



**DIOCESE of OXFORD**

*A Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world*

# House for Duty Team Vicar

for the parish of

## Cheddington with Mentmore

within the Cottesloe Team



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## Introduction

We wish to appoint a House-for-Duty priest to work within the Cottesloe Team, with pastoral responsibility for the villages of Cheddington and Mentmore. The role entails working Sundays plus two days, worked flexibly where possible. We are committed to working with our new priest and to respecting that this is a part-time role. As such, we hope that the role would be of interest to any priest who has other calls on their time and wishes to combine part time ministry with other responsibilities and interests.

We hope and pray that you will read our parish profile with interest. If you would like to explore the role in further detail, the Area Dean (and current Team Rector), Revd Philip Derbyshire (01525 240287) or Bishop Alan Wilson (01494 862173) would be happy to have a phone conversation with you.

## Who we are

Cheddington and Mentmore is a single parish of two villages and the small hamlet of Ledburn within the wider Cottesloe Team in the rural north east of Buckinghamshire. The benefice sits between the large and growing town of Aylesbury, and Leighton Buzzard.



Cottesloe Benefice



Cheddington and  
Mentmore Parish

St Mary's,  
Mentmore

St Giles,  
Cheddington

## Our strengths

We recognise that our church communities have the following strengths on which we want to build:

- one parish of two villages, each with its own church; one larger diverse community, and one smaller
- a diverse parish with varied and flexible worship patterns and open to new ideas and suggestions
- an active parish, sharing responsibility and mutually supportive
- blessed with many lay leaders (an authorised lay preacher, readers, intercessors, musicians, group leaders etc) who help and support a variety of weekday activities, and take part in worship
- we are part of the Cottesloe Team, formed in 2012 (see Appendix 1)
- an active ministry team including pastoral care
- strong ecumenical co-operation with Cheddington Methodist Church (CMC)



## Our vision

We aim to:

- be at the heart of our villages and community life
- be a nurturing and growing church
- be financially sustainable church communities
- serve the needs of all ages in the community

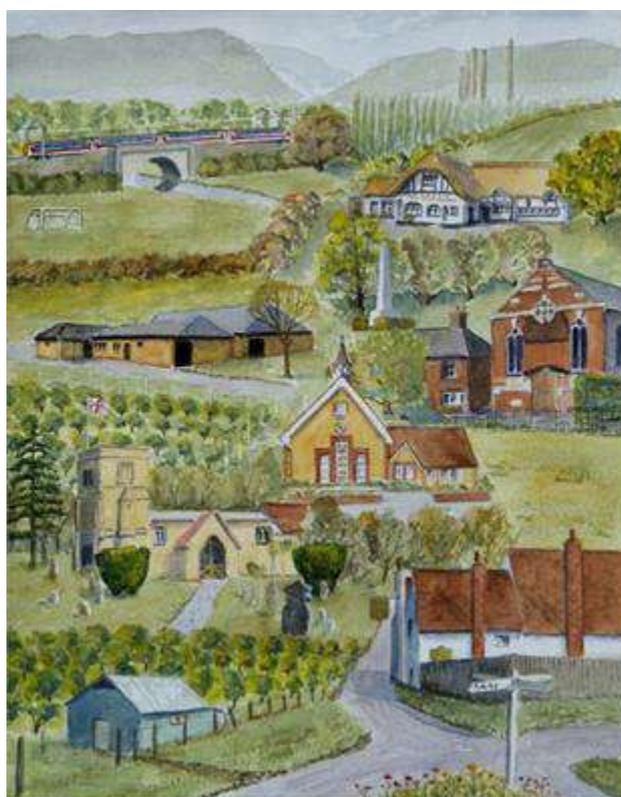
## Our new priest

We wish to appoint a priest who will work with us to enable our vision by:

- prayerfully ministering the love of God and the Good News of Jesus to the people of Cheddington and Mentmore
- continuing to bring our church into the centre of village life and promoting the interests of the Church
- nurturing and growing our church communities
- helping us become financially sustainable church communities
- being comfortable with various forms of worship, and exploring different worship styles
- supporting and nurturing the laity to use their gifts by exploring different avenues of ministry and mission and encourage others to become more involved in a fully collaborative way
- building on the current work to encourage our family service
- building on our close ecumenical relationship with the Cheddington Methodist Chapel
- sharing strengths and talents with the Cottesloe Team
- leading us through the formulation of our new MAP

More widely, this person should:

- enjoy entering the villages' social life and activities



Cheddington Millennium Village Sign

## Church Life

### Worship

Our current Sunday worship pattern is as follows:

| Sunday                 | Time     | Service                 | Church                       |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday | 9.00 am  | Holy Communion (CW)     | St Mary's, Mentmore          |
|                        | 10.30 am | Holy Communion (CW)     | St Giles, Cheddington        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday | 9.00 am  | Holy Communion (BCP)    | St Giles, Cheddington        |
|                        | 10.30 am | Family Service          | St Giles, Cheddington        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday | 9.00 am  | Holy Communion (CW)     | St Mary's, Mentmore          |
|                        | 10.30 am | Holy Communion (CW)     | St Giles, Cheddington        |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday | 10.30 am | Morning Worship         | St Giles, Cheddington        |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday | 10.30 am | Combined Communion (CW) | Cheddington Methodist Chapel |

One Sunday afternoon a month, we hold a Messy Church at Cheddington Methodist Chapel.

In addition to Sunday worship, each Thursday at 9.15 am we hold a mid-week Eucharist with up to 14 people attending. This service is much valued by those who attend and we stay for coffee after the service.



Occasional Offices and other figures for 2017 were:

|                    | Baptisms | Funerals | Weddings | Electoral Roll | Civil Population |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Cheddington</b> | 6        | 5        | 4        | 58             | 1852             |
| <b>Mentmore</b>    | 1        | 0        | 0        | 11             | 370              |

**St Giles Cheddington** is a 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century church with a grade 2-star listing, situated on the outskirts of Cheddington. Its finest feature is its magnificent 17<sup>th</sup> century pulpit whence, it is claimed, no one can preach a bad sermon.

A kitchen and disabled toilet were added in 1993. We are currently raising funds for restoration work.

We usually expect a weekly congregation at St Giles of up to 25 for the Eucharist Service, and up to 35 at a Family Service, which often includes baptisms. Main festivals still have a wide appeal in our rural communities, with attendance exceeding 100 on occasions.



We have a choir for main festival services.



**St Mary the Virgin, Mentmore** is a 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century grade 2 listed building within the village of Mentmore.

St Mary's has a congregation of up to 10 people who worship there regularly and an electoral roll of 11. Occasionally we also hold baptisms, funerals and weddings at St Mary's. While not attending church on a regular basis, several villagers financially support and value the church.

Each church has a bell-ringing team.

## Nurture groups

Bible study and prayer groups are areas we wish to develop further, in line with our vision, as we believe that they are important for all.

Currently, we hold weekly prayer groups on Monday mornings and Thursday evenings. We also have a monthly Emmaus meeting and a Julian Group for silent prayer.

We hold regular Lent courses, Advent courses and study groups together with the Methodist church and others. Members of our congregation often provide leadership for these groups.

## Social life

We hold a range of social and fundraising events throughout the year: tea and cake afternoons, quiz nights, the village/church fete, and many more. These events are well supported by the community at large.

We have held parish weekend retreats in the past and would like to reinstate them.



## PCC

The Parish has one PCC, this being the legal body responsible for making ministry and mission decisions. It meets ten times a year, chaired by the priest or an elected lay vice chair.



## Parish finances

The parish finances are not in a healthy a position as we would like. The PCC and leadership are aware of our need to focus on this area as part of moving into a sustainable future. We would value the support and help of our new team vicar to develop this area of our life.

The Parish is committed to charitable giving, to local, national and international charities.

## Ecumenical links

The Churches Together Group drawn from St Giles, and the Cheddington Methodist Church (CMC), meets four times a year and organises joint events: Lent Course, Advent Course, men's group, Emmaus group, joint worship, Messy Church, GLU (Youth Group) and social events.

Members run a Friday morning 'Open Doors' at CMC, providing an opportunity for villagers to meet.



## Our communities



**Cheddington** is a lively, diverse village with good rail links, within easy reach of London. It has a population of around 1850, and good amenities including a primary school, a general store and two public houses.

The parish has a wide range of clubs and organisations: including tennis, badminton, pantomime, amateur dramatics, junior drama, scouts, brownies, bridge, residents, and a history society to name a few. These usually meet in the Village Hall or the Methodist Hall.

Housing in the area is predominantly private. Cheddington has some council sheltered housing, and housing-association accommodation. Several two-bedroom and one-bedroom flats were recently built in Cheddington under the affordable housing scheme for local people. More will be built in the future.

Further information about the village is available from [www.cheddington.org.uk](http://www.cheddington.org.uk).

**Mentmore** is a smaller village, 1½ miles from Cheddington, and was once part of the Rosebery estate. There is a pub/restaurant, which is central to village lie, a small village hall, and an active parish council.

**Ledburn** is a hamlet 1½ miles to the northwest.



## Transport

Cheddington has a railway station on the London-Euston-to-Milton Keynes line (London Midland), offering an hourly service in each direction. From Cheddington there are daily bus services to Tring, Aylesbury and Dunstable and a twice-weekly bus to Leighton Buzzard. The public bus service at Mentmore is very limited with just two buses per week into Leighton Buzzard.

## Education

Cheddington County Combined School caters for children between the ages of four and eleven. There is an independent pre-school within the school grounds.



The County retains the selection process for secondary education, and the children transfer to one of the Aylesbury grammar schools, Wing Secondary School, or one of the comprehensive schools in Leighton Buzzard and Tring. The County provides a bus service to transport children to school.

Children in Mentmore travel to Cheddington, Marsworth or Wing for primary education.

There are private day nurseries and toddler groups in the area and MacIntyre Care run a school in Wingrave for the severely disabled.

## Health centres

The main parish health centres are in Pitstone, Tring and Wing. Two GPs hold satellite surgeries in Cheddington twice weekly. Most people go to Aylesbury, (Stoke Mandeville) for hospital treatment. There is a hospice on this site and another in Berkhamsted. More specialist care is found in High Wycombe, Oxford and London.

## Local amenities

Swimming pools, cinemas, theatres, a ski centre, ten pin bowling, night clubs etc, can be found in Milton Keynes, Hemel Hempstead and Aylesbury.

The nearest shopping centres are Tring and Leighton Buzzard, both about 15 minutes' drive from the Parish. The larger centres, Aylesbury, Milton Keynes and Hemel Hempstead, Oxford, Watford and London are easily reached by car or train.

Both villages come under the auspices of Aylesbury Vale District Council and Bucks County Council.

## The Vicarage

The vicarage, built in 1970, is a spacious four-bedroom detached house with study and double garage. There is ample parking out front. Both gardens are mainly lawn with shrub borders, making it easy to maintain and idea for a family. It stands close to the village centre in Mentmore Road, Cheddington, and is within easy reach of both churches.



## **Appendix 1 – The Cottesloe team**

Team Rector: Stewkley, Soulbury, Aston Abbots and Cublington (Revd Philip Derbyshire)

Team Vicar: Wing with Grove and Wingrave with Rowsham (Revd Helen Barnes)

Team Vicar: (house-for-duty) Cheddington with Mentmore

L.L.M. in the Team (Dr Annie Cooper)

Covers eight villages and three hamlets bordering St Albans Diocese to the east.

Founded six years ago to help with some pastoral issues and enable mutual support for clergy. Built on historic links between various 'Clusters' within the Team area.

We share two Team Eucharists per annum, the Team Council (Benefice Clergy, plus L.L.M. and all the Churchwardens) meet three times per year.

In the first two years of our existence, we held four Team Days which were well received, it is possibly time to meet Benefice wide and look at Bishop Steven's vision for the next period (2018 – 2025).

## **Appendix 2 – Mursley Deanery**

The vision: to support a caring, sustainable and growing Christian presence in every part of our Deanery.

Mursley Deanery covers a large, predominantly rural, area in North Buckinghamshire. It is on the edge of the Oxford Diocese, bordering St Albans.

Milton Keynes lies just to the north, Aylesbury to the south west, and Leighton Buzzard to the east. The Deanery faces the prospect of significant housing development: in the south this has already begun at Pitstone in Ivinghoe parish and Milton Keynes is assessing options for further development, which include a possible 15,000 new homes between Newton Longville and Bletchley (MK). There is new housing in Wing, new housing is planned for Stewkley, more housing for Cheddington is planned.

There are twenty-one churches in the Deanery (Pitstone is closed), grouped into four benefices.

As well as five stipendiary clergy, there is one House for Duty priest, four with permission to officiate, and five licensed lay ministers. In some of our parishes people have come forward for authorisation to preach and lead worship, and to lead Communion services by extension. A deanery vocations advisor is available to enable people in the Deanery to explore vocations to ordained or lay ministry.

We encourage every worshipping community to have a ministry team, led by an ordained or lay person, and enabled and supported by a priest. We aim to work more effectively ecumenically, and to develop cross-denominational initiatives, predominately with the Methodist Church. Our parishes are overtly collaborative and mutually supportive, and we intend to further develop this.

The clergy chapter meets eight times per annum and includes LLMs and PTOs as appropriate, fostering fellowship and mutual support.

All the congregations welcome the ministry of women.

The Deanery Synod meets four times a year. The diocese has devolved considerable responsibility to deaneries to deliver the diocesan strategy, and to shape their life and witness in locally appropriate ways. We believe we have the enthusiasm and energy to meet future challenges.

We are currently working on a Deanery MAP.

## Appendix 3 – 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 (over 800 churches) serving a diverse population of more than two million, living in varied environments.

In 2016, we welcomed the Rt Revd Steven Croft as our new diocesan bishop. Formerly, he had been the bishop of Sheffield. The diocese, because of its size and complexity, has three area bishops who have considerable autonomy for their Episcopal areas. The Bishop of Buckingham is the Rt Revd Alan Wilson who has been the Area Bishop since 2003.

With appointment of the Rt Revd Steven Croft as Bishop of Oxford, a new common vision is emerging for the Diocese.

The vision addresses what kind of church we are called to be – ‘a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God’s world’.

What are the marks of a Christlike Church? To be the Church of the Beatitudes:

- Contemplative
- Compassionate
- Courageous

It also asks what we are therefore called to do together. This is currently a work in progress, but is likely to cover the following strategic priorities:

- To make a bigger difference in the world and serve the poor.
- To share our faith with adults, children and young people and grow the church in every place; rural, urban and suburban.
- To plant new churches and congregations everywhere we can.
- To serve every school in our community
- To put the discipleship of all at the heart of our common life and set God’s people free
- To celebrate and bless our largest, fastest growing city Milton Keynes

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

We expect that all clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will commit themselves to the Diocesan vision and its strategic directions.