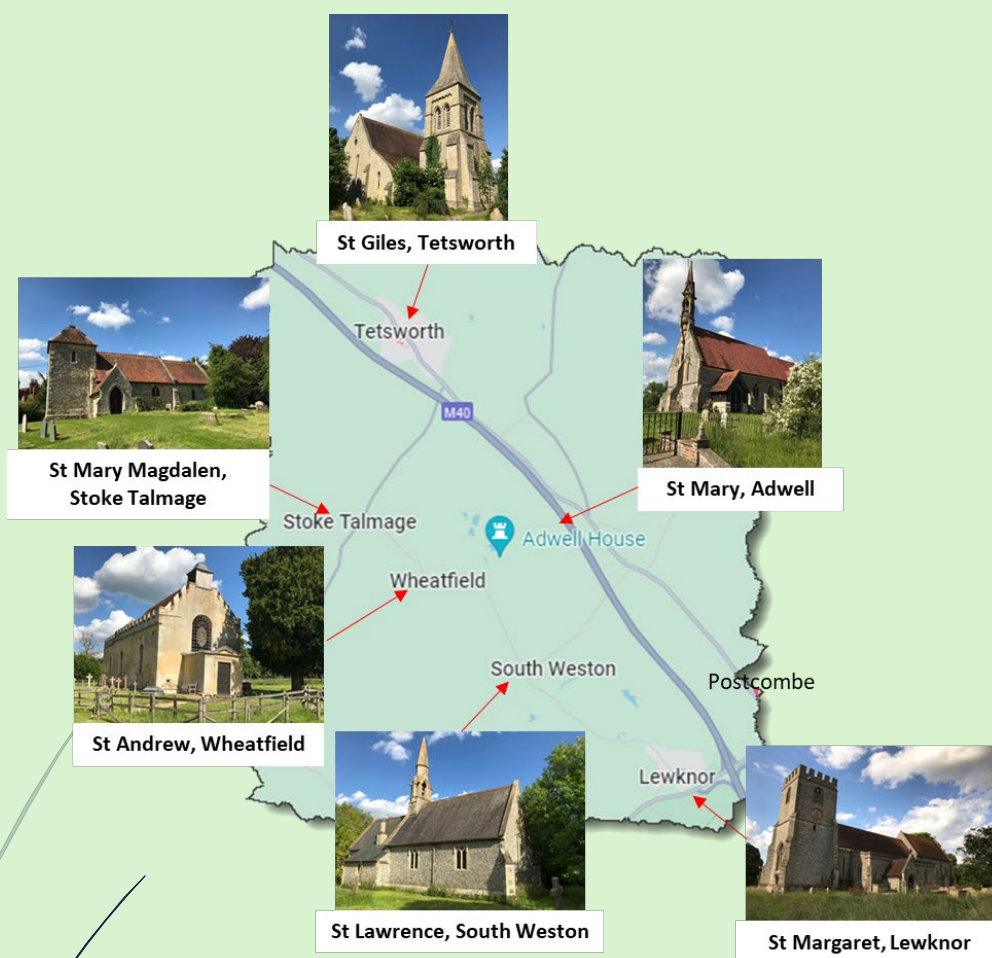


THE TETSWORTH PARISHES



A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE TETSWORTH PARISHES

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Tetsworth Parishes!

In this short document we hope to describe our parishes, who we are, how we organise ourselves, what makes us tick, and what we hope for.

The Tetsworth Parishes are a community of people living in a group of small parishes who strive to work as one to further the work of the Church.

WHAT ARE THE TETSWORTH PARISHES?

The Tetsworth Parishes are a community of just 1,600 souls, spread across 6 small villages.

The six villages are part of the wider Thame Benefice and are supported by the Thame Team Rector and his team. Operationally, the villages within the group have their own identity but operate with very close cooperation with each other and call themselves the Tetsworth Parishes. The post of Team Vicar (HfD) has the benefit of being part of the wider Thame Team whilst having the freedom to carry out their part time duties with considerable independence. There are high levels of practical support from the local village teams.

GROUP ORGANISATION

Over the years we have streamlined the organisation of the Tetsworth Parishes to ensure that our vicar is not burdened with the administration of 6 churches.

The Tetsworth Parishes Council is responsible for the following:

- All parish returns to the diocese
- Payment of Fees
- Payment of Parish shares
- Organisation of Service Rota

PARISH ORGANISATION

Each Parish is responsible for:

- Collection of Parish Share
- Cleaning and maintenance of the Church and the Churchyard
- Preparation of the Church for services
- Organisation of lay led services or visiting priests
- Safeguarding and health and safety

If any major restoration project is necessary, this is organised by the parish responsible.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OUR HOUSE FOR DUTY VICAR

We see our HfD as being responsible for:

- Being a shepherd to the 1,600 souls within our parishes
- Conducting Sunday services and other special offices
- Praying for us and for others

CHURCH SERVICES

There are 6 Churches within the benefice and the Tetsworth Parishes Council has agreed that there should be one HfD led service in each church per month.

Thus, our HfD must conduct a minimum of 72 services per year, plus occasional offices not falling on Sundays. In a normal month there will be 6 HfD services, two of the Sundays with one service, and the other two Sundays with two services.

Some churches may wish to have more than one service per month in which case the churchwardens of those churches will organise lay led services or services conducted by visiting priests.

WHAT ARE WE PRAYING FOR?

We want to welcome into our Benefice someone who will:

- Embrace and become part of a close community of straightforward people who want our Churches to support those who live and work in our villages
- Focus on the pastoral work necessary to make the Church the centre of our community
- Allow the Tetsworth Parishes Council to continue taking responsibility for administrative and financial tasks
- Embrace the support which the Thame Benefice can and will provide where required.
- Become involved with the wider Thame Benefice to the extent desired.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

We can offer a recently refurbished energy-efficient 4-bedroom house in the village of Tetsworth, within 12 miles of Oxford and 40 miles of London.

We can cover clergy expenses

We will provide support and enthusiasm

We insist upon friendship and laughter