



The Benefice of St. George in Owlsmoor and College Town

2025



PARISH PROFILE

for the Appointment of our
Vicar (House for Duty)

109 Owlsmoor Road,
Sandhurst, Berkshire
GU47 0SS
07720 663 428

www.stgeorgeowlsmoor.org.uk

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Foreword from the Archdeacon of Berkshire

Welcome to the Parish Profile for St. George's, Owlsmoor.

The PCC has taken time to develop a House for Duty post, which is positive, informed and realistic. The parish has creatively explored new ways in which ministry can be focused, and there is a strong sense of new possibilities.

It is a role which has a huge amount of potential. The new priest just has to start by getting to know people, getting out and about, making connections, offering support to those who have been carrying the weight of the church during the vacancy and loving the place and people.

Part of the challenge will be discerning accessible ways to help turn aspiration into missional intent and impact. This will include finding ways to help people deepen the relevance of their faith in discipleship and community engagement.

It is an ideal place for a House for Duty Vicar; one community and one church with good support from a strong deanery and in a well-resourced diocese, which is in good shape.

Please pray for us as we are praying for you through this time of listening, discernment and decision.

If you would like to find out more or ask any questions, please do contact me.

Ven Stephen Pullin
archdeacon.berkshire@oxford.anglican.org



Foreword from the Sonning Deanery Coordinator

On behalf of the deanery, I'm pleased to commend to you this opportunity to serve at St. George's, Owlsmoor - a church with a warm heart, a faithful core congregation, and a desire to grow into the next season of its life. After many years of full-time ministry, the parish now seeks a House for Duty Vicar to help navigate this time of change with wisdom, hope, and creativity.

St George's is home to a small but dedicated group of people who love their church and are ready to support and partner with a new priest. They are realistic about the challenges, particularly around engaging with young families, but are open to fresh vision and leadership. The church already has significant connections with the local community, and there's a real appetite to see these relationships bear fruit in deeper involvement and spiritual growth.

You would be inheriting a traditional form of worship that is greatly valued, and the church is looking for someone who can both honour this and reach out with warmth and imagination beyond its doors.

If you're someone who senses a calling to encourage and inspire God's people while gently leading them through change, this could be the ideal ministry for you.

You'd also be joining a deanery that is friendly, collaborative, and full of clergy who are themselves fairly new in post. We'd love to welcome you among us.

Rev. Julian Bidgood
Sonning Deanery Coordinator



Greetings from the Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council of St George's Church

Thank you for looking at our Parish Profile

St. George's is a small, friendly church community and we are looking forward to welcoming and working with a new Vicar.

We have much to offer with a new church, bright and easy to maintain and a newly refurbished modern vicarage with six bedrooms and a lovely garden next door to the church.

Owlsmoor offers easy access to London and the towns of Reading and Guildford. There are two good primary schools in Owlsmoor and College Town, a good local secondary school (Sandhurst School, which is in Owlsmoor), and we are in the catchment of Ranelagh School, the Church of England secondary school in nearby Bracknell.

Our church family is small but active and willing to offer our Vicar lay support for weekly worship. We recognise that administrative help will be required and this could include some additional paid help. Equally, we are outward-looking and ready to build on existing links made within the community, working together to further our outreach ministry.

We are looking and praying for a Vicar to come and live and minister within our community. This Parish Profile explains who we are and how we hope to develop in the years ahead, working with our new Vicar, helping us to look outwards with energy, leading to growth and enrichment of our mission.

Below is an outline of the person we believe, with the help of God, will fulfil the needs of St George's Church.

We are looking for and praying for someone with:

- enthusiasm to reach out to the people of our parish
- passion for varied and engaging worship
- youthful energy to take on the larger residential parish with a population of 11,000 people
- inspiration for mission and an outward focus to bring growth to our church
- warmth and compassion to nurture the St. George's family

Our prayers are with all who read this—please pray for us.

Brenda Davies and Margaret Walker
(Churchwardens—on behalf of all the PCC)



St. George's Mission

Sharing God's Love in the Community



Sandhurst Churches Together
Carol Singing at The Meadows



Tree Felling Helpers

Easter Post
Box Topper
by
Knit and
Knatters



Good Friday Workshop



Table Tennis Club

Who We Are

The church of St. George has, over the years, built up a welcoming, loving, warm and caring family. We have a congregation who offer their time, gifts, and talents freely. We enjoy worshipping together, social activities and events, and celebrating together. We care for our community of Owlsmoor and College Town.

St. George's has benefited from the services of a Licensed Lay Minister. Our church is presently supported by a Safeguarding Officer, a Pastoral Worker and a Children's Advocate, caring for the congregation and community.

We are members of Sandhurst Churches Together and take our part in ecumenical services and events organised by the local churches. We would wish our new Vicar to continue an interest in ecumenism and to maintain our good relations with the local Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic, and Kerith communities.

Our website, www.stgeorgeowlsmoor.org.uk, is a reflection of who we are and the church community of St. George in Owlsmoor and College Town.

At this time of change, we have the time to think about how to build on the foundations that are already in place.

Worshipping Together

GODLY PLAY for Children

This is available on Sundays during the 10am Communion Service and led by our trained volunteers. The resources supporting Godly play are enjoyed by visiting children. We would like to see more children enjoying this resource each Sunday.



WORSHIP and the WORD for all

During the Vacancy, we have introduced a new service, Worship and the Word at 10am on the first Sunday of each month. This service is well supported by our congregation, giving us an opportunity to explore varied approaches to engaging worship.

LIGHTHOUSE for All Ages particularly FAMILIES

On the first Sunday of every month at 4pm a family and intergenerational service is held. This is a very relaxed and family friendly service with interaction and appropriate activity to support the theme of the service.

ACORN PRAYERS

A quiet time on Saturday morning to come together each week in the Oasis Room, to pray for world, nation and community. A time to remember those in our community and on our prayer list who need our prayers for them, their families, friends and those who are helping them.

LIFEBUILDER DISCUSSION GROUP

An informal Bible study group is held each week in the Oasis Room in church, where the group suggest their own study theme and everyone is welcome to join.

Caring in the Community

PASTORAL WORK

St. George's considers pastoral care within church and community an important provision. Our Pastoral Worker, Linda, is supported by the congregation in this work and in the delivery of prayer cards to every home in Owlsmoor and College Town. Good communication allows members to support those whose need is brought to our attention through the leadership of our Pastoral Care Worker.

Caring for our Young People

YOUTH CLUB

Until recently we had a flourishing secular youth club which met in the church and was led by church members. It provided the opportunity for links between community and church life but no longer meets. Prior to this our youth clubs had been flourishing and church focussed and we would like to see the reintroduction of something similar with some structure and a spiritual element but available and welcoming to all young people.



MESSY MONDAYS

Toddler fun for parents, grandparents and carers with children in their care. Play, craft, stories, snacks and singing. This is led by church members and is very popular, much enjoyed and oversubscribed.

SCHOOL VISITS

Our two primary schools and nurseries have been coming into church for Harvest Assemblies, Christmas Nativity Assemblies and for curriculum resource support. We have been able to input into the curriculum visits and are building stronger connections with our schools which we hope to develop.

We hope that with a new vicar in place, we can build on some of the connections already established with our schools and families, developing the potential for working with the schools, revitalising Godly Play and our Youth Club and reviewing opportunities for fresh and exciting worship in our services as well as exploring new initiatives for revitalising the congregation especially by reaching young families.



Social Activities Enjoyed Together - Outreach

The Knit and Knatter ladies have created poppies for the Remembrance Display and Christmas and Easter post box toppers for our local post box.



Singalong insisted they were not a choir and yet have sung at the Day Centre and local Care Home, performed during our 30th Anniversary events and hosted a Singalong Coffee Morning.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Breakfasts with a speaker are held two or three times a year with donations to charity.

Quiz Evenings are held every few months.

Sponsored walks, including Ride and Stride in September Saturday Fun Days with games and activities for all ages, from the very young to the more mature are a great favourite.



OUTSIDE GROUPS

Several groups use the Church regularly:

Comfort and a Cuppa is a bereavement group that meets weekly.

Pilates takes place one morning each week.

Local brass bands have used us for concerts and rehearsals.

Summer garden parties in the vicarage garden, celebrating Royal Weddings and the King's Coronation.



Celebrating Together



We celebrated 30 years of St. George's in October 2023 with several days of events, including an open morning with displays of who we are and what our parishioners do, a talk about St. George's, afternoon tea and entertainment for the local WI and Golden Circle, a band Concert in the evening by our local Brass Band and St. Michael's Hand Bell ringers.



Concern for our Community

FOOD BANK

Our support has been ongoing since the beginning of the Food Bank at the Kerith Centre in Bracknell.



DEFIBRILLATOR

Money was raised and donated to install a defibrillator outside the church and close to the park. The first in Owlsmoor.



PRAYER CARDS

Our Prayer Cards are delivered to every home in Owlsmoor and College Town over the period of a year, as we pray in church for each street in turn. We deliver them because we want our Community to be aware that St. George's Church is here for everyone and the prayer card gives them ways in which they can make contact with us if there is need, either anonymously or personally. This communication is one way in which St. George's can provide a supportive presence in the community.



Welcome to
St George's
Church
Owlsmoor &
College Town

We wanted you to know that we are praying for people in your street next week.

If you would like us to pray for something specific please write on this card and return to:

99 College Road

or send a message to
wardens@stgeorgeowlsmoor.org.uk

Tel: 07720 663428

These requests will be treated confidentially

Things People say about our Church

"The children had a wonderful time - the activities were just perfect and really embedded the children's knowledge of the Easter story."

Headteacher - College Town School

"You have a lovely, caring community here."

Berkshire Ambulance Service

"We've been so incredibly welcomed into St. George's community and fellowship; it's been amazing. My daughter loves the Godly Play sessions and how she has been involved during the service".

Young Mum

"Going to church inspires me every day and every single person I have met inspires me to continue going, every Sunday I enter a safe space with no fear and no judgement, just a time to worship the Lord and meet other people who worship him too."

Parishioner

"I've been coming to St. George's since December, and every Sunday I stay for coffee. I think some people see it as just a chat and a catch-up, but for me, I learn so much more. Through every conversation, I'm learning parts about my faith but also other people's faith."

Parishioner

"It's a small church, but the moment we come to a Knit & Knatter afternoon, you realise this isn't just a church - it's the heart of the whole community."

Knit and Natterer

"Every Sunday I'm reminded that St. George's was literally built to welcome people just like me - and that makes praising God here feel natural and warm."

Parishioner



OUR PARISH AT A GLANCE

Parochial Church
Council

Ministry Team

Standing
Committee

Finance
Committee

Building
Maintenance

Health and Safety

Safeguarding
Team

Monthly
Newsletter

Worship Planning
Group

Children and
Youth Team

Bible Study and
Acorn Prayers

Music and
Organist

Vergers Team



Website

Serving Team

Pastoral Team

Knit and Natter

Table Tennis Club

Comfort and
Cuppa
Bereavement
Group

Monday Singalong
Group



OUR REGULAR WORSHIP

The Parish Eucharist is at the heart of our parish life and follows Common Worship.

This involves the ministry of the vergers, a server, a chalice assistant, readers, intercession leaders, an organist, welcomers and tea and coffee makers. Our services are supported by AV equipment.

At festivals and on other special occasions, a choir is assembled.

The Reserved Sacrament is available for ministry to the sick.

SUNDAY SERVICE PATTERN

| Sunday | Time | Service | Brief Description |
|---------------|----------|--|---|
| First | 10.00 am | Worship and the Word Godly Play available | Common Worship with worship songs and interactive sermon, currently by special permission during our vacancy |
| | 4.00 pm | Lighthouse | Our intergenerational and Family Service. Relaxed and interactive with activities and crafts. |
| Second | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist and Godly Play available | Common Worship Eucharist with sung setting. |
| | 6.30 pm | Ecumenical service | Shared round the Sandhurst churches where members of Sandhurst Churches Together can meet in worship together |
| Third | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist and Godly Play available | Common Worship Eucharist with sung setting. |
| Fourth | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist and Godly Play available | Common Worship Eucharist with sung setting. |
| Fifth | 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist and Godly Play available | Common Worship Eucharist with sung setting |

WEEKDAY SERVICES

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------------|--|
| Tuesdays | 9.30 am | Holy Communion | Said service |
| Saturdays | 10.00 am | Acorn Prayers | Meeting for prayers for personal, church, community and global issues. |

OUR CHURCH IN NUMBERS

| | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Population | 11,000 | 11,000 | 11,000 |
| Electoral Roll | 79 | 84 | 87 |
| Average Sunday Attendance Adults Children | 44 1 | 31 4 | 34 4 |
| Average Tuesday Attendance Adult | 14 | 14 | 11 |
| Average Monthly Lighthouse Adult Children | 13 6 | 11 5 | - - |
| Number of Baptisms | 4 | 7 | 8 |
| Number of Weddings | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Number of Confirmations | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of Funerals (incl. Crematoria) | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Easter Day Communicants | 37 | 49 | 46 |
| Easter Attendance | 47 | 70 | 51 |
| Christmas Day Communicants | 48 | 54 | 54 |
| Christmas Attendance | 182 | 194 | 205 |

Who We Want to Be

We would love to see a growing church, alive with the presence of God, where people of all ages are welcomed, nurtured, and inspired. Our desire is to deepen our spiritual life, grow together in faith and share the love of Christ in dynamic and relevant ways.

OUR VISION

We would like to see:

- our congregation growing in number and depth of discipleship
- meaningful, varied, and engaging worship that brings excitement and life to our faith
- compassionate pastoral care and spiritual guidance, both personal and collective
- St. George's moving forward with energy, creativity, and purpose—working out what is precious that we need to carry with us and what we need to change

What we think this means:

- emphasis on mission and outreach
- offering pastoral care and spiritual guidance
- maintaining integrity of worship while reviewing variation in styles of services to keep them fresh and engaging for all age groups
- building and extending already established links with local schools and nurseries
- encouraging those who have previously had contact with St George's to build (or rebuild) their relationship with the church
- building up the capacity of the team

We fully acknowledge that a House for Duty vicar cannot be expected to do everything: services (preaching and presiding), mission and community outreach, pastoral care and spiritual guidance and all the administration of a parish. So, we recognise the need to:

- *work together to prayerfully discern priorities*
- *encourage and equip us to build capacity*

LEADERSHIP AND WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

We would like to see a Vicar who:

- is a warm, dynamic and compassionate leader with a heart for people and a mind for innovation
- is a good communicator, collaborative and delegative, able to build teams and share responsibility effectively, given the constraints of the part-time post
- organised yet flexible, able to manage commitments efficiently, keeping administration to a minimum to leave time for mission and outreach

Lead with Love. Serve with Purpose. Grow with us.

WORSHIP AND PREACHING

We would like to see:

- leadership by a Vicar for whom worship is central and who has the skill and vision to bring excitement and dynamism into our Christian practice
- the maintenance of the integrity of worship but also reviewing and introducing variation in service styles that engage both long-standing and new members
- recognising the benefits of a serving LLM we would seek to support the training and development of a new candidate, who would then help develop existing ministries
- lay involvement, building a team including authorised preachers

PASTORAL CARE

St. George's sees a vital role in pastoral care, spiritual advice and healing - both within and beyond the congregation. However, should the focus of the ministry be outward-facing with mission and outreach the priority, then direct pastoral engagement (e.g. visiting) would be limited. This would mean developing Pastoral and Outreach teams to take on much of the pastoral work and support the vicar in this area.

We would like to see:

- the worshipping community equipped to support in pastoral care
- strong connections with local school and families through mission and outreach teams
- collaboration with other churches to support our community

We think this means:

- being a welcoming and inclusive space for all people, regardless of background, age or life situation
- the Vicar and Pastoral Team providing compassionate pastoral care and spiritual guidance, both personally and collectively
- the Vicar and Pastoral Team being aware of those who may be housebound and provide pastoral support

MISSION AND OUTREACH

We recognise that this might well need to be the main focus of our House for Duty Vicar.

We would like to see:

- our congregation and community growing in number and faith

We think this means:

- equipping the worshipping community for mission (through enabling deeper individual discipleship and overseeing teams)
- pastoral and Outreach Teams forging and maintaining connections with families, friends and visitors after baptism, weddings or funerals and special festival services
- direct community engagement and building on already established links with local schools and nurseries

STEWARDSHIP

We recognise that as a church we need to encourage our members to recognise the potential of their talents within the church and as disciples of Christ. Although improving our financial viability is important, our approach to stewardship must encompass the giving of time and talents as well as financial giving, growth in number and in spiritual maturity.

We would like to see:

- an increase in the number of people using their time and talents for God's work
- an increase in the number of people who give regularly through the bank
- being able to afford a part-time, paid family worker and/or some administrative help
- an ability to donate an increasing percentage of our income to charity and mission work

We think this means:

- prioritising attracting new members, especially young families as a key demographic for growth
- holding a stewardship Sunday each year, to encourage the giving of our time, talents, and money
- exploring the possibility of employing a part-time, paid family worker and some administration help

Lead with Love. Serve with Purpose. Grow with us.



**Sandhurst Town Council
Civic Service 2023**

OUR CHURCH BUILDING

There has been a church building on this site since 1880. The first was a tin mission church built at the expense of the congregation of St John the Baptist Crowthorne. This was replaced with a Cedar-clad building in 1959. By the early 1990s the cladding was beginning to deteriorate and the building was replaced by the current brick building in 1993.

The new **multipurpose** building has a central worship area that can seat approximately 120 people. The seating is individual upholstered chairs, which, when stacked, allow the main body of the church to be used for other activities and allow it to be hired out during the week.

Adjoining the worship area is a separate space with folding doors, which, when opened, can be used to enlarge the worship area for special occasions.

There is a chapel above the narthex at the rear of the worship area.

Since the current building was consecrated in 1993, a number of alterations and improvements have been made, including a new hot water and central heating system in 2013 and total replacement of all windows and doors with double-glazed, powder-coated aluminium frames between 2020 and 2022.

The Church has a Johannus Opus 10 organ installed in the year 2000. There is also a piano in the church.

Our AV system using ProPresenter software is used to display all the Sunday and special services.

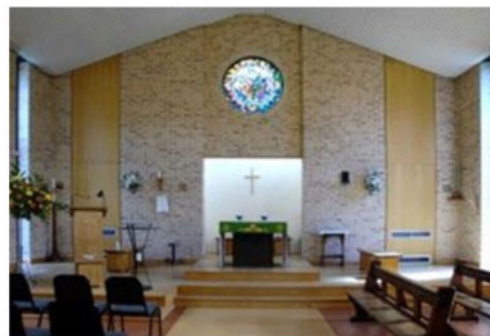
There is a well-lit car park in front of the church with well-tended shrubs and flower beds on 3 sides.



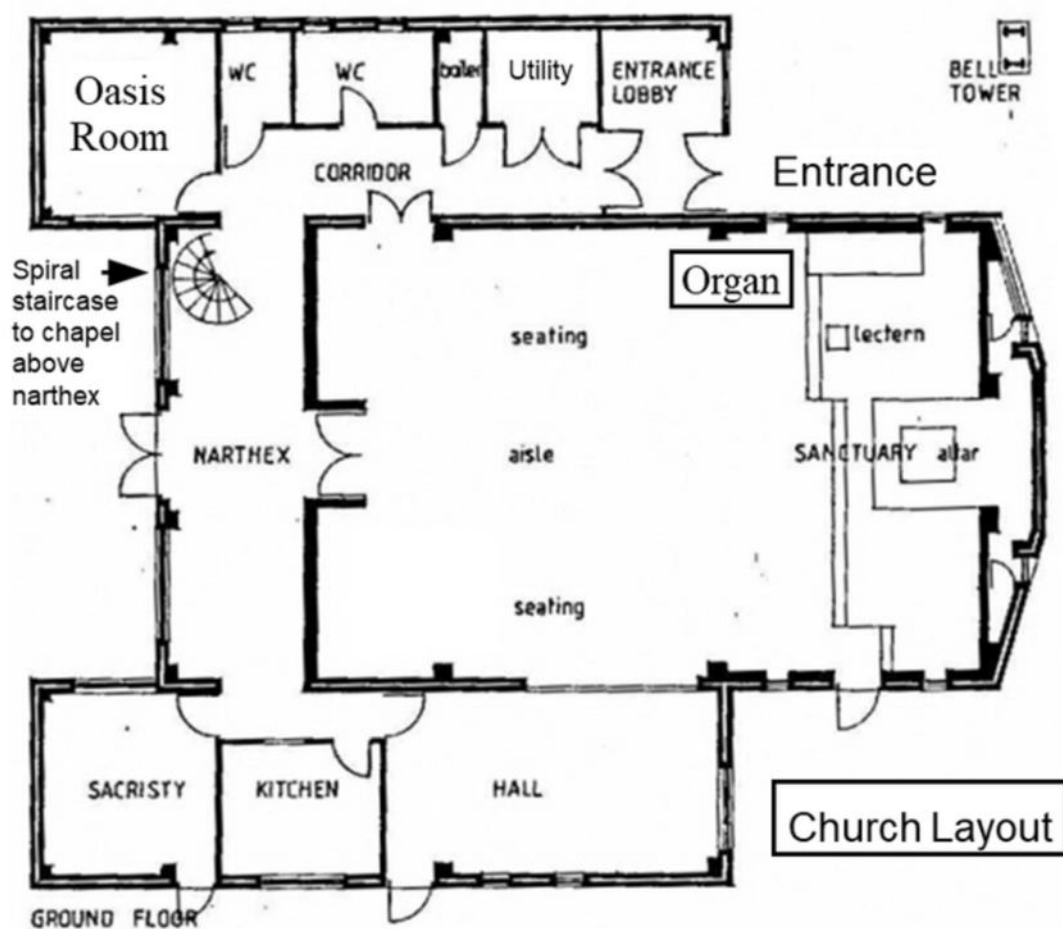
Oasis Room



The Main Entrance



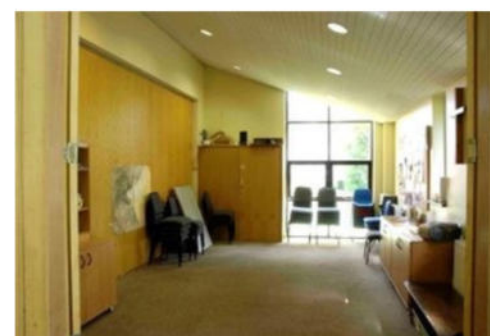
The Main Worship Hall



The Upstairs Chapel



Kitchen



The Small Hall

ST. GEORGE'S VICARAGE

107 Owlsmoor Road
Owlsmoor
Berkshire
GU47 0SS



The vicarage is next to the church.

Modern Comfort Meets Spacious Living

The position comes with this beautifully newly-refurbished detached family home, offering generous living space, energy-efficient upgrades and a versatile layout perfect for modern lifestyles. Set in a quiet residential area with convenient access to local amenities, this impressive **six-bedroom** property is ideal for families, for working from home, or for anyone seeking flexible accommodation.

Ground Floor—Designed for Comfort and Practicality

Step through the front door into a welcoming and thoughtfully designed interior. The large front-to-back lounge is perfect for gatherings or quiet evenings in. A well-fitted, contemporary kitchen is ideal for entertaining. Additional ground-floor highlights include a utility room, study, and a cloakroom with a WC. There's also a multi-purpose room with its own entrance, perfect as a counselling space, contemplation room, or private seating area.

First Floor—Room for Everyone

Upstairs are six generously sized bedrooms, a modern bathroom, a separate shower room, and an airing cupboard - plenty of space for family, guests, or hobbies.

Outdoor Space—Private and Practical

To the front, a neat shrub garden frames the property beautifully. The driveway accommodates up to four cars and leads to an integral garage. The rear boasts a large, low-maintenance garden, enclosed by a six-foot fence for privacy, with a side gate providing **direct access** to church premises.

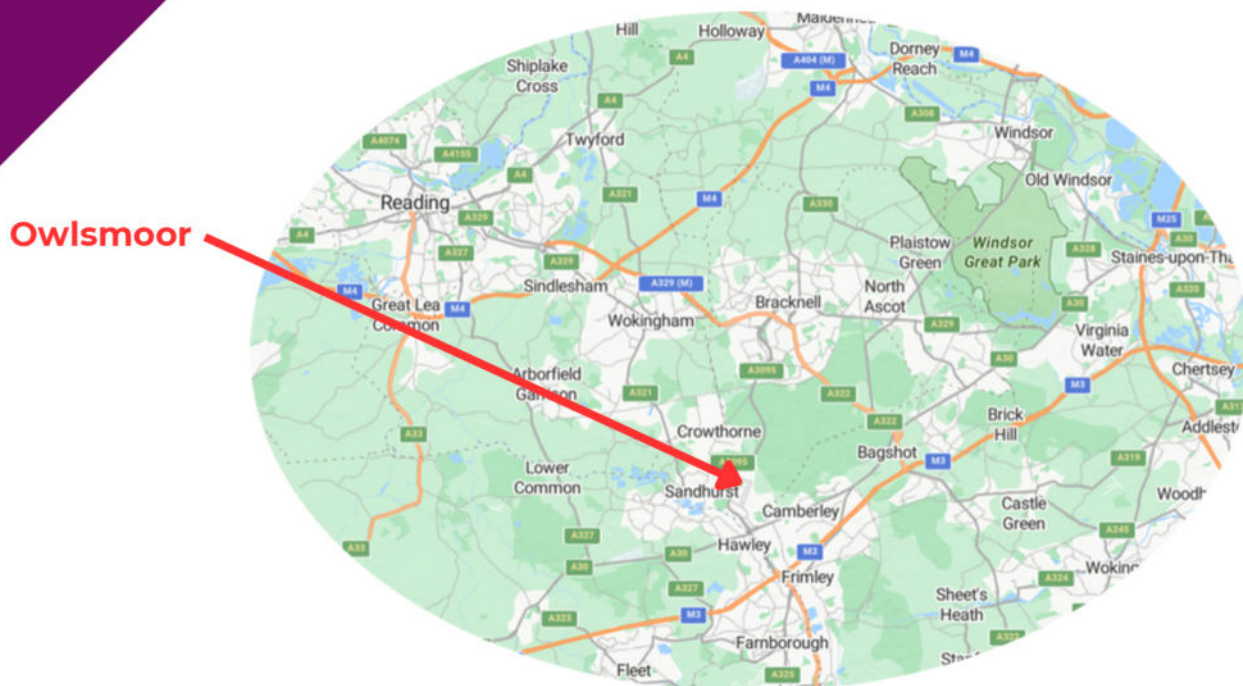
Fully Renovated for Modern Living

The Vicarage has been completely refurbished with:

- solar panels for sustainable energy
- a heat pump for efficient hot water and heating
- a brand-new kitchen
- new carpets and complete redecoration throughout

THE PARISH OF OWLSMOOR

Owlsmoor is situated in the Oxford Diocese on the borders of three counties (Berkshire, Hampshire, and Surrey) and three dioceses (Oxford, Winchester, and Guildford). Comprising the civil parish of Owlsmoor and part of the civil parish of College Town, it falls within the ambit of Sandhurst Town Council and the unitary authority of Bracknell Forest Borough Council.



Housing development in the 1970s and early 1980s vastly increased the population of Owlsmoor. The church now serves a population of more than 11,000 people (5,197 in Owlsmoor and 5,863 in College Town) within a relatively densely populated area. The parish is only about 1.5 miles long (north to south) and 1 mile wide (east to west) at its widest point.

The working population is fairly transient and there is a reasonably high proportion of elderly, retired, and disadvantaged people. There is a historical traveller community in the parish and an increasing number of Nepalese families and some from Eastern Europe.

According to the 2021 Census, the parish age group breakdowns are:

11% are over 65

70% are 16 to 64

13% are 5 to 15

6% are under 5

LOCAL SCHOOLS

There are a number of nursery schools and play groups.

A pre-school (**Little Owls Pre-school**, Cambridge Road, Owlsmoor, www.littleowlspreschool.co.uk Telephone 01344 761919).

A primary school with Nursery ages 3-11 (**Owlsmoor Primary School**, Cambridge Road, Owlsmoor, GU47 0TA, www.owlsmoorprimary.com Telephone 01344 776642). Rated “good” by Ofsted.

A primary school with nursery ages 3-11 (**College Town Primary School**, Branksome Hill Road, College Town, GU47 0QF, www.collegetownprimary.com Telephone 01276 31933). Rated ‘good’ by Ofsted.

The parish has a large 11-16 secondary school (**Sandhurst School**, Owlsmoor Road, Owlsmoor, GU47 0SD, <https://sandhurstschool.org.uk>). Rated “good” by Ofsted.

There are a number of good sixth-form colleges and schools with good sixth-forms nearby in Bracknell, Crowthorne, and Farnborough.

A secondary school with a sixth-form in Bracknell (**Ranelagh School**), a voluntary aided Church of England Academy, rated “excellent” by Ofsted, serves the parishes of the Sonning and Bracknell deaneries. <https://www.ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk>

LOCAL AMENITIES

There are local shops, two dental practices, a doctor’s surgery and a community centre in nearby Yeovil Road and further shops, vets, and funeral directors in College Town and nearby Sandhurst.

Within a mile of the parish are several large grocery supermarkets, including ALDI, LIDL, Co-op, Tesco Extra, and Sainsbury’s.

Excellent green spaces, a small park adjacent to the Church grounds, and recreational facilities are available at Sandhurst Sport Centre (within the parish) and also in Sandhurst Memorial Park (just outside the parish).

The parish has good medical facilities at Owlsmoor Surgery in Cambridge Road, GU47 0UB (Telephone 01344 751184), as part of Ringmead Medical Group.

The nearest hospital is about 4.4 miles away: Frimley Park Hospital, run by the Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust, the first hospital in England to be rated “Outstanding” by the Care Quality Commission.

There are several large towns nearby with thriving retail centres, including Bracknell, Camberley, Farnborough and Reading.

TRANSPORT LINKS

The parish has convenient transport links.

The nearest railway stations are

- Sandhurst is about 1.7 miles away (with direct lines to Reading and Gatwick)
- Blackwater (more frequent trains) is about 2.7 miles away (with direct lines to Reading and Guildford and onto **Gatwick Airport**)
- Farnborough Main is about 5.2 miles away (with direct lines to Basingstoke and London Waterloo)
- Bracknell is about 6 miles away (with links to Reading and London Waterloo)

Motorway access:

- Junction 4 of the M3 motorway is about 3.3 miles away
- Junction 10 of the M4 is about 9.7 miles away

Heathrow Airport is approximately 20 miles away with regular bus services from Reading and an hourly bus service from Camberley.

Owlsmoor is on a regular bus route between Bracknell and Camberley, both of which have bus stations that serve many other local destinations, including Reading, Windsor, Farnborough, Woking, Wokingham, and London.

Oxford, our diocesan headquarters can be reached by car in approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes. The train takes about the same time, by taking the train from Blackwater or Sandhurst and changing at Reading.

A PICTURE TOUR OF OUR PARISH



The Church and Vicarage



Owlsmoor Shops



Owlsmoor Park



Sandhurst Secondary School



Owlsmoor Road



College Town Primary School



Owlsmoor Community Centre

THE ORGANISATION OF THE PCC

The PCC consists of:

- the Vicar (when in post)
- two churchwardens
- two elected Deanery Synod representatives
- 9 elected members

The main committees and groups that report to the PCC are:

- Standing Committee
- Worship and Ministry Team
- Finance Committee
- Building Committee (including Health and Safety)
- Safeguarding Committee
- Children and Youth Team

There are a number of specific roles filled by members of the PCC and members of the congregation, including vergers, servers, Pastoral Care Worker, Electoral Roll Officer, GDPR Officer, pew sheet organiser, newsletter editor, website maintenance, flower arranging, gardening team, cleaning team, etc.



Church Warden - Margaret Walker



Church Warden - Brenda Davies



Chris Newman - PCC Secretary



Linda Hewlett - Pastoral Worker



Judith Dodds - Treasurer &
Children's Advocate

PCC POLICIES

Admission of Baptised Persons to Holy Communion

The parish has obtained consent from the Bishop of Reading to admit baptised persons to Holy Communion before confirmation. The permission was granted in April 2014, but the privilege has not yet been exercised. We would wish our new Vicar to be in sympathy with this policy and to be prepared, with the assistance of other members of the Ministry Team, to review and run preparation courses for suitable candidates.

Godparents

Although ideally the PCC would like all those undertaking the duties of godparents to be confirmed members of the Church of England, we are open-minded on this point. We recognise that the only requirement is that a godparent should have been baptised.

We do not have a policy of insisting that godparents put forward by those requesting baptism should attend preparation courses before being accepted as godparents.

Remarriage in church of divorced persons

The PCC recognises that the vicar has discretion in respect of marrying couples after divorce.

Living in Love and Faith

Some initial discussion took place on how this should be approached in a PCC meeting before the departure of our former Vicar but has not been revisited since. We would look to our new vicar to lead us through some careful discernment about how this might be approached.

Raffles and Draws

The PCC has no objection to raffles and draws. Indeed, it relies on them for a significant part of its fundraising.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

General communications to parishioners are done by means of:

- church notice boards
- emails to members of the Electoral Roll who have email addresses
- entry on the Parish website
- posts on the Parish Facebook page
- pew sheets (weekly to those who have requested, in use on Sunday in church)
- newsletter (monthly by email to most on the Electoral Roll and others who have requested paper copies available in church)

WEBSITE

www.stgeorgeowlsmoor.org.uk

Home About Services Prayer What's On Life Events Newsletters Community Hire Donate Contact

Like and follow us on FaceBook for news and updates!

Welcome to St. George's Church, Owlsmoor

Sharing God's love in the community



FACEBOOK

St George's Church Owlsmoor and College Town



THE NEWSLETTER

The monthly newsletter, published just before the first of each month, highlights the spiritual and social life of St. George's. It is emailed to interested congregation and electoral roll members, is available on request, is displayed on church notice boards and is offered in paper form to visitors. Past issues can be found on the website.



CHARITABLE GIVING

St. George's PCC and congregation are passionately committed to supporting charity giving and donations.

In 2020 the PCC passed a resolution to donate 2% of the church's annual income to good causes. A specific charity is chosen by the congregation from a shortlist at each annual APCM.

In addition, we make a number of other donations in response to specific charity appeals, special services (such as harvest and Christmas) and often to charities supported by invited speakers at our regular breakfasts.

Some of the charities supported in this way by St. George's include:



Thames hospice

THE DEANERY PERSPECTIVE

The Sonning Deanery stretches from Wargrave in the north to Sandhurst and Owlsmoor in the south. Bordered by the parish of Sandhurst to the west and Crowthorne to the east, the parish also falls on the borders of Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire, at the most southerly point of the Sonning Deanery and Oxford Diocese. Following the departure of Area Dean, Richard Lamey, in August 2024, Revd. Julian Bidgood took over as Sonning Deanery Coordinator. We welcome the appointment of Reverend Laura Wheatley Downs, Vicar of St. John the Baptist, Crowthorne, as our new Area Dean.

Over the years, the Deanery has supported Owlsmoor in many ways, not least by providing major financial assistance in paying off a loan from the diocese incurred by the parish for the construction of the current church building in 1993. The sustainability of the parish came under review by the Deanery Synod and Pastoral Standing Committee in June 2024, led by Rev'd. Canon Richard Lamey (Area Dean) and a report on options for future ministry provision in the Parish of Owlsmoor was published.

The report stated that:

"Ministry at St. George's at the moment is very well-led and imagined in the parish, with good levels of serving and reasonable giving by those involved in the church. However, this is not leading to growth - it is not turning the parish around in terms of impact, numbers, and sustainability. We need to be careful in what we are measuring and to remember that a lot of things that are good about churches are hard to measure - but, with that considered, we would not currently be able to argue for a full-time appointment at St. George's in a world of finite resources and clergy numbers".

The Report also stated that the PCC are keen to make a plan with the Deanery and Area about how they can get support to grow and quoted from a Letter from the PCC dated 27 th June 2024.

"A proactive approach with Deanery and Parish together, a team from Deanery and Church exploring what can be done to reverse the trend to save St. George's Owlsmoor as an independent Parish as historically was proved to be in the best interest of this Community. Diocesan resources, guidance, people, ideas, new initiatives and yes even money to try to grow the congregation, bring in new younger people, families and children. Surely in this Parish of 11.000 parishioners with two large primary schools and a secondary school, this should be possible". (PCC Letter of the 27th of June 2024).

Following the departure of Rev'd Catherine Vaughan in October 2024, the Deanery Review provided a starting point for discussion with The Venerable Stephen Pullin, Archdeacon of Berkshire, Rev'd Julian Bidgood, Sonning Deanery Coordinator and Rhodri Bowen, Area Parish Development Officer. Since "a full-time appointment at St. George's in a world of finite resources and clergy numbers" was not viable, the decision for a House for Duty Vicar was made with full support from the Deanery and an active and forward-looking Owlsmoor Parish Community. They look forward to welcoming a vicar with whom they can work and support in an outward-looking ministry for Owlsmoor and College Town.

APPENDIX I - Format of the Church accounts

Accounting Policy

The Church's accounts are prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis.

Recognition of income

- collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC
- planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received
- income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations and GASDS is recognised when the income is received
- grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable, and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain
- funds raised by fundraising activities are accounted for gross
- rental income from the letting of Church premises is recognised when the rental is credited
- interest is accounted for when received

Payment of Parish Share

The parish share payment is accounted for, and money is transferred by bank transfer.

Members of the PCC

No member of the PCC (or any person knowingly connected with them) receives any remuneration with the exception of repayments of amounts spent on behalf of the PCC. Visiting clergy receive expenses & travel costs as laid down by ODBF, where applicable.

Employees

- there are currently no employees
- the organist is paid an honorarium

Types of Funds

There are three types of "funds" that are used:

- **Unrestricted**
The money in this fund can be used for any purpose agreed upon by the PCC.
- **Restricted**
The monies in this fund have been received for a specific purpose and can only be used as such.
- **Designated**
The money in this fund is earmarked for a particular purpose - for example, work relating to the Quinquennial Inspection report.

Reserves Policy

The current policy is to hold reserves of £10,000 in unrestricted funds, which is held in a Business & Savings account.

Financial Procedures and Policies

The financial procedures and policies are fully documented and audited annually, then presented at the APCM.

APPENDIX II - Statement of Financial Activities

1.Statement of Financial Activities

for the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Designated Funds | Total Funds | Prior year total funds |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Receipts | | | | | |
| 1) Planned Giving | 34477 | 0 | | 34477 | 38780 |
| 2) Weekly Collections & Other Giving | 3756 | 2231 | | 5987 | 2619 |
| 3) Other Voluntary Receipts | 1733 | | 500 | 2233 | 4913 |
| 4) Gift Aid Recovered | 9942 | | 0 | 9942 | 10603 |
| 5) Other Receipts | 513 | | | 513 | 663 |
| 6) Activities for Generating Funds | 349 | | | 349 | 1529 |
| 8) Receipts from Church Activities | 5227 | | | 5227 | 1047 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 55998 | 2231 | 500 | 58728 | 60154 |
| Payments | | | | | |
| 1) Cost of Generating Funds | 0 | | | 0 | 0 |
| 2) Missionary & Charitable Giving | 806 | 2231 | 100 | 3137 | 2980 |
| 8) Mission, workshops, Messy Monday etc | | 1491 | | 1491 | 782 |
| 3) Parish Share | 40000 | | | 40000 | 32000 |
| 4) Clergy & Staffing Costs | 2257 | | | 2257 | 2214 |
| 5) Church Running Costs | 7745 | | | 7745 | 8038 |
| 6) Church Service Costs | 887 | | | 887 | 1069 |
| 7) Church Repairs & Maintenance | 10840 | | 1857 | 12697 | 7606 |
| 11) ODBF | 1221 | | | 1221 | 633 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 63756 | 3722 | 1957 | 69434 | 55322 |
| Net Income/-Expenditure | -7757 | -1491 | -1456 | -10705 | 4832 |
| Transfers | | | | | |
| Gross Transfers between funds - in | | | | | |
| Gross Transfers between Funds - out | | | | | |
| Other recognised gains/losses | | | | | |
| Gains/losses on investment assets | | | | 0 | -323 |
| Interest received | 164 | | | 164 | 123 |
| Adjust to flowers less rounding | | | | | |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | -7593 | -1491 | -1456 | -10541 | 4632 |
| Total funds brought forward | 12374 | 1114 | 20338 | 33826 | 29194 |
| Transfer of funds | -9019 | 0 | -1522 | -10541 | 4632 |
| Total funds carried forward | 3355 | 1114 | 18816 | 23285 | 33826 |

APPENDIX III - Balance Sheet

St George In Owlsmoor Parochial Church Council Balance Sheet (Summary) as at 31 December 2023

| | As at 31/12/2024 £ | As at 31/12/2023 £ |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Tangible Assets (1 year remaining) | 0 | 0 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 24,143 | 34,354 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Creditors falling due in one year | 860 | 530 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | 23,283 | 33,824 |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | 23,283 | 33,824 |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES | 23,283 | 33,824 |
| Represented By: | | |
| Unrestricted | | |
| Unrestricted General Fund | 3355 | 12374 |
| Total Unrestricted | 3355 | 12374 |
| Designated | | |
| Mr Potts donation 1/2 of £2150 less £690.19 paid out 2023, £100 paid out 2024 | 285 | 385 |
| Designated - Reserved for building | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Designated - Quinquennial fund | 2,470 | 2,470 |
| Designated - Windows | 4 | 1,061 |
| Designated - Legacy | 6,057 | 6,422 |
| Total Designated | 18,816 | 20,338 |
| Restricted | | |
| Restricted - Shed | 74 | 74 |
| Restricted - Key deposit | 20 | 20 |
| Restricted - Funeral fees | 400 | 400 |
| Restricted - Defibrillator | 500 | 500 |
| Restricted - Choir | 120 | 120 |
| Total Restricted | 1,114 | 1,114 |
| Overall Total | 23,285 | 33,826 |

APPENDIX IV - Role Description

SECTION ONE - DETAILS OF POST

Role title: Vicar

Type of Role: House for Duty Incumbent

Name of benefice: Owlsmoor

Episcopal area: Reading

Deanery: Sonning

Archdeaconry: Berkshire

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

Key contact: Archdeacon of Berkshire

Clergy Terms of Service: This role falls within the Clergy Terms of Service formally known as Common Tenure. The Archdeacon of Berkshire is the designated person by the Bishop of Oxford to issue the Statement of Particulars for the post holder.

Accountability: Priests share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church. Whilst, as an office holder, the individual is expected to lead and prioritise work in line with the purpose of the role, they are encouraged to inform the Archdeacon 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.

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.

Together we have identified five focus areas:

- serving our schools, children and young people
- christian formation and discipleship
- growing new congregations
- addressing poverty and inequality
- environmental Action

These are not a description of everything that we do but these priorities are being supported centrally through resources and training.

The diocese is inviting benefices and their clergy to share a vision rather than demanding a response. It wants all its clergy to be motivated by hope rather than being driven by anxiety, and thereby to flourish in their ministry.

Reading Area/Berkshire

Working alongside the Bishop of Oxford are three area bishops who exercise considerable strategic and pastoral oversight for their areas. The Bishop of Reading is the Rt Revd Mary Gregory, who has been the Area Bishop since February 2025. She heads up the Berkshire Area Team with Stephen Pullin, Archdeacon of Berkshire; Nicholas Cheeseman, ADO; Kathryn Aboud, Discipleship Enabler/Youth Adviser; and Rhodri Bowen, Parish Development Adviser. Associate Archdeacon Paul Cowan will be taking up his post in September 2025.

It is hoped that clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Berkshire will want to commit to our shared vision and encourage their benefices in, together, becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world.

Sonning Deanery

Our vision is to be a Deanery that encourages and enhances parish mission and ministry as we seek to be a Christ-like Church.

Sonning Deanery has 13 benefices and covers the area between Reading and Bracknell, from Wargrave through Wokingham to Sandhurst. We border the Buckingham Area to the north and the Dioceses of Guildford and Winchester to the south. The Deanery is currently going through a time of transition.

Several incumbents who had been in post for over 20 years have recently retired, meaning that half of the Deanery's incumbents will have been appointed within two years of each other, and our new Area Dean, Laura Wheatley Downs, is about to take up her post. All of this change creates a real sense of possibility and new energy.

That reality is reflected in our Deanery plan, with a focus on lay training and relationships, and deliberately planning for the future in the one area of the Deanery which is not viable in its current form. The Diocese has invited every Deanery to create a plan for work with Children and Young People and we are formulating a plan based on information gathered from our parishes.

Chapter meets monthly in Wokingham. It is a well-attended gathering which people find relaxing, supportive and interesting, and in which they enjoy getting to know each other. Deanery Synod is similarly well-supported and most of the meetings are open meetings so as many people as possible can come and hear the speakers.

We are a deanery which has agreed to disagree well on the question of Living in Love and Faith: we hold a range of different views but don't let that single issue define our relationship. There are no plans for a wide reorganisation. The Deanery is looking forward to a time of overall stability and developing vision as those new in post settle in and start to dream dreams together.

Parish of Owlsmoor

The parish of Owlsmoor is within the Sonning Deanery. It has a modern mission church set in a mixed-community residential area. It is a single benefice, parish, and P.C.C.

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 Council on matters of general concern and importance to the benefice
- bringing the needs of the world before God in intercession
- calling your hearers to repentance and declaring in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins
- blessing people in God's name
- preparing people for their death
- discerning and fostering the gifts of all God's people
- being faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us

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 LOCATION

Key Responsibilities for the Parish Team

As we set out the expectations for our new vicar in this document, we believe that these should be set in the context of how the wider team will expect to work with and support them, including taking on key responsibilities.

At St. George's we are aware that a House for Duty Vicar can only offer Sundays and two other days. Time will limit what the role can be.

In order to fulfil our mission statement of 'Sharing God's Love in the Community' and to prioritise Mission and Outreach, we can offer support in a number of ways, in addition to the organised and established committees and groups already in place. These will include:

1. the possibility of continuing cover by local retired clergy for the midweek communion service
2. supporting the placement of a new Licensed Lay Minister to share up-front ministry and leadership
3. we are committed to exploring how to use our financial resources to support our vicar and mission through a paid administrator or family minister
4. explore developing a team of authorised preachers for Sunday services
5. further developing our Pastoral Care Team

Key Responsibilities for the Incumbent

Worship and Preaching

- support the people of St. George's on their spiritual journey through prayer, inspired preaching, and engaging worship experience
- planning and delivery of Sunday services introducing greater diversity in styles of worship, particularly those that will be attractive to families and young people
- increase lay involvement by building a team to include authorised preachers to share the workload

Mission and Outreach

To build capacity, encouraging and enabling our team to prioritise our mission "Showing God's love in the community." This will include building up our capacity to:

- leading or overseeing the church's work in developing the relationship that exists with local primary schools and being open to further links with the local secondary school, youth groups, and nurseries in order that mission and ministry in those places may become a part of our church life
- find ways for us to re-establish church youth groups at St. George's
- extend outreach in the local community, working with and alongside other community groups and Sandhurst Churches Together (SCT)
- to explore with us ways of bringing those we have connections with back to church and to put in place systems through which we follow up well after baptisms, funerals, and festival services

Discipleship and Nurture

To enable a more missional church in which mission is shared amongst us. We recognise the need to deepen our discipleship and for a strategy to achieve that, which includes:

- encouraging attendance at nurture courses
- encouraging the development of Bible Study and house groups
- encouraging patterns of personal Bible reading and prayer
- generously inviting people into sharing ministry and mission in order that discipleship is deepened through “doing”

Leadership and Working Collaboratively

- enable St. George's to discern priorities in mission and ministry and to draw up a Mission Plan that identifies where our resources are best directed
- to lead and collaborate in sensitive review, to develop the present and other styles of worship, and to refresh and engage the present congregation, new worshippers, young people, and families
- to lead and enable the building, training, and encouragement of groups and teams to support ministry and mission in church and community
- to work alongside our existing pastoral care lead in developing a formal pastoral care team to assist in supporting the bereaved, the sick, the lonely, and the housebound, and to help with baptism and marriage preparation
- to exercise an oversight ministry in which leadership is generously shared in order to achieve what is needed at St. George's, given the time restraints of a House for Duty vicar

Stewardship and Benefice Organisation

- lead St. George's by prayer and vision
- encourage people to use their time and talents and money for God's work with some regular Stewardship Sunday input
- encourage the parish to continue paying its parish share in full
- encourage the PCC to work towards giving an increased % of its income to charity and mission work

Personal Development, Discipleship and Spirituality

- take time for quiet days, retreat, and ministerial/professional development

Safeguarding

The benefice places a high priority on good safeguarding as a way in which we work out our gospel values and expects our incumbent to share in the leadership and promotion of our safeguarding policy and practice

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 of their well-being, including health and safety and building a good repertoire of spiritual and psychological strategies

SECTION FOUR - BENEFICE SUMMARY

The Benefice of Owlsmoor and College Town

Benefice: Owlsmoor and College Town

Patron(s): Bishop of Oxford

PCCs: Currently two Churchwardens, one co-opted member, our LLM who is also one of our two Deanery Synod Representatives, (the other Deanery Synod Representative position is unfilled) and 8 elected members, one remains unfilled.

Churchwardens: Brenda Davies and Margaret Walker

Ministers: Reverend Jane Kraft - retired priest with Permission to Officiate

LLM - currently Penny Crane

Benefice paid staff: None

Benefice unpaid staff/volunteers (numbers): c.12

Buildings: Flexible church building with meeting rooms

Churchyard(s): None

Resolution A, B, C: N/A

Church Tradition: Contemporary eucharistic

Pastoral Reorganisation proposals: None

For more detailed information, please refer to the Parish Profile.

Groups and Committees:

- The PCC
- Deanery Chapter
- Deanery Synod
- Deanery Pastoral Committee

In the Benefice:

- Churchwardens
- Ministerial Colleagues
- Headteachers of local schools

Support Structures:

- Area Dean
- Area Bishop
- Archdeacon
- Parish Development Adviser, Youth Adviser/Discipleship Enabler and Associate Director of Ordinands
- Staff at The Diocesan Office with key support responsibilities
- Diocesan Safeguarding Team

SECTION FIVE - 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 License.
- Statement of Particulars issued to the officeholder on successful appointment.
- Diocesan Clergy Handbook.
- Parish Profile.
- Parish Development Plan or Mission Action Plan.
- Any objectives discussed and agreed between the post holder and the supervising minister.

Role description signed off by: The Venerable Stephen Pullin, Archdeacon of Berkshire.

Date:

APPENDIX V - Person Specification

Character

Someone who:

- is secure enough in their ministry to share their leadership in an undefended manner: who is comfortable with an oversight ministry where leadership capacity is built up across the team and gently but firmly held to account
- notices where God might be at work across the community and where our mission to share God's love should be focused
- values and acts on opportunities to build strong relationships whenever and wherever possible

And who is:

- passionate about others' discipleship and vocation
- sensitive to the needs of others; emotionally intelligent; warm
- prayerful
- a facilitator, encourager

Qualifications/Training

Essential

- ordained priest within the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, or a Church whose orders it recognises.
- have satisfactorily completed Initial Ministerial Education.

Experience

Essential

- pastoral experience with people of all ages in church and the wider community
- ministering with a variety of forms of all-age worship
- ministry involved in vision setting and team development
- team-working, delegation, and sharing workload

Desirable

- mission and outreach involving young people and families
- forms of church in creative and imaginative ways
- interest in and experience of a variety of church music

Skills and Competencies

Essential

- ability to form good relationships
- ability to identify and nurture others' gifts
- delivery of worship to a broad range of listeners and ages which is engaging and inspirational
- discernment in recognising the strengths in "what is" that we need to take with us and those practices that need to make way for fresh and creative elements, e.g., in corporate worship
- recognise, respond to opportunities for mission and outreach
- organised and adaptable in leadership, with an ability to motivate and inspire

Safeguarding

Recognises the high priority of good safeguarding practices and promotes these amongst all those they work with in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy.