



The Lambourn Valley Benefice Profile 2019

**Newbury
Deanery**



 **DIOCESE OF OXFORD**
Serving Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

<https://lambourn-valley-benefice.website/>

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Foreword

from the Archdeacon of

Berkshire

If you have a vision for what rural ministry could be in the 21st century, the Lambourn Valley Benefice would be a great place to explore it, with strong local commitment and well developed lay responsibility for many aspects of the day to day running of the churches.

These parishes have all shown that they have no intention of accepting a narrative of decline. The churches are beautifully cared for, and two of them have good modern facilities. The regular congregations, while not large, are committed to their faith and their local church, and at festivals the churches are packed out, demonstrating the size of the 'fringe'.

A particularly interesting and important challenge in this area, with its economy heavily centred around the racing industry, is that of reaching out to the large number of young adults living far from home as workers in the stable yards.

The previous incumbent did much to bring the parishes together in a sense of common mission, and there is more to do. You will find here Christians who are intellectually curious and willing to be challenged, hospitable and enthusiastic, willing to try new things. You will find a healthy musical tradition, a primary school which already has a good relationship with the Church, and a wealth of community engagement activity.

A retired priest (the Ven Christine Allsopp) lives in Lambourn and will willingly offer ministry support to the new incumbent, and the churchwardens are a strong team who are used to working together.

If you would like an informal conversation about this post, I would be happy to be contacted.

Ven Olivia Graham

Archdeacon of Berkshire

archdber@oxford.anglican.org

The Diocese of Oxford and the Reading Episcopal Area

Foreword

from the Newbury Area Dean

Newbury Deanery covers over 150 square miles of the western part of West Berkshire. It includes the urban centres of Newbury and Thatcham, the market town of Hungerford and an extensive rural hinterland. The eleven benefices encompass 36 parishes ranging in population from over 25,000 to under 100, together with 42 church buildings, and one church which has no building of its own.

In our diverse Deanery we manage to maintain warm relationships between clergy colleagues, and generally try to add to the joys of ministry rather than its burdens, supporting each other through the challenges we face. We have been reviewing our Deanery plan to ensure that it reflects the ongoing challenges and opportunities which are shared across our parishes. These include an ageing population, not just in the church but also in the local community, the challenge of new housing developments, and the opportunities afforded by our many and diverse schools.

Lambourn sits in the corner of the Deanery, but in recent times has been actively involved in the work we do together. The Deanery is supporting first thoughts on how we serve the racing industry – which gives Lambourn a distinctive demographic and culture – not least because we also have Newbury Racecourse as a significant feature of Greenham parish. We hope that the Vicar who is appointed will see the Deanery as a source of support, encouragement, fellowship and prayer and will play an active part in fostering our mutual flourishing.

Mark Bennet, Area Dean Newbury

January 2019

The Diocese of Oxford

Together as a Diocese we are engaged on a journey towards a Common Vision of what it means to be a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world: contemplative, compassionate and courageous. Under the leadership of Bishop Steven, we are guided on this journey by dwelling in Matthew 5:1-11 (the Beatitudes) and also Colossians 1:15-20 and 3:12-17, to discern what we are called to do together.

Within Common Vision we are also seeking to understand where God wants us to focus our energies: we are exploring seven focus areas:

- To make a bigger difference in the world and serve the poor
- To share our faith and grow the church in every place
- 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
- To transform our work with children and young people

The diocese has committed significant additional funds to support our Common Vision. The first initiatives are underway, with projects to develop our work on discipleship, the environment, social action, schools and church planting. We are encouraging all parishes to participate: during 2019 a Development Fund will be launched to encourage missional creativity across the diocese.

Reading Episcopal Area

The Episcopal Area of Reading is the same as the Archdeaconry of Berkshire, and is made up of 79 benefices in 6 deaneries, with over 200 churches and nearly 150 licensed clergy. The Area Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Andrew Proud, is about to retire, and we are hoping that his successor will take up their ministry in the autumn. The Ven Olivia Graham is the Archdeacon.



Overview of the Benefice

- The Lambourn Valley -

The Benefice lies in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Beauty, close to the M4 between Newbury and Swindon and midway between Hungerford and Wantage. It covers the Civil Parishes of Lambourn (which includes Eastbury) and East Garston at the western end of West Berkshire unitary authority. It has a population of approximately 5,000.

The valley and surrounding hills have great beauty and a history going back more than 4000 years.



Lambourn is a strategic village with a weekly market, shops, doctors' surgery and library.

The Valley is the second largest centre for race horse training in the UK after Newmarket. Agriculture and supporting industries are also important.

This means that the villages are places of employment as well as residency and there are a significant number of young adults working in the racing yards and associated services. There are many small businesses operating from home offices but people also commute to Reading, Newbury, Swindon and further afield.



The valley therefore has contrasts of rich and poor and of all social strata.

There is a Church of England Primary School in Lambourn (recently made part of the Excalibur Academy) with increasingly good relations with the church. Some children from East Garston attend Chaddleworth St Andrew's and Shefford Church of England Federated Primary Schools.

Secondary schools are in Hungerford and Wantage and some children go to Newbury.

There is a two hourly bus service to Newbury and a service to Swindon which meets the bus from Newbury in Lambourn.

- The Benefice -

There have been informal links between the parishes for many years but a united Lambourn Valley Benefice was finally created during the last six years at the request of the parishes. Sound foundations for the future have been created.

There are three PCCs and regular meetings of wardens with the incumbent have dealt with service patterns and allocation of Parish Share; there is a recognition that some things are best done at a benefice level, e.g. safeguarding.

The three parishes are different in size and character (and there is a short section on each parish later in the document). There is a tradition of mutual interchange and assistance that can be built upon.

The churchmanship is central Anglican and the Eucharist forms the centre of worship at all three churches (chasubles worn). During the tenure of Revd Martin Cawte, congregations have become used to sermons bringing modern theological thinking to the valley. Occasional Taizé services are held at Eastbury and all age worship is being developed on a monthly basis at Lambourn. BCP Communion Services at Eastbury and Lambourn, also on a monthly basis, are highly valued by those attending. Benefice Communion services are held on a rotating basis on 5th Sundays and on each Church's Patronal Festival and a roughly monthly Choral Evensong also rotates around the churches. Eastbury and Lambourn use BBC Songs of Praise while East Garston uses the New English Hymnal and music plays an important role in the life of the churches. Usual Sunday Attendance across the three Parishes is about 75. There is good cooperation with the other worshipping communities in the Valley.

Although we do not have a dedicated parish administrator, there is a strong tradition of lay administration of most things that do not require a priest (for instance lay leadership of: completion of registers, Statistics for Mission, DAC matters, liaison with the architect, management of restoration and re-ordering projects, choosing the hymns, intercessor and reader rotas). There is a Pastoral Care Team in Lambourn. Pastoral care occurs on a more informal basis in the other parishes because of size of population.

Village Views magazine which is edited and distributed by volunteers in all three parishes is the main source of information for everybody in the valley and is the voice of all the denominations and the parishes. The Benefice also has a website (<https://lambourn-valley-benefice.website/>) and a weekly information sheet, Valley Welcome, which contains notices of importance to the life of the church and includes the collects and readings set for each Sunday.

Our Mission

We strive to engage with God in worship, to be equipped to partner with Him, to be God's people in the Lambourn Valley proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and living out God's love and compassion for all

Our Aspirations

To deliver the mission we aspire for our Benefice to be a beacon of contemplative, compassionate, courageous and Christlike behaviour

In worship:

- *to be inclusive and be places of welcome*
- *while valuing tradition, to be willing also to innovate and explore new ways of doing church*
- *to nurture existing congregations and inspire so as to equip the laity for service*
- *to grow in numbers and be so energised in our faith that financial concerns become secondary to the joy of a worshipping community*

In the community:

- *to be God's people in the Lambourn Valley - positioning the church at the heart of village life*
- *to provide places and activities to engage with young people*
- *to show an understanding of and engage with the challenges and rewards of life in rural areas and in particular the racing industry (to demonstrate the vibrancy of the rural church)*
- *to expand our engagement with our brothers and sisters from other Christian traditions and where possible join in worship and practical action*

In outreach - to proclaim the good news:

- *by reaching out to the young and families*
- *by valuing the growing older population including those who can no longer attend church*
- *by being a place of support for those in the racing industry facing dislocation and loneliness*

In demonstrating God's love and compassion:

- *to develop our pastoral ministry*
- *for our church fellowship to be a place of mutual love and acceptance, sharing each other's joys and carrying one another's burdens*

Our Challenges and Opportunities

Outreach:

- *West Berkshire has a particular demographic profile with the birth rate having peaked and a growing older population - the elderly in our community will need love and support*
- *Lambourn has a number of young people as well as those of different ethnic origins working in the racing and farming industry. Developing better links and ministry to those involved with the racing industry and partnering with existing lay organisations is a big opportunity*
- *Reaching out to young professional families and those more socially challenged and building on existing links with the toddler group, school and baptisms*

Benefice Development:

- *Growing the sense of Christian community across the benefice – developing a sense of belonging across the church boundaries*

Resources:

- *All three churches find it difficult to find people to fill key roles, e.g. churchwardens, treasurers, PCC*
- *We need someone to work with us to think through options for future structures*

Finance and Stewardship:

- *Although currently solvent, all three churches face difficulties in remaining that way and balancing income with expenditure. East Garston in particular faces a financial challenge in the care of its fabric – fund raising capability needs an innovative boost*

Your Role

In order to meet our aspirations and in the context of our challenges, we need you to:

- *help us to attract young families to regular worship and to become the next generation of leaders for the church to survive in the Benefice*
- *help people to recognise the presence of God amongst us*
- *be visible in all three parishes*
- *develop our interaction with the racing and farming industries*
- *work alongside pockets of deprivation and socially challenged families*
- *help us deepen our faith*
- *support the ageing demographic*

Your Qualities

In worship and prayer:

- *possess a strong Christian faith rooted in deep prayer life and the ability to communicate it*
- *conduct a central Anglican ministry relevant to 21st Century life yet acknowledging the place of tradition*
- *be able to lead, inspire and nurture the congregations in their journey of faith*
- *be able to preach in a variety of styles and formats depending on age, outlook and understanding*
- *possess leadership and management skills to engage collaboratively with the laity to develop a shared leadership*
- *value our heritage whilst helping us to innovate where necessary*

In the community:

- *be able to reach out to young and old, rich and poor*
- *be willing to engage in the wider community life of the three villages*
- *be willing to live among us, laugh with us and share the lives and concerns of our families and individuals*
- *be approachable, empathetic, caring, inclusive and tolerant*

In outreach:

- *be able to identify opportunities for mission and find ways to exploit them*

In demonstrating God's love and compassion:

- *be rooted in pastoral care*
- *have an ecumenical outlook and be able to work with other Christian traditions in the Lambourn Valley*
- *be able to forge networks with adjacent benefices and priests for personal support and wider benefits and be an active member of the Deanery Chapter*

Your Qualifications

Ordained priest within the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, or a Church whose orders it recognises

Have satisfactorily completed Initial Ministerial Education

Have a willingness to engage in further training

Possess reasonable IT skills

Hold a valid Driving Licence

Our Commitment

We will support you with prayer, friendship and a shared commitment to meeting challenges ahead

We will support you in developing a sustainable pattern of ministry which will include personal refreshment, retreats and holidays

We will meet your expenses and support your ministerial development

Support from Patrons

The patronage is two thirds the Bishop of Oxford and one third the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Oxford. In addition to support from the Diocese, Christ Church is in the happy position of being able to support the incumbents of its ninety livings through the revenues of the Dr South Trust, which is able to assist with grants for study, administration and holidays, as well as offering a biennial conference and loans for the purchase of a car

What we do well:

At a Benefice workshop to develop the Profile the following were identified:

In worship and prayer:

- *Special services - Mothering Sunday, Harvest, All Souls, Remembrance, Patronal Festivals, Injured Jockey Fund Carol Service*
- *A range of different styles of worship - 1662 BCP, Common Worship, Taizé, developing all age worship*
- *Music - extremely talented organist/director of music and assistant director - choral music at the heart of worship and special events*
- *Bell ringing*
- *Small study groups - across the Benefice - mostly at particular times of year*
- *Weekly prayer in church*

In community and outreach:

- *Good at special events and fundraisers - East Garston Safari suppers, Lambourn Exhibition and Christmas Fair, Eastbury fundraisers*
- *Engagement with village events - Garstonbury, Lambourn Carnival Week, Village Fetes, all three churches (and other Christian traditions) represented in Village Views*
- *Social care - Food bank (all three churches), Lambourn care group*
- *Toddler group - laying foundations for children's work*
- *Links with Lambourn school - clergy leading school assemblies, regular visits to church by F1 and F2, termly church services*
- *Events to draw in those on the fringe - Eastbury Coffee Pot Café and Saturday morning Discussion Group, Lambourn coffee mornings*

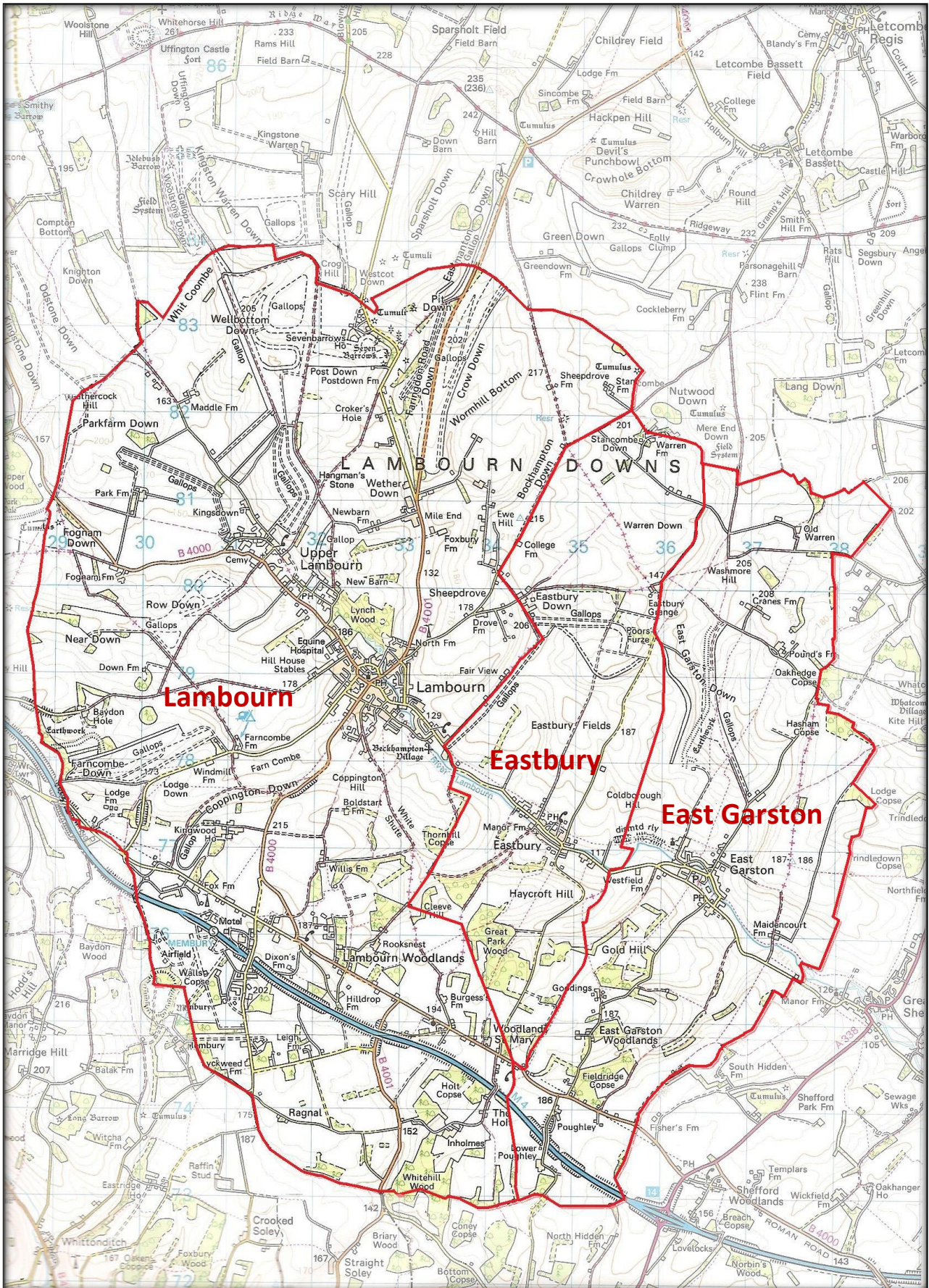
Church Fabric and Churchyards:

- *All well cared for and loved - clean, beautifully decorated with flowers, etc.*
- *Developed - serveries in Lambourn and Eastbury, removal of pews in Lambourn, pew heating in East Garston*
- *East Garston churchyard working parties*

Admin and Finance:

- *All three churches solvent, Parish Share regularly paid in full*
- *Developing sense of Christian community across the Benefice - Benefice PCC away days, Benefice website*
- *Extensive lay involvement in many aspects of administration - prayer and reading rotas, faculty applications and management, etc.*

The Benefice



The Benefice

- Villages -

Lambourn

Lambourn with a population of approximately 4,000 lies at the head of the Lambourn Valley and is the local centre and market town for the surrounding villages. The website www.lambourn.info/ has lots of information and pictures of the village and the surroundings. The parish consists of Lambourn, Lambourn Woodlands, Woodland St Mary and Upper Lambourn, about 16 square miles, and is the largest in the Benefice.

Eastbury

Eastbury is the smallest village with a population of some 250, a convenient size for most people to know each other. Occupations vary widely, with racing and farming still a significant element. The demographic profile has been changing over the last few years with an increased proportion of younger families now living here. An alms-house provides nine housing units (the incumbent is an ex-officio Trustee), and there is a thriving pub and an active Village Hall. A further charitable trust owns the village playing field and provides financial help to villagers with limited means.

Eastbury has a notably strong and friendly community spirit, with an active flood defence committee, regular river weed and silt clearance by groups of residents, a widely supported annual clean-up of the village and surrounding lanes and a formal community support system linking older residents with younger ones to ensure the safety and well-being of the former in the event of a local incident or emergency.

East Garston

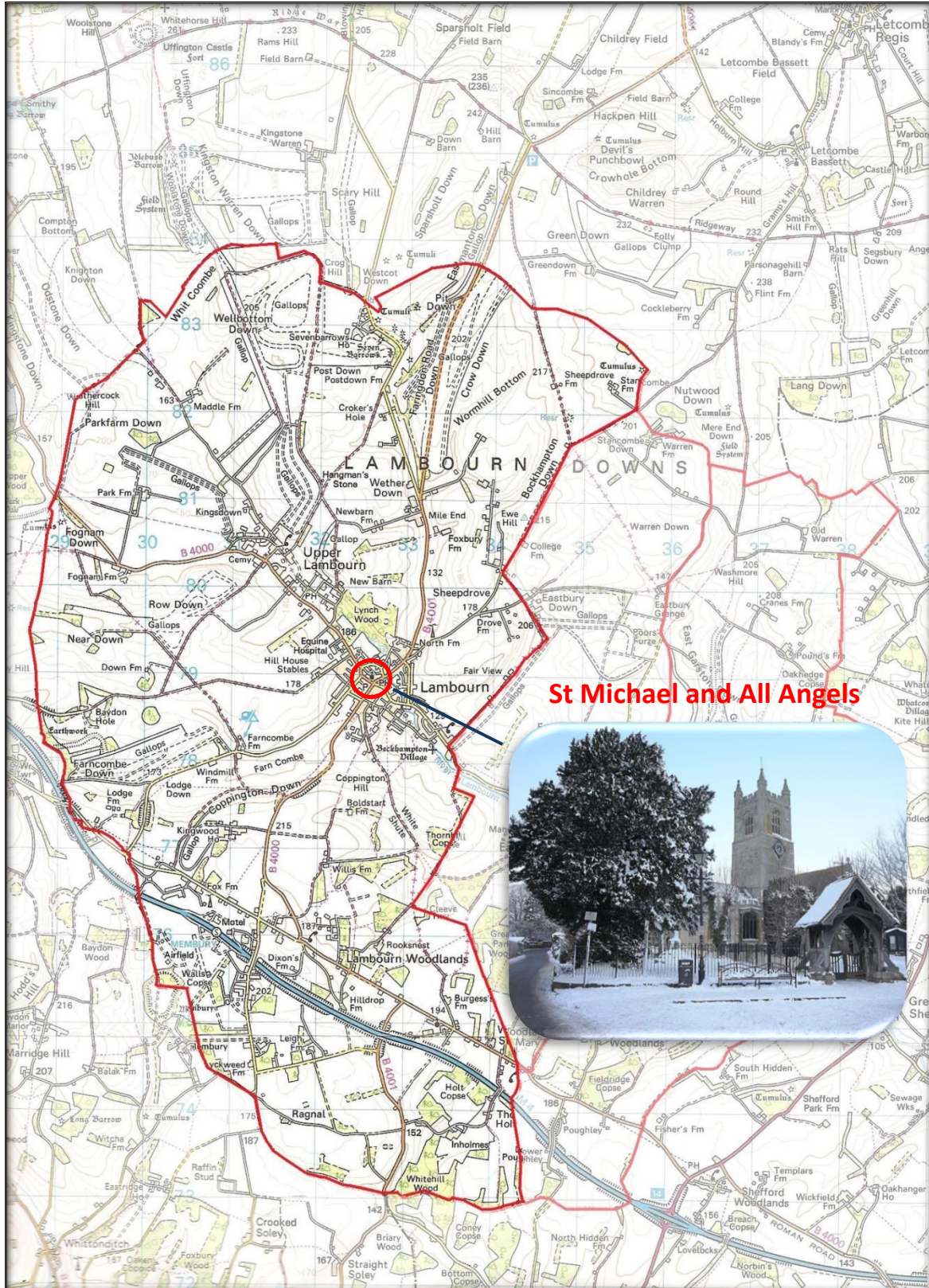
East Garston is a long, narrow parish from north to south lying on the eastern edge of the Benefice. It occupies approximately 4,500 acres in old money or 1,800 hectares in new, with close to 250 dwellings and a population of around 550. The village sits in the centre of the parish just off the unclassified road that runs from Newbury in the east, along the valley to Lambourn in the west. It is a picturesque rural village, nestling in open downlands with a peaceful ambience, pretty thatched cottages and a clear babbling winterbourne stream which generally flows most years from January/February until September/October. There are several hamlets on the outer fringes of the parish: Goodings, Pounds Farm, Poughley and part of Woodlands St Mary.

It is a thriving, lively, friendly community with a number of small businesses, an agricultural machinery business and a number of farms and racehorse training stables. Although there is a core of long established residents, a significant group of inhabitants are young families who have moved to the parish to give their children a country upbringing. There are no schools in the village, although there are a number of primary schools in surrounding villages and a range of secondary schools in the Newbury area, as well as one in Hungerford.

The Benefice

- Churches -

Lambourn



St Michael and All Angels Church is a grade 1 listed building, standing in the Market Place, dating from the late 12th century, though there was a Church in Anglo-Saxon times. Its Norman origins are typified by the splendid arches of the nave and the west doorway. The tower was constructed later between the Norman and the Early English periods.

The Chancel dates from the 14th century and contains a large perpendicular east window.

The Chapel of St. Katharine, dating from the late 15th century, is in the same style and contains an impressive alabaster tomb of Sir Thomas Essex and his wife of Lambourn Place.

Among many interesting features and memorials on the wall of the nave is the unusual alabaster medallion of King Charles I, and in the 14th Century Lady Chapel there is an unusual archway depicting hunting scenes from the area.



The fine ring of 8 bells, the earliest dating from the 1640's were re-hung in 1969. Work to maintain them commenced in January 2019 and some £14,000 has been raised for the project.

The Church Clock, also dating from the 1640's, is of national importance and the faces have been replaced in recent years. The organ is also important, being an example of an "early Father Willis". While in reasonable order, it needs a thorough clean and some maintenance.

In the last three years toilets and a servery have been installed and the front of the nave re-ordered transforming the worship and flexibility for wider use.



The Church is kept open on several days a week.

The Church is equipped with both fixed microphone and digital radio microphone amplification system.

Lambourn has a Verger, Colin Spanswick, who pays rent for a tied house.

The Church at Woodland St Mary is closed and is now maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust but the burial ground (still open) and the lych gate remain the responsibility of Lambourn PCC. Occasional services including Harvest Thanksgiving and Funerals may be held in the Church with prior permission and there is an extension to the churchyard (already fenced off) for future use.

The Parochial Church Council

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. This is supported by Lent courses and other prayer groups and quiet mornings.

Children's Work

Participation from children from school or the congregation is encouraged where appropriate at festival services. We seek to foster strong links with the school as we see this as an important area of mission. The Vicar is normally a governor, together with two other church representatives. Collective Worship has been led weekly by a member of the clergy (currently fortnightly by our retired Archdeacon).

Nursery (F1) and Reception (F2) classes each visit the church monthly for a service when school staff are supported by a lay team from the church, with some clergy input. We have introduced storytelling material from "Diddy Disciples" which encourages the young children to actively participate. The whole school comes to church for a service each term, mostly led by pupils. This has been greatly aided by the new flexible space at the front of the nave. A growing number of parents join us for these services. The new head is keen that the school properly reflects its Church of England status and is working hard to enhance its Christian ethos.



During term time there is a Parent and Toddler group on Monday mornings. The latter in particular is growing and providing a great base from which it is hoped further children's work can develop. More use is being made of the children's corner in the North West corner of the church. This is equipped with pictures, books and toys rotated and linked to the church's year or particular festivals and is much appreciated by those who use it.

Music

The Lambourn Church and Benefice is very fortunate to have a committed choir, affiliated to the RSCM, to support our worship. We currently have 15 regular members, including 3 young



choristers who are being coached using the RSCM Voice for Life series. Choir practice is every Friday and is taken collaboratively by our organist, Dr Stephen Holmes, and the Assistant Music Director, Susan Holmes (Stephen's daughter). Stephen has been our organist for 25 years, and regularly performs organ recitals in Newbury. Susan is an accompanist and freelance musician working predominantly in and around Berkshire. The choir attends every Sunday service at Lambourn St

Michael and All Angels' church, and also all Group Services throughout the valley, performing anthems appropriate to the Sunday, and leading the congregation in the hymns and communion setting. Repertoire and hymns are chosen to reflect both the traditional and the contemporary, spanning approximately five centuries of music.

Pastoral care

Refreshments are served after church every Sunday. As well as clergy visits to the sick and bereaved, our Parish Care Group works for the pastoral care of villagers – whether or not churchgoers - under the able leadership of the Venerable Christine Allsopp. Welcome packs are delivered to families moving into the village. Members of the group continue to visit individual persons in particular need.

The Friends of St Michael's has a membership of over 40 and have raised nearly £4,500 to fund restoration and re-ordering projects in the church.



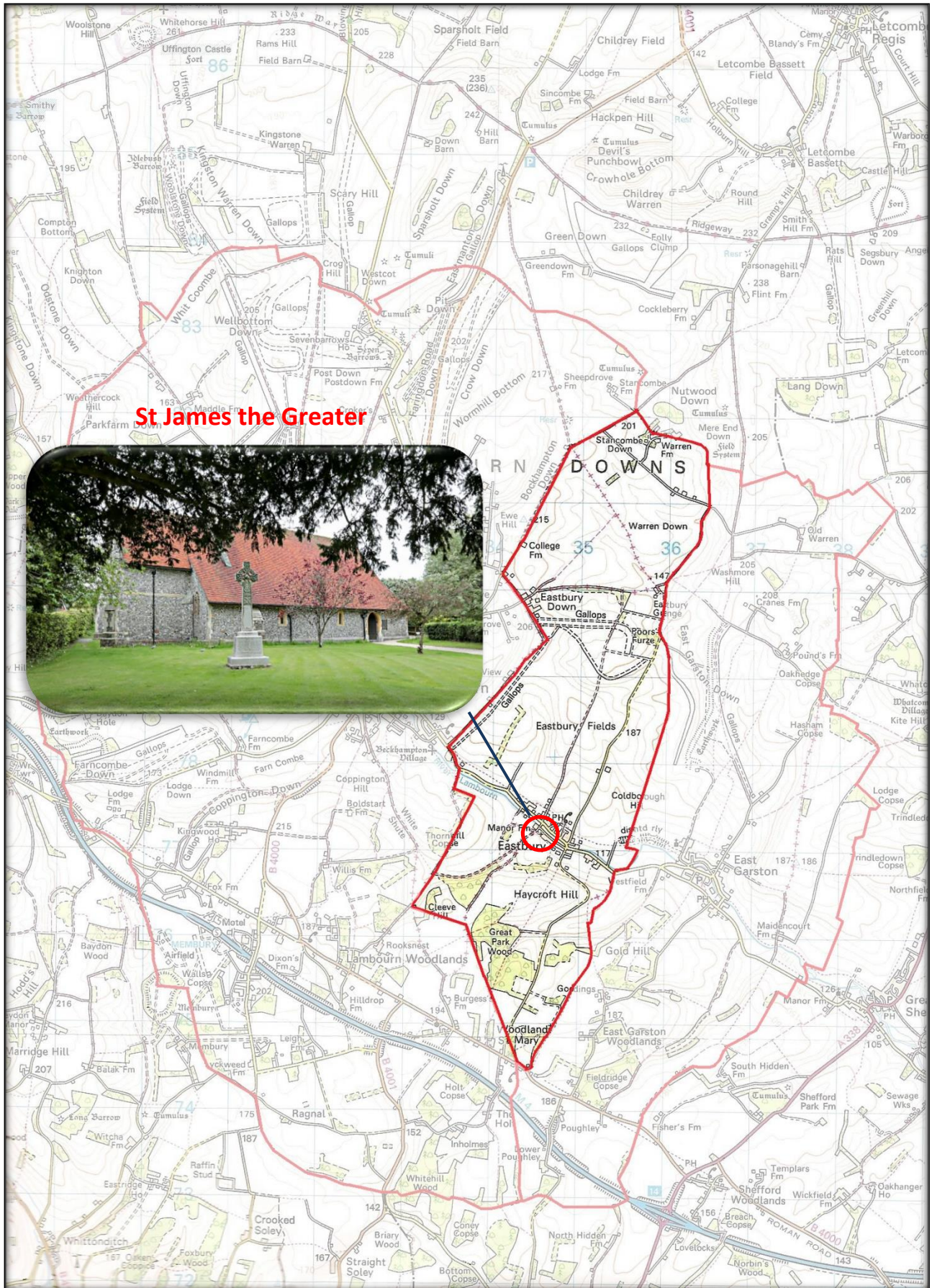


Outward Giving

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The Church is actively engaged in fund raising. This year we made donations to Water Aid, Christian Aid, Scripture Union, Mission to Seamen, Crisis at Christmas and the Children's Society. The congregation supported Water Aid's Jars of Change Lenten appeal and much enthusiasm was generated for this by using their informative material to illustrate the need for clean water and sanitation for communities in Madagascar.



Eastbury



St. James the Greater Church is set at the centre of Eastbury village. It was designed by the Victorian architect G.E. Street, and is listed Grade II. The building is constructed of flint and brick under a tiled roof, and has a fine etched glass window by Lawrence Whistler, installed in 1971 in memory of the Great War poet Edward Thomas and his wife Helen. It has a capacity of 120 seated in (moveable) pews.

The churchyard burial ground behind the church is in two parts, that nearer the church having been closed some 30 years ago, the further part open with space for a further 12-15 graves.

Our present policy is to keep the church open during the daytime, for visitors wanting to see the Whistler window, and in recognition that open access to their church is part of life for residents in this close-knit village community.



Sunday School

The Sunday School in Eastbury is the only one in the Benefice at present, and is attended by children from all three churches. The aim of the School is to keep children and their families in touch with their church, teaching them the Christian faith and familiarising them not only with the Church building but also with the services held there and the seasonal activities associated with the church year. The children are also encouraged to take part in fund raising activities for the church and for charities elsewhere.

For several services, the children have a very active input – making candles for the Taizé Service, posies for Mothering Sunday, building the Easter Garden, making bread for Harvest Festival, making Christingles and performing the Nativity Service on Christmas Eve. There is also an annual pantomime outing. It is notable that the older children who have moved on are happy to return and help, reinforcing the Christian teaching they have themselves experienced here.

The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council takes an active role in all aspects of the church in the parish.

In worship, three members are licensed to administer the chalice and members have at times led

non-communion services together with a churchwarden. The Liturgical Sub-Committee works with the Vicar over service formats and prepares orders of service. Several members take a leading role in pastoral work within the parish, visiting new residents and endeavouring to provide support to those with problems. Members of the PCC, helped by other parishioners, run the monthly Coffee Pot Café in the church, offering village residents coffee/tea, home-made cakes and a chance to meet friends.



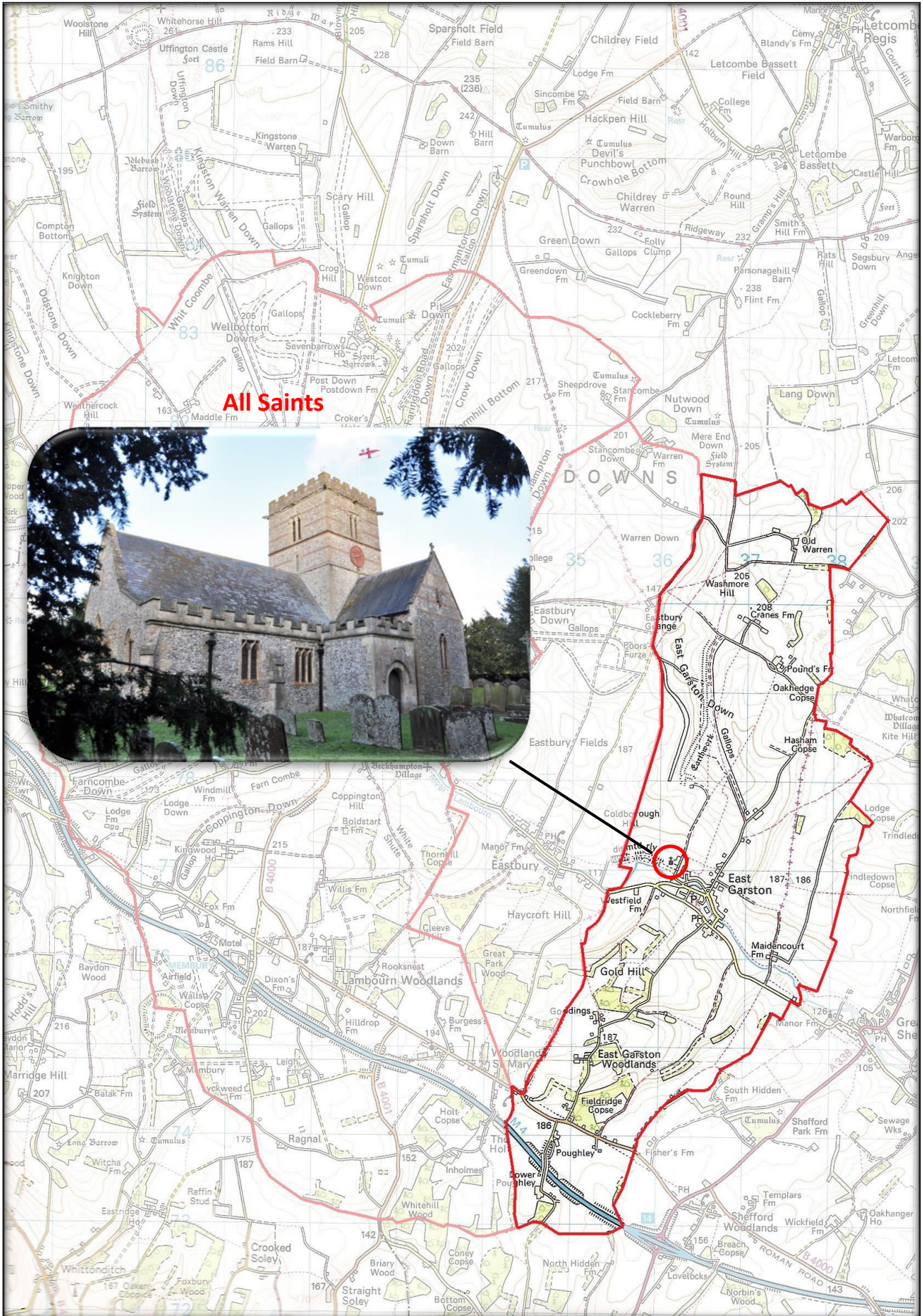
The PCC also organises fund-raising social events spread throughout the year, which raise from £5000 - £10,000 annually. They have included a summer fete, parties with a theme, a charity auction, and annual advent carol concerts or plays. These events are essential in providing finance for the church, and by encouraging as many local people as possible to assist, are also valuable outreach, helping to involve them with the church activities.



Following installation of the Servery, a series of Saturday Breakfast Discussion meetings was started in 2015 when the Lent Course topic was 'Migration'. The meetings, mostly led by the Vicar, have continued on an occasional basis, covering topics with a moral, ethical and religious basis, which have included Issues around Human Sexuality, Who wrote the Bible?, Islam, and Judaism. They are open to all in the Lambourn Valley, and have not only proved popular with members of the congregations but have also drawn in some who are not church-goers.



East Garston



All Saints' Church is located on the western edge of East Garston village. It is a listed Grade II* late Norman (1190AD) cruciform building of flint, with a later south aisle and porch and a north chancel chapel. The church was rescued from a state of poor repair by the Victorians and therefore, very little of the original building remains apart from the Norman door inside the south porch. The Victorian stained glass installed in all the windows is noteworthy, being painted by Nathaniel Westlake, as are the wall painting of the Tree of Jesse in the nave, and the painting of the Nativity on the reredos in the chapel. The church is mentioned in the updated Pevsner Guide to the Buildings of Berkshire, published in 2010.



The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council is composed of five persons, including the Secretary and Treasurer, with the two churchwardens as ex-officio members. This clearly falls short of the number (nine) allowed under the Church Representation Rules with the Electoral Roll currently at 61, but it has been very difficult to recruit additional members. While this sounds negative, the PCC is actively supported by two sidesmen (one male and one female), two persons in addition to one of the churchwardens licensed to administer the chalice and many volunteers that assist with flower arranging, churchyard maintenance and social/community events.

The Church in the Community

The PCC has endeavoured to ensure that the church is seen to be part of the community and has provided a refreshment marquee at village events: the village fete, Garstonbury (a music festival) and a local Bluebell Walk which raises money for various charities.

In addition to special church services for Easter, Harvest and Christmas, which are well attended by many families and irregular churchgoers, the church has traditionally organised the Remembrance commemoration for the village. This takes the form of a short service in church followed by a march to the Village War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance and with musical accompaniment from a Wantage brass band. In 2018, this was coupled with an extremely successful WWI Exhibition in church organised by East Garston's Local Historical Society.





The church has encouraged young musicians with groups performing on Mothering Sunday, at Harvest Festival and on Christmas Day. Cello Concerts have also been held in church with the lead being taken by a professional and his piano accompanist with performances by his local pupils and other young string players.

Another successful community activity organised by the church in the summer is a Safari Supper. Participants gather first for drinks and canapes before moving to various houses around the village for starters, swap venues for mains and finally meet up again for dessert in the Village Hall.

Financial Position

General Fund Income and Closing General Reserves

	Income 2017	Closing Reserves 2017
Lambourn	£66,765	£24,298
Eastbury	£22,073	£41,828
East Garston	£18,243	£ 4,257

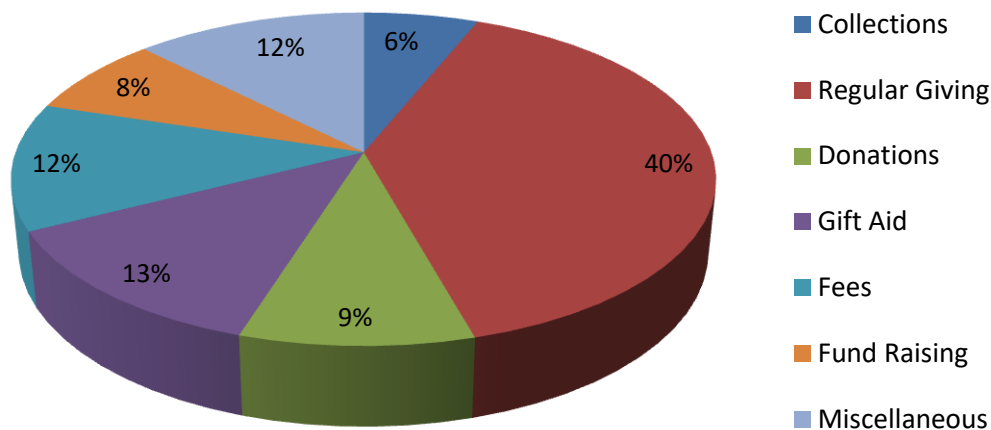
East Garston had a further £25,680 in a Restoration Account of which approximately £9,000 is ring fenced for improvements to the heating system

2017 Income and Expenditure split by source

Lambourn

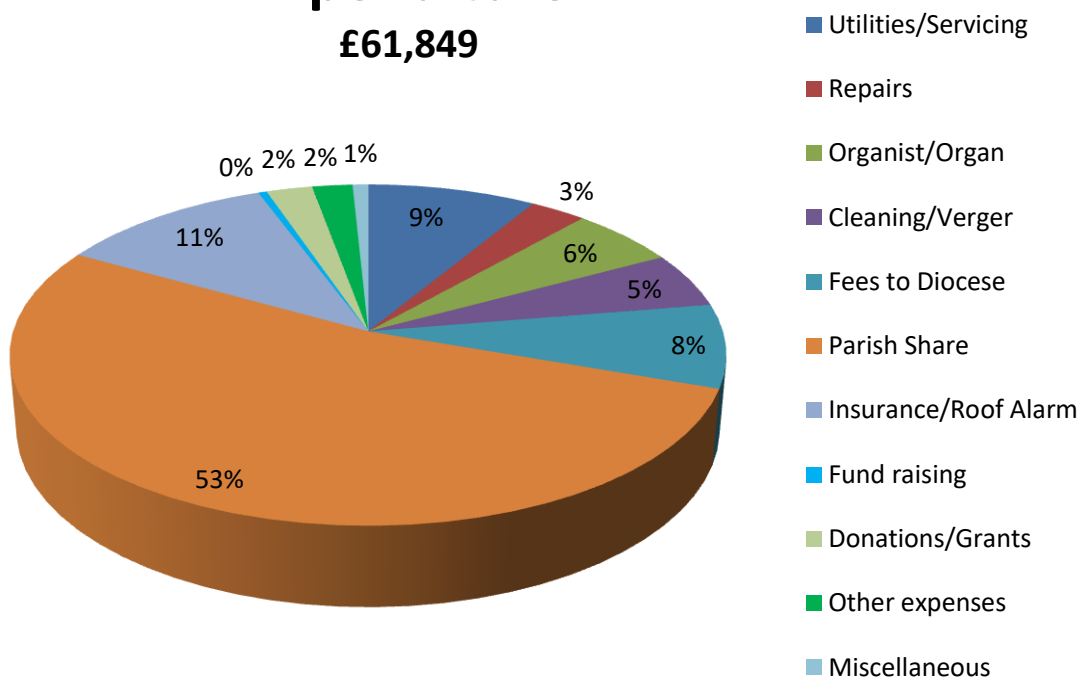
Income

£66,765



Expenditure

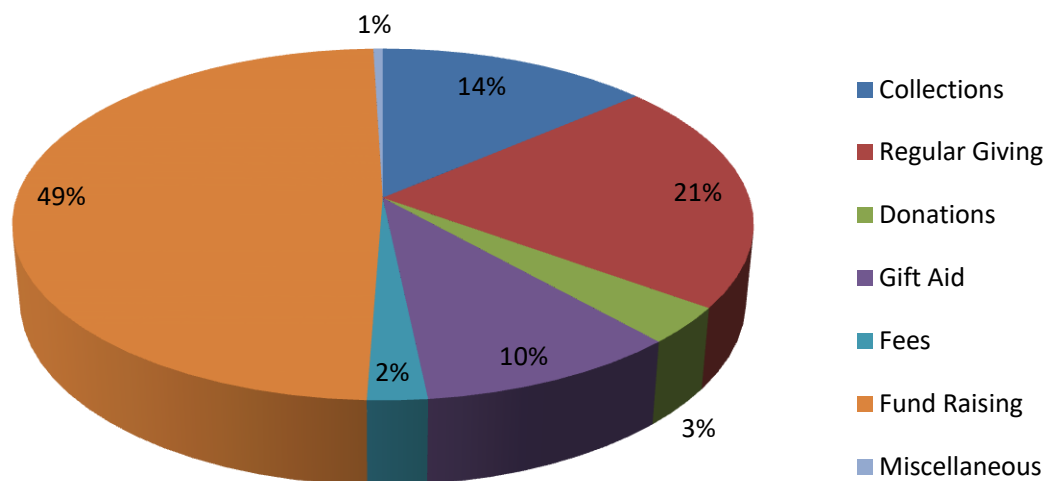
£61,849



Eastbury

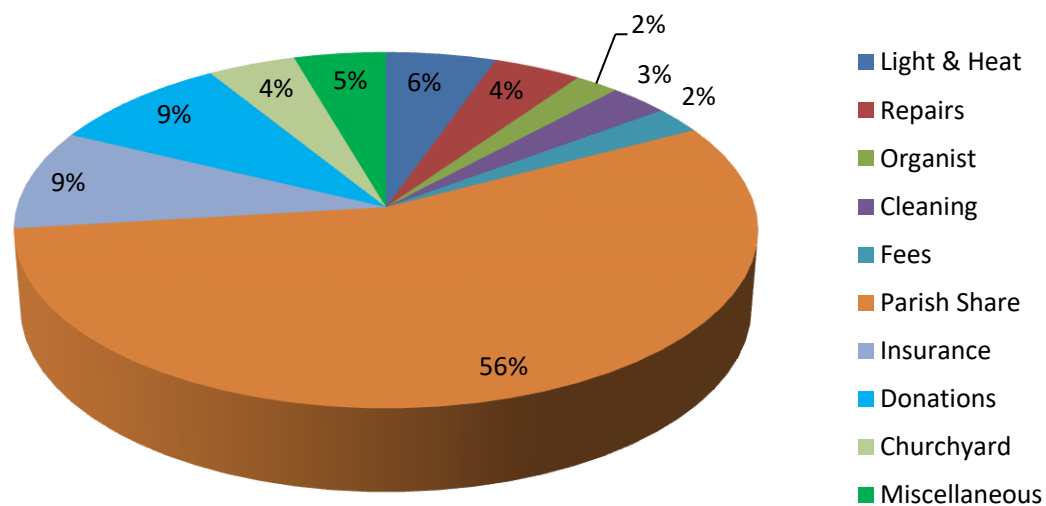
Income

£22,073



Expenditure

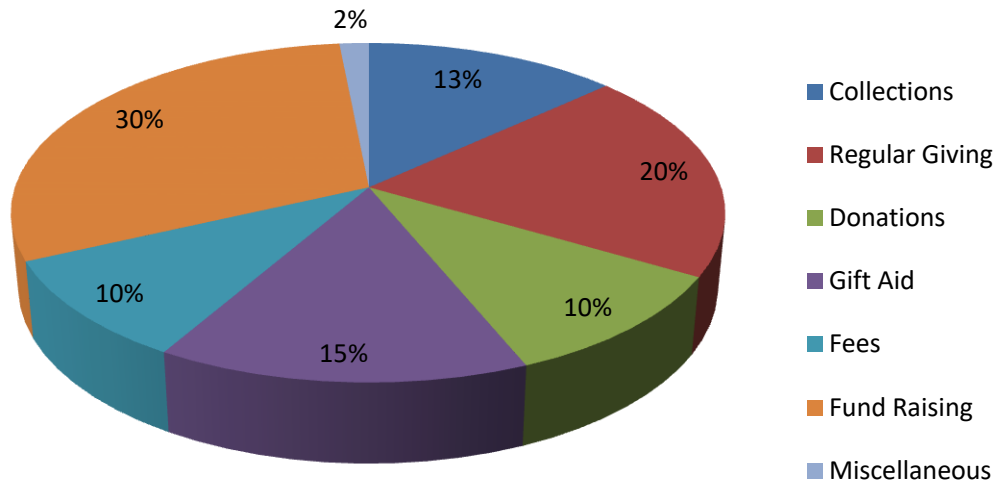
£17,411



East Garston

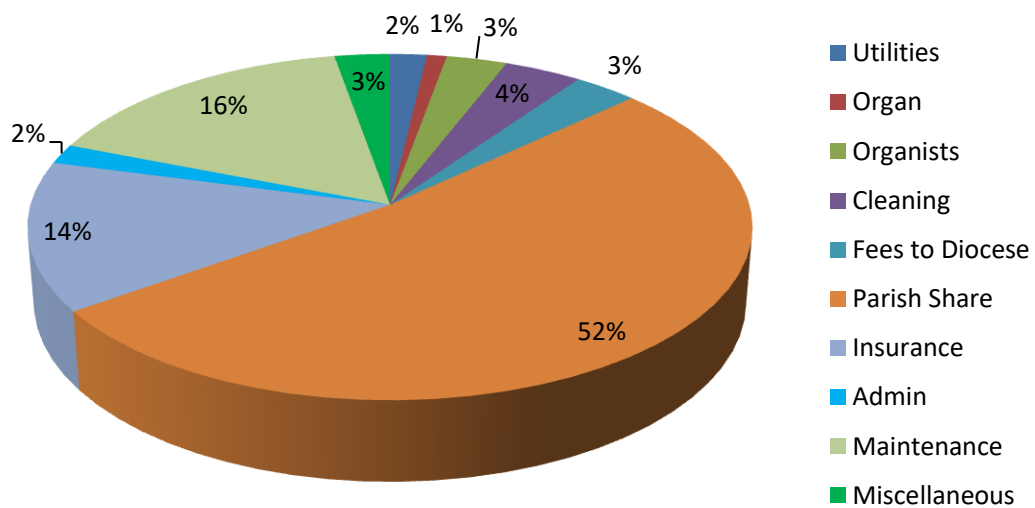
Income

£19,220



Expenditure

£18,639



Maintaining and improving the fabric of the churches

Lambourn

All major work identified in the quinquennial survey has been undertaken.

In recent years the following maintenance and repair work has been undertaken:

- ❖ The clock faces have been replaced and the tower re-pointed and some stone replaced
- ❖ The roof has had extensive repairs with a government grant and lead replaced following theft
- ❖ A roof alarm fitted
- ❖ Window guards fitted to the north clerestory windows
- ❖ The bell frame painted
- ❖ The clock has been lit by the Parish Council

Work is commencing in January 2019 on:

- ❖ substantial refurbishment of the bells
- ❖ re-leading of the windows in St Katherine's Chapel

New toilets have been installed behind the organ and a servery installed in St Katherine's Chapel. This was the first phase of a substantial re-ordering and has enabled the social activities of the Church to be transformed.

The front of the nave has recently been cleared of pews and chairs (largely donated) are used flexibly when required for large services. A new nave altar has been provided by the Friends of Lambourn Church and two new lecterns also installed. The next phase is to move the choir into the nave for all but the largest services.

This re-ordering has transformed normal worship, created a space for social activities and concerts, and provided a flexible space for the school.

Eastbury

St. James Church is in several respects the easiest of the Benefice churches to maintain, being a less ancient and a simpler building. The last Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in 2013 and noted that the church was in a good and well-maintained condition. The north roof slope had been re-tiled a few years before, and only minor works were required; amongst them was cleaning of the low stone wall between the Nave and Chancel, which was resisted by the PCC and has not been carried out.

A Quinquennial Inspection is now due and has been arranged with the Inspecting Architect to take place on 15 January 2019.

The east window was fully renovated 10 years ago, and new window guards in stainless steel were fitted to the other stained-glass windows in 2016. The Whistler window is protected by an external clear laminated glass shield.

In 2015 an old heater shed was replaced with a small extension housing a new church heater and a WC. A Servedy was also fitted inside the church, and four pews sold. The result has been to create a flexible space at the back of the church for meetings, discussion groups and monthly coffee mornings, significantly enhancing our ability to reach out and put the church at the centre of our village community.

East Garston

A Quinquennial Inspection was completed in November 2015 and identified the following:

- ❖ Repairs to roof, leadwork and guttering
- ❖ Repairs to masonry including crenelated parapet and kneeler stone
- ❖ Repair cracks to external and internal walls
- ❖ Repairs to timber beam in belfry
- ❖ Repairs to cob/wichert boundary wall
- ❖ Repairs to brick and flint boundary walls

Applications for grants to the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund in 2016 and the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2017 were both unsuccessful and therefore it has not been possible to carry out the roof repairs.

The church was placed on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register in 2018.

Repairs to a section of the eastern boundary wall and to the north-west buttress of the church are scheduled for Spring 2019.

Plans are in place to install new lych gates in 2019 to replace originals which have been removed because they were beyond repair. Funding for this project has been obtained from the Parish Council's Community Grant Scheme.

Electrical under pew heaters were installed in the front seven rows of pews in November 2017 to replace existing overhead quartz heaters. Further heating cannot be installed until the electrical supply is upgraded to three phase and this is currently under investigation.

The church currently has no water supply or toilets but if funding could be found, future improvement plans would include a kitchen and toilets.

Statistics 2018

	St Michael's Lambourn	St James' Eastbury	All Saints' East Garston	Total
Baptisms	9	2	1	12
Marriages	1	-	-	1
Funerals in Church	6	-	-	6
Funerals at Crematorium	4	1	-	5

Congregation Size

(Average at normal services)

8.00	11	-	-
9.00	-	12	15
9.30	-	17	-
10.30	51		-
11.00	32		-
18.30	21		20

(Special services)

Mothering Sunday	90	32	52
Easter	91	58	53
Harvest	50	45	56
Patronal Festival	117	40	55
Children's Nativity	-	-	58
Christingle	90	66	-
Crib Service	35	145	-
Candlelit Carols	120	-	133
Christmas Eve	132	-	-
Christmas Day	76	58	144

Electoral Roll	83	38	61	182
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Pattern of Services

	Lambourn	Eastbury	East Garston
1 st Sunday	10.30am: Parish Communion (sung)	9.00am: Holy Communion (BCP) (said)	No service
2 nd Sunday	10.30am: Parish Communion (sung)	10.00am: Sunday School	9.00am: Holy Communion (sung)
3 rd Sunday	8.00am: Holy Communion (BCP) (said) 11.00am: All Age Worship family service	9.30am: Family Communion (with hymns)	No service
4 th Sunday	10.30am: Parish Communion (sung)	No service	9.00am: Holy Communion
5 th Sunday	10.30am: Group Service: Parish Communion (sung) Rotating between the 3 Parishes		
Patronal Festivals	10.30am: Group Service: Parish Communion (sung) At the relevant Church		
Choral Evensong	6.30pm: Occasional, rotating between the 3 Parishes		

The Vicarage



A large detached home built in 1957 in Newbury Street just off the High Street in Lambourn. This four bedroom property has good sized and flexible accommodation to include entrance hallway, large living room, dining room, study, good sized kitchen; stairs to first floor with three double and one single bedroom as well as a family bathroom and second shower room. The property has gas central heating.

There is ample parking on the driveway as well as a garage and all sited in grounds of approximately 1/3 acre. The diocese pays a £1500 redecoration and settling in allowance to the incoming priest.



Churchyards

Lambourn

St Michael and All Angels – closed except for the interment of ashes, maintained by the Parish Council

St Mary's, Woodlands St Mary – open, maintained by the PCC with a grant from the Parish Council

St Luke's, Upper Lambourn - closed except for the interment of ashes, maintained by the Parish Council

Eastbury

St James – partially closed, closed areas maintained by Parish Council,
open areas maintained by PCC

East Garston

All Saints – open, maintained by the PCC

Governor and Trustee

You will be:

- a Governor of Lambourn C of E Primary School (Voluntary Controlled)
- an ex-officio Trustee of the Theo Harris Memorial Trust
- an ex-officio Trustee of the Sexton's Charity
- an ex-officio Trustee of the Charity of William Chowles
- an ex-officio Trustee of the Almshouses of John Isbury Charity
- an ex-officio Trustee of the Hermitage Almshouses Trust
- Chaplain to Lambourn Voluntary Fire Brigade

Who's Who

Associate Clergy



Ven Christine Allsopp

Lambourn Churchwardens



Mr Bruce Laurie



Mr Malcolm Rolfe

Eastbury Churchwarden



Mr Paul Reynolds

East Garston Churchwardens



Dr Robert (Bob) Briant



Mrs Dawn Tonge