



# Great Western Park Church

A heart for the community

*Parish Profile*

## Contents

<b>Forewords.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Archdeacon's foreword.....	1
Churchwardens' welcome.....	2
Our Interregnum Prayer.....	2
<b>GWPC: A heart for the community.....</b>	<b>4</b>
An introduction.....	4
Our church family.....	5
Send us out.....	7
“So that everyone can hear”.....	9
The next season.....	10
<b>The minister we seek.....</b>	<b>12</b>
Role description.....	12
Person specification.....	13
How we will support you.....	15
<b>Our church in context.....</b>	<b>17</b>
The vicarage.....	17
The “parish” (Conventional District).....	17
The wider town.....	19
Deanery perspective.....	20

# Forewords

## Archdeacon's foreword

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.

Great Western Park ('GWP') is seeking a new Associate Minister who will be kind, caring, warm and friendly. As a prayerful leader you will bring energy and confidence as you encourage the church to continue to look outwards to the wider community. This relatively new congregation is made up of a range of depth of Christian experience and a range of views, seated in an evangelical tradition, so a new minister will need to be gifted in dealing with difference and encouraging a diverse congregation to flourish.

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 Diocese is committed to a high level of support and training for our clergy. Successful candidates who are taking up posts of first responsibility will be expected to participate in Pastoral Supervision Groups, further details can be found on the [Diocesan website](#).

GWP 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Tyler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Venerable David Tyler, Archdeacon of Dorchester*



# Churchwardens' welcome

We are excited to welcome a new minister to our wonderful church here in Didcot. We have been praying for our next minister ever since we learned our previous incumbent was retiring: that God would prepare their heart for a new ministry and make their path to us straight as we together trust God, submit to Him, and follow His plan for Great Western Park Church.

We here set out a vision of a church that is rooted and established in love. In that love, we have a heart for the community, and a longing to bring our community into deeper fellowship with Christ. We believe that Jesus' death and resurrection deliver redemption for *all* the Lord's people, and we seek to grasp and reflect the life-changing power of that love.

We believe this vision is a compelling one, and we are seeking a minister who will guide us into the next season. This minister will enter at a crucial point in our history and mission, with the opportunity to shape a growing church with an engaged congregation and an exciting future.

We invite you to share in our excitement as we continue our forward momentum into a new season, enabled by a growing and developing church family, an engaged PCC and excellent payrolled staff, and a strong team of volunteers, including in lay ministry.

The minister will join a church in one of the fastest growing towns in the country, with its population set to double over 15 years. Didcot, and Great Western Park in particular, has experienced significant development, including the establishment of new schools and facilities and substantial investment in local services.

Alongside the energy and momentum of this growth sits a deep and growing need for community, fellowship, and cohesion. We believe that the way that we do church speaks to this need, and we trust in God's provision and plan for how to minister to it.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our church. We pray that God will guide your heart and your judgement.

Every blessing,

Rebecca & Andy, GWPC churchwardens





## Our Interregnum Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
We praise You for all You have done in our church and community.  
Thank you for the hope and future You have promised us.

We give thanks for our church leaders,  
for their obedience to Your call and for the seeds they have sown.  
Bless and protect them in the season ahead.

Lord, we acknowledge our need for You.  
Equip us in this interregnum,  
strengthen our churchwardens and leaders,  
bless those who serve in our church,  
and keep us united in Your love.

Father, prepare the heart of our next minister  
and give us patience, courage, and open hearts as we wait.

Lord Jesus, keep our eyes fixed on You.  
Bring us to unity, guide us by Your Spirit,  
and may Your name be glorified,  
now and always.

*Amen.*



# GWPC: A heart for the community

## An introduction

Great Western Park Church is a modern, vibrant church based on the Great Western Park (GWP) development in Didcot, Oxfordshire. We are an established congregation and pride ourselves on shaping community in our growing town.



*This wordcloud is composed of words that our congregation uses to describe our church*

Our church family is diverse in every sense, including folks from every walk of life and from a variety of church backgrounds, as well as new Christians. We meet on a Sunday morning at a local college on GWP and we also have midweek congregations at local retirement homes. Our Sunday services

are informal and combine Common Worship materials with modern, Spirit-led worship, Christ-centred preaching, and intercessory prayer. The majority of our family also meet in Life Groups throughout the week, where we study God's word, pray together, and share food and fellowship.

Our church slogan - "**A Heart for the Community**" - reflects our calling for God to send us out to reach our community in the town, and for the town to come to us as a life-giving heart for the estate and beyond. We are seeking to develop a deeper sense of intercession for our community, and to continue to meet their practical and spiritual needs.

Our modern, "open evangelical" style is borne of our striving to create an atmosphere and culture that is welcoming to *all* people, and speak God's word of hope, truth, and light so that everyone can hear.

We give thanks for the rich, deep community that He has created in our town. We believe that God has placed us here as part of His plan for the town, and we are immensely excited for He has in store for the next season.



## Our church family

Our Sunday services follow an informal style, and we meet weekly in the technology college on GWP. We have seen steady growth in attendance over recent years, driven by a combination of new Christians, Christians who have moved into the area and found fellowship with us, and families in our congregation having children.

Typically our Sunday morning services are attended by 60-70 people (including 10-15 children), although our numerous recent infant dedication or baptism services have had 100-150 in attendance, and our big Christmas services typically attract 150-200. We also recently held our first adult baptisms, with our previous minister and Bishop Gavin baptising three men from our congregation to great celebration and thanksgiving! We have also welcomed many new babies into the church recently, with five infant baptisms and several dedications taking place this year.

Our congregation is highly engaged in all aspects of the running of the church, both on Sundays and midweek. All members are encouraged to support and be supported by the fellowship as we worship and minister to one another. Our Life Group ministry is organised by Stephen, the designated PCC lead. These Life Groups meet in homes and currently we have around 50 people participating in these groups, but have a need for new groups to be created and are praying for new leaders! The groups are diverse in their make-up and style: some provide deep Bible study, whilst others focus on fellowship and prayer.

Alongside our Life Groups, our pastoral care teams keep an eye out for anyone who may be going through a difficult time and offer support both practically and spiritually. Over the past year, this has included providing several weeks of hot meals for new parents, giving lifts to appointments, visiting ill members of the congregation in hospital and in their homes, and offering sustained relational care for those who need it.

In 2024, we held our first church away day and, in 2025, we had a residential weekend away. Both were a huge success, and something we are keen to organise again in the future. We were pleased to have Bishop Gavin in attendance at the away weekend. As a church, we spent a wonderful weekend going deeper into the Word, praying for each other, and strengthening our relationships with God and each other.



"When I go to church, I'm treated just like everyone else. I think everyone at church is kind and they care about each other"

Thomas, 14

"It is lovely to see the younger folk developing & actively involved in the church. As a member with visual impairment it is difficult for me to be involved in a practical way: I am still a valued member"

Sue

"God-centred, warm, welcoming, relaxed, caring. Great to be a part of this very special church family"

Janet

"It's great to see visitors coming to our church and being made to feel so welcome"

Marion

"I love GWP church as it's a very loving environment where everyone is welcome and is very inclusive"

Rosie

"It is a joy and pleasure to attend a church where I am outnumbered by much younger dedicated people."

Rod, 84

"A church of wholehearted, warm, accepting and devoted Christians, with a strong focus on family and the children of the future"

Tarran

"As a non-binary Christian I value being welcomed authentically at GWP, alongside those who may disagree with me"

Jon

"I find GWPC very inclusive and ethnically diverse. I'm proud to be part of it"

Clare



## Send us out

As a church, we are called to an evangelistic mission: to share the Good News of Christ's redeeming grace with our community. This brings two deliberate areas of focus for us: equipping our congregation in their own faith and devotion, and reaching out to bring the wider community into fellowship with Christ and into a lived experience of the Spirit.

*Here I am. Send me!*

*Isaiah 6:8*

## Equipping

Our ministry is built on the foundation of God's word, equipping us to share Christ with our community. The preaching and leading team (led by PCC member Phil) creates programmes of inspirational teaching to prepare us to go out into our community with a clear message of hope through Jesus' life, words, and sacrifice for us on the cross. These programmes shape our Sunday services, our children's work, and also often the content discussed within Life Groups. Many of our members have explored their gifts in preaching and leading and three are currently completing training for authorisation to preach.

In recent sermon series, we have studied the "I am" sayings of John's Gospel and learned about discipleship by following the first disciples in Mark. In our upcoming series, we will explore 2 Timothy, focusing on the models of faithful, resilient, and gospel-centred leadership that are modelled by Paul and commended to Timothy.

We believe prayer shapes us, drawing us closer to God and enabling us to share the gospel with our community. It is woven into our services through confession and intercession, and we are seeking to deepen our life of prayer together as a church. We do this by offering seasonal resources (such as for Lent and Advent), regular prayer meetings before our Sunday services, and times of shared prayer in our Life Groups. Our hope is that prayer will continue to grow at the heart of who we are and how we live out our faith.



**The GWPC Prayer Ministry team**

Meaningful relationships within the congregation play a core role in equipping us for mission, working hard to make newcomers welcome and included in our community. We place huge value in the fellowship that occurs on Sundays, through the Life Groups, as well as in social events like regular board games nights, pub trips, craft evenings, and walks into the local countryside.



## Outreach

We host a range of events that provide a non-intimidating environment into which anyone can come. In our rapidly growing town, there are many who may not know that our church exists: we are deliberate in the ways that seek to reach those people and to show them a welcoming community of believers.

Alongside our regular Sunday and weekly services, we also host a weekly café in a local community centre. In addition, our Children and Families worker, Nella (right), organises regular events for children and their families, including a weekly baby singing event in the town centre.



We have also organised several large, annual events, including working with a local sports facility for a summer fete with live music from bands and local choirs, crafts, soft play, and low-cost games for families on Boundary Park. This has historically attracted several thousand people.

Our Christmas events are well attended by the local community, including a Christmas market, our free Santa event with crafts and Christian gifts, and our Community carol service that is typically attended by over a hundred people. At each of these events, we prayerfully serve the town in our church, showing people Christ's love, often in a way they have not experienced before.

As a church, we are proud to give missionally. Since 2023, we have given over £10,000 to a variety of causes, from local charities like The Cornermen (who use boxing to support mental health) and Didcot Food Bank, to global causes like the Disasters Emergency Committee and the Congolese Refugee Community in Uganda. We are also proud to be a certified Ecochurch.



## “So that everyone can hear”

We believe that God’s Word is for **everyone**, and should be proclaimed in a way that everyone can hear. We seek to break down barriers as we faithfully share God’s transformative love. We celebrate all of God’s people, praying that all can grasp how wide and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

We believe that our identity is in Christ as believers and followers of him, and that God’s love is for everyone. Because of this, we are called to be inclusive and do not discriminate against people on the grounds of age, disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

*God our Saviour... wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

1 Timothy 2:3-4

Whilst we have a diversity of positions and have not sought to come to agreement regarding the Prayers of Love and Faith, we support the inclusion of people of all sexualities and genders in our fellowship as we seek to follow Christ together. We have previously discussed these issues as part of the Living in Love and Faith course both within Life Groups and as a PCC. Importantly, however, our definition of inclusion expands beyond the common discourse around sexuality and gender.

We believe that our commitment to inclusion cannot be passive and, as part of this, we reflect on how we can be more welcoming as a standing item in every PCC meeting. Our congregation comes from a range of ethnicities, identities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and physical capabilities: we seek to work in dialogue to best support everyone to worship with us. This has led us, for example, to alter the way that we lay out the church to ensure physical accessibility, to support neurodiverse people by offering quieter spaces, and a service style that facilitates free movement.

We also celebrate people of all ages, from our recent influx of babies to our more senior members. We support midweek services in the Oxford Manor and Williams Place retirement homes and have an active children and young people’s ministry. The latter includes parts of our regular Sunday services and activities during the week, coordinated by our Children’s and Families Worker, Nella.

Our congregation come from a variety of traditions and backgrounds (including new believers), and hold a range of theological positions. We seek unity as we worship and work together in Christ, holding our differences with grace, humility, and love. We aim to ensure that our service style is such that all can meet with the Holy Spirit: we incorporate traditional liturgical elements with modern, Spirit-led times of worship.

## The next season

### Foundations

As we approach a new season, we look with hope and expectation for what God will do in us and through us in Great Western Park. Our weekly services began in 2017, driven by a passionate pioneer minister and supported by a core of local families and a dedicated retired minister. From those humble beginnings, and with God's provision, we have grown from pioneers into a diverse and flourishing community. We are grateful for the vision and energy that established this work and built the foundations on which we now sit, and we are excited to build on these foundations with fresh leadership in the season ahead of us.

We seek to continue to grow in numbers and we are called to grow in depth: in discipleship, prayer, teaching, and in the quality of our relationships with one another. We are proud of the organisational maturity of our church and the commitment of our congregation, and how these enable us to witness to our community. We have a full PCC, active subcommittees, and two paid part-time staff members: an administrator and a children's and families worker (see [PCC and church staff](#)). This enables the church to function smoothly, lightening the burden on the minister, and allowing us to grow into new areas of ministry.

Our presence in the town is visible and valued. We have meaningful relationships with local schools, care homes and community groups, and we hope to build on these in the coming years. We continue to meet our parish share and will do so for the foreseeable future. We are thankful for a congregation who give generously of their money, time and gifts, trusting in God's provision.

We believe there is real opportunity here to deepen discipleship, strengthen community, and extend our reach locally, and we look forward to welcoming a minister who will help us continue this journey with faith and joy.

### Challenges and opportunities

We are also aware of the challenges that lie ahead of us, and of the opportunities that those challenges provide.

As discussed in the previous section, we are a broad church, including where it comes to levels of spiritual maturity. Our new incumbent will need to minister to all of these people: from those who have never been to church before, to more mature Christians who desire theological depth. And within that depth, we see a broad range of theological traditions: our inclusivity celebrates this diversity, encouraging people with differing views to work together with love and unity.



Our church does not have its own building, and this has its advantages and disadvantages. While we do not have to maintain a space for worship, the space we do worship in is constrained by the environment available (which may not be ideal for certain worship styles). Furthermore, we depend on our current venue for storage and have to spend time before the service preparing the room for gathering. When required, occasional offices are conducted in neighbouring Anglican church buildings, particularly All Saints' Didcot, and we have also held adult baptisms at a local Baptist church.

Our PCC continuously seeks God's vision and submits to His plan for the long term future of GWPC, including around church buildings and our status as a Conventional District. Whilst we do not have immediate plans to acquire a building or become a full parish, there is an opportunity for our next minister to guide these conversations as they see fit and in God's time.

*...in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:6

We are also initiating work with local churches to minister to the other new-build estates that are currently under planning or development nearby, including across Western Valley, which is the area covering both Great Western Park and the adjacent Valley Park.

## What we offer

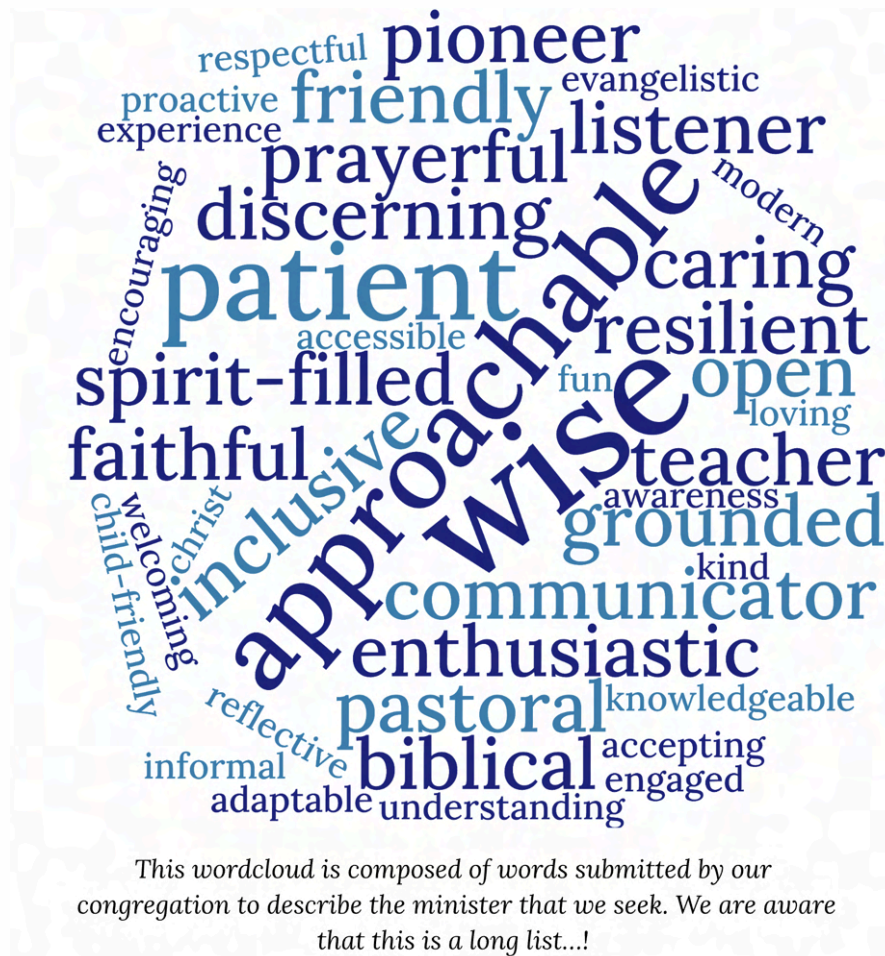
We believe that this role presents a fantastically exciting opportunity to minister to a single parish, well supported by paid staff, an active PCC and lay ministry, and local ministers from Didcot and Harwell.

You will join a **growing, vibrant church** in one of the fastest growing towns in the country with opportunities to **shape ministry** to thousands of new households in our local vicinity.

You will join a church with **solid foundations and a highly engaged congregation**, with the opportunity to continue with us on a trajectory of growth, seeking to build **community for Christ**.

And, you will join a loving, Christ-centred, Biblically-rooted, inclusive fellowship; **diverse in origin but united in purpose**.

# The minister we seek



## Role description

Great Western Park Church was formed in 2017 and designated a Conventional District in 2020. The Conventional District was created from several parishes of Didcot to cover Great Western Park: a new area of Didcot built between 2011 and 2022.

The new minister of GWPC will be a full-time Associate Minister and will be the Minister in Charge of the Conventional District, having full oversight of ministry, with incumbent status. They will be appointed by the Bishop Gavin Collins and supported by Revd Andy Lord (Area Dean). The leader of GWPC also has regular meetings with Revd Jeremy Parsons, Rector of Harwell and Chilton Churches, including regarding support for pioneering mission on Valley Park (a new 4000-home development in progress immediately adjacent to GWP).

## Person specification

We are seeking a minister who will join us in an informal, warm, and welcoming church, rooted in the open evangelical tradition and using liturgy in a relaxed style. The right person will feel at home in a church with both new believers and mature Christians who desire theological depth and challenge. You will help us grow not only in number, but in maturity, confidence, and everyday faith.

We hope that our new minister will bring the breadth of their own experience into the life of our church. We are looking for a minister with the wisdom to lead a diverse congregation, who can also offer energy, imagination, and a fresh perspective to the opportunities and challenges ahead.

### **Disciple**

- A committed follower of Jesus with a life of prayer and the Bible at the centre, who wants others to grow in their own spiritual maturity.
- Committed to growing and developing in their ministry, with the support of the congregation.

### **Pastor**

- Warm, relational, and genuinely interested in people; a minister who will embody and sustain the very special culture of our church – welcoming, inclusive, and friendly.
- Able to relate well to people across the full age range of our congregation and community, from our many babies and pre-schoolers to our valued octogenarians.
- Able to teach the Bible with depth and clarity, accessible to those new to faith and encouraging those who have been attending church for many years.
- Skilled in leading worship in an informal context, using liturgy alongside less traditional elements to help the congregation worship with both reverence and joy.

## **Leader**

- A collaborative leader who empowers, engages, and supports volunteers but can also offer direction and challenge when needed.
- Brings a broad understanding of inclusion and the sensitivity to work well within a church of varied theological perspectives, helping us navigate differences with steadiness, empathy, and good judgement.
- Can think strategically about time, energy and resources, aware that our congregation is generous but stretched.

## **Visionary**

- Able to shape, articulate, and deliver on a vision for how the whole congregation can participate in God's mission to the community around us.
- Comfortable developing and deepening our links with schools and families, retirement and care homes, and community groups, with wisdom in uncovering new opportunities to minister to the wider community.
- Keen to work collaboratively to build ministry across the Western Valley, supporting pioneering mission in brand new estates on the borders of GWP.

## How we will support you

### PCC and church staff

GWPC has a full Parochial Church Council (PCC) which includes the churchwardens, treasurer, secretary, safeguarding officer, synod representatives, and a full contingent of additional lay members. The PCC meets regularly and is engaged in both the day-to-day running of the church and in the longer term strategic direction of the church, including prayerfully seeking and enacting God's vision.

Members of the PCC lead subcommittees and have delegated responsibility for key areas of church life, including for preaching, life groups, worship, operations, communications, prayer, and finance.

The congregation as a whole is committed and involved, with over 40 members on our regular rotas covering leading services and preaching, worship, welcome, logistics, and prayer teams.

In addition to our many volunteers, GWPC has two paid employees who are line managed by the incumbent (when sitting) or the churchwardens during interregnum.

Our administrator, Deborah, plays a crucial role in supporting our minister and church, including organising calendars and meetings, our newsletters and external communications, and ensuring the smooth running of the church. She also administers our Churchsuite system, which we use for arranging Sunday service rotas and email communications.

Our children and families worker, Nella, coordinates a team of volunteers that organise our children's ministry, both on Sundays and at events throughout the week, as well as setting strategic direction for how the church can best serve families both inside and outside of our church congregation.

Several members of the church, including PCC members, are in active training for lay ministry. Even outside of our interregnum period, authorised lay members of the church often preach or lead Sunday services.

## Wellbeing and development

We are deeply committed to the wellbeing of our minister; we fully appreciate the importance of balance, times of rest and recuperation, and respecting the boundaries placed around those times, particularly on days off.

Our previous minister was supported to regularly attend organised and personal retreats, was encouraged to take regular holidays, and took a sabbatical period. He was also well connected with other ministers in the Deanery, and we believe this to be an important part of a minister's wellbeing.

We believe that this role offers numerous opportunities for personal and professional development, and we seek a minister who is willing to continue learning and to take on new challenges, for example in expanding ministries in local schools, and in pioneering new ministry in our rapidly expanding town.

The new minister may also have the opportunity to train others in the gifts of ministry. As a church, we supported our previous Children's and Families Worker into ordination, and have also recently hosted a curacy placement.

Looking forward, we are exploring a grant application with Harwell to support a new youth ministry position within Western Valley. In addition, we have recently authorised two lay preachers from the congregation, and are aware of members of the congregation who are prayerfully and tentatively exploring a call to ministry.



# Our church in context



## The vicarage

The Vicarage is located at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, overlooking green space between it and Didcot Road. It is a modern, well-proportioned home with four double bedrooms and an extension to the ground floor to provide a separate entrance, office/meeting space, and bathroom. Its location on a corner plot at the edge of the GWP estate means that it benefits from a substantial garden and also has a large garage.

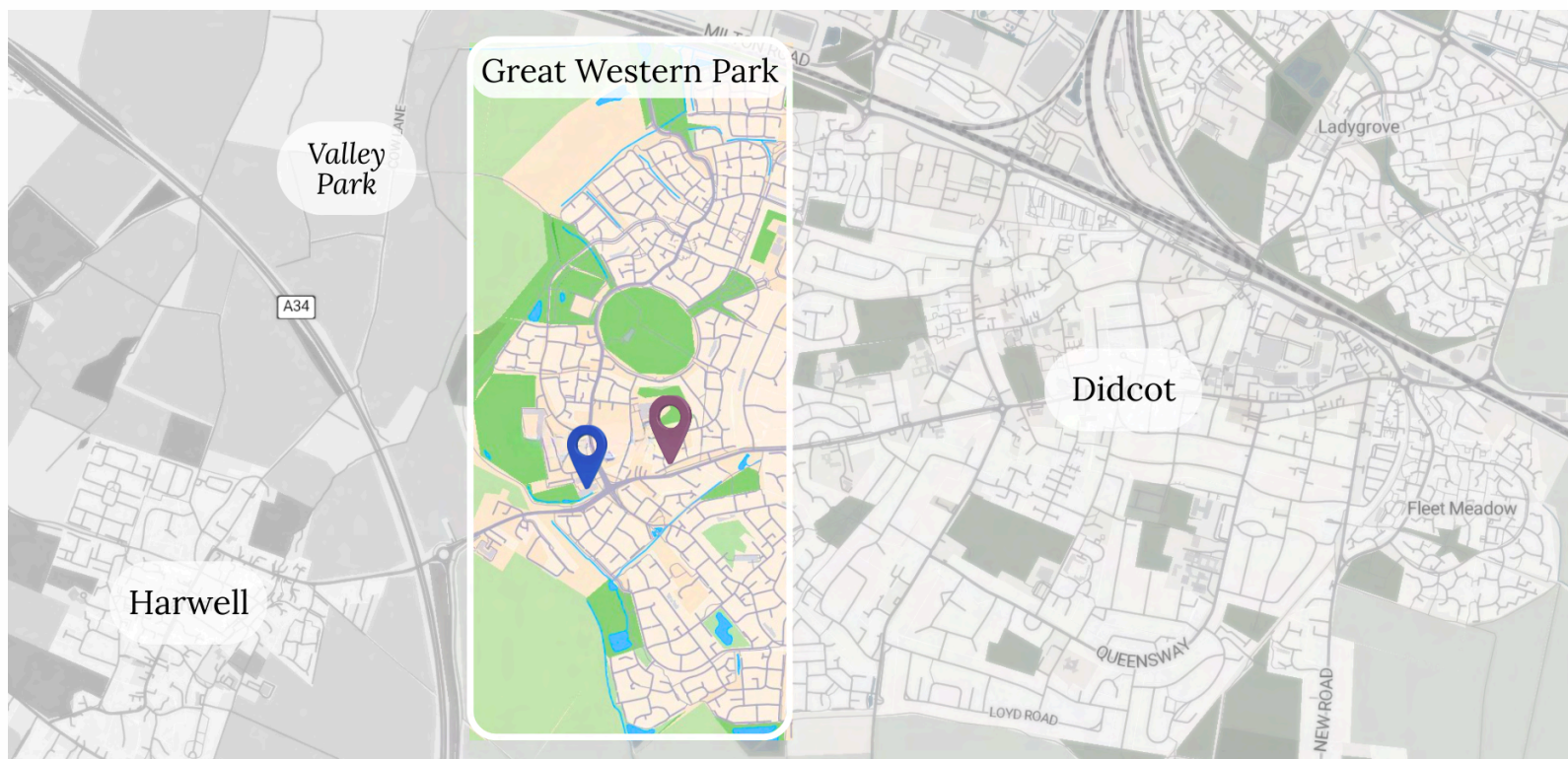
The property is ideally located for local schools. The nearest primary schools are Ofsted-rated Outstanding, and the highly-regarded Didcot Girls' School

and St Birinus Boys' School are within walking distance. Great Western Park also offers Aureus School, a co-educational secondary with modern facilities, and the University Technical College (where the church meets) for students aged 14+. A nursery is situated just around the corner, and there are multiple play areas within easy walking distance.

It is also a short walk from the centre of GWP, with a supermarket, coffee shop, community centre, pub, takeaways, sports facilities, and the college where the church meets.



## The “parish” (Conventional District)



The map above highlights the position and approximate boundaries of the Great Western Park conventional district in the context of the rest of Didcot, with the location of the church (blue marker) and Vicarage (purple marker) shown. The area mostly comprises residential housing, with a population of 8,500 across ~3,500 houses built between 2011 and 2022. There is a variety of styles of housing from small flats to larger 4-5 bed detached houses and an allocation of social housing that is spread throughout the estate.

The population comprises a mixture of young professionals (some of whom commute to London or work in local science and industrial parks), families with children, and older individuals and retirees, including in several retirement facilities on or adjacent to GWP.

The land to the west of GWP, bordered by the A34, will form Valley Park. Building works are now underway, with approximately 4,000 new homes expected. This area falls within an adjacent parish and we are working closely with the Rector (Rev'd Jeremy Parsons) of that parish to support new ministry in that area as it develops.





## The wider town

Didcot is a well-equipped, medium-sized town about 10 miles from Oxford. As part of the recent and ongoing growth, it has received substantial investment in facilities and infrastructure, including a new shopping centre, numerous leisure facilities, and a cinema and performing arts centre.

The town is surrounded on all sides by countryside and there are plenty of walking and cycling routes out of town and into the country, including to the Ridgeway and plenty of picturesque villages.

Didcot is a historic railway town and is very well connected to nearby cities, including with direct links to London (<40 minutes), Reading, Bristol, Southampton, and Oxford, and connections to farther afield.

The building works in our neighbourhood and to the North and East of Didcot will expand the total population of Didcot to 62,000 by 2031, up from 25,571 in 2011, making it one of the fastest growing towns in the country. The works are supported by the Didcot Garden Town Master Plan, which focuses on sustainable development and infrastructure, green outdoor spaces, and provision of local services and amenities, including schools and healthcare facilities.



## Deanery perspective

*Great Western Park (GWP) church is part of Wallingford Deanery in the Diocese of Oxford. It is a flourishing church community that has grown since it was planted just over 10 years ago. We believe that Greater Didcot is an exciting place to be with a rapidly increasing population and opportunities for mission and ministry.*



In our two towns, our rural communities and in new housing across the Deanery, there are great opportunities to develop teams, reach out to others and evolve new worshipping communities. We currently have 19 churches and 10 stipendiary clergy serving alongside a house-for-duty priest and lay, self-supporting, and retired ministers. The Deanery is one of 11 deaneries in the Archdeaconry of Dorchester which covers most of the county of Oxfordshire, apart from the city of Oxford itself.

Member churches in Wallingford Deanery have collectively developed a Mission Action Plan which identifies some of our shared priorities:

- Ministry to children, young people and families
- Outreach to new and settled communities
- Appropriate patterns of worship
- Ministry in the Greater Didcot area which is set to again double in numbers through new housing over the next 10-15 years. Two reports drawing on the experience of churches across the area have been presented to the Deanery Synod over the last three years.

The Deanery aims to support mission and ministry across the area, facilitating thought-provoking Synods and Chapters, inviting experienced practitioners to speak on topics that stimulate our practice and sense of God's call. Recent Synods have explored the nature of being church, our work with children and young people, and our ministry together. Mutual support through sharing, prayer and Bible reflection is important to us.

In common with deaneries across the Diocese, Wallingford Deanery has a designated role of allocating parish share to the churches, bringing local knowledge to the Diocese. The Diocese makes available grants to deaneries, benefices and churches from a Common Development Fund to assist community mission projects in the deanery. We encourage such collaborative visions of mission and the lived presence of Jesus in each local area.

GWP Church is a Conventional District, supported by the incumbents of the four parishes covered by the area. It was established by local churches to reach out to the (then) new GWP estate and is now working with Harwell & Chilton on reaching out to the Valley Park estate that is being built next door (and within Harwell parish). The new minister will have full oversight of GWP Church and be an Associate Minister of the Harwell & Chilton Benefice. Churches across Greater Didcot work flexibly together and given the rapid and continuing changes in population we expect parish boundaries to be adjusted once the new buildings and communities have been established.

We feel GWP Church is at a very exciting point in its life and represents a wonderful opportunity to grow community and share faith at a time of population growth.

*Revd Dr Andy Lord, Area Dean*  
*Vaughn Lawful, Lay Chair*