Application pack for the post of Rector

The United Parish of Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant and Crowell

Application closing date: 1st October 2019
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Foreword by the Bishop of Dorchester

5th September 2019

Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant and Crowell are a fascinating parish with communities varying from small villages and hamlets to the much larger, and rapidly expanding, village of Chinnor itself.

In the smaller villages church life tends to have its own rhythms and whoever becomes the next Rector will need to be someone who can listen carefully and come to enjoy their rich diversity.

Chinnor, on the other hand, experiences that rich diversity within itself. The new housing areas, the older centre, and other estates built since the War all form a rich tapestry. Whilst the PCC longs for numbers in the regular congregations to be larger, the links across the Parish, whether through the schools, activities for Primary Aged Children and the Under 5’s, Residential Homes, the Village Centre and many other groups, are very impressive indeed.

The Ministry Team is full of life and they, and the PCC and wider congregation, are looking for an able leader, of whatever style, who can provide vision, energy and spiritual insight into the way ahead.

My sense is that this post, particularly as historically it has been a training post with curates very much part of the Team, would ideally suit someone with incumbency experience (or its equivalent).

Having said that it will, I think, be more important that they can demonstrate the qualities which we all need to be a Christ-Like Church for the sake of God’s World – Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous.

I see no reason why these churches should not grow both in depth and in numbers over the coming years and I do hope that, if you can see yourself in this role, that you will feel free to give me a ring to discuss it further (01865 208218).

It would be great to have you serving here.
Introduction from the Area Dean and Lay Chair of the Deanery of Aston and Cuddesdon

We are delighted that you are exploring the possibility of coming to minister here. We are one of the larger deaneries in the Diocese of Oxford with more than 50 churches, including the beautiful Dorchester Abbey. The Deanery is essentially rural, but wraps around the north-east, east and south of Oxford.

Deanery chapter and synod are well attended and the Chapter in particular has a strong sense of fellowship with a lot of mutual support.

As well as this, we offer a wonderful location. Transport links are excellent with the M40 and A34 both in close reach. Thame and Haddenham Parkway station offers regular train services to London less than an hour away. Considerably cheaper, the Oxford Tube from Thornhill Park and ride offers a quick bus service to the Capital, or this can be caught just down the road at Lewknor. Oxford itself of course is half an hour away with all the cultural, educational, social and architectural richness for which it is famous.

With such good road and rail links and a major cultural city on the doorstep this is nonetheless a very beautiful part of the country in which to live. It stretches from the foot of the Chilterns to the higher land to the East of Oxford.

We do hope you will take an interest in the parishes of Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant and Crowell. This would be a rewarding post for someone who is looking for variety in ministry, working with a team to serve the large village of Chinnor together with the three small villages.

Rvd Simon Cronk
Area Dean

Simon Richards
Lay Chair
The Mission of the United Parish:

To proclaim the Gospel and to play our part in the growth of the living Christian presence in the community at large.
Who we are seeking – in brief:

We are looking for a Rector who will lead and guide our United Parish, including its rapidly expanding constituent communities, with enthusiasm for the challenges this brings thus ensuring a vibrant and hope filled future for the United Parish and its four churches.

Our churches comprise St Andrew’s, Chinnor (by far the largest), St Mary’s, Sydenham, St Peter & St Paul, Aston Rowant and The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Crowell (see further information on each church later). The new Rector will be enthusiastically welcomed and supported.

The successful applicant will be:

• A person of prayer.
• A ‘people’ person.
• Value flexibility and diversity without fearing it.
• Promote development of Spiritual Life for all in the expanding community.
• Communicate the joy and vitality of worship and encourage participation.
• Promote, encourage and expand the Church’s work in the community, especially with the young.
• Reach out to the non-church goers in the community to welcome them in and walk alongside them.

Are you that person? We would love to hear from you. See page 30 for further information and how to apply. Now read on about our communities…
WHERE WE ARE: to help you get your bearings
Our Location

• Chinnor and the four churches are located at the foot of the picturesque Chiltern Hills, straddling Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (great walking country). The parish is within easy reach of the bustling, history rich market town of Thame as well as Princes Risborough, High Wycombe & Aylesbury. Oxford is only 17 miles away & the M40 less than 4 miles offering easy access to London & Birmingham.

• The nearest train service is from Princes Risborough with good services to London, Oxford & Birmingham.

• Bus services are available to Princes Risborough, Thame, High Wycombe & Aylesbury & then onto other destinations.

• The Oxford Tube Link provides a regular coach service from M40, J6 - Lewknor to London & Oxford.

• The Airline Bus service offers 24 hour service from Lewknor to both Heathrow & Gatwick Airports.
Introduction to the United Parish.

- The combined population of the United Parish is circa 8,000 with Chinnor being the largest village with circa 7,000 people.
- The population mix is varied with many families - however the number of retirees moving into the area is on the increase. There are some long standing families but many residents are incomers from countrywide.
- Schools –See pages 10 and 11 for further information on our schools.
- There are two doctors surgeries in Chinnor and four local hospitals – Stoke Mandeville, High Wycombe whilst in Oxford there are the John Radcliffe and Churchill hospitals.
- We have contact with about 50 residents (children, parents and the elderly) outside of regular Church Services.
- Employment is available locally including in Thame. Many residents commute to London, Oxford and Aylesbury.
- All the villages are popular places to live which is reflected in house prices.
- The Electoral Roll is currently 116 people, with attendance at Sunday services across the four churches of about 100.
- We have many visitors to the churches and grounds and run an active and vibrant mission outreach programme, see page 25.
- Long history of being a training parish and would hope to continue with this (currant curate licensed until 2021).
- St Andrew’s and St Mary’s have choirs led by enthusiastic leaders. These choirs combine and are joined by ‘friends of the choirs’ to produce excellent concerts and special services.
About our Schools

We have significant contact with our local schools; it is an important part of our ministry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Ministry Team Involvement</th>
<th>Web link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinnor</td>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>St. Andrews C of E</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td><a href="https://www.st-andrews.oxon.sch.uk/">https://www.st-andrews.oxon.sch.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Mill Lane</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><a href="https://www.mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk/">https://www.mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>Windmill Nursery</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><a href="https://www.windmillnurserychinnor.co.uk/">https://www.windmillnurserychinnor.co.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Jack &amp; Jill</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><a href="https://www.jackandjillchinnor.co.uk/">https://www.jackandjillchinnor.co.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Ladybird</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ladybirdpreschoolchinnor.co.uk/">http://www.ladybirdpreschoolchinnor.co.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aston Rowant</td>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>Aston Rowant C of E</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td><a href="https://www.aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk/">https://www.aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thame</td>
<td>Secondary School</td>
<td>Lord William</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><a href="https://www.lordwilliams.oxon.sch.uk/">https://www.lordwilliams.oxon.sch.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watlington</td>
<td>Secondary School</td>
<td>Ickneild Community College</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ickneild.oxon.sch.uk/">https://www.ickneild.oxon.sch.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A number of grammar and independent schools are accessible from Chinnor; please visit [https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/](https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/) for more information.
Ministry Team involvement with local schools

St Andrews C of E & Aston Rowant C of E

- ‘Open The Book’ assemblies every week.
- Regular visits from the REInspired Team and Prayer Spaces every year. (Each team is ecumenical).
- Successful Posada through Advent.
- Younger Children from St Andrew’s had their 3rd pilgrimage around the churches in the summer, led by Bishop Colin.
- The JAM (Jesus And Me) Club functions approximately every fortnight at St. Andrew’s, the children are encouraged to discuss theological and philosophical themes.
- Special Services mark Easter, Christmas, Harvest throughout the year for both schools at which parents are invited.
- St Andrew’s held a Christingle Service in Church with over 300 children and staff alongside the Christmas Tree Festival Trees.
- Chooesday Church focuses on children under 8 and their parents and carers although everyone is welcome. A cross between Sunday School for the children and Café church for adults.
- StArBoddlers group (St Andrew’s Babies and Toddlers) attracts many mums, dads, grandparents and carers with their little ones.
- The Rector is an ex-officio Governor at St Andrew’s School.
About our communities and churches:

Chinnor
Sydenham
Aston Rowant
Crowell

Please read on….
Chinnor: About St Andrew’s Church and our community – OX39 4PG

St Andrew’s Church dates from the 12th Century and is built of stone and flint with a Bell Tower. The Rood screen, which sits between the Chancel and the Nave, is one of the oldest. The Church is home to the 16 paintings of Sir John Thornhill’s ‘Cartoons’ for the Great Rose Window in the North Transept of Westminster Abbey. There is a Church Office/Vestry and a choir vestry. There is also the support of an administrator. Facilities include a toilet and servery. The Nave can seat up to 200. The church is in the process of raising funds for the quinquennial repairs which include addressing historical issues with the Bell Tower and reordering of the Church Interior. This is being organised by an enthusiastic team working with Architects and Surveyors. The Churchyard is open for burials and strewing of ashes. It has been awarded an Eco Church Bronze Award.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH SERVICES

• StArBuddlers (Baby and Toddler) and Chooseday Church (under 8’s, family and siblings).
• Monthly popular family service involving all ages.

OTHER CHURCH EVENTS

• Services are centred on the Eucharist with traditional hymns with Choir and Organist.
• Flower, Harvest, Christmas Tree Festivals.
• Royal British Legion Parade and Remembrance Service.
• Chinnor Churches go Wild.
• Lent & Pilgrim Courses.
• Active bellringing team, church choir and St Andrew’s flower guild.
• Regular classical concerts.
• A variety of services take place throughout the week with an average Sunday congregation of 65. See list of all services on page 24.

continued on next page...
CHINNOR: A bit about our Community

About the village:

• A friendly busy village with a diverse community.

• Five new housing estates are being built with one completed at the present time. Total additional number of new houses on completion: 948.

• Population at present is approximately 7,000.

• The Church Parish Magazine is published monthly with a circulation of about 240.

• There is a vibrant heritage Steam Railway.

• There are two other Churches in Chinnor. The Methodist Church and Chinnor Community Church. There is a Catholic Church in Thame. We have good working relationships with all.

• A tremendous asset is the Village Centre. Built 26 years ago at the instigation of members from St Andrew’s Church, the centre provides facilities for all age groups and day care for the elderly. Its coffee shop benefits the whole village. A minibus provides transport for the elderly and disabled to attend various functions at the Village Centre or Church Hall and Thame Market. The village centre is now an independent charitable organisation.

continued on next page...
CHINNOR: A bit about our Community cont.

AMENITIES
• There is a wide selection of other halls available for hire which accommodate various sports and exercise and social activities.
• A good selection of shops including a full working post office, butcher, bakery, newsagent, charity shop and supermarkets. There are also: Doctor’s surgeries, solicitors, opticians, chemist, library, three public houses serving food, hairdressers, barbers and two restaurants and a petrol station.

CHURCH HALL
• Luncheon Club for the elderly is provided fortnightly and attended by the Clergy in rotation.
• Guides, Brownies and Rainbows meet weekly.
• Mother’s Union meets on the second Wednesday of the month.
• Used by many other community groups.

CARE HOME
• Monthly Communion Services are held at Hempton Field Care Home within the village and additional services throughout the year are shared amongst the ministry team.

VILLAGE PRAYERS
• A group of volunteers and clergy take a different area of the village each month to ask the residents if they would like to share any personal concerns and have any prayers said for them.

CHARITIES
• An active Christian Aid Committee, with representatives from all the churches in the village, Inter-church United services. The Mission Group plan Lent and emergency appeals. Actively supporting the Children’s Society and ‘The Steppin Stone’ Centre for the Oxford homeless.
Chinnor - in pictures
SYDENHAM: About St Mary’s Church and our community - OX39 4LY

St Mary’s Church
An historic and peaceful 13th Century simple flint and stone building with a clay tiled roof and charming spire & clock

Services – see schedule plus:
• Bi – monthly, warden led Songs of Praise. Themes include Children and their pets, cricket club and celebration of past weddings and baptisms. These attract larger numbers as do our seasonal services.
• St Mary’s has an excellent Choir led by an enthusiastic leader with one or two lively concerts each year in addition to Easter and Christmas.
• A small regular group of around a dozen who enjoy BCP services with numbers that increase for special services, reaching 100 for seasonal services.

About the Village
• Population: An interactive mix of some 300 comprising longer term residents as well as young families.
• A former primary school hall ideal for church and Parish meetings and other gatherings, known as the Old School Room (OSR).
• Two friendly pubs – The Crown and The Inn at Emmington with 7 en-suite bedrooms.
• An active WI which organises a monthly communal coffee morning in the OSR.
• Sydenham Cricket Club appealing to all ages.
• A book club which meets 3 or 4 times annually.
• A monthly Newsletter is published updating residents on Church Services, Parish news, Diary dates, comings & goings and reports on parish events.
• Popular annual Sydenham Village Fayre and flower festival raising funds for local charities and causes.
• Playing fields – swings, climbing frames and open space.
Sydenham - in pictures
ASTON ROWANT: About St Peter & St Paul Church and our community - OX49 5SS

St Peter & St Paul Church
The original church dates from early in the 11th century & has been added to & improved since this time.

- The latest improvements include an annexe containing a kitchen / wc & the removal of pews in the north aisle to create a spacious communal area with table and chairs.
- There is a modern sound system.
- An active group of bell ringers who practice weekly & ring every Sunday.
- Popular family services.
- We are currently raising funds for repairs following the last Quinquennial Inspection.
- Average Sunday congregation 24.

About the Village
- Aston Rowant & Kingston Blount form the parish of Aston Rowant & have a population of 793.
- Village school – see School section, pages 10 and 11.
- Kingston Blount has a modern village hall & a popular & well used playing field.
- Cricket club – highly regarded.
Aston Rowant in pictures
THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, CROWELL

The B.V.M. is the smallest church in the United Parish and has the smallest congregation with an average attendance of 12. As a result, there is considerable flexibility in worship patterns. Some pre-Reformation features remain but it was rebuilt in flint and stone in 1878/80. It seats 60. There is a small working organ. There is a car park. The fabric of the church requires work on the bell-cote at present and new central heating is in the process of being installed.

- Evening Prayer (BCP) is held on the first Sunday of the month.
- Eucharist (occasionally with incense) is held on the second Sunday of the month and the Chinnor Choir sing The Byrd Three-Part Mass.
- Soul Space, half an hour of quiet reflection on the first and third Saturdays of each month.
- Alternative Mothering Sunday Service (for those who have lost babies, mothers or been unable to become a mother).
- Stations of the Resurrection.
- Harvest Festival.
- Nine Lessons & Carols.

OTHER EVENTS

- Art & Soul – a two-day summer event where artists, lace-makers, florists, quilters, knitters spend time displaying their talents to visitors. This is followed by Saturday Soul Space or an evening Sunday service.

About our village

- The ancient parish of Crowell lies across the B4009 between Chinnor and Kingston Blount and is predominately agricultural.
- The main street has a ribbon of older cottages, a public house and the local undertakers. It has a population of c100.
- A spring line settlement whose name is derived from Old English for ‘Crow’s Spring’ or Crow’s Stream.
Crowell - in pictures
Meet the Ministry Team:

The Rev’d Dr Jacky Barr
Third Year Curate
Rotates through parishes.

The Rev’d Dr Brian Griffiths
(Retired)
Aston Rowant

The Rev’d Des Foote
(Retired)
Aston Rowant

The Rev’d Joan DeVal
(Retired)
Sydenham

Margaret Poole
LLM
Chinnor

To provide consistency the Ministry Team focus on a specific parish, whilst occasional visits provides variety.
## Schedule of Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Sunday</th>
<th>2nd Sunday</th>
<th>3rd Sunday</th>
<th>4th Sunday</th>
<th>5th Sunday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHINNOR</strong></td>
<td>8.00 am Eucharist (Said,CW)</td>
<td>8.00 am Eucharist (Said,CW)</td>
<td>8.00 am Eucharist (Said,CW)</td>
<td>8.00 am Eucharist (Said,CW)</td>
<td>8.00 am Eucharist (Said,CW)</td>
<td>10.00 am United Parish Eucharist NOTE: Rotates around the Parish Churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.00 am Eucharist (Sung,CW)</td>
<td>10.00 am Family Service</td>
<td>6.00 pm Taizé (No Sermon)</td>
<td>10.00 am Eucharist (Sung,CW)</td>
<td>10.00 am Tea’n’Toast Bread’n’wine</td>
<td>6.00 pm Evensong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SYDENHAM</strong></td>
<td>10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)</td>
<td>6.00 pm Evensong (BCP)</td>
<td>10.00 am Matins or Songs of Praise (Churchwardens)</td>
<td>10.00 am Eucharist (Said,CW)</td>
<td>10.00 am Eucharist (Said,CW)</td>
<td>9.00 am Morning Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASTON ROWANT</strong></td>
<td>10.00 am Family Service</td>
<td>10.00 am Holy Communion</td>
<td>10.00 am Service of the Word</td>
<td>10.00 am Holy Communion</td>
<td>10.00 am Holy Communion</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Saturday 5.30 pm Soul Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CROWELL</strong></td>
<td>6.00 pm Evening Prayer</td>
<td>10.00 am Eucharist</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weddings</th>
<th>Baptism</th>
<th>Confirmation</th>
<th>Burial</th>
<th>Interment of ashes</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Chinnor</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aston Rowant</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sydenham</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowell</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Ministry Team share the responsibility for these services.
Mission Outreach - connecting with the local community

The Ministry Team, along with many volunteers, are very enthusiastic in taking the Church out to the community and is a dynamic part of spreading the Word and ‘feel good factor’ about the United Parish. We are always looking at ways to engage and encourage new ideas.

• Visits to Hempton Field Care Home alongside ongoing pastoral visits to the sick, recently bereaved or housebound including monthly Holy Communion visits.
• Christmas Tree Festival involving local groups, as well as a Flower & Harvest festivals, popular Christmas Fayres, tower tours & cream teas.
• Annual Grave Talk sessions.
• Village Prayer Schemes – each month praying for a different road in Chinnor and asking for personal prayer requests.
• Children’s Churches for both the under 5’s and primary school ages – free and open to all.
• We have an open Baptism policy.
• Luncheon Club – fortnightly lunch provided for the elderly throughout Chinnor, inspired with clergy rotational attendance.

Ecumenical Activities

• ‘Christians Together in Chinnor’ - working alongside the Methodist & Chinnor Community Churches to make Christianity visible in the community.
• Leadership role in the ‘Chinnor Churches go Wild’ ecology conservation group; organising wild life surveys, bird surveys, keeping areas in our churchyards wild, with strong links with A Rocha and Chiltern Conservation Trust.
• Regular visits to the two C of E primary schools: Open Book Assemblies, REInspired Sessions, and Prayer Space Initiatives.
• Joint services with the Methodist and Chinnor Community Church for Christian Aid, the Summer Marquee & Remembrance Day.
The Chinnor Rectory was built in 2018 and is in the heart of Chinnor. It is purpose built with an office and study, kitchen-diner, sitting room, four bedrooms, bath and shower rooms. The garden at the front has a double garage and there is a private rear garden.
United Parish Finances

• We have always met our Parish Share, but now have two major financial challenges:
  ➢ Balancing income and expenditure.
  ➢ Paying for restoration and maintenance of the fabric and facilities for each of the four churches.

• To increase income, the Fundraising Committee has organised several fundraising activities.

• Looking for leadership in increasing Stewardship giving.

• Investigating ways of providing easier ways of donating.

• To pay for work on the Church buildings the Fundraising Committee manages appeals and holds events. In addition the committee is applying for grants from trusts and other relevant organisations.

• Please see the attached accounts.
So, are you our ideal person…?

What gifts, skills and qualities are we seeking?

• A Rector who can provide vision, energy and spiritual insight into the way ahead.
• Who is prepared to understand the needs of the enlarging community.
• An enthusiastic down to earth team person, honest and realistic.
• Someone able to work in a mixed Parish of four individual churches.
• An enthusiastic Priest able to involve non church goers and all age groups.

What we are looking for:

• Someone with a firm experience of Pastoral needs, comfortable with both Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer.
• Full of enthusiasm, energy and an optimistic vision.
• Informed, sympathetic and welcoming towards other denominations.
• A good listener and communicator able to lead and support the dedicated ministry team.
• Ability to maintain and further develop the relationship built with local schools.
• Encourage the involvement of lay people and their talents and help them discern their vocations.
• Acknowledge the value and diversity of the four churches with their combination of rural and urban characteristics.

…. are we right for you?
We will support you with:

• An openness and willingness to work with the new Rector to develop and grow the parish - to deepen the spirituality of the congregation, to secure its finances and be a beacon of Christian hope and love in the wider community.
• Our existing ministry team are committed to the Parish and will do all they can to support the new Rector.
• We have strong links with our primary schools, teams of lay people and clergy visit the schools every week.
• Our ministry for young children is growing and we passionately want that to continue and be developed.
• Committed Churchwardens and PCC that want the Parish to flourish by looking to the future.
• An energetic fund raising group of lay members of the congregation - newly formed and very successful.
• A paid administrator will support your work.

And should you be bringing a family with you:

• We have a lovely new Rectory for you.
• We have excellent local Pre-school and Primary Schools and many Secondary School options.
• Our Parish has excellent transport links to the surrounding area and beyond.
• Our villages are very friendly and have many clubs and societies running for everyone in the family.
• The Chiltern countryside provides a picturesque landscape and many walking options.
How to apply:

Please send your application to:
The Bishop of Dorchester,
Church House,
Langford Locks,
Kidlington,
OX5 1GF
Telephone: 01865 208200

Application closing date: 1st October 2019

Interviews: 21st October 2019