

**The Joint Benefice of St Peter's
Wolvercote and All Saints' Wytham
Oxford**

**Role Profile, Person Specifications and
Parish Profile for the appointment of
a new Vicar**

February 2021



<http://www.stpeterswolvercote.org>



**All Saints' Church,
Wytham**
www.wytham-church.org.uk

Message from the Bishop of Oxford

The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft

The Joint Benefice of St Peter's Wolvercote and All Saints' Wytham, serving a varied community of suburban, outer estate and rural village, offers a rich parochial ministry within the broad ecology of Oxford Church life.

The Diocese of Oxford has a vision to be a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world: more contemplative, more compassionate and more courageous. Discernment across the diocese has resulted in particular areas of focus, emphasising the importance of growing deeper and wider as a church, reaching out to young people, serving the disadvantaged, addressing environmental issues and growing new congregations. The next incumbent will have an exciting opportunity to fuse the existing but separate priorities of the benefice churches within the united vision of the diocese.

Rooted broadly in the liberal catholic tradition and with a strong paid and volunteer base and excellent facilities, the two churches have worked hard to become more inclusive in worship in order to create a more inter-generational church. This will require further development, not least following a vacancy during the pandemic, as the churches look to build on their existing engagement with schools, community organisations and new housing development. Good relationships with other North Oxford parishes and denominations offer real scope for further missional partnership, not least in Cutteslowe and Jordan Hill.

The role provides an excellent setting for a missional and community-minded priest who can harness the enthusiasm and gifts of the church communities, respecting their cherished patterns whilst encouraging them to cast their nets into deeper waters. May God bless you richly as you explore this possibility; we would love to hear from you if you feel called to apply.

Message from the Area Dean of Oxford

The Revd Anthony Buckley

Thank you so much for looking at this profile and indeed this post. As I said at a benefice meeting earlier this year I would seriously consider applying if I had not moved relatively recently! The two parishes provide a wealth of opportunities and a wonderful mix of backgrounds, with strong and experienced clergy and lay support. If I may say, a very helpful quality in the new incumbent will be the ability to listen and discern what God is already doing, and where and how best to spend your energies. I know that is true in all appointments, but it seems to me to be especially apposite here.

The Deanery of Oxford is in good heart and would welcome you warmly. There is a strong theme of mutual support, and we have seen this expressed through the challenges of recent months.

I would be very happy to chat about the Deanery, or indeed any aspect of the application, if you wish.

Praying for you as you ponder...

Anthony

Rev'd Anthony Buckley, Area Dean of Oxford 07841 800 609 or vicar@smng.org.uk

A message from the joint PCCs of the Benefice of St Peter's Wolvercote and All Saints' Wytham

Thank you for your interest in the role of Vicar of the Benefice of St Peter's Wolvercote and All Saints' Wytham. As you will see from the attached profile, we are two lively parishes facing a healthy mix of opportunities and challenges.

Our immediate concern is to recruit someone who will be able to reassure and reaffirm the parishioners of the Benefice. The current vacancy has largely coincided with the COVID restrictions and although the clergy team, the PCC and many others have pulled together to get us through this difficult time, we are looking forward to a time when a new Vicar will assume leadership while fostering the talents and gifts of colleagues and the two congregations. Such 'warm embrace' will certainly be reciprocated!

A second concern is the need to rebalance the workloads of the clergy team, church wardens, PCC members and other lay leadership within the Benefice. It is not assumed that the new Vicar will take on all the accumulated excess pressures but rather that he or she will lead a light process of reviewing tasks and responsibilities, which may include revisiting existing assumptions about 'what has to be done and how', leading to a healthier division of labour and a refreshed mobilisation of all the gifts and talents among the congregations.

Addressing these two concerns will allow us to start responding to a major strategic challenge, which can only be done with the active involvement of parishioners, the wider community, other churches in North Oxford and the Oxford Diocese. Massive new infrastructure and housing developments have the potential to fundamentally change the make-up and outlook of most of our communities. Other parts of the parish and specific groups, such as young people, some of whom already suffer from relative degrees of neglect, should also find their place in this complex mix and a new Vicar will need to be an active player in discerning how the church should respond. There is an expectation that he/she will be able to start and accompany that process of discernment.

In the profile we are clearly stating that we seek someone who is comfortable with the Liberal Catholic and the Book of Common Prayer traditions of our two parishes, but this does not mean that we are closed to a careful exploration of how our traditions can and should adapt to new realities. We are not a closed church; as a Benefice of two parishes, we are open to new ideas and challenges for as long as we can bring the congregations along and not leave committed parishioners behind.

We can't wait to get started on these challenges and we hope you will be sufficiently inspired to apply for the post.



**Aerial view of St Peter's with Port Meadow,
Lower Wolvercote and Wytham in the background.**

1 -

Introduction

Welcome to the Benefice of St Peter's Wolvercote and All Saints' Wytham on the northern edge of the City of Oxford. We are looking forward to a new incumbent joining and working with us at this exciting time in the development of the Benefice. We are 6000 souls in the village of Upper and Lower Wolvercote, and the area around the North Oxford Ring Road - all part of the geographically fragmented St Peter's parish! Although only about one mile away on the western side of the River Thames, All Saint's Wytham serves a distinct community of about 130 people. The two parishes are finding their own ways of being church in the world, rooted in a liberal catholic tradition but eager to embrace the current age with all its challenges and opportunities.

The parish of St Peter's has gone through 15 years of physical renewal, following a Parish Audit in 2006/7, a revisioning process and a development project of the church premises, between 2010 and 2013, a new organ (2016) and for the past few years a consolidation of all these gains. During this period, the parish had tremendous fundraising success, has reached out to people and groups in need both in the domestic context and internationally, and through active engagement, sought to reaffirm itself at the heart of community life. St Peter's has a strong tradition of teamwork among the clergy and between the clergy and the laity which we wish to maintain and build on.

All Saints' is a successful village church, its ethos reflecting some of the differences in worship and management between the suburban and rural. Since the formation of the Wolvercote and Wytham Benefice in 2010, links between the two parish churches have grown. All Saints' Georgian church building has been extensively restored and improved, as a place for worship and secular events, the latter enabling The Friends of All Saints' to support the work of the PCC in involving the wider community in major fundraising and fellowship.

In the past few years, new challenges have emerged. After many years of a balanced budget, St Peter's income has come under strain, the old cadre of volunteer workers has dwindled as several stalwarts of the congregation passed away and others being limited in their capacity to sustain their level of volunteering. Meanwhile the high level of worship and community-focused activities has largely remained the same. The church must either cut activities or significantly expand the active proportion of church membership. We must also acknowledge that we still have some way to go in achieving representation of the community in all its diversity. The recent COVID-19 crisis has both shown our resilience and exposed the deeper challenges confronting us.

There is a commonality between the challenges facing both Benefice churches in the loss of long-term volunteer workers from the congregation. At All Saints' much valued practical support is given by members of the wider community, but new members of the congregation are needed to take on the ever-increasing administrative tasks necessary for the smooth running of the church. The COVID-19 crisis has caused financial concern at the time of expenditure on the building and the cancellation of all planned fundraising events. Increased giving by congregation members is improving the situation, but the challenge of retaining financial viability remains.

St Peter's has a long-standing ecumenical tradition. It has a strong commitment to the Summertown-Wolvercote Church partnership comprising: All Saints' Wytham, Wolvercote Baptist Church, the Summertown United Reformed Church and St Michael & All Angels' Summertown (CofE). The Coptic Orthodox Church in Oxford uses St Peter's for their regular worship.

All Saints' Wytham is a traditional Book of Common Prayer Church serving the locality and beyond.

The Bishop of Oxford has stated that he will appoint an Incumbent to the Joint Benefice. The Incumbent will be a member of the Clergy Teams at St Peter's Wolvercote and All Saints' Wytham. Wolvercote and Wytham are in the Deanery of Oxford and it is expected that the new Priest will make a positive contribution to the life and work of the Deanery.

2 - Role Description

Details of post

Role title	Vicar
Type of Role	Full time stipendiary
Name of benefice	Wolvercote and Wytham
Episcopal area	Oxford
Deanery	Oxford
Archdeaconry	Oxford

Conditions of Service

Key contact for Clergy Terms of Service:

Archdeacon of Oxford. This role falls under the Clergy Terms of Service (Common Tenure). The Archdeacon of Oxford is the person designated by the Bishop of Oxford to issue the Statement of Particulars for the post holder.

Accountability

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 Archdeacon and Church Wardens about any issues exceptional or otherwise that have the potential to affect ongoing delivery of ministry.

Additional Responsibility

Chaplain to the Wolvercote & District Royal British Legion, Trustee of the Hope ffennell Trust, Chaplain to Wolvercote Municipal Cemetery

Local Context

The Benefice was created in 2010 with All Saints' joining St Peter's. In April 2007 St Peter's completed an audit of the Church and its parish. In 2012, through involvement in the Oxford Deanery Mission Action Plan, we again reflected on our mission and how to strengthen it. In 2014/5 we established in collaboration with Wolvercote Baptist Church a further initiative to deepen our response to God's call: this led to the 'Shaping our Vision' project which has now run its course, so we are ready to embark on a new challenge in the near future.

All Saints' Wytham welcomes working with the incumbent on a new mission plan.

3. Role purpose and key responsibilities

General

- A. To exercise the cure of souls shared with the bishop in this benefice in collaboration with colleagues including the praying of the Daily Office, the administration of the sacraments and preaching.**
- B. To have regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy (as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy) and other relevant legislation including**
- bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making him known to those in your care.
 - instructing the parishioners in the Christian faith
 - preparing candidates for confirmation
 - diligently visiting the parishioners of the benefice, particularly those who are sick and infirm
 - providing spiritual counsel and advice.
 - consulting with the parochial church council on matters of general concern and importance to the benefice
 - bringing the needs of the world before God in intercession
 - calling hearers to repentance and declaring in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins
 - blessing people in God's name
 - preparing people for their death
 - discerning and fostering the gifts of all God's people
 - being faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.
 - Making a Difference in the World
 - Shaping Confident, Collaborative Leadership.
- C. To share in the wider work of the Deanery and Diocese as appropriate, for the building up of the whole Body of Christ.**

Key responsibilities specific to the local situation

MISSION AND OUTREACH

- Inspire us to become closer to God and to celebrate his loving purposes.
- Encourage us to reach out unconditionally, showing God's love for all creation.
- Inspire responsible stewardship of our environmental and financial resources in a way that reflects our faith.
- Strengthen the relationship between St Peter's and All Saints', building on existing community links between the villages of Wolvercote and Wytham

- Strengthen the engagement with the people and neighbourhoods outside the Wolvercote and Wytham village settings but within the parish.
- Engage with the local community including Wolvercote Primary School; Wolvercote Young People's Club; the Wolvercote and Wytham Festival; Wytham secular organisations; The Friends of All Saints'; Wytham Way monthly newsletter for Wytham; the Flying Goose quarterly magazine distributed to all 3000 homes in Wolvercote parish.

LEADERSHIP AND WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

- Lead and inspire the clergy team and work closely together with the ministry team and the laity.
- Chair the two PCCs and the monthly Benefice Team meeting and occasional All Saints' Standing Committee.
- Jointly lead and participate in the Summertown-Wolvercote Church Partnership, and the Cutteslowe Church Partnership.
- Help develop confident and collaborative leadership and teamwork in the various groups which underpin the organization at St Peter's and All Saints' and with other community groups and organisations.

WORSHIP AND PREACHING

- Help and motivate the people of All Saints' and St Peter's on their spiritual journeys through inspired preaching that connects with daily lives
- Reach out to children and families in regular worship and preaching.
- Maintain and build on the liberal catholic Eucharistic tradition in our services at St Peter's and the BCP at All Saints' and willing to use more informal forms of Worship on occasions deemed as appropriate by the PCC.
- Be responsible for the planning of service rotas, lectionary, invitations to visiting preachers etc

PASTORAL CARE

- Be responsible for the pastoral care across the Benefice, recognising and encouraging the pastoral gifts of others
- Encourage the pastoral mission of St Peter's Net

STEWARDSHIP AND BENEFICE ORGANIZATION

- Continue to develop a vision and strategy for, and commitment to, stewardship and giving
- Ensure the two churches make best use of their assets
- Encourage volunteers to collaborate in supporting the activities of the church, and be mindful of the need to develop leaders
- Share with Churchwardens responsibility for satisfying legal and diocesan requirements (Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Data Protection)

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPIRITUALITY

- Develop a pattern of personal and spiritual learning and development
- Discuss as appropriate with the Wardens and clergy team any needs for training courses

The key responsibilities listed above may be supported by long- and short-term objectives to be agreed between the post holder and the Archdeacon and Churchwardens.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Carry out any other duties and responsibilities as required in line with the benefice needs.
- Work with due attention to Health and Safety and the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy

4 - Person Specification

General Attributes:

- Rooted and grounded in prayer, looking to Jesus Christ for guidance in all things.
- Spiritually mature, open-minded, and able to draw on personal experience and a wide range of spiritual resources.
- Ability to spiritually and intellectually challenge and inspire a wide range of people to be their best in their personal relations, within the church and the wider community (leading from the front)
- Team worker with a track record as such.
- Ability to inspire, encourage and collaborate with the pastoral team and the laity (volunteers) to share responsibilities and to take on leadership in the church and the community (leading from behind/ "servant leadership")
- A recognisable pastoral approach informed by deep spirituality and empathy and an active interest in investing time and effort to listen to and get to know parishioners.
- a good communicator of the Gospel in whom prayer, spirituality and pastoral care come together; and who interprets the world theologically.
- have enthusiasm for ministry to children, young people and families, actively including young people in worship and take an active role in their developing faith
- Comfortable with the liberal catholic wing of the church, and willing to embrace the traditional worship at Wytham, centred around the use of Book of Common Prayer while open to introducing less formal forms of worship where deemed appropriate and in agreement with the PCC.
- Embracing the values expressed in the Diocesan strategy of a contemplative, compassionate and courageous Benefice.
- Open, non-judgemental approach to people and situations.

Qualifications/training:

ESSENTIAL

- Ordained priest within the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, or a Church whose orders it recognises.

DESIRABLE

- Management experience in a non-church or a church setting.

Experience:

ESSENTIAL

- A track record of engaging with, and pastoral support for, people of all ages, abilities, cultures and sexualities
- Ability to preach well in a variety of styles and formats to a broad range of listeners with varying outlooks, ages and understanding.
- Celebrating the liturgical tradition that is catholic and Anglican, and an ability to cherish the liturgical and musical traditions of St Peter's and honour the distinctive gifts of the Book of Common Prayer at All Saints'.
- Ability to identify and respond to opportunities for mission, focusing on the role of our churches as channels of God's love, both to our local communities and to the wider world.

- Track record of working with / reaching out to marginalised and excluded groups and individuals.
- Experience of, and a commitment to, ecumenical collaboration in order to sustain and grow our ecumenical partnerships in Wolvercote and North Oxford.
- Experience and strong commitment to safeguarding in all aspects of church activity.

DESIRABLE

- Having first-hand experience of Inter-religious dialogue and action.

Knowledge/Skills and Competencies:

ESSENTIAL

- Leadership skills including the ability to motivate, inspire and effectively co-ordinate volunteers
- Strategic skills to build on the momentum of the “Shaping our Vision” process and lead us on to further initiatives and challenges.
- Familiarity with the use of web technology, social media and online office programmes
- Ability to make and build on links with individuals and community organisations whose involvement with the Church is limited, including young people and include segments of the community which are underrepresented in our congregation and who are facing particular challenges such as boat dwellers, immigrants, BAME people, people who identify as LGBTQ, etc.
- Networking and inter-personal skills to become a known figure in our two villages, the local primary school, the Young People’s Club and village activities such as the Wolvercote Commoners, Midsummer Festival and Tree Group.

DESIRABLE

- Diverse interests

5 - Profile of the Benefice of St Peter’s Wolvercote and All Saints’ Wytham

This is Who we are:

St Peter’s is an active and thriving church, strong in commitment both to our liberal catholic tradition and to our ecumenical partnerships. With a warm, hospitable, lively and mutually supportive congregation of families with young children, mature adults, those who have recently retired and have much to offer to the life of St Peter’s, and a growing number of the elderly who offer experience and wisdom. We are working hard to reach out to bring more children, young people and families into the church family. We strive to witness to the Gospel of Christ by being a part of the community within which we live, open to all members of that community in all its diversity. We are committed to be a prayerful church *and* a church at the heart of the community.

St Peter’s strives to engage with the worldwide Anglican church, and is twinned with St Chad’s church in Taung, South Africa.

All Saints' Wytham is a friendly church in a small village just outside the boundary of Oxford City. Despite its proximity to the city, it retains many of the desirable aspects of rural life. We welcome a gathered congregation to worship within the quiet serenity of our early 19th century building, using the Book of Common Prayer for all regular services. Although the weekly congregation is small it thrives spiritually in the love of God. Socially our Friends group, drawn from the wider locality, greatly enhance our mission by example, shared experience and fellowship. In this way, All Saints' celebrates the message of the Gospel and strives to put itself at the heart of the community.

Benefice Clergy and the Lay Ministry

The following clergy currently preside and celebrate regularly at the Eucharist:

Revd Sarah Flashman	Associate Priest
Revd Shei Crowther	Associate Priest
Revd Prof William Whyte	Associate Priest
Revd Viv Bridges	Retired Associate Priest
Revd Joanna Coney	Retired Associate Priest

A Licensed Lay Minister, Dr Tony Lemon, also preaches, serves on the PCC of St Peter's and has other responsibilities in the parish.

As a parish, St Peter's has a long record of helping with training for the ministry, and regularly takes students on placement from Ripon College Cuddesdon and occasionally elsewhere.

Patrons

Merton College is the patron for St Peter's, and Christ Church is the patron for All Saints'.

Benefice Administration and Organisation

Churchwardens

St Peter's Wolvercote: Wendy Sobey and Edward Wates. Sarah Pepys and Paul Valentin have been appointed as assistant churchwardens to spread the workload.

All Saints' Wytham: Kathy Day-Dawson and Lorna Logan.

The churchwardens and church officers are regarded as having an essential ministry of their own.

The Benefice has well-structured organisational arrangements. St Peter's and All Saints' are fully self-administered with their own PCCs. Due to the size of its congregation, most of All Saints' PCC members have, by necessity, more than one role. Decision making is taken by the whole PCC following reports given by the person leading a project. The Friends of All Saints' are involved in supporting the work of the PCC.

Safeguarding: Anne Dorman is the Safeguarding Officer for the Benefice with support from Lorna Logan as the Safeguarding Link at All Saints'.



Christmas After School at St Peter's

St Peter's Church, Wolvercote

Our vision

A refreshed vision for St Peter's was produced in 2012 through a parish-wide consultation, summarised as¹:

- Becoming closer to God
- Celebrating His loving purposes
- Reaching out unconditionally
- Showing God's love for all creation

Church identity

St Peter's describes itself as liberal Catholic, but the congregation is drawn from all traditions. The Holy Sacrament is reserved, vestments are worn, and incense is used at festivals and on special occasions. Main services are celebrated at the Nave Altar. The Sunday congregations cover a wide range of churchmanship, including more than a third for whom elements of catholic observance are particularly important, and include some from outside the parish attending for these reasons.

Lay people read the lessons, lead intercessions and administer the chalice and communion by extension communion at the homes of people unable to come to church.

Church services (pre COVID-19)

Sundays:

08:00 *Holy Communion (CW, CL)*
 10:00 *Parish Eucharist, sung (CW, CL)*
 12:00 *Holy Communion (BCP)*

Weekdays: Monday and Thursday

09:00 *Morning Prayer*

Tuesday

10:30 *Holy Communion*

11:45 *Julian Group*
 Wednesday
 19:00 *Holy Communion*
 Friday *Early Birds prayer*

The Daily Offices are taken from 'Celebrating Common Prayer'.

CW, CL = Common Worship, Contemporary Language

Children are especially welcome at the Sunday 10:00 Parish Eucharist and, since 2002, have been able to receive communion before confirmation.

Holy Baptism is normally administered at the Parish Eucharist.

Monthly services are held at the Cutteslowe Pavillion as part of a joint outreach by the North Oxford churches in the Cutteslowe Estate.

Children's and Families' Ministry

St Peter's has a part-time Children's and Families' Worker who has been in post for 3 years and a creative and committed children's team. Our monthly All Age Service is welcoming and inclusive with a mixture of contemporary and traditional worship styles. Other Sundays we run two children's groups during the 10.00 am service joining the church for Holy Communion and to share our activities with the church family.

Sunday Explorers welcomes children up to age ten years old, and parents of younger ones, to enjoy Bible-based songs, games, art and craft, cooking, and prayer. Explorers Plus is for ten to fourteen-year-olds, who may be Servers, to explore the Christian faith with games, Bible stories and discussion.

Outreach Explorer Christingle and Easter Events take place on the last day of term. They are well attended by our local primary school and provide an excellent opportunity to offer hospitality and share the Christian message. Our Children's Carol service on Christmas Eve is a much-loved village event. We provide children's activities at the local festival and Church Fete. We support our local primary school with school assemblies and class visits to the church. We participate in the monthly Wolvercote Baptist Messy Church.

As we develop the All Age Services to be engaging and accessible and to grow our children's ministry, we are mindful of our role as a church based in the community and the need to be sensitive to the needs and expectations of visitors who may have no church background.

Worship at the Parish Eucharist and at special services is supported by a team of servers aged from 10 years old through to those who serve during the vacation while at University. There are usually about 10 in the servers' team with a minimum of 3 at each service. Some carry out serving as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.



Prayer and Spirituality

Deepening our relationship with God has always been one of the most important focusses of life at St Peter's. We have a long history of providing opportunities to experience different ways of praying, including monthly meetings, occasional meetings. We have an Annual Quiet Day led by an outside speaker, and in the past have had Quiet Evenings. St Peter's has observed "Thy Kingdom Come" since it was started by the Archbishops, and last year we had a week of prayer in readiness for Advent. A Julian group meets once a week, and there is a monthly intercessions Prayer Group, we have encouraged House Groups and we try to include times of silence in our worship.

Pastoral support

Pastoral care is provided by the ministry team and coordinated through St Peter's Net comprising members of the congregation. Their remit is:

- to look out for, and make contact with, newcomers to church and those who have completed welcome cards, inviting them to informal St Peter's Net lunches or visiting them;
- to contact members of the congregation known to be unwell or housebound or who have not been seen for some weeks.

Choir, organ and bell ringers

The Director of Music, Christopher Fletcher-Campbell, was appointed in 2017 and is part of the Music in Liturgy committee which co-ordinates the contribution of music to the liturgy.

The Choir sings at the 10.00 a.m. Parish Eucharist on most Sundays and for festivals and special occasions. A small all-age singing group leads the music at our monthly Family Communion Services. Various Carol Services and Evensongs are organised when we have a larger partnership choir.

A new pipe organ was dedicated in 2016. Much of the cost of £200,000 was met by subscriptions from the congregation.

St Peter's church is full of music and regularly hosts musical performances.

A peal of six bells is rung for the 10.00 a.m. service and on special occasions by an active team of local ringers.

Electoral roll and church attendance

The Electoral Roll currently numbers 171.

Average attendances at services are as follows:

8.00 a.m.	21
10.00 a.m.	81
12.00 noon	7

During the 12 months to December 2019 other numbers were as follows:

Baptisms	3
Confirmation	0
Marriages	1 (no blessings)
Funerals	12 (+1 at Wolvercote Cemetery Chapel)
Interments	4

Mission and Outreach

In April 2007 St Peter's completed an audit of the Church and its parish. This informed a wide range of activities, including highly successful fundraising for the development project implemented over the following years, which has resulted in significantly enlarged modern premises and a repositioning in the community.

In 2012, through involvement in the Deanery Mission Action Plan, we again reflected on our mission and how to strengthen it. In 2014, seven years after the 2007 audit, we established in collaboration with Wolvercote Baptist Church a further initiative to deepen our response to God's call: this led to the 'Shaping our Vision' project. Once we had established this joint vision, seven goals were set out and groups formed to take them forward through concrete proposals in the following areas:

- Learning more in varied contexts
- Spiritual exploration
- Exploring different ways of Worship
- Opportunities to hear the Gospel - engaging with all ages
- Social justice and environmental issues
- Improving Pastoral care to the whole community
- Early engagement with new local development and expansion.

In 2016 we re-formed into four working groups to continue to take these areas forward. Although much has been achieved by these groups, this project is deemed to have come to a natural conclusion. It is hoped that our new vicar will be able to invigorate new initiatives for our mission and outreach.

Our Outreach and Mission are also strongly linked to our participation in the Summertown-Wolvercote Church Partnership, and the Cutteslowe Church Partnership described in more detail in the appendix to this document, which is the subject of a Bishop's Mission Order. Both are strong ecumenical relationships with churches in our area, each partnership deepening our communion with Christ and with one another.

Further engagement with global issues

St Peter's is signed up to and certified as a Fair-Trade Church and used to run a regular Fair-Trade stall at the local farmers' market. In normal times there is a Fair-Trade stall in church on the 3rd Sunday of the month at coffee time after the 10 o'clock service. Christian Aid Week is usually marked with a dedicated service and fundraising activities.

St Peter's has also joined the eco-congregation movement. As an Eco-Church, initiatives have been launched aimed at reducing our carbon footprint while making the church environment reflecting our stewardship of God's creation.

Our Mission Giving is considered important, so we support a range of international and local charities as well as mission organisations.

Communications

St Peter's uses a number of communication tools to communicate with its congregation and the wider community. The church website (www.stpeterswolvercote.org) is our shop window, a depository of information about the church, services, events, news and history. We also have a Facebook page.

A free quarterly magazine *The Flying Goose*, also proposed by the 2006/7 Parish audit, is produced by St Peter's and distributed by volunteers to 3000 households in the parish. Its high-quality, illustrated format is supported through advertising by local businesses. The content usually includes an editorial from a member of the clergy, articles about local history, news of past and future events, stories about local individuals, news from the school, a village directory, an events calendar, and information about special services and events at St Peter's and All Saints'. Members of St Peter's also contribute articles of church interest to *The Quarterly*, a publication sponsored by the Summertown-Wolvercote Church Partnership.

In normal times, a simple newsheet – Partnership Link – is published each week with news from St Peter's and notices of interest to all the SWCP churches. During the COVID-19 pandemic, St Peter's and All Saints' are staying in touch with their congregations and the wider community through a single weekly e-newsletter. This contains links to pre-recorded worship from the homes and gardens of our clergy. The newsletter is printed and delivered to those not using the internet.



**St Peter's
fete in the
church**

Social life

Social life is an important part of the ministry of St Peter's. St Peter's Net lunches are held on Sundays two or three times a year to welcome new-comers and to help the congregation get to know each other better, especially those who normally worship at different services. Coffee after the 10:00 service every Sunday and the twice-yearly breakfast after the 08:00 service seek to achieve the same ends, likewise lunch on Peter tide Sunday, Harvest suppers, and St Peter's Fête. Little excuse is needed for breaking open a few bottles of wine, for example a golden wedding anniversary or a baptism.

Buildings

There has probably been a church on the site of St Peter's for about a thousand years. The present church, which seats about 200 people, was substantially rebuilt in 1860, but has retained much of its earlier character with a Saxon font and the medieval tower, which houses a set of six bells. It is Grade II listed, having a notable 17th century tomb (the Walter Tomb), and a window by John Piper. The interior was refurbished in 2013.

St Peter's Rooms consist of a Parish Room built in 2011, the Old School Room, and toilets joined by the Glass Link completed in 2012, which extends the usable space from the Rooms directly into the church. The Parish Room has an entire wall of glass doors opening, via the link, into a semi-enclosed inner courtyard and has a separate well-equipped kitchen. The Old School Room is Grade II listed and was refurbished in 2013 during St Peter's Room building project to make it suitable for use for nursery children, and retains many of its original Victorian features, and incorporates a kitchen area.



**St Peter's
Church south
side**

St Peter's Rooms consist of a Parish Room built in 2011, the Old School Room, and toilets joined by the Glass Link completed in 2012, which extends the usable space from the Rooms directly into the church. The Parish Room has an entire wall of glass doors opening, via the link, into a semi-enclosed inner courtyard and has a separate well-equipped kitchen. The Old School Room is Grade II listed and was refurbished in 2013 during St Peter's Room building project to make it suitable for use for nursery children, and retains many of its original Victorian features, and incorporates a kitchen area.

The maintenance of the church fabric is overseen by the Fabric and Finance Committee. The Quinquennial Inspection revealed problems with the Tower stonework which will be repaired in Autumn 2020.

Finance and administration

St Peter's benefits from the employment of a part-time administrator, Julia Goddard. Her duties include co-ordinating church and room bookings, printing service sheets, and acting as Wedding Verger.

Bill Clarke is Funeral Verger, making practical church arrangements for funerals and interment of ashes in the Garden of Remembrance.

Following a review initiated by the PCC in 2011, there was a substantial reorganisation of the committee structure of the parish. The aim was to improve efficiency, to allow the PCC to focus more time on strategic matters, and to reduce the administrative load falling directly on the Vicar. The most significant change was the creation of a Fabric and Finance Committee reporting to the PCC. This committee, with its supporting sub-committees, has responsibilities for major activities such as Buildings and Maintenance, St Peter's Rooms, Health and Safety, and a range of other matters. The PCC also receives verbal reports from the monthly meetings of the Team, consisting of Clergy, Licensed Lay Minister, Church Wardens, Children and Families' Worker, and Parish Administrator.

The parish accounts for 2019 (2018) can be summarised as follows:

General Income	£141,060 (144,978)
Parish Share	£66,876 (66,876)
Other expenses	£67,133 (56,034)

Stewardship

Income for St Peter's comes from three main sources, pledged giving, including income tax recovered, rental income from property (£14,513 in 2019) and income from letting Church Rooms (£17,407 in 2019).

A Stewardship Committee was formed in 2017 and a decision was taken to join the Parish Giving Scheme of the Diocese. A major renewal campaign was run between April and June 2018 with a follow up in the spring of 2020. 60% of donors have joined the Parish Giving Scheme.

We have frozen the Parish Share since 2018 as part of the re-balancing of St Peter's relative contribution to the Deanery and aim to maintain a balanced budget. Like many churches this has not been possible in 2020.

Items identified for attention in the recent Quinquennial are all being addressed from the existing Fabric Fund which retains a healthy balance.

The challenge for the future will be addressing the impact of COVID-19 on income from letting the Church Rooms, a fall in pledged giving and annual 3 – 5% increases in the Share.



Community Concert audience at St Peter's



All Saints' Church - North and East side

All Saints' Church Wytham

Pastoral and evangelistic objectives

- To support the whole church and the united benefice of Wolvercote with Wytham in spreading the message of the Gospel.
- To offer worship to God.
- To further the mission of our parish church by bringing spiritual comfort and the Gospel message to the people of Wytham.
- To increase our regular congregation.
- To pray for the needs of the whole world.

Our mission

These objectives have remained constant for several years, being renewed annually and the PCC consider that they form the basis of an efficient mission plan. They are able to build upon those areas where objectives are being achieved as in the gradual increase of regular congregation members over the last few years and at the special services where more people from the locality come to worship.

It is encouraging to reflect upon those aspects of church life and consider the next steps in placing the church at the centre of the community.

Church identity

We are proud of the atmosphere in the church, which is always warm, welcoming and inclusive. Coffee and talk after the service - and a glass of sherry or wine on special days - are a key part of Sunday morning when we very much enjoy each other's company.

We are a traditional Book of Common Prayer (BCP) church and member of The Prayer Book Society. We hold a service every Sunday at 09:45, alternating between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. There are alternative services at some main church festivals, namely Mothering Sunday and Harvest and in recent years clergy have been using rites other than BCP with the aim of attracting younger people and families. The success achieved has been small but encouraging.

Some years ago, it was decided to become a BCP church to encourage a gathered congregation as a means of ensuring a sustained increase in congregation. This has proved successful, particularly over the last five years and we now have a regular congregation of sixteen, three members living in Wytham.

We wish to continue as a BCP church as it is a much-loved rite at All Saints' and has ensured that the church is working to meet evangelical objectives and is financially viable, and consideration is being given to the future.

The PCC realise that it can be difficult to engage with those who are unfamiliar with 'church' in its widest sense and there is much to celebrate in the practical help freely given by members of the village and locality which is evidence of appreciation of the presence of the church and love of its building.

In considering next steps the PCC are aware that to maintain viability and continue to achieve evangelical objectives, they should encourage more people, especially the young, to join the congregation to continue the life of the church, building on success already achieved. They look forward to discussions with the new incumbent.

During the church year our special services are examples of our distinctive way of being part of the community. They include a Service of the Word using contemporary language on Mothering Sunday, with flowers for all and chocolate to follow. On Rogation Sunday we have BCP Morning Prayer followed by a walk along part of the Parish Boundary, with prayers along the way, through woods or farmland, followed by a picnic lunch prepared by the Friends of All Saints'. At Harvest, another Service of the Word involving members of the farming community, followed by lunch - Ploughman's in the Pews. The Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday service is a well-attended, moving occasion held at the village war memorial, led by one of the Benefice clergy. Many members of the community attend our candle lit Sung Evensong at All Souls when we welcome the choir of St Peter's. At Christmas the church is filled for Nine Lessons & Carols, also by candlelight.

All readings are undertaken by members of the village who are keen to be invited to do so. Singing is joyful following mulled wine and led splendidly by the Kennington Brass Band.

The church receives a great deal of voluntary practical help from the wider community in Wytham and the locality: setting up for services, clock winding, maintaining the churchyard, playing the organ and publicity for our events in the Wytham Way, the village newsletter. Other village support comes from the Wytham Woods team, Village Hall, the White Hart of Wytham

and several others including our Friends group.

All Saints' plays an active part in the annual Christian Aid week, the Poppy Appeal, and 'Ride and Stride', a fundraising event for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. We contribute each year to charities decided upon at the APCM, currently the Addington Fund (supports farmers in distress), The Children's Society, the Porch Steppingstone (supports the homeless & rough sleepers in Oxford). All Saints also has a link to TSIBA Business School for black South Africans in Cape Town, whose mission is to challenge the status quo of business education through a values-based approach to teaching and learning in a changing world.'

Building

All Saints' is Grade II listed and believed to be the third church in the village since the early 12th century. The present building was put up in 1812 by the fifth Earl of Abingdon, during a major re-modelling of his estate. The materials used came from the previous church (1499 –1811), and from the remains of the nearby 14th century Cumnor Place, which provided several windows, the porch and the west door of the tower. The church has a notable collection of stained glass windows, ranging from late 14th century pale stain, (some of which are known to have been in the original church), through 17th century enamel work and 18th century painted pictures to more modern glass added after the 1812 rebuild – an unusual feature in such a small church. There are also some interesting tombstones and monuments, originally from the previous church.



All Saints' Church North Side

The building is in good repair. The main roof has been re-tiled (2011 and 2016), the tower roof and stonework extensively repaired including the reconstruction of the clockface (2020), and the nave and chancel redecorated (2018). The Quinquennial report of July 2020 states that the building is in excellent condition with minor on-going repairs to be planned. Renovations at All Saints' Church merited a coveted Oxford Preservation Trust award. The electrical installation is professionally inspected every five years – next due in 2022. There is an annual PAT test. The leadwork and moveable valuables are marked with Smart water. The fire extinguishers are maintained annually under contract. The heating and lighting have both been renewed in recent years. The organ is maintained as required but is becoming frail. The Logbook and Inventory are

up to date.

The churchyard is full, but not closed. Burials are still allowed in existing graves, as is the interment of ashes. Burials and interments now take place in the 'new churchyard' owned by the church a few hundred yards away. At present, this has adequate space for about 60 years, including the interment of ashes.

All Saints' can seat 130 and has changed little since the 1812 rebuild. The main alterations are those necessary to fit it for modern expectations. A WC has been installed on the ground floor of the tower, there is a children's corner and a small servery has been added to the vestry to facilitate the use of the church for social events.

Environmental Policy – Churchyard

All Saints' is not an official Eco-Church working to those policies but decided to develop the churchyard in keeping with our position adjacent to Wytham Woods, a Site of Special Scientific Interest. With guidance from the Wytham Woods team, flowers and a hedge to encourage pollinators and provide winter food for birds has been planted. More work on this project is planned for the future.

The PCC

This is made up of the Vicar and eight elected members, including the two churchwardens and the Deanery Synod representative. The secretary and treasurer are co-opted. It meets four times annually, with occasional special meetings when required, but most exceptional business is dealt with by a Standing Sub-Committee of the Vicar and the two churchwardens. This meets about every two months. There are 20 names on the Electoral Roll, of whom five live in the parish.

Finance

All Saints' has successfully funded three major projects in the last six years: replacing the roof, substantial (and award-winning!) interior refurbishment, and repair to the tower and clock-face. However, the net result is that our reserves are now exhausted. There are at present only sufficient funds to meet our minimal regular expenditure. The budget for regular recurrent expenditure is in the region of £15,000-£20,000 and is generally covered by income from regular giving, parish fees, collections, offertory and fund-raising. With the tower project coinciding with the COVID-19 lockdown, our total bank balance is hovering around the £8,000 mark.

We have been notably successful in attracting grants and donations. Fundraising is organised by the Friends of All Saints' to good effect. It is a concern that, in common with many rural churches, our regular planned givers and congregation are predominantly elderly. We are fortunate that some donors are attracted by the beauty of the building and its setting in the community rather than essentially as a place of worship, and this brings in extra income. However, it is vital that the congregation and the amount of planned giving can be maintained at the present level, or increased, to ensure future financial viability of the church.

We have committed to maintaining our allocated Parish Share for the remainder of 2020 and provisionally for 2021. The annual sum paid at present is £6194.



Art Exhibition in support of the Wolvercote and Wytham Festival

Friends of All Saints' (FAS)

The Friends of All Saints' Wytham (FAS) was set up in June 2006, with the aim of uniting all those who love and value All Saints' church and its role as a hub in the community. There are currently 75 members drawn from the village and surrounding areas.

FAS aims are to:

- Encourage fellowship amongst individuals from the wider community of Wytham, Wolvercote and the surrounding areas.
- Support the work of the church in the broader community
- Help in the care and development of the church as a focal point of the village
- Assist in preserving the building and its contents for posterity and for active use by future generations.

FAS is constituted as a sub-committee of the PCC with the event organising committee operating independently whilst being fully supportive. The FAS section of the church accounts is presented annually at the FAS AGM.

The majority of the FAS Committee are also PCC members but participation from the wider community is actively encouraged.

Each year the FAS group organises a variety of events to encourage fellowship amongst the community, to raise funds to improve the fabric of the church, and to broaden its appeal. Since inception, FAS has made significant contribution to the many projects undertaken particularly those concerned with improving the church interior and the external environment.

FAS supports the annual Wolvercote & Wytham Midsummer Festival as a key focus for greater

contact between St Peter's and All Saints', with the church used as a base for art shows, talks and concerts.

FAS fellowship activities encourage wider links to be created between the church and the broader community.



Commemoration of the end of World War I at All Saints'

6 - What can our new Vicar expect; the gifts and services we can offer:

A supportive clergy and lay team. We are blessed with a very committed group of self-supporting Ministers and a Licensed Lay Minister who regularly lead our worship and work with our lay leaders in all our corporate activities.

Generous-hearted congregations. Both parishes have welcoming, friendly congregations. Previous sections describe them and our communities, giving a flavour of our work together as we strive to both meet the identified challenges, including increasing the links between St Peter's and All Saints'. As a parish with a long record of helping with training for the ministry, St Peter's is also very aware of the importance of training and the continuous development needs of its clergy.

Well-structured organisational arrangements which involve many members of the congregation. This needs review to enhance efficiency and to balance workloads, but the foundation is still strong.

All Saints' is fully self-administering with its own PCC, but due to the size of its congregation, most members of its PCC have, by necessity, more than one role, with extra support from volunteers and FAS.

Vicarage

This is a detached house built in the 1960s with a large secluded garden to the rear mostly laid down to lawn with some shrubs and flowerbeds. On the ground floor there is a hall with an open staircase, three reception rooms, one with a French window opening onto the garden, and a fair-sized kitchen, a laundry room and a cloakroom. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a bathroom and a separate toilet. The house is easy to maintain and warm in winter, having gas central heating. There is ample parking space on the asphalt to the front of the house, an attached garage and a shed to the rear.

The Vicarage is adjacent to St Peter's churchyard, the church being accessed through a gate in the Vicarage garden. All Saints' church is 1.9 miles from the Vicarage.

Bus stops within a few minutes' walk from the Vicarage are on a regular bus route connecting with Lower Wolvercote, Oxford City centre and Cherwell School. Further details of the locality are given in the appendix.

Opposite the church is the local primary school (rated good by Ofsted). Wolvercote is within the catchment of the Cherwell School (rated outstanding by Ofsted), now an academy that is part of the River Learning Trust. The two primary schools, whose catchment areas are in the parish, Wolvercote and Cutteslowe, are also part of the Trust.

The City of Oxford is well-connected by road and railway, the presence of two universities give it a cosmopolitan 'feel'. Opportunities for education and employment are very good.

7 - Our challenges

We summarise here some of the challenges for us which emerge from this profile of the Benefice.

- Growing our congregations by making our churches to engage the wider community, including families and young people.
 - Recognising the need for growth and change while remaining true to our liberal catholic tradition.
 - Following the cycle of visioning started in 2011, we are committed to revisit this.
 - Putting our two churches at the centres of our parishes.
 - Addressing the relative marginalisation of Cutteslowe and Jordan Hill areas within the parish and ensuring we deliver on our share of the work under the Bishop's Mission Order.
 - Increasing the number of joint activities involving St Peter's and All Saints', and joint working in reaching out to our community.
 - Resourcing the expected increases in the Parish Shares of our two churches
 - Responding with commitment to the forthcoming presence of three major housing and commercial developments in Wolvercote (described in the Appendix).
 - Learning from our COVID-19 experience, which made us realise our vulnerability but also opened our eyes to the possibilities of on-line worship and participation in church life.
 - Encourage higher participation of Wytham village in worship activities.
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Appendix

Detailed information on the villages of Wolvercote and Wytham

Location

The parishes of Wolvercote and Wytham lie about 2 miles northwest of the City of Oxford. Each has retained a strong village ethos despite this proximity. This is, in part, because of Port Meadow, Wolvercote Common and open farmland lying between the city and the villages. The majority of Wytham properties and the land is owned by the University of Oxford.

Overall statistics

The Parish Spotlight based on the 2011 census produced the following statistics

	Pop.	Age <16	Age >65	BAME	Christian	Households	Owner Occup.	Social rental	IMD*
Wolvercote	6300	18%	19%	14%	51%	2700	67%	13%	14%
Wytham	136	21%	14%	4%	53%	58	16%	3%	9%

- **IMD: Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Both parishes are in the Oxford West & Abingdon constituency, with LibDem MP Layla Moran.

In the recent local council elections Wolvercote ward returned two Liberal Democrat councillors. Wytham is part of the Botley & Sunningwell ward in Vale of White Horse District Council, just outside the city boundary. The County Councillors for both Wolvercote and Wytham are Liberal Democrats. Wolvercote Forum was formally designated a Neighbourhood Forum by the Oxford City Executive Board in January 2014.

Wolvercote

The parish district of Wolvercote has three distinct areas:

- the village of Wolvercote is at the north-west corner of Oxford inside the city boundary. Port Meadow and Wolvercote Common lie to the south and west of it, and the River Isis or Thames to the west. The Oxford Canal and the main London - Birmingham railway line divide Upper from Lower Wolvercote. In Lower Wolvercote housing from the 1930s and later surrounds the older village houses; in Upper Wolvercote are St Peter's church, the old village school, now a well-regarded primary school, and homes built originally in the 1930s as a council estate, but now mostly owner-occupied. There are a number of permanently moored houseboats on the canal in Wolvercote.
- an area consisting predominantly of large houses dating from the early to middle 20th century lies between the Woodstock and Banbury Roads and to the west of the Woodstock Road. At the northern edge outside the ring road is a recreation ground and a large Municipal Cemetery, onto which abut a small residential area; Jordan Hill, a small business park and the North Oxford Golf Club.
- the third area lies north of the A40 ring road and to the east of the Banbury Road. Part of it was built originally as council housing, but there are several roads of larger houses. On the edge of it lies Cutteslowe Park with a children's recreation area and extensive sports fields. The Cutteslowe area is split by the ring road so that one part lies in Wolvercote parish and the other in St Michael and All Angels (Summertown) parish.

These three areas each have their own distinct character. Wolvercote village remains a village with a mix of old village families and more recent incomers, from a wide range of backgrounds, the professions, academics with links to both Universities, self-employed, managers, trade and manual workers, retired and working. A major forthcoming challenge for the village will be the building of two housing and commercial developments. The first, which is already close to completion in the heart of Lower Wolvercote, comprises a development of 190 houses on the site of the former Wolvercote Paper Mill. The second, a much greater challenge, is sited on predominantly agricultural land at the North-East edge of the parish. It is described in the City Action Plan as an employment-led development with supporting infrastructure and complementary facilities. A plan to provide employment for up to 4800, and 450 homes has been approved. However, aspects of the plan remain controversial, and issues such as adequate transport infrastructure and schooling, remain to be fully resolved. St Peter's will need to consider how to engage with this development at the stages of planning and construction, and more particularly after its completion.

The relatively recent opening of a new Oxford Parkway railway station just to the north of Wolvercote parish has brought the benefit of an accessible direct link to London (Marylebone station) but also more firmly established the parish as part of the London commuter belt.

The St Peter's Road / Ulfgar Road estate in Upper Wolvercote was originally council-owned but is now mostly owner occupied. It is an area with a level of social problems, some drug-related, and some arising from poverty. A number of families live on social benefits.

The area along the Woodstock and Banbury Roads is typical suburbia, generally more affluent but inhabited by people with much the same backgrounds as Wolvercote village, though with few if any manual workers. Several of the early 20th Century houses have been demolished and replaced with two or more properties.

Parts of the third area to the east of the Banbury Road are similar, but in contrast housing built as a council estate in part of the area, the Templar Road estate (in Cutteslowe), has a range of social problems. St Peter's owns a house in the Templar Road estate which at present is rented out.

Wytham

In 1943, by a combination of benefaction and purchase, the University of Oxford acquired the Wytham Estate from Raymond ffennell of Wytham Abbey, who had bought it in 1920 from Montague Bertie, 7th Earl of Abingdon. The ffennells were great philanthropists, as illustrated by Raymond ffennell's decision to pass the estate to the university, with certain conditions which included that they should use parts of it for education and research, including the Hope ffennell Trust in memory of Raymond's daughter Hazel.

The parish of Wytham takes up about 60% of the 3200-acre estate in which it is set. The estate consists of farmland, including Thames floodplain and 1000 acres of world-famous woodland, Wytham Woods, a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) used for the last 60 years for ecological research purposes. It is currently a major site for the study of climate change, based upon the recorded data for those years. The greater part of the farmland around the village is used by the Food Animal Initiative (FAI), an international organisation promoting sustainable farming methods and promoting education opportunities for local schools. The University Department of Zoology has research facilities adjacent to FAI.

The village is located approximately 2.8 miles north-west of the City of Oxford, on the west bank of the Seacourt Stream, a tributary of the River Thames. The main river and Thames footpath form the north-east parish boundary, which is shared in part by the parish of Wolvercote. Wytham is just outside the city boundary, in the Vale of White Horse District, and is rural, having an unspoilt homogenous character derived from vernacular stone buildings. It is in the Green Belt and a conservation area (1970). Combined with factors within the terms of the benefaction/purchase of the estate, this restricts development. More recently the University have accelerated the conversion of farm buildings into dwellings, illustrating the changing face of this rural community.

The amenities of the village include the White Hart of Wytham public house, a village store, village hall and recreation ground. The Wytham Way, a village newsletter plays an important part in the community. Wytham Woods are open to walkers with permits acquired from the Conservator. The school closed in 1969, the Post Office in 2008. There is a subsidised weekday hourly bus service to Oxford, via the railway station. For schools in the state sector the catchment primary is at Botley, four miles to the south, and the secondary school, Mathew Arnold, also in Botley. Increasingly children attend Wolvercote Primary.

The Hope ffennell Trust

The Vicar is an ex-officio trustee. The trust provides group and individual grants for educational purposes to children and young people from 0-25 years of age living in Wytham, and in certain circumstances, the old Wytham Estate. Set up on the closure of the school in 1969, existing funds were combined with a bequest from Hope ffennell of Wytham Abbey.

Employment

There is limited local employment, in the woodland, farming and the 'White Hart'. Most of the working population commute to employment outside the village. Improved broadband has provided more opportunities for working from home.

Wolvercote and Wytham community activities

An important group is Wolvercote Young People's Club (full-time leader and over 200 members), which receives financial and other support from St Peter's patron, Merton College.

Two mothers and babies' groups are organised in the St Peter's Parish Rooms one afternoon a week.

Wolvercote Community Market is held every Sunday in the White Hart Community Pub in Lower Wolvercote. St Peter's used to run a Fairtrade stall there until recently.

The Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum, created as a result of the 2011 Localism Act, represents the community in influencing planning developments in the local area. It has developed a Neighbourhood Plan which considers residents views for future planning proposals (www.wolvercotenf.org.uk) which is now ready to go to the community for final approval.

A revealing guide to the strength of village life in Wolvercote and Wytham Villages is provided by this list of active community groups:

Wolvercote Commoners, Wytham Parish Meeting, Wildlife Watch Group, Wolvercote Local History Society, 3rd Oxford Cub and Beaver Scouts, Wolvercote Horticultural Society, Wolvercote and Wytham Midsummer Festival, Wolvercote Monday Lunch Club, Royal British Legion,

Women's Institute, FarmAbility, Wytham Cricket Club, Montessori Nursery, North Oxford Youth Theatre, Wolvercote Tree Group, Wolvercote Young Explorers, Wolvercote Craft Group, St Peter's Players (adult amateur drama club), the White Hart (Wolvercote) Community Pub, The Friends of All Saints', The Hope ffennell Trust.

Every year during a week in June the Wolvercote and Wytham Midsummer Festival celebrates village life with participants from most of our local groups.

Areas within the parish but outside the two villages also have their own organisations and activities; particularly focused on Cutteslowe park and some are focused on sports.

[The Summertown Wolvercote Church Partnership \(SWCP\)](http://www.summertown-wolvercotechurchpartnership.org/) (<http://www.summertown-wolvercotechurchpartnership.org/>) consists of these churches:

- Anglican: St Peter's Wolvercote, St Michael & All Angels', Summertown, All Saints' Wytham
- United Reformed Church, Summertown
- Wolvercote Baptist Church

Other churches around the Partnership, but not members, are St Gregory & St Augustine (Roman Catholic) and Woodstock Road Baptist Church. The churches of the Partnership participate with these and other churches in North Oxford in Churches Together in North Oxford (CTNO).

In 2007 representatives of the partner churches signed the Summertown - Wolvercote Church Partnership Local Covenant which included the following commitments:

- To continue to co-operate with each other, in search of the unity for which Christ prayed and in common evangelism and service to the world.
- To engage in joint worship, prayer and study, so that we may know and value each other and seek God's will for His people.
- To work together where appropriate in pastoral, social and evangelistic outreach into our community.
- To monitor progress and co-ordinate decision-making about existing and future joint activities and publicity through a meeting three times a year of a Partnership Enabling Group, comprising the ministers and two lay representatives appointed by and from each participating congregation.
- To consult with the other churches over the appointment of new ministers as far as is reasonably possible and consonant with denominational procedures.
- To hold joint services of Confirmation and Reception into Membership.
- To recognise each other's Ministers and Eucharist, such that ministers may preside at the Eucharist in the church of a different denomination.

The Covenant was last reviewed and reaffirmed in May 2015

Shared activities have included Services; Quiet days; courses such as "Exploring Faith", "Living

Love, Loving Life”, “Starter Courses” and Lent Courses; and a Christian Aid group. The Partnership Enabling Group (PEG) also has oversight of the Taung Link (shared activities and visits with our sister parish of St Chad’s, Taung in our link diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman in South Africa); and involvement in the North Oxford Action Group Against Homelessness (NOAAH). Further details of Partnership activities may be found on the Partnership website indicated above. The SWCP overlaps with the Cutteslowe Church Partnership (see below). PEG provides oversight of the SWCP involvement and reports back to the PCCs of the Anglican churches, to the Summertown URC Church Meeting, and to the Baptist Church.

The Partnership office is run by the St Peter’s Church Administrator and is mainly concerned with printing material such as service sheets, Partnership Link and *The Quarterly*.

The Cutteslowe Church Partnership (CCP)

Formal parish boundaries between St Michael’s and St Peter’s cut right through the Cutteslowe area, an area of historic social deprivation. The infamous “Cutteslowe Wall”, physically separating the estate from the privately-owned properties, blighted the area from the mid-thirties until 1959. Although the wall has gone, many deep-rooted social and economic problems remain.

The Partnership was formed in 2010. The members are Summertown United Reformed Church, and the Anglican churches of St Andrew’s Linton Road, St Michael’s and All Angels’ Summertown and St Peter’s Wolvercote. Its long-term objective is to establish a worshipping community in Cutteslowe – one grown “from below” through local residents, with the Partnership’s support and oversight. A Bishop’s Mission Order has now been set up in order to facilitate this work.

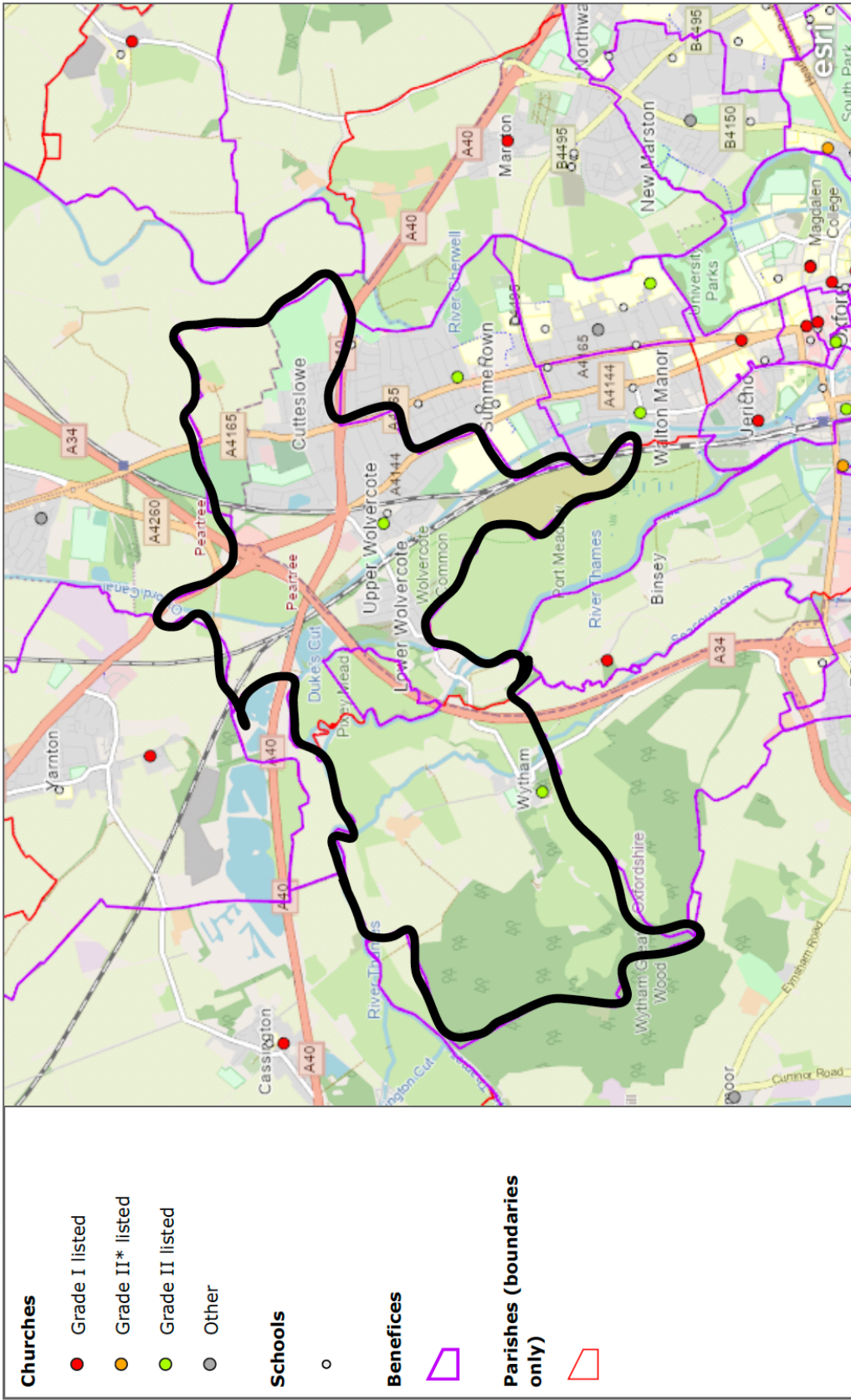
The CCP has an Enabling Group (CEG), which meets quarterly. The CEG chair rotates between the four churches on an annual basis. The C.E.G reports to the PCCs and there will be on-going consultation between St Michael’s, St Peter’s and the URC. The areas in the parishes of St Michael’s and St Peter’s will still be under the respective church responsibility but missionary work in these areas will be under the aegis of the Bishop.

St Andrew’s church has appointed a curate tasked with leading this under the “Cutteslowe Connected” initiative. The SWCP churches continue to focus their work more with the older generation. Partnership activities include, a monthly service in the Cutteslowe Pavilion and tea parties for fellowship amongst older people.

The Cutteslowe Church Partnership Working Agreement sets out the details of the scheme for working together. The vision statement is as follows:

“We are committed to the social, emotional, physical and spiritual transformation of the Cutteslowe area. Following Christ’s example, we seek to share God’s love with the people living in that community, to give and receive as we are able and as guided by the Holy Spirit. We aim to provide care and compassion in practical and supportive ways, such that people feel themselves accepted and empowered to make informed life choices.”

Church of England parish map



Map showing Church of England parishes and summary deprivation and census data

1km