

House for Duty (non-stipendiary) Team Vicar for the Parishes of Adwell, Lewknor, South Weston, Stoke Talmage, Tetsworth and Wheatfield within the Thame Benefice

Introduction

1. The Benefice of Thame was created by Order in Council in April 1998 when the benefices of Adwell, Lewknor, South Weston, Stoke Talmage, Tetsworth and Wheatfield were united with the benefice of Thame and Towersey (“the Pastoral Measure”). The Pastoral Measure required that the parishes should “continue distinct” but for ease of reference within this document we shall call the 6 distinct parishes the “**Tetsworth Benefice**”
2. Thus, the Thame Team was created and serves the bustling and growing market town of Thame, the nearby village of Towersey, and the six other parishes covering seven villages that form the Tetsworth Benefice.
3. Currently the Thame Team is served in Thame by Revd. Mike Reading, the Team Rector, Andy McCulloch, Team Vicar, Graham Choldcroft, Associate Minister, and Emma Endean-Mills, Curate.

Estimated Populations:

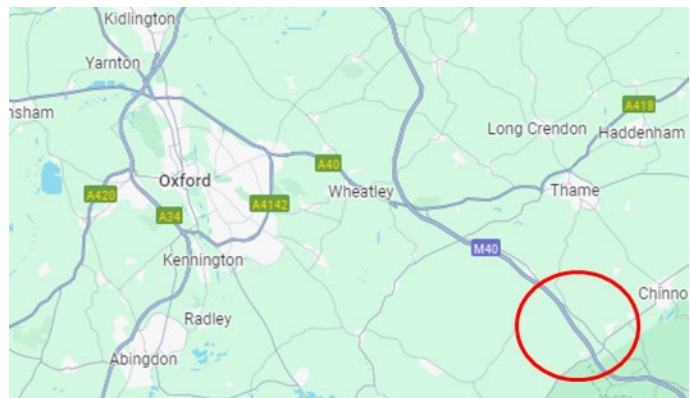
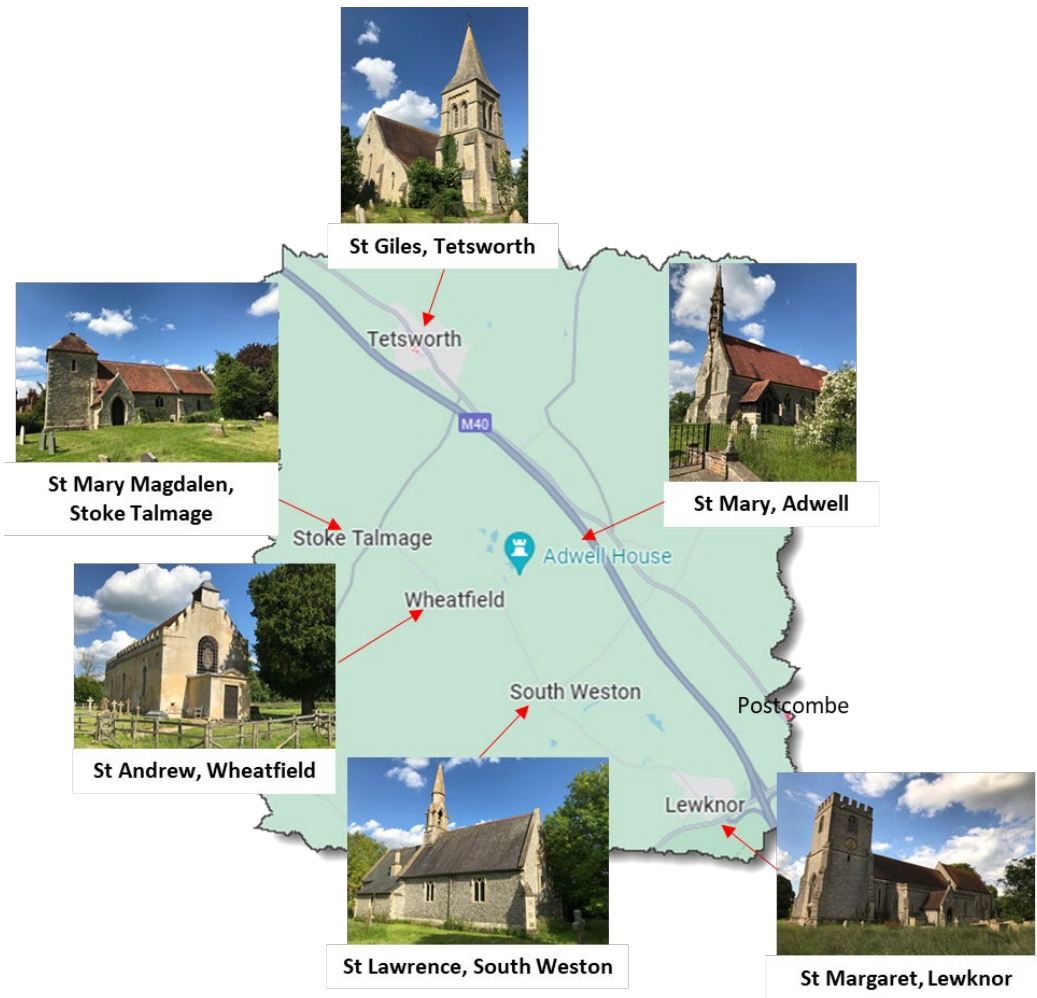
The estimated populations of the parishes in the Tetsworth Benefice are as follows:

Tetsworth - 750
Lewknor & Postcombe - 690
Adwell - 38
South Weston - 45
Stoke Talmage - 65
Wheatfield – 29

The Position:

The role is for the Vicar to work three days per week, including Sundays, providing spiritual and pastoral leadership and development in the Tetsworth Benefice and taking an active role in the community in general.

A map of the area showing the six parishes on either side of the M40 motorway



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1. Bishops Foreword

Dear potential applicants,

I am delighted that you are reading this profile and would like to encourage you to pray about whether this might be the right position for you to consider. The benefice is looking for a House for Duty Team Vicar with a gift to clearly proclaim the gospel and faithfully live out the Christian faith in their lives. The successful candidate will become a key part of the church family, approachable by all, and approachable to all in making the Church a part of people's lives. A key aspect of this role is ministering in the community, building on opportunities through contact with families, schools, and those who have not had much or any connection with the church. Our team vicar will perform occasional offices and pastoral care to encourage people to come to faith and to work with the church to encourage their lifelong discipleship. You will find a supportive Deanery, further details of which can be found at the end of this profile. Please pray about whether you are the right priest to join us and if you decide to apply, I would be delighted to receive your application for this exciting ministry position and look forward to welcoming you as a potential colleague in ministry.



With every blessing,

Rt. Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester

2. Welcome:

Thank you for your interest in this opportunity to serve God in a beautiful and interesting rural environment, linked to the lively and expanding market town of Thame.

This role has some unusual features:

- A House for Duty Team Vicar with the responsibilities and the independence of being an ordained minister, but working collaboratively with the Team Rector
- Serving the six rural parishes in what is referred to in this document as the 'Tetsworth Benefice'
- Leading worship and providing pastoral care directed at all age groups



We are seeking someone with a loving, listening approach; an experienced individual who is energised by the opportunity to serve a rural community while being a part of a team plotting the path the local church takes encouraging a wide spectrum of the inhabitants to embrace God.

The Tetsworth Benefice comprises six rural parishes covering seven villages within five miles of Thame, varying in size from approximately 30 to 750 residents. Each has their own individual character and worship style but they operate collaboratively as a coherent group. The churches and communities are described in more detail in Section 5.

Thame is a lively and expanding market town, with both commuter belt and locally employed residents, close to the M40 and within easy reach of Oxford and London. Local schools are popular and perform strongly. There has been a Christian Church in Thame since the seventh century.

We strive to change lives by the power of God's Spirit, to know the reality of God's grace and experience the comfort of Christ's love. Our hearts' desire is for all to experience God's love as they come to know the living Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit expressed by our words and in our lives.

The post is for a House for Duty Team Vicar with responsibility for the six rural parishes described in this profile, and we welcome all applications.

Thank you for prayerfully considering whether you might join us and support us as we play our part in God's mission. We will support you with our prayers and look forward to welcoming the new House for Duty Vicar into this Benefice.

If you wish to chat informally before proceeding with an application, please contact either: David Tyler, Archdeacon of Dorchester (07961 726403) or me (07808 548807).

Revd. Mike Reading
Team Rector

3. What are our Aims and Objectives?

We are fortunate in our small parishes in being independent of each other and yet bound together as a community in a love of God and in supporting each other.

Our Aim is to reinforce and develop this bond within and between our local communities and the churches that serve them, working together to:

- Build on our love of God
- Spread the Word of God
- Care for God's Creation
- Love God and each other
- Strive to make the church the Rock at the centre of our communities

Our vision is to grow as a benefice, supporting the communities across all our parishes, while encouraging and harnessing their involvement in worship as well as wider church activities.

4. How can you help us?

- You can lead public worship and preaching, offering a range of worship in both traditional and more modern styles, enjoying and developing the diverse approaches to services within the 6 parishes;
- You can communicate the Gospel clearly in creative ways;
- You can use your gifts and experience to develop ministry across all the parishes
- You will take an active role in pastoral care and community activities, including with the primary schools in the two larger parishes
- You will take weddings, baptisms, and funerals, as required including pre and post event support to families
- You will organise your own time with support from key lay people in the Benefice in matters such as preparing monthly service rotas

5. The Person we are looking for should...

- Be servant-hearted and equipped to provide strong and effective spiritual leadership and pastoral care
- Be able to engage with and encourage all those who have yet to be a part of the Christian community across all the parishes
- Be able to discern and realise new possibilities and future opportunities and embrace these with enthusiasm
- Be comfortable working across a range of worship styles
- Relish living in a beautiful rural part of South Oxfordshire

6. The Tetsworth Benefice

6.1 A Brief History

- The Benefice consists of six parishes covering seven villages and hamlets. Lewknor, which includes Postcombe, moved from the Watlington benefice to join the Tetsworth Benefice about 45 years ago. The six parishes then operated as a self-contained group with a full-time stipendiary vicar living in Tetsworth.
- In 1998 the Pastoral Measure was implemented to amalgamate the Tetsworth Benefice with Thame and Towersey, to form the Thame Team Ministry. The Measure provided that the vicar of the Tetsworth benefice should continue in that role and reside in Tetsworth.
- In 2010 the Tetsworth benefice became vacant, and with the support of the PCC's it was agreed that a House for Duty vicar should be appointed, working 3 days per week in the Tetsworth Benefice.
- An appointment was duly made which has worked extremely well across the benefice for the following 14 years.

6.2 Our communities and Churches

St Mary, Adwell

Adwell is a very small village consisting of Adwell House and 11 other houses. Adwell House is a large manor house which also has a number of flats. The total number of people living in Adwell is about 38. Most of the houses and flats in Adwell are rented out and so occasionally people move out



Adwell Village

and move into the village, giving a need to welcome people into the small community and hopefully into the Church.

St Mary's, Adwell was built in 1865, replacing a much earlier Norman church. Generally



Daffodil Day in aid of Sobell House



St. Mary's, Adwell - Come on in!

the public during these events. The Church is also used as a space for concerts and other charitable functions. For the past 3 years, the Church has held a concert for the people of Ukraine raising well over £30,000. Various plant sales, garden tours and garden openings are held in the gardens of Adwell House, and these raise funds for the church and other charities. All these events are run and supported by the very close-knit community in Adwell. Maintenance of the church is generally speaking, carried out by the Adwell Estate.

speaking the fabric of the building is good. We have approximately 18 "standard" Book of Common Prayer communion services at Adwell each year, using the King James Bible for readings. Each year we have a number of additional services celebrating national or local events, and we also have a service celebrating the countryside when poetry and passages celebrating the countryside are read. We involve people from our neighbouring parishes to read and invite local people who do not normally come to church to join us for a drink after the service.

The average congregation on a Sunday is in the region of 15, with some attending from neighbouring villages. One off services attract 50+ celebrants, mainly from the six parishes, some of whom are not regular churchgoers. Adwell is a centre for various charitable events in the garden of Adwell House, and the Church is always open to



Watlington band at the Adwell Vintage Vehicle Show in aid of the Ebony Horse Club

St. Margaret, Lewknor

St Margaret's Church was originally built in 1190, with the addition of a nave and south aisle in the 1800's. It is a Grade 1 listed building constructed of predominantly flint with stone pillars.

There is currently one communion service per month which is attended by 12/14 people. The primary school situated on site uses the church for teaching and for assemblies and school productions, maintaining a strong relationship with the church. Parents of the children attend these assemblies and so they rarely attend the communion service. There is also a Carol service and a crib service held in December, with additional weddings, baptisms and funerals. The building is in need of significant repair, most notably round the windows and porch. Some underpinning also needs to be done to the vestry. There was a project to renovate the church and make it more user friendly for the village, most notably warmer, so that the school could make greater use of the building. This project is currently on hold.



Lewknor is largely a dormitory village with some 250 houses and nearly 700 residents, most of whom work in London or Oxford. The parish includes the large hamlet of Postcombe, now separated from Lewknor village by the M40 motorway. Built either side of the A40, it includes a pub and a petrol station with a shop attached. A project much in need of attention is to encourage the residents of Postcombe to attend the church in Lewknor and other churches in the Tetsworth Benefice.

There are around 10 children from Lewknor that attend the primary school, with many others attending from the surrounding villages, and the older children attending either Icknield school in Watlington or Lord Williams's School in Thame.

St Lawrence, South Weston



South Weston is an affluent rural hamlet with 18 houses (including a former rectory, and a former pub) and a church. The total population is 45. There are 35 adults and 10 children of whom 27 adults and 6 children are permanent residents. Of the total adult population of 35, 25% are retired, 25% are self-employed, 25% commute, 12% work from home, 12% are non-working, and 1 is at university. The 10 children are of pre-school or infant age.

South Weston typically has 19 services each year that are held

every two to three weeks in winter, and every three to five weeks in summer. The Common Worship form of communion is used at our 9.00 a.m. services, and an informal morning worship service at our 10.30 a.m. services. The communion services typically

attract a congregation of 10 to 12 of whom half are from South Weston and half from other churches in the benefice. The informal morning worship services were started a few years ago with the aim of better meeting the needs of our newer younger residents but congregations are smaller (typically 6) and tend to be exclusively from South Weston.

The church is well supported, but most of the work is done by four retired adults.

Finances are sound, and our parish share is paid in full each year.

The church building was largely remodelled in the late 1800's and is generally in good condition. The latest quinquennial inspection identified a number of maintenance issues which are in hand for which there are sufficient reserves to meet the costs involved.

Pre-covid we usually tried to hold at least one social event each year to which all residents were invited along with others from outside who attend or lead our services. However, these have not yet been resumed.

St Mary Magdalen, Stoke Talmage

The current church of St Mary Magdalen, Stoke Talmage is of 13th century foundation with



considerable rebuilding in the 18th century and extension in Victorian times. Some mediaeval artefacts remain, notably the two 14th century bells and Tudor brasses. There is an ongoing programme of restoration and repair being undertaken currently. Our small village is thriving and the population very slowly increasing with the occasional new development. We strive to be a welcoming church, reaching out to the wider community as well as the parish. We hold one celebration of the Eucharist and one Evensong each month. Attendance at ordinary services over the last few year (excluding

Covid lockdown) has averaged around fifteen to twenty people. In addition, we fully support Ride and Stride on the second Saturday in September, providing a personal welcome and light refreshments all day.

Our Harvest Festival is usually towards the end of September. The church is lavishly



decorated and flower arrangements, together with donated produce, are sold following the service at which we always anticipate a large congregation. Wine and refreshments are served and a raffle is held. On Remembrance Sunday, a representative of our church attends the war memorial service in Tetsworth to lay a wreath and read the names of the fallen. This is repeated during our own service, which also includes the Exhortation, the Last Post, Reveille and the National Anthem. A service of Christmas Carols by Candlelight is held on December 23rd every year which

is usually very well attended as our decorations are famous. It includes a dedication of the crib for the children. Our C14 bells are rung on New Year's Eve when a few people gather in the church to see in the New Year. We usually have a special service on Ash Wednesday

and hold three services of Compline during Lent. We celebrate Mothering Sunday by delivering small plants and cards to all mothers in the parish plus a few extras to regular church attendees.

The Good Friday service rotates around the six churches in the Benefice. Prior to Easter Sunday a letter is sent to all Friends of the Church requesting contributions, if they so wish, to the cost of memorial flowers (any surplus going to the restoration fund). Dedication cards are displayed on the side altar; the Rector reads the In Memoriam list during the service and a list of donors is posted in the church. On Rogation Sunday, a service is held at 16.30 partly in church and partly in the surrounding fields and gardens. This is followed by Afternoon Tea served in the church. The Patronal Festival for St Mary Magdalen is 22nd July. The service on the nearest Sunday is followed by 'Summer Drinks' and other refreshments served either in the church or in a neighbouring garden depending on the weather. Other 'one off' events such as fundraising concerts or special national occasions are celebrated as appropriate at the discretion of the PCC.



The Book of Common Prayer, together with the King James Bible are used at all services. This style of service at St Mary Magdalen attracts people from beyond the benefice.

Unfortunately, baptisms and weddings are less frequent than funerals but we believe these sacraments should be readily available to all those who seek them.

Our pastoral demands are modest and will not impact significantly on the new Vicar of the Tetsworth Benefice. However, we do desire a person who will value, support and serve us in what we strive to maintain and enhance by way of Christian mission.

St Giles, Tetsworth



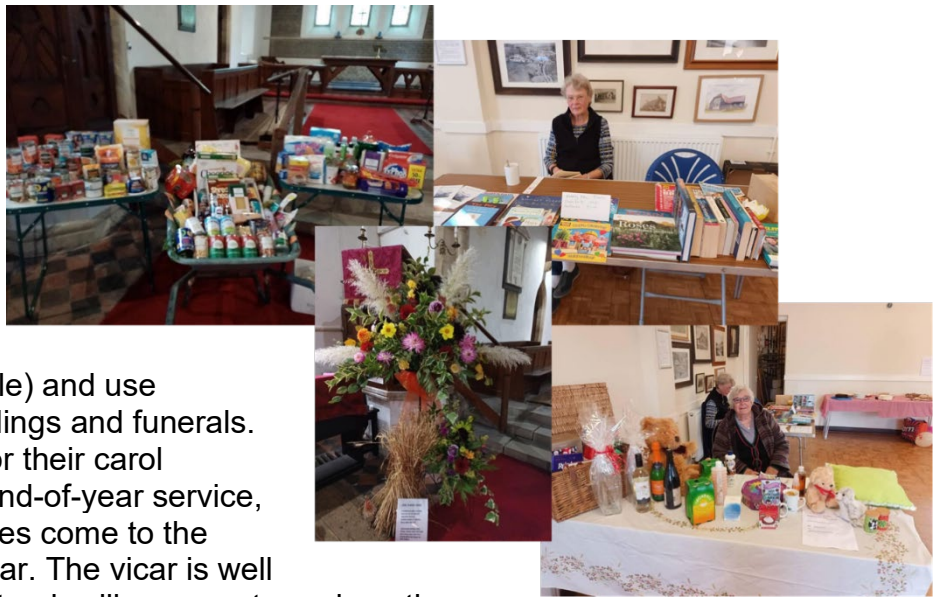
Tetsworth is a village about 3 miles (5 km) south of Thame in Oxfordshire. It consists of approx.340 houses, and estimated population in 2018 of 750 persons. The A40 from London to Oxford passes through the village but the bulk of the commuter traffic travels via the parallel M40 so the village has relatively light through traffic. The village has a small school of approximately 60 infant and junior-age children the overwhelming majority of whom live in the village. It also has a pub, which contains a

small shop, and an active Sports and Social Club supporting the village cricket and football teams and hosting social events throughout the year. The Swan Antiques Centre, in the old coaching hotel, has a national reputation in its field and attracts visitors from far and wide. It is also attractive as a filming location and has featured in several TV programmes.

The Church was built in 1855 to replace the previous small Saxon church. It is large for a village church (capacity of 150-200) as it was originally thought that the railway from London was going to be built along the line of the A40 bringing more business to the village, but this never materialised. The vicarage is also located in the village, on the High Street.

Services are held every Sunday at 10:30am, apart from the 5th Sunday of a month when there is no service. There are two communion services a month, led by the vicar, and two services of morning worship which are led by members of the congregation. The informal services continued weekly via Zoom throughout the pandemic, providing support and care. The average Sunday congregation comprises a core of around 10 regulars who are very much a church family, and very forward thinking in their approach to the role of the church in the village and surrounding area. The congregation is ageing and there have been very few new regular attendees over the last few years, especially no families with children.

Although the weekly congregation is small, members of the wider village attend the carol service (generally 40-50 people) and use the church for baptisms, weddings and funerals. The school uses the church for their carol service, harvest festival and end-of-year service, meaning that the village families come to the church several times every year. The vicar is well known to all the village and attends village events such as the fete, Christmas fair, Jubilee picnics etc., often being asked to open proceedings and provide blessings, for example at the Jubilee celebrations.



The congregation participate in various village fund-raising activities, such as the village fete and the Christmas Fair and have held other fund-raising activities from time to time including a very successful flower festival in 2022. On occasion the Church is used for music recordings or fund-raising concerts due to its excellent acoustics.

The Church received a bequest some years ago of which ~£75K remains. This covers the day-to-day repairs to the building. The 'Friends of St Giles' cover the insurance through monthly contributions, and the parish share is largely covered through donations from the congregation and a few regular donations to the Church.

St. Andrew, Wheatfield

The Village - The dwellings are very scattered across the farm of the same name. The village is situated in one of the most attractive areas of South Oxfordshire. It is one of the smallest Parishes in Oxfordshire, consisting of 11 houses with some 24 adults and 5 children. There are no facilities such as shop, school, playground, however all these facilities are available in Tetsworth which is only a mile away. In spite of this it is a close-knit community where everybody is very supportive of each other. The church is the key building in the village.

The Church - The church is set in a field, which is parkland around the site of Wheatfield



House which burnt down in 1814. The Stables and Coach House of the big house still remain. These buildings have been fully restored and are now 3 dwellings. The setting is unique with a wonderful view over the surrounding countryside.

It is a listed Grade 1 building and is featured in Simon Jenkins book "England's Thousand Best Churches". This is a much loved church and widely supported and visited by people from far and wide. The building is in a good state of repair as a result of a project which addressed most of the issues outlined in the

most recent Quinquennial Report. The cost was over £175,000 and the money was raised as a result of a lot of fund raising undertaken by a group of friends of St Andrew's who are enthusiastic supporters of the church. The project was completed on time and within budget. Recently a service was held to mark the completion of the works and to thank all those involved in this undertaking. The church has no electricity or water or indeed any real form of heating. It has no loo or kitchen, but this is part of its charm as it takes one back in time giving a sense of permanence. It is a very peaceful place to attend services and to pray. However, for many years now the church has closed for the winter months from early October to mid-March.

Worship - Thirteen services are held each year using the Book of Common Prayer and readings from the King James's Bible. It is very traditional. Two of the services are held in the evening one of these being Harvest Festival and the other one is the standard Evensong. These services are lit by candlelight, creating a special atmosphere.

The number of attendees is between 10 and 15 except for special services such as Christmas and Harvest Festival when up to 50 people will attend. The Christmas service is only held once every 3 years and is shared with Adwell and Stoke Talmage on a rota basis.



6.3 Working together

As is clear from the parish descriptions above, the parishes in the benefice each have their own individuality and work together for their mutual benefit. Many parishioners attend services in other churches in the benefice as well as in their own village, and the church is a focal point for getting together as a community, enjoying each other's company, and looking after each other.

Each parish is, as required by the Pastoral Scheme, distinct, and has its own PCC including churchwardens and treasurer. This does not cause any great administrative burden for the incumbent, all administrative work being done by the church wardens of each parish.

There is at least one combined meeting a year for churchwardens and treasurers to set a service rota for all six churches throughout the coming year, and to set an annual budget for vicar's expenses and confirm the contribution from each parish.

Other Parish meetings are held occasionally to discuss and agree matters of mutual interest

7. Finances

Each Parish has its own Treasurer managing the finances, with an appointed overall Treasurer for the Tetsworth benefice acting on its behalf as required. (currently Rodney Mann).

Parish Share is paid in full each year. See below the 2024 allocations:

Parish	Amount
Adwell	£2,309
Lewknor	£4,923
South Weston	£2,181
Stoke Talmage	£2,634
Tetsworth	£5,351
Wheatfield	£2,192

Clergy Expenses are reviewed and agreed on an *ad hoc* basis as required at a meeting of the Parish Church Wardens and Treasurers.

2023 agreed budgets were £3000 for General Expenses, with parish contributions of £500, and £3600 for the Special Fund, with parish contributions of £600.

Church building maintenance is generally covered by Patrons, Benefactors or Fundraising for specific projects.

8. Opportunities and Challenges

The Tetsworth Benefice lies in a beautiful area of South Oxfordshire. Those who form part of the Christian Community here are a close and enthusiastic group, and a strong foundation has been laid by the current incumbent. The challenge is to build on this, bringing new people, young and old, into our Community in order to create a living and thriving Church for the future. As populations have grown, particularly in the larger villages, this has not been translated into increased church attendance, and the lack of local Community support has exacerbated the other challenges, for example, raising funds for building repairs. In some of the smaller parishes, members of the congregation are mainly from other villages and local support needs to be increased.

Individual parishes will need specific attention. By way of example:

- Lewknor has challenges in terms of the fabric of the church which will need to be addressed, and a lack of local support has made this even more difficult;
- Postcombe needs the support and encouragement of the other villages so that those living there are a part of the Community;
- Tetsworth has grown in size in the past few years with multiple new developments but without any significant increase in church attendance;
- Stoke Talmage has a challenging refurbishment project which is supported by a hard-working and enthusiastic support group.

These “challenges” are all an opportunity for the individual churches and for the benefice as a whole. They present an opportunity for the parishes to work together for the common good, and with continued excellent leadership the Tetsworth benefice will thrive.

9. Role Description and key responsibilities

- Responsible for the Parishes as noted within the ‘Tetsworth Benefice’ and aligned to the Benefice of Thame for collaboration and support
- Preside at services, including Occasional Offices.
- Ensure that a high standard of worship, preaching and pastoral care is provided, so people are more able to live and grow as Christ’s disciples.
- Work with the six parishes to maintain and enhance the bonds between them.
- Help enable our churches to grow in their love of God and love of our neighbours as ourselves, to devise and implement a plan to grow the church community.
- Develop opportunities for lay leadership to share the workload in the six parishes.
- Work with others in the church to go and make disciples.
- Reach out to the newer housing developments in the two larger villages.
- Maintain and develop the existing links with the schools in Tetsworth and Lewknor and other community organisations.

A normal Sunday will have no more than three services. Below is an example of the service schedule taken from June this year. The draft for the year is drawn up at an autumn meeting of

all the church wardens together with the Incumbent and is subject to occasional change or amendment as the year progresses.

2 June	9.00am	Adwell	Holy Communion BCP
Trinity 1	10.30am	Tetsworth	Holy Communion
9 June	9.00am	Wheatfield	Holy Communion BCP
Trinity 2	10.30am	Tetsworth	Morning Worship (lay led)
	6.30pm	Stoke Talmage	Holy Communion BCP
16 June	9.00am	Lewknor	Holy Communion BCP
Trinity 3	10.30am	Tetsworth	Prayer Group (lay led)
	10.30am	South Weston	Morning Worship
23 June	9.00am	Wheatfield	Holy Communion BCP
Trinity 4	10.30am	Tetsworth	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Stoke Talmage	Evensong
30 June	9.00am	Adwell	Holy Communion BCP
Trinity 5	6.30pm	Wheatfield	Evensong
7 July	9.00am	South Weston	Holy Communion CW
Trinity 6	10.30am	Tetsworth	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Stoke Talmage	Holy Communion BCP

10. What we offer you

- A supportive and encouraging environment in which to minister.
- A thriving community of seven villages across six parishes with a wide variety of opportunities and challenges.
- Administrative support.
- An opportunity to live and work in a beautiful part of South Oxfordshire.
- The gift of friendship and laughter.

11. The Vicarage



The vicarage is situated in Tetsworth (OX9 7AS). The house, built in 1985 is situated in the centre of the village and has four bedrooms, a large sitting room, kitchen, dining room and study. It will be refurbished and updated prior to the new vicar taking up residence.

Outside, there is a garage for one car with additional parking in the driveway. The garden is a good size with a patio, a vegetable plot and borders and is well maintained. The house is alarmed and has security lights back and front.

12. The Locality and Amenities

- There are two primary schools in the area: Lewknor Church of England Primary and Tetsworth Primary School. The former has got good links with the church is very popular with a roll of 70 children. There are also pre-school groups in both Lewknor and Tetsworth.
- Secondary school children mostly attend either Lord Williams in Thame or Icknield School in Watlington.
- Tetsworth has an active Sports and Social Club with well supported football and cricket teams.
- The villages tend to look to either Thame or Watlington for facilities such as shopping, doctors, dentists etc. Of these two, Thame is closest to the vicarage, providing good sports facilities, including a swimming pool, a large weekly market and good supermarkets. There is also a library and a small theatre.
- Both Tetsworth and Lewknor have village halls which host a variety of events throughout the year
- The 'Oxford Tube' coach service stops at Lewknor providing a good link to both Oxford and London. Plus additional links to Heathrow and Gatwick.
- M40 and A40 both in close reach.
- Haddenham and Thame Parkway station is the nearest train station with regular trains into London and Birmingham

13. The Deanery Perspective:

We are delighted that you are exploring the possibility of coming to minister here. Aston and Cuddesdon is one of the larger deaneries in the Diocese of Oxford with more than 50 churches. It includes the historic Dorchester Abbey, the military base at Benson and the theological college at Cuddesdon. 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.

As well as this, it offers a wonderful location, with easy access to London, plus Oxford itself is, of course, on the doorstep, with all the cultural, educational, social and architectural richness for which it is famous. With such good road and rail links and a major cultural city on the doorstep this is nonetheless a very beautiful part of the country in which to live.

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 6 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 with whom you can be open and honest.

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.

The Thame Team is at the eastern edge of both the county and the Deanery, bordered by Buckinghamshire to the east and the M40 to the southwest, and focused on the thriving market town of Thame, which has a very lively arts scene including music festivals, a theatre, an annual arts and literary festival, a food festival, and an annual

promenade art exhibition utilising shop windows. We do hope you will take an interest in the profile for these six parishes. We really believe that this would be a rewarding post for someone who wants the delights and challenges of rural ministry, but with all the benefits of having a world class city just down the road.

Revd Prebendary Jane Haslam, Area Dean Maureen Underdown, Lay Chair

14. The Diocesan Perspective:

The Diocese of Oxford is part of the family of the Church of England in Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

- Together, we are the Church, called and sent by God as disciples of Jesus Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit. We are a living, growing network of more than a thousand congregations, chaplaincies, and schools.
- Together, we are called to be more Christ-like: to be the Church of the Beatitudes: contemplative, compassionate and courageous for the sake of God's world.
- Together, we work with God and with others for the common good in every place in one of the great crossroads of the world.
- Together, we are called to proclaim the Christian faith afresh in this generation with joy and hope and love.
- Together, we are called to dream dreams and see visions of what could be, and see those visions come to birth. [Taken from the Flourishing in Ministry Booklet.]

The Common Vision Five Mission Focus Areas currently are:

1. Environmental action
2. Setting discipleship and catechesis at the heart of our common life
3. Growing new congregations.
4. Reaching out to children, schools, and families.
5. Addressing poverty and inequality

Further information about the Diocese is available at www.oxford.anglican.org

