



## **Parish Profile**



## **The Parish of Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington**



## **Our Mission:**

To share our faith whilst engaging beyond ourselves, promoting the Church as warm, welcoming and inclusive; underpinned by generosity, hospitality and community; and appreciating and conserving our heritage.

Dear potential applicants,

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

The Benefice of Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington is seeking a Rector who will reach out to those who are not yet part of the worshipping communities. The new Rector will have an enthusiasm to join in with what God is already doing, being ready to offer encouragement, but they will also come with fresh ideas.

The new Rector will have an empathy and understanding of rural communities and will seek with the churches to continue to make connections to all age groups within each of the three distinct villages. They will continue to foster all that is important to the parish, including the music, interfaith work and ecumenical relationships. The churches want people to come, they want to be parish churches for all, and they want everyone in their three communities to know that they have a village church, whether they are regular worshippers or not.

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

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

With every blessing,

*+ Gavin Dorchester*

Rt. Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester





*St Mary's Church Wootton*

## **Welcome:**

The PCC of Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington and our current Patron, New College Oxford welcome you to our beautiful parish. We are seeking a new Rector, as House for Duty Priest, to live in our community and to work with us to fulfil our Mission. In this, our Parish Profile we seek by God's grace to give insight into our Community and God's work here trusting that it will resonate with our new Rector.

**Introduction:**

The parish of Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington is a single parish of three churches, situated on the edge of the Cotswolds. It was formed on 1 March 2003 when the three separate parishes of Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington merged. Since its formation, and almost uniquely, the congregations from the three villages support each other in attending services in each of the villages, which are within a three mile radius.

We are a rural community, with easy public transport links to London and Birmingham, and a bus ride from Oxford, Woodstock and Chipping Norton.

**Vision:**

Our Mission is key to our hopes and plans for the future. At the heart of our churches is a culture of hospitality and generosity. We aim to continue the ministry of the Church in our community, sharing our Christian faith through teaching, music and through acts of giving.

We want to ensure the continuity of our Churches and to grow our number under the direction and guidance of our new Rector.

We recognise the need to continue our outreach to our neighbours. In particular, we have a strong desire and need to reach out to younger members of the community.

Most importantly we seek to show that the Churches are for everyone in our community; whether or not they are regular worshippers.

*We seek a new Rector to share our ambition and Mission and will support the Rector in so doing.*

**We hope that our new Rector will:**

- faithfully and prayerfully seek to make the Christian faith relevant to all, including to those who have given up regular worship;
- be comfortable with the worship of the church community; including traditional language and style; informal worship; and “special” services and continue our outreach through music and our engagement with people of other faiths in the community.
- lead the Church with our support and encouragement, ministering and providing pastoral care to the whole community, not just the congregation
- support and respect all three communities and their churches;
- although not necessarily from a rural background, have an empathy for country people and be involved in wider aspects of community life (knowing that rural communities feel an ownership of the church even if they do not attend regularly);
- work with lay people (and promote a collaborative form of leadership) and support their gifts in the furtherance of our Mission;
- be capable of developing work with the children and young people in the parish, looking to the future of the Church;

**Services:**



*Shayk Ibrahim Mogra , Service at the end of Eid, Kiddington*

A Service is held in each of our beautiful mediaeval churches once every month, by rotation (see Appendix).

In furtherance of our Mission, we have enhanced our outreach by holding Special Services in addition to the major liturgical feasts, patronal services and Harvest and other Festivals. We have held Advent Carol Services, Carol Services, Christingle, Pet Services, special breakfast services for children, and services with Wootton school within the context of our weekly services. Our services offer a place of comfort and refuge: our All Souls Service is an important annual event.

People may not always come regularly but they come faithfully to many of these services, and whilst our “average” congregation ranges from 15 to 25, through these Special Services we have had large congregations of 70 plus throughout the liturgical year.

Our intention is for the ministry to be manageable for a House for Duty Priest. For the majority of Sundays there is currently one service. For extra services, we would, if desired, work to support you through the use of lay readers.



*Rabbi Shapiro at the Holocaust Memorial Service*

*By broadening our approach to worship we have engaged with more people – we would seek to continue this engagement and to explore other outreach with our new Rector.*



*Harvest Festival, St Nicholas*

**Worship:**

All are welcome to join our services which are held on Sunday Morning at 10.15 am. At our weekly Communion we join together to remember Christ's Sacrifice. We occasionally join together in choral Matins and Evensong.

An informal more contemporary service (Sunday Light) is held in Wootton at the beginning of every month. The remaining services typically follow Order 1 Traditional.

Further details of our services are set out in the Appendix.

## **Music:**

Music is a feature of our outreach and a key part of the way that we are seeking to engage with the wider community.

Music for Sunday Light is provided by the Wootton Music Group, made up of members of the Wootton village community. They play a mixture of more contemporary songs on keyboard, flute, guitar and pipes.

All three Churches have pipe organs and our services (apart from Sunday Light) are accompanied by pipe organ.

Through the pandemic we developed a relationship with a group of academical and lay clerks from the University community who, under the direction of Caitlin Harrison (our Director of Music) form our Parish Choir and provide music for weekly services from September to June, singing a range of repertoire from the Middle Ages to the present day and focussing especially on the works of underrepresented composers.

The Glyme Valley Choir “pops up” to augment the Parish Choir and sings for major feasts in the liturgical year. Previous services have included a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, and a Lenten service of John Stainer’s “The Crucifixion”. The only requirement to join is enthusiasm – one member of the choir, now in her seventies, had not sung since her schooldays (having been ejected from the school choir!).



*The Choir*

Music for funerals, weddings and baptisms can be provided either by Michael Lowe, a long standing Wootton resident or Caitlin Harrison.

*We see music as a key part of our ministry and would like our new Rector to share in this for outreach and ministry.*



*Baptism Service*

**Pastoral care:**

As well as formal expressions of worship we are committed to providing pastoral care throughout the Parish. The Trio lunch club is a regular event for older members of the community. Parishioners support the Stroke Club in nearby Woodstock.

Our buildings are used to mark the key events in the lives of members of our Community. We celebrate births marriages and of course funerals. In total there may be 12 to 15 such services each year. This is a sacred part of our Mission – that the Church is there for everybody when they need it.

*We will work with our new Rector to support the provision of pastoral care.*



*Adult Baptism*

## Stewardship:

We are conscious of our obligations to conserve our heritage. But beyond this we aspire to make the Church at the heart of our community. Our churches are for everybody. We are the stewards of three beautiful Mediaeval churches each with a distinctive character. Our Mission includes conserving and enhancing our buildings.

*We want to work with our Rector to promote the Church as contributing to a sense of warmth, inclusion and community.*



St Mary's Church 1

## Our Church Buildings :

Our church buildings are part of our heritage and much loved by all members of our community. They are a blessing but with this comes responsibility for these ancient buildings. As a PCC we take our duties in relation to the fabric of the buildings seriously – and we have amongst our number members of the PCC with the skills and experience to continue to discharge our duties of stewardship for the buildings.

*We do not expect our Rector to carry this responsibility (which is handled by PCC working groups and the wider village communities) ensuring that our new Rector can focus on ministry although clearly the Rector will be fully involved in proposals for material works.*

**Further information about the history of the church buildings is set out on our website: [www.glymechurches.org](http://www.glymechurches.org)**

## Organisation:

We are a committed and active single PCC, with representatives from all three villages. We recognise the nature of the role and are keen to ensure that our new Rector is not overwhelmed by “admin” or building projects.

Members of the PCC have varied professional experience including extensive relevant experience of large building projects.

*The PCC will support the new Rector in focussing on ministry and Mission.*



*St Nicholas, Kiddington*

### **Finances:**

From a financial perspective, we have always paid our Parish Share and have continued mission giving even during times of greater hardship such as through lockdown.

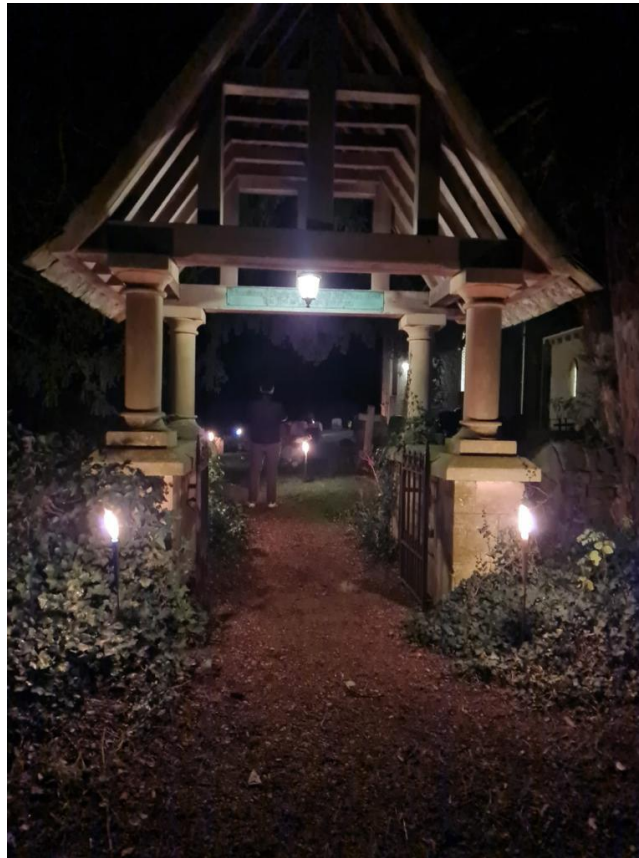
Income is received through regular giving (bank transfer, envelope), through the plate, from grants and sundry donations. The villages also conduct parish fund raising activities to support day-to-day expenditure (with the added benefits that these bring to the village communities). Gift aid is received on all applicable gifts. By and large ordinary course income is equal to annual routine expenditure although there is little margin for unexpected expenditure.

General expenses of the parish are paid for through the general fund and each Church has its own Repair Fund. In Wootton, the Church Lands Trust has historically supported general maintenance costs of St Mary's. The reordering works were funded from a variety of grants and donations/fund raising from local people.

We owe a huge debt to our treasurer Mrs Jenny Wagstaffe who has faithfully supported the parish as lay reader and also treasurer. She would like to stand down and we hope to find a new treasurer (which may include procuring some professional support).

The financial commitment required to maintain and enhance our churches is a perpetual issue for all parishes. We are fortunate in the giving by the Community and the other financial support noted herein but do not underestimate the ongoing challenge.

*We hope that our new Rector will provide whole-hearted support through prayer and through attendance at community events where appropriate, not through running fund raising programmes.*



*St Nicholas, Kiddington*

### **Communities:**

Our Parish is made up of three distinct communities.

Wootton is a large village of 700 residents. It is a thriving community with a village community shop, two community halls, a small Church of England primary school, and a pub. Wootton Church is the largest of the three churches in the parish and has recently undergone an extensive reordering to provide flexible communal space for appropriate use by the Community. The Rectory is located in the centre of Wootton.

A mile from Wootton is the village of Glympton. The village is, in the main, owned by the Glympton Estate and many residents still both live and work on the Estate, which is owned by His Majesty the King of Bahrain. Glympton has a thriving village shop and Post Office, and a village hall and playing field. There is a biennial village fete, Cream Teas during the summer months and “Big Breakfasts” during Winter. The Church is situated within Glympton park, immediately adjacent to the mansion house (not in the village). We are fortunate that the Estate is extremely supportive of the Church and the wider village.

Kiddington - a mile further walk through fields (or by road!) – is the smallest village in our community. It was also until recently, an “estate village”. The Church is situated in the grounds of

Kiddington Hall, which is owned by Jemima Khan, who has also supported the church in numerous ways since moving to the village in 2010. There is no other communal space in Kiddington apart from the church, and the population in the top of the village is transient – but we are developing the ministry here in particular through our Special Services. Forty people recently attended our Harvest Festival.

Outreach is a monthly parish magazine delivered freely to all dwellings in the parish. The Rector has usually contributed a piece titled ‘From the Rectory’. Also included is the timetable of all services for the month.

It is produced entirely by volunteers and normally the only cost is that of printing. Costs are covered by advertising revenue and donations.

More information about our villages and churches may be found in the Appendix.

*We hope that our new Rector will engage across the Parish recognising the distinct communities therein.*



### **The Rectory:**

The Rectory is in Wootton and is a modern (30 year old) four bedroom detached house, with a sitting/dining room (sliding doors to the rear garden), study, kitchen/breakfast room which has been renewed within the last two years, a utility room and cloakroom on the ground floor. There is a glazed porch and a fine entrance hall with feature wooden balusters and gallery landing. The windows are double glazed. A garage is attached. There is oil central heating. The medium sized enclosed garden incorporates old fruit trees and hedges to the rear while the front is laid to a gravel drive and borders. It is centrally situated, less than five minutes' walk from Wootton Church.



*The Rectory, Wootton*

## **Our New Rector:**

We believe that God is at work here – through prayer and perseverance has come growth:

- The first phase of the reordering of Wootton church - creating a flexible space - has been completed;
- Our prayers for young people have been answered through the attendance and ministry of our Parish Choir – all of whom are under 30!
- Whilst financing the running and repairs of our churches is always a challenge, we have had generous donations from local people and grant funding both of which give meaningful comfort for the future.

We are praying for our new Rector. We have open hearts open minds and open hands in our search.

Our expectations are realistic and we recognise the specific demands on a House for Duty Priest working part time.

We have sought to ensure that this role is flexible, manageable and that our expectations are realistic - we want our Rector to thrive and to enjoy being here.

We have no preconceived ideas about the person we are looking for. We are seeking someone who shares our Mission and our values and desires to continue God's work here. We will work with you not harder but smarter. We welcome people with other commitments whether professionally or otherwise.

We seek to engage with our new Rector to explore ways in which administrative burdens can be eased and find ways to engage creatively with the community and us and the future.

*We will:*

- *Provide a home in Wotton*
- *Ensure that you have a sensible work/life balance*
- *Encourage you to take days off, have holidays and make enough time for your family, friends and recreation*
- *Support your professional and self-development*
- *Explore with you ways in which we can support you in your ministry and our Mission, for example. admin support*

# Appendix



*Looking across the Glyme Valley*

## Details of Post

<b>Role title:</b>	Rector
<b>Type of role:</b>	House for Duty Priest (incumbent)
<b>Name of Benefice:</b>	Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington
<b>Episcopal area:</b>	Dorchester-on-Thames
<b>Deanery:</b>	Woodstock
<b>Archdeaconry:</b>	Dorchester-on-Thames
<b>Conditions of Service:</b>	To be provided
<b>Key contact:</b>	Archdeacon of Dorchester
<b>Terms of Service:</b>	Within the Clergy Terms of Service formally known as Common Tenure. The Archdeacon of Dorchester is the designated person by the Bishop of Oxford to issue a Statement of Particulars for the post holder.
<b>Accountability:</b>	Priests share with the Bishop in the oversight of the church. Whilst, as an office holder, the individual is expected to lead and prioritise work in line with the purpose of the role, they are encouraged to inform the incumbent (in case of assistant priests) and Archdeacon and Church Warden/s (in case of incumbents) about any issues exceptional or otherwise that have the potential to affect ongoing delivery of ministry.
<b>Other Duties:</b>	N/A

## Ex Officio Roles

The Churches and villages have one or more charitable trusts and/or historical bequests:

**The Glympton Almshouse Trust** is a charity for the provision of accommodation for members of the historic parish of Glympton of limited means or, if there are unfilled vacancies, from elsewhere in Oxfordshire. The Trust owns Alan Good House, named for a previous owner of the Glympton Park Estate who endowed the charity. It is located on the edge of the village and consists of four ground floor one-bedroom flats.

**The Parrott & Lee Educational Foundation** provides money for the education and training of young people embarking upon a career/apprenticeship. It also provides an extra source of income for the village school. Wootton Relief in Need charity is an old village trust that was set up for the relief of hardship in the village.

**The Marriott Trust** meets in Worcester College, Oxford and provides educational grants and bursaries for the children of clergy in Oxfordshire, and other places with a personal connection with the Marriott family.

**The Church Lands Trust** provides funds for the upkeep of the Wootton church building (the residue of the sale of glebe lands), which covers the cost of routine maintenance.

Wootton Relief in Need Charity.

### **Wootton Church Improvements Fund**

The Rector is an ex-officio member of many of these trusts. The roles are not onerous and are a good way of connecting with various community groups.

## Parish Information

Patrons in rotation:	New College, Oxford	(1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> turn)
	The Bishop of Oxford	2 <sup>nd</sup> turn
	The Trustees of the Glympton Park Trust (to be transferred to the King of Bahrain or his representative)	(4 <sup>th</sup> turn)
Bishops:	Stephen, Bishop of Oxford,	
	Gavin, Bishop of Dorchester	
Churchwardens:		
	Lt Col Peter Browne, Kingham, Gloucestershire	
	Mrs Connie Surtees, 18, Glympton, Woodstock, Oxon OX20 1HS	
	Mrs Jo Deacon, Home Farm, Nether Kiddington, OX20 1BY	
	Howard Dellar, Winter's Tale, Church Close, Farmoor, OX2 9NP	
PCC Secretary		
PCC Treasurer	Jenny Wagstaffe	
Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)	Jenny Wagstaffe Anne Dellar	
<b>Services</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion (said) 8.00 am	<b>Wootton</b>
	Sunday Light (non traditional family service) 10.15 am	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion 10.15 am	<b>Glympton</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion 10.15 am	<b>Kiddington</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion 10.15 am	<b>Wootton</b>
	Evensong	
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion/Choral Mattins 10.15 am	<b>Rotating</b>
	The major festivals are rotated between the three churches and Special Services are conducted to reflect the particular communities.	

# Our Villages and Churches



## *Wootton*

Wootton is 10 miles from Oxford, just off the A44 Oxford to Stratford road and 2 miles from Woodstock. It is in the 'accessible countryside' (within easy reach of trains to London and having a daily bus service to Oxford), yet remains remarkably unspoilt and is surrounded by farmland.



*Some young parishioners outside Wootton Village Hall*

The population is around seven hundred with a mixed demographic of those who have lived there for a considerable time and more recent arrivals (including second home owners). There is a small C of E primary school where currently 11 children are enrolled, (although its future is uncertain). It has historically had close links with the church and community and the Rector's assemblies have been a popular feature. There is a Church of England secondary school (the only one in the deanery), the Marlborough School, in the nearby town of Woodstock.

The village institutions are: the Killingworth Castle Inn; Village Shop (owned and managed by a consortium of local people, including the PCC); Parish Council; Village Hall (built 1926); Burditch Hall (built as a sports pavilion, and currently being upgraded to a more substantial hall); Mother & Toddler group; Youth Club; Sports Club (the playing field was given to the village on condition that sports continued to be played there on Sundays). Members of the community support the stroke club in nearby Woodstock. A number of fund raising initiatives are supported by the village (and the wider community) including a village Christmas bazaar, the Wootton flower festival and open gardens, Wootton Village Hall talks, coffee mornings, safari suppers, and a Pancake party.

### *St Mary's Church, Wootton*

The largest church in the parish is located in Wootton. The first phase of an extensive reordering of Wootton church creating a flexible space for appropriate use by the community is complete. Bishop Stephen attended a service of thanksgiving and blessing earlier this year.

The planning for Phase II, to provide lavatories and storage, is in hand (and preliminary works have been undertaken). The funds for these works were raised from the local community and the generous support of Viridor. Some further restoration works are required to the chancel roof and the rainwater goods need overhauling.



## *Glympton*

The historic parish of Glympton is a small picturesque village of about 25 houses, which was established on its present site when Glympton Park was enclosed in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.



*The Dog Show at Glympton Village Fete*

Despite its small size, there is a strong sense of community in the village. The village, the church and the Estate are largely synonymous and, as a result, it has retained a strong rural atmosphere. Nearly all the houses are occupied by employees or retired employees of the Glympton Park Estate and some have lived and worked there through several generations. The village benefits from a village hall, which is run by a small committee and is the focus of public meetings and most entertainment; and a small Post Office and Village shop. The principal events in the village calendar are the Annual Bonfire, the village fete (usually held in mid-June), Cream Teas during the summer and Big Breakfasts during the winter months. There is a supportive group of fundraisers in the village.

Glympton village has a strong association with the Rose Hill Estate in Oxford, a multi-ethnic community which has been welcomed to village events.

### *St Mary's Church, Glympton*

St Mary's Church Glympton is located in the park land of Glympton Park. Recently works have been completed to restore the drainage (thereby protecting the fabric of the Church) and to restore the historic monument inside the church. The church has a Cotswold stone slate roof which is in need of substantial repair. The heating system is in need of replacement and the pipe organ requires a complete overhaul due to the effects of bats in the church. A generous donation has been received from the owner of the Glympton Estate to deal with all these issues and we are in the early stages of preparing a specification for the works with the church architect before applying for the necessary faculties. Works are also underway to repair the churchyard wall for which List B approval has been received, kindly funded by the Estate.



## *Kiddington*

Kiddington is a hamlet 12 miles north of Oxford on the A44 and 5 miles north of Woodstock. It is divided into Upper and Nether Kiddington by the River Glyme.

Until recently, the houses in the village were owned by Kiddington Estate which was divided and sold in two parts to Jemima Goldsmith and Sir Alex Reed in 2010. Following the division of the Estate the houses in Over Kiddington have been let commercially and the population appears to be quite transitory. The community in Nether Kiddington is populated by owner occupiers including a number of families with children and has a strong sense of community – and frequently attend church services.

Kiddington does not benefit from any community space other than the church. Part of the PCC's ambition is to carry out some adjustments to the building to provide communal space for the village.



*Harvest Tea*

*St Nicholas Church, Kiddington*

St Nicholas is within the park of Kiddington Hall. St Nicholas is on the At Risk Register for Historic England. We are fortunate in the support of members of the community who are raising money to carry out essential repairs whilst working with our Parish Architect to explore grant funding.

