A VICAR FOR
ST. MARY’S PARISH CHURCH,
OLD BASING & LYCHPIT
Welcome to this Parish Profile and Role Description...and welcome to the Diocese of Winchester!

At the heart of our life here is the desire to be always Living the Mission of Jesus. We are engaged in a strategic process to deliver a mission-shaped Diocese, in which parochial, pastoral and new forms of pioneering and radical ministry all flourish. Infused with God’s missionary Spirit we want three character traits to be clearly visible in how we live:

- Passionate personal spirituality;
- Pioneering faith communities;
- Prophetic global citizens.

The Diocese of Winchester is an exciting place to be right now. With a grant of £4.3m from the Strategic Development Fund, we are investing in missional projects across the diocese which are aimed at strategic growth for the common good. We pray that, if God is calling you to join us in his mission here, he will reveal this to you clearly as you consider this post.

“From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.” (John 1:16)

https://www.winchester.anglican.org/winchester-mission-action/

Basingstoke Deanery

Basingstoke is ranked 11th best place to live in the country. The major town of Basingstoke has a population of 105k and around it lies some of the most beautiful villages and countryside in Hampshire. The town is planning to increase its population by 30k in the next 15 years. Employment is amongst the highest in the country. Different communities get on well together. Basingstoke & its environs is a good place to live.

The Deanery chapter is amongst the largest in the Diocese with 17 parishes and chaplains from the Town Centre Chaplaincy, hospital and hospice. We are working on a Deanery Mission Action Plan that will see us sharing mission amongst young people, and pioneering ways of sharing the Good News of Jesus on new housing estates as well as in the older settlements. We have great ecumenical networks, and growing partnerships with other churches.

We want enterprising clergy, who are team players, to join our chapter. We offer a rich depth of experienced leaders, great lay leadership, ecumenical prayer networks and a generous and diverse spiritual life. We have challenging times ahead, but a strong willingness to support our clergy and their families in the demands of ministry.

Richard Harlow
Area Dean of Basingstoke Deanery
CONTENTS

OUR PARISH .................................................................................................................................................. 3
OUR FUTURE ................................................................................................................................................ 3
OUR VISION .................................................................................................................................................. 4
PARISH LIFE AND MISSION .......................................................................................................................... 5
   Church Life and Occasional Services ........................................................................................................... 5
   Global Friends ............................................................................................................................................... 7
   Charitable Giving ........................................................................................................................................ 7
   Church Linked Groups ................................................................................................................................ 7
   Community Links ....................................................................................................................................... 8
MEET THE TEAM ........................................................................................................................................... 8
LIVING HERE ................................................................................................................................................ 9
   Our Community ........................................................................................................................................... 9
   The Church .................................................................................................................................................. 10
   The Vicarage ............................................................................................................................................... 11
ROLE DESCRIPTION ...................................................................................................................................... 12
APPENDICES .................................................................................................................................................. 14
   1. Location Maps ........................................................................................................................................ 14
   2. Church Finances .................................................................................................................................... 16
   3. Regular Service Details .......................................................................................................................... 17
   4. Useful Links ........................................................................................................................................... 17
OUR PARISH

Old Basing and Lychpit parish lies to the east of Basingstoke in north-east Hampshire, England. It is a thriving, picturesque parish. St Mary’s Church is in the centre of the village with links to the local junior and infant schools both of which are within 100 yards of the church and vicarage. The Parish enjoys the convenience of easy access to Basingstoke’s town centre whilst retaining the rural aspects of village life.

It is within 3 miles of Basingstoke Railway Station and close to Junction 6 on the M3.

OUR FUTURE

Our Church family has a proven heart for reaching out to the community. We wish to build our discipleship and further our mission to discern, reimagine, and explore how God’s call to action can be met. We envisage achieving this through being supported by and integrated in the wider community whilst evolving our Christian family to reflect the on-going demographic and social changes in the Parish and the needs of the wider world.
OUR VISION

WELCOMING

Welcoming – is at the heart of St Mary’s mission. The church is a nurturing and supportive body at the heart of the community ready to greet any who cross the threshold with warmth and acceptance.

INSPIRING

Inspiring – we wish to develop the ability of church members to articulate and share their faith in word and in practise.

ENGAGING

Engaging – we wish to seek to carry our worship out beyond the confines of the church building, making full use of our beautiful churchyard and the various community spaces in Old Basing and Lychpit.

SUSTAINING

Sustaining – in an ever changing world we wish to ensure sustainability of Christian faith and worship in the Parish and beyond.

The Parish mission action plan (pMAP) is a living document that outlines the planned activities that we will lead over the next couple of years with a focus on the local community especially young people and those who need support to find wholeness and fulfilment in life.

Looking to the future, we wish to:

- Nourish, encourage and increase contact with all age groups across the Parish to grow our Christian family, especially families with young children and young adults (including Junior Church).
- Make St Mary’s more relevant to daily life through involvement in, and with, our wider community and explore innovative ways and times when people can be reached to take part in the Christian community.
- Develop further the pastoral care and outreach in our community.
- Embrace, encourage, and develop the gifts that people can give – time, practical skills, money, expertise, lay ministry.
- Try new initiatives to encourage people on their Christian journey.
PARISH LIFE AND MISSION

Village Schools
The Parish has two schools, Old Basing Infant School (County Maintained) and St Mary’s CE(VA) Junior School, covering the Primary Key Stages of the National Curriculum.

Our links with the Junior School go right back to the 19th century when the Parish school was founded in the Bolton Chapel of St Mary’s Church.

At the Junior School the incumbent serves as an ex officio governor in addition to Foundation Governors elected by the PCC. A weekly Act of Worship is taken at the school by the incumbent. Various class sharing, year group and whole school Acts of Worship led by the staff and pupils of the school are held in the Church each term.

Once a year the Church hosts a ‘Pilgrimage Day’ of activities for Year 6 pupils as they complete their Primary education and continue their journey at new schools.

We continue to develop our relationship with the Infant School through links with our Global Friends.

Children visit St Mary’s Church as part of their RE and history curriculum.

Church Life and Occasional Services

Families & Children
We are keen to develop our involvement with all in the community and in particular with families, young adults and children.

We believe there is untapped potential among families with young children which is demonstrated by the popularity of specific children’s services such as Christingle, Messy Church and Nativity.

We have a junior church which meets on Sundays. The children join our service at the start, leave for their on activities using the “Roots” programme and then re-join the service to receive a blessing at the altar at the time of Holy Communion. We are hopeful that a new incumbent would train leaders for these activities and would, as a part of growing our church community, involve more children.

We have introduced Messy Church which is proving very successful. This meets quarterly and offers activities, an act of worship and family meal.
Regular Services

We value our spiritual life and our worship is varied, centred on the Eucharist.

We have a robed choir to lead us in our hymn-singing and on special occasions and we are anxious to involve new and younger members in the choir. Music in Worship is important to us at St Mary’s. We are very fortunate to have a splendid pipe organ and are growing a small instrumental band.

Details of the regular services are given in Appendix 3.

Volunteers from the congregation join residents in monthly communion services held at Oakfields (sheltered accommodation) and Basingfield Court (residential care)

Occasional services

Remembrance

This service is a major event in both St Mary’s and the community’s calendars. The last incumbent acted as Padre to the active and long established Royal British Legion Branch in Old Basing. This role fosters a link with the community which we would like to see continued.

All Souls

The All Souls service is an opportunity for the bereaved to commemorate their loved ones.

‘Blue Christmas’

This service extends a welcome to all at what can be a challenging time of year.

Weddings

We prepare all the couples that come to us to be married and encourage them to keep in touch with us.

Baptisms

We welcome all to Baptism. We have a well-established Baptism Support Team.

Funerals

We take immense pride in how we provide funerals and support for the bereaved and those affected. We provide a comprehensive Bereavement Pack.
Global Friends
Following the establishment of links with the school in Katakala, Uganda through St Mary’s Junior School Global Friends initiative, we at St Mary’s now have a dynamic relationship with the school and church communities of Katakala. We have enjoyed reciprocal visits in which we have been joined by both the Junior and Infant schools.

Global Friends Visits: Katakala School, St Apollo’s Church, Visit to Winchester Cathedral

Charitable Giving
Charitable giving is an important part of who we are at St Mary’s.

Charitable giving is an important part of who we are at St Mary’s. St Francis Hospital in Katete, Zambia, is our longest standing charity and we are now an established collection point for Food Bank donations. Monthly giving, to nominated charities we will support for the year, are determined at the APCM.

Church Linked Groups
St Mary’s Men’s Breakfast meets monthly and has an open invitation to all male members of the community. This is their opportunity to enjoy a hearty breakfast and conversation.

PIOCC (Parish Initiative – Old Churchyard Conservation) is a group of residents, churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike. They meet twice a month to manage a part of the churchyard as a conservation area.

Pilgrim Group - Each weekly gathering includes prayer, reflection on a Bible reading, and plenty of questions and discussion around current text. Meetings are normally hosted by group members.

Friends of St Mary’s (FoSMs) – is an independent charity whose aim is to raise funds for the maintenance of the fabric of the Church.

The Living Word is a contemplative group who meet weekly to study scripture.
We have a dedicated and talented group of flower arrangers who beautify our church through all our seasons.

St Mary's Parish Room is host to the Ploughman’s Lunch provided by a team of volunteers. This provides everyone with the opportunity to have a good lunch whilst enjoying the company of others.

**Community Links**

The annual ‘Community Turkey Lunch’ is thriving and having outgrown its origins in St Mary’s, now takes place in Old Basing Village Hall organised by local volunteers.

The Parish Room is home to many local groups that include: WI, U3A, Basing Singers, Toddler Groups, Alzheimer’s Group, Memory Café and the newly launched ‘Village Café’.

St Mary’s holds two main ‘festivals’ a year, one in the summer and the second at Christmas. These major out-reach events provide an opportunity to further strengthen the good relationship that the congregation has developed with the local community.

**MEET THE TEAM**

**Key Members:**

- Ian Kershaw  
  Churchwarden

- Julia Wright  
  Treasurer

- Tricia Renwick  
  Churchwarden

- Debbie Filer  
  Administrator
LIVING HERE

Our Community

Old Basing and Lychpit is a largely rural parish with the urban centre of Basingstoke to the north and west. The Parish encompasses three successive areas of past development, specifically the historic village, post-war suburban growth and most recently the development of Lychpit in the 1970s and 1980s. The total population of Parish in the 2011 census was 7,308 in 3,021 households, and figures published on the Parish Councils webpages indicate that this figure may now be nearer to 9,000.

The demographic of the Parish has over half of the population as ‘working age’ adults. The remaining population is split almost evenly between children and people of pensionable age. Under the Local Plan for the area two large new developments are planned for the Parish in the period to 2029 totalling some 550 dwellings giving an additional population of approximately 1,300. These will include up to 40% affordable housing. This will be significant in the Parish as currently there is a very low population in this tenure. There is also a recently produced Neighbourhood Plan.

Within the Parish there is a local health centre, a dental clinic and private health care facility as well as several community meeting places.

There are local shops in both Old Basing and Lychpit whilst Basingstoke centre offers shops, sports and leisure facilities including cinemas and theatres.

There is both an Infant and Junior school in the village and Secondary schools in Basingstoke. Further education is available from Queen Mary’s College (QMC) and Basingstoke College of Technology (BCoT) in Basingstoke.

Junction 6 of the M3 is close to the village and there is good road access to all destinations.

Basingstoke Railway Station is about 3 miles away offering a good service of fast trains to London (approx. 50 minutes to Waterloo) and the South West. There are also connecting rail services to Reading and Cross Country services to Oxford, Birmingham and beyond.
The Church
St. Mary’s Church is Grade I Listed. Although a church is believed to have existed on the site since the 11th century, the oldest part of the church is in the crossing beneath the tower. The north and south crossing arches date from the early 12th Century but most of what can be seen today dates from the sixteenth century when the church was extended. During the Civil War the church was ransacked by soldiers besieging the local royalist stronghold of Basing House. At the Restoration, following a successful national appeal, the church was restored to its former glory.

The cost of work on the fabric of the church is supported by the Friends of St. Mary’s Church, a local charity.

The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out on 15th February 2017. A specification of works required has been prepared and estimates requested. All the cost will be met by the Friends of St. Mary’s, applications for grants and if necessary, from funds already designated for that purpose.

The other facilities attached to the church building are good and help us in our mission to the wider community.

There are two lavatories, one is fitted with disabled and nappy changing facilities.

We have a Parish room seating about 60, with kitchen facilities. These are used by local organisations, study groups and private gatherings.

The Churchyard surrounding the Church has been closed for Burials for many years and has recently been closed for Interment of Ashes owing to lack of space. Burials and interments now take place in the cemetery in the village operated by the local Parish Council. The churchyard is maintained by the church but an area has been set aside for nature conservation and is managed by volunteers from the Parish.

A further churchyard has been closed by Order in Council and the maintenance of this is the responsibility of the local council.
The Vicarage

The Vicarage is situated about 100 yards to the east of the church.

It is a comfortable modern building with five bedrooms and a large garden securely fenced for the protection of children and pets.
**ROLE DESCRIPTION**

The role is for a priest who will lead, support and nurture the Parish of Old Basing and Lychpit building on the position of St Mary’s as a focal point in the Parish. We need someone who can build on our strengths as an established and relatively well-resourced Parish whilst tackling the challenges presented by ensuring church life and mission evolves to become more relevant to the needs of all in the Parish.

We are looking for someone who:

**Spirituality**
- Lives out a life firmly rooted in Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit, and who will nurture the spiritual life of our community.
- Is able to balance the busy work of a Parish priest with the need for quiet reflection.

**Worship and Preaching**
- Will lead and inspire our church congregations to develop styles of worship that meet the needs of all ages in our community and bring the joy of the Gospel to all.
- Will encourage and enable members of our congregations to take an active part in leading church services.

**Leadership and Collaboration**
- In leading, will motivate and inspire our church community to work together to further our common goals.
- Recognises the skills and talents of those in the Parish and delegates effectively.

**Discipleship, Learning and Nurture**
- Will, with effective and relevant teaching, help us all to develop a deeper understanding of Christ’s message.
- Will work to strengthen our focus and work with families, young adults and children.
- Will build on our links with the local infants and junior schools and other local organisations involving the young.

**Evangelism and Engagement with Social Justice**
- Will inspire the church to be a relevant Christian presence in the community.
- Will promote awareness of, and actions that address, the disadvantaged and marginalised through our links to activities including the Night Shelter, the Food Bank, the Memory Café and our link to the community of Katakala in Uganda.
Pastoral Care

✦ Will encourage, strengthen and re-energise the work of lay teams including the Baptism, Visiting and Bereavement teams.
✦ Will make time to comfort those in need, those who are ill and those whose life on earth is ending, together with the existing pastoral support team.

Stewardship, Finances and Parish Organisation

✦ Will support the stewardship officer and aid initiatives that encourage generosity of giving of time, money and talent to the service of God.
✦ Will recognise the need for good, practical and efficient administration and support all persons active in this work.

Ecumenism and Links with other Bodies

✦ Will promote our links with the local community and the local Methodist church and will re-vitalise our local churches together activities.
✦ Will fully participate in and contribute to the life of the deanery (including synod and chapter) and diocese.

The role description should always be read in conjunction with the Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy.
APPENDICES

1. Location Maps

   a. Surrounding Areas to the Parish of Old Basing & Lychpit.
b. The Parish of Old Basing & Lychpit.
2. **Church Finances**

**ASSETS**

Total income in the year ending 31 December 2017 was £205,868 which includes a legacy of £95,673.

Over the same period the total expenditure was £121,089.

Our total funds at 31 December 2017 were £276,371, represented by the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>£82,147</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Designated Funds</td>
<td>£5,987</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Restricted Funds</td>
<td>£188,237</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These funds have been increased since then by a legacy of a bond valued currently at £56,964.

Full details of the accounts are available on the Charities Commission website for Charity 1136606.

**STATISTICS**

**PARISH STATISTICS FOR 2017**

- Baptisms: 37
- Marriages: 11
- Funerals (Total): 29
  - Church Service: 8
  - Crematorium: 21
- Christmas Communicants: 158
- Easter Communicants: 165
- Average Attendance: 85

*Plant Sales and Floral Displays of the Flower Festival*
3. **Regular Service Details**

**Sunday**

8am       Holy Communion  
*A quiet early morning said service (Common Worship Order Two Traditional Language).*

9.30am   Parish Sung Eucharist (Common Worship Order One)  
*A service of Holy Communion with Hymns, combining warm informality with solemn reverence.*

5.30pm   Evening Prayer in the Bolton Chapel.

**Wednesday**

10am   Holy Communion (Common Worship Order One)  
*This service is held once a term in St Mary’s CE(VA) Junior School.*

**Other**

Morning and Evening Offices are said publicly Monday to Friday in the Bolton Chapel.

4. **Useful Links**

St. Mary’s Church Website:  

Parish Mission Action Plan:  

St Mary’s Church of England (VA) Junior School:  
[https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/](https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/)

Old Basing Infant School:  
[http://www.oldbasinginfants.co.uk/](http://www.oldbasinginfants.co.uk/)

Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan:  
[https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/2708.pdf](https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/2708.pdf)

Basinga Parish Magazine:  
[https://basinga.org.uk/wp/](https://basinga.org.uk/wp/)

Charity Commission Website for Registered Charity 1136606:  