event for 'Space Makers', a contemplative toolkit for schools which took place at Eton Porny School. The Space Makers scheme has also been taken up by Eton Wick First School. Both schools have been offered support for this. Although Dorney School is not a C of E school, it welcomes the activities and interaction offered by the church. The relationship between the churches and the schools is currently very important and friendly. The benefice would like to use better the opportunities this affords us to serve our local children and families.



A recent Baptism at St James the Less



Jubilee River at sunset

Pastoral Care

Our weekly coffee morning is a positive initiative where Eton Wick church is opened on Wednesday mornings for anyone to come in for a tea or coffee and a chat, or simply to sit quietly in the church. It was started following a suggestion by a non-churchgoing resident. Occasionally a representative from various support groups (Age Concern, government aid support etc) attends, which has proved very popular. Average attendance is 12. A craft group has also been running for over two years to provide a space for people to regularly meet and develop friendships. This is led by a member of the community and runs once a month. It is mainly attended by people living in Eton Wick. St John's, Eton has in the past been open in the summer when many visitors pass by. This has been appreciated and has raised the profile of the church in the town. It is also used for some meetings, and by the Local GP surgery for support groups, – a recent development.

Discipleship and Spirituality

We have one Bible study group on a Tuesday evening at St John the Evangelist. This has been growing and is currently attended by members from all three churches and beyond. We ran the 'Come and See' catechesis Lent course by Bishop Steven which was well received. Following this we did a Bible study which was based on 'The Chosen' video dramatization of Jesus' life which inspired the people that took part. There is a team of two people that live-stream Morning Prayer from a Monday to Thursday, which reaches many



Walk of Witness

people both live and later in the day. This has formed a regular ministry to people, started during the Covid lockdown.

Prayer

The life, worship and mission of our churches are rooted in prayer with specific opportunities to grow in prayer. Members of the congregations lead the Intercessions in services. We offer prayer in the Bible study, prayer ministry in services (mainly in Dorney) and other opportunities for individual prayer, especially during pastoral visits.

We offer the opportunity to be listened to and prayed for in total confidence. A group of trained prayer ministers offer healing prayer in some services including the laying on of hands.

Social

We get together for bring and share meals for festivals such as Harvest and during Holy Week, and also the Bible study has bring and share meals. This encourages fellowship and strengthens relationships and is valued by all who attend.

Giving

Our churches encourage regular giving, including through the Parish Giving Scheme, but the offering of our time, money and talents is one of the areas for review.

Music

We have used 'Mission Praise' throughout the parishes for around 20 years, augmented by other material (mainly from 'The Source').

The organs in both Dorney and Eton Wick have both been refurbished within the last 15 years and are in good order. St John's, Eton has a modern digital organ installed at the time of rebuilding. At present we have a regular



Dorney Court : Picture by Kevin White CC BY-SA2.0

organist. Eton College boys play for special occasions such as Remembrance, and we also have a parishioner and outside organists that can help on occasions.

Parochial Church Councils

The two parishes within the benefice have retained separate PCCs. Dorney PCC has 11 members while Eton and Eton Wick with Boveney PCC has 5. There are usually 2 joint meetings and 4 separate meetings each year. Financial commitments are shared appropriately between parishes, and each supports the other. There are 28 on the Eton and Eton Wick Roll. There are 33 on the Dorney Roll.

Finance

Eton with Eton Wick & Boveney Financial Statement - Finances are healthy, allowing the parish to meet all of its financial commitments each year and there are no significant amounts owed by, or to, the PCC. There is also money set aside for possible improvements to the church buildings. Dorney Financial Statement - Dorney has managed to meet all its financial commitments each year and has paid its Share in full.

Regular Services

For a list of regular services please see page 11 There are also a series of occasional services such as the annual Bereavement Service at Eton Wick.



Inside St Mary Magdalene , Boveney

Appendix 1 - Schools

Our churches have close links with all state and church schools in their parishes. Teams of volunteers, drawn from the church and local communities, take Open The Book into the primary/first schools twice a month in term time. Some of the schools (particularly Eton Wick First School) regularly come to the church for communal worship as well as Christmas Unwrapped and Experience Easter events.

Eton End School (Datchet)



Eton End school from the rear

Broadly Christian in ethos, consider our morning assemblies to be an integral part of school life as they present moral, cultural and topical themes in a simple and meaningful way.

Eton End holds services in St Mary's and attends and supports many events.

Churchmead School (Datchet)



Churchmead School is a currently oversubscribed 11-18 Voluntary Aided secondary school within the Diocese of Oxford and the local authority of Windsor and Maidenhead. Our PAN is 120 and the school currently has over 30 students on the waiting list for a Year 7 place. The Sixth Form started in September 2023 with Year 12 and the intention of growing to 100 by September 2025. The school is non-selective serving the communities of Slough, Datchet, Wraysbury, and Iwer.

The school was recently awarded the top grade of "Excellence" in their SIAMS church school Inspection (March 2022) and the

school has also been awarded the Gold Quality Mark for Religious Education. Future Partnership Looking to the future of our partnership, we are looking for a strong vision of the future of chaplaincy in the school and the local area. We have the unique situation of having Church of England primary and secondary schools on the doorstep of the parish church. In addition, we would like to have more frequent visits to the school to provide an opportunity for students to engage with our local clergy to support the pupils through guidance and prayer in our school chapel.

St Mary's C of E Primary School (Datchet)



The school was founded in 1843 as St Mary's School by a past incumbent of St Mary the Virgin Church, Datchet. Since then, there has been a long history of strong links with the school

The school became part of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST) in January 2017. As a result, the structure of governance changed with the Governing Body becoming a Local Governing Body (LGB), overseen by a board of trustees, who in turn report to the Members. It is no longer a requirement for the local priest to sit on the LGB, but are welcome to take up any vacancy.

The school ranges from Reception up to Year 6 and follows a strict Admissions policy. It has a PAN of 30, being single form entry, and has an average of 200 –230 pupils in total. It draws pupils from a very diverse ethnic and cultural background. It has a strong ethos and demonstrates its Christian

Values clearly in the lives and activities of the pupils.

The school holds several services a year in Church, as well as learning events about church and community, including within the church and church yard. The school visits St Mary's for our Christmas and Easter services and pupils are encouraged to attend church-led activities when they are held.

Eton Porny School (Eton)



This school is located on Eton High Street, not far from St John the Evangelist, Eton. As with Eton Wick First school, they are very appreciative of their visits to the church for Christmas Unwrapped and Experience Easter. The close connections fostered through *Open The Book* mean that the children feel welcome as they see familiar faces. Their special school services are usually held in one of the chapels in Eton College.

Their vision statement is based on 1 Peter 4:10-11: "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

Eton Wick First School (Eton Wick)



This school is located next door to St John the Baptist, Eton Wick. They are very proud of the

links with 'their church' and regularly come into the church for school services. The school requested that every other *Open The Book* is held in the church. Their vision statement is

"We are all growing, developing and learning; Achieving Success in a Caring Community"

based on the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13.

Dorney Primary School (Dorney)

Dorney School is the primary school in Dorney and forms part of the Beeches



Learning and Development Trust with Burnham Grammar School. Dorney School sits within a two-tier education system, catering for pupils from the ages of four (EYFS) to eleven (year 6), with circa 200 pupils.

Whilst not a C of E school, the church has forged a strong bond with the school with fortnightly assemblies being held for the whole school using 'Open the Book' and Easter and Christmas workshops taking place in the church for year 4.

Eton College (Eton)

Aside from these schools, Eton College is also entirely within the Parish of Eton. There are good links with the college as well as their team of Anglican Chaplains.



Appendix 2 - Charity and other trustee opportunities

Barker Bridge House Trust

This charity dates back to 1570, when it was founded as The Bridge House Trust. Income from a rented property known as Bridge House (now The Royal Stag) funded maintenance of a bridge spanning the watercourse running from Slough Road to the village centre, now The Green. In the 1870s, trustees arranged for the waterway to be culverted beneath the Green.

Robert Barker, printer to King James I and known for the “Wicked Bible,” lived in London and Datchet. Granted the license to print the King James Bible in 1611, he became the last surviving trustee in 1644 and formalised trustee appointments and duties, giving the Trust his name.

Today, the Trust has three parts: the Church Branch, the non-Ecclesiastical Branch, and joint Estate Trustees, comprising members from both branches and a Company Secretary. The Charity Commission updated the Trust’s governing documents in the 1960s.

Income is generated primarily from the lease of The Royal Stag public house, adjacent to the church, and from farmland on Southlea. Funds are distributed 2/5 to St Mary’s Church and 3/5 to the non-Ecclesiastical Branch.

The joint trustees meet two or three times annually. Currently, the Revd Andreas Sistig serves as trustee, though the role may pass to the new Associate Minister residing at Datchet Vicarage.

The Church Branch has five trustees, including the Rector/Associate Minister and two churchwardens. Its income supports church repairs, maintenance, grounds upkeep, and approved utilities.



Director of The Bridge Ecumenical Centre



The Bridge is a self-supporting company, registered with Companies House. It serves the community in many ways, providing

refreshments, a meeting place, a place to talk to someone and a resource of information. It is run ecumenically and volunteers operate the service on a rota basis. The building is leased from the Parish Council and has privately rented accommodation, which has in the past been used for a youth worker upstairs. The Associate Minister would be welcome to become a director of The Bridge as well.

Datchet United Charities Committee

This is a charity made up of several smaller ones, and which distributes small grants to those demonstrating a need for it for their wellbeing. Currently the Revd Andreas Sistig serves as trustee, but this position could also be held by the new Associate Minister

Appendix 3

The Burnham & Slough Deanery

Website : Burnham and Slough Deanery



being church in the 21st century and this is reflected in our Deanery Mission Action plan. The principles and values that underpin the deanery's determination to reach the community include:

Celebrating the diversity of cultures and churchmanship present in the deanery, as well as acknowledging and celebrating both large and small successes.

Collaboration is also hugely encouraged and emphasised, so that we can provide mutual support to individuals and parishes.

Effective communication, both in listening well and boldly embracing necessary changes, is valued.

Finally, there is a commitment to align with the overall vision of the Diocese to become a more Christlike church for the sake of the world. However, there are ongoing challenges, including adapting to changing resources for ministry, strengthening, and supporting ecumenical links, working in a multi-faith environment, and addressing the diverse needs of urban and rural ministry. Despite these challenges, there is a firm belief that God is present and guiding our efforts to bring His Kingdom into people's lives.

Burnham and Slough Deanery is a vibrant and diverse community that presents both opportunities and challenges for ministry and mission. The area encompasses a wide range of population demographics, from affluent areas to some of the most deprived in the country. Despite these differences, the deanery is committed to responding to the needs of its community and embracing the opportunities that arise.

As full time Area Dean, I am excited about the opportunities for ministry in the Benefice that includes the parishes of Datchet, Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney, and Dorney. The urban community in Slough is growing and diverse, with the presence of one of the largest business estates in Europe. Additionally, the opening of the Elizabeth line in November 2022, offering a non-stop service to Paddington and through the city of London, presents a significant opportunity for new people to move into the area.

Overall, the Burnham and Slough Deanery offers a rich and intriguing context for ministry and mission in the Church of England, where the parishes are dedicated to embracing opportunities, addressing challenges, and working together to fulfil their vision in the 21st century.

Revd Canon Janet Binns
Area Dean

Despite the challenges of urban and rural life, as well as varying levels of affluence and poverty, the Burnham and Slough Deanery remains a strong, prayerful, and cohesive unit. The deanery is actively seeking to grow and develop new ways of



Appendix 2 - The Diocese of Oxford and the Archdeaconry of Buckingham

The Diocese of Oxford serves the mission of the Church in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The Diocese comprises over 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 Rt. Revd. Dave Bull, Bishop of Buckingham since 2025, oversees the eastern area on the map. The post is covered by the Archdeacon and 4 Area Deans to cover the Archdeaconry duties together. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is the Ven. Cassa Messervy, appointed in March 2026. In 2020, Revd. Canon Chris Bull was appointed Associate Archdeacon.

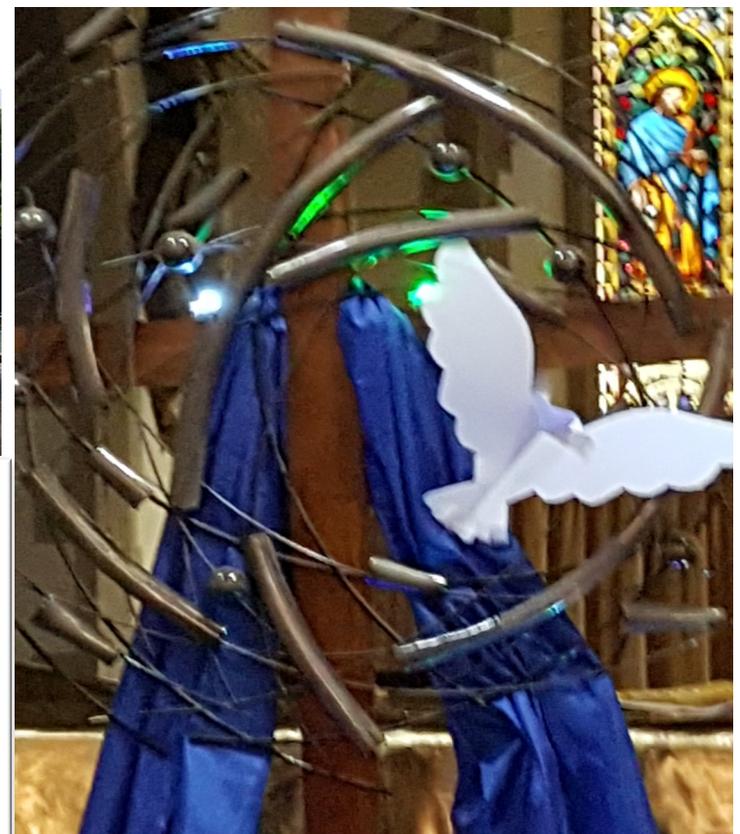
Through prayer, listening and discernment a common vision has emerged for the Diocese of Oxford. The vision is based on the qualities described in The Beatitudes and addresses what kind of church we are called to be:

Common Vision: 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 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 commit to this vision and encourage their benefice to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world.

More information on the Diocesan website [Diocese of Oxford](https://www.dioceseofoxford.org.uk/)

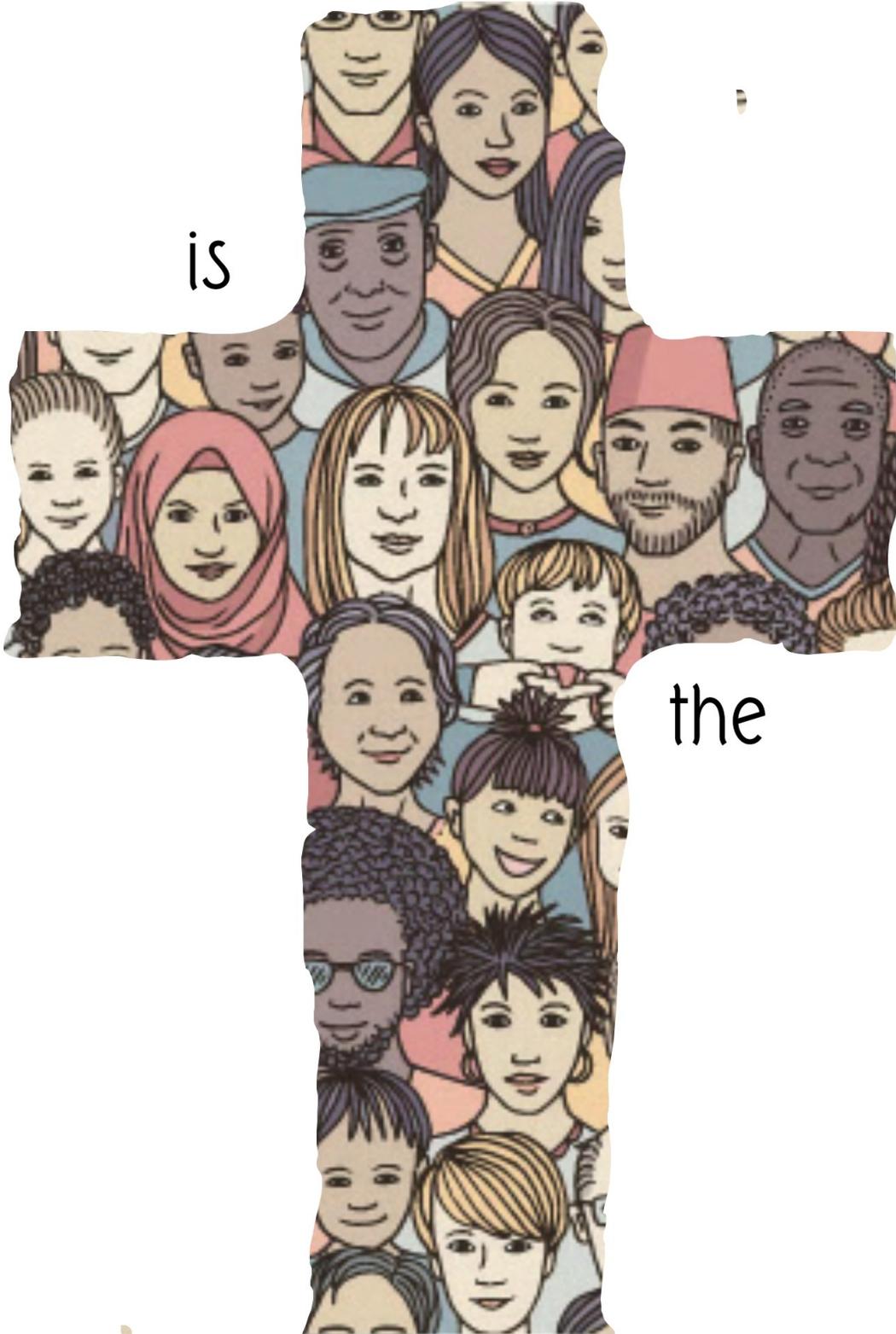




REFLECTIVE Service Installation
Water in the Desert

Church

is



the

People of God