

# PARISH PROFILE

St Mary's  
WARGRAVE

St Peter's  
KNOWL HILL

St Paul's  
WARREN ROW



# CONTENTS

Foreword

---

Archdeacon's Overview

---

Our Vision

---

What we are seeking

---

What we can offer

---

About the Parish & our Churches

---

Our community service & mission

---

Eco Church

---

Our relationship with schools

---

What we have

---

Finances

---

Living in Love & Faith

---

Challenges & Opportunities

---

Appendices



# Foreword

Thank you for considering whether God may be calling you to serve as our next vicar. As a church family, we are eager to see what God has planned for us, and we are prayerfully seeking a leader who will guide us with a joyful spirit and a vision for the future. In this Parish Profile for Wargrave with Knowl Hill we hope you will sense the heart of our church and our commitment to sharing Christ's love within our local community and beyond.

We are looking for a Christ-centred vicar who embodies the **Joy of Faith**, inspiring us through preaching that transforms lives and brings the Gospel alive with warmth, love, and depth. Our new vicar will also embrace a **Growth Mindset**, reaching every generation – from the wisdom of our senior members to the vibrant curiosity of our children – building a church family where all feel connected and supported in their spiritual journey. In this role, **Warm-hearted** leadership is essential. We seek someone who values diversity and fosters open dialogue, who can adapt worship to reflect the varied needs of our congregation, and who nurtures an environment of understanding and compassion where every person feels valued and respected. Finally, we need a vicar who can bring **Vitality** to our church's active role within Wargrave and Knowl Hill.

In a community full of life – rich with schools, clubs, and social events – our vicar will lead with enthusiasm and vision, helping us to be a welcoming presence that embodies the vibrant spirit of our parish.

As you consider this opportunity, know that we are praying for someone who will join us in these aspirations, leading us closer to Christ and one another. Thank you.



*Church at the Heart of the Community*

Mark Puddy & Sue Witney  
Churchwardens

# Archdeacon's Overview

Wargrave has a strong missional culture and a long-standing commitment to making known the Good News of Jesus. This commitment translates into words and actions which combine in a well-balanced blend of practical community service with confidence in evangelism, and builds on strong connections with the local community.

The parish is rich in skills and abilities and people are keen to learn and to grow as followers of Jesus. Are you willing to hear their story and help refresh their vision, to work with them to discern how their missional enthusiasm can best be deployed, and to prayerfully lead them forward?

We are looking for someone who combines strategic clarity and great teaching, with a warm and enabling leadership style. The people are excited about welcoming a new leader who will help them flourish in their love and service of Jesus, and in the task he's called them to.

At the time of writing, the announcement of the next Bishop of Reading is imminent. Together with our next bishop, the Berkshire Area Team is here to support you in your leadership, and those you serve alongside.

If you think this might be you and want to find out more, I would welcome the opportunity for a conversation. The Lord be with you in your discernment as you consider where God might be calling you to.

**Ven Stephen Pullin**  
**Archdeacon of Berkshire**  
**Diocese of Oxford**

ARCHDEACON

**STEPHEN  
PULLIN**



# Our Vision

We are seeking a Vicar for our villages who can help us achieve our Vision of being the

## *Church at the Heart of the Community*

We are eager to be a relevant, outward-looking church making people feel “this is our church”. A recent bride, Helen Duff, wrote:

*“Having grown up in Wargrave and attended St Mary’s since I was a child, it was incredibly meaningful to be married at the church I know so well. To have the congregation join us, it felt very special to be surrounded by our church family in the heart of the village.”*

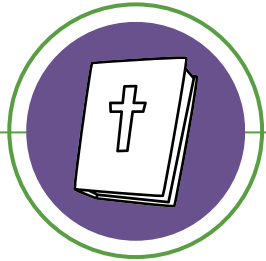
More than fifty members of the congregation joined a forum to help create our Vision for the future of the Parish. Many more contributed by email and letter to create the Parish Forum Report (Appendix 1). Working together towards this future, the new Vicar would be assured of the goodwill and support of the community around them.

At present, we offer a variety of worship styles and regular outreach to a range of groups: brunches for new parents, teas for older residents and online house groups for busy families – but we want to do more to attract and retain new people with a prayerful desire to turn connections with the church into commitment to Christ and depth in faith.

In five years time we look to see lives transformed by Christ, with young and old engaged in worship and sermons, making the Church relevant and exciting for all.



# What we are seeking



## Joy of Faith

We seek inspiring preaching that transforms lives. We hope for sermons that deepen understanding of the Gospel while radiating love, forgiveness, and the joy of faith.

Our vicar should cherish the Word and the Sacraments, bringing a profound sense of reverence to our church. At the same time, we envision a leader who creatively invites new church-goers, welcoming all into a spiritually enriching environment.



## Growth Mindset

Our ideal vicar will connect with every generation in our church.

Whether engaging with our 'Senior Church' - the pillars of our congregation - or inspiring our 'Junior Church,' we seek a leader with a gift for uniting ages.

With a genuine love for people of all backgrounds, our vicar will create a space where everyone is supported and encouraged in their life and faith.



## Warm-hearted

We hope for a warm-hearted leader who values diversity while respecting differing viewpoints.

We seek someone who can guide our parish with empathy, fostering open dialogue and adapting worship to reflect our community's broad spiritual needs. With grace, our vicar will ensure all feel heard, valued and respected.



## Vitality

Our church is deeply woven into the fabric of Wargrave and Knowl Hill - communities bustling with schools, clubs, sports, and a rich social life.

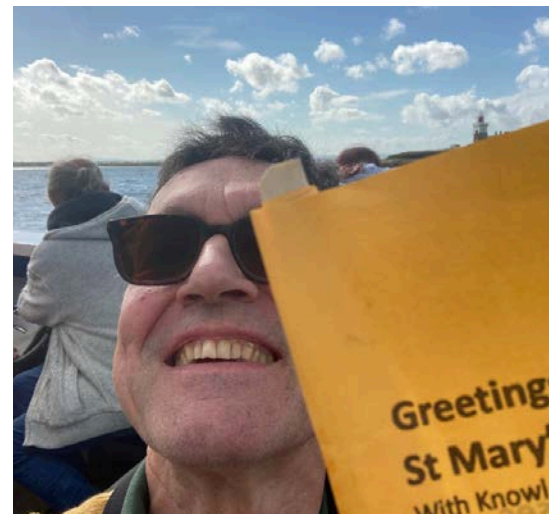
We seek an enthusiastic vicar who embodies the vibrancy of our surroundings. With energy and vision, they'll connect with the community, leading our church to be a welcoming, active presence for all.

## What we can offer...

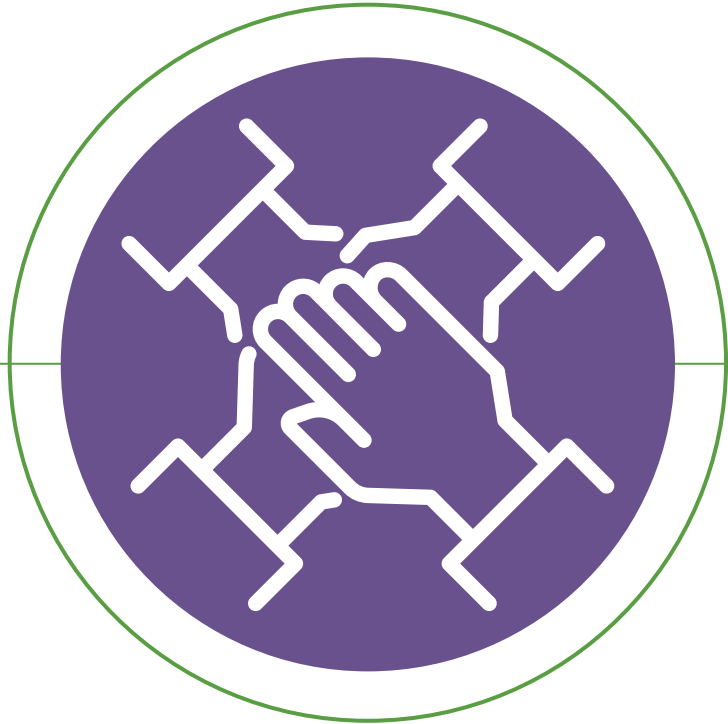


# A BIG WELCOME

& UNWAVERING SUPPORT



# What we can offer



## **A Big Welcome & Unwavering Support**

A dedicated team of volunteers, both clerical and lay;  
a congregation which recognises its need to grow;  
a strong relationship with church schools;  
a broad spectrum of musical styles and services;  
a spacious vicarage which is close to the church;  
and our love, prayer, care and support.





# About the Parish

**The Parish was created twenty four years ago and comprises four distinctive, but mutually supportive communities within Berkshire: St Mary's serving Wargrave & Crazies Hill, St Peter's serving Knowl Hill and St Paul's serving Warren Row.**

**WARGRAVE** is a very active riverside village of c4,000 residents supporting more than thirty clubs and societies in their vibrant community. The local publication '[Wargrave News](#)' can provide you with a flavour of what goes on.

Situated just upstream of Henley-on-Thames, and a short drive from the Berkshire county town of Reading, many residents work along the Thames corridor. Others who work further afield, take advantage of the excellent road links (M4 & M40) and National Rail networks (Wargrave is on the Henley to Twyford short line with links to Reading/Paddington & the Elizabeth line from Twyford) towards London, Heathrow and the rest of the country.

This is what our self-supporting minister (SSM) Steve Turville has to say about Wargrave:

*"It's definitely 'a village': perfect size, perfect makeup of people with lots of ability and energy. It's the people, really, who pull together to 'give' to the village. That's Wargrave".*

There are 233 names on the Electoral Roll and a regular worshipping congregation of around one hundred. (See Appendix 2: Church Statistics).



# Wargrave Festival

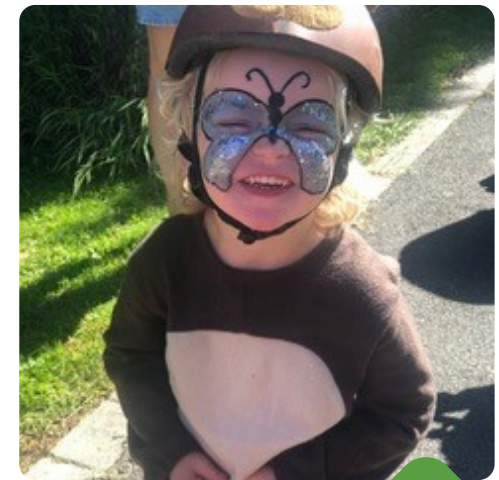


The Wargrave Village Festival is a bi-annual celebration, taking place in June, that embodies the vibrant spirit and traditions of Wargrave. First envisioned by the late Revd John Ratings, vicar of St Mary's Church (Vicar 1978-2008), the festival had its modest beginnings in the summer of 1975. Inspired by Revd Ratings' vision of fostering community connection and celebration, the inaugural event brought together residents for a handful of joyful activities centered around shared heritage and local talent. Since then, the festival has become a cornerstone of village life, showcasing the enduring community spirit that Wargrave is known for.

Over the years, St Mary's has hosted various events: the lively musical performances from Academy of St Martin in the Fields, French Collection (Folk Night), Midsummer Music at the Manse and the End of the Festival 'Songs of Praise'. In addition, there have been events centred around families: Family BBQ, Butterflies Brunch and Family Ramble & Picnic.

Each festival is a reflection of the community's dedication and creativity, offering a mix of cherished traditions and fresh innovations.

Centred on the picturesque Mill Green, the festival's main hub provides an idyllic backdrop where neighbours gather, laughter fills the air, and community ties are strengthened.



*Highlight of the Summer*



# St Mary's Church, Wargrave

St Mary's is situated on its medieval site, overlooking Mill Green which hosts many village events. The church is in an excellent state of repair and has the benefit of a five year old extension comprising of meeting rooms, with kitchen facilities and toilets which we call The Church Centre.

Our Junior Church leader Annie Da Silva says:

*"It's a brilliant space for hosting big meals, big meetings and even to let the children run around during their sessions"*

Within the Churchyard there is a smaller meeting space called the Hannen Room which has its own facilities and is better suited for more intimate gatherings.

In addition to the graveyard on site, there is an additional separate church burial ground within the village.

We hold services on Sundays at 8am following the BCP and 9.45am, which alternates between Morning Worship and Holy Communion. During the 9.45am services Junior Church is offered for the younger members of the congregation in the adjacent Church Centre. On selected Sundays throughout the year all ages worship together in an All Age service.





# Church Centre

St Mary's Church Centre was formally opened by Theresa May MP on 20th October 2019, and opened for use in February 2019 after over twenty years of planning.

From the total cost of £520,000, 80% was given by generous donations from the church congregation and the wider village community. During the excavation, remains dating to Saxon times have been found, and these have all been recorded and archived at Oxford University.

Today, the Church Centre is a vibrant hub for both church activities and community events, offering a versatile space for a wide range of gatherings. From Burns Nights and Tearfund's Quiz of the Year to parent-and-child sessions like Butterflies and lively Junior Church nights, the Centre plays an integral role in bringing people together. It also serves as a welcoming space for our Youth Group, fostering connection and growth. Beyond church-related events, the Centre is a popular venue for community business meetings, social gatherings, and even fitness classes like Pilates.

With its modern facilities, flexible layout, and warm atmosphere, we are proud to have such a welcoming and multi-purpose space that enriches both our church life and the wider community. Whether for spiritual nourishment, community engagement, or personal well-being, the Church Centre is a place where all are invited to connect, grow, and thrive.



## The Vicarage

The Vicarage is situated on Station Road, just a stone's throw from St Mary's Church in Wargrave.

A 1960's four bedroomed house with its gated entry and a large secluded garden. Downstairs there are two reception rooms offering sufficient space for both family activities and ministry purposes. There is plenty of parking for guests both on the drive and on Station Road.

Wargrave train station and the High Street are just a five minute walk down the road in each direction. There is also a regular bus link to and from Reading to High Wycombe, passing through Marlow, Henley, Wargrave, Twyford, Charvil and Sonning.



## Knowl Hill

**KNOWL HILL** is a separate small village three miles from Wargrave, with its own identity and a regular congregation of around fifteen at its two churches.

### St Peter's Church, Knowl Hill

St Peter's is located in the village beside the busy A4/Bath Road. It dates from Victorian times, built in 1840, and its original Parish was created partly out of Wargrave and partly out of the Hurley Parishes.

In 2003 it was given the status of being a second Church within the Parish.

In 2024 it underwent refurbishment, with new toilets and kitchenette added. Plus the roof and windows were repaired, all paid for by local fundraising and legacies.

The work of St Peter's is concentrated on a single Sunday service twice a month, but committed members maintain an active focus for social activities in the community of Knowl Hill, along with the [Knowl Hill Village Association](#).

Services at St Peter's are held on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month.



# St Paul's Church, Warren Row

St Paul's Mission Church is in the hamlet of Warren Row and is the smallest of the three churches in the Parish. It is known informally as the 'Tin Tabernacle'.

It stands within the former Parish of Knowl Hill to serve the tiny community nestling between the woods of Bowsey Hill and Ashley Hill.

St Paul's holds one service a month on the 2nd Sunday.



**St Paul's Church, Warren Row**

The Parish of Wargrave with Knowl Hill



## Our Community Service & Mission

Our Parish is intrinsically involved in the life of the villages: ministries with young people, families, schools, and older people. It also provides support for residents in [Yeldall Manor](#), the local drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre for men; a monthly Communion Service in the affordable retirement flats of [Elizabeth Court](#).

Our Parish has also recently developed links with [Christians Against Poverty](#) (CAP) and supports other charities such as [Tearfund](#), and missionaries at home and abroad. Such links could be developed further.

The Vicar serves on the Committees for the Village Almshouses, and a number of charitable trusts within the community.

## ECO Church

In July 2021, we received a silver Eco Church award from [A Rocha UK](#), recognising our commitment to sustainability across church life. The Eco Church framework helps churches manage their buildings and land responsibly while integrating creation care into worship and teaching.

We focus on sustainable building practices, including using eco-friendly materials in St Mary's Church Centre and auditing energy use every decade. Our buildings are energy-efficient, with green electricity, upgraded boilers, and bike racks. We minimise paper use, support Fairtrade, and avoid single-use plastics.

We also manage our land to support biodiversity, conducting wildlife surveys and enhancing habitats at St Mary's and St Peter's. Our churchyards feature a "Let It Grow" zone, bat boxes, and a garden of remembrance, promoting both environmental care and local wildlife.

Through these efforts, we continue to prioritise the care of God's creation in both spiritual and practical ways.



# Our Relationship with Schools

Within the Parish there are four Church of England Primary Schools ([Robert Piggott Infant & Junior Schools](#), [Crazies Hill](#) and [Knowl Hill C of E Academy](#) Primary Schools) and one Senior School ([The Piggott](#)), which is a Church of England Multi Academy.

All the primary schools have very strong links with their local Churches. Vanessa O'Byrne, Executive Headteacher, Robert Piggott CE Federated Schools, writes:

*"Robert Piggott CE schools and the church have historically had the strongest of partnerships. The church has been invaluable in helping to shape our school community through strategic decision making at governor level, leading school services, organising external visitors, supporting in inspections and, above all, inspiring our pupils through wonderful collective worships."*

We are keen to establish stronger links with the Senior School where the Vicar has an ex-officio seat on the Governing Body.

All five schools are committed to effectively living out their Christian ethos.



# What we have

Currently, the Churches have the services of an experienced SSM, an authorised Funeral Minister, an authorised Preacher and a supportive Leadership Team. Working alongside these there is a Parish Office with three part-time staff who also maintain the [Parish Website](#), produce both monthly and weekly communications and the monthly [Parish Magazine](#), of which in 2023 we won 1st place and Best Overall Magazine in the National Parish Magazine Awards.

## The PCC

There is one PCC currently comprising nineteen people for the whole Parish. Members include representatives from both Wargrave and Knowl Hill, the two Churchwardens for Wargrave and four members of the PCC who also serve on the Sonning Deanery Synod.

## Volunteers

The Parish benefits from a list of some hundred volunteers serving their churches in a wide variety of capacities from participating in services, to mowing Mill Green, to organising activities for children.

## House Groups

There are seven active house groups in Wargrave, including one online.



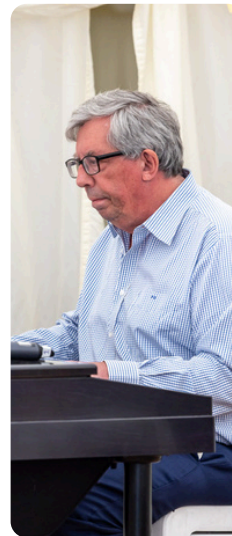
## Music

Music is an important part of worship in St Mary's under the leadership of our Director of Music, [Peter Dart](#). Our songs of praise are accompanied by the refurbished Walker organ plus a regular music group which includes singers, piano, drums, bass and guitar, contributing to a range of traditional hymns and modern songs. These are all appreciated by the congregation who are further assisted by projection of the words on screens via the AV system.

Annual concerts are held in the church featuring local professionals and amateur talent, as well as visiting musicians; the orchestra of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields have performed five times for us in the last ten years.

## Bell Ringing

St Mary's also has a fine set of bells in its tower with a team of regular ringers every Sunday.





## Finances

The Parish is on a sound financial basis with no foreseeable major expenses as detailed in the [Financial Statement for 2023](#).

The congregation of both Wargrave and Knowl Hill, including non-regular churchgoing members of the community, respond generously for specific projects.

Historically, we have had a high level of regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and other regular giving methods, although this is proving harder to promote amongst newer members of the congregation.

It is hoped to encourage more individuals to fully engage with their membership of their Churches by contributing to their ministry both now and for the years to come.

Unrestricted activities (£)	2023	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>			
Donations, legacies and other regular giving	150,260	266,044	139,188
Other unrestricted income	57,163	55,911	42,542
<b>Total income</b>	<b>207,423</b>	<b>321,955</b>	<b>181,730</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Parish share	91,829	90,028	89,393
Maintenance	19,539	17,783	11,486
Services and administration	76,290	63,893	54,145
Other	17,001	21,901	13,051
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>204,659</b>	<b>193,605</b>	<b>168,075</b>
<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>128,350</b>	<b>13,655</b>
<b>Restricted Activities</b>			
Restricted income	24,005	46,585	22,275
Restricted expenditure	27,165	18,287	18,115
<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(3,160)</b>	<b>28,298</b>	<b>4,160</b>

## Living in Love & Faith

After a period of reflection on the arguments for and against the use of Prayers of Love & Faith in the Parish, members of the Electoral Roll and the PCC were surveyed to assess the range of opinions.

Three articles were written to help our Parish make an informed response that our Electoral Roll members and the PCC reviewed.

From the results of the Electoral Roll surveyed, 109 out of 233 on the Electoral Roll replied.

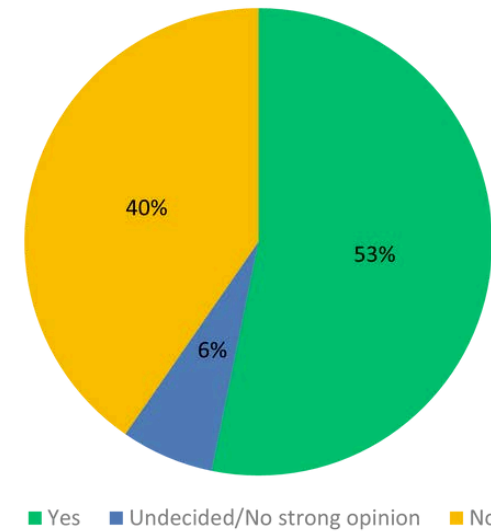
58 were in favour of the offering of blessings  
44 were against  
7 were undecided or held no strong opinion

Among regular attendees the split was

46 were in favour of the offering of blessings  
42 were against  
7 were undecided or held no strong opinion



Electoral Roll Results showcasing opinion of LLF



The PCC has expressed its views on the subject of the offering of blessings for those in same sex partnerships.

13 in favour  
4 against  
1 undecided

The PCC seek a Vicar who will be supportive of the use of Prayers of Love & Faith in our Parish, although they personally might not feel able to undertake these themselves.

During the interregnum, we do not feel that it would be wise to hold any blessings of same sex partnerships in the Parish, and will await the arrival of our new Vicar.

*The PCC has agreed this wording by a vote of 16 in favour and 3 against.*

# Our Challenges & Opportunities



## Ageing Congregation

We are an ageing congregation, albeit a lively one, in a location where there are many young families and schools.

We would like a Vicar to help us reflect the demographics of the community in our churches by engaging more widely with all the residents of the Parish.

*"It is sad that there are hoards of young families who join us at events on Mill Green and at Christmas services, but we do not see them in Church for the rest of the year"*

Churchwarden, Sue Witney



## Sharing Talents

Whilst we are blessed with many willing, supportive and gifted members of our congregations, we do not seem to be able to harness their creativity or successfully identify and encourage their vocations.

A new Vicar might lead the Church in an effective overhaul of existing structures to find and then equip all members of the laity to enable them to fulfill their potential.

*"We have so many talents here, but we want them to multiply, not be buried"*

Churchwarden, Mark Puddy



## Inner Community

Many people orbit the outer circles of their Church, both volunteering and joining social events throughout the year and we need to reach out to engage them with the Gospel and draw them closer into the worshipping community.

*"There are many people willing to cut the grass or clean St Mary's who exhibit a loyalty to 'their Church', but do not move on to attending Sunday services"*

Authorised Funeral Minister,  
Andy Ferguson



# Our Challenges & Opportunities



## To Grow in Faith

We seek to encourage all those in our community to grow in their faith by offering a variety of services, courses and groups to fit their particular needs.

The PCC & Church Leadership are supportive of innovative ideas and a review of the range of services on offer might encourage a new Vicar to introduce new styles of worship.

*"We have a group of young parents attending Butterflies (Parent & Child Group) bringing their children for Baptism – but are not currently succeeding in encouraging them to grow into greater involvement with the Church"*

Authorised Preacher, Jubi da Silva



## Schools


While we have a good working relationship with our Primary Schools we want to grow our relationship with our Secondary School. We hope that by having a place on the Governing Body our new vicar can develop this.

We are very keen to develop better links with this important section of our community and engage more closely with the pupils and staff.

*"Whilst clergy and lay members of the Church are a regular presence in the local Primary Schools, we have lost such a presence in the school life of our teenagers"*

PCC Secretary, Sheila Williams

# A Call to Join Us



Thank you for reading this profile and for taking the time to explore the life of our Parish. We hope you've caught a glimpse of the faith, warmth, and vitality that define St Mary's Wargrave with Knowl Hill, and the joyful community we strive to build in Christ's name.

If you feel a stirring that God may be calling you to this role, we warmly invite you to reach out, visit us, and experience our parish life firsthand.

We would love the opportunity to share more about who we are and to hear your vision and hopes.

May God guide and bless you as you discern His calling, and if He leads you to apply, we look forward to the path we may walk together in faith, hope, and love.



*Lead us in faith, service & growth*

# Appendix 1: Parish Forum Report Part I (In Person)

These notes represent what was captured on the flip charts by Rhodri Bowen, Parish Development Adviser for the Berkshire & Oxford Areas. They are arranged, loosely (and imperfectly!) grouped and in no particular order.

## **The best of what is/ what the church does well**

What is good/of God? What is valued about our church and its activity? What do we do well? Tell a story of when you have seen your church most alive and Christ-like

1. United teams (church cleaners, flower arrangers, Sunday services, Sunday schools for children, home groups, Ladies' breakfast, bell ringers, grass cutting, Variety of services, servers, Butterflies, magazine deliveries concerts, Pints of view, concerts
2. Responding to specific financial need
3. Being there, fellowship, caring for others,
4. Community: support, friendship
5. Fellowship
6. Support and caring for
7. House Groups
8. Bible groups
9. Tuesday morning Bible study and prayer
10. Music
11. Traditional and modern hymn mix
12. Variety of service styles
13. Work with the elderly, café, change of service time, CAMEO
14. Leadership
15. Many volunteers, forming community
16. People who serve within church
17. 9.15am service
18. Intergenerational relationships
19. Committed/skilled people
20. Schools – Christian ethos, Youth workers, teaching, reading, governing, links with school
21. Junior Church
22. Loyalty within the church community (and wider community)
23. Praying community and individuals
24. Community space
25. Eco church
26. Pantaloons – theatre
27. Support for charities home and abroad
28. Butterflies
29. Church started festival
30. RE Inspired
31. Coffee after church
32. Arrival of Tony
33. Steadfastness, loyalty
34. Faithfully preaching the Word
35. Open church
36. Welcome desk
37. Big events e.g. Festival, Christmas, concerts, Remembrance
38. Wargrave Festival – marquee service
39. Fantastic range of activities in the church and parish
40. Mission Schools The world
41. Grateful that we are not a persecuted Church, we can meet safely and openly
42. Building Church centre
43. Eco church
44. Magazine

# Appendix 1: Parish Forum Report Part I (con't)

## **The best of what might be:**

Looking forward: based on us at our best now, where might we be in 5 years' time? Describe this in as much detail as we can using the present tense as if we have already achieved these: How have we got there? What challenges have been overcome and how?

1. We have growth across unified thriving churches especially a younger generation supported from a diverse strong team of lay leaders
2. We really are the church at the heart of our communities
3. Central 'in' the village
4. Caring for the community
5. Mission: young families, schools, service pattern, (youth worker?)
6. Paid youth worker
7. We are a leader in climate resilience in our communities
8. Unity in the congregation: despite the big questions facing the wider church
9. Found a service pattern that works for all groups
10. Perception an inclusive relevant message to all members of the community
11. This session represents the entire demographic of the community
12. Make gospel relevant to people's lives today
13. Excellent infrastructure: office open 9-5, money plentiful
14. Who needs what?
15. Charismatic preacher
16. New/replacement of volunteers
17. Effect of 2000 new house units off A4/Twyford
18. Thriving church centre
19. Acoustics of centre
20. Two services: Sat eve 5pm; Sunday

# Appendix 1: Parish Forum Report Part I (con't)

## Role Description and Person Specification

Given our vision for the future: **What is the job for a new leader?**

- Bring Jesus into modern lives (which people have adapted to)
- Develop church into being more in the centre of the community
- Be a witness to the love of God in all things
- Encourages growth in Christ
- Out and about in the community

Given our vision for the future and the job for a new leader: **What sort of person might be needed for the role?**

1. Compassionate leader
2. Inclusive
3. Outgoing
4. Approachable
5. Encouraging lay ministry for all
6. Teacher
7. Extraverted: enthusiastic, enabling, encouraging, good communicator, open minded
8. Good communicator
9. A good communicator
10. Engaging communicator
11. A good communicator
12. Able to embrace and values differences to unite our community
13. Prayerful, Christ focused, Spirit led
14. Able to relate to all people
15. Someone who relates well to others
16. Has vision and energy
17. Values the 5 Marks of mission
18. Someone who focuses on all 5 Marks of mission
19. Someone who values women and their ministry
20. Good Bible teacher
21. Making gospel relevant to us all
22. Values all ages and brings all ages together
23. Able to identify equip and empower lay leaders
24. Someone with life experience to bring to the job
25. Someone with resilience and humour
26. Someone who leads by example
27. Someone who leads well and encourages others
28. (Has school age children)
29. Approachable and able to communicate and engage with all in the community
30. A thoughtful and good teacher who makes the gospel relevant to us all and encourages growth in Christ, building lay ministry for all
31. Compassionate leader who embraces differing points of view and commands respect to unite the community

# Appendix 1: Parish Forum Report Part II (Remote)

Below is feedback received from people who were not able to attend the Parish Forum day but sent letters in and those who gave feedback from the Parish who were asked to send in their ideas.

We had 8 responses which came to the Parish Office.

## **The best of what is/ what the church does well**

- 1.Strong fellowship ethos
- 2.Support for others; caring for different groups such as the elderly
- 3.Music(4 mentions from letters)
- 4.House groups (3 mentions from letters)
- 5.Butterflies ( 3 mentions from letters)
- 6.Junior church (2 mentions from letters)
- 7.Eco church ( 2 mentions from letters)
- 8.Time with schools
- 9.Promotion of events

Extra points raised :

- 1.Accounts
- 2.Caring for the building
- 3.Growth and recognition of the church family

## **What I'd like to see at St Marys in 5 years; the best of what might be**

- 1.All ages to feel welcomed, loved and open to all
- 2.Inclusive, female vicar
- 3.Children are involved in services
- 4.Engaging services
- 5.All age inclusive choir
- 6.Services for young people and the unchurched
- 7.Openness to testimonies and guest speakers
- 8.Greater priority on prayer
- 9.Eco church activities for the younger ones and care for creation

## **What sort of vicar would I like**

- 1.Good communicator ( 5 mentions from letters)
- 2.Faithfully preaches the Gospel and leads us in our Christian faith (5 mentions from letters)
- 3.Christ centred (2 mentions from letters)
- 4.Married with a family (3 mentions from letters)
- 5.Young and energetic (3 mentions from letters)
- 6.Male or female ( 2 mentions in letters)
- 7.Has integrity and sets a good example ( 1 mention in letters)
- 8.Passion for God; born again Christian
- 9.Supports Bible study
- 10.Hospitable with a pastoral heart
- 11.Junior church a priority and encouraging to youth; Interested and involved in schools
- 12.Involved in the community
- 13.At ease with technology
- 14.Innovator – uses various worship styles to promote the Word, sacrament and spirit
- 15.Open to new ideas

## Appendix 2: Church Statistics

PARISH STATISTICS	2023	2022	2021	2019	2018	2017	2016
Communicants for the year St Mary's	3657	3305	1574	4529	4930	4836	3891
Communicants for the year St Peter's & St Paul's	281	298	214	194	153	200	162
Baptisms	22	8	8	5	14	23	16
Thanksgiving for birth	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Funerals/Memorial Services/ Cremations/Ashes	35	40	19	31	15	27	36
Weddings	6	5	5	5	9	6	5
Services of Blessing for Marriage	0	1	0	0	0	3	1
Confirmations	0	2	0	0	12	0	1
Thanksgiving for Marriage	0	0	0	0	0	1	2

Note: In 2021 the church was closed for many weeks of the year due to Covid



Images courtesy of:  
Tim Hodges Photography  
OGH Consulting

**The Parish of Wargrave with Knowl Hill** | Parish Office | Station Road | Wargrave | Reading | Berkshire | RG10 8EU

[wargravechurch.org.uk](http://wargravechurch.org.uk)

0118 940 2300 | [office@wargravechurch.org.uk](mailto:office@wargravechurch.org.uk)