

**The Parish of  
Eaton Bray  
with  
Edlesborough**

**In the Deanery of  
Dunstable  
and the  
Diocese  
Of  
St Albans**

**Parish Profile**

*“A diverse rural Parish with two Churches  
and a single PCC”*

# Our Church Community



## RELEVANT WEB LINKS

Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish

[www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk](http://www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk)

St Mary's Village Carnival

[www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com](http://www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com)

Edlesbray Players

[www.edlesbrayplayers.co.uk](http://www.edlesbrayplayers.co.uk)

Eaton Bray Parish Council

[www.eatonbray.com](http://www.eatonbray.com)

Edlesborough Parish Council

[www.edlesborough.gov.uk](http://www.edlesborough.gov.uk)

Dagnall School

[www.dagnall.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.dagnall.bucks.sch.uk)

Eaton Bray School

[www.eatonbray.ik.org](http://www.eatonbray.ik.org)

Edlesborough School

[www.edlesborough.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.edlesborough.bucks.sch.uk)

**St Mary's, Eaton Bray**



**All Saint's, Dagnall**



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## **To summarise.....**

### **Demographics**

Although covering an attractive rural area of around 15 sq miles, the Parish is really the equivalent of a small town - albeit a population of 5,000 spread across four villages. The two churches are well-maintained, the finances are sound and the congregations are strong, if gradually declining in line with national trends.

### **Our recent history**

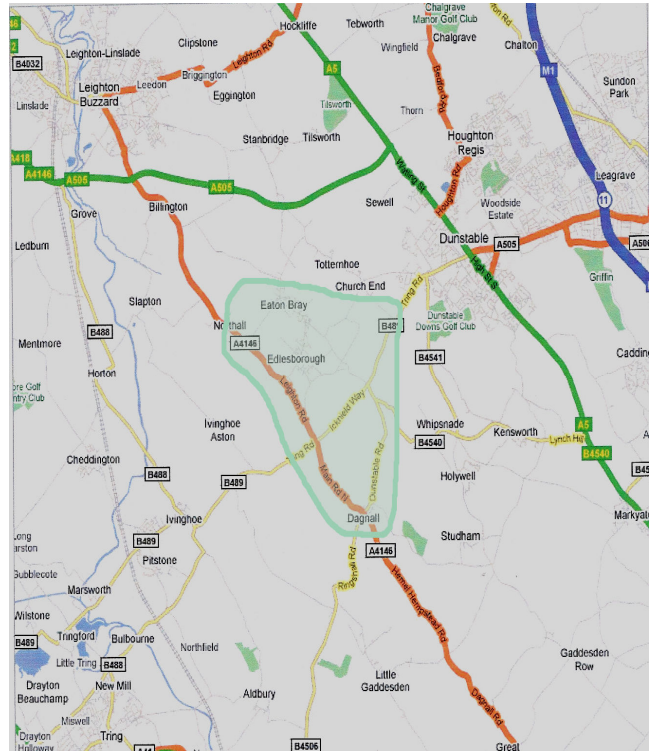
Owing to the suddenness with which the Revd. Roger Chapman succumbed to illness, we have effectively now spent 18 months without a parish priest, although the majority of services have been covered and life has continued as normal - so far as is possible. As a result, it would be fair to say that we have probably become self-sufficient and probably too 'independent' with a tendency to allow policies and even the pattern of services to be driven forward by willing volunteers, or to remain unchanged,

We hope that this will explain why we are hoping that our new priest will work confidently with the laity to help us grow our faith, strengthen the awareness and influence of our Church in the villages, and to actively lead us forward with a renewed sense of purpose.

# A. THE PARISH

## 1. LOCATION

The Parish of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough is situated just below the Dunstable Downs and on the edge of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Parish covers a wide and predominantly rural area which encompasses the two substantial villages of Eaton Bray and Edlesborough, the former being in Bedfordshire and the latter in Buckinghamshire. There are two smaller villages in the Parish, namely Dagnall and Northall, both of which are in Buckinghamshire. The Parish thus sits astride the county boundary - and is additionally bordered to the south of Dagnall by the county of Hertfordshire. The nearest significant towns are Leighton Buzzard (to the north west) and Dunstable (to the east) both of which are around six miles away, whilst larger centres can be found at Milton Keynes (sixteen miles), Hemel Hempstead (ten miles) and Luton (nine miles). Additionally, the City of St Albans is fifteen miles away.



### Travel by road, rail & air

The Parish enjoys good road communications via the M1, M25 and A5 plus excellent rail connections to both north and south from Tring, Leighton Buzzard or Luton. Bus services are, however, rather less frequent, with services linking Aylesbury, Leighton Buzzard and Luton via the villages. Luton Airport is twelve miles distant.

### The Villages

#### Dagnall

Dagnall is the most southerly of the four villages and is centred upon a crossroads close to the foot of the Dunstable Downs. It is a small, close-knit community (population 500) with a high proportion of families with young children and a number of families who have lived in the village for several generations.





### **Eaton Bray**

With a population of around 2100 Eaton Bray is the largest of the villages and the site of St Mary's Church. The village saw a period of growth during the 1970s and 1980s but the building of new houses has now slowed and is limited to infill development. The village is well served with a variety of shops, restaurant/take-away establishments, and a Public House.



### **Edlesborough**



The population of Edlesborough is around 1850 and, though not physically separated from Eaton Bray, the boundary between the two villages also serves as both the county and constituency boundary. Like Eaton Bray, new building development has been at a standstill since the late 1980s and this has led to a slowdown in the turnover of housing and an attendant stabilisation in the rate of population change. The village has a small number of shops (including a Post Office) which offers an excellent range of both goods and services. The village also has a large

health centre comprising a GP practice, a pharmacy and a dental surgery. Within the village is one of the Parish's biggest assets - an 11 acre village green which is home to the annual Carnival as well as a wide range of sporting activities throughout the year.

### **Northall**

The village of Northall, with a population of around 400, has developed in a linear fashion along the main road joining Leighton Buzzard & Hemel Hempstead. Although the village no longer has any shops, it is close enough to Eaton Bray and Edlesborough for their shops to be convenient. The village does, however, have a fine Public House



## **2. COMMUNITY**

### **Housing**

The four villages are best described as rural/commuter in character and are predominantly residential with a significant proportion of larger homes, although of recent years the building of starter homes has been encouraged. The hearts of all four villages are much older although much of the older housing stock has now been refurbished. Each village has some council built properties, many of which are now owner-occupied. There are a small number of bungalows in both Eaton Bray and Edlesborough offering sheltered accommodation for the elderly. On the northerly fringe of Eaton Bray there is a small travellers' camp which has been a part of our community for more than two decades.

## Parish & District Councils

**Eaton Bray** is in Bedfordshire and has a separate Parish Council from **Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall** which are in Buckinghamshire. Both Councils show great enthusiasm in promoting and developing the villages. Eaton Bray has recently financed a state-of-the-art Skate and Ride area for the benefit of its young people whilst, three years ago Edlesborough Parish Council launched "The EDaN Project" which sought to find out what the parishioners wanted from their community and then to implement those wishes as far as was practicable. The fruits of this campaign are already being seen in many different ways. Eaton Bray lies within the new Central Beds District Council area while the three Buckinghamshire Villages are a part of the Aylesbury Vale division of Buckinghamshire County Council.

## Village Halls

St. Mary's Church does not have a Church Hall but **Eaton Bray Village Hall** is built on church land next to the church. The Hall is managed independently by a board of Trustees who have recently completed a £250,000 refurbishment. **Edlesborough Memorial Hall**, run by Edlesborough Parish Council, provides a modern environment for the use of the community. **Northall Village Hall**, built in the late 1970's offers accommodation on a somewhat smaller scale than either Eaton Bray or Edlesborough. **Dagnall Village Hall** provides a major focus for this vibrant community and, at present, the villagers are engaged in a modernisation programme.

## Employment

The nature of the villages is such that relatively few people work in the community. Most commute a minimum of six miles and many a great deal further - often into central London. In addition to the local shops, restaurants and public houses there are a few small businesses located in the villages. There is also a small business park on the north-westerly fringe of Edlesborough. Farming employs a small and gradually diminishing percentage of the population.

## The Church's involvement in the Parish

The villages cater for a wide range of interests and many of the activities fall either under the aegis of St Mary's Church, or are led by members of the congregation. Those led or organised by St Mary's Church include, among others, the following:-

- St Mary's Village Carnival, a major fund raising event held in July on Edlesborough Green.. In 2010 this one day event raised £14,000 for the St Mary's fabric fund and other charities. (see the link to the Carnival website on page 2).



- Edlesbray Players, who stage a well-received annual pantomime as well as a Spring revue
- Monthly Parish lunches targeted at both the elderly and those who would otherwise be alone
- A Christmas Fair.
- An Open Gardens event.
- Concerts in Church for Christian Aid and other church charities.
- A Harvest family supper and quiz.
- A children's Christmas party.
- The Ladies Guild.

## Communications

The Villages are very proud of their 78-page community magazine "**Focus**" which grew out of the Church magazine and is distributed free each month to every household in the Parish. The Church uses Focus as a means of communicating with the Parish at large.

The Church has a well-maintained **website** which has a high rating with the search engines. Details of this and other relevant websites can be found on page 2 of this profile.

In addition to Focus and the **weekly pew leaflet**, a **quarterly Newsletter** is published which is circulated to all the St Mary's members of the electoral roll as well as being available in Church.

## Leisure & Recreation

In addition to those activities described as a part of the Church's involvement in the community, leisure activities in the villages are varied and include Scouts, Explorers, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers and drama for the children and dancing, general leisure and a variety of fitness-related groups for adults. Both Eaton Bray and Edlesborough have a well-established Women's Institute. There is also a monthly Cinema Club in Eaton Bray Village Hall and a weekly Age Concern lunch club in Northall Village Hall with transport being provided for the elderly or housebound.

On the sporting front the villages can offer local soccer and cricket teams for all ages, a tennis club in each of Eaton Bray and Edlesborough, horse riding, bridge and indoor bowls.

As well as two purpose built restaurants, there are four public houses in the Villages most of which provide restaurant facilities. In addition there are take-away facilities in Eaton Bray and a daytime café in Edlesborough



### 3. EDUCATION

As a result of the Parish falling into two counties, there are two distinct educational systems. There is no school in Northall but the schools in the other three villages have had excellent OFSTED reports.

**Eaton Bray** is a part of the Bedfordshire three-tier system. Children start at the age of four and then transfer at nine from the Eaton Bray Lower School to Middle School in either Leighton Buzzard or Dunstable. From there they then move, at the age of thirteen, to Upper Schools within those same two towns. Since the opening of a new pre-school unit at Eaton Bray Lower School in 2008 the village can now offer extended school provision and wrap-around care for pre-schoolers as well. There are Church of England Schools in Dunstable and places at these schools are available to the children of Church members.



**Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall** are in Buckinghamshire and again children start at four years but move after the eleven plus exam from the Combined School in Edlesborough to either the Grammar Schools in Aylesbury, the Cottesloe School in nearby Wing, or out of area schools in, Hertfordshire or Bedfordshire. All these schools are about 13 miles distant. Dagnall has a small Primary School of its own which feeds children into Edlesborough School at the age of seven years.



All of the schools have good relations with their local Churches and this is an aspect of community life that the PCC wants to develop further in the future.

Eaton Bray, Edlesborough and Dagnall have well-equipped and lively **pre-school feeder groups** which operate in their respective Village Halls.

## 4. WORSHIP

### Eaton Bray

#### Introduction

The Church has an active congregation of all ages with good lay participation in worship and pastoral work and has been described by others as having a welcoming nature. St Mary's Church is open throughout daylight hours every day of the year for personal prayer and worship.

#### Liturgical Tradition

The life of St Mary's is eucharistically focussed. Common Worship is used and vestments are worn at all services, The Common Praise hymn book is used at Eaton Bray. Hymns from other sources are used on occasion and are printed in the weekly pew leaflet. This form of worship is appreciated by the congregation but at the same time the congregation has responded well to innovation and change, an example of which is the monthly "Worship for Everyone" service. The phrase "evolution rather than revolution" comes to mind.

#### Statistics

Electoral Roll (April 2010)	192
Easter Communicants (2010)	151
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Attendance 2009	730
Sunday attendance (average)	105

#### Sunday Services

8.00 am - Eucharist

10.00 am - Parish Sung Eucharist

On the third Sunday of each month the 10.00 am service is non-Eucharistic and follows a more informal style often including young people in leading parts of the service. Use is also made of a group of young musicians to accompany some of the hymns. The 10.00 am service on the fourth Sunday of each month is a Eucharist and is set aside for Holy Baptism, when required.

A sermon is preached at each of these services

#### Weekday Services

Tuesday 7.30 am - Eucharist \*

Wednesday 9.30 am - Eucharist \*\*

The service on every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday is a Ladies Guild Corporate Communion.

## Monthly services

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 2.00 pm - Mother & Toddler Service (presently conducted by our Reader)

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 8.00pm - Healing Service with laying on of hands \*

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 7.30 pm - Eucharist \*\*\*

\* Suspended during the vacancy

\*\* Changed to 10.00 am during vacancy

\*\*\* Held at Dagnall prior to the PCC

## Occasional Offices

The usual additional services are held at Christmas and during Holy Week, and on Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day and All Souls' Day. The Christmas Eve candle services are particularly popular with the community, often attracting a congregation of 600 spread over two services.

Baptisms: 16 Baptisms were administered in 2009

Weddings: 2010 will see 3 weddings and 4 weddings are presently booked for 2011

Funerals: 13 Funerals were held in Church in 2009 with a similar number of services at the local crematoria.

Home Communion: Offered to the sick and infirm, particularly at Easter and Christmas

## Lay participation

For many years St Mary's has followed a principle of encouraging members of the congregation of all ages to become involved in Sunday worship and in aspects of outreach. As a result, there is a healthy list of people willing to read the lessons, to act as sidesmen, chalice assistants and crucifer and to offer intercessions. This practice of involvement helps not only the conduct of the service but also benefits the individuals concerned. The Church also has an experienced Sacristan with a back up team in case of absence.

Our Reader, Mr Gordon Gray, plays an active role in the conduct of certain services and in the preparation of candidates from the North Chilterns Group (see page 14) for confirmation. House groups are lay-led, with a total of two house groups and a prayer and praise group currently running in the parish. In addition to these there are various groups during Lent which are run under the auspices of The North Chilterns Group and Churches Together.

## Youth & Children

One of the great successes of recent years has been our GIFT group (Growing In Faith Together) that has enabled us to retain our teenagers through to school leaving age. The group has blossomed out of the confirmation classes run by the North Chilterns Group.

St Mary's has an active Sunday school with enthusiastic leaders and teachers. The children come into Church in time for communion. St Mary's offers an on-demand crèche.

The St Mary's choir is a rich resource for the children of the Parish (see below). Our Sunday Eucharist is planned in such a way that the junior choristers are able to spend some time with their peers in Sunday school.

## **Musical Tradition at St Mary's**

### **Choir**

The choir consists of over 20 members, including twelve juniors (boys and girls), and adults on all parts. Like many choirs today it would benefit from more adults - especially men - and it may be timely to consider approaching local schools for juniors as well as asking for greater commitment from some able members of the congregation.



The choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music, and junior choristers follow its training scheme.

Over the past three years five choristers have received their RSCM Bishop's or Dean's Awards, with either merit or distinction. This year the Head Chorister was awarded her Gold Medal. Choristers have regularly taken part in RSCM Summer Courses. A weekly practice is held on Friday evenings, with occasional additional meetings for the juniors for training or for learning new music. The choir has sung occasional concerts and participated in other musical activities locally.

### **Organ**

A new, 18-stop, 2-manual pipe organ was built by Peter Collins in 1991, and is regularly maintained. It is located in a gallery in front of the (west) tower arch.

### **Youth Band.**

Over recent years a group of ten young musicians have come together to play at the monthly informal service. Most members of this group are also members of the choir and their range and competence is rising all the time.

### **Director of Music**

Our Director of Music has been associated with St Mary's for several years. A former organ and choral scholar at Cambridge and experienced choral director and recitalist, he has worked on developing and improving the vocal capabilities of all those in the choir. The Director of Music currently plans the monthly music list and would expect to do this collaboratively with any new incumbent.

# Dagnall

## Introduction & congregation

All Saints, generally known as Dagnall Church, is, as this suggests, a Church for the whole village. The building is Anglican, but it has been shared with the Methodists since the late sixties, when their building became unsafe. They brought with them enthusiasm and resources that have helped the Church to continue to flourish and to enable the building to be extended on two occasions. Dagnall has traditionally been a "chapel village" and this is still reflected in its numbers, there being more Methodists than Anglicans. Dagnall Church is renowned for its refreshments, thanks to our Methodist members.

There is a management committee which consists of 6 members from each denomination; this is responsible for planning and decision making. There are also separate Anglican and Methodist Committees. The Methodist part of the Church is in the South Bedfordshire Circuit and is at present under the care of a Methodist minister from Dunstable.

## Services

The Anglican group, though small, is very committed and appreciates the fact that in recent years there has been an almost weekly celebration of the Eucharist in Dagnall. On Sundays there are both Anglican and Methodist led services, enabling there to be a morning and evening service each week. In a sense all the services are 'united' because most are attended by both Anglicans and Methodists, but there are a number of official united services, namely the Patronal Festival, the Covenant Service, the Village Carol Service and a Good Friday service; and on fifth Sundays at 10.30 am an Informal Worship, which is organised and led by members of the congregation. There is a 10.30 am service each week, and on third Sundays this is an Anglican led Family Communion, which is attended by Anglicans, Methodists, Roman Catholics and others. There are Anglican services at 6 pm on both second and fourth Sundays and a 9.00 am Eucharist on first Sundays.

## Sunday School, prayer groups, guilds etc

The numbers attending Sunday school have been rather variable of late, but a monthly "Chill-out" evening attracts a good number of enthusiastic young people. The Wesley Guild, of Methodist foundation, but now involving Methodists, Anglicans and others, meets weekly from October to March and has a regular membership of about seventeen people. There is a relatively new house group which meets monthly.

## Involvement with the wider community

All Saints is involved in Churches Together in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough. Dagnall and Northall. There is a recently-formed and very successful community choir of some 50 people which meets weekly in the Church. The School and Playgroup take part in the Village Carol Service each year.

## Edlesborough

The Church is administered and maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust and, with their consent, can be used for a limited number of services each year. The Church is open every Sunday afternoon throughout the summer for visitors.



## 5. PASTORAL & ECUMENICAL

### The North Chilterns Group of Parishes

The Parish of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough is a member of the North Chiltern Group of Parishes which comprises a total of seven parishes with three autonomous, but closely co-operating priests. The seven parishes encompass a total of ten villages and the North Chilterns Group involves the member churches in a number of group activities ranging from quiet days or visits, to an annual Lent Course. The Group also organises confirmation classes so that candidates can meet in larger, more productive and convivial groups and together share a confirmation service at one of the member Churches.



It is hoped that the new appointee would show an active support towards the North Chilterns Group and encourage future growth.

### Churches Together

In order to strengthen and support Christian witness in the Parish the various Churches and Chapels organise various events throughout the year. These include a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a door-to-door collection during Christian Aid Week, a Christian Aid Concert given in Church by the children of Edlesborough School, an open air 'Service on the Green' and cards at Christmas and Easter which are delivered to all homes in the Parish, giving details of services. For the last two years, under the auspices of Churches Together musical evenings have been staged which have showcased Christian groups.

The Churches Together Group comprises representatives from:

<b>Dagnall:</b>	Methodists with whom the Anglicans share All Saint's Church
<b>Eaton Bray:</b>	Methodists & Salvation Army
<b>Edlesborough:</b>	Methodists
<b>Northall:</b>	Baptists.

Churches Together are also pleased to have the support of local Roman Catholics, whose nearest Churches are in Dunstable or Leighton Buzzard.

### Other Christian Organisations

In recent years, the Baptist Chapel in Edlesborough has undergone a revival under the guidance of Dunstable Baptist Church and the Grace Baptist Partnership.

## **Sick & Bereavement visiting**

Lay involvement extends to visiting the sick, elderly or housebound. There is also a developing bereavement team active across the North Chilterns Group.

**Fair Trade.** Eaton Bray with Edlesborough is a Fair Trade Parish



## **6. LEADERSHIP**

### **The Parochial Church Council**

The PCC, which currently comprises 17 members, meets monthly at All Saints, Dagnall. Here the juxtaposition of the Church and an excellent meeting room facilitates the opening of the meeting with a Eucharist. Under the PCC every aspect of church life has a focus either through a sub-committee or a responsible officer. In this way the PCC can be kept in touch with and, if necessary, direct all the facets of the Church's work in the Parish.

All Saints Dagnall has its own District Church Council with its own District Churchwardens. Both of these District Churchwardens are ex-officio members of the St Mary's PCC.

### **Ministerial Support**

During the Vacancy the Parish is fortunate to be able to call on the services of the Revd. John Heffer who, although retired, is always willing to play his part in Parish life. Additionally there are two other priests residing in the Parish, one of whom is retired and a second who works for The Mission to Seafarers in London and helps out with services when he can. There is also our Reader, Gordon Gray, who has recently taken early retirement and makes a significant input into the Parish.

## **7. THE BUILDINGS**

### **St Mary the Virgin, Eaton Bray,**

The Church dates from 1215 and is in an excellent state of repair some £250,000 having been spent on the roof and stonework in recent years. The interior is equipped with a comprehensive sound and lighting system. The Church can be found in all the defining books on English Parish Churches. The Church is set in a large churchyard, which was "closed" in 1882. Subsequently many of the gravestones have been removed to the boundary walls to create a pleasant open space with some splendid mature trees. An area alongside the High Street is set aside as a Garden of Remembrance for the burial of cremated remains.



## All Saints Dagnall,

All Saints Church Dagnall is shared between the Anglican and Methodist communities. The building was erected in 1863 by the last Lord Brownlow. In 1967, when the village Methodist Chapel was declared unsafe, the All Saints building became home to both congregations. The building is in a good state of repair.



## St Mary the Virgin, Edlesborough

(Closed and administered by Churches Conservation Trust.)

## Vicarage

The Vicarage, in its own large garden, is sited across the High Street from Eaton Bray Church. Downstairs it comprises lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room and study and upstairs four bedrooms, bathroom and shower room. It also has a large double garage. The PCC currently employs a gardener to carry out the more demanding gardening work.



## Parish Office & Administration



The Parish retains a paid part-time **Administrator** who, through her past experience, is able to offer valuable support to the PCC. Presently she reports to the Churchwardens but it is envisaged that our new Priest will direct her activities. Her present working week of approximately 10 hours is flexible according to Parish needs. The PCC rents a downstairs room in The Coffee Tavern (a property controlled by Eaton Bray Parish Council) as a **Parish Office**. It is within 50 yards of the Church and is fully equipped with telephone, computer, copier and other office machines and supplies as well as storage for the Parish files and records.

## **8. FINANCE**

### **Overview**

Our total, unrestricted income in 2009 was £98,000 with a further £51,000 being received through donations and the Carnival. In these difficult times prudent management allows the books to be balanced. In 2009 there was a significant surplus on 'current account' following the unexpected receipt of a £20,000 legacy. We are not unaware of the problems that are likely to be encountered in the coming months as disposable incomes decline, but we are hopeful of meeting these challenges.

### **Charitable giving**

#### **Eaton Bray**

2009 saw another very successful year in raising over £4000 for our Parish project, Merlin. In past years similar sums have been raised for charities both at home and abroad. This is in addition to the money raised at our annual Carnival (around £98,000 in the last ten years) and donations made each year from Church funds, either to causes to which the Church has a long-term commitment or ones that have been commended to the PCC by members of the congregation.

#### **Dagnall**

The social committee organises a number of events to raise funds for a chosen charity of the year, and so far an average sum of about £3000 has been raised each year.

#### **Churches Together**

In 2009 Churches Together collected over £4000 for Christian Aid through street collections and a Church concert organised by Edlesborough School.

## **9. EXPENSES OF OFFICE**

All expenses incurred in fulfilling Parish duties are paid in full at rates which are laid down or recommended by appropriate bodies.

## **10. STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES**

Through open and frank discussion at PCC meetings, the PCC tries to stay aware of where the Church is failing to meet the needs and expectations of its parishioners. Often this is a challenging process since even when the need for change is self-evident the required changes are not always easy to make.

The Church is fortunate to have at its heart a group of people who are at once, hard working, imaginative and single minded. All characteristics which, when properly managed, make for a highly effective team.

At Parish level the Church has a significant profile in the community and, as an institution, is held in great esteem. However it is proving problematical to find a way of translating this into church attendance. This may, in part, be due to the ever-increasing child-centred activities on a Sunday morning.

## B. THE FUTURE

### Challenges for us to tackle as a Church Family:

- To use the success of *GIFT* [Growing Together in Faith] and the youth section of the choir to try to encourage more young people to participate in the activities of the Church.
- To actively promote that participation by exploring the provision of youth-led and youth-focussed services from time to time.
- To develop contact with baptism families thereby encouraging them to attend services as a family on a more regular basis.
- To find more ways to encourage people, especially newcomers, to stay after church to share refreshments and develop real friendships within the church family.
- To examine the current pattern of services and examine whether we need to a) offer a greater variety of services, b) arrange services at different times c) develop services with new themes d) shorten existing services even when there is a Eucharist.
- To encourage full participation in the management of the Parish by a wider age group. To see a new generation taking hold of and regenerating the PCC and of filling the key roles within that structure.
- To encourage the wider community to see the church building as an asset to the village and to use it more fully.
- Above all to be seen as a church community which is friendly, adaptable, flexible and approachable



## C. NEW INCUMBENT PROFILE

The Churchwardens and members of the PCC are more than aware that this section is the most difficult part to write since ultimately whatever we write and whatever you, the applicant, reads into these words, the most important factor is the personal chemistry which will give everyone the desire to go forward together.

Suffice it to say that the Churchwardens, the PCC and members of the congregation, will do all that they can to work with the successful candidate in order to capitalise on strengths and to deliver support whenever necessary.

The PCC would, however, like to offer for consideration the following points which they hope prospective applicants will find useful:

### **The ideal candidate will:**

- Be a visible Christian presence in the community.
- Be approachable, cheerful, helpful and sociable as well as active in pastoral care in the whole community.
- Be a good communicator, leader & team player.
- Have a proven ability to think strategically and take the initiative.
- Be a person who is enthusiastic about working with lay and ordained colleagues and be able to discern and harness strengths and delegate accordingly.
- Be a teacher who will inspire us into continually developing our faith.
- Be someone who understands young people and who is sympathetic to their spiritual needs and wants to lead them in the development of their Christian life.
- Be someone who has an approach to worship that makes everyone in the Parish feel welcome and included.
- Want to find ways to make the Church grow in this Parish.
- Be supportive of our choral tradition and be willing to work closely with our Director of Music in keeping music as an integral part of our worship.
- Be able and willing to work collaboratively within the North Chilterns Group and Churches Together.
- Be an experienced vicar or priest-in-charge.

