

Parish Profile for the Parish of Passenham with Old Stratford with Deanshanger



Holy Trinity Deanshanger
St Guthlac's Passenham
The Primary Church Old Stratford

This is our Parish



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St Guthlac's Passenham
The Primary Church Old Stratford



Holy Trinity Church Deanshanger
Church Lane
Deanshanger
Milton Keynes
MK19 6HG



Grade II listed
DATE LISTED: 18 May 1988
ENGLISH HERITAGE BUILDING ID: 235266



St. Guthlac's Church
Passenham
Milton Keynes
MK19 6DH



GRADE: I* 13th Century building
DATE LISTED: 17 May 1960
ENGLISH HERITAGE BUILDING ID: 235314

OUR VISION STATEMENT:
"To love and serve God, each other and our communities."

Welcome to our Parish Profile.

We hope this introduction to the parish of Passenham, with Old Stratford with Deanshanger will be helpful and challenging, that you will see our strengths and weaknesses, and will become aware of an exciting journey into the opportunities ahead.

Who we are

We currently have two congregations. The largest church, Holy Trinity, Deanshanger, is in the largest of the three main villages in the Parish. It provides informal, family-centred, charismatic, progressive worship and is appreciated by the wider community for its warm welcome. It endeavours to serve the community at large. St. Guthlac's is a beautiful, historic church in the tiny hamlet of Passenham which has just 15 houses. This provides a more traditional form of service twice a month and draws people from surrounding villages.

Where we are now

Holy Trinity Deanshanger has always been a warm and welcoming church. We are accustomed to supporting our leadership through the many individual skills and talents represented in our congregations and are praying for a new incumbent who can help us build on a legacy of service and ignite us with a fresh vision, a new 'spark' to help us live out a greater role for our churches at the heart of the communities.

Where we need to go from here

Despite the rapid growth in our communities (doubled in the past ten years with 2600 homes within the Parish boundary), our congregations do not reflect this increase. With a stronger organisational structure and recruitment of fresh insights, we would hope to be more strategic in our outreach and service, alongside developing a depth of personal discipleship that will refresh and encourage the regular members of the congregation, and engage and inspire new members to join our church family.

Our Challenges and Opportunities

Our greatest challenges

While there are many families represented in our Deanshanger congregation, we recognise that some are relatively young in faith and need strong teaching and good discipleship provision. Tithing, commitment and regular giving in these circumstances is an understandable challenge.

Many of the more 'spiritually mature' have been in service to the congregation for a number of years and pray that this new chapter in the life of the churches will help nurture upcoming leaders and instil energy, fresh vigour and renewed vision.

The workers are few; however, our heart remains to serve the Lord in our congregations and the communities at large. As we look towards new leadership, we seek someone who can encourage and sustain us through good teaching and strong spiritual and practical guidance, and will encourage us to reach out into our communities.

Our greatest opportunities

Our greatest opportunity is the many hundreds of increasingly diverse and 'in need' people in our parish. In recent years we have developed stronger links with the schools in the villages and worked hard to increase our profile as a family-friendly church.

Though few of our endeavours have led to great influx in number, our dedicated members still share a passion for service and our new incumbent will be supported by experienced, prayerful, spiritually mature individuals who retain an outward-looking vision and great hope for the future.

What we hope our new incumbent can offer

We are looking for a person of deep and infectious personal faith, with vision and passion, one who can provide strong leadership to a congregation prayerfully and earnestly seeking God's wisdom and guidance; one who can help us build and refresh our members.

Our New Church Leader

We are looking for a strong leader with a servant heart who can refresh and inspire our congregations to grow as followers of Jesus so that we might be a blessing to our communities.

| ATTRIBUTES | ESSENTIAL | DESIRABLE |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Spiritual | Spirit-filled facilitator committed to nurturing the spiritual gifts of all. | |
| | Personally inspired by the love of Jesus Christ and growing in faith through their personal devotions. | |
| Theological | Seeks to live out scripture faithfully and prayerfully, is open and responsive to the Holy Spirit, with a passion for bringing Christ to others. | At ease in various worship styles, formal and informal |
| | Inspirational teacher/preacher who is able to communicate the Bible faithfully in a relevant and contemporary style. | |
| | Evangelical in theology and committed to every member ministry and leadership, including the use of the gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit. | |
| Vision | Passionate leader who can inspire, enable, grow and mentor new leaders. | |
| | Open to prophetic vision with a commitment to prayerfully follow God's Guidance. | |
| | Ability to implement successful vision/intentional strategy in a church context. | |
| Interpersonal | A leader with empathy for the church family who can support through pastoral care and oversight; minister to a diverse range of people, faiths and traditions and ages; and someone who has a heart for young people and children. | |
| | Ability to maintain values of openness, honesty, and integrity throughout all levels of ministry in our churches. An awareness of personal strengths and weaknesses and a commitment to team ministry. | |
| Community and Mission | Mission minded and evangelism focused - someone with a heart for the lost, passionate about seeing them saved and disciplined. | |
| | A heart for and experience of partnering and working with other local churches and organisations. | |
| Managerial and Financial | Ability to manage and work collaboratively with a dynamic team of staff and volunteers. | |
| | Understanding of the issues of Parish finances, embracing biblical teaching on giving. | |
| IT Skills | Computer literate with workable knowledge of social media and internet as communication mediums. | |
| General | Has a valid driving licence and available vehicle as transport for duties around and outside the parish. | |

Sunday, weekday and special services and the normal level of attendance.

Holy Trinity

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| 1 st and 3 rd | Sundays | Holy Communion | 2 nd | Sunday | All Age Worship |
| 4 th | Sunday | Morning Worship | 5 th | Sunday | Free Worship |

Average Attendance: 30-40 adults, 15 children.

Special Services

Remembrance Sunday (joint service HT and St. G) with members of the British Legion, plus Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies.

Remembering Loved Ones, Back to church Sunday, Christmas and Easter services all have an increased congregational attendance in both churches.

There are no regular weekday services except for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at Holy Trinity.

A new initiative aimed at families organised by our current Children's Worker is the introduction of an informal afternoon service to cater for those who are unable to attend on Sunday mornings. It is held approx. 8 times a year at 4pm - usually linked to Christian Festivals and special occasions e.g. Mothering Sunday – all services offer refreshments afterwards. We have also held a Café style service from time to time.

Facilities

We have a well equipped music group area with fixed and radio microphones. The words of our worship songs, lessons etc are relayed via a projector onto a large screen at the front of the church.

The church room and cloisters provide us with a large meeting area, creche room (equipped with sound system to relay the service), three teaching rooms, a prayer room, office and disabled toilet, plus a large outdoor paved area.

St Guthlac's

Services of Holy Communion are held at 9 am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

The congregation is friendly and welcoming and enjoys a more traditional Anglican Holy Communion service, using the Common Worship Format, this being held twice a month.

Those who attend enjoy the quietness and tranquillity of the location, and style of worship.

Quote: "One of the nicest things is that it's a lovely atmosphere – even though it's small.

We are all one. It is a 'warm' church". Hymns are played through an electronic system, there is no organ or organist.

Average attendance: 12 - 15 adults

Haven Court

1st Sunday of the month 3.30pm in winter, 6.30pm in summer. An hour's Songs of Praise gathering at the sheltered housing residents' lounge with readings, hymns and prayers.

Life in our Churches

Holy Trinity Deanshanger

Our children's groups are a strong focus and are led by dedicated members of the congregation. Attendance varies but we try to cater for all age ranges and we usually see an influx following our very popular Summer Holiday Club, which has been a valuable part of village life over the past 20 plus years.

Whilst we are currently 'challenged' for musicians, contemporary style music is an integral part of our expressions of worship at Holy Trinity. We are hoping to recruit new members to the music team who can continue to facilitate 'spirit-led' worship.



Cell groups and a Ladies' Bible Study meet during the week and we have a small, but thriving, group of young people 'Y Go Mad', who meet for regular study and fellowship and often join with other groups from across the diocese. Church-tots for Mums and pre-school children meet weekly. A Men's Fellowship Group hold a monthly meeting in the Sports and Social Club in the village.

We work hard to participate and be a presence in the wider community activities, particularly the very popular tradition that is the Deanshanger Feast, held each October. We are also involved in a variety of other church and overseas partnerships and events (New Wine India, Tear Fund, Compassion, World Vision, Bridgebuilder in Schools, New Wine, Spring Harvest, Soul Survivor, Bishop's Bible Days and Deanery Training Days among others.)

We are pleased to have been able to offer an Alpha Course each year for the last ten years and have also run Marriage Courses and other outreach and discipleship courses. A small number of our congregation support a regular 'Songs of Praise' service in the village's sheltered housing complex and we facilitate regular flower/arts festivals and concerts in the parish, particularly at our sister church, St Guthlac's, in Passenham.

St Guthlac's Passenham

The congregation and wider community benefits from the work of the Friends of St. Guthlac's, a fund raising group that helps finance the everyday running costs of this historic church by organising events and concerts, open days and flower festivals, Carols by Candlelight etc. supported by members of the congregation. They are trying to resurrect traditional bell ringing, after the bells were re-furbished in 2016. The Friends team is currently working with the PCC to have a toilet and kitchen fitted in order to facilitate more events and ensure the future of this ancient church building.

Parish Communication

Though we would rate our social media presence as having some room for improvement we have a legacy of consistent communication in the form of a weekly news-sheet within the churches and a monthly newsletter for the wider community. The newsletter 'AD' presents parish and diocesan information, alongside events and advertisements for local services.

Supporting our vicar...

We currently have a lay reader, a retired clergyman, a Church Administrator, Treasurer, two Church Wardens, a PCC Secretary and Committee, a team of Vergers, a Children's and Families' worker and many other volunteer support roles.

Church Officers and PCC Members



Barry Ratcliffe
Churchwarden/
PCC



Brian Edwards
Churchwarden/
PCC



Denise Matthews
Lay Reader &
Church
Administrator/
PCC Secretary



Andrew Fisher
Treasurer/PCC



Catherine Ratcliffe
PCC/Deanery synod rep



Jennie Dott
PCC/Deanery synod rep.



Roy
Foscett



Paul
Tucker



Annette
Mulcahy



Paul
Horton



Frances
Hobbs



Dominic
Matthews

PCC members

Many regular members also take active roles within the service and children are particularly encouraged to take part.

Many groups make use of our church room and facilities

Church-tots group



Y Go Mad (Youth Go Make a Difference)
for ten year olds upwards



Rainbows and Brownies



'Polymnia' a choir who use the Church
Room for practice.

Card and Craft Club







**Bridgebuilder
Trust sharing the
Good News in
local schools**

**Christmas and
Easter Cracked**

**‘Mouse’
programme**

Hope MK

Holiday Club

Card Making Club

Churchtots group

Scouts and Cubs

Brownies and Rainbows

Friends of Deanshanger Library

Friends of St. Guthlac’s

Bowls Club

**Deanshanger
Football teams**

Litter Picking

RSPB

Women’s Institute

Friendship Club

Members of our church involved in the wider community

Parish Council

Residents Association

Brook Cleaning

Allotment Society

**New Life Charity
for Disabled Children**

Heritage Society

Street Ministry

Food Bank

Men’s Group meeting monthly

Deanshanger Feast

Deanshanger Library Knit and

Natter

Pocket Park Volunteers

**‘Open the Book’
activities and
assemblies in
Deanshanger
Primary School.**

**Homelessness in Milton
Keynes and the provision
for them including
12 steps programme
for addiction**

Our Rectory



Set in its own fenced grounds, the 4 bedroomed house has a large garden with mature apple and plum trees. There is a single garage on the drive, and a covered storage area adjacent to the utility room.

The ground floor has kitchen, dining room, study, lounge and cloakroom; the first floor has 4 bedrooms, and a bathroom.

The Rectory sits right on the Parish Boundary and is separated from the Church and Churchyard by an ancient 'Drover's Road'. Both of the Churchyards in Deanshanger and Passenham are 'closed'. The 'Burial Ground' adjacent to the Deanshanger Churchyard is a Parish Burial Ground/Cemetery.

Life in our Communities

The increased housing developments in our Parish have attracted those who appreciate a rural location and a 'village feel', alongside the benefits of a growing suburb of an exciting new city. The majority of the 2600 homes are owner occupied by families, although there are a small number of starter homes and residences for the elderly. Recent years have seen an increase in the number of rental properties.

The parish offers good pre-school, primary and secondary education; small supermarkets; post office; convenience stores; pharmacy; take-away restaurants; a thriving library in Deanshanger; Community Centres; Sports and Social club; Public Houses and Conservative club.

Doctors and Dentists surgeries can be found in Stony Stratford and Milton Keynes.

We enjoy good relations with our Methodist friends at the chapel, just across the road from Holy Trinity.

Deanshanger and Old Stratford Community Centres offer a wide range of activities for all ages.

Schools in the Parish

The church enjoys strong links with Deanshanger Primary School. Our Families Outreach team is regularly invited into the school to hold assemblies and special lessons.

At Christmas, the church hosts the schools productions, when parents and children spill out from our pews and put the skills of our refreshments team to the test! This is a great opportunity to offer a warm and informal welcome to families who don't normally come through the doors of the church and to let them know about our Christmas services.



Old Stratford Primary School

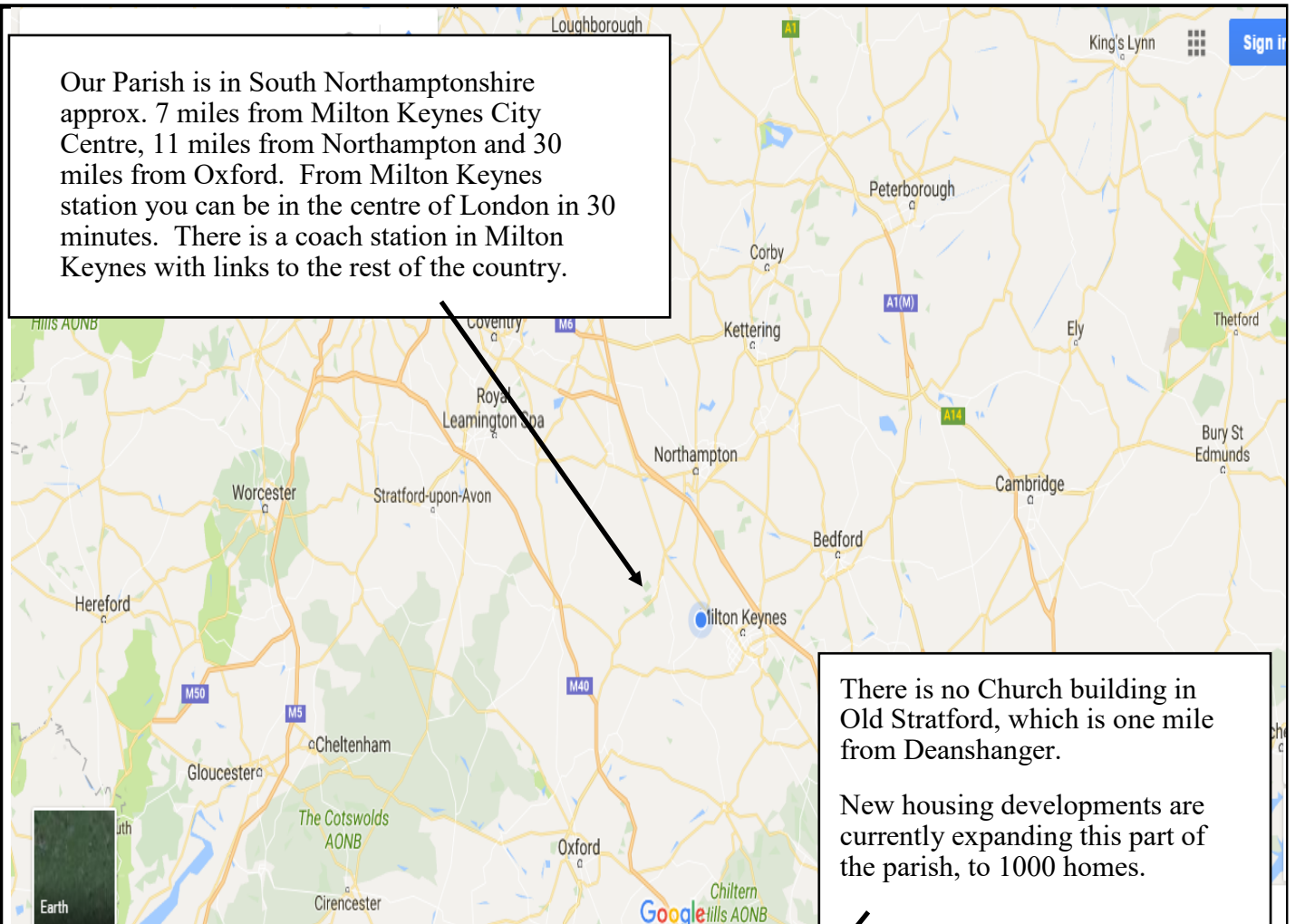
Our Children and Young People's Worker has been forging links with the school and these continue to be developed.

Elizabeth Woodville South — our secondary school which is part of an academy system with Elizabeth Woodville North in Roade, and Sponne in Towcester. The three centres share facilities and specialisms for their one thousand plus students.



Akeley Wood, Swanbourne and Thornton Schools offer Private education. The Royal Latin School in Buckingham offers a grammar school education.

Our Parish is in South Northamptonshire approx. 7 miles from Milton Keynes City Centre, 11 miles from Northampton and 30 miles from Oxford. From Milton Keynes station you can be in the centre of London in 30 minutes. There is a coach station in Milton Keynes with links to the rest of the country.

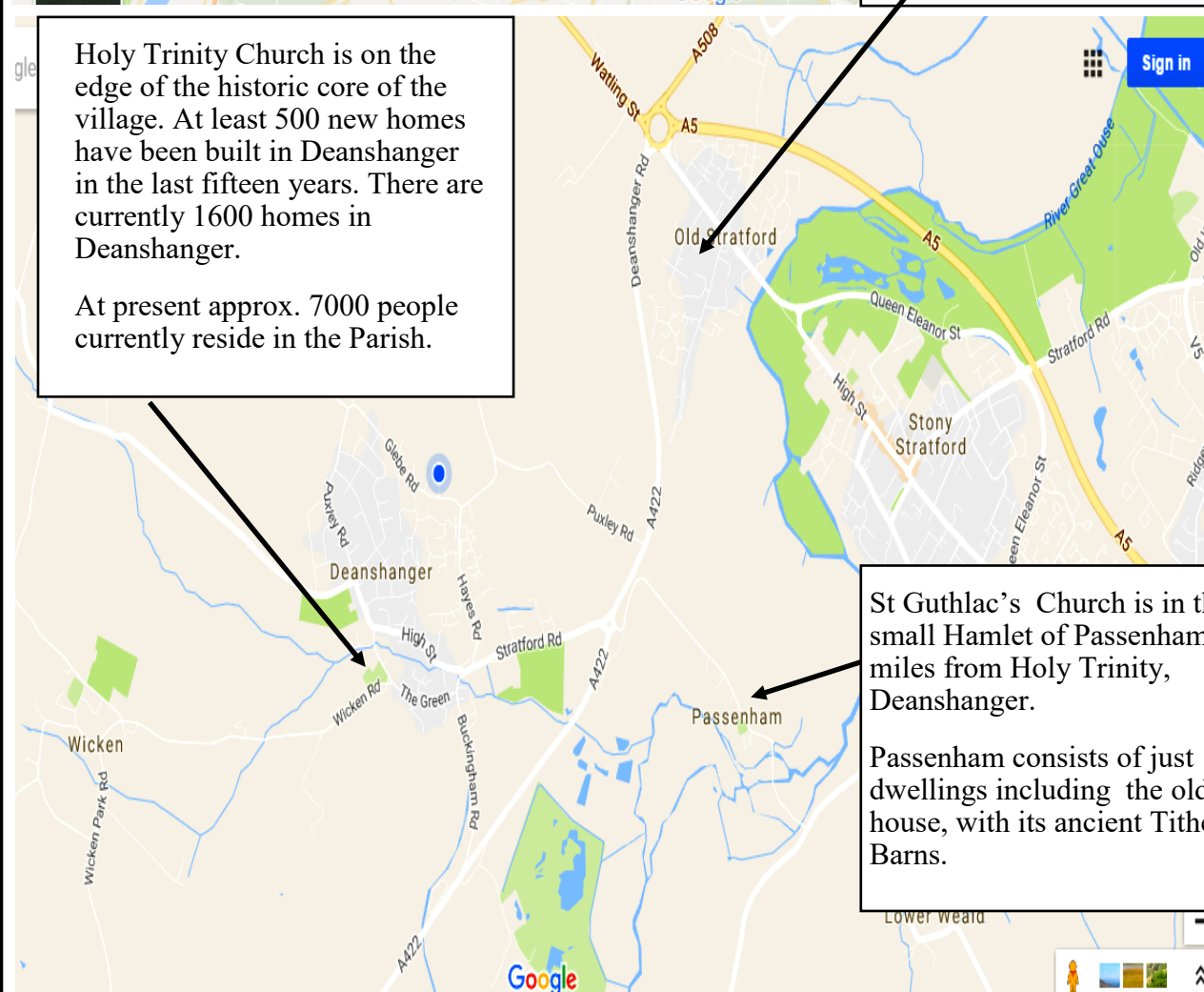


There is no Church building in Old Stratford, which is one mile from Deanshanger.

New housing developments are currently expanding this part of the parish, to 1000 homes.

Holy Trinity Church is on the edge of the historic core of the village. At least 500 new homes have been built in Deanshanger in the last fifteen years. There are currently 1600 homes in Deanshanger.

At present approx. 7000 people currently reside in the Parish.



St Guthlac's Church is in the small Hamlet of Passenham 0.5 miles from Holy Trinity, Deanshanger.

Passenham consists of just 15 dwellings including the old manor house, with its ancient Tithe Barns.

Views of the Parish



Some of the 1970s houses in and around Glebe Road



Some of the new housing on the site of the old Oxide Works

Some of the more established houses in Little London



Some of the more established houses in the conservation area near the Village Green



Community Centre, Library near the High Street shops and takeaway restaurants

Sports and Social Club
Home of the Deanshanger Colts football teams and the Church Men's Fellowship monthly meeting



Old Stratford Community Centre - the housing in Old Stratford mirrors that of Deanshanger



Passenham Mill Cottages and Manor House



Places of interest nearby



The historic town of Stony Stratford is only two miles away. The old town used to be an important staging post for coaches travelling from London to Birmingham.

The two most important historically are 'The Cock and The Bull' supposedly where the 'Cock and Bull' story originated.



The town has lovely walks along the banks of the Great Ouse and across to the Grand Union Canal.



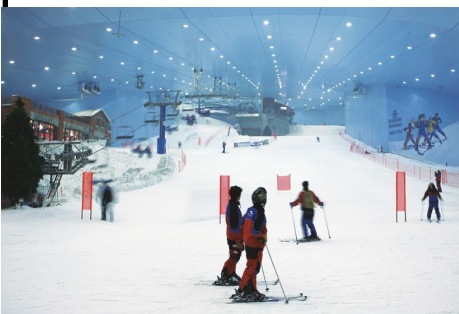
Stony Stratford is also the start of the Milton Keynes 'Redway', 270 kms of cycle paths that can take you to all parts of the 'city'.



The vibrant growing shopping centre of Milton Keynes is just seven miles away.

Other attractions, include theatre, cinemas, art gallery, museum, ice-skating rink, ten pin bowling, skiing, football stadium, and a multitude of restaurants and other entertainment venues, sport, music, dance, equestrian, song, and cultural activities to suit every need.

All are within easy reach of the village.



Milton Keynes Bowl is a big attraction for music events as is the world famous 'The Stables' music venue to the south of the MK. With several large lakes, Milton Keynes offers a multitude of water-sports and is celebrated for its beautiful parkland and open green space.

Our Parish is equally well-placed to enjoy the more traditional county towns of Northampton, sixteen miles to the East and Buckingham, only seven miles to the West.

Beautiful rural England is right on our doorstep.

For Motorsport fans Silverstone is just twenty minutes away. On Grand Prix day the congregation of Holy Trinity concludes Sunday fellowship watching the Red Arrows display overhead!



Stowe Landscape Gardens designed by Capability Brown are just ten miles away to the West, with its world famous gardens, monuments and of course, the school.



On the Buckingham Road just on the edge of the Parish, the 'Kingfisher Country Club' hosts a full size 9 hole golf course, fishing lake, beauty parlour, gymnasium and a 34 room hotel.

The country club is a popular venue for wedding receptions and 'special' parties.

Just opposite to the Country club on the main road is the Pasturefields Service Station and the Milton Keynes Hotel; with hand car wash and Indian restaurant.

You will always find a warm welcome at the 'Beehive' sitting just on the edge of the village green in Deanshanger.





Are we the Parish for you?

We are looking for a strong and inspirational leader with a servant-heart.

We are earnestly praying for someone who will help re-vitalise us with a fresh vision and energise us so that we might serve our communities, and one another, as we continue to grow as followers of Jesus.

- Appendices:
1. History of St Guthlac's Church and Quinquennial report.
 2. History of Holy Trinity Church and Quinquennial report.
- for further information and/or copies of these documents
please contact barry.ratcliffe@outlook.com