

BENEFICE PROFILE

All within The Diocese of Oxford and Deanery of Burnham and Slough



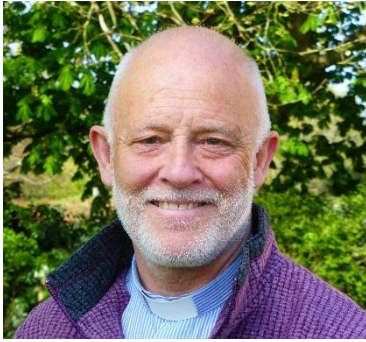
**St. Michael
Horton**

**St. Andrew
Wraysbury**



**St. Thomas
Colnbrook**

'Foreword from the Associate Archdeacon'



As I write this, Wraysbury has made the national news due to the way the community pulled together during recent flooding. This is of no surprise to any of us who have journeyed with these three parishes over the past year or so. In the face of change, both unexpected and long awaited, these three parishes have drawn strength from their shared faith in the risen Christ and drawn together as one. It is a journey of hope that we look forward to sharing with you.

Horton and Wraysbury have exhibited the fruit of the spirit these past 12 months as they have waited patiently for Deanery discussions on pastoral reorganisation and Registry paperwork to lead them to today. They were asked to wait for 'such a time as this' and have done so steadfastly, prayerfully and in faith. With Colnbrook entering a vacancy more abruptly, Horton and Wraysbury have created and offered a safe space, filled with generosity and grace that Colnbrook have enthusiastically entered in to, leading to the creation of this new Benefice, initially with a Priest-in-Charge and, subject to the legal framework, moving towards a new Incumbency.

There is a very great deal to commend this post to you – the links with the local communities have already been attested to, but the fellowship so evident in the discussions prior to this profile is a treasure. To see openness and kindness expressed so warmly both within and outside a church congregation is fruitful soil indeed.

The scale of the ministry in these parishes is not where the congregations want it to be and nor is it yet where the community needs it to be: that will be your challenge. Nevertheless, in meeting this challenge you will be well supported in prayer and through able and willing volunteers. Your Deanery colleagues are excited to draw alongside you and our Diocese is well equipped to provide training and resources for you in this venture.

Reconciliation is too strong a word, but there is a quality of reconnection required between church and community after one long and one abrupt vacancy. That said, the Spirit is firmly embedded in these places and goes ahead of each of us in this endeavour. I wonder, are you excited by the prospect of worshipping under the banner of God's promise like Noah: albeit after a significantly smaller flood!

As ever, the new Priest will be committed to the diocesan vision of becoming a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's World – compassionate and courageous – and to model and enable a flourishing ministry, for all, in line with the diocesan work in this area.

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

Revd Canon Christopher Bull
Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham
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ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, BUT ALSO ON-LINE

Latest joint weekly New newsletter and church information sheet on our websites.

<<https://www.standrewswraysbury.co.uk/about-4> > or <www.stmichaels-horton.org>

These also include APCM/AGM reports and all other Church details.

Wraysbury & Horton News (Community parish magazine: page down to clubs and societies)

<<https://www.standrewswraysbury.co.uk/about-4> >

Colnbrook produces a weekly newsletter which can be view along with other information at
<https://www.facebook.com/stthomascolnbrook/>

INTRODUCTION

This profile gives you a snapshot of the life vision and purpose of the Colnbrook Horton and Wraysbury church communities and the work we are trying to do in the three parishes. It also describes what we wish for in our new Vicar. Our churches are friendly, sociable and welcoming, reflecting the similarities and the differences in our three villages. Although close to the urban areas of Slough, Heathrow and Staines they are surprisingly still country villages, surrounded by fields, reservoirs and lakes.

Our congregations are relatively small, but mixed in age and are committed and constant in our faith and church attendance. Our worship is mainly traditional in all three Churches, with St. Andrew's, Wraysbury, having had a more contemporary service once a month for over twenty years. This has varied over that period but has succeeded in bringing some new people into the congregation. St Thomas has a lay led cafe church style service once a month.

The new incumbent will have the opportunity to build on this, and also do more out in the community. The three churches are old buildings and for centuries have been at the heart of their communities as the place where people have gone – and still go - for the major events in their lives – baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as the major religious and community festivals such as Easter, Christmas and Remembrance. We believe that a new vicar will be able to bring fresh vision and enthusiasm to maintain and expand this presence in our villages.

From our Churchwardens.

Horton St Michael's Church Wardens



Carolyn Wheeler

Carolyn comes from Kent (via South Africa and Malta) and has been a member of St Michael's church since moving to Horton more than 20 years ago. She has been Churchwarden since 2009. She is a keen historian and researches and rebuilds the parish archives for our 900-year-old church, including its connection with John Milton.

John Blackman

John has been a regular Member of St Michaels for the last 9 years. He originally started to attend with his family after the passing of his Uncles and soon discovered the Church Family in this wonderfully friendly 12th Century Church and is in his third year as Church Warden. He lives in Langley with his wife and works within the Insurance Industry. He is an armchair sports fan but still plays the odd game of cricket.

Wraysbury St Andrew's Church Wardens



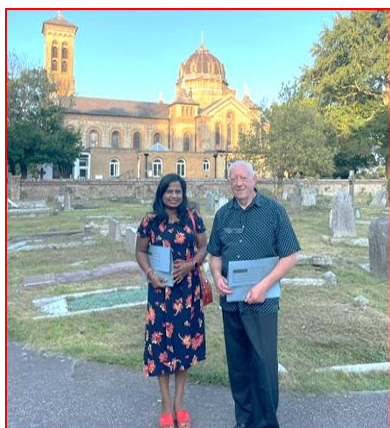
Tony Hermes

Tony H has lived in and around Wraysbury for most of his life. He joined St Andrews about 40 years ago and has been privileged to serve on the PCC for the last 30 years, most of that time as Churchwarden.

Tony Kimber

Tony K moved to Wraysbury in 1988 and has attended St Andrew's Church since then, initially irregularly as travelling a lot for work. He became a member of St Andrew's PCC in 2002 and was elected a Church Warden in April 2022.

Colnbrook St Thomas's Church Wardens



Vineeta Roberts

Vineeta has been Church Warden at St Thomas' for 3 years and has been associated with St Thomas since moving to Colnbrook with her husband Robert and three children. She has found St Thomas to be happy, friendly and kind church with very loyal people.

David Shields

Coming back to the church after being absent for many years, David has attended St Thomas now for many years and says he has grown spiritually at this beautiful peaceful church. He has been church warden for 9 years now. David was also Lay Chair for the Deanery Synod, recently standing down after 2 terms of 3 years.

The Benefice of St. Michael, Horton, St. Andrew, Wraysbury and St Thomas Colnbrook

THE BENEFICE PURPOSE STATEMENT and PARISH VISIONS

During 2006 and 2007, members of Horton & Wraysbury churches studied Rick Warren's books "Purpose Driven Life" and "Purpose Driven Church". From these we developed our 'Purpose Statement' -

**THE PURPOSE OF OUR CHURCH
Is to spread the good news
of Jesus Christ and
to increase the Christian family,
through our prayers,
our worship and our God-centred lives.**

*Our 'Purpose Statement' is overdue for an update under the guidance of our new Incumbent!
Colnbrook is happy to accept this statement and to re-visit in the future.*

St. MICHAEL'S CHURCH VISION

We would like to double the number of regular church goers the next two years and thereby increasing the level of planned giving.

We believe we can attract people with our traditional approach to worship; continue to emphasise our simple Christian message; God loves you and that is unconditional. We remain true to the teachings of the Gospel.

Plans/tools to help with achieving our goals:

- ❖ Use our historic Church to our advantage and capitalise on the fact that people are drawn to the place because of its history e.g. our connection to John Milton (he lived in the village at Berkyn Manor for six years when he came down from Oxford)
- ❖ Build on our successful outreach programmes we are directly involved in; Crafty Church, Community Coffee Morning (including the Repair Shop and mobile library), "Stitch (making reusable sanitary products for girls missing school each month as they don't have access to appropriate menstruation products)"
- ❖ Increase the number of hours that we are open to passing visitors. We have many visitors to the Churchyard and making ourselves available to give a warm welcome to those people who wander in and bringing some more life to the Village.
- ❖ Re-ignite a forum like a pub night to encourage folk to be able to talk about whatever they want; embracing the fact "it is ok to not be ok". It is also not that difficult to be a Christian.
- ❖ Maintain our existing programme of special services throughout the year i.e. New Year's Lunch, Harvest Festival, Remembrance and Christingle services.
- ❖ Re-ignite our "Travelling Home" celebration for our Romany parishioners.
- ❖ Commence the essential works recommended by our Quinquennial Architects Report.
- ❖ Continue with our responsible financial stewardship.

Our guiding principles:

- ❖ Always ready to guide anyone on their spiritual journey.
- ❖ Always remembering that the first contact with a visitor could be the spark that ignites a lifetime of faith.
- ❖ Always leading by example and inspiring others to come and follow.
- ❖ Accepting our responsibility for "hatch, match & dispatch" services and accepting that this is the only time that some of the population enter the Church. We accept that and make them as welcome as possible.
- ❖ All are welcome, regardless of disability, age, income, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation as we serve all in the name of Jesus.

St. ANDREW'S CHURCH VISION

The pandemic that reduced our congregation and the vacancy have led the PCC to consider the need to change, to be family to those who have not yet found their salvation in Christ and what we should be as a living, active, serving church.

- ❖ We have more opportunities than some churches that we must grasp, but we face the normal challenges. New approaches have begun like the ACTS services (see P9), a Café and new social events.
- ❖ Priorities should be evangelism and mission and to improve our financial stewardship.
- ❖ Praying for strong leadership putting the gospel first, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and firm, Bible-based faith, displaying the church as a loving family. Our people have given testimonies about the way we helped them through difficult times.
- ❖ Outreach - for many 'Church' is still what happens 'inside' and the building is locked most of the week, even though a public footpath goes through our churchyard. Open doors could let the more people see us and use us as a hub and home. However, as a church we recognise we need a vision that is more creative, imaginative and simply bigger than our building, and that there should be witness out in the community.
- ❖ Grow our congregation's many differences in background, privilege and other diversities but we lack children and young families. We must express more kindness, love and security for people who are lost, lonely and isolated. Attracting the youth back to church comes from sharing Jesus' love practically and participating in local organisations such as the pre-school groups and primary school, where the Vicar and Parish Evangelist previously led Assemblies, etc, build on their PTFA Christmas Tree and their Harvest Festivals they hold in church.
- ❖ Developing our responsibility for "hatch, match & dispatch" services and recognising that this is the only time that some of the population enter the Church, all must be made as welcome as possible.
- ❖ Growing our church's use of communication, including using social media as a strong PR tool to ensure we are reaching the wider section of our community to achieve the vision.



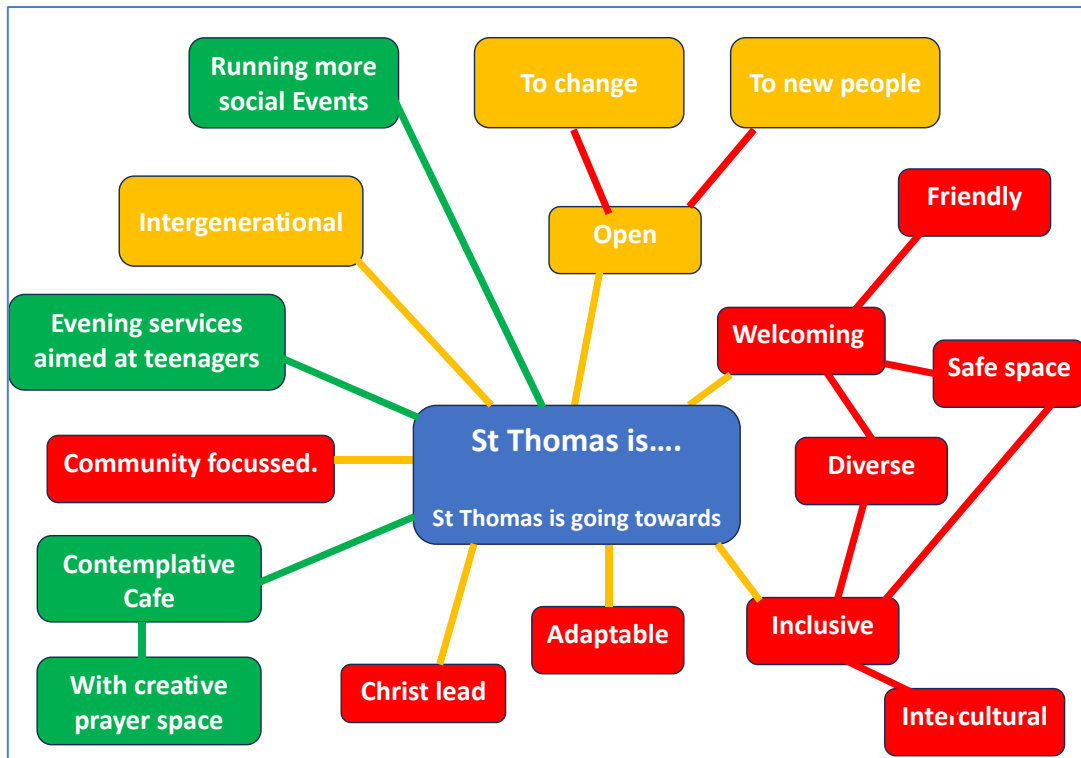
More about what we discovered through the survey that we circulated, can read in the Appendix.

ST THOMAS CHURCH VISION

We hope this Parish Profile will help you to decide whether God is calling you to serve in our parish. Although in the past we have functioned as separate parishes we are now looking forward to working together as a new joint benefice and are excited about the future and potential to develop our spiritual family together.

- ❖ To work collaboratively with a 21st century thinker and doer, who can help us continue to grow and develop the Christian message in our parish in innovative and imaginative ways.
- ❖ We are currently attracting many children to our Sunday services but need the growth to continue across all age groups. *See St Thomas Facebook page for examples of activities linked to the gospel reading
- ❖ To move forward pastorally with our new vicar and support them with a pastoral team.

- ❖ We began our work on preparing a new vision for our church in September 2021 using the Parish Planning Toolkit. This stalled due to Covid, followed by our Vicar being on long term leave, and now being in vacancy.
- ❖ This mind map shows our progress and ways to develop this into our vision.



Fete day at Colnbrook



St Thomas' at the Apple Fair



Gathering to process to St

Our new vicar



We seek a Vicar for our joint benefice of the historic villages of Colnbrook, Horton and Wraysbury, who will work together with our congregations, showing compassion, imagination and energy, caring for and nurturing new young members of our churches, whilst looking after the needs of our older members



To lead us as we reach out to our local communities, recognising and valuing the gifts of the many people who serve our churches, but who may not worship in ways we recognise. We hope that we will have an opportunity to explore these aspirations with you in the near future.

OUR INVITATION

We invite you to join us in our vision for the future development of our parishes.

- ❖ preaching and teaching the Gospel
- ❖ helping us live the good news in our daily lives.
- ❖ leading and encouraging us as a team,
- ❖ seeking God's will and fulfilling His purpose.
- ❖ respecting, our different styles of worship, both structured and informal.
- ❖ encouraging lay leadership and teamwork in our parishes.
- ❖ And be involved with our house groups.

PERSON SPECIFICATION - is this you?



Little Lambs Christmas Party

Personal experience, knowledge, skill and qualities

- 1) Vision to see lives transformed by the good news of Jesus, teaching the Bible as God's word and articulating its relevance and application to a wide range of social and contemporary issues.
- 2) A teacher who can encourage and inspire with wisdom, passion, humility and grace.
- 3) Prayerful with a deep and mature personal Christian faith and open to the Holy Spirit, encouraging and supporting discipleship. Able to find out where people are on their faith journey and accompany them.
- 4) Able to lead by example, with patience and kindness as a collaborative, team leader.
- 5) Able to work creatively with Church members, enabling, and equipping volunteers, inspiring teamwork with and leading effectively.
- 6) Open, approachable, resilient and a good communicator with a sense of humour.
- 7) Sensitive to complex situations and needs. Ability to be flexible and juggle the needs of three churches.

- 8) Experience of working in multi-generational and diverse communities, building safe and trusting relationships with people. Encourage active participation of children within the service.
- 9) Welcoming a range of traditions, leading worship in different styles
- 10) Able to understand the complexity of Wraybury, Horton & Colnbrook and lead with creativity. Ability to develop our vision, to serve our different communities.
- 11) Serving and active in community life.
- 12) Use technology, including social media, to support the ministry of the churches.
- 13) Able to continue to engage actively with local schools.



Christingle

***Come and help us spread the joy of the Holy Spirit
in this beautiful part of Berkshire!***

***We put our hearts and souls into our Churches.
and into this Parish Profile.
Will you join with us?***



ST. MICHAEL'S CONGREGATION

The St Michael's congregation contains a real variety of people who love our building and do everything possible to support the life of the church.

Our numbers are relatively small, usually between 12 -20 and the Electoral Roll stands at 35, but we also record a healthy number of visitors coming through the door whenever the "church is open" sign is up.



Easter Garden in the side chapel

Some are new members of the church, coming from other denominations, while others are "cradle" Christians. Some have recently moved into the village, others are long standing residents, quite a number live further afield and travel to attend what they recognise as "their" family church. We have Holy Communion every Sunday and every Tuesday of the year (total of over 104).

Numbers swell each year for our long-established Christmas Eve Christingle Service. This attracts generations of villagers and people from surrounding areas who look forward to this Annual event which provides the opening focus to the festive period. Donations from Christingle services are given to local children's charity. This year we also supported Thames Valley Adventure Playground who work with disabled children.

We are a very friendly, accepting and welcoming congregation who not only support each other but reach out to the local community whenever possible. Our church works with the Parish Council and other partners in running a weekly community coffee morning in the Champney (village) Hall across the road from the Church, which recently expanded into a warm Space in the cold weather. We also run a repair café, craft, a jigsaw swap, chat and other events as suggested by residents or circumstances such as a make and take bunting session for the recent Queen's Jubilee and King Charles' Coronation.

We also host the weekly mobile library, that can renew bus passes and give advice to the elderly and regular visits from Community Wardens, PSCOs and Home Care companies can provide a chance for residents to voice concerns and ask questions. For Emergency Services Day, we have attendance from the local Fire and Rescue services.



Remembrance Sunday on the Green

Craft skills are also taught and encouraged at our monthly Crafty Church, where people can work on their projects, share their skills and talent and get advice when needed. Pre COVID, we ran a food pantry scheme but this is now run by a local voluntary care charity that St. Michael's Church supports. We host the children from the local pre-school at least once a term, inviting them, their teachers and their families to visit the church and learn about Easter, Christmas and Remembrance.

The congregation pull together and reach out to the community whenever we see an opportunity that we can fulfil proving that although we may be small in number at present we do try and go above and beyond what is expected of us. We arrange lunches in the Church on New Year's Day, Harvest Festival and other Celebrations. These are very popular, so we invite everyone in the village, including Wraysbury and always look forward to welcoming new faces.

Our community has a number of members with Romany backgrounds, so we have held services for them called "Travelling Home service" that have been extremely well attended and have been a success. The Traveller men also help to maintain the Churchyard and organise work parties amongst themselves and provide a good community service that we all benefit from.

The congregation also enjoy fellowship together after our Sunday and Tuesday Morning services sharing a hot drink and either biscuits or cake. (the Tuesday fellowship helps us reach people who cannot attend on Sundays).

There is an understandable variety in the expectations of churchmanship amongst the people and we are hoping to welcome someone who will respect and provide for these differences.

Up-to-date news is available on <http://www.stmichaels-horton.org/>.



Pre-school Nativity at Horton

St. MICHAEL'S FINANCIAL POSITION:

St Michael's has benefited from several substantial legacies over the last ten years, which have been managed sensibly; not least because we understand that an ancient church like ours could face significant restoration costs in the not-too-distant future.

We are currently reliant on using some of the proceeds from our CCLA investments to balance the books and we occasionally sell shares; it costs us approximately £2200 per month to run the Church and pay our Parish Share, and we don't collect anywhere near this amount per month. However, our investments are sound, and we can sustain this deficit with the investment growth generated per annum in the short to medium term; stock market shocks and the effect of inflation are areas for concern.

The best way forward is to increase the number of regular givers by increasing our congregation. We take a sometimes-frugal approach to our expenses but are not afraid to spend money where it's needed on something that helps make our Church more welcoming e.g. very comfortable pew runners and maintaining the long tradition of having an organist at almost every Service. We are aware of the value of the amount of time that many members of the congregation give to St Michael's and the "unseen" donations such as flowers, tea & coffee, etc.

St Michael's is supported financially by a small number of regular givers who give generously, and are supplemented by collections at weddings, baptisms, and funerals. We maintain a habit of generous giving through donations to charities such as Thames Valley Hospice, the Royal British Legion, Windsor Foodshare & St Barnabas.

In the last couple of years, the Treasurer has introduced the concept of maintaining a budget and reporting throughout the year on our financial position rather than the drudgery of using PCC meetings to approve payments.

We look forward to a new incumbent that will help support developing the message about the importance of Parish Giving whilst remaining a welcoming place of worship which is not known for "always having their hand out".

We look forward to carrying out essential works identified in the recent Quinquennial architect's report, subject to us being able to fund them responsibly.

ST. ANDREW'S CONGREGATION

St. Andrew's is a spiritual, physical and social place, renowned for our welcome and valued for its diversity. We want St. Andrew's to be a home that includes people of any age, from all backgrounds and open to a community spanning traditional boundaries such as urban and rural, deprivation and privilege. Socially, we embrace Wraysbury's creative and artistic activities in our building as well as the uniformed youth activities.

St. Andrew's congregation has fewer than 40% of us living in the parish itself. Many of our parishioners have worshiped here for a long time so we are an aging congregation, a drawback of this being less mobility and the fixed income of elderly couples or the bereaved. These people are often unable to give a lot of support to church activities and despite many families moving into Wraysbury, our numbers are falling.

Pre-pandemic, we regularly welcomed 50 worshippers each Sunday, but in recent months this has dipped to 25, predominantly older people and are mostly women with a nucleus of devoted workers who faithfully serve our church. The Electoral Roll stands at 62.

Our Sunday services blend traditional and contemporary styles. Our Holy Communion service is based on Common Worship and the Anglican lectionary with traditional and modern hymns and is streamed live. Prayer ministry is available after the services and we serve refreshments in the Annexe.

The current more contemporary service in St Andrew's is called ACTS, on the first Sunday of each month. It is aimed for those who do not currently come to church but would like to know more about what happens at 'Church' and what the Christian faith is. It is lay-led and is advertised around the village and on social media and starts with coffee and cakes and the opportunity for those who come to ask questions of and get answers from those who are regular Church attendees. Since it was introduced in the summer of 2022 has been deemed successful in that those who came originally have continued to come although most are regular church goers, but there are some newcomers. We hope that this will be one way that we can gradually grow our church.

We use the acronym **ACTS** for various Christian activities and topics have so far included:- **A** Chance to **S**eek **A**nswers, **A**ll **C**hristians are **T**asked with **S**acrifice, **A**ssisting **C**hildren on **T**errifying **S**treets (Operation Restoration speaker).

Three other Sundays in the month at 11.00 are sung Eucharist and if there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we join with St. Michael's in Horton, meaning the Vicar supports us at 3 Communion services per month, (about 37 per year).



St. Andrew's Annual Carol Service

Vestments may or may not be worn by the celebrant at the Eucharist services, as they choose. We have a paid organist who is very talented and keen and has compiled a Supplementary Hymn book of modern hymns, that do not feature in "Hymns Old & New" and he directs a small robed choir.

We encourage everyone to join supportive house groups crossing all gender and national lines, expressing the kingdom of God.

We encourage intergenerational meetings to cultivate inter-action between age groups.

The 'Great Commission' is still paramount and we seek to help everybody to become a true disciple of Jesus through Bible-based teaching above the regular services plus our Lent Courses and occasional Alpha courses.

We feel really challenged and excited about the future, and we are looking for someone to come and actively share that future with us.

Other Lay-led activities at St. Andrews' include a Tuesday afternoon Café in the Annexe and "Little Lambs" for parents and toddlers that meets each week in term time. Before the pandemic, we celebrated Pentecost with an open-air service on the Green, joined by St. Michael's and the Baptist Church but this has stopped. We have also joined with St. Michael's, at the Wraysbury Village Fair, (but not in 2023), in running a relaxation and refreshment tent. September is the St. Andrews' Garden Party, held at the Grange and, in conjunction with Wraysbury Primary School, a Christmas tree festival that has proved to be very popular.

St. Andrews' PCC meets with an average attendance of 10.

The Standing Committee meets to make urgent decisions outside the PCC forum. It consists of: the Vicar, two Churchwardens, Treasurer and two elected Members from the PCC. We have two representatives serving on the Deanery Synod (plus the Vicar as joint churches).

Mission

St. Andrews' supports mission groups that bring good news to our community and the support of Christians in missions further afield. We are very conscious of the needs of believers outside of our parish and our PCC currently allocates 10% of our annual Stewardship income (realising around £2,000.00) that, in recent years, has been shared equally between 4 groups:-

1. Canaan Christian Bookshop in Staines is well stocked and they also supply Communion wine and gifts. There is prayer and counselling in their Prayer room to anyone in need, and they also support an orphanage in Africa. They offer both Churches the chance of after-hours shopping each Christmas and they have given our churches 'trip reports' after visits to the orphanage.



Members of the Church in Canaan Bookshop



St. John's Mission, Gwelutshena

2. We have longstanding links, firstly with Fr. Jacob (who visited our parish) and now with Fr. Ivine Mtembo from St. John's Mission in Gwelutshena in Zimbabwe - this covers 15 smaller churches in an area the size of Wales. We have regular updates and do practical fund raising for the Rector when they have a particular need – in recent years we have sent extra money for seed grain, water projects and bought them a Communion Chalice.

3. Our last Vicar and his family have strong links with Bolivia and Operation Restoration that rescues city street children and gives them a home, education and support. When the founders are in the UK we invite them to talk at one of our services.

4. Open Doors also get our support. Their aim is to give aid to Christians worldwide who are suffering from persecution or other crises and we invite them to talk to us regularly.

As can be seen in the accounts, the £2000 from the church tithe was boosted with an extra £1900 as special additional collections during the year.

For local needs, we have a donated food collection system and also our Harvest gifts going to support Slough Homeless Our Concern (SHOC).

Equally, calls for giving in kind such as the Harvest Festival and food bank collections are met generously and, when we have visiting speakers from the 4 charities we support through the Church Tithe, the offertory of the day is donated to their work.



Annual Garden Party at St Andrews'

We have social events to raise income, to introduce people to our congregation, and spend time with us.

Five successful events have been held up to the end of 2022 and in total these have raised about £2000.



Remembrance Concert

We plan to consider joining the Oxford planned giving scheme and to re-launch the Friends of St Andrew Scheme whereby members of the congregation and the wider village community were invited to donate £20 each year. (The Friends scheme stalled in 2022 due to the untimely passing of the lead organiser).

Life at St. Andrew's Wraysbury



Pentecost on the Wraysbury Green



PALM SUNDAY



Harvest Lunch



Festival of Light Wraysbury

*Up-to-date information of our activities can be found on our website:
<https://www.standrewswraysbury.co.uk/>*

St ANDEWS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

For a few years now our expenditure has exceeded our income, but we have been able to pay our full parish share by dipping into our reserves (built up from former positive surpluses and generous legacies). Our policy is to maintain some reserves in our General account, but depletion of reserves must not continue at the present rate and the situation at the close of 2023 remains unclear.

In common with many churches our income took a significant hit due to the Covid pandemic (and has yet to fully recover) especially when the nursery school ceased renting our Annexe, and we also lost income from private bookings and small parties, all increasing our losses. So in 2020 and 2021 we elected to pay a reduced parish share rather than deplete our reserves to a dangerously low level. In 2022 we paid our full parish share thanks to a large legacy of £25,000. We are committed to contributing as much as possible to our 2023 joint parish share demand of £44,000 (excluding the reduction we have been granted for each month of the interregnum) again without drastically reducing our reserves.

As can be seen in the attached accounts (pages 21 & 22) we ended 2022 with reserves amounting to £33,000. Of this £19,000 is in a general fund (which can be used for any purpose) and £14,000 is in the Friends of St Andrew's fund (which is restricted to maintenance of the church fabric).

Most of our regular income into the General Fund currently comes from around 50 regular worshippers. We claim Gift Aid wherever permitted and we encourage donors to authorise this: our claim in 2022 was £5667. We always tithe our stewardship giving to support our four chosen areas of mission.

In 2005 the then PCC launched SAFF – the St Andrew's Fabric Fund – to help us maintain the fabric of our Church building. The next year we encouraged residents of the Village to join 'The Friends of St Andrew's' and to contribute to this Fund.

St ANDEWS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW - continued

We looked both to our regular congregation and also to others in the Community who wanted to see the building retained and maintained in the Village without actually being interested in what happened in it. This was organised using the technology of the day – paper, letters and cash and cheques – and has been very successful, raising many thousands of pounds which have helped maintain the Church building and create a protected fund used just for that purpose. In recent years the numbers of ‘Friends’ has reduced and the coordinator has died. Wraysbury PCC is considering re-launching ‘The Friends’ in the Village Community using modern technology – emails, social media etc. - and for the funds raised to be for the general running of the Church including both maintenance and the Parish Share.

The response to appeals by the St. Andrew’s congregation is always outstanding. Recent appeals for famine relief, Poppy day, funding for the church floor work to extend the chancel, to replace our boiler system and help for our contact church in Zimbabwe have all been very generous.



St Thomas Poppy Fountain

ST THOMAS ‘S CONGREGATION

At St Thomas the term ‘Church family’ is often used to describe the atmosphere of our small congregation. There are currently 23 people on our electoral roll. We are pleased to be known as a welcoming and inclusive church, but we are not complacent. Small in number, big in heart and hard workers, whilst wanting to maintain our traditional style of worship for those that this is important to, including a number of people who are of Catholic tradition, we are a flexible congregation, ready to embrace new additional styles of worship, to encourage new people to worship with us. We look forward to serving whoever God sends.

Our Strengths

- ❖ Welcoming, active, committed congregation.
- ❖ Two schools in Colnbrook including a C of E school and Pippins Primary school where Open the Book and other assemblies take place. Both schools visit the church for termly services. Each school regularly visit the Quiet Garden for reflective sessions.
- ❖ A number of mature/experienced Christians who are playing key roles in lay leadership.
- ❖ Well regarded by the community who support major events in church, especially the Annual Remembrance Day Service and The Blessing of The Baskets Service on Easter Saturday.
- ❖ Well-maintained, sound historic church building.
- ❖ There is a ‘Quiet Garden’ linked to the grounds of St Thomas’. This has been used for occasional children’s services and by other churches.
- ❖ Income is generated from the use of St Thomas’ facilities by weekly scout group meetings, another church group and community groups.
- ❖ Up-to-date accounts and sound financial procedures.
- ❖ We produce a weekly news sheet to spread the word within the congregation and it is posted on Facebook and various community sites.
- ❖ Our church is central to community events in Colnbrook and the building and glebe land are often the focus of these events.



‘We are here to provide a place of worship to celebration before god and to serve Christ in the Community’.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - We have a small group who meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month to knit shawls. These are then blessed during a service and given to be people who are sick, bereaved, had babies, etc., with some comforting words on a tag attached to them. This has got others from the community involved as those coming are not from our regular congregation.



Our café church evolved after we came back to church after Covid. The 3rd Sunday of the month had been a lay led family service for many years, the older children were no longer coming, although some of the parents still did and we weren't getting new children, plus some of the people who came on the other Sunday's wouldn't come to the family service. With the social distancing rules still in place when we went back to church in July 2020, the family service could not take place in the format we had been used to so we laid out tables so we could seat people socially distanced, but so they could communicate. As more restrictions were lifted, we had our first proper café church in August 2021. It brought in all the regulars that came to the family service, but also our regulars from our congregation on the other Sundays along with some members of the community who were not regular attendees. It was only every few months originally but eventually become the monthly format. In November 2021 as part of Interfaith Week, we had an interfaith café church and had people from different faiths tell us a bit about their faith.

Our vulnerabilities

- ❖ Currently stalled numbers within our congregation.
- ❖ Unsure of our roles within the joint benefice.
- ❖ The aging of a number of mature/experienced Christians who are currently playing key roles.
- ❖ Reduced level of giving due to the economic situation.

ST THOMAS'S FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- ❖ St Thomas is currently financially secure as we have been able to pay our Parish Share again this year and in the past two years have increased our payment by 5% and 10% to assist the Deanery meet its targets from all parishes.
- ❖ We are lucky to have several legacies/charities that generate an income, although some are only able to be used for the upkeep of the fabric of the church and are therefore restricted for other uses.
- ❖ Many of our congregation are using the Parish Giving Scheme. Funds are also raised at community events around Colnbrook. These community events are often funded by our Parish Council and other community organisations.
- ❖ We are looking forward to working more collaboratively within the new benefice to share ideas and expertise on ways of increasing revenue. "One for all and all for one".

- ❖ The cultural make of the village means that St Thomas doesn't attract many baptisms or weddings.
- ❖ We are very concerned at the energy costs this winter of heating our space for all services and other use by our communities.
- ❖ The introduction of the card reader has been a great asset. It is used regularly on a Sunday, casual church visitors use it for donations and individual campaigns and QR codes are set up for special events including weddings, baptisms and funeral.

AREA GENERAL PROFILE

Colnbrook, Horton and Wraysbury are all historic villages. Colnbrook and Horton have the River Colne running through them. Wraysbury lies on the north bank of the Thames. Although all are near Heathrow, they are surrounded by Green Belt and Wraysbury also by National Trust land. Each village has their own individual identity despite our proximity to Slough, Staines and Windsor. As a result of the extraction of high-grade gravel, the villages also have many reservoirs and lakes, offering a variety of leisure opportunities.

Colnbrook Parish has a population of approximately 6500, Wraysbury parish 4376 and Horton, Parish 1203 (2021 census).

Apart from the church led activities in Wraysbury, there are numerous sports clubs, social activities, and a thriving Scout Group mostly centred around The Green. The "Wraysbury & Horton News", published in June and December and on-line, gives a real flavour of the range of these activities.

Horton, is the more rural parish, being surrounded by farmland and two large reservoirs. It shares schooling and activities with Wraysbury and has other activities in Horton's Champney Hall.

Colnbrook also has a thriving scout movement who meet on Monday's and Friday's in the church. Squirrels are the latest section to be established, following the success of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Each parish has a Parish Council and each church has contacts with their Council through Church members: the churches and councils work well together. Horton and Wraysbury are within the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and following the recent elections, three independent Councillors represent the Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury ward; two of these also sit on the Parish Councils.

Colnbrook is served by Slough Borough Council and also has a parish council, 'Colnbrook with Poyle' We have several councillors amongst the congregation some of whom also sit on Slough Borough Council.



Horton a well kept place to visit loved ones



Danger men at work! - Horton

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP ENCOMPASSING THE THREE PARISHES

The Benefice boundary is shown by the red dot-dash line and, in the west, the River Thames. The railway line divides Horton and Wraysbury parishes. Colnbrook is near Slough to Paddington



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A Heavenly Eye view of St Michaels, Horton

Local Population

Of the total population of the three villages of 12079, many adults work in service industries with Heathrow Airport and as air-crew, while others commute to London, or work in the surrounding towns. The self-employed section and local trades businesses support the local community and there is a small industrial area in Horton and a larger one in Poyle Neighbouring town shops employ a limited number of people. There are farms within Wraysbury and Horton parishes, with local produce outlets and since the pandemic there has been a growth in home-based working.

The ethnic mix of the population has changed significantly in recent years with many newcomers to the villages from outside of the Christian faith. The population turnover was about 10% every year before the pandemic and is only just recovering.

Housing

There is a wide variety of housing in the three villages. There are many expensive properties, some lakeside and others with Thames mooring facilities, alongside more modest houses, a number of residential mobile home sites and housing association accommodation with a large Romany Community now in houses in Horton and Wraysbury. Colnbrook has a mix of social housing, starter homes, buy-to-let properties and private housing. Our congregations reflect this diversity.

Schools

There is a primary school in Wraysbury close to the Vicarage, our Playgroups in St. Andrew's, and there is nursery Pre-school provision in both villages and in the wider local area. There are many private schools in the area. Senior education is selective in Slough & Buckinghamshire and many children commute to these schools. Local secondary education is at Churchmead CofE voluntary aided School in Datchet, where most of our teenagers attend. Colnbrook has two primary schools, one being a Church of England school and the other a state school.

Medical support

The GP surgery for Wraysbury and Horton parishes is in Datchet and in Langley for Colnbrook. There are NHS hospitals with the Frimley Health provision and nearby in Ashford, as well as private provision.

Churches

There are no other places of worship in the villages of Horton and Wraysbury. Wraysbury Baptist Church closed a few years ago and we used to enjoy a close working relationship with them - 5 of their people joined St. Andrew's Church. Their well-equipped building on Wraysbury High Street (with a spire) is now the Wraysbury Hub for community use.

Wraysbury Catholic Church closed over 30 years ago and the nearest RC Church now is in Datchet. However, the current RC priest was a missionary in Africa and we are hopeful for joint outreach. We also welcome several RC Christians who find our Communion services similar to their Mass and are they are happy to share our fellowship.

Colnbrook has two other places of worship. Colnbrook & Poyle Methodist Church - with a very small congregation holding Sunday services once a month and a weekly Tuesday morning fellowship meeting. The congregation join with St Thomas for some special services and community events. We also have a Strict Baptist church in the village, but do not have any relationship with them.

Social Issues

The area has few outward signs of deprivation or poverty, but it has many issues associated with a modern stressful lifestyle; many young mothers work. In the total Berkshire Policing Area, 8001 reported occurrences of anti-social behaviour were recorded in 2022 and they showed our area is below the average reported. The 109 instances reported in our Windsor East neighbourhood were mainly theft and drug use, making us below average (30th in a list of 43), while the average is 186.

There is an active community police presence, with a police Burglary Crime Prevention Surgery on Wednesdays in Wraysbury Hub Café, in the High Street, and on Thursdays in The Bridge Café Datchet. In Colnbrook there is NAG (neighbourhood action group). This group of councillors, police representatives and community reps meet in church regularly to discuss local issues.

Wraysbury is roughly midpoint on the low-to-high deprivation values for the country but Horton is only 25% above the worst. Colnbrook with Poyle has a population of 6.5k, is the 8th most deprived ward in Slough on the index of multiple deprivation and had a higher-than-average number of households with multiple needs in the 2011 census.

For further information see - <https://www.standrewswraysbury.co.uk/about-4>

HORTON VILLAGE



Horton Village Green with our War Memorial

Horton village is to the northeast of our Benefice and smaller than Wraysbury and Colnbrook, Horton has an hourly bus service (no.5), seven days per week, giving access to the Datchet GP Surgery and to a connecting service to Windsor. Currently many of the small bungalows prevalent in Horton are being transformed into 4- and 5-bedroom houses. It has an active village hall – Champney Hall. This is used by St. Michael’s for several activities, and they kindly allow use of their car park for larger events in Church. There is a general store on the village green but sadly both the village pubs have closed. Our church is the oldest building in the village, Grade 1 Listed, and a little older than St. Andrew’s.

WRAYSBURY VILLAGE



Wraysbury High Street

The parish of Wraysbury sits on the southern border of Berkshire, with the meadows of Ankerwyke and Runnymede to the south to the banks of the River Thames. St. Andrew’s building has been on the southern edge of the village area from the year 1215, when King John put his seal to the Magna Carta, and the new stone-built Church replaced the original wooden church, Some parts are unchanged from 1215, **plus** many later Victorian features. The ‘new’ church was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln in 1215, while he was attending the sealing of Magna Carta and a tapestry, commemorating the 800th anniversary in 2015, was completed by the local ladies and hangs beside our main door. Egham’s claim to be the site where this event took place is disputed by many historians. In 1215 the River Thames was not a single channel through Runnymede, but many channels and Islands of various sizes. It is likely that the ceremony took place within the auspices of the Ankerwyke Priory and under the Ankerwyke Yew, both of which were then on an Island and the whole of Runnymede and its islands were in the Parish of Wraysbury (then spelt Wyredeberia).

Wraysbury has an infrequent bus (no.305) but a petition is in hand to improve the service to seven days a week, linking Wraysbury, Horton, Datchet and Windsor. together. People are asked to sign for those that do require a bus and not because they need a bus service themselves.

More details of parish demographics are given in Appendix 3.

The village and Parish of Wraysbury is in the south-western corner of the Oxford Diocese touching the M25 London Orbital motorway and has the River Thames as its southern and western boundary. It is just a few miles from Heathrow and two stations give train links into London and Windsor.

Wraysbury popularity has increased steadily in recent years attracting a growing number of new residents from outside the area and, subsequently, property prices are on the high side. The growing population due to its location and flourishing social life tends to overshadow the village's social issues with related poverty and some antisocial activity. We are unusual in that we have the traveller community, including true Romanies, in mobile home parks and/or re-housed in social housing. There is very little new housing but the population growth has happened through extensive housing enlargements. Also, Heathrow airport brings in a large number of other nationalities with larger families resulting in the growth. Despite the arrival of 'new money' from incomers and expensive developments, pockets of deprivation remain. The town has a parish council with local community initiatives and its supportive spirit identified as core strengths.

COLNBROOK VILLAGE



Colnbrook High Street

St Thomas' sits centrally to the village in a quiet, leafy location with a wonderful tranquil Quiet Garden and Glebe Land fields, all maintained by volunteers. Currently the Colnbrook Vicarage is used as the accommodation for the full time Burnham and Slough Area Dean

Colnbrook has a 'village feel'. Although the proposed third runway has been halted, Government approval may still be sought again in future years. There are now more buy to let properties and changes in the population. We are aware of the massive investment and infrastructure that may come into our area and the challenges and opportunities that will require innovative and imaginative responses. We have made good links with the Polish community and have begun ministry among them. The parish backs onto Terminal 5 of Heathrow Airport and is therefore home to a number of industrial businesses. There are good transport links with buses to London, Heathrow, Slough Trading Estate, Windsor & Bracknell.



St Thomas' Quiet Garden, an oasis of peace



*Blessing of the baskets
Polish Service*

St Thomas - Blessing of the baskets

Each year, St Thomas hold a special service on Easter Saturday, **Święconka**, the Blessing of the Baskets which is extremely well supported predominately by members of our Polish Community as well as those from other Eastern European countries and the regulars from our congregation.

Cox's Orange Pippin

Colnbrook is also the place where Mr Richard Cox, first grafted the Cox's Orange Pippin, a cross between the Ribston Pippin and the Blenheim Orange. It is perhaps our most famous English Apple.



Colnbrook war memorials

St Thomas is unusual to have the village war memorial names of the fallen inside the church. The Parish Council and village communities lay their wreaths by the pillar at our Remembrance day service



*First World War memorial –
within St Thomas*



Second World War memorial – within St Thomas

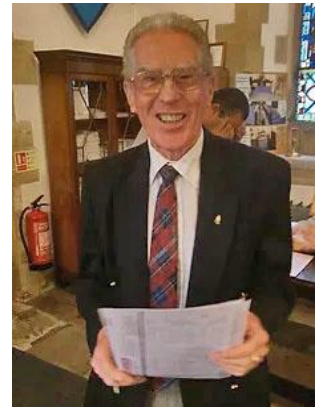
DETAILS COMMON TO HORTON AND WRAYSBURY PARISHES



**We share A Licensed Lay Minister: Beryl Walters,
A Parish Evangelist: Mike Miller**

A part-time (paid) Vicar's Administrative Assistant: Benta Hickley.

The Ministry Team has not convened since the lockdown, but usually it is a forum for all those with designated responsibilities in both Churches: the Vicar with the Licensed Lay Minister, the Parish Evangelist; four Churchwardens; Vicar's Administrative Assistant.



A voluntary secretary (Diane Miller), who edits and compiles the Newsletter every week. She also plans the rotas of volunteers for both churches every two months: Intercessors Readers and, for St. Andrew's, - Prayer Ministry teams, Welcomers, refreshments teams and Church cleaners.

A Safeguarding Officer: Heather Hermes, who monitors security, training and the Data Barring Service (DBS) for both churches.

Tony Kimber is the Joint Children's Advocate

For the youngest in our community (0-4 years) we also run a weekly 'Little Lambs' group in St. Andrew's Annexe, offering free play, crafts, singing and snack time with a small donation requested to cover adult refreshments: a valuable contact point for families in both villages.

We have had two 'Curates in training' recently:- one during each of the last two incumbencies and we may seek to replace them in the future, if our finances improve.

There are 3 house groups which meet fortnightly.

We have a Bereavement Team and a House Group particularly for recently bereaved ladies.

A joint Men's Breakfast and a pub group used to meet monthly before the lockdown in alternating village hostelries and, for the ladies, there was a monthly lunch.

Our Parish Evangelist has run 13 Alpha Courses and most church members have now attended one, but there may be the opportunity to do more. These were organised and supported by all 3 local churches, with the sessions being held in the Baptist Church, or St. Andrew's annexe.

Both Wraysbury and Horton have open churchyards. There is a band of bell ringers who practice in Wraysbury and ring at both churches for special occasions and some services.



THE VICARAGE and WRAYSBURY VILLAGE

There are plenty of social activities (see the Wraysbury & Horton News) and many opportunities for nature and outdoor lovers around Wraysbury. It has good access to local attractions with the National Trust's Ankerwyke Meadows, its famous yew and ruined Priory having an entrance and footpath in St. Andrew's churchyard. It is across the river from the National Trust's riverside Runnymede Meadows, memorials, pleasure grounds and boat trips, and a little further is the Windsor Castle and Great Park, Savill Gardens, the Thames, the Colne Valley, fishing and water activities on the Thames and the lakes and several local parks.

The vicarage is a 900m walk to a dozen village shops including a small super-market, pharmacy and Post Office while a short drive away are Staines, Windsor and Slough with large stores, and shopping centres.

Wraysbury Primary School is just 300m from the Vicarage.

The Vicarage address is 55 Welley Road, Wraysbury, TW19 5ER, a good size, well appointed family home, on the west side of the Benefice, just a few minutes' walk to St. Andrew's Church but twice as far to St. Michael's. It is a corner location with Old Ferry Drive to the left, surrounded by other residential properties and is set back from one of the main roads that connect the villages.

The Vicarage was purpose-built, 30 years ago, on two floors with central heating, full double glazing and ample electrical sockets in every room, with mature side and rear gardens laid to lawns and flower beds, a front access garage and parking for four cars on a front tarmac drive.

There are four double bedrooms and two bathrooms on the first floor and downstairs it has a lounge and separate dining room, a family-sized kitchen diner and adjoining utility room, and a downstairs cloakroom. The vicar's office is beside the front door and the cloakroom opposite.

IN DETAIL

The front door leads to the spacious hallway with doors to the study and cloakroom

The Study has double aspect windows facing the front drive and side garden and one wall has a large built-in bookcase.

The inner hallway has doors to other ground floor rooms and staircase to the upper floor.

The Lounge is a large, airy room with French- doors looking out on to the side garden with a brick built, functioning, central fireplace.

The dining room has French-doors opening to a patio area with steps down to a side lawn.

The Kitchen/Breakfast room is fully fitted with space for under-counter fridge and dish-washer and a door leading to utility room.

The Utility room houses the gas boiler and is fitted with a sink and cupboards, as in the kitchen, with spaces for a washing machine and dryer. The back door opens onto small courtyard with access to garage and rear garden.

On the first floor are four double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and two fully tiled bathrooms.

The spacious garage has a rear access door to the small courtyard where door the door from the utility room can also be found.



APPENDICES

- [1. Survey – Horton and Wraysbury](#)
- [2. Finance reports for all three churches](#)
- [3. Burnham & Slough Deanery](#)
- [4. Diocese of Oxford](#)

Appendix 1 Parish Survey – Horton & Wraysbury

To assist the production of this Parish Profile we asked our congregations and the local residents and clubs their opinions on our assets and needs.

From this we identified our priorities for the work of the church, the qualities the new vicar needs and our future vision around four essential areas.

In the weeks the survey was available, we collected paper and email responses from 29 people, mostly anonymous. Multiple answers meant we had 239 answers to evaluate. The replies were grouped into similar categories: for example - bunching together comments such as 'welcoming', 'supportive', 'friendly', 'helpful', 'encouraging', etc were all included under "our welcome".

The questions we asked were:

- 1. What do you appreciate about our Churches?**
- 2. What new activities should we seek with our next Vicar?**
- 3. What would encourage our 'less frequent' worshippers to attend Church more regularly?**
- 4. What old activities should we seek to improve or abandon?**
- 5. Why would a Vicar want to move to our village?**
- 6. Is there anything else our next Vicar should know?**

What do you appreciate about our Churches? The responses gave highest scores to our welcome, first from the beautiful and historic buildings that enhance the villages and then by the supportive, warm and friendly people who worship in them. Their spiritual atmosphere with the stained glass and history help us worship God and Christ through prayer, praise, preaching and scriptural teaching and we keep God's word alive placing God at the centre of village life. Our organists and St. Andrews choir and a choice of style of worship and with the organ leading at both churches Holy Communion are aspects valued by traditional church attendees. The churches are places where we are commissioned and inspired to go out to witness and serve.

Replies appreciated having a Vicar and services that are local, regular and accessible, dependable timings, all giving a sense of security as we maintain the traditions and history of CofE. Our presence in the community in times of trouble gives places of safety and we welcome Community and Social activities in church.

What new activities should we seek with our next Vicar? It appears most activities desired are based on an energetic Vicar who could develop evangelism and encourage youth, families and the schools involvement. Most identified needs both within the churches and outside them, involving visibility in the villages, encouraging social activities and happy to pray on the spot. People identified the need to make contact with unbelievers, create stronger links between generations and giving more opportunities for existing Christians of all ages to deepen their faith and relationship with Christ. Challenges include being relevant to a changing technological world while respecting the strengths of our heritage.

Many people identified the problem of recovering from the pandemic, especially financial, how to create or revitalise community connections, and being ready and willing to do new and different things to meet current needs. Both Men's and Ladies' activities need resurrecting. While numerical growth, available volunteers and the ongoing challenge of finance and maintaining facilities were mentioned, these were significantly less emphasised in comparison with the spiritual and social challenges we face.

Meetings and events specifically for young people.

Our main needs as churches The replies to this showed that we are desperately short of young families and children with 11 replies saying we need children's and families work. 9 replies said it was because we had little contact with the village Primary School, no involvement with the young in the villages and a further 6 said we should do more encouraging and outreach. A few individual replies said our villages had some back-sliders, needing better follow-up of absentees and as we have a lot of seniors, a reliable car service would bring more to worship. Ten individual replies said a youth club would help, young musicians in a worship group or junior choir members and another 5 said encouraging men would bring families in through the fathers.

With this, 4 said we should have more friendly services with drama but this was countered by 3 saying we should be traditional and not even bring back hand-shaking. Some suggested sermons should be aimed at our needs and not fixed rigidly to the lectionary. Better advertising for festivals, including local radio stations' involvement, also featured.

These needs led to 9 replies proposing that our next vicar was a strong leader with plenty of energy and a bright personality with 5 suggesting more social contacts with the villages and 3 saying this would be easier if the vicarage had children in residence. However, some said there will be amazing support from two hard working PCCs and committed parish members, and it could be easier with better teamwork.

To build on the growing attendance of youngsters on a Sunday.

To encourage more volunteers to work alongside older church leaders.

What would encourage our 'less frequent' worshippers to attend Church more regularly? The need that received most comments was for a Vicar who has energy and a charisma that would make new people want to come to Church. We have lost virtually every young person, including the six teenagers who were confirmed two years ago! The Sunday Club petered out and, when we had more than half the Sundays with no children, it was closed (but some helpers are still around).

Awareness of the financial and work pressures that families are under. Possibly offer occasional services with different timings

As noted earlier, the Survey responses identified that we must renew relationships with the Primary School and replies were aware they have not made us welcome. We are willing to lead Assemblies, give out 'Moving On' booklets and help RE classes, as both the Vicar and Parish Evangelist did in the past. The responses suggest we should develop the Harvest Festival and the Christmas Tree Festival run by the PTA and Parish Council in St. Andrew's.

It was felt that the numbers of men attending church had suffered as well and we need to re-start the Men's Breakfast and this may lead to a Men's Pub Night. There may be helpers available for an evening Youth Group as well.

A stronger pastoral care system is needed in Colnbrook.

What old activities should we seek to improve or abandon?

Only about half of the responses offered an opinion for this question and none of our current activities were identified as unwanted. The responses that were positive repeated the above - needing a vibrant church with activities for all ages to meet current needs with a Children, youth and family ministry, better advertising our special Festivals with invitations, posters and social media. Our diversity showed with one suggestion for an 8am Communion and using the old traditional BCP service format while others suggested developing youth in a music group to support differing forms of worship and using technology more, to attract younger participants. It was felt that the numbers of men attending church has shrunk as well due to Covid and we had a need to re-start the Men's Breakfast and this may lead to renewing Men's Pub Night.

Why would a Vicar want to move to our village?

The majority said our new Vicar would enjoy the numerous village activities with the friendly, caring community. We are in a lovely area and opinions said we offer a good Vicarage and garden. We are well positioned for country walks, many being beside the Thames or lakes and plenty of water and land-based sports opportunities.

Is there anything else our next Vicar should know?

People here high-lighted the challenges that they feel are particular to our Churches.

1. Difficult finances, with congregational giving that struggles to meet our Parish share.
2. There will be amazing support from two hard working PCCs and committed parish members and it could be easier with better teamwork.
3. Differing demographics bring differing challenges:- the complexity of the villages with multi-racial and several religions plus pensioners and children, wealthy, poor, Romanies, traditional versus evangelical needs, etc. while basic pastoral needs are the same.
4. The Wraysbury School's challenge in trying to get a good working relationship supporting each other and to improve its OFSTED rating
5. Flexibility needed to cope with several distinct forms of worship in the Parishes.
6. The challenge of two open Churchyards managing funerals, cremations, burials, internment of ashes, monuments, fees, etc.
7. It will be hard work – they are very busy parishes!
8. Getting used to the planes – it takes a week! There is less noise over Wraysbury and more in Horton and Colnbrook but worse in other parts of the Deanery (although the A380 planes appear louder as they have a slow ascent rate, but are only about 5 a day.)

RECEIPTS FOR YEAR 2022

GENERAL FUND

PAYMENTS FOR YEAR 2022

code	UNRESTRICTED:		code	
101	Covenants & gift aid	0.00	1001 to 1004	Grants & charities (850.00)
102	Income tax recovered (1593.27)	1278.53		Historic Churches
103	Planned giving / envelopes (4595.75)	3038.17		Other charities
104	Collections at services (1159.88)	1544.79	2001	Diocesan Share (8750.00)
105	Gift days / Donations (2550.98)	3194.00	2002 to 2004	Clergy Expenses
				Priest's expenses (453.89)
201 & 202	Grants & legacies	841.00	2005 & 2006	Upkeep of Church
	ODBF Dev fund (603.00)	125.00		insurances (3958.44)
203	Fund Raising (0.00)	20380.59		gas/water/electricity (1990.26)
301 & 302	Investment income - share sale	3097.00	2007	Upkeep of Services (285.87)
		299.80	2008	Churchyard
401 to 404	Ancillary Trading	0.00		Strimming Current Year
	fees paid to PCC (3651.00)	3631.22		Strimming Previous Year
500	VAT recovery (0.00)	0.00	2009 to 2011	Trading
601 & 602	Insurance claims & other income (0.00)	0.00		Drone Photos & Milisc
	Research of records (0.00)	0.00		
			2012 to 2015	Works
				Pew Runners
100(R)	Income from donors (00.00)	25000.00		church clock maintenance (78.00)
	ODBF Refund (error)	918.80		organ tune (259.00)
200 to 600 (R): Fabric - Transfer	3631.22	279.98		lightning test (70.00)
	Donation for Projector Equipment	0.00		Chubb Fire (431.03)
	Transfers from deposits(0.00)	44.00		boiler service (265.20)
	Priest travel to Crematorium (31.00)	175.00		Woodworm Treatment- CLH
	Wed'ng & fun'l deposits (200.00)	192.15		Notice Board Repair
	Collections (3rd party)	0.00		Roof Tile Repair
	Stitches Transfer (0.00)	20.00		
	Commonwealth War Graves(20.00)	30261.15	2016 & 2017	Salaries & Support Costs
		<u>64060.03</u>		Organist honorarium (1600)
				Admin Salary (1456)
				visiting organist
				Visiting Clergy
			3000 & 4000	Other Payments
				Refund Flower Clearing Deposit
				churchworkers gifts, catering (75.00)
				'assigned fees' to ODBF(1025.00)
				Deanary Share (0.00)
				Church Inspection Fund (100.00)
				Transfer Legacy to CCLA
				Transfer 3rd Party Collections
				AV Equipment Purchase
				General Admin (276.82)
				ODBF Payment in error
				918.80
				28472.96
				58361.14

BANK RECONCILIATION - current a/c	
Balance at Bank 31/12/21	2885.80
Total receipts at bank for yr. 2022	64060.03
TOTAL	66945.83
Total payments at bank for yr. 2022	58361.14
Balance at bank 31/12/22	8584.69
TOTAL	66945.83

St Andrew's Church Income and Expenditure to 31/12/2022

Expenditure	2022	Income	2022
St John's Mission	1000	Collections (Plate, Friends and Garden Party)	9281
Open Doors	1380	Stewardship	11220
Youth Mission Bolivia	1000	Gift Aid (HMRC refund from 2020)	5667
Canaan Ministries	500	Donations	36360 *
		Church fees	7409
		Annexe usage	380
		Miscellaneous	1671
Total Charitable Giving	3880		
Diocese share of Church Fees	1275		
Parish Share	33159	Total Income	71988
Deanery Share	100		
Priest's expenses	938		
Altar supplies	276		
Organ, organist fees and choir	1680		
Energy	1911		
Insurance	3374		
Fabric Maintenance	1095		
Printing and stationery	0		
Socials	45		
Churchyard	2562		
Books and resources	0		
Little Lambs	0		
Secretarial services	3760		
Miscellaneous	6423		
Total Expenditure	60478		
Excess of Income over Expenditure	11510		
Totals	71988		71988

St Thomas' Church		
Income And Expenditure Account for the		
the Year Ended 31st December, 2022		
<u>INCOME</u>		
Bank interest		120.21
M&G Dividend		3,904.17
BR Dividend		2,002.07
Stewardship		4,923.14
Stewardship in Church		57.00
Church collection Auto Pay		787.10
Collections		1,843.76
Grant		1,200.00
Donation		830.00
Fund raising		436.14
Use of Church		4,988.50
Wedding & funeral fees for Diocese		418.00
Weddings & funerals		727.10
TOTAL INCOME		22,237.19
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Bank fees	114.50	
BT Internet	175.22	
Choir	90.00	
Diocese of Oxford	8,167.62	
Energy gas & electricity	3,587.32	
Events	121.68	
Insurance	2,854.88	
Licence	210.35	
Maintenance	451.98	
Printer	1,652.36	
Running Costs	3,769.16	
Verger fee	80.00	
Vicar Expenses	727.80	
Waste	480.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(22,482.87)
<u>NET LOSS FOR THE YEAR</u>		(245.68)
I have examined the above Income and Expenditure Accounts,		
and underlying records of St Thomas' Church, Colnbrook.		
The above account is in accord with those records.		
Charles Burke		
Jefferson's Colnbrook		
12th May 2023		

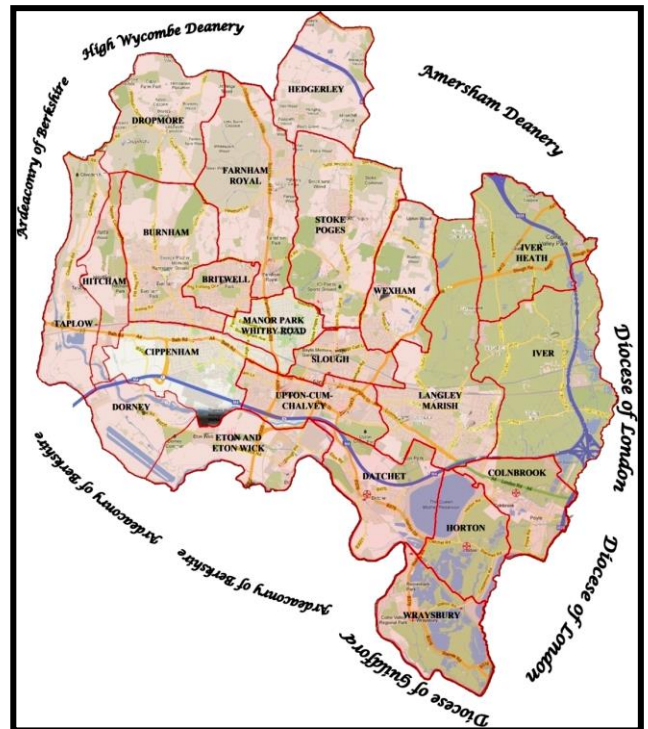
Appendix 3: Burnham and Slough Deanery

Our Deanery is in the Episcopal area led by the Bishop of Buckingham. The Buckingham area is divided into ten Deaneries: and our Deanery is divided into four geographical groups: Jubilee River group, Northern group and Eastern group and Horton and Wraysbury are in the Southern group, each group supporting the others to cover sickness, holidays and vacancies. We have the only full time Area Dean in the Diocese, supporting our clergy: one of the few full time Area Deans in England.

Slough's urban centre is surrounded by many beautiful and historic villages and towns, reflecting traditional British life (church, pub and village green). Eton College and the Olympic Rowing Lake are in the Deanery and many people commute to London.

The 26 parishes and 31 churches are currently served by 17 incumbent status clergy and 3 curates and some NSMs, working well together to, support their colleagues, praying and meeting with one another as groups. They regularly meet as a Deanery Chapter and have joint Quiet Days. We also have Standing & Finance, Mission & Pastoral, Education and Oasis committees of laity and clergy.

Finance The Deanery Parish quota in 2022 had a shortfall of £55,472 on the amount allocated to the whole Deanery. To cover this there would have to be an additional £3,000 contribution from each parish/benefice, including those paying more than 120%. The actual Deanery share paid in 2022 was £813,069 (2020; £762,509. 2021; £190,932) shows a reduction in the shortfall, but more progress is needed.



From our Area Dean

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



As full time Area Dean, I am excited about the opportunities for ministry here. The urban community in Slough is growing and diverse, with the presence of one of the largest business estates in Europe. Additionally, the opening of the Elizabeth line in November 2022, offering a non-stop service to Paddington and through the city of London, presented a significant opportunity for new people to move into the area. Despite the challenges of urban and rural life, as well as varying levels of affluence and poverty, the Burnham and Slough Deanery remains a strong, prayerful, and cohesive unity. The deanery is actively seeking to grow and develop new ways of being church in the 21st century and this is reflected in our Deanery Mission Action plan. The principles and values that underpin the deanery's determination to reach the community include:

From our Area Dean - Continued

- ❖ **Celebrating** the diversity of cultures and churchmanship present in the deanery, as well as acknowledging and celebrating both large and small successes.
- ❖ **Collaboration** is also hugely encouraged and emphasised, so that we can provide mutual support to individuals and parishes.
- ❖ Effective **Communication**, both in listening well and boldly embracing necessary changes, is valued.
- ❖ Finally, there is a commitment to align with the overall vision of the Diocese to become a more Christlike church for the sake of the world.

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

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

Revd Canon Janet Binns
Area Dean

Appendix 4: Diocese of Oxford and the Archdeaconry of Buckingham

The Diocese of Oxford serves the mission of the Church in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The Diocese comprises over 600 parishes, with over 800 churches, serving a diverse population of more than 2 million people located in all types of settings.

Due to the size and complexity of the Diocese, we have three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic and pastoral oversight for their Areas. The Rt. Revd. Dr. Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham since 2003, oversees the eastern area on the map. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is Ven. Guy Elsmore, appointed in 2016. In 2020, Revd. Canon Chris Bull was appointed Associate Archdeacon.

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

**A more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world:
contemplative, compassionate, courageous.**

Our Common Vision continues to emerge as we identify together areas of our common life where God is calling to focus. The [diocesan focal areas](#) are not a description of everything we do, but these priorities are being supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their clergy to share a vision rather than demanding a response, motivated by hope not driven by anxiety, and thereby to flourish in their ministry. It is hoped that clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will commit to this vision and encourage their benefice to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world.

