

Team Vicar

in the

Dorchester

Team



DIOCESE *of*
OXFORD

The Dorchester Team

The Dorchester Team of churches consists of 10 parishes with 13 churches in 14 rural villages in beautiful South Oxfordshire.

Led by the Team Rector the clergy team includes three Team Vicars (two full time and one house-for-duty) – each with incumbent status and caring for a cluster of rural parishes.

We seek to work together, whilst enabling individual churches to flourish.

We believe that we are 'better together'.



Dorchester Abbey



Clifton Hampden



Culham



Little Wittenham



Long Wittenham



Warborough



Stadhampton



Chiselhampton



Newington



Berinsfield



Drayton St Leonard



Marsh Baldon



Toot Baldon

CONTENTS

Foreword from the Bishop	4
Welcome from the Area Dean and Lay Chair	5
Welcome from the Team Rector	6
The Vision of the Dorchester Team	7
Our Ministry Team	8
Introducing the Dorchester Team of Churches	9
Organisation of the Team	10
Our Regular Pattern of Services	10
Person Specification	11
The Clusters and Parishes of the Dorchester Team	12
Dorchester	12
The BBD Cluster	13
The Eastern Cluster	17
The Bridge Group	22
Schools Ministry	25
The Vicarage and Local Amenities	26
The Dorchester Team by Numbers	27

Foreword from the Bishop

Dear potential applicants,

I am delighted that you are reading this profile and encourage you to pray about whether this position might be the role to which God is now calling you.

The Dorchester Team is seeking a Team Vicar as the team rebuilds following a number of recent clergy changes. The Team Vicar will work with the Team Rector and fellow ministers, and will be deployable across the Team, but with a likely focus on ministry in Berinsfield, The Baldons and Drayton St Leonard. The Team Vicar will be a pastoral leader with an approachable manner, warmth and enthusiasm. They will have a presence in the church and enjoy engaging with the wider community. The priest appointed will be a proven team player, capable of working with all ages, whose life is clearly rooted in God. They will inspire others, willing to be adventurous and capable of bringing joy.



You will find a friendly Deanery with supportive and experienced colleagues. Our Episcopal Area and Diocese are in good heart, expectant for all that God will do and thankful for all that God is doing.

The Benefice recognises that they are under-represented in a number of key characteristics and would particularly welcome applications from those who would increase their diversity.

Please pray about whether you might be the right minister to join us. If you decide to apply, I would be delighted to receive your application for this important position and look forward to the possibility of welcoming you as a potential colleague to partner in the gospel.

With every blessing,

+ Gavin Dorchester

Rt. Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester

Welcome from the Area Dean and Lay Chair



Welcome to Aston and Cuddesdon Deanery!

The deanery is very large geographically, stretching from Beckley in the north, down to Swyncombe in the south. It includes a large number of small, rural churches that are loved by their communities. Our deanery includes the historic Dorchester Abbey, the military base at Benson and the theological college at Cuddesdon.

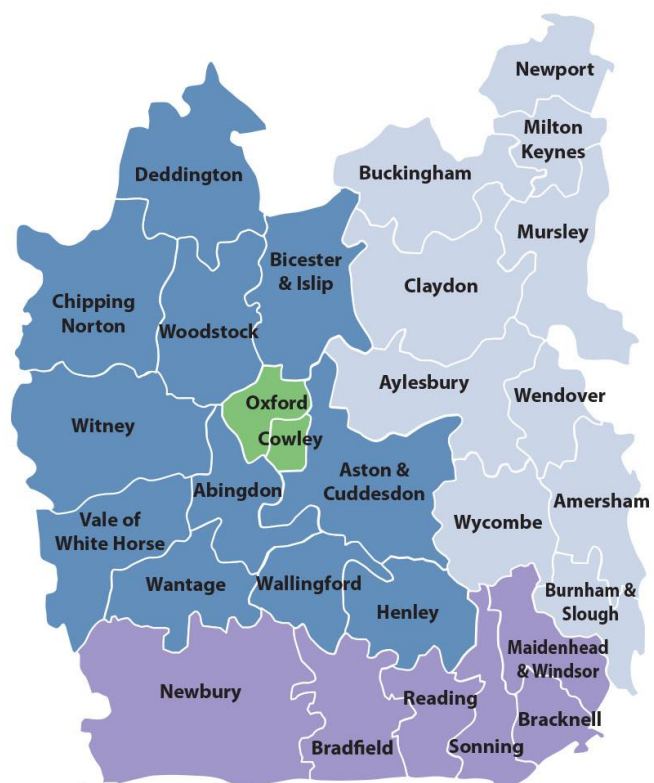
Last year we had a deanery pilgrimage from Churn Knob to Dorchester Abbey, following in the footsteps of our local saint, St Birinus. This was a lovely day, stopping for prayer and reflection at churches along the way. It is our plan to do this again this year, hoping to encourage more to join us, whether all, or parts, of it.

Given its size there is a clear emphasis on working to bring clergy and laity together across the deanery. Chapter have just recommitted themselves to meeting six times a year for prayer, mutual support and the sharing of ideas and resources. Here you will find clergy colleagues in whom you can trust and be open and honest with.

Deanery Synod currently meets three times a year. Our current focus is on ministry and mission to children, young people and families. We are developing a plan for how we can best encourage each other and how the deanery can support this work.

Maureen Underdown and Revd Prebendary Jane Haslam

Lay Chair and Area Dean



Welcome from the Team Rector



Thank you for reading our profile for a new Team Vicar to join the Dorchester Team. As the relatively recently appointed Team Rector, arriving to a time of significant change with the Dorchester Team, I am delighted to be developing a mutually supportive clergy team, each with different responsibilities, as we minister across this large group of rural churches. As a team, we are able to offer cover for one another, and we are also well supported by clergy with Permission to Officiate and Licenced Lay Ministers. We pray for a colleague who will find being part of a team life-giving and who will enjoy ministering in these South Oxfordshire villages.

Our vision as the Dorchester Team is summed up by the principle 'Better Together, with Christ and for Christ', with the aim of 'growing Christian life in every parish'. The principle of doing together the things that individual parishes would find more difficult to do alone has been important in keeping the bigger picture before us and providing and resourcing forms of ministry across the team that individual parishes might not sustain alone. The Dorchester Team was created in 1977 and is one of the longest established teams in the Oxford Diocese. Over time it has developed and now comprises 14 villages, 10 parishes, working in clusters with a Team Vicar or the Team Rector.

As the Dorchester Team looks to its future the exact model of ministry and where this is focused has not yet fully formed. However what we can say is that the newly appointed Team Vicar will be an integral part of the core team, will be licensed to the whole team working with the wider team. The new Team Vicar will live in Berinsfield which is likely to mean that a focus on Berinsfield and the neighbouring communities of the Baldons and Drayton St Leonard will emerge – but we are keeping the brief intentionally open, to allow flexibility.

There are very real opportunities here for a new Team Vicar who has a heart for mission and a Kingdom vision. Our churches are eager to welcome someone who will love them and share in nurturing them into new life and growth. There are also opportunities for the pastoring, encouraging and revitalisation of existing congregations together with engaging with the opportunities offered by new housing development. Plans are advanced for the development of Berinsfield Garden Village – which will double the size of the village, and we are keen to appoint someone who is able to work well with the ecumenical team pioneering The Living Room in Berinsfield.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming a new clergy colleague to the Dorchester Team. If your reading encourages you or if there is anything that isn't clear and needs an answer do contact me by phone or email (01865 294276, rector@dorchester-abbey.org.uk) or Archdeacon David Tyler (07961 726403, Archdeacon.Dorchester@oxford.anglican.org).

We pray for you as you seek God's leading for your next steps in ministry.

Jane

The Reverend Jane Willis, Team Rector

The Vision of the Dorchester Team

In appointing a new Team Rector, the Dorchester Team articulated the following vision:

Worship and discipleship: providing a space to encounter God's love	Fellowship: walking alongside others	Outreach: growing links
We desire to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● deepen our worship of God, love of Jesus and service in the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Word, personal prayer and reflection; ● increase the appeal of our worship by meeting a wide range of worshipping needs; ● be known as open and inclusive to all. 	We desire to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● provide regular and reliable pastoral care and support to all; ● expand opportunities for individual and group learning and fellowship; ● develop opportunities for all parish churches, and especially the Abbey, to be resources for the wider community. 	We desire to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reach those parts of our villages and communities that have little or no contact with Church; ● be an inclusive Church, open and welcoming to parishioners and visitors of all ages; ● develop a mission and outreach programme that is relevant and engaging to our church communities, especially to our young families and children, and those not yet senior citizens.

So we seek a colleague who...

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● has a love for Jesus and a passion to share that love with all; ● is a preacher who shows God's relevance today by bringing his Word faithfully to life; ● creatively inspires a variety of worship and discipleship, inclusive to all; ● supports and encourages lay people to contribute to leading our worship and the life of our churches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● is able to inspire, challenge and support us to deepen our faith and fellowship together; ● is able to nurture our gifts, faith and vocation; ● has excellent pastoral and communication skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● is able to work across all age groups; ● is able to understand the different needs of our communities and to enable us in seizing opportunities for outreach; ● is approachable and visible, known and appreciated; ● able to work with modern technology and social media.
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Our Ministry Team

Members of the core Ministry Team are responsible to the Team Rector as Incumbent of the benefices. The core Ministry Team meet regularly, usually weekly, to pray, discuss business and for mutual support. Larger meetings including our PTO clergy and LLMs happen every two to three months. Together these meetings provide a welcoming and supportive environment.

Currently the 'core' team who hold responsibility for particular parishes are:

Team Rector: The Reverend Jane Willis
Dorchester

Team Vicar Bridge Group: The Reverend Jo Allen (House for Duty)
Clifton Hampden, Culham, Long with Little Wittenham

Team Vicar Eastern Cluster: Vacant – these parishes are currently in the care of
The Reverend Mel Stanley, Assistant Curate, seconded to the Dorchester Team.
Newington, Stadhampton with Chiselhampton, Warborough

Team Vicar BBD Cluster: Vacant
Berinsfield, Drayton St Leonard, Marsh and Toot Baldon with Nuneham Courtenay

We are privileged to have trained a number of curates for full-time and self-supporting ministry – our curate is currently the Reverend Emma Firth, who serves on a part-time self-supporting basis. An additional full-time stipendiary curate, Claire Wren, will be joining us in 2025 – she is presently training on the pioneer pathway at CMS/Cuddesdon.

This core team is augmented by self-supporting clergy with License or Permission to Officiate and Licensed Lay Ministers:

The Reverend Canon Rachel Carnegie (Chaplain to All Souls' College) lives in Dorchester and ministers there and across the Team.

The Reverend Myles Godfrey (PTO) lives in Warborough and ministers mostly there.

The Reverend David Haylett (PTO) lives in Long Wittenham, ministers across the Team and especially within the Bridge Group.

The Reverend Jane Manser (PTO) lives in Long Wittenham and ministers mainly in the Bridge Group.

The Reverend Jennifer Morton (PTO) lives in Toot Baldon and ministers across the Team.

Edna Strange (LLM, PTO) lives in Warborough and ministers mostly there.

Gerry Willis (LLM, PTO) lives in Dorchester and ministers across the Team.

The Team often hosts ordinands from Ripon College Cuddesdon and other training institutions. Josh Harris is currently in his third year of training for ordination at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield.

Our administrative hub is based in Dorchester and provides assistance across the Team including administration for occasional offices, printing service sheets and more.

The parishes pay travel and office expenses in full, and the Team is committed to ministerial development having a training budget for individual and whole-team training and events.

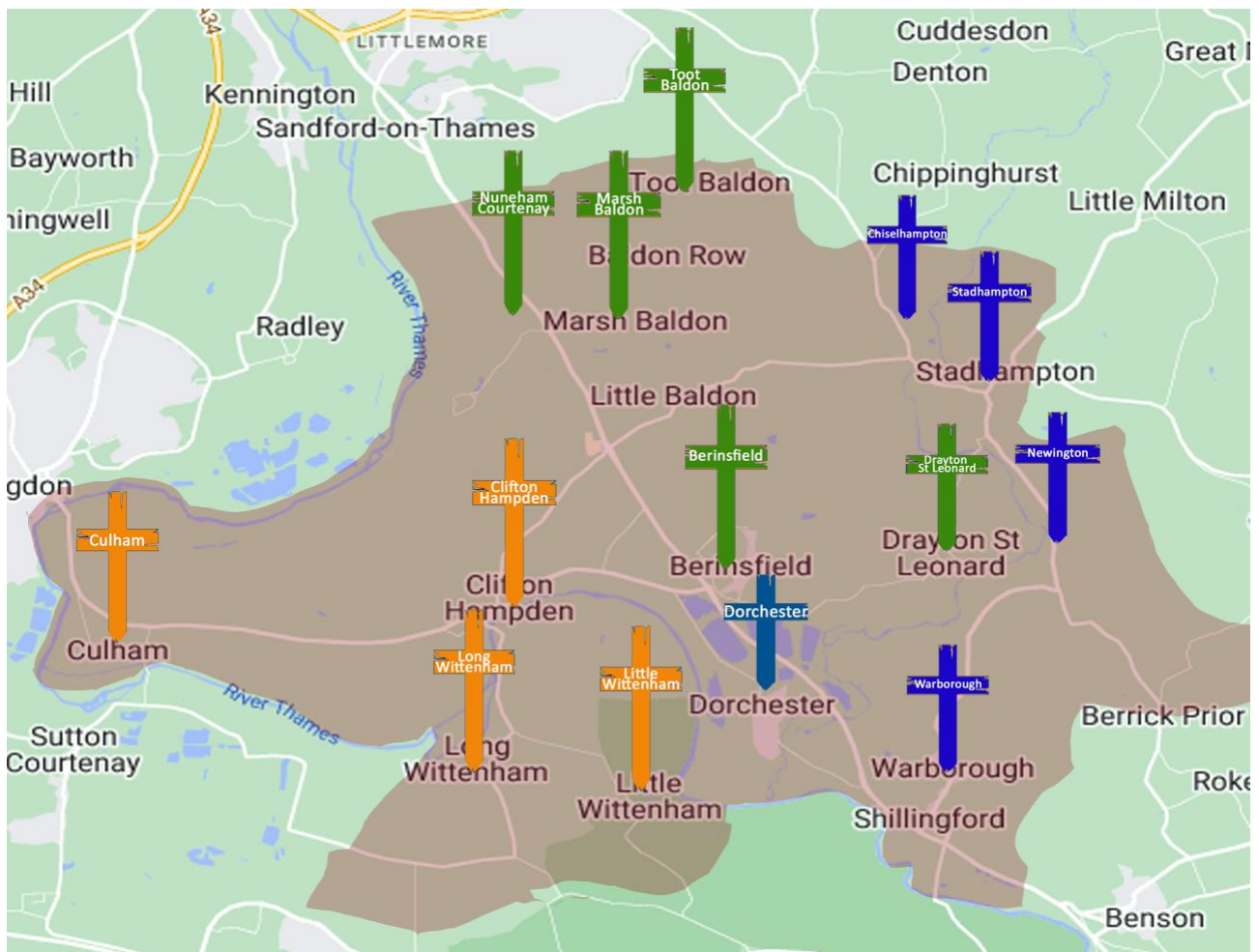
We hope and pray for a colleague to join us who enjoys working, praying and playing together, sharing in ministry to enable our churches to flourish.

Introducing the Dorchester Team of Churches

The Dorchester Team, established in 1977, is one of the older teams in the Oxford Diocese. Over time it has expanded and changed, now comprising 14 churches in 10 parishes, each of which retains its own PCC and wardens. The parish of Warborough remains a single parish benefice, whilst all the other parishes within the team form the benefice of Dorchester.

The parishes cover 60 square miles of rural Oxfordshire. They lie to the east of Abingdon and within easy distance of Didcot, Wallingford, Oxford, Reading and, indeed, London with the M40 and main-line railway being not far away and easily accessible.

There is a significant difference between the smaller village communities and Berinsfield. In Berinsfield the housing is entirely post-war with the majority of housing being built in the 1960s and 70s. The village was expanded in the 1990s and more recently a smaller group of homes was added at the south of the village – these houses are often purchased as starter homes by more affluent families who tend to move on quickly and are less likely to become involved in parish life. Berinsfield is recognised as an area of significant deprivation with above average unemployment. By contrast the villages (with the exception of Nuneham Courtenay which is a nineteenth century estate village) all date from the late medieval period or earlier and the residents are mostly in employment, usually commuting to work, or retired. Significant housing development is planned for Berinsfield and Culham. All of the villages are in the care of South Oxfordshire District Council.



- BBD Cluster parishes are shown in green.
- Eastern Cluster parishes are shown in light blue.
- Bridge Group parishes are shown in orange.
- Dorchester is shown in dark blue.

Organisation of the Team

The work of the Team is coordinated by a Team Council which comprises the Churchwardens and elected representatives from each of the parishes, together with the licensed clergy. The Council meets 4-5 times a year to provide a forum for discussion and to monitor and encourage what is done on a Team basis. The Team also has a Link project with the Kimberly and Kuruman Diocese in South Africa, which includes supporting the Burning Bush soup kitchen project in Boegoeburg in the Northern Cape by providing regular funds from Team service collections to aid in the purchase of food. Joint services are held in churches across the Team on each 5th Sunday, during Holy Week and Ascension Day.

Our regular pattern of services

We're not sure a 'normal month' ever happens – but if it did, it would look like this...

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday
Abbey				
Abbey	8:00 HC (BCP)	8:00 HC (BCP)	8:00 HC (BCP)	8:00 HC (BCP)
	10:30 SE	10.30 FS	10:30 SE	10:30 MW
	15.00 Forest Church	17:00 Evensong		
BBD Cluster				
Berinsfield	14:30 MC	11:00 HC (healing)	11:00 HC	15:00 Living Room
Drayton St Leonard	17:00 HC	9:30 HC	9:30 MS	09:30 HC
Nuneham Courtenay				
Marsh Baldon	10:30 HC			11:00 HC
Toot Baldon		16:00 Evensong	9:30 HC	
Bridge Group				
Clifton Hampden	8:00 HC (BCP)	10:30 MW	10:30 HC	
Culham	11:00 HC			
Little Wittenham				8:30 HC
Long Wittenham	9:30 HC	9:30 HC	9:30 HC	18:30 Worship
Eastern Cluster				
Chiselhampton				
Newington				
Stadhampton	9:30 FS	9:30 HC	9:30 FE	9:30 HC (BCP)
Warborough	11:00 PE	11:00 MW	11:00 PE	8:00 HC (BCP)
		16:30/18:00 HC (BCP)		16:30/18:00 Evensong

MS = Morning Service

MW = Morning Worship

HC = Holy Communion

FS = Family Service

PE = Parish Eucharist

FE = Family Eucharist

Monthly services and communions are offered at The Close and John Masefield House care homes in Burcot – these are currently coordinated by curate Emma, and we have a wonderful team of lay people who contribute to the JMHS services.

Our average numbers for Occasional Offices across the Team are:

	Weddings	Funerals	Baptisms
Dorchester	10	10	7
BBD Cluster	4	4	2
Eastern Cluster	5	13	6
Bridge Group	5	5	5

Person Specification

We are seeking a new Team Vicar who is:

Ordained priest within the Church of England, having satisfactorily completed Initial Ministerial Education – we believe this role could suit someone moving to a first incumbent status role, or later in their ministry.

A person of lively and infectious faith and prayer – who loves God and people.

A team player who enjoys working collaboratively with colleagues (clergy and lay), our congregations and our wider communities.

A pastor – able to care for people of all ages and backgrounds, and to make the most of the pastoral offices.

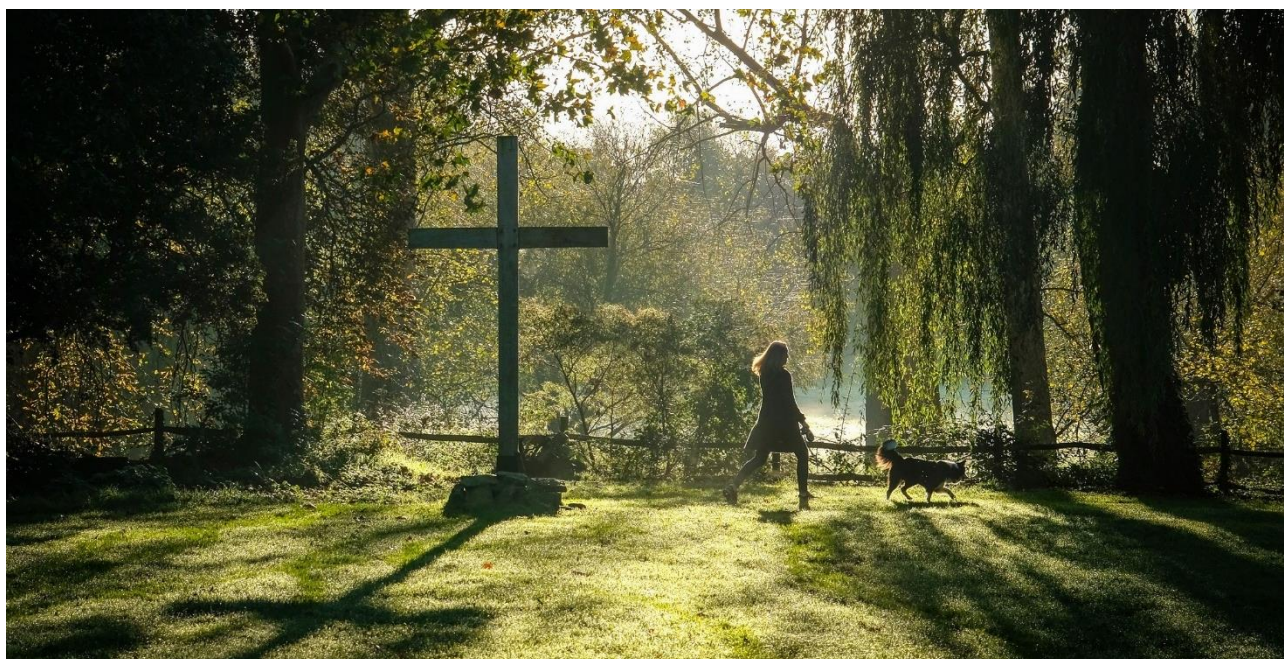
Someone with a heart for mission and the kingdom, with the capacity to engage well with existing congregations and new missional opportunities.

An inspiring minister in word and sacrament. A gifted communicator – from the pulpit to the primary schools. Someone who will help us all us to apply God's word to our daily lives, and a priest who celebrates the Eucharist with depth and with joy.

Someone who is at ease working with colleagues and churches who draw from a breadth of traditions.

Someone who is committed to good safeguarding practice as an integral part of our Christian faith.

Someone who will relish both the challenges and the opportunities of the Dorchester Team in a time of rebuilding – helping us to work together creatively and constructively as we re-imagine our future as churches and as a Team.



The Clusters and Parishes of the Dorchester Team

Dorchester

We are a village of around a thousand people with a very unusual parish church with a remarkable history and heritage. The life of Dorchester Abbey began in 635AD when the missionary Bishop Birinus arrived, sent from Rome by Pope Honorius I, bearing the message of the gospel to the West Saxons. Cynegils, King of Wessex, was converted and baptised in the river near Dorchester. He gave Dorchester-on-Thames to Birinus for his episcopal see and a cathedral was founded on our site. In 1085 the see (which has in various times extended south as far as the Dorset coast and north as far as the Humber) was transferred to Lincoln. Fifty-five years later the Abbey was founded by Bishop Alexander of Lincoln, for the Arrouaisian branch of the Augustinian Order. At the dissolution of the monasteries the Abbey church was saved by the generosity of a wealthy benefactor, Richard Beauforest, to be the parish church of the people of Dorchester.



Today the Abbey is the home of a worshipping community of healthy size for a small village. Our regular worship ranges from Sung Eucharist to BCP Communion and Choral Evensong, to informal family services. Welcoming children and families is important to us, and we are delighted to have a growing number of children in our Junior Choir.

We have a wide reach as many of our wider community support the life of the Abbey and each year we welcome thousands of visitors. We have a Museum and a renowned Tea Room which runs through the spring and summer. We are home to many concerts and the visual arts – most notably during the weeks of Dorchester Festival.

We also serve on occasions as pro-cathedral, privileged to host services such as the Dorchester Episcopal Area ordination of priests, the annual Evensong for the Fellowship of St Birinus and the Bishop of Dorchester's annual Mayors and Chairs dinner.

We host a weekly toddler group and a community coffee morning, and have a Bible study group meeting in homes. As a church we are engaging in a new vision process for this season in the Abbey's life, in which we will hope to draw deeply from our heritage to seek fresh vision for our future.

The BBD Cluster

Berinsfield

We are a modern village, situated 8 miles south of Oxford and 6 miles from Abingdon and Wallingford. It is built on the site of a former airfield used by the Americans in WW2 and was the first new village in Oxfordshire for 500 years.

The first residents, some of whom still live here occupied the huts left empty until the first houses were built in 1959. Since then, the village has grown in size and now has a multicultural community. Residents own their own properties but there are Housing Authority homes that are rented. There is a plan that remains under consideration by South Oxford District Council for a significant increase in housing but this will not be implemented in the immediate future.

Berinsfield is a hub for the community services including grocery stores (the Co-op hosts a Post Office), Doctors Surgery, a Pharmacy, a

Dentist, a Hairdressers, Library and a Fish and Chip shop. There is a small industrial site although many people work outside the village in surrounding towns. The village has its own Primary School, The Abbey Woods Academy, which is run by the Anthem Multi-Academy Trust and currently has 200 pupils on the roll. There is a pre-school adjacent to Abbey Woods Academy and older children attend Abingdon, Didcot, Oxford and Wallingford Secondary Schools. There is a Sports Centre and Gymnasium, Boxing Club, Youth Centre and The Berin Centre which has activities for children and families, opportunities for older people and also houses the Community Larder.



St Mary and St Berin is a modern Church built by the village and completed in 1962. The church and church hall are divided by a retractable screen with a door set in it. This allows the whole space to be opened up on particular occasions. This provides a community space which is well used by a weekly chair-based exercise class run by volunteers and funded by Active Oxfordshire) a weekly Community Coffee Morning and the Parish Council Meeting once a month.

There is arrangement with the local Roman Catholics dating back 50 years, providing for a Mass to be held in St Mary and St Berin every Sunday at 9.30am.

We also have a prayer link with our link Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman; each month we swap prayer request with friends from the 'Burning Bush' project in K&K.

We are working with Community Action Group (CAG) do develop a community garden at the side of the church as part of our ECO Church Bronze Award.

Before Easter 2023/24 we did 'Experience Easter' and Christmas 2023 'Experience Christmas' welcoming the school into church on the Friday and the Community on Saturday.



We have 28 people on our electoral roll. Our congregation, although small, ages between 40-90.

Our regular pattern of services includes Messy Church on afternoon of the first Sunday of the month, our Holy Communion service on second Sundays includes prayer for healing, on third Sundays our communion service is followed by a shared lunch, and on fourth Sundays the 'Living Room' outreach is run from 3.00pm-5.00pm by a group of people (including some from our regular congregation) and churches associated with CAP, Wallingford. On Wednesdays we have a service of Holy Communion 9.30am.

Special festivals occasions are well attended; All Souls, Remembrance Day Service and the 'Crib Service' on Christmas Eve. We aim for a balance between dignity and informality, old and new. Full vestments are always worn for festivals and special occasions.



Drayton St Leonard



We have 24 people on our church electoral roll. Members of other churches, including Roman Catholics, live in the village and worship with us on village occasions and some festivals.

The Church is Norman with additions by Street in 1886. It has an unusual wooden bell tower with six bells that have been recently recast and rehung at a cost of just over £100,000 that are the pride of an enthusiastic band of ringers. The churchyard is looked after by a few volunteers who manage the trees and grass. Part of it is being actively managed for wildlife. It is still open for burials.

There is a service in the church on four Sundays of the month. Over the past few years, the monthly pattern of services has been flexible to meet the needs of those attending and there is an entirely lay led service of the Word once a month. This small group of lay worship leaders have participated in training run in-house by the Dorchester Team and several of this group are training to be authorised lay preachers.



Prior to the pandemic attendance at worship increased significantly at festivals. We have not seen as many people returning to these festival services and this is an area of development for the congregation. There is a Crib Service on Christmas Eve, a Christmas Carol Service, a Harvest Festival followed by a Harvest Supper in the Village Hall, as well as a Remembrance service followed by an Act of Remembrance at the Village Cross. We have an occasional organist who plays at some special services though mostly we use recorded music to accompany the hymns.



Now that there is no longer a shop or a consistently working pub in the village, the church is an important meeting place for the whole village community. It is a collection point for daily newspapers and is used on occasions for Parish Council meetings. There is also a sense of shared responsibility for the maintenance of the church among members of the village who are not regular churchgoers as is seen by their financial giving to the church and their active involvement in the annual Church Fete which raises £4k-£5k each year. There is a regular bell ringing practice which is well attended and, in the summer, often attracts people into the church.

Although Drayton St Leonard is small and there is a small congregation, it is regarded by all newcomers to the village as friendly and very active, with events at different times of the year designed to raise funds for the church (Safari supper) or bring the community together (Beer Fest, Annual Tennis Tournament and Bicycle Polo on the field!).

Marsh and Toot Baldon with Nuneham Courtenay

The parish of Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon with Nuneham Courtenay is seeking a vicar who balances their personal spiritual life with their duties as a parish priest. Our longing is for a vicar whose prayer life underpins their ministry in our parish, and who preaches the Gospel. We are an intellectually alert congregation with a desire to be stimulated and grow in biblical understanding and deepen faith.

We are already very blessed. We live in a beautiful part of South Oxfordshire, and have two 13th century churches in uplifting locations. We have weekly services by rotation, and there has been continuity of worship within the villages since mediaeval times, serving Toot Baldon, Marsh Baldon and Nuneham Courtenay.



We have a loving and mutually supportive PCC, with a broad skills base. There are three churchwardens, a sacristan, a vergers and we have a volunteer rota for reading lessons, intercessions and sides duty. We enjoy a range of service styles, with traditional services such as sung evensong, compline with Taizé, Common Worship holy communion, and occasional informal services such as a pet service. We enjoy both traditional and modern worship music. Core services throughout the year include the Aircrash Memorial Service, the extremely well attended carol service, a harvest festival, a parish breakfast and an occasional sung evensong held in our Grade II listed chapel in Nuneham Park. We have a strong musical tradition, with a skilled organist, and an



occasional choir for festival services and evensong.

We are also blessed with fellowship outside Sundays. We have a home group, 'Wine and Fellowship', which meets monthly for bible study and prayer. There is a weekly prayer group meeting in the churches, 'Local House of Prayer', and a monthly 'Filling Station' hosted in the village hall.

In our wider community, there is a Church of England primary school (70+ pupils) in Marsh Baldon, with vicar-led weekly assemblies on site, and festival services within the church. We are fortunate to have supportive and generous non-church attending parishioners, who contribute to the finances, the administration and the life of the church. In addition, there is a strong community cohesion within our three rural villages, where both church and non-church goers unite to support each other and contribute to the wellbeing of all. This includes a community owned pub, drama and musical traditions including the choir, handbells, and bell ringing band. There is a lunch club for over sixties, a running club, several book clubs, a philosophy



group, cricket team, community run pub and a wine club. All this needs good communications! So we have a church-edited monthly village newsletter, a village email platform; a Facebook page and several WhatsApp groups.

We are a traditional church with a heart for mission to the wider community. We believe there is an opportunity to grow our church, for example by providing an introduction to Christianity course, a parent and toddler group and pastoral care for elderly parishioners. We would love to have a vicar who will join and be involved in our community, preach and inspire us with their sermons and lead us to reach out in mission to our neighbours.

The Eastern Cluster

Newington

There has been a church in Newington since 997; however, the present church is Norman. Some restoration work took place in the early 1990s, the church is cared for but in need of some renovation. It is the only public space in the village and used for Parish Council meetings, and other village events.

The church has been used for quilt exhibitions, art exhibitions, musical evenings, barn dances, and our very popular Harvest Supper. The church provides a wonderful space,

several weddings have been held there in recent years incorporating a reception at the next-door Newington House.

The people of the Parish and Church

There are 85 inhabitants of Newington, living in 42 dwellings. The population varies from young families to retired people, from all social and economic backgrounds, with a number of people living alone. Some families have village connections going back over generations.

Farming is the largest commercial activity and there is no heavy industry, but some cottage industry. Most people of working age are employed locally, with some travelling further afield. Most houses are privately owned and there are also a few Housing Association properties. Newington is a small village whose present inhabitants are committed to maintaining St Giles for the future, and if possible, to enhance the facilities and general state of repair.

Services

Our worship life is focused around 3 services a year, generally these are held at Rogationtide/early summer, Harvest and Christmas. All services include generous hospitality and are well attended by villagers. There is also a small monthly service held in the home of an elderly parishioner. We also enjoy hosting occasional team and cluster services.



Stadhampton with Chiselhampton



The village of Stadhampton and the hamlets of Chiselhampton, Brookhampton (formerly part of Newington Parish) and Ascott are about a mile apart, at the eastern edge of the Team and located on a busy cross country route in rural South Oxfordshire. Their population covers a broad spectrum of age and socio-economic groupings with a recent new development at Hampton Meadows providing an additional 65 homes with a further 21 homes due to be built on the neighbouring Newington Nurseries site. Although in a rural environment (there are some six or seven farms across the parish) most are employed in Oxford or one of the nearby market towns with a few commuting to High Wycombe and London. There is also a relatively high number of retired people.

The County Primary School in Stadhampton has 85 pupils. Formerly, the Team Vicar was a governor and a regular visitor to school leading a weekly assembly. The school hold a Christmas Service which prior to the pandemic was held in church and contribute food donations to the Harvest Festival which is donated to the local food bank. There is also the Little Bears Pre-School and nearby the Lighthouse Montessori School and until recent times there was a weekly mother and toddlers group run by the Church. The elderly and infirm are supported by a hospital car service and medical prescription collection service from the nearby Health Centre, and prior to the pandemic we had a thriving lunch club welcoming over 30 people each month.

Recently this has been replaced by a monthly coffee morning which is well attended by both young and old alike. It slightly goes without saying that members of the church are actively involved in the running and organisation of many village events and organisations.

Local government administration is provided by the Parish Council with the Church being adapted in 2013 to serve both as a place of worship and a village hall, serving the community with a variety of groups and events. Stadhampton also features a petrol filling station and large convenience store, the Flying Pig Farmshop, Doyleys Farmshop, the Crazy Bear Hotel and until recently the Crown pub. Stadhampton also has a large village green and sports pavilion which is also available for public hire whilst neighbouring Chiselhampton has the Coach & Horses Inn which also provides accommodation.



The Churches

Around 900 people now live within the combined Parish of Stadhampton with Chiselhampton and are served by the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, located just off the main road through Stadhampton. The Grade II listed stone building and tower dates back to the thirteenth century, although with evidence of 18th century influences to the tower with its unusual flame urns and major

Victorian 'restoration' in the late 1800s with further reordering in 2013 to provide community facilities and a more flexible use of the interior space.



The well-preserved Grade II* listed Georgian Church of St Katherine at Chiselhampton, still with its original furnishings and 'box pews', is maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust. An appeal to restore the church in 1952 was supported by many notaries at the time including John Piper who repainted the clockface and Sir John Betjeman who wrote a poem in support. Whilst no longer in regular use, it is opened for two or three festival services each year and is looked after by local volunteers. In 2022 the church underwent a major restoration supported by a large grant from Historic England but there are still a number of outstanding works to be completed.

The Team Vicar looks after the needs of Stadhampton with Chiselhampton together with the sister parishes of Newington and Warborough, where the Vicarage for this



cluster is located. Each has its own Parochial Church Council. The Church co-ordinates the monthly parish magazine which contains features on both church and village activities and is distributed free of charge to all homes in Stadhampton, Chiselhampton and Newington.

Worship

The Church of St John the Baptist provides the opportunity to engage in worship at a main service at 9.30 am every week. The style of service varies and over a month includes a Family Service, a Parish Eucharist, a Family Communion and a BCP service. On fifth Sundays we join with the Team Service, held in one of the parishes within the Team. Regular services attract congregations of around ten to fifteen, with larger numbers for the increasingly well-supported Family Service and upwards of fifty for festival services. The Family Service is organised by the Team Vicar with support from local families. An organist usually plays for all sung services and there is definitely the opportunity to increase engagement with music.

As a church community we are warm, enthusiastic and cohesive and have pulled together whilst we have been without a Team Vicar. We remain confident for the future of our church and community and welcome someone willing to work with us to make our church thrive through prayer, friendship, love, example and action.



Warborough

The Geographical Setting of the Parish

Warborough is an attractive rural village and civil parish in South Oxfordshire, midway between Dorchester and Benson. The parish comprises two formerly separate settlements: Warborough and the hamlet of Shillingford, beside the River Thames on the southern tip of Oxford's green belt and adjacent to an area of outstanding natural beauty. There are many historic buildings, some within a conservation area centred on one of the finest village greens in Oxfordshire.



The People of the Parish

The population of approximately 1000 is relatively stable, with about 15% under 18 and 30% over 64 years. While people move in and out of the parish, some residents belong to long-established village families and others have lived in the village for decades. Villagers from all social and economic backgrounds are well-integrated, in a predominantly linear development accounting for most of the 480 or so homes. Of these, about 10% are Housing Association owned, some are privately rented, and a few are second/weekend homes with the remainder being privately owned.

Warborough is a vibrant and thriving village community. There are many activities and organisations in the parish: Cricket, Tennis and Croquet; Pilates, Dancercise, Jujutsu Martial Arts, Short Mat Bowls, Silver Swans Ballet for the over-50's; and W&S Society, WI, Garden Club Mowers and Growers, Lunch Club for the elderly, Coffee Mornings and Bazaars. A monthly Parish Magazine, funded by advertising and Warborough Parish Council, is distributed free to

every household in the parish and beyond. A Surgery Car Service operates each weekday between the parish and Berinsfield Health Centre, concentrating during and since the pandemic on the delivery of prescription medicines.

The Church in Warborough

St Laurence Church is a Grade II* listed building in the centre of the village. The livings of Warborough and Dorchester are held in plurality by the Team Rector, with the Team Vicar for Newington, Stadhampton with Chiselhampton, and Warborough living in Warborough Vicarage.

St Laurence Church is supported by an experienced and dedicated Parochial Church Council comprising of 10 members, meeting five times a year. There is one churchwarden, treasurer, a Church Safeguarding Officer, a St Laurence Hall Management Group and teams of sidespersons, lesson readers, intercessors, flower arrangers, brass cleaners and churchyard workers. The Vicar of Warborough and Churchwarden(s) are the Trustees of a Charitable Trust for two Almshouses which are adjacent to the churchyard.

The Parish Share has always been paid in full and on time. Christian Stewardship is part of our outward giving, with various charities receiving donations from the Church. Collections from Christmas Services are given to specific charities. Local charities - The Porch Day Centre, Oxford and the Wallingford Emergency Food Bank - are also supported.



Congregations have recovered to about 80% of pre-pandemic levels (2019 saw a yearly-averaged Sunday attendance of 41 and whole-week attendance of 87). Older people are well

represented, young families less so, except at special services and main festivals.

St Laurence Church of England Primary School

The School, founded in 1838 has benefitted significantly from becoming part of the Oxfordshire Diocesan Schools Trust in October 2022. There are 94 children on the roll, aged from 4 to 11 years. The Team Vicar would normally be a member of the Governing Body and conduct Collective Worship, usually each week; others in the local ministry team also lead Collective Worship. Strong links with the School have been established over many years.

The School appoints two children as Religious Education Ambassadors, hosts “Open the Book” and, prior to the coronavirus pandemic, hosted Prayer Spaces for Schools (when not held in the Church). A major success in recent years has been holding weekday School-in-Church Services, 4 per year, with each Service attracting over 100 children and 80 adults. Other special services include Christingle and a Nativity play in School and a school Remembrance Service at Warborough War Memorial.



The Friends of St Laurence Church

The Friends is a Charitable Trust, formed in 1990 and re-mobilised in mid-2020, to raise funds for the church building and to make grants to the PCC. At present, The Friends are providing both fundraising and project management support for the St Laurence Church Conservation Project, which arose

from the Quinquennial Inspection of 2018. Phases 1 and 2 are estimated to cost approximately £80,000 and £153,000, respectively, ex. VAT and professional fees. The Project presents exceptional opportunities for the whole community to be involved in preserving the identity and cohesion of our villages. Over the last four years, The Friends have raised more than £100,000 from grants and local fundraising, including the participation of our very own OX10 Cycling Club in the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride + Stride for Churches. Phase 1 was completed earlier this year. These events have attracted and engaged those in the community who might otherwise not have become involved in church activities.



The Bridge Group



We are a group of 3 parishes with four Churches: Clifton Hampden with Burcot, Long Wittenham with Little Wittenham, and Culham. We love our communities and enjoy worshipping together. We cherish our history and recognise that Church needs to diversify. With our new pioneer Team Vicar we are seeking God to discern our way forward, looking for creative ways to worship and to love and serve our communities.

Clifton Hampden with Burcot

We are two beautiful villages set on the river Thames, with a school, shop, village hall and GP in Clifton Hampden. The church of St Michael and All Angels loves and serves both communities. We are a small group of active, passionate and welcoming people who care about the welfare of our community and enjoy worshipping God together. We are seeking to serve our local community in new ways and to diversify how we gather as Church together.

Our building is Grade 2* listed, serves both communities and is particularly beautiful as it sits on an ancient foundation on a spur of rock above the river. Our PCC and Friends of are brilliant at maintaining the Church building, as such our building is well looked after. We currently gather in our Church building three times a month to worship.

We have a good relationship with the school, which is a small CofE village school opposite our Church building. Our vicar does regular assemblies and is seeking to grow relationships with local families through this connection.

Our finances are currently in good health.



Long with Little Wittenham

We are a parish of two villages, Long and Little Wittenham.



Little Wittenham is a very small settlement with no shop or pub, but it is surrounded by the conservation area managed by the Earth Trust. St Peter's Church sits in a beautiful position at the foot of Wittenham Clumps. It is greatly valued by visitors who frequently use the space for quiet prayer and contemplation. We currently gather as a small group of 2-5 people for Holy Communion once a month.

The financial cost of maintaining this beautiful Grade 2* listed building are carried by the Friends of St Peter's and the village collectively.

Long Wittenham is the larger of the two villages, with a local school, two pubs, a fantastic curry house called 'The Vine and Spice', a village hall and the Pendon Museum.

The village is expanding to the south. The first development is nearly complete. A second is planned consisting of a significant number of new homes, including affordable housing, a new village hub to replace the existing Village Hall and a new Primary School to replace the current school which is on a cramped site. We have a good relationship with our local CofE school, through which our vicar regularly does assemblies and the Church hosts their larger celebrations in the Church building.

We are a friendly and caring Church family of around 8-12 people who currently gather for a service of Holy Communion three times a month. We are uncertain of how we are going to go forward, but trusting in God for our future. We hope to discover new ways to be church, to share our faith and to serving our community, with our new vicar.

St Mary's is a Grade 1 listed building with a toilet, a kitchenette and Wi-Fi. The Friends of St Mary's and the Friends of St Peter's are active and successful in raising money to support capital projects and fabric maintenance. However, our finances are not in good shape at the moment, and we are aware that this affects the use of our building in the future. We hope God will do new creative things amongst us and our community.



Culham

Culham village is a small village on a bend of the river Thames situated 1.5 miles from the market town of Abingdon. The village has the church of St Paul, a pre-School housed in the former Culham Primary School, Europa school, Culham Science Centre and supports a village wildlife conservation area.

We are a small and welcoming Church family, who are deeply passionate about loving and serving our local community, and 4-6 of us gather twice a month for a Holy Communion Service. We are acutely aware that Church needs to change and are exploring different possibilities with our new Vicar. Alongside our Sunday services, the local community use our building to gather for events, the Children's activity club, the ladies of Culham and the parish council. As such, imaginative plans are underway to retain a building for use in worship as well as create a flexible space for use by community groups, the parish council and other interested organisations.



Culham church's history goes back to at least the Middle Ages and the current building was completed between 1710 and 1852. With an aging building and a dwindling congregation our finances are in an unhealthy place. However, St Paul's has a very good working relationship with the Friends, sharing fund raising projects to maintain the building and support the community.



Schools Ministry

There are seven primary schools within the Team: four Church of England Controlled Schools in Clifton Hampden, Dorchester, Long Wittenham and Marsh Baldon; one County School in Stadhampton; an Academy in Berinsfield; and a Church of England Primary School in Warborough, as part of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust. Children leaving Primary Schools go on to a number of different Schools outside the Team area. There are also a number of Pre-Schools and Nurseries across the Team and the Europa School, an all-through Free School, is based in Culham.

Our 'Open the Book' Team visit six of the schools in the team area, offering a programme of acted Bible stories for children. Our team clergy and lay people currently offer assemblies in five out of our seven schools and we are keen to be able to offer more. We regularly welcome children from some of our schools into our churches for special services for festivals or the end of term – and last year Berinsfield offered 'Experience Christmas and 'Experience Easter' for their school and for their wider community.

We recently further developed our links with four of our primary schools, from which 101 children participated in a production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, working with Christian-run professional opera company Opera Brava, during Dorchester Festival.



The Vicarage and Local Amenities

The four-bedroom detached vicarage is situated in the centre of Berinsfield about a 10 minute walk from the Church and the school. Downstairs there is a kitchen/breakfast room, a large sitting room and a downstairs cloakroom and separate study which are near to the front door. The house has a small front garden with a private driveway and garage, and a medium-sized easily-maintained back garden. There is some additional parking in a shared layby to the front of the house and an open green area to one side.



The Vicarage is just 20 mins from Junction 7 of the M40, and 35 minutes from Junction 13 of the M4, allowing easy access both north, south, east and west. Rail services are available via Didcot Parkway, Oxford, and now also via the Elizabeth Line accessed by a drive of about 30 minutes to the south. Between them these services offer regular fast services to London Paddington (about 45 minutes), as well as the south west and Wales.

In Berinsfield we have three grocery stores, a Post Office, a pharmacy, hairdresser, community club, fish and chip shop and a pub. We have an enviable range of facilities and community groups many of which have links to the Church. The Primary School is an Academy and has about 300 pupils with a pre-school and a nursery situated in the school grounds. Older children attend Abingdon, Didcot or Wallingford Secondary Schools. There is a bus service to Berinsfield from Oxford and Reading along the main road (A4074) with a recent traffic light system to allow safe crossing. There is a library, Sports Centre and Gymnasium, a Boxing Club and a Youth Centre. Berinsfield Health Centre is known to be excellent. Local hospitals are in Didcot, Wallingford and Abingdon, with large teaching hospitals in Oxford.

Oxford is about 10 miles to the north and Reading about 20 miles to the south. The towns of Abingdon, Wallingford and Didcot are all only a few minutes' drive away and provide many further amenities, including cinemas, supermarkets, gyms, swimming pools, theatres etc.



The Dorchester Team by Numbers...

Topic	Dorchester	Clifton Hampden	Culham	Long Wittenham	Little Wittenham	Berinsfield	Drayton St Leonard	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon	Nuneham Courtenay	Stadhampton	Newington	Warborough
Population	1000	650	487	958	135	4500	278	282	142	205	838	117	1000
Electoral Roll	113	34	16	28		28	24	50	with Marsh Baldon	with Marsh Baldon			71
School	CofE	50 pupils CofE	Europa School with preschool	100 pupils CofE		300 pupils plus nursery		CofE			70 Pupils County Primary		94 pupils CofE
Shop	Yes	Yes				6				Yes	Yes		Yes
Post Office	Mobile	Yes				Yes					Mobile		Yes
Pub	1 pub, 2 hotels	2	1	2		1	1	1			3		1 pub, 1 hotel, several guest houses
Village Hall	Yes	Yes		Yes		Church Hall	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes & Church Hall
Bus Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Frequent				Yes	Hourly		Yes
Other Churches	RC					Share with RC					St Katherine's, Chiselhampton (in care of Church Conservation Trust)		
Library						Yes							
Sports	Sports clubs + Pavilion	Rec field, tennis courts	Glebe Field	Football field		Sports Centre, Open Water Swimming	Football field	Sports field; Cricket			Football field; cricket		Football, cricket, Tennis
Scouting Organisations													
Health Centres		Yes				Yes							
Church Youth Activities													
Other	Museum, Team Room, Hurst Water Meadow			Pendon Museum	Earth Trust	various							
Pre School	Yes	Montessori	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes				Montessori	Yes
Bell Ringing	Yes												Yes

