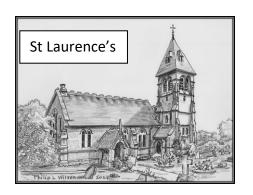
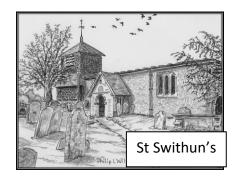


# Walbury Beacon Benefice seeking a House for Duty Associate Priest for an evolving group of village church communities

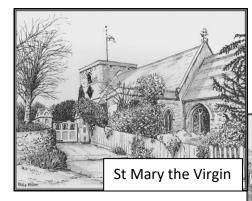
in the Newbury Deanery, in the Diocese of Oxford











St Luke & St Mark

**Our churches** 



## Welcome Rector's Letter

# The Vicarage Kintbury

Thank you for prayerfully considering whether you might join us as our Associate Priest as we discern our part in God's mission in this place.

Appointed in September 2022 as a 0.5 Rector of Walbury Beacon I have been delighted by the enthusiasm, openness, flexibility, and warmth I have discovered across the benefice. As a benefice, Ministry Team, and individual parishes we are currently exploring what God's dream may be for us here. There is a real desire for churches to remain active but focused, and genuine willingness to cooperate to move forward.

The congregations on a Sunday are small but they swell considerably for festival services, and there are many parishoners who whilst not committed to regularly attending services offer support in a variety of practical ways. The Churches are regarded as an integral part of village life hosting a good number of well attended pastoral services.

We are thinking about new ways to extend the links already in place with our village schools – perhaps sharing ministry more widely by introducing local Open the Book Teams.

Within the existing Ministry Team, we have an experienced Lay Reader (LLM), an Authorised Preacher and a sacristan who reaches out into the community through a regular Thursday Morning Open Café in St Mary's Room. I can already see considerable potential within the congregations to encourage individuals to be trained and commissioned to lead services and provide pastoral care. For 2023 we are planning a Lent Course which will lay the foundation for building our lay ministry and are praying for God to bless that initiative. We are also looking at ways to simplify governance, to enable us to focus on mission and have already decided on a joint annual meeting of all the PCCs to agree the benefice policies and to address other common areas of working.

It really is an exciting time to join Walbury Beacon as we explore new ways to work as a united benefice, sharing our gifts with each other, whilst preserving the unique ministry of our parish churches.

The specific kinds of ministry (outside of Sundays) that you would focus on can in many ways be shaped around you, because first and foremost you need to fit in this place, to enjoy being here, and to want to stay! If you are a good listener, have a loving, humble heart, and can discern what is really going on for people do please consider becoming part of our church family.

If you wish to chat informally before proceeding with an application, please contact Revd. Annette Shannon 01488 646385

## A message from the Associate Archdeacon.

"If you have a passion for rural ministry, can help dedicated and hard-working congregations to reach out to their local communities and inspire parishioners to make the most of their buildings and resources, putting them at the centre of their communities, then Walbury Beacon could be for you.

"Situated in beautiful Berkshire countryside, this benefice of 6 parishes has taken a year out, following an interim appointment, to review its structure and the way it will do ministry with a view to being better equipped to serve God and the people around them and to allow each of the churches to flourish in their own identity and to work better together as a benefice.

"The hope is that through pastoral re-organisation, one of the parishes, Enborne, which is geographically located nearest to the town of Newbury will leave the benefice to become part of south Newbury under a pastoral scheme, and that another, Hamstead Marshall, which has an outstanding historical building will join with the parish of Kintbury with Avington and from there explore its future as a vested church.

"The focus of the half time Rector is to look after and support mission in Kintbury with Avington and Hamstead Marshall and it is expected that the majority of their time will be focused on the village of Kintbury. She holds a watching brief for the three remaining, much smaller, parishes (Combe, West Woodhay and Inkpen) to be supported by the House for Duty Priest.

"This is an exciting time in Walbury Beacon Benefice."

Reverend Liz Jackson Associate Archdeacon Berkshire





## **Geography/Natural Environment**

The Walbury Beacon Benefice in West Berkshire is situated at the south-west of the Diocese of Oxford, having borders with Hampshire (Diocese of Winchester) and Wiltshire (Diocese of Salisbury). It covers a rural area to the west and south-west of Newbury and is in the Newbury Deanery. Much of the area is in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and includes stretches of the River Kennet and the Kennet and Avon canal.







The land rises from the river at Kintbury to Walbury Hill, the highest point in Berkshire, which forms part of a ridge providing spectacular views. Two long-distance footpaths, The Wayfarer's Walk and the Test Way, start in this vicinity. The area is popular with walkers and cyclists, attracting people from a wider area. The canal towpath is open to cyclists and two National Cycle Routes pass through the Benefice; there is also a good network of public footpaths.

The parish of **Kintbury with Avington** is the largest and most northerly of the parishes, with the Kennet and Avon canal passing from west to east through its centre and linking it to the neighbouring **Hamstead Marshall**. The majority of the population live within the village, which is south of the canal, but there are more sparsely populated parts, including an area to the north of the A4 which extends as far as the M4 motorway at one point.

**Inkpen** and **West Woodhay** are on land which rises to the south of Kintbury; the populations in general are spread out on a network of rural roads and lanes. Finally the ground rises steeply to the ridge, and then falls away again to the village of **Combe**, which is the most southerly of the parishes.

These three smaller 'Southern' parishes, will be served principally by the House for Duty Priest living at West Woodhay.

## **Our parishes**

Each of our parishes has a unique identity, with its own priorities and visions for the future; each of the Benefice churches has its own distinctive character and interesting features, and is cherished by its own parishioners.

Friendly relationships across the benefice offer opportunities to work together e.g. our Zoom benefice services during lockdown.

## The Southern parishes: Inkpen, West Woodhay and Combe

#### Contents

Section 1 : Context

Section 2 : Our New Minister Section 3 : Parish Profiles

Section 4 : Specific Elements of Ministry

Section 5: Accommodation

#### Section 1: Context

The three Parishes of Inkpen, West Woodhay and Combe form the Southern group of the Walbury Beacon Benefice and have a natural and long-standing association. They are adjacent to each other in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Together they formed the backbone of the Walbury Beacon Benefice when it was originally formed in 1981. It is an association which has sustained and created friendships and shared experiences. The parishes all share a style of worship and feeling for pastoral care that reflects the nature of a rural rather than an urban community.

The emerging vision of ministry is for the half-time Rector's post to be directed and focused for the most part on the needs of Kintbury – some four times larger than even the largest Parish of the Southern Group – allocating most of the pastoral care of the Southern Group to a Non-Stipendiary House-for-Duty Priest within a supportive team.

#### **Section 2 : Our New Minister**

Given that this is a House-for-Duty Post with a time commitment of two days per week plus Sundays, we recognize that our Minister's time on church matters is limited. However, there are certain personal attributes that we would value in our Priest:

- At the centre of their being there would be a pastoral heart and they would therefore place at the core of their ministry the care of people
- They would be comfortable with country life and traditional worship but would be able to recognize the need for change where it was appropriate and achieve it by evolution rather than revolution
- They could express in their life and teaching the reason for their Christian faith particularly to those who have difficulty with Christian belief
- They would lead worship and provide spiritual support in discipleship

- They may well have had long experience in their ministry and perhaps outside it and would now welcome the opportunities that a House-for-Duty affords.
- They are keen to work collaboratively with the Rector and other members of the Ministry
  Team in building stronger, supportive links between the parishes by, for example, sharing
  resources and holding benefice services, whilst retaining and developing the unique
  opportunities for mission and ministry in the Southern Group of churches.

#### **Section 3 : Parish Profiles**

The Profiles given below will in general indicate the direction of leadership and support that each Parish is seeking, with more specific elements of ministry in the following Section.



## St. Michael and All Angels, Inkpen

#### **Our Parish**

With over 800 residents the attractive and sought-after parish of Inkpen is, by a considerable margin, the second largest in the united Benefice after Kintbury.

Lying between Hungerford and the southern Ridgeway of the North Wessex Downs, the scattered village

consists of 380 homes, most of which are owner-occupied.

Inkpen has one pub; an excellent and highly commended State Primary School with a roll of some 70 pupils; impressive and well-equipped playing fields and an active village hall. A bus service runs daily (except Sunday) to Hungerford and Newbury.

The village has a comprehensive web site (<a href="www.inkpen-village.co.uk">www.inkpen-village.co.uk</a>), which includes Church news,

and is updated regularly.

We also provide a free monthly Church and Village Bulletin, underwritten by the Church, which is delivered to every house in Inkpen and Combe.



Aiming high

#### **Our Church**

St. Michael's Church was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, probably by Sir Roger de Inkpen, a Knight Templar, whose probable tomb cover can be found north of the altar. There is a chimed peal of six bells, rung before each service, the oldest dating from 1590 with the final two added in 2000. The organ was substantially renovated last year and a new sound system, with a hearing loop, is about to be installed. Adjoining the church there is a meeting room for up to 40 with a small kitchen and two toilets, one of which is for the disabled. There is also disabled access to the church. The church is held in high esteem in the village and is well kept and maintained.

The administration of the parish is generally excellent, thanks to an enthusiastic and supportive PCC (10 members) meeting three times a year (January, May and September), with the APCM immediately following the May meeting. The Church Warden is supported by two Associate Wardens and an experienced Treasurer and, together with the PCC, they manage all the routine administration of the church and the parish, including *inter alia*: building cleaning, churchyard maintenance, bell ringing, flower arranging, preparation for services, provision of an organist and readers, verger services, liaison with outside agencies etc. All our regulatory, compliance and management policies are up-to-date, our buildings are inspected annually (the Quinquennial Inspection is due in November 2022) and our infrastructure is well managed and maintained. Our financial position, thanks to prudent management and successful fund raising over many years, is very healthy; we currently have £130,000 in investments. The parish accounts are externally audited every year.

#### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to offer the people of Inkpen an experience of Christian belief and action that inspires them, whilst providing an understanding of the Christian faith that is credible in the modern world. Over the years we have developed a very good relationship between Church and Village but there is potential to build stronger links with the community, particularly through the festivals and occasional pastoral services. Attendance at the major festivals is from 60 to 120 (about capacity for the Church), whilst the body of core worshippers is around 25-30; and it is our ongoing priority to increase this. Furthermore, although it is not a C of E school, Inkpen Primary would welcome closer contact with the Ministry Team including occasional, maybe weekly, short services at the school.

Our churchmanship is broadly middle of the road and comprises a monthly pattern of services that includes:

- Two Family Communion Services at 0945, usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in the month.
- Two 1662 Prayer Book Communion Services at 0830 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the month (this might reduce to one service per month).
- Occasional services, such as Compline, Evensong and 'Services with a Difference' which aim to attract those who are seeking a faith but might regard themselves as spiritual rather than religious (these would usually replace one of the other services).
- Annually, we would expect to hold about 4 weddings, 5 funerals/memorials and 4 baptisms in the Church. But help is always available from the Ministry Team or retired clergy living locally.

## St Laurence's, West Woodhay

#### **Our Parish**

The Parish of West Woodhay is seven miles to the South West of Newbury with a population of 125. It consists of five square miles of beautiful countryside and 48 dwellings. St. Laurence's House is occupied by the House for Duty Priest, is located next to the village green and is opposite the Village Hall in the heart of the village.

A good number of the houses are owner occupied with the balance rented. Most are rented from the West Woodhay Estate or occupied by present or past employees of the Estate. The community comes together at the annual Christmas party and through community organised events on an ad hoc basis.

#### **Our Church**

A beautiful, well-maintained Church which is kept open. It was built in 1883; but two West Woodhay churches preceded it. Fortunately for us, the evidence for the two vanished churches is precise – and available. The current church was built by William Henry Cole, who had bought the West Woodhay Estate in 1880. The architect was Sir Arthur Bloomfield, a prolific Victorian architect, who provided a simple flint and Bath stone church in the then favoured Early English style and of much the same size as the two earlier churches.

Striking features of the sanctuary are three high-relief

carvings by the Belgian, Goyer.



The organ is by the younger Henry Willis. It was installed at much the same time as the vestry screen – which is a memorial and thanksgiving for the relief of Ladysmith and of the ending of the Boer War.

The Memorial Garden which adjoins the churchyard to the west is not part of the church or churchyard, but by happy inspiration opens directly out of it. It is the family memorial to Mrs. Sarah Henderson, who was killed in 1972.

There are 30 names on the Electoral Roll and 11 members of the PCC, which meets twice a year. The building is in good repair with the shingle clad spire being fully renovated in the last year. The Church yard is well maintained, and our finances are in good order.

#### **Our Mission**

We seek to establish a strong Christian community that cares for and supports everyone in our midst in an unobtrusive way offering help in complete confidence. In this way, we believe we can live as Christ intended and draw others to Him.

We are currently exploring the remodeling of the church to include a kitchen and toilet to enable its better use as a community asset.

Annually, we would expect to hold 1 wedding, 2 funerals/memorials and 2 baptisms in the Church.

Our churchmanship is broadly middle of the road, comprising:

- Two Common Worship Communion Services with a regular congregation of 10 which can swell to up to 100 for Festival services.
- A recent development has seen the occasional lay led service of Compline.
- During the Covid crisis outdoor services were held in the churchyard. These proved to be very popular so we would welcome these becoming a feature of worship at West Woodhay.
- We are a small church within a small community.
- We are prepared to be flexible in exploring ways to maintain the active individual character of the parish.

#### St Swithun's, Combe

#### Our Parish

There are 13 names on the Electoral Roll and 10 members of the PCC. The PCC meets once a year. The Church Wardens and Sidesman, a cleaner and a rota for flower arranging take care of the required duties in the church. The PCC meets once a year. The finances are currently in order.

Combe is a small collection of 17 houses, many of which are occupied by people who come down here for its tranquillity at weekends. Combe, in its rural setting surrounded by farmland and the downs, it is too small to have its own school, pub or village hall, so the church provides the meeting point for the village.

Dating back to the 100 Years War, the church is not only the focal point of this small community, it is also much visited and admired by a wider population from across the country and, indeed, abroad.



### **Our Church**

The 12<sup>th</sup> century Church of St Swithun's is situated on the side of a down, above the hamlet of Combe, in one of the most exceptional valleys in Southern England. It is an archetypal English country church surrounded by its own well-tended churchyard. Noted locally for the beauty of its setting and the historical interest of its surroundings, it is respected for its simplicity and the peace of its atmosphere.

St Swithun's was built in 1160 and, for its age, is generally in

good repair. Recent work includes the replacement of windows, revision of the lighting, and introduction of a new side door and redecoration of the nave.

#### **Our Mission**

A wedding reception venue is situated next to the Church generating the possibility of a wedding ministry, but the Ministry Team and Benefice churchwardens recognise this needs careful managing. The associate priest would have support with this area of ministry.

The specific style of worship draws an enthusiastic, gathered congregation Our Churchmanship is traditional

- One Communion service is held on the third Sunday of the month from the 1662 Prayer Book.
- Music is a central feature of the services, and we are fortunate to have an excellent organist.
- The average congregation is 12 15 with a certain percentage coming from outside the community. The Christmas Carol and Easter services, which have built a reputation for being traditional services attract a congregation of approximately 50 people.
- Annually we would expect to hold 8 weddings, 1 baptism and possibly 1 funeral.



In the North of the benefice: <u>Kintbury with Avington & Hamstead Marshall</u> **Kintbury:** The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Kintbury is a Grade II listed



building, originally Norman, with many interesting features added over the centuries, creating a spiritual resource in our twenty-first century community.

Visitors are attracted by the monuments, the unusual painted ceiling and the historical connections with Jane Austen or the "Kintbury Martyr" buried in the churchyard – a victim of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century agricultural Swing Riots.

It is the largest of the Benefice churches and has in recent years been used to host the larger Benefice services. Most of the pews are fixed but there is a little flexibility to adjust the seating for different purposes. It is frequently full over the course of a typical year, with services such as Remembrance, the Christmas Eve crib service, weddings, funerals, primary school services, concerts and talks. There are also smaller, more intimate spaces, including a chapel and St Mary's Room, ideal for private or daily prayer and small groups.

St. Mary's Church is located at the centre of Kintbury and we encourage its use for community events.

**The churchyard**, criss-crossed by ancient footpaths and much used by dogwalkers, families and as a quiet place to sit, is closed other than for the interment of ashes. Parish burials now take place at Christchurch Cemetery (which has two war graves), on the edge of the village, at the site of a previous chapel of ease demolished in the mid-twentieth century.

**The congregation** covers a wide spectrum of churchmanship, including Tertiary Franciscans, Anglo-Catholics and Evangelicals with a longstanding and faithful group of regular worshippers, and a lot of goodwill within the village. There are just over 70 on the Church Electoral Roll, with an average Sunday attendance of roughly half this number. Many local people are on the fringe of church activities without being regular members of the congregation.

There is scope for building up numbers at services by encouraging more regular attendance, and considering a more flexible service pattern and provision to develop a more diverse and representative congregation. We have gained new members recently, even during the pandemic.

The 'Fisherman' is Kintbury's Parish magazine. Originally produced by church members, it now has a higher content of general village activities, but still carries a monthly letter from one of the Ministry Team and much other church news.

**Avington:** The privately owned church of St. Mark and St. Luke is an unusually unspoilt 2-cell Norman church. No longer open to the public, the permitted six services per year allow a rare chance to see and worship at this historic building, which is within the parish of Kintbury with Avington but outside the remit of the PCC.





**Hamstead Marshall** is a small, lively and friendly community, covering about 3 square miles, and comprising a number of small, scattered rural settlements. The local inn has recently re-opened and the popular monthly market in the village hall (the old school) has re-started post-Covid.

The "Hamstead Hornet" is a quarterly, digitally-published, independent newsletter.

St Mary's Church is located outside the centre of the village. A 12<sup>th</sup> Century foundation, it is structurally in good repair, over £30,000 having been spent on repairs following a recent Quinquennial Inspection. Water has been installed within the last few years. There are two chimed bells, dated 1592 and 1756, and a pipe organ in the gallery. A colourful and interesting Millennium window contains many local symbols.

Car parking is limited, although access can be made available by courtesy of the owner, to a grassed space within Hamstead Park for this purpose. The interior layout of the church restricts usage for larger functions – the historic box pew limiting seating to about 100, pre-Covid. The parish has been struggling financially for several years, unable to meet the Parish Share.

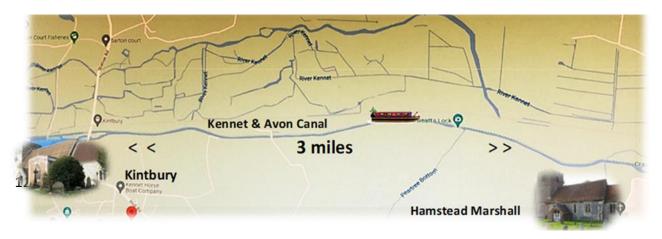
Prior to Covid lockdowns, there was a growing and genuinely All-Age congregation, participating enthusiastically in all aspects of the monthly service – ringing the bells, leading the prayers, and sometimes the service, dramatising the readings, playing percussion and often sharing the sermon.

The PCC, with the Diocese, is currently pursuing possible options for vesting the chuch building.

#### **New beginnings**

**Kintbury and Hamstead Marshall,** the two most northerly parishes in the benefice, sharing parish boundaries and a patronal saint, are near neighbours along the valley of the River Kennet, and the two churches are 3 miles apart – about an hour's walk along the canal towpath and much the same by narrowboat – or less than ten minutes by car. Historically, St Mary's Kintbury and St Mary's Hamstead Marshall share even closer ties: St Mary's Hamstead Marshall being at one time a "field church" to the mother church, St Mary's Kintbury.

These past links may now be re-shaped for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, as the two parishes start to explore how they may work together towards a possible future merger, to allow Hamstead Marshall PCC to make progress along the way to vesting their historic building.



## **Accommodation**

Accommodation for our Priest is the modern West Woodhay Vicarage – St Laurence's House. It has three bedrooms, three reception rooms, a good-sized garden, an enviable outlook and a quiet location in the village of West Woodhay.

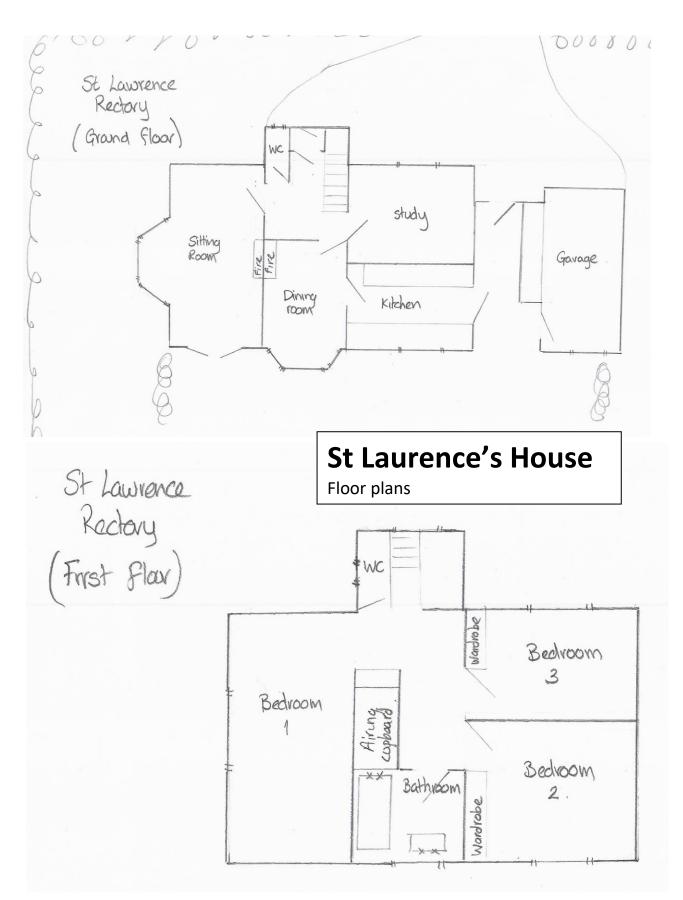


# St Laurence's House

West Woodhay

Views from the garden





## Walbury Beacon Benefice – further information

## The People of the Benefice

The total population is around 3,800 (Source: 2011 Census). Kintbury and Hamstead Marshall, with 2,800, account for 74% of the total. The Kintbury population has undoubtedly risen since then. Inkpen, with a population of 850, is the next largest and accounts for a further 22%. The remaining 4% (125 people) are divided between the smaller parishes of Combe and West Woodhay. The church electoral rolls tell a slightly different story: in the smaller parishes a far higher proportion of the residents are on the roll than in the larger ones.

Across the Benefice the predominant age group is 45 to 59. In West Berkshire in general the 20-35 age group is under-represented against national averages. This reflects the fact that younger people tend to move away from the area, but people are attracted to move in (or back) once they are older. The latest Census data also shows that that well over 90% of the population are white British in all the Walbury Beacon parishes.

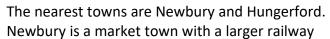
The economy is basically rural, with no major employers. The area has several large estates and many farms, with some farm diversification.



#### **Local Amenities and General Information**

Overall, Kintbury is the largest centre although there are some amenities in the smaller parishes. There are several pre-schools in the benefice, including a Montessori and two village primary schools: Kintbury St Mary's is a CoE school, Inkpen Primary School is a community school.

Reasons for travelling between the different parishes are limited and although Kintbury has the closest Post Office and doctors' surgery for many living inside the benefice, some residents feel a stronger affinity with one of the larger towns in the area.





station, a good range of shops, a choice of secondary schools and employment, sports, entertainment and cultural opportunities. Hungerford is smaller than Newbury and also has a secondary school, a railway Station, public and private leisure centres and a range of individual shops as well as supermarkets and petrol stations. The nearest hospital is the West Berkshire Community Hospital, which is between Newbury and Thatcham. For a full range of hospital facilities it is necessary to travel further, with larger hospitals at Reading, Swindon, Basingstoke and Oxford.

There are many opportunities for social and special interests, including a drama group, local history group, choral group, bridge club, football, tennis, bowls (indoors and out), pilates and running clubs. Kintbury has a community run sports centre

There is a small local Authority residential care home in Kintbury – Notrees – and a comparatively recent large residential complex for older people, Audley Inglewood, on the edge of the village.



The Corner Stores and Post Office in the centre of Kintbury, is an essential part of our village life and Jay and Anita are key figures. The Church connects community sponsors with the Shop and School to provide food parcels during school holidays – and especially at the height of lockdown – to the approximately 20% of families attending the school who are in need.

"Cookies" – a more specialist food shop – has recently opened in Kintbury; a wet fish van calls every Thursday afternoon and a local artisan baker has an outlet which is open on Saturdays and Wednesdays.



There are two monthly village markets, at Hamstead Marshall and at Inkpen, with a third at Woolton Hill a couple of miles away; a locally run heating oil community purchasing group and a variety of places to eat and drink within the benefice itself and nearby.





The following websites give more detailed information about the area

Walbury Beacon Benefice: <a href="www.walburybeaconbenefice.org.uk">www.walburybeaconbenefice.org.uk</a>
North Wessex Downs AONB: <a href="http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk">http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk</a>

Parish spotlights: <a href="http://www.oxford.anglican.org/support-services/parish-support/parish-spotlights/#toggle-id-21">http://www.oxford.anglican.org/support-services/parish-support/parish-spotlights/#toggle-id-21</a>

Profile of Kintbury civil ward which includes the wider area: http://localstats.co.uk/census-demographics/england/south-east/west-berkshire/kintbury

https://www.ukcensusdata.com/kintbury-e05002303#sthash.XHQxaXnj.L3uEadwa.dpbs

The Benefice is covered by West Berkshire Council, which is a unitary authority with its offices in Newbury.

Website: <a href="http://www.westberks.gov.uk">http://www.westberks.gov.uk</a>

Newbury: http://www.visitnewbury.org.uk Hungerford: https://www.visithungerford.com/

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust: http://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk

## **Transport**

The parishes in the Benefice are connected by a network of rural roads. The A4, which runs east/west between Newbury and Hungerford, is the major access road but there are also good links to the M4 and A34. There is a railway station at Kintbury, which is on the London (Paddington) to Great Bedwyn line, with an hourly service providing good access to Newbury, Reading, London and Hungerford. Trains operate at a reduced frequency on Sundays. Buses serve the more densely populated areas from Monday to Saturday and are particularly convenient for school children. However, the more isolated areas in the Benefice are not well served by public transport. For travel between the various parishes, especially on a Sunday, private transport is essential.



Not the daily commute to Paddington!

Websites:

Great Western Railway: www.gwr.com

Local buses: https://info.westberks.gov.uk/travel

Cycle routes: http://www.sustrans.org.uk

Villages and communities
Places to meet and eat and things to do – all within the benefice







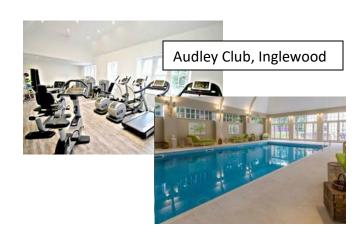




















## Some special church occasions:

## **Easter 2021**



"Avington is such a special place"

## Local responses to national emotions and global events

## 23rd March National Day of Reflection Reflect • Support • Hope

# HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

1921-2021

Service of Commemoration St Mary's Church Kintbury



Friday 16th April 6:00pm

The Church Bell to be tolled from 2:15pm Saturday 17th April

Take a minute's silence at 12 noon on 23 March to show your support for the millions of people who are bereaved and take a moment to connect with someone.

Scan this QR code to light a candle online



St Mary's Church open for private prayer & reflection 11:45 - 12:45 One minute's silence

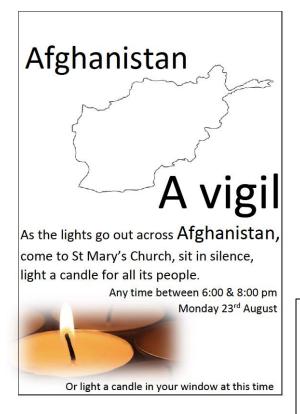
as the clock strikes 12:00

#### God of Love.

As we think about all that has changed this year, help us to trust that you are always with us. As we remember those who have died. help us to trust they are at peace with you. As we reach out to others with kindness and care, may hope shine out in every heart and home.









one day after the Taliban entered Kabul.

## The Power of Silence – a vigil for the people of Afghanistan The light fades from St Mary's Church Kintbury, at the close of a 2-hour silent vigil, held in the evening of Monday 23rd August – one week and

During the two hours, around twenty parishioners - from teenagers to pensioners - came in ones and twos into the church, lit a candle and sat for a while in silence before slipping quietly out.

