Diocese of Oxford

Deanery of the Vale of White Horse

THE BENEFICE OF CHERBURY WITH GAINFIELD

www.cherbury-gainfield.org.uk

2018
Table of Contents

Foreword by the Bishop of Dorchester and the Archdeacon of Dorchester ........................................... 3
Introduction .................................................................................................................................................. 4
The New Priest ........................................................................................................................................ 5
The Vicarage ........................................................................................................................................... 6
Our Vision ................................................................................................................................................ 6
  1. Deepening our relationship with God .............................................................................................. 7
  2. Growing and developing our relationship with each other and the wider communities .......... 7
  3. Making our churches and services attractive and welcoming .................................................... 8
The Benefice ............................................................................................................................................ 9
The Churches and Our Communities .................................................................................................... 9
  Services: .............................................................................................................................................. 9
  Pastoral: .............................................................................................................................................. 9
The Wider Community .......................................................................................................................... 10
  Social: .................................................................................................................................................. 10
  Schools: ............................................................................................................................................... 10
  Charities: ............................................................................................................................................. 10
Appendix A: The Villages & Their Churches .......................................................................................... 11
  Buckland: St Mary The Virgin ............................................................................................................... 11
  Charney Bassett: St Peter ..................................................................................................................... 12
  Hinton Waldrist: St Margaret of Antioch .......................................................................................... 13
  Littleworth: Church of the Holy Ascension ...................................................................................... 13
  Longworth: St Mary’s ......................................................................................................................... 14
  Lyford: St Mary’s ............................................................................................................................... 14
  Pusey: All Saints’ ............................................................................................................................... 15
Appendix B: Administration and Finance ............................................................................................ 16
  Administration ..................................................................................................................................... 16
  Finance ............................................................................................................................................... 16
  Deanery ............................................................................................................................................. 16
Appendix C: Example Monthly Rota .................................................................................................... 18
Foreword by the Bishop of Dorchester and the Archdeacon of Dorchester

This is the second appointment to be made in this benefice in just over 2 years. The first, of course, was Talisker herself and it has been a delight to watch her settling to these diverse and vibrant communities. There has been much thought and prayer about the sort of colleague she and the benefice are looking for to join the team at this point in their journey together. This profile sets out the particular kind of ministry needed, with an invitation to bring other skills and expertise into the mix. We welcome your interest in this post and invite you not only to read on, but to be in touch with Talisker for a conversation about the role in the first instance, and with either of us if that would help.

Alongside the development of mission and ministry in this benefice, the Diocese of Oxford is also exploring a common vision of what it means to be ‘A Christ-like Church, the Church of the Beatitudes’, to be ‘contemplative, compassionate, courageous’ in all we attempt together. It will be important for anyone taking up a post in the diocese to be able to engage with this vision as it develops and offer their own insights, ideas and energy as appropriate in their context. These are early days, and this is an excellent opportunity to be part of a transformative process across the diocese at every level, including parish and benefice.

It has been good to see these parishes working more closely together under Talisker’s leadership, and the congregations reflecting more and more the villages they serve. A rural multi-parish benefice like this offers a wonderful opportunity for a fulfilling ministry that can make a real difference in the local communities and enable more people to encounter the love of God. This is a fascinating time to become a member of the team and we look forward to welcoming someone who will help these parishes fulfil their potential.

With every blessing as you discern where God may be calling you.
Introduction

The Benefice of Cherbury with Gainfield is a benefice of seven churches (five parishes) in the Deanery of the Vale of White Horse, in the Archdeaconry of Dorchester, within the Diocese of Oxford. The Benefice lies in the north-east corner of the Vale; the nearest towns being Witney, Faringdon, Abingdon and Wantage. Oxford is 15 miles from Buckland.

The benefice (marked in black on the map) is in many ways very rural, but it is attractive to commuters as it is well situated to access major cities in the south and Midlands. The communities here are relatively small, with a mix of working age and retired people.

Access between the villages almost always involves using the A420 as well as minor country roads. The successful candidate will need to have a car, and will need to be comfortable with driving on busy roads and country lanes at night as well as during the day.

The Vicarage is located in the village of Buckland, and the Rectory is in Longworth. The Vicarage is within easy reach of Oxford (30 mins), the M4 (30mins) and Didcot station (25 mins), with fast trains to London (40 mins) and Bristol (60 mins) as well as services to Birmingham. There is also the 66 bus route between Oxford and Swindon, which runs regularly, and has a stop just outside the village on the A420.
The New Priest

We are looking for a prayerful, joyful, energetic, compassionate and pastoral priest who understands the challenges of rural multi-parish benefices and will help us work together towards achieving a shared Benefice vision; but who also understands the importance of taking time and space to nurture their own spiritual growth by reflection and retreat.

The new priest will minister across the Benefice, including sharing in Occasional Offices. Areas of specific responsibility can be adapted to suit the successful candidate’s skills and gifts, but potential areas of responsibility include ministry with our older parishioners, pastoral visiting, and organising and leading house-groups and courses. We have spent much time in bringing the parishes together, and it will be very important that the new priest is able to minister in all the villages.

We have a supportive and caring clergy team which meets regularly, and good administrative support, including an online church management system; and the work of the clergy is well-supported by very able church wardens and many others. We also offer the opportunity to explore new areas in developing the ministry and mission of the benefice, wherever your skills lie.

We are looking for someone who is:

- Inspired to help people find a living faith in Jesus Christ, with a liberal and inclusive theology
- Experienced in collaborative ministry and team-working
- Able to nurture the spiritual needs of the community, by preaching, teaching and prayer, and experienced in leading groups helping people to explore faith and discipleship
- Willing to work imaginatively and creatively with liturgy and space, able to appreciate and support traditional forms of worship but also to be sensitive to the needs of the non-churched with more informal expressions of worship
- Able to recognise other people’s gifts and callings, and to encourage them to make use of them, particularly in the area of pastoral work; and is themselves a sensitive pastor
- Administratively competent, and comfortable with technology.
- Able to bring their own unique gifts to the role

Additional support in the Benefice is provided by:

- Lay Reader, Mr Richard Waterhouse
- Permission to Officiate, Reverend Tony Lynn
- Benefice Administrator, Mrs Gemma Cox (12 hours per week)
- Lay people helping to resource and organise many of our services
- Lay people doing readings and administering the chalice
**The Vicarage**

The Vicarage in the village of Buckland is an attractive, detached, five-bedroomed house. It has well maintained front and back gardens, with a newly refurbished kitchen, utility room and ensuite bathroom.

Buckland is a beautiful “chocolate box” village with many old thatched houses. There is a very popular CoE primary school, a lively village hall, and highly reputed pub, The Lamb.

**Our Vision**

This Benefice reflects all that is special about rural, Anglican congregations - traditionally conservative but not adverse to change, and deeply attached to our beautiful churches and our communities.

In the last five years there have been several new and exciting developments in the individual parishes within the Benefice. But we also acknowledge that we are being held back from realising further growth because of the structural and geographical constraints of a multi-parish benefice. Historically there has been an understandable desire for congregations to concentrate on their own village church, but there is a growing number of people who are willing to travel to other churches.

Far from wanting to limit the value and importance of what is done at local level, we are keen to harness all that is being achieved so that we can work together to grow our churches and better serve our communities. Our vision is to be a *'A community working to express Christ’s love for all,'* with churches that are *open, welcoming, inclusive and generous.*

Our Benefice is now at a new stage. Our Rector has been in post since October 2015, and is looking for a colleague to develop the spiritual, liturgical and pastoral life of the Benefice, to help grow the churches and put them on a sound footing for the future. We are also exploring amalgamating the parishes from five to two, as part of an administrative re-structuring to free the clergy to focus on pastoral relationships and growing the churches.

In October 2016, we held a Benefice Vision Morning, which focussed on our relationships – how we relate to our wider community, to each other, and to God; and how might we develop those relationships. The responses from that morning show a wonderful spread of activities and ideas, some already happening, and some things that we’d like to begin or to grow, as we share God’s love with one another, loving our neighbours.

We are now looking to see how these responses can become the basis of our future planning for our churches and for mission in this benefice. A Focus Group met in November and December 2016 and drew up a vision action planning document, which was shared with the Benefice in February 2017, and continues to form the basis of our vision going forward.
Rooted in our Vision Action Plan, we are looking to develop our vision in three particular ways:

1. **Deepening our relationship with God**
2. **Growing and developing our relationship with each other and the wider communities**
3. **Making our churches and services attractive and welcoming**

### 1. Deepening our relationship with God

**What we do:**

Attendance at Sunday services is good, but needs to grow and be further encouraged – see point 3. To help that happen, we feel that we need to deepen our relationship with God, collectively and individually, and that prayer and fellowship are the best ways to do this. Prayer should be at the heart of all we do, and we hope that prayer will underpin the ministry of all the people of God and encourage vocations. As part of this prayer initiative, we ran an Advent course in November 2016 using the Pilgrim Book 2 on the Lord’s Prayer, and a new “Sacred Space” service of meditation and prayer began in November 2016. We recently also had a confirmation class for teenagers. We would welcome exploring more discipleship courses with our new associate priest.

**How we would like to develop:**

Through prayer and discernment, we are exploring the following possibilities for development in this area:

- Prayer groups
- Lent and Advent courses for house groups
- Alternative services to include practices such as meditation and *lectio divina*
- Encourage vocations to lay and ordained ministry
- Encourage everyone in the church to pray and recognise their gifts

### 2. Growing and developing our relationship with each other and the wider communities

**What we do:**

Following on from our Benefice Vision Morning, we are continuing to build and grow relationships within our congregations and with the wider village communities through informal visiting and events. We are currently re-designing our website to launch in Easter 2018, and now have a weekly e-bulletin so that people who don’t come to church every week can still keep up to date with what’s happening and when the next services are.

Our Benefice magazine, Seven Voices, is delivered free to every house in the Benefice, and the Rector and Editor are looking at ways to increase the potential of this as a means of connecting with and serving our communities. We also have excellent links with the local schools, and in September 2016 we started Open the Book in Buckland CofE Primary School. We are now looking to start OTB in St Hugh’s school, an independent Preparatory school nearby with whom we have excellent links.

**How we would like to develop:**

To help support these friendships and to take better advantage of pooling the wide range of gifts from all the congregations, we want to explore how we can make use of shared activities including:
• Encourage people to travel around the Benefice churches and support each other more
• Better integrated pastoral support and follow-up visiting by both laity and clergy
• Training and teaching people to support these activities
• Music – pooling resources, creating choirs, using our spaces
• Encourage and enable the different gifts of our clergy and laity

3. Making our churches and services attractive and welcoming

What we do:

In the last four years there have been a number of exciting new initiatives in the churches. Longworth introduced the monthly ‘Cafe@Church’ which has succeeded in attracting a number of local ‘non-church goers’. Buckland has a well-established a Sunday school as well as a monthly family service with specific focus on the participation of children doing readings, and prayers. Messy Church was set up in the Benefice in September 2016, currently located in Charney Bassett Village Hall and now runs a few times a year for seasonal events. There is also a monthly meditation group, “Sacred Space”, offering a time of peace and prayerful mindfulness for busy lives.

How we would like to develop

We would like more lay involvement so that all can feel that they are part of and taking responsibility for the daily work of the church alongside the clergy.

We are conscious of the challenges facing churches today, and we want to:
• Reach out and demonstrate the relevance of the gospel in the lives of people in our villages who do not respond to traditional forms of worship, as well as untraditional forms of usage for our church buildings.
• Make our church communities into places where children, young people and families are welcomed; places where they are made to feel at home and belong to the wider church family.
• Ensure our older folk continue to feel loved and part of the church, not left behind in the need for change and growth.
• Look outside our own communities and see how we can support those most in need. We have been supporting Refugee Resource charity in Oxford and the Oxford Food Bank in recent months, as well as other worldwide charities. The Oxford Diocese is linked with the South African Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman and we would like to explore our involvement with them.
The Benefice

The Benefice is spread over approximately 35sq km on either side of the A420 which runs between Oxford and Swindon. It is made up of seven churches and villages. Buckland, Littleworth and Pusey operate as one parish called Gainfield, and Longworth, Hinton Waldrist, Charney Bassett and Lyford are individual parishes under the collective name of Cherbury. The total civil population of the villages is around 3000.

The Churches and Our Communities

Services:

There is a regular pattern of services across the Benefice in the individual churches including 1662 Communion, Family Communion (Common Worship Order One), Evening Worship, and seasonal informal non-communion services, including occasional Messy Church.

Our standard service pattern on a Sunday has an 8.30am BCP Communion, two 10am Common Worship Holy Communion services, and an early evening service.

In addition to Sunday services, there are also occasional services for Festivals, for All Souls, an annual Pet Service, and also the new contemplative service of “Sacred Space.” A weekday Eucharist is planned for third Wednesdays to work with the Village Diner.

We recently ran two house groups using the Pilgrim Course on the Lord’s Prayer, and this has been very successful. We used the Everybody Welcome course for Lent 2017, to help us look at how we welcome people in to our churches and to help us become more outward focussed. We are looking at doing the new Beatitudes course written by Bishop Steven in the coming months.

Please see Appendix C for an example monthly rota of Sunday services.

Pastoral:

The Benefice is currently in the process of training people interested in informal pastoral visiting under the leadership of the clergy, offering Christian friendly support to all villagers in the Benefice. The main focus is on pastoral care and its members responding to known local needs, reaching out to the whole community. In time and with training the team may become more formalised and may also help with baptism follow up and offer support to the bereaved. Their work is based in the neighbourly visiting that already takes place in the villages.

This might be an area where the new priest might wish to take a lead, in organising and training the pastoral team with a focus on visiting the more elderly of our parishioners.
The Wider Community

Social:
Social activities within the community are a particularly strong feature and individual churches have developed their own relationship with the immediate communities they serve.

In many villages it is church members who help to organise village groups and activities such as play areas and community buses; or help with village events including fêtes, quiz nights, picnics, and firework displays. Some villages have regular coffee mornings and toddler groups. There is a monthly Village Diner in Buckland run by volunteers from all the villages.

Some of the churches have active ‘Friends’ groups involved in fund-raising with members of the wider community, and volunteers in all parishes help with the maintenance of the churches and their grounds. We are exploring setting up Friends Groups where they do not already exist, as part of inviting the village to have a greater involvement with and care for their church, away from the context of Sunday worship.

Schools:
There are three schools in the Benefice. Buckland School is a VC Church School with very strong associations with St Mary’s, Buckland. The Rector is a Foundation Governor, and there are two other Foundation Governors. Buckland CofE Primary School has recently become part of the Faringdon Schools Partnership. St Hugh’s is an Independent Preparatory School in the parish of Buckland. Both schools hold termly services in St Mary’s, Buckland, and church members are involved in assemblies and reading, and there is an Open the Book team in Buckland School. Buckland School received Outstanding in their SIAMS and OFSTED inspections in 2016. We are looking to build our links further with St Hugh’s School, as several of the parents live in our benefice and they have been very supportive to the church.

Longworth School is a County Primary Undenominational School, rated OFSTED Outstanding, which holds occasional services in St Mary’s Church Longworth. We have growing links with the school, and the Rector takes assemblies there once a term.

The local secondary school is Faringdon Community College, also awarded OFSTED Outstanding

Charities:
Several villages have one or more charitable trusts, mostly linked to education and the care of the poor and elderly. The Rector is an ex-officio member of some of these, though these are links which the new priest could look at if they wished.

We are growing links with Oxford charities supporting the homeless, refugees, and the Oxford Food Bank, as a way of offering practical love and help to our immediate neighbours in need.

Looking further afield, several parishes have direct and strong associations with African charities. National and local charities, such as The Children’s Society, also receive support.
Appendix A: The Villages & Their Churches

Each church has its own distinct character, which adds individual colour and variety to the Benefice. All the churches, however, are united by their rural nature, their close connection with the communities they serve and their shared vision for the Benefice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village Population</th>
<th>Electoral Roll</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Pupils</th>
<th>Sunday school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buckland</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charney Bassett</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinton Waldrist</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littleworth</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longworth</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyford</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pusey</td>
<td>&gt;50</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 Occasional Offices
Baptisms  12
Marriages / Wedding Blessings  17
Funerals  14

Buckland: St Mary The Virgin

The civil parish of Buckland includes the nearby hamlets of Gainfield, Carswell and Barcote.

Buckland is a picturesque village. It has a large, well used village hall, which is available for church functions. There is a popular minibus service, run by volunteers, which is available for church and general use, providing a regular service to Faringdon and beyond for several villages in the Benefice. Buckland is a socially active community and has a WI together with several other groups. There are two pubs, ‘The Lamb’, and ‘The Trout at Tadpole Bridge’ by the Thames.

The church itself was started in the 12th century, followed by the chancel and transepts in the 13th century. A restoration project has begun to repair the roof and to provide adequate heating and better facilities for Sunday School etc. There is a fine organ and many concerts have been held in the church. There is a loyal bell-ringing team and an active churchyard maintenance team.
There is a Holy Communion service with Sunday School on the 2nd Sunday of the month and a Family Communion Service on the 4th Sunday, and both of these services have steady attendance. There are also two 8.30am 1662 Communion services each month. The Reserved Sacrament is held in this church.

The church is well supported by many volunteers, providing help for social and fund-raising events. There is a strong tradition of informal care for the wider community. This year there was an Autumn Festival, with events and profits shared between the Church, the Hall, and the Minibus. The church has an annual Christmas Fair; and also benefits from the June "Buckland Open Gardens".

St Mary the Virgin is currently in the middle of a large fundraising campaign to repair the roof, and our very able and enthusiastic Fabric Committee take the lead on all aspects of this. We have already raised enough to repair the South Transept roof, and thanks to the efforts of our Fabric Committee look to be able to complete the roof work in late 2018.

Charney Bassett: St Peter

Charney Bassett is a small Village with a regular church attendance of between 12 and 25. Church Membership is small but active throughout the Community.

Each month there is an 8.30am 1662 Communion, followed by breakfast in the church and a 10am Family Communion. The Benefice Messy Church is hosted in the Village Hall. Morning Prayer is said every Tuesday.

St Peter's Church originates from the 12th Century with considerable enlargement in the 14th and 15th Centuries. Generally in good repair thanks mainly to the efforts of loyal volunteers it seats about 100. Open daily and set within well tended Grounds, it provides a quiet sanctuary for prayer and reflection. Adjacent to St Peter’s is Charney Manor, of medieval origins patronised by the Abbots of Abingdon until the Dissolution. It is owned by the Quakers as a Conference Centre and Guest House. They enjoy a good relationship and permit the Church to host the Biennial Church Fete, the Harvest Supper and other functions together with providing Allotments to the Village.

Charney Mill of similar 12th Century origins but rebuilt circa 1807 is opposite the Church and whilst milling ceased in the 1930s, the mill opens for visitors twice a year.

The Village Hall was completely restored and extended in 2009, and there is a playing field with dedicated area for children and wildlife conservation. The Chequers is a thriving Pub whose Landlords generously support both the Church and the village community.
Hinton Waldrist: St Margaret of Antioch

Hinton and the neighbouring hamlet of Duxford total approximately 150 houses.

The majority of the surrounding land is farmed by one family with another family running a market garden business from land in the centre and on the edge of the village. Apart from those people who work locally, many commute to nearby towns or to London.

The 13th century church has a tower with a peal of six bells which are rung regularly. There is a memorial window to Airey Neave who was the local MP and lived in the village until he was killed by terrorists in 1979.

The normal pattern of worship at St Margaret’s is one 1662 Communion at 8.30am, and one 10am Common Worship Communion service. The church recently re-opened after extensive roof works, and at present has only the 10am service. The usual pattern of services will resume shortly. The Reserved Sacrament is held in this church.

The strength of Hinton church lies in its strong community awareness, and its pastoral care. There is a good community spirit with many people who are not regular church attendees actively involved in the organisation of the Village Fete which is one of the main fund raising events of each year for the church and, at the same time, a chance for the whole community, young and old to come together.

Littleworth: Church of the Holy Ascension

The village has a population of about 200. It was formerly a farming community, but today it has only one working farm. Despite this, Littleworth has retained its down to earth attitude, with an exceptionally caring ethos, and a general environment of friendliness. There is no longer a school or shop, or even a pub at present.

The Church of the Holy Ascension was built in 1839 with the Chancel added in 1876. The founder of the Church was Edward Bouverie Pusey, who had often ridden through the village which was regarded as a dirty and lawless place, with ‘the peasantry almost in a heathen state’. Before the Church was built, those who might wish to attend church had to walk the two miles along Church Path, across the fields to Faringdon Church. When there was a death in the village, the coffin was carried along the same footpath, for the funeral at Faringdon. Oriel College had recently bought the Littleworth Estate and the Provost and Fellows contributed towards the erection of ‘a handsome building’. Consequently, Littleworth gained a church which was really much too large for its population.

There are now 7 on the electoral roll and the church is in good condition. The roof has been recently repaired, however the churchyard wall needs rebuilding, and fund raising is ongoing for this.

The village formed ‘Friends of Littleworth Church’ fifteen years ago. It is a thriving and enthusiastic group, who meet regularly and work well together to raise funds both for the general running costs and the fabric costs of the church.
**Longworth: St Mary's**

Longworth is a large village with many commuters and a significant number of retired people. The 13th century church can seat up to 150 and has a small pipe organ. The monthly service pattern is an 8.30am BCP Communion on second Sundays, the Café@Church on third Sundays, and a 10am Common Worship Communion on fourth Sundays. The church is very fortunate to have an extension, the Houlton Room, with kitchen and toilet facilities, which can be used for meetings and small gatherings. The churchyard is now closed and is maintained by the Parish Council.

The Friends of Longworth Church provide money for the maintenance of the church building. Friends’ fund-raising events include a November fireworks display and sometimes a Midsummer Music Evening. Over £20,000 has been raised since the Friends were founded in 2007. The annual church fete raises money towards the payment of the parish share.

The village has a County Undenominational Primary school, last rated as outstanding by Ofsted, which celebrates special events in the church. The clergy are always welcome in the school and actively participate in assemblies. The school also holds a fete, and has in the past hosted the annual “Longworth Big Lunch”, which is attended by a cross-section of the village community. A successful pre-school is in the school grounds. The village also has a small proportion of social housing.

Many fund-raising events are held by HALF, a local educational charity. A 10K run is supported from inside and outside the village. Other HALF events include a roving supper, a quiz night, as well as open gardens.

There is an active local History Society. Groups regularly meeting in the well maintained village hall include the Film Club, Mother and Toddler, and various sport and exercise classes. The Blue Boar, in the heart of the village, is loved by locals and visitors alike.

**Lyford: St Mary's**

“The parishioners of Lyford keep the church open for those who pass by to pray and enjoy the peaceful and beautiful surroundings.” (Sign on the church door.)

There are 18 houses and 2 farms although most of the population now have no connection with agriculture. The church, which is the only public building in the parish was mostly built during the first half of the 13th century, and is in good repair. Chancel repair liability is registered to the Church Commissioners. In 2017, there has been
extensive grant funded repairs to the roof and drainage.

In 1581, the famous Jesuit, Edmund Campion, was taken prisoner at Lyford Grange, leading to his martyrdom at Tyburn. The event is commemorated every year with a special service organised by the Knights of St. Columba followed by hospitality at the Grange.

There is a monthly 1662 Communion and a Choral Evensong. The congregation draws on other villages (including those not in the Benefice) for those who enjoy the prayer book services mixed with the informal and jolly atmosphere of the congregation.

The church has also hosted several concerts in recent years, taking advantage of the beautiful location and neighbouring barns for hospitality.

The parishioners of Lyford are few in number but have always tried to contribute to the Benefice. KHAOS, a previous youth initiative, started here and for several generations parishioners have helped the Benefice with leading the laity in different capacities.

_______________________________________

Pusey: All Saints’

Pusey is a very small village, historically being an adjunct of the privately owned Pusey Estate, which for a thousand years belonged to the Pusey family, who reputedly had been given the land by King Canute.

One of the owners of the estate sold off properties some years ago and the village has a young, vibrant population nearly all of whom have come to the village in the past 14 years. They are very supportive of the church although not regular active attendees.

The great appeal of the church is attributable to its wonderful acoustic which lends itself so well to concerts and events other than the regular services. The church itself is a small but beautifully proportioned Georgian masterpiece which we believe it is important to maintain. The Friends of Pusey Charity helps to maintain the fabric of the building.

For many reasons, Pusey has few full-time residents who support the church and in 2015 the decision was taken to have services only on fifth Sundays, which would be Benefice Services, so people from other churches would come to Pusey church. All Saints has retained its famous Christmas Eve Carol Service, and this is always packed.
Appendix B: Administration and Finance

Administration

Gemma Cox is the Benefice Administrator and is contracted to work 12 hours a week. Her duties include:

- creating the monthly pewsheet
- booking in weddings, baptisms and recording funerals.
- creating and photocopying service sheets
- providing the Seven Voices magazine with church service news and announcements.
- maintaining our website
- various administrative tasks

The Benefice Church Wardens meet three or four times a year, to discuss matters affecting the Benefice as a whole. The Benefice runs an account for clergy expenses, separate to the various parishes, which all parishes pay into, according to a percentage split.

The four separate parishes of Longworth, Hinton Waldrist, Charney Bassett and Lyford (known collectively as Cherbury) are currently at an early consultation stage to consider creating a single parish to replicate the structure of the single parish of Buckland, Littleworth and Pusey (known collectively as Gainfield). It is also anticipated that each church will create Church Building Committees to deal with all local matters of fabric and buildings administration.

The PCCs currently meet four times a year in February, June and October with an APCM in March or April (depending on the date of Easter). PCCs may have extra meetings at any time if local issues require them.

The Benefice is also considering the creation of a Benefice Standing Committee to oversee the day to day administration across all seven churches.

Finance

Each of the five PCCs is responsible for its own finances. There is a separate Benefice account to handle administration costs across the Benefice, including clergy expenses.

The Parish Share and Benefice expenses are divided between the separate parishes of Lyford, Charney Bassett, Hinton Waldrist and Longworth (Cherbury), and the single parish of Buckland, Littleworth, and Pusey (Gainfield). The division of the share has traditionally been done in a mutually supportive way, with the larger parishes helping the smaller parishes. The Benefice has paid its share in full for many years.

Copies of accounts for the parishes are available on request.

Deanery

The Vale of White Horse Deanery is a predominantly agricultural area, and consists mainly of villages with small populations, though a number of villages have retained their schools and other facilities (such as public houses), and the larger villages have one or more shops. It is an area of great natural beauty, bordered on the north by the River Thames and on the south by the Downs, and it attracts many visitors. Faringdon is the only town in the deanery, although Shrivenham (which includes the large estate of the Defence Academy) is of near comparable size, and both are places of significant new housing development. The total population of the deanery is around 20,000.

There are six benefices in the deanery, with five full-time stipendiary clergy who are all incumbents, and three house for duty clergy (one of whom is incumbent, as well as being Area Dean). There are a sizeable number of licensed and authorised lay ministers, and retired clergy with permission to officiate (PTO). The clergy meet regularly as a chapter, and there are occasional extended meetings of the chapter, which include lay ministers and clergy with PTO.
The Deanery Synod, which is co-chaired by the Lay Chairman (Jeremy Twynam) and the Area Dean (David Williams) meets three times a year; and it includes all licensed clergy and elected lay members. It meets to consider matters of concern and interest to the deanery as a whole, including our involvement with the schools in the deanery, many of which are members of the Faringdon Academy of Schools, and matters of social concern in our area. In common with deaneries throughout the diocese, our deanery also has the designated role of allocating parish share to the benefice; and of allocating a small annual grant from the diocese to assist mission projects across the deanery.

The deanery is relatively small and homogeneous, and values its community identity; and the clergy chapter has a strong sense of fellowship and mutual support.
Appendix C: Example Monthly Rota

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Sunday</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Buckland</td>
<td>Benefice Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Rotating around villages</td>
<td>Benefice Holy Communion (Common Worship)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Sunday</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Longworth</td>
<td>Benefice Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Buckland</td>
<td>Holy Communion (Common Worship)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Hinton Waldrist</td>
<td>Family Communion (Common Worship) with Pop Up Café. Café runs 11am -12noon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Lyford</td>
<td>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third Sunday</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Buckland</td>
<td>Benefice Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Charney Bassett</td>
<td>Family Communion (Common Worship)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Littleworth</td>
<td>Holy Communion (Common Worship) with baptism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Longworth</td>
<td>Café@Church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Lyford</td>
<td>Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fourth Sunday</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Charney Bassett</td>
<td>Benefice Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Buckland</td>
<td>Family Holy Communion (Common Worship)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Longworth</td>
<td>Holy Communion (Common Worship)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Littleworth</td>
<td>Evening Worship (Common Worship)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fifth Sunday</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Pusey</td>
<td>Benefice Holy Communion (Common Worship)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
