ASSOCIATE PRIEST
HOUSE FOR DUTY

Ray Valley Benefice (RVB)

DIOCESE OF OXFORD
DEANERY OF BICESTER AND ISLIP



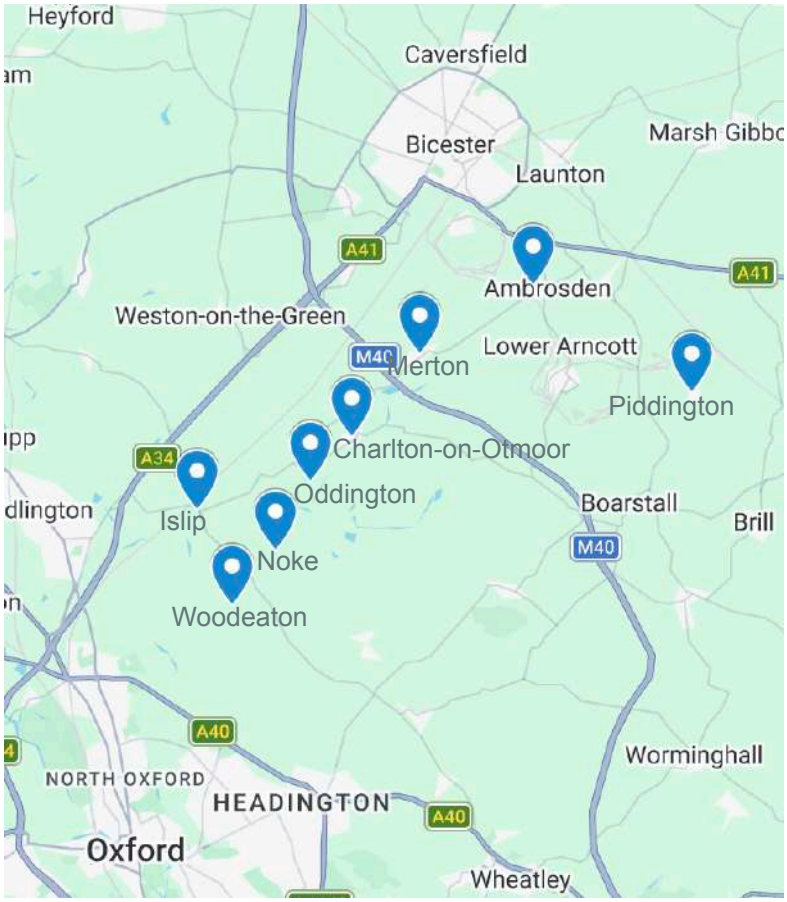






Contents

Letter from Revd Prev Jane Haslam	3
Letter from Revd Cortney Dale	4
Background	5
Why should you choose the Ray Valley Benefice?	5
About the Ray Valley Benefice	6
Introducing our schools	7
Life in Ambrosden	8
What we would like you to offer us	8
The parishes and churches of the Ray Valley Benefice	9
The Ray Valley Benefice at a glance	17



Letter from Revd Preb Jane Haslam, Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester



Dear potential applicants

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

The Ray Valley Benefice is a truly beautiful part of the world. It has a fascinating history and much to offer in terms of activities, as well as transport links to urban centres. It is a place where people are down to earth and truly care about each other and their communities. I think you will sense this as you read the profile.

Along with their new Rector, Cortney, the congregations are clear in their desire to live out our diocesan vision as they seek to continue to grow in being contemplative, compassionate and courageous for the sake of God's world.

Whilst the parishes are praying for a priest who is approachable, friendly and who will be committed to serving the rural churches and their communities, as Cortney herself says, they are also very much seeking God's will and purpose. They wish to be led by the Spirit as to how this role might be shaped by the gifts and passions people might bring. Both Cortney and I would welcome informal conversations with those who may be interested in this role.

The benefice would particularly welcome those who would increase diversity as we strive to match the diversity of our area.

You will find a friendly deanery with supportive and experienced colleagues. Our episcopal area and diocese are in good heart, expectant for all that God will do and thankful for all that God is doing.

Please pray about whether you might be the right minister to join us. If you decide to apply, I would be delighted to receive your application for this key position and look forward to the possibility of welcoming you as a potential colleague and partner in the Gospel.

With every blessing



Revd Preb Jane Haslam
Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester

Letter from Revd Cortney Dale, Rector of the Ray Valley Benefice



Dear potential applicants

I want you to know that I've been praying for you already. We've done our best to create a profile that reflects the charm and grace found throughout the Ray Valley Benefice. I hope you'll trust me when I say: it's really an amazing place.

As for myself, while I brought over ten years of ordained ministry experience when I began as rector here last fall, this is my first time serving in the Church of England, having just started here this past autumn. My own learning curve has been steep but I have been blessed with a benefice that is full of grace and welcome. While I wouldn't mind an associate who is particularly well-versed in the administrative intricacies of the Church of England, I'm open to whatever direction the Holy Spirit sends us.

I want to make space for whatever talents and passion you might bring with you. I see an opportunity for more children, youth, and family ministry in the benefice, as well as more intergenerational Christian formation. I see an opportunity for more engagement evangelism in the growing area of Ambrosden and I see an opportunity for building relationships amongst the benefice.

While there is space for you to do many things, please know we don't expect you to do everything. This is very much a part-time position. I know that there is always more to do in ministry but we best honour our ordained vocation when we carve out time for rest, play, and nurturing of relationships.

You have my continued prayers in your discernment and I look forward to learning what God has in store for you and for us.

God's peace

Cortney

Revd Cortney Dale







Church life in the Ray Valley Benefice

Background

The difference between Ray Valley Benefice and other rural parishes is that, although we are near Oxford and all that it offers, we have the Bicester Garrison (Royal Logistic Corps, Royal Engineer and Royal Signals personnel in the majority), Bullingdon Prison, one village with rapidly developing new housing, and all adjoining SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and BBOWT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust) reserves!

The geographical area of the benefice is 100 sq km and a car is necessary, but transport links from the area to Oxford, Bicester, London, Heathrow are all good.

Covid drew us together through the use of Zoom service provision, but congregations tend to stay local. The RVB was formed over 20 years ago and the enthusiasm to act as a benefice has waxed and waned in that time – for geographical reasons as well as populations naturally favouring adjoining towns for school, business or social purposes. Coming together for services has enhanced our worship, especially for the smaller congregations, and building on this would be seen positively. We would like to attract someone who can listen to those who shout the softest, encourage diversity in service provision without losing those who relish traditional forms of worship.

Along with our rector we are being supported by two retired clergy (Islip) and the PTO in Ambrosden, plus the active support of several other ordained and lay ministers who live within the benefice or deanery (either retired or PTO), including a member of the Oxford Hospitals chaplaincy team who has additionally taken on the role of governor at Dr South's School (Islip) – many of these would be pleased to continue in consultation with the incoming Rector. Our newly appointed Benefice Administrator is working 8 hours per week from her home base in Ambrosden.

Why should you choose the Ray Valley Benefice?

The Diocese of Oxford's 'Contemplative, Compassionate, Courageous' slogan is one to which we subscribe – our challenge is making this a visible reality within our congregations. We seek to do this in ways that are individual to each parish, suiting the diversity within them and being brave about trying new ways to attract the majority who seldom engage with our churches. Various initiatives are, or have been, tried – for instance, the local Fijian Methodist community uses St Mary the Virgin at Ambrosden, and pilgrimage routes have been developed around the area, particularly in Oddington. In common with many rural parishes, we try to build connections with young, busy people and children via the three local schools and community events, which double as fund-raising and fun-raising. In addition, we have links with all three residential theological colleges in Oxford (Ripon College, Cuddesdon, St Stephen's House and Wycliffe Hall) as well as active links with Westminster Abbey (the bi-annual Westminster to Islip Big Bike Ride raises over £20,000).

About the Ray Valley Benefice

The Ray Valley Benefice comprises eight parishes of twelve villages or hamlets, and lies to the north-east of Oxford and south of Bicester. It represents a microcosm of English tradition and modern change. The expansion of the Bicester area as a major centre of population is bringing new housing and families to the northern villages of Ambrosden (the Graven Hill self-build estate has featured several times in Grand Designs) and Arncott; closer to Oxford, Islip, Charlton-on-Otmoor and other villages are popular with families who teach or are educated in the city known for its university, car manufacturing and top-class hospitals.

The proximity of the M40 (to London and Birmingham), A34 and rail/bus links make the area attractive to commuters. Railway stations at Oxford Parkway, Islip and Bicester mean a journey to London is an hour or less. Across the benefice the countryside is a patchwork of busy farms, clustered within and around the popular RSPB reserve on the historic moorland of Otmoor with its 'Big Sky feel'. The Army garrisons around Arncott and Ambrosden add an important layer of social diversity as does Bullingdon Prison, less obviously, at Arncott.



Charlton-on-Otmoor's Palm Sunday celebration

The Ray Valley church buildings, with their origins in the 12th and 13th centuries, have all benefited from restorative work, many with improved facilities, ensuring they continue as robust hubs of Christian worship and life. A look around the churchyards and memorials reveals local family histories dating hundreds of years. Islip, the birthplace of Edward the Confessor, was granted to Westminster Abbey in his will and to this day maintains close relations with the Abbey. A stroll through the villages shows that change and development are bringing newcomers into our communities. A range of traditional events take place around the villages bringing church and community together, and two villages have Church of England schools providing opportunities for Christian formation and outreach.

It is this exciting mix of old and new, tradition and change, quiet rural and full workaday lifestyles that presents challenge and opportunity.



St Swithun, Merton



St Mary the Virgin, Ambrosden

Introducing our schools

Dr South's and Charlton-on-Otmoor's headteachers write:

In the RVB there are four state schools: one Church of England primary school in each of Islip and Charlton-on-Otmoor, one Local Authority non-church primary school in Ambrosden, and one Special School in Woodeaton. Each of the schools has its own very distinctive ethos and identity.

In Islip, Dr South's CE Primary School has a vision of Nurture, Educate, Inspire with a commitment to developing children to flourish to 'live life in all its fullness'. The small school offers a rounded education with a very large enrichment programme, including extensive outdoor education and a big focus on practical skills such as cookery, which supports the strong academic results obtained by the children. The school is currently graded Good by Ofsted.

In Charlton, the school's vision, 'Aspire and grow together', reflects the school's commitment to ensuring that every child reaches their full potential and develops into a socially responsible citizen– locally, nationally and globally– who considers the needs of others as well as themselves. The school places a strong emphasis on providing children with a rich moral, spiritual and cultural foundation, supported by excellent facilities, including an on-site Forest School area. Charlton is currently graded Good by Ofsted.

Five Acres is a large primary school in Ambrosden with a very distinct identity serving a large forces community from the local garrison, as well as non-forces children from the surrounding area. Its mission is to nurture the potential of every child in a secure, happy and inspiring environment based on four core values. The school is currently graded Good by Ofsted.

Woodeaton Manor Special School is a daytime school which aims to offer a nurturing environment to 84 pupils with severe emotional and social difficulties. The school is currently in special measures and undergoing a challenging period of change.

Historically, there has been extensive clergy involvement in all three primary schools, which is hoped will continue.



May Day at Dr South's school, Islip



Pupils at Charlton-on-Otmoor school

Life in Ambrosden

Ambrosden has seen many new housing developments in recent years, but it remains a welcoming environment where our new vicar can take up the challenge to share God's gifts of joy, love and hope throughout the community.

The Vicarage is located next to St Mary the Virgin church, at the end of Church Walk. It was built in 1991 as a practical living and working space. It has a large living room, dining room and kitchen, four bedrooms, a bathroom and a separate shower room. A study and toilet are accessed via the front door but can be kept separate from the rest of the house. There is a spacious double garage. Beyond the private garden is a walled lawned area, 'The Glebe', which is used for church fetes and other events.

A short walk away are Ambrosden's primary school, a shop with a post office, a garage and a village hall, which is used for community events and classes.

Ambrosden has an extensive area of Army housing, with its own community centre and other amenities. There is scope for building on links between the church and Army families that have been developed in recent years.

The village is linked by bus routes to Bicester, Oxford and local villages. In Bicester are secondary schools, a main line station and extensive shops.



St Mary's Vicarage, Ambrosden

What we would like you to offer us

- A visible spiritual presence and good communication skills.
- A desire to journey with us and help us grow in confidence in faith and outreach.
- A willingness to engage with ageing congregations, young people, schools and military personnel.
- Encouragement of fresh ideas and participative gatherings, such as Taizé, café church, lectio divina/contemplative services.
- A team player with some experience of rural multi-parish benefice ministry or able to demonstrate understanding of the particular dynamics/ demands of this context.
- Leadership in building relationships across our village communities.

St Mary the Virgin, Ambrosden

As the parish church for the three villages of Ambrosden, Arncott and Blackthorn (each with their own characteristics, challenges and opportunities), we are fortunate (with the aid of a charitable trust solely for maintaining the church's fabric) to have installed a kitchen, toilet and multi-use area. With a large gazebo (affectionately named 'the tabernacle'), smaller groups meet, especially during lay-led services and in wintertime.

Our aim is to reach out to all three villages, to be involved in the varied community life in a way that expresses our Christian values and beliefs and for people to realise we are not just there for baptisms, weddings and burials (Hatch, Match, Dispatch!).

We serve a diverse population – families, workers, retired people, asylum seekers and military personnel, to name just a few, and there is a mix of old and new houses, farms, a primary school, a military base and housing, a prison, new housing developments and an assortment of businesses. A Fijian Methodist community uses the church for their worship and an art and craft group makes use of our hospitality area.

A recently formed fund-raising committee has plans for 2026 that includes a Valentine's day pancake breakfast, community Easter events, a 4th July duck race and a Christmas fair. These events are as much about community outreach and fellowship as they are about raising funds.

We host visiting bell ringers, and a small group of 'mature' people are learning to ring the bells with support from local 'expert' bell ringers – it's never too late to learn!



Raising funds for Dyscalculia: Vicar of Dipley tribute dance.



Awaiting the wedding party

A church near you	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5769/
Community Facebook site	https://www.facebook.com/groups/18012209620 (3,600 members)
The Church Explorer	https://thechurchexporer.blogspot.com/2021/08/st-mary-virgin-ambrosden.html
Benefice bell ringers	https://bicester.odg.org.uk/wordpress/

St Swithun, Merton

A Grade 1 listed church dating from the 13th and 14th centuries, in good repair with toilet and kitchen, under pew heating, plus a warm space intended for use by smaller groups.

It is at the centre of the village and attracts a regular congregation for its alternating fortnightly communion and family services with a particularly popular Harvest service attracting around 40 villagers – beautifully decorated with flowers, vegetables and fruit which are donated to the local Bicester FoodBank afterwards. The service is followed by a buffet lunch with local farming families among the congregation.

Other highlights include the annual Remembrance Sunday service with members of the armed forces from Bicester Garrison; the Christingle service, with special focus on helping the Children's Society, and the Christmas Eve carol service attended by more than 80 villagers and friends.

Fundraising is active (as well as a digital card reader locals, some not regular church attenders, have set up direct debits) and there are two major events – the summer and Christmas fairs, organised by the PCC, and full of stalls with cakes, crafts, tombola, raffle, bric-a-brac, and refreshments.

Children of primary school age attend either Charlton-on-Otmoor Church of England School or Five Acres School, Ambrosden. Older children attend schools in Bicester, Kidlington or Oxford.



Harvest Festival



Christingle



Church gates

A church near you	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5943/
The Church Explorer	https://thechurchexporer.blogspot.com/2021/07/st-swithun-merton.html

St Nicholas, Piddington

St Nicholas Church is Grade II* listed and dates from the 13th century. The church is well maintained and church has a restored wall painting of St Christopher, amongst other interesting architectural features. The church is peacefully situated in the village (no main road), surrounded by a graveyard full of wild flowers in the spring: an eco-habitat has been adopted, allowing them to set seed before cutting back. The bells are regularly rung for occasions and by visiting bell ringers.

There is a strong sense of community with an active Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and PCC (the latter two, whilst holding their own fundraising events, often work together for joint events).

The recently refurbished village hall hosts a small library, and weekly events take place, such as bowls, art, craft group, book club and exercise groups. There is also a sports field with picnic facilities maintained by the Parish Council.

The aim is to willingly engage and serve the community by sharing Christian values, not only providing church services but also events for the wider community. These include regular coffee mornings with tabletop sales, an arts and crafts exhibition, and wreath-making workshop. In addition, many in the community enjoy decorating the church for festivals: at Harvest people are encouraged to visit and see the displays whilst meeting others for coffee and cake. The highlight of the year has to be the Good Friday Pilgrimage Walk, when villagers join to walk up the hill to where Ralph the Hermit built the first Piddington chapel. There are readings along the way whilst enjoying the surrounding views, and we return for hot cross buns and coffee in the church.

Other popular services include Remembrance, when soldiers from the nearby Garrison lay a wreath and, of course, the annual carol service. There is a warm welcome to all, regardless of faith.



Village wreath-making workshop



Good Friday pilgrimage

A church near you	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5969/
Piddington church	https://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/st-nicholas-church.html
Piddington Parish Clerk	info@piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk
Community Facebook site	https://www.facebook.com/groups/piddingtoncommunitygroup/ (286 members)
The Church Explorer	https://thechurchexporer.blogspot.com/2023/09/st-nicholas-piddington.html
Email	stnicholaspiddington@yahoo.com

St Mary the Virgin, Charlton-on-Otmoor

Situated in the middle of the village (one of the 'Seven Towns of Otmoor') and with a tower visible for miles around, the church attracts walkers who call in at the church for quiet reflection. Open all day, it is a beautiful place for prayer, peace and coolness on a hot day. The 2023 quinquennial revealed few matters of immediate concern. A kitchenette and WC were installed in 2012.

A thriving church primary school, with up to 100 children (aged 3–11) has good links to the church and holds services there a few times each year. Notably there is a May Day event, when children parade to the church carrying decorated crosses and then dance for the entertainment of the village. A May garland of flowers is placed on the church's rood screen. The ceremony has a long ancestry.

The hall adjoining the school is also available for community events. The village football club, with a clubhouse and playing field, attracts people from the surrounding area. Other thriving local clubs include the Women's Institute and the Otmoor Garden Society.

Unusually, the village has families who can trace their local ancestry back centuries. Being comparatively isolated, Charlton was self sufficient a few generations ago. However, farm stalls thrive here, selling seasonal vegetables, eggs and bedding plants. Otherwise the village is dependent on deliveries or villagers travelling to nearby centres. There is an hourly bus service linking the village with Bicester and Oxford Hospitals in Headington. The doctors' surgery is in Islip (3 miles away).

The ecclesiastical parish also includes the large hamlets of Fencott and Murcott, which have their own Parish Council and Village Hall.



Roadside produce stall



Confirmation with Bishop Gavin

A church near you	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/283/
Community Facebook site	https://www.facebook.com/groups/329839935022765 (684 members)
Otmoor Review	6 issues per year with Oddington, Murcott and Fencott (130 approx subscribers)
Church Facebook site	https://www.facebook.com/CharltonOnOtmoorParishChurch
Church Facebook site	https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Marys-Church-Charlton-On-Otmoor/828012163917198
The Church Explorer	https://thechurchexporer.blogspot.com/2021/07/st-mary-virgin-charlton-on-otmoor.html

St Andrew's, Oddington

Our Grade II* listed church has a 13th-century tower, 14th-century chancel, 1810 porch and a nave. A major restoration of the church, particularly the interior, was undertaken in 2013. Makareti (Maggie) Papakura, a Māori Princess, lived in the village in the 1920s and is buried in the churchyard – she is greatly revered and we have many Māori visitors to her grave, who also join us in our worship.

The church is ornate, which comes as a surprise to visitors, given its tranquil exterior. The church is open most days; otherwise it can be readily unlocked on request.

As the only public building in the village, the church is used for meetings and social functions related to church activities. It has the most splendid setting, with a view from the churchyard over Otmoor.



Māori visit to Oddington



Good Friday procession in Oddington



Oddington village picnic

A church near you	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/261/
Website	www.churchofstandrewoddington.org
Otmoor Review	6 issues per year with Charlton, Murcott and Fencott (approx 130 subs)
The Church Explorer	https://thechurchexporer.blogspot.com/2021/06/st-andrews-oddington.html

St Nicholas, Islip

Visitors to St Nicholas church (Grade I listed) often comment on its peace and beauty, and its sense of being well cared for. Edward the Confessor was born in Islip around 1005 and it is likely that a church was already present on this site, though the oldest part of the current building dates from the 12th century. A servery kitchen, WC and upper meeting room were installed in 2005 behind a stunning glass screen designed by Nicholas Mynheer, depicting scenes from the lives of St Nicholas and St Edward.

The church is normally kept open during the day and floodlit at night. Our splendid set of bells is rung for services by an all-age band of ringers and the church choir, drawn from Islip and local villages, sings at two services each month (including a popular monthly Choral Evensong). Since Covid, a weekly online Morning Prayer has attracted regular participants. We have a popular informal monthly service for Adults, Babies and Children (ABC). The village school holds regular services in the church, including for Harvest, St Nicholas' Day, Christmas, Easter and at the end of the school year. The well-maintained churchyard is managed to encourage biodiversity and tended by village volunteers .

The church is used by various groups through the week and currently houses a small library of Ukrainian books. We support Bicester FoodBank, Christian Aid Week and donate 5% of unrestricted income to outreach activities. The bi-annual Big Bike Ride from Westminster Abbey to Islip, organised jointly with Dr South's School, is a major community fund-raiser.



Ready for the ABC service



Lighting the Advent candle



Hanging the Remembrance poppies

St Nicholas website	https://stnicholasislip.wordpress.com/
A church near you	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/294/
Church Facebook site	https://www.facebook.com/st.nicholas.islip (188 followers)
Church YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/@stnicholaschurch8276
Village email group	info4islip@gmail.com (500 members)
3 Parishes Magazine	11 issues per year with Noke and Woodeaton (330 print run)
The Church Explorer	https://thechurchexporer.blogspot.com/2021/06/st-nicholas-islip.html
Parish kneelers	https://parishkneelers.co.uk/churches/oxfordshire/islip-st-nicholas

St Giles, Noke

The small 13th-century church is in an exceptionally peaceful and prayerful setting. It is the central point of the village and is in good repair. It is used by local groups as a public meeting place. In the lower village there is a playing field, also used for community events. Located on the edge of Otmoor RSPB nature reserve, a feature of Noke is that it is free of through traffic. The Oxfordshire Way and the Oddington-Noke pilgrimage route pass through Noke, bringing visitors to the church. St Giles' is open 365 days of the year.

The village population is mixed. Many work from home and stay in touch by walking around the village. There is a strong sense of community and high level of goodwill towards the church, indicated by enthusiastic fundraising – plant sale, quiz and curry night, Three Parishes Christmas Fair (with Islip and Woodeaton). More recently the PCC and village committee have been collaborating in planning events.

Church services are varied: Taize; Songs of Praise; pet service; annual spring service held at a village farm, often incorporating a prayerful walk around the village; occasional choral evensong; Harvest thanksgiving with a talk by a local farmer; and the packed annual Christmas Eve carol service followed by a village party.

The Friends of St Giles charity was set up 'to advance the Christian religion' in the parish and to improve the church's fabric and furnishings.



Summer wedding in Noke



A windy Palm Sunday



Annual parish tea party in the churchyard



Spring service at Hillend Farm

A church near you	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5956/
3 Parishes Magazine	11 issues per year with Islip and Woodeaton (330 print run)
Village email group	
The Church Explorer	https://thechurchexporer.blogspot.com/2021/05/st-giles-noke.html

Holy Rood, Woodeaton

Our Grade I listed church, dating from the 13th century, with a complete restoration of its roof in 2010 (£160,000) is a little gem with many unusual features, including significant medieval wall paintings, surrounded by a lovely churchyard. We have an active flower rota, and the congregation also helps with cleaning the church and keeping the churchyard tidy.

The church is at the centre of the community. The annual Rogation Walk and the Christmas Carol Service attract the biggest congregations, drawing people beyond the regular congregation. The Easter service is held at Noke, while the Christmas Day service is at Woodeaton: exchanges which bind our two parishes and benefit both. Our Harvest Festivals feature interesting talks from local farmers. Our bells are rung by visiting ringers and are a favourite feature of weddings, baptisms and other village celebrations.

Our financial position is solid, and we consistently pay our full parish share. Our income depends on collections (many paid now by standing order), occasional generous donations and fund-raising. We aim to hold events every other year, both to raise funds and to create a fun activity for our community. We are currently starting fund-raising for the repair of our interior ceiling.

Woodeaton is the smallest village in the benefice, and the closest to Oxford. Mentioned in the Domesday Book, it was much smaller in 1350, when it was reported that 33 of the 35 resident tenants succumbed to the Black Death. We have two main historical claims to fame. Richard Taverner, the translator of the Bible, lived in Woodeaton and was buried in the churchyard in 1575. James Sadler completed the first English hot air balloon flight, travelling 6 miles from Christ Church Meadow and landing in a field in Woodeaton in 1784.



Plant sale on the village green, May 2024

A church near you	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6062/
3 Parishes Magazine	11 issues/ year with Noke and Islip (330 print run)
Village What's App	
The Church Explorer	https://thechurchexporer.blogspot.com/2014/01/the-holy-rood.html

The Ray Valley Benefice at a glance

2025	Ambrosden (Blackthorn & Arncott)	Charlton (Fencott & Murcott)	Islip	Merton	Noke	Oddington	Piddington	Woodeaton	Total
Population*	2736 (317 & 1738 Arncott)	665	668	424	135	129	370	75	5202
Average congregation	10 (0.4%)	15 (2.3%)	30 (4.5%)	8 (1.9%)	18 (13.3%)	10 (7.8%)	12 (3.2%)	12 (16%)	115
Parish share % allocation	17%	18%	29%	9%	7%	7%	8%	5%	
PCC	7 + 1 ex officio	7 + 2 ex officio	6 + 2 ex officio	7	6	6 + 2 ex officio	5	8	51 + 8 ex officio
Electoral roll	26	24	54	8	18	24	13	14	191
Bells	8	6	8	0	2	3	5	5	
Choir	0	0	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	
Funerals	7	5	2	1	0	1	3		25
Weddings	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	1	9
Baptisms	6	2	4	0	0	0	1	1	12
Pub	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Visitors**		125+	100+	10	50	100+	50+		
Shops	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
1* School	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	Foundation School	
Village hall	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	
Other groups using church	Fijian Methodist Community; art & craft group		Music in Islip; brass group; ABC; walkers' weekly coffee; Ukrainian library				Visiting bellringers		
Significant/ Other amenities	Garrison; HM Prison Bullingdon; pre-school playgroups; car dealers; 2 garages; H5 bus route	2 veg/ flower stalls; Michelin restaurant (Murcott); hairdresser; Charlton bus; H5 bus route	Railway station; GP surgery; H5 bus route	Beauty salon	Access to Otmoor reserve	Member of The Small Pilgrim Places Network & burial place of Māori princess	Dog groomer; beauty salon; poet John Drinkwater	Easy access to hospitals; Oxford	

* 2021 census https://citypopulation.de/en/uk/southeastengland/oxfordshire/E63004219__ambrosden/

** Visitors recorded in visitors' book

*** RVB Parish share £76,506 (2025)