

Profile for the newly forming Benefice of the South Chiltern Group of Churches Team Ministry

St Peter and St Paul, **Stokenchurch** with St Nicholas, **Ibstone** &
Holy Trinity, **Lane End** with St Mary-le-Moor, **Cadmore End**



Thank you for reading our Benefice profile. If you are the Team Rector (designate) our Lord has chosen for us, we pray that this document touches your heart and lights your pathway towards us.

We welcome you!

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: look graciously on your Churches in the South Chiltern Group of Churches, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Team Rector (designate), that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

Church Wardens:

David Crichton, Alan Evans, Penelope Galloway, Neil May, Veronica Murray, Robert Nix and Andrew Palmer

St Peter and St Paul's, Stokenchurch

Our vision is to be a Church that is '*Continuing Jesus' mission to make disciples by being disciples*'. Our priority is to meet together as a Church and we see worship as an opportunity to serve and encourage one another. Our heart is to love our family, friends, neighbours and strangers so much that we will proclaim Christ in word and deed to help them to know God for themselves.



The Church has well-established and effective links with the three other Anglican Churches in the South Chiltern Group and also with the Stokenchurch Methodist Church who join us regularly and have been supporting us during the vacancy by leading a service once a month.

We believe that our lives should be marked by prayer and bible study as we show our obedience and dependence on God and also prioritise time to meet and encourage one another. We have a monthly prayer meeting and two well established home groups which have continued to meet and grow during the vacancy. In addition there is a Church social committee and an extensive team of keen volunteers who work hard to run lent lunches, Good Friday walks (with the other SCG parishes), Harvest supper, summer concert, quiz night and annual sponsored walk.



Whilst the Church currently has a very small Sunday School it previously had three groups Beginners, Explorers and KFC (Kids for Christ) serving children between the ages of 3-18. The Church formed a weekly youth group for children aged 7-11 called The BLAST (Big Laughs And Small Talks) which we are keen to re-establish. A regular toddler group (Tot-Time) meets on Thursdays in the Church rooms and in the past has organised social events and parenting courses. As part of our outreach and witness to the community the Church has run an annual children's holiday club for 4-11 year olds for the last



13 years, attracting 70-100 children to attend on each of the four days. The youth and children's work is an area that we are keen to revive and grow as a Church. We are looking for a minister with enthusiasm, energy and a heart for young people to continue to build on this important part of our Church life.

St Peter and St Paul's is committed to taking 'Church' outside into the local community. We run a monthly Church teas group for older members of the local community, have good links with our local care home and support our local food bank. We have recently created a pastoral group which supports people living in the parish who may be frail, lonely or unwell and also those recently discharged from hospital. It is making good progress but is looking to our new minister to provide leadership, guidance and support in this vital part of our Church.



The Church has a team of volunteers who provide administrative support to the minister in the day to day running, perform readings and intercessory prayers for services, manage the bookings of the Church rooms, clean the Church, prepare the flowers, prepare coffee after the services, look after the website and support regular working parties to maintain the Church and churchyard. The Church also has a regular organist and a choir.



The Church itself was originally built in the 12th century with additions in the 14th and 19th centuries. It has continued to be developed over the last century with the addition of a Church room in 1990 and, in 2014, an extensive reordering of the Church room and main body of the building. The changes provided versatility and opportunities for the building to be used for both Church and community activities.

We are currently in the process of establishing an office in the Church for the minister and administrative staff. There are no known structural issues and is a warm and lovely place of worship and fellowship.

The parish of St Peter and St Paul, Stokenchurch enjoys an ideal location at junction 5 of the M40 in the Chiltern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The parish straddles the A40 from Studley Green to the Oxfordshire border on the Chiltern ridge. It contains the hamlets of Horsleys Green, Water End, Beacons Bottom and Studley Green.

The village provides ample facilities including: three children's play areas; uniformed organisations; a cricket club; a library; dentist; pharmacy and medical centre. In addition the village has: 2



pubs; a hotel; coffee shop; fish and chip shop; Chinese take away; Indian restaurant; 4 general stores (including Tesco); an off licence; petrol station; garage; barbers and hairdressers. Within the parish there is a motel, transport cafe and a vehicle hire/garage enterprise. For the elderly there is a day centre, community transport, care homes and sheltered housing with more proposed in Horsleys Green on the former Wycliffe Bible Translators site. There is a large, outstanding (Ofsted) community primary school in the village and three smaller primary schools within three miles, two of which are Church schools. We are also in the catchment area for three grammar schools and 3 comprehensive schools.

The wider parish of Stokenchurch has a population of c5000. The active social life of the village concentrates around Longburrow Hall and a newly built Scout and Guide HQ. There is also a community centre at Studley Green. Longburrow regularly hosts sports based activities, slimming and social groups and individual social events as well as hosting the Parish Council. The Scout and Guide HQ provides offices and facilities for Barnardo's Sure Start Children's Centre which runs services for families with children up to five years old. In addition there are thriving groups for: Explorers, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. These have good links with the Church and all attend the Remembrance Sunday Service. There are also good open areas in the village which are used for village social events such as the Summer Fete and Christmas Fayre and an annual 10k running event.

Three things St Peter and St Paul's congregation does well:

- Friendly, welcoming and inclusive Church
- Strong teamwork and input across the congregation to provide coffee; flowers; cleaning; refreshments for special occasions; Church fabric committee; efficient administration
- Reaches out to the community in which it worships

Our priorities for the future for St Peter and St Paul's:

- Grow our Church to reflect the local community
- Build upon and grow the youth and children's work
- Support mission locally and to all nations
- We are keen to maintain our broad Church and established links with the Methodist Church

The Vicarage

The Vicarage, Wycombe Road, Stokenchurch, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 3RG

The vicarage is situated in Stokenchurch (a five minute walk from the church). It is set back from the A40 in approximately half an acre with gardens front and back. The grounds are secluded and bordered by high hedges. The house was purpose built as a vicarage in 1982 and has gas central heating. It has two large bedrooms and two smaller bedrooms, study, lounge, dining room, large kitchen, utility room, downstairs toilet, upstairs bathroom, separate WC and large airing cupboard.

The study, hall and cloakroom are segregated from the living accommodation by a door to the kitchen and a door to the stairs and living room. The kitchen and breakfast area has doors to the garage, dining room and utility room with access to the rear garden. The dining room has large doors into the living room which has sliding windows leading to the rear garden. There is a garage and carport with additional car parking space.

