

The Benefice of Toddington & Chalgrave

Parish Profile 2025



All Saints Church, Chalgrave



St George of England Church, Toddington

www.stgeorgetoddington.org.uk

www.allsaintschalgrave.org.uk

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We are looking for

We are looking to appoint a committed, compassionate person who will:

- Live the love of God and has a strong calling to teach and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Nurture others in their faith and ministry being sensitive to what the church has already achieved and able to inspire further initiatives
- Be a skilled and sensitive communicator experienced at juggling various demands both within the Church & the wider community
- Have good organisational skills to fit into the limited hours and be able to delegate by building upon the participation of lay members in leading aspects of our church life including some parts of worship
- Maintain and develop links with children and young people in the village, and be able to work and build on contacts already formed

We look forward to meeting and discussing these points with you and will be praying for the right person to come to us.

In return we will offer you

- Very committed and hard-working core teams
- Wider teams to back this up
- The goodwill of the community
- Prayer, support and friendship
- The Rectory (see below)



Our Vision is

Toddington and Chalgrave Mission Action Plans ([MAPs](#)) were both updated in spring 2025.

Chalgrave vision:

“To be a living church, with growing numbers sharing our faith with others in the community.”

Toddington vision:

“To be a vibrant welcoming worshipping community with the church open daily and offering Christ's love to everyone.”

Our Priorities

Chalgrave Priorities

The Chalgrave [MAP](#) has the following priorities:

- In this time of Interregnum, our aim is to keep our church open, welcoming and thriving. To be a church where all can come and feel the peace and love of Christ.
- Increase Visibility and Awareness- within and beyond our community
- Communication – via Pop Up Café, Social Media & linking with other local organisations.



Toddington Priorities

When we wrote the [MAP](#) we had difficulty looking beyond the interregnum, we need help to nurture the green shoots that have begun to flourish.

- To maintain our vision and activities during the interregnum
- Maintain and, if possible, grow links within the community
- Maintaining financial stability (without which we cannot focus on our vision)

Strengths, opportunities, things to improve and challenges we face

- Warm, friendly welcoming church communities
- Strong links with a very active community, with scope to widen the core teams
- Developing faith through Messy church, youth group, alpha course and spin off groups
- Two beautiful historic churches and a well-used church hall in Toddington central to the village
- Good relationship with other churches in Toddington, potential for more joint projects
- Potential for mission to reach out for the 30-40 age group and families
- Maintain and develop relationships with all schools
- Governor role within Toddington St George of England school
- The congregation are becoming older and at present the church has only a few younger people who share this dedication.

The benefice is fortunate in having a group of men and women who are willing to work hard in maintaining the life of the church, giving their time, money and skills.

The Benefice

The Benefice is the adjoining parishes of All Saints, Chalgrave and St George of England, Toddington within Bedfordshire. The Benefice is located north of Dunstable and comprises of the communities of Chalton, Fancott, Tebworth, Toddington and Wingfield. There is excellent access to the motorway network (via M1 junctions 11A & 12), the London mainline at Harlington and Luton airport. The churches are just over a mile apart.

Community

Toddington grew from a rural market village expanding when the railways and road network developed to have a population of about 5,000, most residents commuting to London, Luton, Milton Keynes and elsewhere for work. Development continues with another 200 houses currently under construction. In the past agriculture in the parish of Chalgrave was the principal employment though a few farms remain. Tebworth and Wingfield villages in the parish of Chalgrave are now commuter villages.

There are a wide range of amenities within the benefice, shops, a post office, a library, and recreation areas. There is one pub in Chalton, one in Fancott, one in Tebworth and three in Toddington together with a licensed social club.

There are a variety of clubs for all ages, including boys' and girls' football, scouting, guiding tennis, table tennis and an amateur theatre. Each provides opportunities to socialise, learn new skills, play sport or enjoy our countryside.

There are a number of halls available for hire in Chalton, Tebworth and Toddington.

[Central Bedfordshire Council](#) is the unitary authority covering the Benefice and there are three civil parish councils, [Chalgrave](#), [Chalton](#) and [Toddington](#).

Education

There are three schools within the Benefice:

- [Toddington St George Church of England School](#), Toddington – a Lower School with a full roll of 310. There are regular assembly visits to Toddington St George.
- [Chalgrave Lower School](#), Chalton – a lower school with 15 pupils per year group
- [Parkfields Middle School](#), Toddington – middle school with 452 pupils in four-year groups

Older children attend [Harlington Upper School](#) in the adjacent village of Harlington. Where necessary school buses are provided to bring children to the three schools.

Some children attend the private schools in Bedford which has a school bus service

St George's church has welcomed each of the Toddington village schools to Christmas & Easter services in recent years.

Worship

Holy Communion is held each Sunday at 09:30 at Chalgrave and 11:00 at Toddington, using Common Worship Service book. Toddington also has Morning Prayer each Monday and Sunday Evensong once a month.

This is a common worship service and vestments are worn although alternative liturgies are used occasionally. Both Churches hope once a month there will be a short simple service suitable for all the family. Lay participation in leading worship has been encouraged. The main Sunday service is a sung eucharist with readings and intercessions taken by the congregation. There are several special services during the year attracting people who do not attend regularly. Benefice Maundy Thursday service is held in Toddington. Both Churches hold Good Friday Reflective Service and Holy Communion on Easter morning.

At Chalgrave a Remembrance Service is held at the churchyard memorial and at Tebworth Memorial Hall in the afternoon. In Toddington, the Remembrance Service is organised by the British Legion in conjunction with the Church on the village green and is a major event, which is well attended by the uniformed services, local school children and villagers.

Mothering Sunday and Harvest are used as back-to-church Sundays to which neighbours can be invited. A Sunday afternoon In Loving Memory service for those who have been



bereaved is also well attended. Christmas services at Chalgrave include Carols by Candlelight where the choir and Jubilate take part in the Carol Service. In Toddington there is a Nine Lessons and Carols service. Both churches have a Christingle service, Crib service, and Midnight mass.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals of parishioners are carried out when requested. In recent years there have been a number of confirmations.



	Chalgrave		Toddington	
Usual Sunday Attendance	2022	12	2022	20
	2023	12	2023	27
	2024	13	2024	30

Source: Diocese of St Albans – [Parish Mission Stats](#)

Ministry Team

- Rector
- Lay Reader
- Lay Assistant
- A rota of regular readers and intercessors
- Organist
- Bell ringers

Visits connected with baptisms, weddings and funerals provide pastoral opportunities for the Rector and Reader and this can be developed with members of the congregation.



Visits are also made to the sick and elderly, both at home and in hospital. The Reader is a member of the congregation with special permission to administer home communion. A team of church members will pray about any requests passed to them.

Leadership

Both PCC's support the ministerial team and represent the congregation in their discussions. They encourage the laity to take on new responsibilities and develop their talents. They seek to maintain the church buildings in a suitable state for worship.

Chalgrave PCC

Currently, there are no church wardens at Chalgrave, but 2 PCC members have taken up the responsibilities of the church warden role.

The PCC is small with up to 8 elected members. They meet once a month and discuss practical and spiritual matters. Sub-committees are used for more detailed management tasks – fund raising and social events. The members of the PCC are a mix of retired and still working reflecting the age distribution of the congregation.

Toddington PCC

There is a Churchwarden. The PCC currently has 7 members with the potential for 3 more. All members are of retirement age. There are no sub-groups but there is a wider group of people who support church life and help out with events.

Church Life

Community members of each church have provided significant support for families when difficult situations have arisen. Members of other denominations attend our churches regularly, everyone is welcome.

All the following activities are open to everyone.

Many church led groups meet in the St Georges church and the Wilkinson Hall, including:

- Bell ringers
- Youth Group
- Messy Church
- Knitting group
- Afternoon with Friends
- St Georges Fellowship Group
- Coffee Mornings
- Winter Warmer Lunch and Fellowship
- Lent Lunches
- Ploughman lunches

Other community groups use the Wilkinson Hall

- [Painting workshop](#)
- [Toddington Community Fridge CIC](#) with a director from the PCC. Started as a pop-up event linking the PCC with the Flitwick Community Fridge (now a church/community led activity)
- [Sit and Stay Fit classes](#)
- [Toddington Amateur Dramatic Society \(TADS\)](#)

Both churches also host several concerts through the year:

- [Toddington Town Band](#)
- Toddington Music Society
- Visiting musicians and choirs

The Friends of Toddington Church organise fund raising events, including:

- St Georges Day afternoon cream tea
- Open Gardens
- Annual Garden Party
- Christmas Tree Festival



Toddington Community Fridge



Christmas Tree Festival

The [Chalgrave Memorial Hall](#) hosts:

- Chalgrave WI
- Memorial Hall Committee
- Senior Citizens committee

All Saints Chalgrave holds a Pop-Up Tea Room on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Offering good food, cakes, teas & coffee. It has become very popular & is enjoyed by many. This provides our main outreach and is the Memorial Hall committee and the church working together for the community



Chalgrave village hall hosts the annual Chalgrave games which is massively supported by locals and visitors alike

The Church also organises Afternoon Tea's and the annual Christmas craft fayre.

Church Buildings

Chalgrave All Saints

All Saints Church, Chalgrave, a Grade 1 listed building, was dedicated on Holy Cross Day 1220.

The wall paintings at Chalgrave form one of the most important features of the church. A full uncovering of the paintings resulted in a remarkable series of paintings, giving a rare impression of a fully painted medieval church interior. There are two stained glass windows in the Chancel. On either side of the pews in the Nave are two fine table tombs which both feature life-size effigies of a knight.



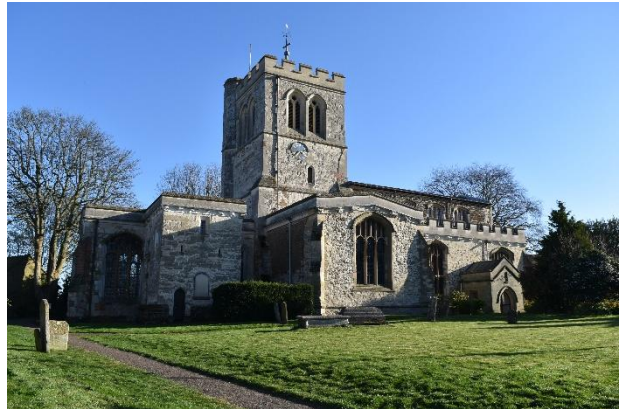
The building was described as 'in a very good and sound state of repair' in the last Quinquennial Inspection in 2023. The regular maintenance and repairs suggested have been carried out since then to keep the church in this condition. There was major repair of the roof beams in 2023 which the architect said should last another 100 years.

The churchyard is still being used for burials and is maintained by volunteers from the local community.

Toddington St George of England

St George of England Church in Toddington was consecrated on St George's Day in 1222.

There are wall paintings, two large stained-glass windows by Christopher Webb. Above the nave is a flight of eight carved angels which have been watching over the congregation for the last 500 years. Along the north side of the church is a cornice of carved animals and mythical beasts which dates from the early 16th century.



St. George's church is open daily.

The Quinquennial report did not highlight any major concerns. Issues included exterior cladding have been addressed and some of the internal walls have been repaired. The next review is due in 2025.

Maintenance of the building is supported by the Friends of [Toddington Parish Church](#) who help raise funds to maintain the 800 year old Grade 1 listed building. Grants are applied for as appropriate.

The churchyard is closed to burials, but there is a separate parish council run [cemetery](#) close to the church.



Wilkinson Church Hall

The [Church Hall](#) is in the grounds of St George's church in Toddington. It was opened in 1992. It has a large hall, kitchen, toilets, storerooms and office. The building is fully accessible and used for many church and community events.

Many of the events are shown on the [Services & Events page](#)

The Rectory

- Spacious four-bedroom modern house
- Open plan kitchen diner
- Two sizable reception rooms
- Enclosed large private gardens, garage with good parking
- Short walk to Toddington village centre, shops, church and Wilkinson hall



Finance

Chalgrave

Church income in 2024 was £31,000 while outgoings were £82,000. As well as the Parish Share and expected expenses there were major beam repairs. Christian stewardship is practiced through envelopes and standing orders. The Parish Share for 2024 was £15,659. Clergy expenses are reimbursed in full, £2,289 in 2024. Office expenses are covered but there is no provision for paid assistance.

Toddington

As of 31st Dec 2023: A small surplus as a result of our own fund-raising efforts, donations from the congregation and wider community plus grants from the Diocese and the Parish Council. Income from the Parish Giving Scheme rose by 10% along with regular giving by envelopes. The Wilkinson Hall continues to run at a surplus.

At this time, the unrestricted reserves were £36,308. The cost of energy is an ongoing challenge. The Parish Share continues to be paid in full.

Accounts for 2024 will be similar showing an increase of Parish Giving of 6%. Our 2024 accounts are currently with the auditors.

The Church acts as a support hub for local families in need and is actively involved with the local community.

We make regular charitable donations, which have included: Water Aid, Bishop's Harvest Appeal, Macmillan, Dunstable Food Bank and Disaster Appeals.

	Electoral Roll		Parish Share (fully paid)	
Chalgrave	2022	31	2022	£15,729
	2023	17	2023	£15,897
	2024	17	2024	£15,659
Toddington	2022	41	2022	£20,817
	2023	38	2023	£21,143
	2024	38	2024	£21,274

Source: Diocese of St Albans – [Parish Mission Stats](#)



Communications

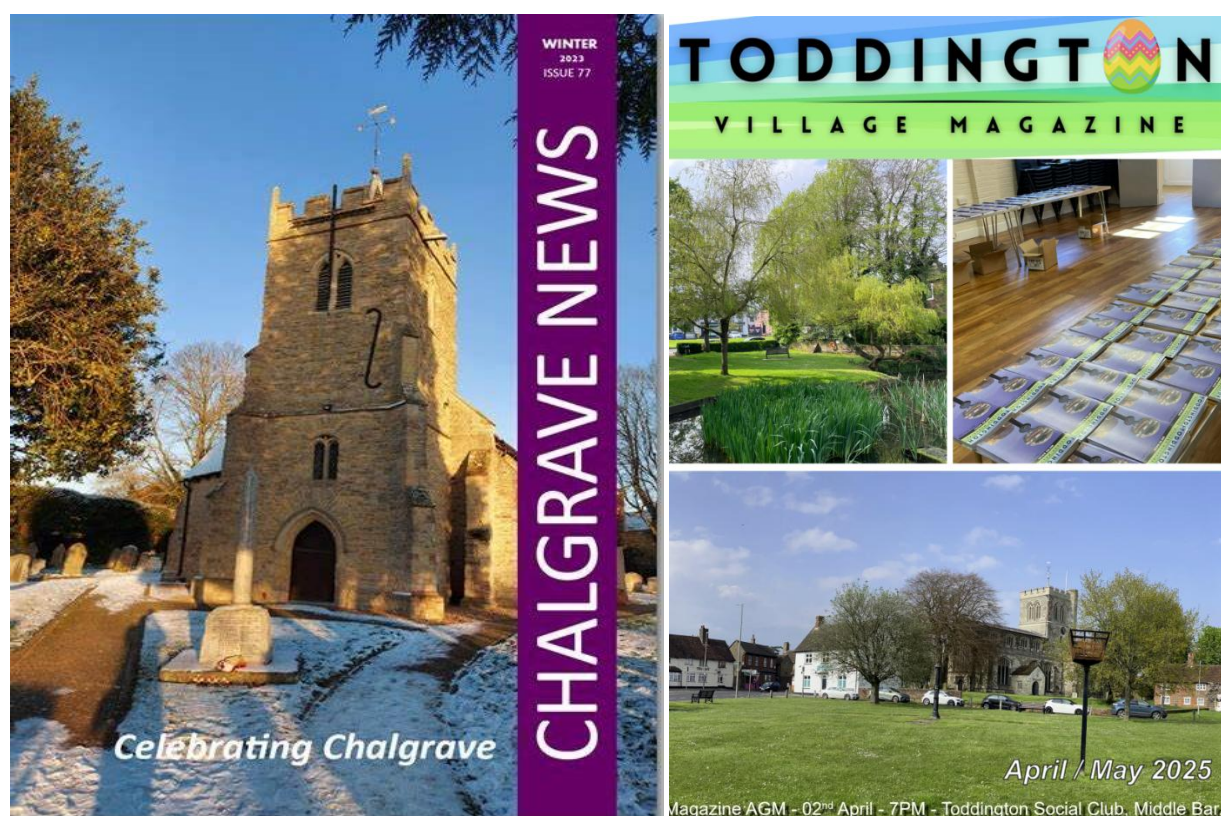
Each parish publishes details of services and events through their own website, A Church Near You and Facebook page.

St George of England, Toddington	A Church Near You	Facebook
All Saints, Chalgrave	A Church Near You	Facebook

A weekly pew leaflet is given out at services with the week's calendar, readings and prayer topics.

The former incumbent produced a regular newsletter emailed to the church community and added to the websites and Facebook pages.

[Toddington Village Magazine](#) is produced bi-monthly and [Chalgrave News](#) is produced quarterly. Each carries news of church events, village happenings and local advertising.



The Church of England ArcGIS provides a parish map and information derived from the 2021 census. [Link to ArcGIS](#), then click on the Chalgrave & Toddington parish. As summary is as follows:

CoE Parish	2021 Census data			Christian	Other religion	No religion or not stated
Chalgrave	0-4	30	5%			
	5-19	87	15%			
	20-29	49	8%			
	30-44	104	18%			
	45-69	222	38%			
	70 and over	94	16%			
	total	587		52%	2%	46%
Toddington	0-4	214	4%			
	5-19	872	18%			
	20-29	443	9%			
	30-44	852	17%			
	45-69	1,803	36%			
	70 and over	792	16%			
	total	4,982		54%	3%	43%
Benefice	0-4	244	4%			
	5-19	959	17%			
	20-29	493	9%			
	30-44	956	17%			
	45-69	2,026	36%			
	70 and over	886	16%			
	total	5,569		54%	3%	43%

