



A Profile for the Team Vicar (House for Duty) of the Parish of Bledlow with Saunderton and Horsenden

Part of the Risborough Team

October 2026



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the parish of Bledlow with Saunderton and Horsenden, part of the Risborough Team Ministry (www.bledlowparish.org.uk).

We are a welcoming and engaging community of churches, open to growing in faith, involved in our community and attentive to the world and its needs. We are eagerly seeking a new Team Vicar to help us further develop these ministries. The future incumbent can be sure of a warm welcome from an active and supportive congregation, who really enjoy worshipping and socialising together. Set in the stunning countryside of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, our three churches are integrated into the heart of our village communities and offer a pattern of church services and events which value both church and village traditions alongside new expressions and ideas.

We are looking for a Team Vicar who is pastoral and prayerful, with a heart and vision for rural ministry and who will bring new gifts to our churches from their own life and experience. We look forward to supporting our new priest as they love and care for people in our community and faithfully lead us in worship and forward in mission.



ROLE DESCRIPTION

The agreed pattern of ministry for this House for Duty post is to work two days plus Sunday each week. We are looking for our Team Vicar to lead and work with our well-motivated and supportive PCC in encouraging spirituality and maintaining Christian ministry and mission throughout the parish and offering pastoral care to all.

It is important to us that the incumbent is also able to build meaningful relationships with people in the local community. Our church members make a positive contribution to village life, hosting and organising many of the events important in the life of the community and this is well received across the wider parish. This provides opportunities for engagement with the community and to serve people at key points in their lives.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

In expressing the desirable characteristics of our next Team Vicar, we are trying to describe the qualities and approaches to ministry which have been fruitful and appreciated in our context. However, these are only indicative, and we are aware that one person will not necessarily possess all of these qualities or experiences and will bring new gifts to our community. We are also committed to our responsibility to work with and support whomsoever God calls to this role.



We are looking for a Team Vicar who:

- Is an approachable and energetic pastor.
- Enjoys working with people of all ages.
- Is prayerful and has an engaging Christian faith.
- Will be a visible presence in the community and represent the church within the villages of our parish.
- Has a heart and vision for rural ministry.
- Has experience of balancing traditional services of worship with more contemporary approaches.
- Understands how to enable people to grow in faith.
- Is a good communicator and teacher of the Christian faith.
- Enjoys engaging in practical Christian action and pastoral care.
- Is committed to generous support for local and world-wide Christian mission.

What we can offer:

- A warm and welcoming church community which is generous and hospitable.
- A modern, well-equipped vicarage.
- A very supportive, single PCC, together with a wider team of active lay people with a deep commitment to see the life of our churches continue to flourish.
- The assistance of a paid part-time administrator.
- A supportive patron in Lord Carrington, who lives in Bledlow.
- A positive team ministry with good relationships between and support from the wider team parishes and clergy.
- Within our congregations we have a retired Priest who lives locally, has Permission to Officiate, and who actively supports our Sunday services and other aspects of our churches' ministry. There is also an LLM in training.
- A village with an active community life in which the church helps with events that enable people to come together for both fund-raising and social enjoyment.
- A high standard of church music, with excellent organists and a very capable choir under the leadership of a professional singer as choirmaster.
- Three attractive, well maintained, well used, listed church buildings of different sizes, with a cemetery and two churchyards still open for burial.
- A sound financial position with no debts.



Priorities

A summary of the basic priorities of this role and some challenges and opportunities is shown below and each of these areas is then expanded in the rest of this profile.

- 1 Sustaining a regular pattern of Sunday worship and investing in the celebrations around the significant festivals.
- 2 Providing pastoral care and occasional offices for people within the parish.
- 3 Strengthening the spiritual life and growth in faith of the congregation.
- 4 Engaging positively in village life and seeking opportunities to help more people to participate in the life of the church and grow in faith.



Opportunities and Challenges

Alongside these basic priorities, we have identified some opportunities and challenges which will have to be considered by our new Team Vicar. We recognise that these cannot all be addressed at once and that discernment will be needed.

- 1 While there is currently no regular group work with children and young families, the church has strong engagement with them in our community. For the past three years there has been a monthly Sunday afternoon Café Church which has recently ended due to the leaders moving away from the village. We are encouraging the families we have engaged with to attend Messy Church at St Mary's Risborough. The team there is keen to sustain and develop the good work that has begun at Bledlow, in the hope that Bledlow families might return and a regular congregation resume in due time. Attendance of children and their families at festivals has been strong, especially around Christmas, when we have hosted crib services, walk-through Christmas events and Carols on the Green events.
- 2 Wisdom and care will be needed in thinking about how to honour the central church tradition of our parish and developing new patterns of worship that enable new people to engage in our churches.
- 3 The spiritual life of the congregation has been strengthened recently by running a number of evening discipleship groups, including The Bible Course, The Prayer Course and The Lectio Course. These have been appreciated and the long-term aim of these courses is to deepen our commitment to God and to the church and its mission.
- 4 As a rural parish, care for creation is an important priority for many in the parish. Our churchyards have been left unmown during Spring for several years and the churchyard at Holy Trinity was recently assessed as part of the Love Your Burial Ground week as being a species-rich habitat. Creation care and sharing the hope for the planet integral to our faith offers a potential opportunity for engagement with the concerns of local people and the ongoing conservation work in the area.
- 5 Lay involvement in running the churches is strong but limited to a small number of willing and committed volunteers. We would like to encourage wider lay involvement in Sunday services and church organisation.
- 6 Our church members are a caring community and there is a lot of personal support offered to people within and outside the church. This provides a good foundation on which to build a clearer and more structured approach to pastoral care in which people are equipped to offer such care when it is needed.





OUR CHURCH LIFE AND ORGANISATION

Bledlow, Saunderton and Horsenden have been a united parish since 1973 and became part of the Risborough Team (described more fully in Appendix B) in 1998. The incumbent has been a House for Duty NSM, working 2 days a week and Sundays since 2002. There is a worshipping community of 74, with about half under 70 and half over 70 years of age and the average Sunday attendance across all services is 33 worshippers. The Church Electoral Roll stands at 40.

Across the parish, during 2025 there was one baptism, four weddings and five funerals at our churches.



Pattern of Services

The current pattern of services is a weekly service at 10.30am at Holy Trinity, Bledlow, with Holy Communion being celebrated twice a month. There is also an additional service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month at St Mary & St Nicholas, Saunderton and a service of Matins on the fourth Sunday at St Michael & All Angels, Horsenden, both at 9am. Choral Evensong is held on the fifth Sunday of the month at St Mary & St Nicholas, Saunderton. The 10.30 am services at Holy Trinity are followed by refreshments. However, the PCC recognises that this pattern of services may need to be simplified in order to provide space for other services to grow.



Lay Support for Services

The laity's main involvement is in preparing the buildings for worship, welcoming worshippers, participating in the reading of the lessons, leading intercessions at the main services and providing refreshments afterwards. The churches are kept clean and flower arrangements are refreshed for services at each church.

Governance

The PCC comprises the Team Vicar, other clergy, two Deanery Synod representatives, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the PCC Secretary, the PCC Treasurer and seven members. Meetings are held six times a year, usually in Holy Trinity at Bledlow. There is no parish office or hall belonging to the parish.

Finances

The church's finances are generally sound, with no debts and a cash reserve of about 9 months' expenditure for General Funds. The current account has been run with a small surplus for the past few years, but we have recently taken on a Parish Administrator so that we now expect to be close to break even. Planned giving and the associated Gift Aid relief account forms a significant part of our income. The Parish Share for 2026 is £23,800 and, as in previous years, we expect to pay this in full and on time. We normally give away between 5 and 15% of our income to selected local, national and overseas charities each year, although in 2025 we gave more in response to a specific campaign for our overseas charity, Positive Life Kenya. The PCC has an active approach to legacy giving and planning, with the focus for legacy funds being on specific projects rather than general expenditure. The PCC has been fortunate to receive some very generous legacies in the last few years and currently holds Restricted Funds of approximately £160,000 for repairs and restoration of the three churches.



Choir and Music

We have an enthusiastic, active and accomplished church choir of 20-30 people of all ages, drawn mainly from the parish, but also attracting a few members from further afield. The choir sings about once a month at one of our parish churches and at our church festivals and carol services during the year. In addition, they attend weddings and funerals, as requested, and perform at occasional concerts. We are very proud of our choir, which visits and performs at cathedrals around the country. The choir members finance their activities, and their fund-raising also pays for a professional organist to support the choir's wider and more complex repertoire and concert and cathedral performances. When the choir is not singing at our services, we have a parish organist.

The choir also organises a monthly series of coffee-time recitals on Saturday mornings, presenting a wide variety of performances from invited musicians of different sorts - many of them professional artists. This has proved very popular and has brought many people from across the parish and beyond into our main parish church.

Community Coffee and Cake

Community Coffee and Cake is a relatively new venture to engage further with the local community, offering the opportunity of a relaxed gathering of people at Holy Trinity Church on the first Friday of each month to come and enjoy conversation over a cup of coffee and a slice of home-made cake. This has proved very popular.

Festivals

The major festivals of the Christian year are supported well by the village and attended by many who are not regular worshippers at Sunday services. Each year there are special services such as a Tenebrae service on Good Friday, Harvest Festival, Remembrance, Christingle and Crib services. These festivals also show the creativity of the congregation and the all-age community that engages with the church. We have hosted a 'Walk-Through Christmas' where the church is turned into Bethlehem and people can meet all the characters from the Christmas story. The Christingle and Crib services are always full of creativity, and we have held Harvest Festival services in a local barn. A Carols on the Green event in conjunction with the local pub, The Lions of Bledlow, was well attended and greatly enjoyed in 2025.



Communications

The church website has recently been updated and will be regularly refreshed by our new part-time parish administrator. Each month, 730 copies of our popular magazine, "The Messenger" are produced with up-to-date information about church and village life and then delivered free-of-charge to every household in the parish. The PCC Secretary sends out weekly emails to members of the parish highlighting forthcoming events. This provides a really helpful and personal communication that highlights opportunities for people to be involved in the life of the churches and increases engagement. We have a parish Facebook page and plan to start using other social media more regularly.



Pastoral Care

The Team Vicar has led the pastoral care effort in the past. The Team Vicar is responsible for all baptism, confirmation and marriage preparation. However, we are keen to encourage more lay people to take on responsibilities for pastoral care, with the help and support of the Team Vicar.



Social Events and Community Organisations

The PCC leads the planning and organisation of a variety of social and fund-raising events each year. In recent years these have included progressive suppers, afternoon teas, family barbecues or bring-and-share lunches, evening talks, quiz nights, art shows, plant sales, recitals, choir concerts, fashion sales, and the Harvest Festival lunch. The church Garden Party or fête is the main fund-raising event for the church in the parish's calendar.



The parish is an engaged and active community in which church members are enthusiastic participants and regular fund-raising and social events are arranged by organisations such as Bledlow Cricket Club, the Village Hall committee, and the Pre-School. Bledlow Consolidated Charities provides financial support for those in need within the local community and the Team Vicar is an ex-officio member on the board of the trust. There is a thriving WI, a ladies' group, known as the "Bledlow Belles", "Ladies who lunch" and "FAB" (Fellows at Bledlow), who each meet monthly in a local pub, and an active craft group. Both Bledlow and Horsenden have well-supported cricket clubs and there are popular football and tennis clubs in Horsenden.





OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS

The care and maintenance of our three churches is undertaken by a large rota of people who give freely and generously of their time in general cleaning, brass-cleaning, flower-arranging and grounds maintenance. The buildings undergo regular repair and maintenance with a strong commitment from the congregation to support this. Where there are issues raised by quinquennial inspections, plans are in place to deal with them. Legacies are also available to finance necessary repairs.

Holy Trinity at Bledlow



This is a Grade I-listed, 12th century, stone-and-flint-built church. It has a full peal of eight bells, which are rung regularly by visiting ringers. It has a carved “Aylesbury” stone font, and the remnants of some medieval paintings adorn its walls. It seats 140 people on individual wooden chairs, which means that the furniture can be arranged flexibly to allow the church space to accommodate a variety of different events. There is a sound enhancement and hearing loop system, with high-speed Internet and WiFi. The church has a water supply and refreshment-making facilities, and there is an accessible toilet.

Most recently, a heating and re-ordering project costing £205,000 was completed; this levelled the floor in the nave and chancel, with modern stone tiles throughout over-lying an under-floor heating system. The clock face was refurbished in 2026. These major improvements have allowed the church to host a wide range of events for both the church and village. This combination of great history and modern facilities is not often found in village church buildings and provides significant opportunities for the future of Holy Trinity serving our community.

The churchyard is closed for burials, but the nearby cemetery remains open.

St Mary & St Nicholas at Saunderton

St Mary & St Nicholas is a Grade II*-listed, stone-and-flint-built church with a shingle-clad bell-tower and spire; it was re-built between 1886 and 1888. Like Holy Trinity, it too has a carved “Aylesbury” stone font. It seats 70 people. One part of the churchyard remains open for burials.



St Michael & All Angels at Horsenden

St Michael & All Angels is Grade II*-listed. It is a stone-and-flint-built church comprising a 15th century chancel – the nave of the original church having been destroyed in 1785 and was replaced with the west tower (which houses a bell dated 1582). There are medieval tiles and the pews are arranged in the fashion of choir stalls facing the aisle. It seats 60 and the churchyard remains open for burials.





Bledlow Rectory

The rectory is a modern, three-bedroomed house, built in the 1980s, in a private road next to Holy Trinity. It has two reception rooms, a study and a large kitchen. The central heating is oil-fired and there is high speed broadband. There is a large garden, looking out on to open countryside, and a double garage. New double-glazed windows and external doors were installed in 2010 and, at its most recent quinquennial inspection in 2019, the rectory was assessed as being in very good condition and is decorated in a modern neutral style.





THE PARISH OF
BLEDLOW WITH
SAUNDERTON AND
HORSENDEN

Bledlow comprises some 300 households, with Holy Trinity as the largest of the three churches. It is set in the heart of the village with the rectory next door to it and the congregation is very much at the centre of village life. The church is often used as background for television programmes and films.

Saunderton stretches over three miles long, with most of its population close to the railway station - at the opposite end of the village from St Mary & St Nicholas.

Horsenden is a hamlet and is closest to Princes Risborough and its railway station. The church, St Michael & All Angels, is the smallest of the three churches.

Princes Risborough, which is immediately adjacent to the parish, is a small attractive market town below the western slopes of the Chiltern Hills. It is equi-distant from the county town of Aylesbury and High Wycombe.

Facilities

Both Saunderton and Princes Risborough have main-line railway stations on the Chiltern Line (approximately 2.5 miles from the rectory) which have services to London (45 minutes) and Oxford (40 minutes) and other stops enroute. There are bus services to Aylesbury and High Wycombe from Princes Risborough. Shops and post offices are readily accessible in nearby Princes Risborough, Longwick and Chinnor.

Bledlow has a village hall, which is run profitably as a charity by unpaid volunteers. The management committee includes a standing seat for the Team Vicar and in recent years the PCC has appointed someone to fulfil this role. The Lions of Bledlow in Bledlow is a classic old English village pub and it, too, is used regularly to film scenes in television programmes and films. It is another place of gathering for people in the village and participates in the social events within the village. The Chinnor and Princes Risborough Heritage Railway runs through the parish, with a mixture of steam and diesel engine trains offering a variety of passenger experiences, mainly at weekends and during holiday periods.





THE RISBOROUGH TEAM

The Risborough group ministry became the Risborough team ministry in 1998. The Rector of St Mary's Princes Risborough is the Team Rector and incumbent across the benefice, whilst each parish retains its own Team Vicar, PCC and finances. Thus governance remains separate for each parish and the ministry of each parish has a dedicated team, in the context of supportive oversight and relationships across the benefice.

Catholic, Choral, Charismatic and Central traditions each have their place across the team, seeking to provide welcoming and hospitable communities through which to celebrate and proclaim afresh the Christian faith as rooted in scripture and tradition. This variety is valued and relationships between the churches are warm. There is no appetite to devote time to developing a Team Council with all the associated centralising organisational infrastructure. Instead, the priority for the current Team Rector is to build on this relational strength, working together when that would be more fruitful, whilst releasing each parish to seek the Lord's vision for their community.

The clergy meet weekly to pray, monthly for mutual support and sharing, and each Team Vicar meets 1-1 with the Team Rector every 4-6 weeks, and more frequently if needed. There are around a dozen clergy with PTO across the four parishes who, along with the Team Rector and Team Vicars aim to provide cover for one another during holidays and in the event of sickness, whilst each being primarily rooted in one of the parishes.

Some key personnel within each parish include:

- **The Reverend Steve Benoy** - Team Rector at Princes Risborough and Ilmer since November 2025. He is supported by a part-time Children & Families Minister, Parish Secretary & p/t Administration Assistant.
- **The Reverend Peter Godden** - Team Vicar at Monks Risborough and Owlswick since July 2021. He is supported by Revd Sally Prendergast (SSM Assistant Priest).
- **The SSM house-for-duty post** at Lacey Green, Looseley Row & Speen – this fell vacant in August 2026. The parish are preparing to advertise in 2027.
- **The SSM house-for-duty post** at Bledlow, Saunderton & Horsenden - supported by a p/t Administrator.

The team has regularly supported curates in training, the most recent moving to a new parish in summer 2026.

All the churches in the Team play an active part in Churches Together in Risborough (CTR), which is formed from the local Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Elim Churches. CTR arranges joint public acts of worship, such as a Good Friday Procession of Witness, and a carol service in the marketplace. There are other services during the year. The major event each year, which members of our churches assist in planning, organising and running, is the annual "Lighthouse" Christian summer holiday club (see www.lighthousecentral.org) . Some 450 children attend, supported by around 150 volunteers. The tremendous potential for this event to have a lasting impact across all our churches is an important priority.

APPENDIX A: ROLE DESCRIPTION

(from the Diocese of Oxford)

SECTION ONE: DETAILS OF POST

Role title:	Team Vicar of Bledlow with Saunderton and Horsenden
Type of Role:	Team Vicar (House for Duty)
Name of benefice:	Risborough Benefice, Bledlow with Saunderton and Horsenden
Episcopal area:	Buckingham
Deanery:	Aylesbury
Archdeaconry:	Buckingham
Conditions of service:	Please refer to Statements of Particulars document issued in conjunction with this role description
Key contact for clergy:	Archdeacon of Buckingham
Clergy terms of service:	This role falls within the Clergy Terms of Service formally known as Common Tenure. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is the designated person 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 Churchwardens about any issues exceptional or otherwise that have the potential to affect on-going delivery of ministry.
Additional Responsibility:	n/a

SECTION TWO: CONTEXT

Wider Context

The former Bishop of Oxford the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft has presented a Common Vision for the Diocese of Oxford. The vision addresses the call to be a Christ-like Church. What are the marks of a Christ-like Church? To be the Church of the Beatitudes: **Contemplative** | **Compassionate** | **Courageous**

It also asks what we are therefore called to do together. We have currently discerned five key strategic priority areas within our Common Vision:

- Christian formation, evangelism and discipleship
- Environmental action
- Growing new congregations
- Schools, children and young people
- Addressing poverty and inequality

These priorities will be supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their priests to share in the development of this vision rather than demanding a response. It wants all its priests to flourish in ministry and to deepen their enjoyment of God.

Local Context

The parish of Bledlow with Saunderton and Horsenden is a welcoming and engaging community of churches. We are open to growing in faith, involved in our community and attentive to the world and its needs. The Team Vicar ministers alongside a supportive team of lay and clergy colleagues in the parish, the Risborough Team and the wider deanery.

SECTION THREE: ROLE PURPOSE AND 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 your 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
 - Fulfilling all Safeguarding requirements
- C To share in the wider work of the deanery and diocese as appropriate, for the building up of the whole Body of Christ

Other responsibilities

- Participate in the Bishop's Ministerial Development Review scheme and engage in Continuing Ministerial Development.
- Carry out any other duties and responsibilities as required in line with the benefice needs.
- Take care for their wellbeing including health and safety and building a good repertoire of spiritual and psychological strategies.

SECTION FOUR: BENEFICE SUMMARY

The Benefice of:

- Benefice: Risborough, Bledlow with Saunderton and Horsenden
- Patron(s): Lord Carrington
- PCCs: single PCC (11 members in addition to the Team Vicar)
- Assistant Churchwardens: Richard Strange, Vicky Peel
- Ministers: Team Vicar as part of the Risborough Team
- Benefice paid staff: part-time administrator
- Parish Safeguarding Officer: Jenny Strange
- Benefice unpaid staff/ volunteers (numbers): Approx. 20
- Buildings: Three churches. Bledlow, Saunderton and Horsenden
- Churchyard(s): 2 open, 1 closed
- Church Tradition: Central
- Pastoral Re-organisation proposals: None
- For more detailed information, please refer to the Parish Profile.

SECTION FIVE: KEY CONTACTS FOR THE ROLE

Generic and specific to the role

Groups and Committees

- The PCC, and sub-committees Risborough Team
- Deanery Chapter
- Deanery Synod
- Deanery Pastoral Committee

In the Benefice

- Assistant Churchwardens
- Clergy within the benefice

Support structures

- Area Dean
- Area Bishop
- Archdeacon
- Staff at The Diocesan Office with key responsibilities for various aspects of supporting parochial ministry

SECTION SIX: OTHER

Relevant Documentatation

This role description is issued alongside and should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- The Ordinal
- The Canons of the Church of England
- Guidance for the Professional Conduct of Clergy
- Bishop's Licence
- Statement of Particulars issued to the office-holder on successful appointment
- Diocesan Clergy Handbook
- Parish Profile
- Mission Action Plans (MAPs)
- Any objectives discussed and agreed between the post holder and the supervising minister

Role description signed off by: The Archdeacon of Buckingham

Date:

To be reviewed next on:

APPENDIX B: THE LOCAL PARISHES IN THE RISBOROUGH TEAM

The Parish of Princes Risborough with Ilmer and Longwick village

There has been a church in Princes Risborough since Norman times and the present St Mary's is a Grade II* listed building, dating from about 1250. It is the church which hosts major civic services. There is flexible seating for about 250. In 2008, a Chapter House was added, providing a meeting room, parish office, clergy vestry and toilets. The parish hall, opposite St. Mary's, can accommodate about 100 people and is used for a variety of church and community activities.

St Peter's Church, Ilmer is a small, interesting church, with a timber spire and bell-turret. It is one of the oldest churches in the diocese, the original building dating from Norman times but it was rebuilt in about 1350. It seats a maximum of 70 people. There is a small congregation, drawn largely from Ilmer & Longwick.

The town has two medical practices, a good range of local shops and supermarkets. There is a leisure centre with a swimming pool, library and community centre. The ecclesiastical parish has a population of around 8300 and includes the village of Longwick and hamlet of Ilmer. The civil parish includes Monks Risborough and the combined population is nearly 10,500. Princes Risborough has a primary school and an upper school. Significant housing developments are in the pipeline, largely to the west of Princes and Monks Risborough, adding up to 2500 homes in the next 10 years as part of a wider plan to add 8000 homes in the area more generally.

St. Mary's has close links with its voluntary-controlled primary school, Longwick CoE Combined School, with around 175 pupils. The Church Electoral Roll stands at 124. There are two main Sunday congregations, one Common Worship Holy Communion with organ & hymns and the other more contemporary with worship songs and a band. Biblical preaching is valued along with openness to the Holy Spirit. Additional services, such as Messy Church, draw together a significant wider fringe. Work with children and families is an established priority, to which a new youth group started 18 months ago. Discipleship, Mission (local, national and international) and serving the Third Age are also at the heart of church activity.

The Parish of Monks Risborough and Owlswick

Monks Risborough and the hamlets of Askett, Whiteleaf, Owlswick and Meadle make up the parish of Monks Risborough. With a population of 2,200, the parish is the oldest recorded ecclesiastical parish in England, receiving its name from the monks of Canterbury, who owned it before the Reformation. St Dunstan's is a Grade 1-listed building with a modern church hall which is used for a variety of church and community meetings. There is also a small chapel of ease at Owlswick (St Peter's) where services are held twice a month. Monks Risborough Combined School has just over 200 pupils and is voluntary-controlled. There is an excellent relationship between church and school.

The Church Electoral Roll stands at 165. The church and chapel worship is sacramentally focussed, celebrating the richness of the Church year, actively marking seasons and holy days. Welcome and pastoral care are priorities. Both St Dunstan's and St Peter's put on a vibrant series of concerts, exhibitions and community events to engage with the local community in addition to Lunch, Friendship and Fellowship Groups, and holiday Play Days for families.

The Parish of Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen

St John the Evangelist, Lacey Green, was built in 1823 as a Chapel of Ease church plant from St Mary's. It is a Grade II-listed building. It serves all three villages in this semi-rural parish on the top of the Chiltern Hills, combined population about 2,500. Many long-standing families still live in the villages but some have had to move on as property prices have escalated. The Church is well maintained and the Churchyard designated as a Local Wildlife Site by the County Council. The Church Electoral Roll stands at 56.

A good choir supports a Sung Eucharist each Sunday except for once a month where the service has a more All Age emphasis and worship songs are led by a small band. St John's CoE Combined School at Lacey Green is voluntary-aided and has about 250 pupils. Speen CoE First School, also voluntary aided, has 40 pupils. There is a very good partnership between the church and the schools in both Lacey Green and Speen. The church has a long standing link with a parish in South Africa, and members are also at the heart of the Ukraine2Chilterns host group.

APPENDIX C:

AYLESBURY DEANERY

The Aylesbury Deanery comprises 39 churches across the Aylesbury Vale with a wonderfully rich and diverse range of traditions, heritage and history, with every possible style of worship, in a broad range of buildings and meeting places – from homes, schools and community centres, to 13th Century Norman architecture reflecting the variety of life found in the Aylesbury Vale itself. The population of Aylesbury and many of its surrounding villages are growing at an enormous rate. This presents wonderful opportunities for working together to engage in God's mission to Aylesbury Vale!

The following is a summary of the Deanery Plan:

Vision of the Future and Action Plans:

As a deanery, and as parishes within the deanery of Aylesbury, we share the Diocesan vision and have developed the following action plan to achieve it:

Training

Each congregation has its own responsibility to serve its own community and to encourage all its members to use their gifts to reach out to the needs of the local area. At the same time, there are ways in which the deanery can help in this process by informing people of the training opportunities already available or offer more locally available resources for training.

Mutual Support

The deanery is there to help congregations to do together what they may not be able to do on their own.

Financial issues

It is important the deanery is perceived to be more than the means by which the parish share is allocated. However, the Diocese has asked deaneries to bring into balance the amount of parish share they raise and the cost of ministry they deploy.

Expansion and Ecumenical Co-operation

The planned expansion of Aylesbury will require the establishment of new centres of worship and mission, but these are likely to be ecumenical ventures based on community buildings.

Mission Planning and Deployment of Stipendiary Ministers

Further imaginative planning across the deanery will be required to take into account the planned expansion in population.

APPENDIX D:

THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD

The Diocese of Oxford serves the mission of the Church in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The Diocese comprises more than 600 parishes, with over 800 churches, serving a diverse population of more than 2 million people located in all types of settings. Due to the size and complexity of the Diocese, we have three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic and pastoral oversight for their Areas. The Bishop of Buckingham is the Rt Rev'd Dave Bull who has been the Area Bishop since 2025. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is Rev Cassa Messervy who has been in post since 2026. In September 2020, Rev'd Canon Chris Bull was appointed Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham.

Through prayer, listening and discernment a common vision has emerged for the Diocese of Oxford. The vision is based on the qualities described in The Beatitudes and addresses what kind of church we are called to be:

A more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world: contemplative, compassionate, courageous.

Our Common Vision continues to emerge as we identify together areas of our common life where we believe God is calling to focus. The diocesan focal areas are not a description of everything we do, but these priorities are being supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their clergy to share a vision rather than demanding a response, motivated by hope not driven by anxiety, and thereby to flourish in their ministry. It is hoped that clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will want to commit to this vision and encourage their benefice to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world.

