



DIOCESE of OXFORD

A Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world

United Benefice of Farnham Royal with Hedgerley Profile



Worshipping Jesus, Growing Together and Reaching Others

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FOREWORD

from the Archdeacon of Buckingham

The benefice of Farnham Royal and Hedgerley is an interesting and challenging post for a priest who is community-focused with a heart for mission. The vacancy has been a time of reflection and opportunity, and the churches have made some significant steps forward in this time. They have developed a Mission Action Plan in line with the diocesan vision to be a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world, and they are willing to work towards making their vision a reality. The lay leadership team within the benefice has grown and been strengthened, and the recently started drop-in coffee morning at Costa is thriving. Planning permission has been granted to redevelop the Brian Jubb Hall, adjacent to St John's Church Farnham Common, and to the current Rectory. The project should be self funding. These plans have been paused during the vacancy and it would be encouraging and helpful to see the plans realised in the near future.



There is huge enthusiasm for mission and growth in these churches and much willingness to change. A primary focus for their new incumbent will be to focus their passion and to help them work together to realise their vision for the future. The successful candidate will have experience in leadership and change management and will have a heart for enabling strong and committed lay leadership to flourish.

For a priest committed to the diocesan vision of becoming a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's World – more contemplative, more compassionate, and more courageous – this is an exciting challenge to harness the energy of these three churches and focus them for the furtherance of God's mission in these communities. I look forward to seeing how the new Rector will take things forward here in a new and positive direction.

Ven Guy Elsmore
Archdeacon of Buckingham

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in our United Benefice and taking the time to find out more.

*We are two parishes and three churches
united in our desire to seek a new Rector who will lead us,
through God's Holy Spirit, to grow numerically
and in a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ and his Word.*

The Farnhams and Hedgerley are in a convenient location just north of the industrial town of Slough, with its easy motorway access to London, Birmingham, Bristol and other major cities. We are also surrounded by woodland and forest, including the extensive and beautiful area of Burnham Beeches.

We have close links with the Church of England School in Farnham Royal, where church members are active as foundation governors. We believe our Benefice, with its enthusiastic and growing lay team offers an exciting opportunity for the person God sends us. Excited by the future and potential of our spiritual family, we look forward with open hearts to welcoming our new leader.

We invite you to read and enjoy our parish profile. If you'd like to discuss the post further, please contact our Area Dean (01753 681432) or the Archdeacon of Buckingham (01865 208266) for a further conversation.

With very best wishes from the Churchwardens:



Ruth Brogden
St Mary's, Hedgerley



Ruth Millson
St John's Farnham Common



Prue Neale
St John's, Farnham Common



Jerry Houdret
St Mary's Farnham Royal



Liz Glover
St Mary's Farnham Royal

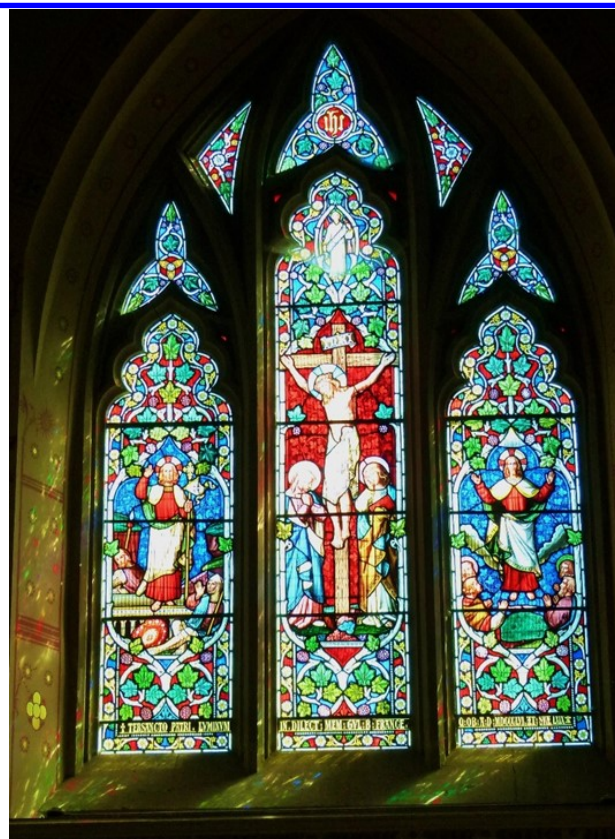
OUR VISION

We have used the vacancy as an opportunity to consider, as a United Benefice, where we need to be going and how we need to change.

As a result of our work together, we have formed a Mission Action Plan (see page 6) which we believe recognises our needs and suggests ways in which we can address them.

To increase the Kingdom in our communities, we know we have to grow in faith as individuals and as a church family. Already we have started to take action on this.

We seek to work with our new Rector to widen our understanding of how best to build on these initial, positive steps, allowing us to move forward and engage further with our communities.



We seek to:

Value our diversity and better manage our differences by:

- ♦ being courageous
- ♦ working together to face and engage with the challenges and opportunities outlined in our Mission Action Plan
- ♦ reaching out to each other and the community in a variety of ways

Develop our appeal to the young and those with young families by:

- ♦ offering a wide style of worship for all age groups
- ♦ supporting and encouraging our children's activities, reinstating the weekly toddler group
- ♦ building on our strong links with St Mary's Farnham Royal Church School and developing links with other schools

Appoint a new incumbent to :

- ♦ inspire and enable us to use our gifts
- ♦ recognise and engage the faith and commitment within the benefice

OUR MISSION ACTION PLAN

Our new Mission Action Plan (MAP) is based in the diocesan Common Vision to be a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world.

This MAP outlines our aims and aspirations for the ways in which we follow the three fundamental principles of being contemplative, compassionate and courageous.

CONTEMPLATIVE

Rejoice at all times. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5 vv16-18

Learning to be with God as individuals through:

- ◆ personal prayer, times of stillness, reflection and Bible study
- ◆ prayer groups, quiet days and retreats
- ◆ developing and encouraging prayer triplets

Learning to be with God and grow together by:

- ◆ establishing an "enquirers' group"
- ◆ developing new home groups, Bible study and discipleship groups
- ◆ encouraging use of online resources for discipleship

Learning to be with God through worship by:

- ◆ offering a wide variety of worship
- ◆ Openness to the Holy Spirit's power

COMPASSIONATE

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25 v40

Engaging with our community by:

- ◆ establishing a benefice pastoral care team to offer pastoral care through home support, practical help, hospital visits and transport
- ◆ exploring community needs and existing links with community organisations and activities
- ◆ investigating different meeting venues

Developing our Christian Mission and Outreach by:

- ◆ supporting our Mission Partners and charities, such as Tearfund and Toilet Twinning
- ◆ organising social events open to the whole community through our Benefice Buzz programme
- ◆ communicating effectively and well with our communities

COURAGEOUS

I hereby command you: be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1 v9

Being courageous by:

- ◆ growing in faith and confidence to find our inner courage

Responding to the challenges and opportunities of the Vacancy by:

- ◆ growing in unity between our churches and two parishes
- ◆ growing the kingdom through a new focus on mission
- ◆ embracing the opportunity to develop our new hall project
- ◆ developing lay ministry

Having the courage to do the difficult and to be different by:

- doing the difficult; supporting the lost and the broken
- ◆ being proud in the outward expression of our faith; using personal Invitation
- ◆ investing our resources boldly not hoarding them in fear
- ◆ facing up to change or decline



OUR NEW RECTOR

We are looking for someone who:

in Leadership:

- ◇ will relish the opportunity to facilitate change
- ◇ has strong communication skills and is able to convince people of God's plan for developing our benefice
- ◇ can inspire, develop and lead members of the church in lay ministry and joint action within the benefice
- ◇ can enable spiritual and numerical growth

in Worship:

- ◇ is comfortable with a range of worship styles
- ◇ is keen to engage children, young people and families and encourage them to join in the life of the church
- ◇ can work with established traditions whilst developing opportunities for worship designed to reach out to our communities

in Preaching and Teaching:

- ◇ can teach with inspiration and clarity
- ◇ will minister to the existing congregation and the wider community, identifying opportunities for spiritual development

In Community:

- ◇ will help us to engage with local organisations, especially those not currently involved in the church
- ◇ will help us to build a more collaborative benefice that demonstrates God's love
- ◇ will guide us in our work and partnership with local churches
- ◇ will encourage us to build on and continue to develop our links with our church school and other local schools

The person we find to fulfil this role will:

- ◇ have a deep and mature personal faith
- ◇ be a prayerful, spiritual leader
- ◇ be collaborative
- ◇ be compassionate and empathetic
- ◇ be enthusiastic and resilient and have a sense of humour
- ◇ be keen to be visible in the local communities
- ◇ care about people and God



We offer:

- ◇ a welcoming church family, prayer, friendship and fellowship
- shared commitment to meeting the challenges identified
- encouragement and financial support to take annual retreats and opportunities for personal and professional learning and development
- ◇ a modern, refurbished Rectory
- ◇ an active community with excellent transport links

OUR BENEFICE

Who We Are

The United Benefice of Farnham Royal with Hedgerley consists of two parishes, each with its own Parochial Church Council. The parish of Farnham Royal has two churches: St. Mary the Virgin, Farnham Royal and St. John the Evangelist Farnham Common. The parish of Hedgerley has one church: St. Mary the Virgin.

The communities are very different. While Hedgerley is a small, rural community, Farnham Royal is an edge-of-large-town demographic and Farnham Common spans both rural and suburban. Our churches mirror this diversity and all have a slightly different style and character. Each church has a congregation of regular worshippers, who are faithful and committed, and a group of hard-working volunteers, who help with maintenance of the buildings and grounds and support the smooth running of services. United Benefice services are well-attended by members of all three churches.

Many churchgoers also take part in community activities and have wide connections throughout the whole benefice area.

All three church buildings are well maintained and in good condition. In both parishes finances are sound, with efficiently managed procedures and up-to-date accounts.

Hedgerley's strength lies in its thriving sense of community, which manifests itself in practical support from local people, who are not regular churchgoers.

They are encouraged to participate in church life by including them in festival services throughout the year, such as asking them to read lessons at Christmas services.



St John's Church has a vibrant choral tradition, which includes choir performances, led by a music director who is the parish organist.

Church members work well together and the majority are from the immediate area. The regular congregation is usually the largest of the three churches.



At **St. Mary's Farnham Royal** a re-ordering programme was recently completed, increasing the size of the vestry. This followed other major restoration projects and was marked by a service of re-dedication by the Bishop of Oxford.

St Mary's C of E primary school, where church members from the parish are active as governors, and clergy participate in school life and take assemblies, is directly opposite the church.



MINISTRY SUPPORT

Associate Clergy

The recent pattern of ministry within the benefice has been shared between the stipendiary Rector and two associate priests, Rev'd Jan Clark, and Rev'd Gordon Briggs. Both priests have taken service regularly during the vacancy and both have Permission to Officiate (PtO).



Rev'd Gordon Briggs



Rev'd Jan Clark

Laity

During the Vacancy we have seen an encouraging response to the need for increased lay support for the clergy. There is a growing number of people who are capable, willing and trained to lead services. More people are still coming forward to volunteer and take on new roles. In addition, we have also increased the number of Lay Assistants. Intercessions and Bible readings are undertaken by members of the congregations. We hope to continue to build on, resource and encourage lay ministry involvement.

Benefice administration

The central administration and communications point for all church activities is the Benefice Office at St. John's Church, with a part-time paid Benefice Administrator, who keeps the benefice diary, produces the weekly bulletins, arranges rotas and refers telephone messages to the clergy.

NEW HALL OPPORTUNITY

United Benefice Hall

Our 1950s Church Hall, adjacent to St John's Church, is now in need of replacement and upgrading.

An exciting proposition to build a new United Benefice hall on the site has been explored by a small committee with the Archdeacon and David Mason, Director of Glebe Land and Buildings at Oxford Diocese.

The approved idea is to sell part of the lands surrounding St John's, with a view to building a new hall to facilitate the life of the benefice. This would have more space, updated features, including a "drop in" area, and a welcoming entrance to the Church.

Outline planning consent for this potential project has been granted, and the economics have been reviewed, producing a no cost project possibility to the United Benefice.

The committee have put the project on hold until a new incumbent joins us and helps steer us to what they would like to see.

The Brian Jubb Hall, in need of replacement, is a busy centre for celebrations, talks entertainments, coffee after church, meetings and gatherings, the Montessori school—and the summer fete.



OUR CHURCHES

St Mary the Virgin, Farnham Royal

The parish church of St Mary's Farnham Royal, once at the centre of a larger parish, now stands close to its southern boundary.

Congregation

Regular worshippers are mostly in the older age group and have a strong fellowship. This congregation is diverse in background, reflecting the demographic within the wider Slough area.

Children and Young Families

The monthly Family Praise service continues to attract young families, but the attendance of children at other Sunday services has fallen away. The mid-week toddler group, linked to St Mary's School, has temporarily ceased. There are plans to revive it.

St Mary's C of E School holds services in the church and the children participate in some special services and events.

Special Events

Successful events of recent years, which have brought people in from the general community, include a flower show for the Queen's diamond jubilee and an Open Day for her 90th birthday celebrations.



The Building

There has been a Christian community on this site for nearly 900 years and features from an early Norman structure are still in place. The present structure dates from 1868.

In 2003 the church was redecorated and pews were replaced with upholstered chairs. From 2009, imaginative fund-raising campaigns, to enable the repair of the unique turret clock, as well as the re-tiling of the tower roof, drew the three churches together and involved the wider community. Finally, the vestry was enlarged and re-furbished, creating a noise-attenuated space suitable for children's activities during service times. New toilets were installed, and an efficient sound system was put in place.

The Churchyard

It is a closed churchyard, with a complete plan of all graves in the records. Maintenance is carried out by the civil parish council, with an agreed programme of works for the future.

Hedgerley Churchwarden signs tiles for St Mary's Farnham Royal restoration campaign.



St John the Evangelist, Farnham Common

Built just over one hundred years ago, as the population of Farnham Common began to increase, St John's is now at the hub of the parish and is conveniently located close to the centre of the village. The Benefice Office is based at St John's and the Brian Jubb Hall, where many events are held, is in the church grounds.

Congregation

Church members work well together and the majority are from the immediate area. The regular congregation is usually the largest of the three churches. There is strong lay participation.

A major strength is the adult robed choir, led by the United Benefice organist and administrator. The choir provides high standard choral performances at church festivals and other events, and supports the smaller choirs at Hedgerley and Farnham Royal, when needed, for weddings or joint United Benefice services.

St John's has a fine organ and a grand piano. It is sometimes used by other musical groups, who appreciate the building's favourable acoustics.

Special Events

The annual parish fete is held in the church grounds. This successful event is a major fundraiser and also brings in members of the wider community.

As at St Mary's, St John's has staged popular and well attended flower shows.

Flower festival display



The Building

The Edwardian interior is intact and the building is well maintained. A new heating and lighting system was installed in 2016 and a new sound system is planned for the near future.

Other Buildings - The Brian Jubb Hall

Church meetings, talks, social events, community parties and adult classes, are held here and it is the venue for the Montessori Nursery School throughout the week.

The Churchyard

The ground is not consecrated and provides green space around the church, as well as an opportunity for possible development to improve and enlarge the life of the churches in the Farnhams.

Summer Fete and concert



St Mary the Virgin, Hedgerley

There has been a church on the site for 800 years and the roll of ministers, dating back to Norman times, mounted on an interior wall, gives a sense of the history and continuity of the community.

St Mary's is set on a hillock above the old village in a quintessentially English village church setting. The location, although idyllic, requires a stout heart to walk up to it.

Congregation

The loyal, elderly congregation is the smallest of the three churches but has a real heart for working together for the community, and links between the church and the village are strong.

Festival Services

St Mary's has been successful in engaging with local 'occasional attenders' and young families by encouraging their participation in festival services. The children's palm parade, complete with real donkeys, is a great draw, and at Harvest Thanksgiving, 'guest appearances' by a cow and chickens has also been popular with children.

The 1st Hedgerley Scouts is one of the largest in Buckinghamshire. Though not a church sponsored troop, there is a good relationship between the two, and the Scouts and their parents turn out in force for the Remembrance Sunday services, filling the church to capacity.

Scouts' Remembrance Day parade



The Church Building

The people of St Mary's are understandably very fond of their beautiful parish church, which was restored in 2001. The current building, of flint construction, was designed by Gothic revival architect Benjamin Ferrey, and dates from 1852.

Other Buildings

Hedgerley Memorial Hall and the Scout Hut/Anstey Hall provide excellent facilities for church and other activities, strengthening the sense of community amongst residents and church-goers.

Churchyard

A charity called 'The Friends of St. Mary Hedgerley' has been set up to help keep the church and grounds in excellent condition.

Bordering the churchyard is Church Wood, an RSPB managed bird reserve, famed for its bluebells in spring. The area is popular with ramblers and many come through the churchyard.

Donkeys on Palm Sunday



CHURCH GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Benefice Buzz Group

The group organises a range of social events, concerts and talks aimed at church members and the wider community. Speakers have included the expedition doctor on an Everest ascent at the time of a major earthquake and the president of the RSPB.

Home Groups meet weekly, in both Farnham Common and Hedgerley for prayers and bible study.

A Pastoral Team has recently been inaugurated to provide home support and visits, hospital visits, transport and practical help as needed.

A Drop-in Coffee morning, at Costa Coffee has been started in this popular Farnham Common meeting place, with a view to reaching out to the community as a whole. Flyers giving details are distributed in local shops.

A Safari Supper is an annual fundraising event for Hedgerley church, who also put on concerts and talks to which all are invited.

A 'TLC Morning' (talk/laughter/coffee) is held monthly in a pensioner's home in Hedgerley, where all are welcome.

Other Groups with which church members have strong links are:

The Thursday Walkers—a men's group which meets weekly and takes annual trips to far-flung places.

Hedgerley Mothers' Union and WI both meet monthly and put on lively programmes of speakers and outings.

Third Age Luncheon Club has been meeting monthly for 25 years and provides a low-cost soup and sandwich lunch with entertainment in the Brian Jubb church hall.



Talk: Earthquake on Everest



Thursday Walkers Group in Lisbon

The Charles Warner Memorial Trust

Legacy of a former Rector, this fund, administered by church members, provides awards of up to £500 for young people under 25, living in the parish of Farnham Royal, to assist with travel or courses of study to further their education, or prepare them for a trade or profession.

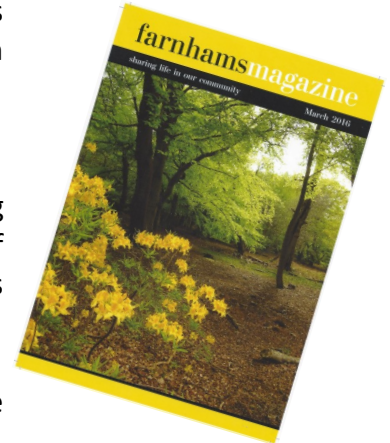
COMMUNICATION

Parish Magazines

There are two magazines, run independently, one for each of the parishes within the United Benefice. There is some overlap of content, as both publications cover some of the same ground.

Farnhams Magazine

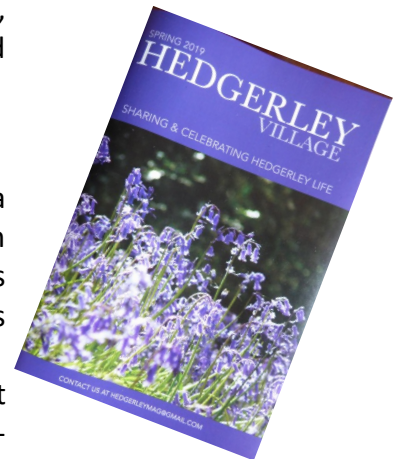
This is a lively 80-page full colour publication with the strapline 'Sharing Life in Our Community'. Produced quarterly, it contains a wide variety of articles and information on church and parish council matters, reports from community organisations and general interest features.



The magazine is owned by the Parochial Church Council, subsidised by the civil Parish Council, with the major part of the funding from advertising, and run by a team of volunteers. With a circulation of 4,000, it is professionally delivered free to 3,700 homes in the Civil Parish and distributed to shops, businesses, surgeries and the library.

Hedgerley Village Magazine

Recently revived, under a new editorial board and editor, this is also a quarterly full colour magazine of 64 pages. Owned by Hedgerley Parish Council, it has a circulation of 600 and is funded by its advertising. It is delivered free to every home in Hedgerley and Hedgerley Green, plus businesses, surgeries and libraries in the area, and is mailed to past residents. With the cover line 'Celebrating and Sharing Hedgerley Life', it contains a selection of church information, local interest features and articles focussing on the Hedgerley community.



Website: <http://www.farnhamroyalchurches.org.uk/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ubfarnhamroyalwithhedgerley

The Farnhams Community Group: This Facebook group has 2,200 active members. We have links with this group and can post church information on this page.

OUR PATTERN OF WORSHIP

During the vacancy we have made changes to our usual worship pattern:

- a United Benefice Service on the fourth Sunday of the month at each church in rotation
- introduction of lay led Sunday Morning Worship
- the temporary suspension of 8am Sunday Communion Services in the benefice.

We hope to continue with the increase in laity involvement in leading or assisting with services, but look to our new incumbent for their ideas before a new pattern of worship is established.

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday Services

Holy Communion or Lay-led Morning Worship:

9.30 am—St John's, Farnham Common

11.00 am— St Mary's, Hedgerley

11.00 am—St Mary's, Farnham Royal

11.00 am—Family Praise Service
(2nd Sunday of the month)

Wednesday

Holy Communion Service (BCP)

10.00 am—St John's, Farnham Common

SPECIAL SERVICES

Christmas

An Advent Carol Service and a Christmas Carol Service—rotate annually between St Mary's, Farnham Royal and St John's, Farnham Common.

Carols by Candlelight—last or penultimate Sunday before Christmas at St Mary's, Hedgerley

Christingle—Christmas Eve afternoon in St Mary's, Farnham Royal and at Hedgerley in mid-December.

Christmas Eve Crib Service— St John's, Farnham Common

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass—usually held in all three churches. During the vacancy a United Benefice service was held for all.

Christmas Day Family Service—in all three churches.

Ash Wednesday—Morning and Evening service, with “ashing”, alternating between St Mary's Farnham Royal and St John's Farnham Common.

Mothering Sunday— At St Mary's, Farnham Royal, our Church School is invited to take part, with children reading the lessons and prayers.

St. Mary's Hedgerley and St. John's Farnham Common have similar services. All three churches distribute flowers.

SPECIAL SERVICES (Contd.)

Palm Sunday—St Mary's, Farnham Royal and St John's, Farnham Common - congregations meet a short distance away and process to church singing hymns, led by the crucifer and choir.

St Mary's, Hedgerley, has been developing a popular children's palm parade with donkeys.

Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday—Agape supper and Communion, followed by a vigil

Good Friday— 'Devotions on the Green' are held in the centre of Farnham Common at 11.30am. We are joined by other Christian groups and process along the High Street to St John's Church for a service, followed by refreshments. A Last Hour at the Cross service is held at St Mary's Farnham Royal during the afternoon and a Choral Devotional Service in the evening at St John's Farnham Common.

Easter Sunday— A morning Family Service is held in all churches and a Dawn Eucharist normally rotates between the three churches.

Ascension Day Service—In previous years the Northern Group of parishes of the Deanery, have organised an evening service, in different venues, with all parishes being invited to join together.

Harvest Festival—A service is held in each church, with gifts of food donated afterwards to the One Can Trust, a High Wycombe based charity providing food parcels to people in crisis in the community.

All Saints' Sunday

A Service of Remembrance for Loved Ones is held alternately at St. John's Farnham Common and St. Mary's Farnham Royal. This popular occasion provides an opportunity to light a votive candle in remembrance of a loved one and to talk to clergy afterwards.

Remembrance Sunday—St Mary's, Farnham Royal, and St Mary's, Hedgerley, hold annual services, attended by the British Legion and youth groups.

Patronal Festivals—A United benefice service is held at each church to mark their respective patronal festival.

St John the Evangelist, Farnham Common—first Sunday in May.

St Mary's, Farnham Royal—celebrates the Visitation to the Blessed Virgin Mary on the first Sunday in July.

St Mary's, Hedgerley—celebrates the Annunciation on the first Sunday in September.

Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|--|-----------|------|------|
| Farnhams (St Mary's and St John's) | | | | | Hedgerley | | |
| Baptisms | 11 | 7 | 6 | | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Weddings | 4 | 4 | 3 | | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| Funerals | 9 | 16 | 5 | | 3 | 2 | 3 |

OUR COMMUNITIES

The United Benefice

The villages of Farnham Royal, Farnham Common and Hedgerley are in south Buckinghamshire, between 25 and 27 miles from the centre of London and conveniently close to Heathrow airport.

The industrial, multi-cultural town of Slough is immediately to the south, and the affluent areas of Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross are close by to the north.



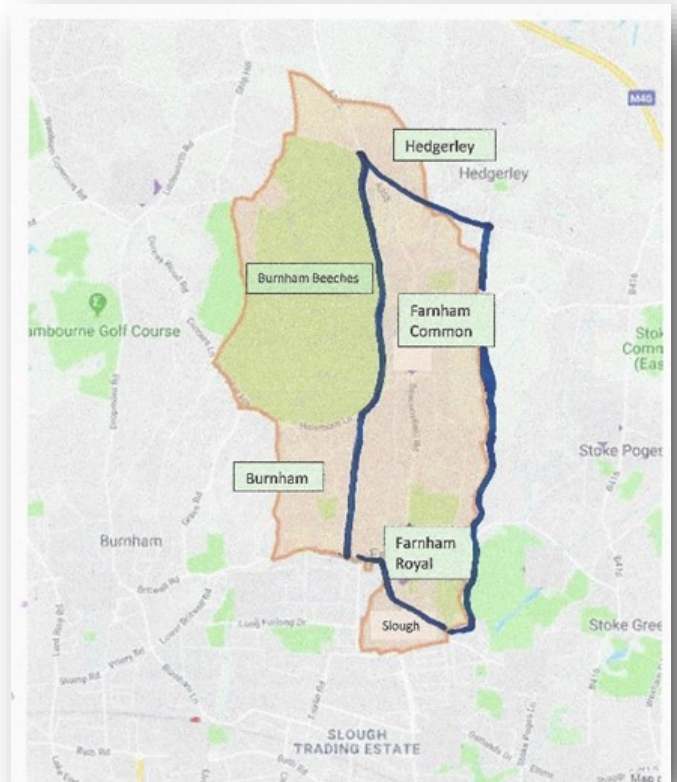
Location of the Farnhams and Hedgerley

Parish of Farnham Royal

The ecclesiastical parish comprises both Farnham Royal and Farnham Common, known locally as 'The Farnhams'. Unlike the civil parish of the same name, which is smaller, it also includes Burnham Beeches and a small, but densely populated area on the northern edge of the borough of Slough.

There are about 9,000 people living in the wider church parish area in 3,380 homes. The Farnhams have more young people and a greater diversity of ethnic groups than Hedgerley.

Good rail links and easy access to the M4, M40 and M25, providing easy transport routes to London, Reading and other surrounding towns, make the area popular with working people. Families with children are also attracted by good primary schools in the Farnhams and the provision of nearby grammar schools. The majority of Farnhams residents are in the 18-44 age group, but there is also an increasing elderly population because of good retirement accommodation being built throughout the locality.



The Parish of Farnham Royal
(Boundary of the civil parish is marked in blue)

Farnham Royal Village

Close to the village green is Farnham Royal Village Hall, a popular, well-equipped venue for many different events from wedding, baptism and funeral receptions, to concerts and stage shows. It also houses a daily nursery school and a variety of regular activities.

There is one general store and two pubs facing the green: the Duke's Head, an ancient hostelry once owned by the church and the Crown, which is awaiting development. A further pub and restaurant, The Crown Inn, is near Burnham Beeches. The village is well served for sporting facilities, with extensive playing fields at Farnham Park, home of the national baseball centre, a flourishing Cricket Club and two golf clubs on the boundary with Stoke Poges.



Farnham Royal pump on the Green

Schools

St Mary's Farnham Royal C of E Primary School is attended by children from a wide range of social backgrounds and ethnicities. Christian values are reflected in its life and practice, and twice-termly services in St Mary's Church draw a large number of parents. The clergy take part in school life and lead assemblies and church members are active as governors. The children visit community care homes and provide a party and entertainment for the local Third Age Group.

Dair House and Caldicott are two independent preparatory schools with whom the church has good relations. St Anthony's Catholic Church and school are in the Slough sector of the parish.



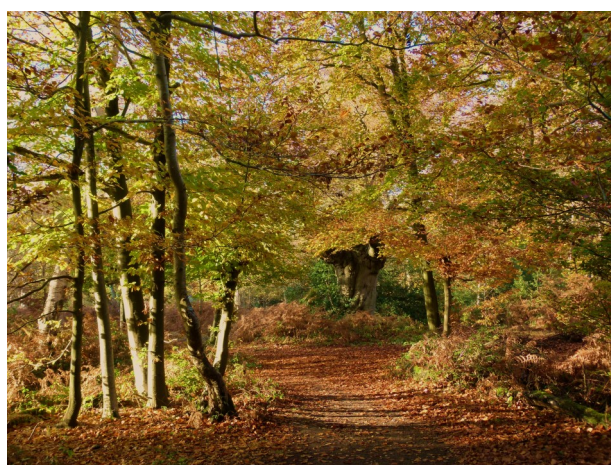
St Mary's Farnham Royal C of E Primary School

Farnham Common Village

Burnham Beeches, with its extensive woodland walks, borders the village.

The Broadway, Farnham Common is lined with a good selection of shops, including a pharmacy, WH Smith Local with post office, hairdressers, restaurants, cafes, dry cleaners, small supermarkets and others.

There is a sports club with playing fields, a Village Hall, where many activities take place and clubs meet, a Doctors Surgery and Dental Practice. The Community Library, run by volunteers, puts on a programme of events and its annual fund raising 'Farnhams Open Gardens' is a popular summer occasion.



Burnham Beeches in autumn

Schools

Farnham Common Village Schools runs both an infant and a junior school, which are highly regarded in the area and have held services at St John's.

Little Oaks Montessori is a pre-school based in St John's Church Hall. They stage their annual nativity play in the church and involvement from clergy and members of the congregation strengthen links with children, staff and parents.



Montessori School Nativity Play in St John's Church

Parish of Hedgerley

Hedgerley is a picturesque village of some 370 houses and 930 residents. Conveniently close to Pinewood Studios, both the village and St Mary's Church have provided location background for film and TV productions.

Though its southern border adjoins Farnham Common, the village is essentially isolated by roads and farmland from the neighbouring towns of Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross. It is perhaps this 'isolation' that has enabled the village to retain a strong sense of identity and community despite its geographical location in the outer London commuter belt.

The demographics of the village are broad. There are some residents undoubtedly struggling to get by and there are some very wealthy households. However, there are no 'sink' areas and the village does not experience the social problems which affect parts of Slough or High Wycombe.

A wide range of clubs and activities take place in the Memorial Hall and the Scout Hut. These range from Film Club to Historical Society, Scouts to elderly persons' welfare. Close by to Hedgerley there are numerous sports clubs many of which have very strong junior sections.

The Tracy Trust is a charity which provides support and social contact for the pensioners in Hedgerley. Set up in the 1990's with a bequest from Mrs Edith Tracy, the charity meets weekly and is managed by local trustees and volunteers from amongst its members.

One of the most enduring community centres is the White Horse pub. Conveniently located at the foot of the church holt, it is a family run real ale house very popular with both local residents and beer connoisseurs who come from far and wide. The beer garden is particularly popular in the summer.



Hedgerley Village



Bluebell walk accessed through St Mary's churchyard



The White Horse Pub

OUR FINANCES

The United Benefice

Our United Benefice runs as two entities for funding and paying costs and expenses. St John's Farnham Common and St Mary's Farnham Royal operate the parish office and run as one unit. Together with St Mary's Hedgerley, which is separately administered, they have always met their overall Parish Share.

Incomes across the three churches are generated by a broad mix of stewardship, pledged giving and general donations, interest and dividends from investments, fund raising and renting out a small hall in Farnham Common and a meadow in Hedgerley. To maintain our general giving, we have recently carried out a successful stewardship review and gained extra pledges to help maintain a small surplus over expenses at our churches.

Expenditure includes our Parish Share, our shared parish administrator and clergy expenses, part time organist, buildings maintenance and repairs, and general utility costs. Regarding our Parish Share, it is the practice in this Deanery to discuss with the Deanery the payment level sought by them and arrange an agreed sum. Last year this was £53,600 and represented 54% of the income. The share, including St Mary's Hedgerley, was £76,000.

The Parish of Farnham Royal—St Mary's and St John's

| Income in 2018 | | Expenses in 2018 | |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|--------|
| | £ | | £ |
| Stewardship and collections | 49,740 | Parish Share | 53,600 |
| Gift Aid recovered | 12,250 | Parish administrator, | |
| Hall rental | 8,750 | organist, clergy expenses | 6,940 |
| Income from funds | 23,550 | Maintenance | 21,655 |
| Donations at Weddings Funerals | 2,630 | Charitable Giving | 1,040 |
| Fund Raising (Fete & Buzz group) | 2,660 | Church utility costs | 11,515 |
| Legacies | 9,000 | Major Quinquennial repairs | 4,310 |
| Other items | 3,695 | | |
| | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | 112,275 | | 99,060 |

| Assets | |
|--|---------|
| | £ |
| The funds balances of Restricted and Unrestricted accounts total | 150,220 |
| The Investments earning income | 583,600 |

Both St. Mary's Farnham Royal and St. John's Farnham Common are in good repair and no major works were required after the last Quinquennials. Minor repairs, where appropriate, and general maintenance are carried out by volunteers.

The churchyard at St. Mary's Farnham Royal is maintained by the Parish Council.

OUR FINANCES cont.

The Parish of Hedgerley—St Mary's

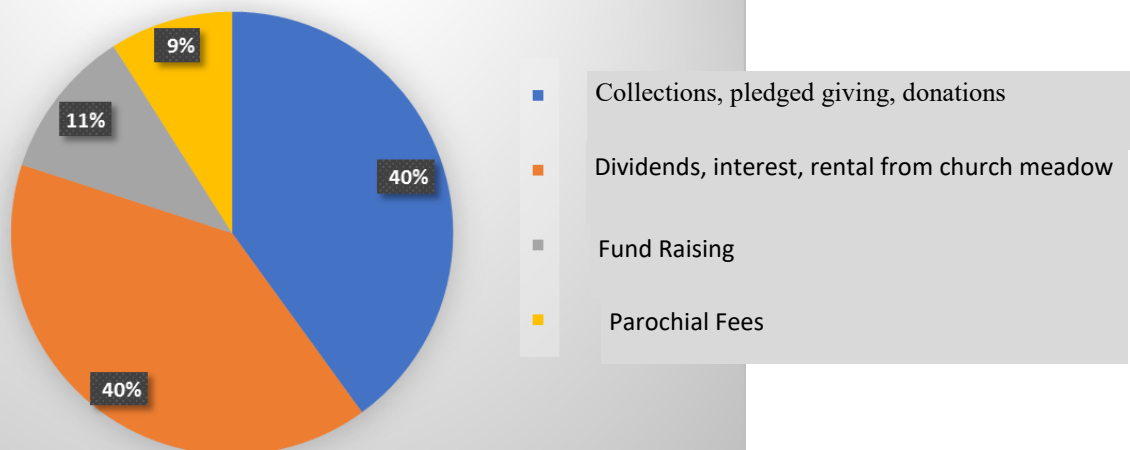
Finances are generally stable, and fluctuate between small surpluses and deficits year by year. The principal cost is the Parish Share and St Mary's has met its share in full in recent years.

St Mary's benefits from an investment of two legacies from many years ago, value £350,000. The dividends provide an essential part of the annual income, without which our Parish Share could not be paid.

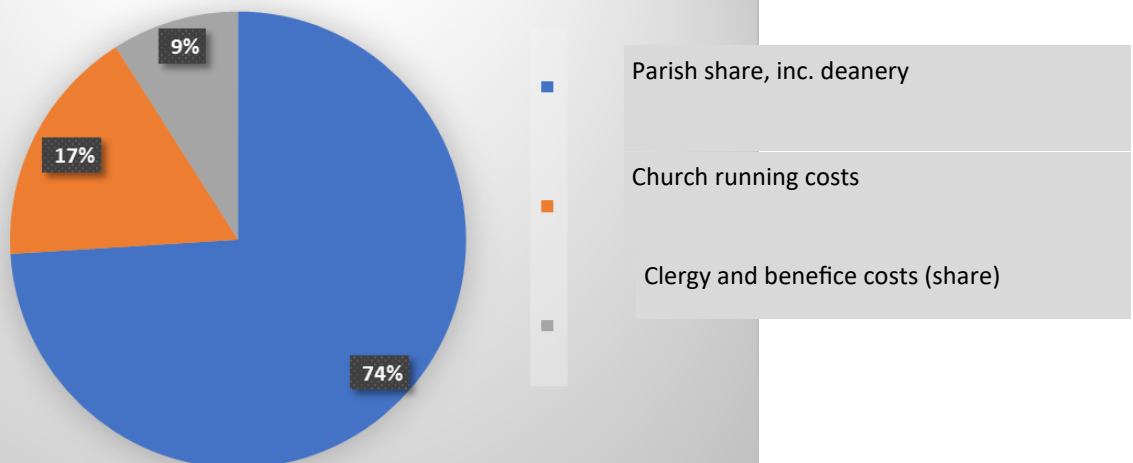
St Mary's is fortunate that the church is in good repair with no costly defects being found during recent quinquennial inspections. There is a small local charity 'The Friends of St Mary's' who are able to help with maintenance of the fabric and churchyard if needed.

Currently there is no support to mission giving, however it is likely that support would be forthcoming for specific local mission initiatives.

Income £30,000 p.a. (approx)



Expenditure £30,000 p.a. (approx)



THE RECTORY

Location

The property is situated in a good residential area close to the main A355 Beaconsfield to Slough Road in the centre of Farnham Common.

Directly adjacent to St John's Church, it enjoys a substantial degree of privacy and seclusion, while being convenient to the town centre and other public facilities.



The Rectory, Victoria Road, Farnham Common. The house can be glimpsed, behind high hedges from the grounds of St John's Church.

Description

The Rectory is a two-story detached house built in the late 1950s. It has the benefit of gas-fired central heating, double glazed windows and polished woodblock flooring on the ground floor. Solar panels have been fitted to the south facing roof area. The income from any excess power generation is paid direct to the diocese.

Accommodation

There are four bedrooms, bathroom and toilet upstairs. On the ground floor a covered entrance porch leads into the entrance hall with cloakroom and WC. There is a good-sized sitting room (5.6m x 4.3m), dining room, study and kitchen.

Outside

There is a brick built garage for one car, a patio area and a large south facing garden, bounded by established hedge-rows.



South-facing elevation



The hedge along the driveway and wicket gate to the rectory, seen from the church grounds

BURNHAM AND SLOUGH DEANERY

Deanery of Burnham and Slough

The parish of Farnham Royal and Hedgerley is located within the Northern Group of the Burnham & Slough deanery.

Since the implementation of synodical Government the deanery has developed a strong sense of team working. Church tradition across the deanery is diverse and, like other deaneries of a similar size, we are enriched by the variety of worship that takes place daily and weekly within our thirty places of worship. The deanery is a mixture of rural, semi-rural and urban parishes with two formal LEP's working together to build up the life of the church locally.

The Burnham & Slough deanery recognises the importance of outreach to the wider community and many of our parishes are actively engaged in mission activity that brings them into regular contact with the people of God in the wider community. For example, we have strong links to school activity.

We have a number of Church of England schools within parishes, some of which are unique in terms of their student population. We have strong links with our statutory and community service providers, both at the local level, and through our sector ministry team, Kingsway Connections. Being part of a diverse community has given rise to some important inter-faith work, alongside some important community development work resulting from engagement with the Local Strategic Partnerships in Slough and South Bucks.

Like all deaneries we respond to the changes that the National Church is facing at this time. Our recent deanery re-organisation has brought us into four groupings of churches - three formal group ministries and one informal group of churches working together in the East of the deanery.

Our total ministerial resources serve to lead these groups in their ministry and mission activity. This structure requires flexibility and for people to work much more collaboratively together. Needless to say, anyone new to the deanery would be expected to work within this new structure and be part of this way of working.

This table shows how our current ordained ministerial resources are deployed across the deanery.

| Jubilee River Group Ministry | Southern Group Ministry | Northern Group Ministry | Eastern Group of Churches |
|--|--|--|--|
| 5 Stipendiary Priests 2 Retired Priest (with PTO) | 7 Stipendiary Priests 2 Curates in Training 3 Retired Priests (with PTO) | 5 Stipendiary Priests 1 Associate Priest 2 Curates in Training 2 Retired Priests (with PTO) | 2 Stipendiary Priests (2 Vacancies) 1 House for Duty Priest 1 Associate Priest 1 Curate in Training |
| Deanery Post(s) (Equivalent to 1 full-time post from our deanery compliment) 1 Full-time Area Dean 1 Retired Priest with PTO | | Ecumenical/Inter-Faith Hospital Chaplaincy Team Appointed chaplains working out of our two main Hospitals of Wexham Park and Heatherwood (not part of the Deanery stipendiary allocation) | |
| Note: Our Licensed Lay Ministers (eight in number) work in our parishes/benefices/teams with one licensed to work across the whole of the deanery. | | | |

This deanery is a good place to exercise ministry and mission. Those who work here tend to stay for a number of years. The area covered by the deanery has a very diverse population. It has places of affluence as well as having wards that are some of the most deprived in the Country.

Because of this the deanery is one that throws up many challenges. Our local churches rise to these challenges, showing that they can respond to most things that come their way.



DIOCESE of OXFORD

A Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world

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

Due to the size and complexity of the Diocese, we have three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic & pastoral oversight for their Archdeaconries. The Bishop of Buckingham is the Rt Rev'd Alan Wilson who has been the Area Bishop since 2003.

With the appointment of the new Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, a new common vision is emerging for the Diocese of Oxford ...

The vision addresses what kind of church we are called to be – A Christ-like Church.

What are the marks of a Christ-like Church?

To be the Church of the Beatitudes:

- Contemplative
- Compassionate
- Courageous

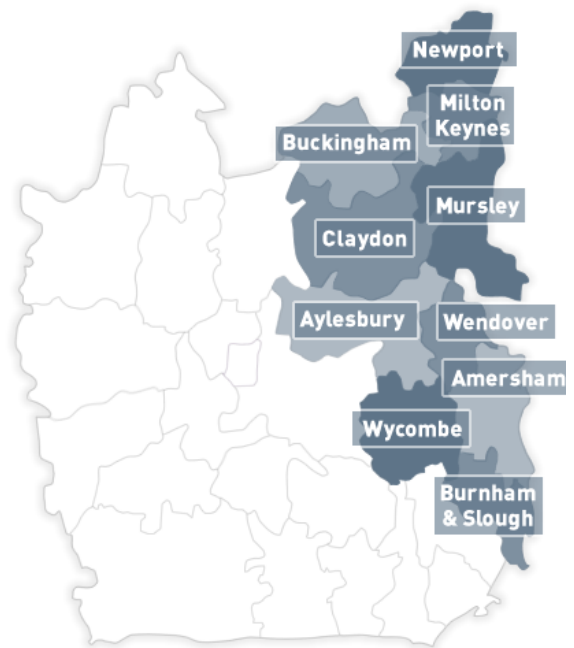
It also asks what we are therefore called to do together. This is currently a work in progress, but is likely to cover the following strategic priorities:

- To make a bigger difference in the world and serve the poor
- To share our faith with adults, children and young people and grow the church in every place; rural, urban and suburban
- To plant new churches and congregations everywhere we can
- To serve every school in our community
- To put the discipleship of all at the heart of our common life and set God's people free
- To celebrate and bless our largest, fastest growing city Milton Keynes

These priorities will be supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their priests to share a vision rather than demanding a response. It wants all its priests to flourish in ministry and to deepen their enjoyment of God.

Alongside the emerging diocesan vision, the priorities and principles for the Buckingham Archdeaconry are set out in our Buckingham Mission Action Plan (see <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Bucks-Archdeaconry-Plan-0515.pdf>)

It is expected that all clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will want to commit themselves to the Diocesan vision and Archdeaconry MAP and their strategic directions.



Appendix A

The following provisional role description will apply from the date of licensing. It will be reviewed by the postholder and the Archdeacon of Buckingham approximately six months after the date of licensing. Amendments will be made where necessary, by agreement.

PROVISIONAL ROLE DESCRIPTION

SECTION ONE: DETAILS OF POST

| | |
|---|--|
| Role title: | Rector |
| Type of Role: | Full time stipendiary |
| Name of benefice: | Farnham Royal with Hedgerley |
| Episcopal area: | Buckingham |
| Deanery: | Burnham and Slough |
| Archdeaconry: | Buckingham |
| Conditions of Service | Please refer to Statements of Particulars document issued in conjunction with this role description |
| Key contact for Clergy Terms of Service: | Archdeacon of Buckingham <i>This role falls within the Clergy Terms of Service formally known as Common Tenure. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is the designated person by the Bishop of Oxford to issue the Statement of Particulars for the post holder.</i> |
| Accountability: | Priests share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church. Whilst, as an office holder, the individual is expected to lead and prioritise work in line with the purpose of the role, they are encouraged to inform the Archdeacon and Churchwardens about any issues exceptional or otherwise that have the potential to affect ongoing delivery of ministry |
| Additional Responsibility: | N/A |

SECTION TWO: CONTEXT

Wider Context

With the appointment of the new Bishop of Oxford the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft a new common vision is emerging for the Diocese of Oxford ...

The vision addresses what kind of church we are called to be – A Christ-like Church for the sake of the world.

What are the marks of a Christ-like Church? To be the Church of the Beatitudes:

- Contemplative
- Compassionate
- Courageous

It also asks what we are therefore called to do together. This is currently a work in progress, but is likely to cover some of the following strategic priorities:

- Make a difference in the world
- Support and grow the local church
- Establish new churches and congregations
- Serve our schools
- Renew discipleship and ministry

These priorities will be supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their priests to share a vision rather than demanding a response. It wants all its priests to flourish in ministry and to deepen their enjoyment of God.

Local Context

The United Benefice of consists of two parishes: Farnham Royal and Hedgerley. The benefice has three church buildings and one church hall: St Mary the Virgin Farnham Royal, St John the Evangelist Farnham Common, St Mary the Virgin Hedgerley and the Brian Jubb Hall (Farnham Common).

The demographics across the benefice range from rural (Hedgerley) to suburban (The Farnhams) and the church congregations reflect some of this diversity. Each church has a congregation of regular, committed worshippers and a wider fringe of supporters within the communities. There are good links with some local schools.

For more information, see the parish profile.

SECTION THREE: ROLE PURPOSE AND KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

General:

- A. To exercise the cure of souls shared with the bishop in *this benefice* in collaboration with colleagues, including the praying of the Daily Office, the administration of the sacraments and preaching
- B. To have regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy (as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy) and other relevant legislation including
 - bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making him known to those in your care
 - instructing the parishioners in the Christian faith
 - preparing candidates for baptism and confirmation
 - diligently visiting the parishioners of the benefice, particularly those who are sick and infirm
 - providing spiritual counsel and advice
 - consulting with the Parochial Church Council on matters of general concern and importance to the benefice
 - bringing the needs of the world before God in intercession
 - calling your hearers to repentance *and declaring in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins*
 - *blessing people in God's name*
 - preparing people for their death
 - discerning and fostering the gifts of all God's people
 - being faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us

C. To share in the wider work of the deanery and diocese as appropriate, for the building up of the whole Body of Christ

Key responsibilities specific to the local situation

Support and lead the churches to:

- Value their diversity and better manage their differences
- Develop their appeal to the young and those with young families
- Learn to be with God as individuals, together and in worship
- Engage with their communities and develop mission and outreach
- Be courageous in growing the Kingdom, doing the difficult and being different

Other responsibilities

- Carry out any other duties and responsibilities as required in line with the benefice needs.
- Participate in the Bishop's Ministerial Development Review scheme and engage in Continuing Ministerial Development
- Take care for their wellbeing including health and safety and building a good repertoire of spiritual and psychological strategies

SECTION FOUR: BENEFICE SUMMARY

The Benefice of

Benefice: Farnham Royal and Hedgerley

Patron(s): Eton College and the Bishop of Oxford (joint)

PCCs: 2

Churchwardens: 5

Ministers: 1 stipendiary (currently in vacancy)

Benefice paid staff: 1

Benefice unpaid staff/ volunteers (numbers): 2 PtO ministers and other lay volunteers

Buildings: 4

Churchyard(s): 2

Church Tradition: Traditional Anglican

Pastoral Reorganisation proposals: None planned

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

SECTION FIVE: KEY CONTACTS FOR THE ROLE

Generic and specific to the role

Groups & committees

- The PCC(s)
- Deanery Chapter
- Deanery Synod
- Deanery Pastoral Committee

In the benefice

- Churchwardens
- Ministerial Colleagues
- Head teacher(s) of local school(s)

Support structures

- Area Dean
- Area Bishop
- Area Archdeacon
- Spiritual director, work consultant, etc
- Staff at The Diocesan Office with key responsibilities for various aspects of supporting

SECTION SIX: OTHER

This role description is issued alongside and should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

The Ordinal

The Canons of the Church of England

Guidance for the Professional Conduct of Clergy

Bishop's Licence

Statement of Particulars issued to the office-holder on successful appointment

Diocesan Clergy Handbook

Parish Profile

Ministry Action Plans (MAPs)

Any objectives discussed and agreed between the post holder and the supervising minister

Role description signed off by:

The Venerable Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham

Date: tba
To be reviewed next on: tba