

The Parish of Cheddington with Mentmore



*Parish Profile
August 2018*

The post

We are looking for a house-for-duty priest to work Sunday plus two days a week, focussing ministry on the parish of Cheddington with Mentmore, with opportunities to minister across the Cottesloe Team (see Appendix 1).

We are committed to respecting the time constraints of the house-for-duty post but expect the appointee to respond with reasonable flexibility.

Who we are

We are:

- a parish of two villages, each with its own church: one larger diverse community, and one smaller
- a diverse parish with varied worship patterns. We wish to continue this flexibility, and we are open to new ideas and suggestions
- an active parish, sharing responsibility and mutually supportive
- blessed with many people (an authorised lay preacher, readers, intercessors, musicians, group leaders etc.) who help and support a variety of weekday activities, and take part in worship
- a member of the Cottesloe Team formed in 2012 (see Appendix 1).

We have:

- an active ministry team including pastoral care
- good ecumenical co-operation.

We aim to:

- establish ourselves at the heart of village community life
- be a nurturing and growing church serving the needs of all ages in the community.

We are looking for someone who will:

- Prayerfully minister the love of God and the Good News of Jesus to the people of Cheddington and Mentmore, and nurture and grow our Church community
- feel comfortable with various forms of worship, encompassing Common Worship, the Book of Common Prayer, a Family Service, Morning Worship, and Messy Church, with opportunities to develop and explore different worship styles
- support and nurture 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.
- maintain the close ecumenical relationship with the Cheddington Methodist chapel.
- encourage the family service, building on existing work
- continue to bring our church into the centre of village life
- share strengths and talents with the Cottesloe Team and lead us through the formulation of our new MAP.

More widely, this person should:

- enjoy entering the villages' social life and activities
- promote the interests of the Church by engaging with the community in various ways.

The Parish

The parish consists of two villages: Cheddington, Mentmore, and Ledburn hamlet.

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

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.



St Giles is a 12th – 15th century church with a grade 2-star listing, situated on the outskirts of Cheddington. We are currently raising funds for restoration work. Its finest feature is its magnificent 17th century pulpit whence, it is claimed, no one can preach a bad sermon. A kitchen and disabled toilet were added in 1993.

Further information about the village is available from 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 life, a small village hall, and an active parish council.

St Mary the Virgin is a 14/15th Century grade-2 listed building within the village.



Ledburn is a hamlet 1½ miles to the northwest.

Church life

Worship

Usually, we expect a weekly congregation at St Giles of up to 25 for the Eucharist Service, and up to 35 at a Family Service, (includes 6 Baptisms for 2017). Main festivals still have a wide appeal, with attendances exceeding 100 on occasions. Each Thursday, we hold a mid-week Eucharist with up to 14 people attending: this is a valued service.



St Mary's has a congregation of up to 10 people who worship regularly. Occasionally baptisms, funerals and weddings are held. While not attending church on a regular basis, several villagers financially support and value the church.

At present, St Giles Cheddington has a choir only for main festival services.

Each church has a bell-ringing team.

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

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The current worship pattern is as follows:

Monthly:

1st Sunday:	09.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)	St Giles
2nd Sunday:	09.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Giles
	10.30 am	Family Service	St Giles
3rd Sunday	09.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)	St Giles
4th Sunday:	10.30 am	Morning Worship	St Giles
5th Sunday:	10.30am	Combined Communion (CW)	Methodist Chapel
Monthly	3.30pm	Messy Church, held at the Methodist chapel as arranged.	

Weekly:

Thursday:	9.15am	Parish Communion (CW)	St Giles
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Occasional Offices in 2017

	Baptisms	Funerals	Weddings	Electoral Roll	Civil Population
Cheddington	6	5	4	58	1852
Mentmore	1	0	0	11	370

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 vice chair.

Nurture groups

Bible study and prayer groups are areas we wish to develop further, as we believe they are important for all. We hold weekly prayer groups on Monday mornings and Thursday evenings; 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 congregations often provide leadership for these groups.



Ecumenical links

The Churches Together Group drawn from St Giles, and the 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.

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

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 ideal for a family. It stands close to the village centre in Mentmore Road, Cheddington, and is within easy reach of both churches.



General information

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

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.

Housing

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 affordablehousing scheme for local people. More will be built in the future.

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 15minutes' drive from the Parish. The larger centres, Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, 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.

Appendix 1

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, three 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

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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 Christlike Church’.

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.

Alongside the emerging diocesan vision, the priorities and principles for the Buckingham Archdeaconry are set out in our Buckingham Mission Action Plan (see <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Bucks-ArchdeaconryPlan-0515.pdf>)

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