

# BENEFICE PROFILE

for



**St Mary Chalgrove with**



**St Helen Berrick Salome**

**February 2019**

*Benefice of St Mary Chalgrove with St Helen Berrick Salome*

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# FOREWORD

## by the Bishop of Dorchester

30<sup>th</sup> January 2019

St Mary's and St Helen's are two parishes who work well together and have very close links. Both churches are loved and valued by their communities and this is seen at Christmas, with their large congregations. Fundraising in recent years has been helped by the fact that the communities have been very generous.

St Mary's had a major restoration project in 2015/16 and this heritage church has restored wall paintings, new heating, new electrics and a new organ and is in very good order. There are no further large-scale fundraising initiatives planned in either church.

St Mary's has close links with the Methodist church and someone willing to work ecumenically is very important. The Methodist Church in the Village has recently closed and the two congregations have joined together.

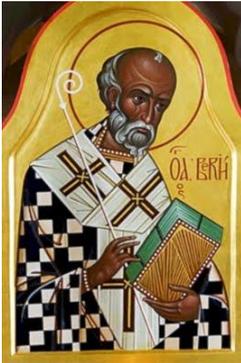
The patron of the living of St Mary Chalgrove with St Helen Berrick Salome is the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford. Christ Church is in the happy position of being able to support the incumbents of its ninety livings through the revenues of the Dr South Trust, which is able to assist with grants for study, administration and holidays, as well as offering a biennial conference and loans for the purchase of a car.

These are growing communities and so there are particular opportunities for mission to the new houses and young families, particularly in Chalgrove.

+ 

# A WORD FROM THE DEANERY

## ASTON & CUDDESDON DEANERY



*Almighty and most compassionate Lord,  
who called your faithful servant Birinus  
to preach the good news of your kingdom in this land,  
give us grace to contemplate your saving presence  
amongst us and within us,  
that we may courageously  
embrace the stranger, nurture your children  
and grow communities of love,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

The Aston & Cuddesdon Deanery is predominantly rural in nature comprising some 45 parishes covering villages of all sizes and the market town of Thame. It covers a large and beautiful area that follows the river Thame and lies to the south east of the city of Oxford. The area has deep historic roots with the arrival of St Birinus in 634.

### Mission Goals

Working within the framework of the Diocesan Vision of Developing local 'Christ-like Communities' which are Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous in their Mission, these are our three Deanery goals and reflect our outreach to new building projects, mission to children and young people and intentional growth spiritually, communally and numerically:

- To embrace the stranger

*You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. Deuteronomy 10: 19*

- To nurture God's children

*Let the children come to me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Mark 10:14*

- To grow communities of love

*For where two or three are gathered in my name I am there with them Matthew. 18: 20*

### Chapter

The chapter meet together bi-monthly and in teams or clusters during the alternate months. It is a supportive group where business is delegated to a monthly email and meetings set aside to enable ministers to reflect and offload. The past year has included a Bible study on human sexuality, pastoral supervision and theological reflection on the nature of success. There are two social gatherings a year: the summer garden party and Christmas lunch. In addition we have a theological book group that meets four times a year. We look forward to welcoming you amongst us.

*Rev'd Dr Emma Pennington, Area Dean and Simon Richards, Lay Chair*

*Benefice of St Mary Chalgrove with St Helen Berrick Salome*

# 1 WELCOME TO OUR BENEFICE

Welcome to the Benefice of St Mary Chalgrove with St Helen Berrick Salome. We comprise two parishes, two miles apart, and for the last millennium we have shared an incumbent – the Vicar of St Mary’s and the Rector of St Helen’s. Chalgrove is the larger village, with shops and a primary school, and its historic church with medieval wall paintings. Berrick Salome is a small rural village, and its ancient little church of St Helen was built as a chapelry of St Mary’s in Chalgrove. While the parishes are very different from each other, and each is run by its own separate PCC, we have a great deal of coherence. The two parishes are closely linked in a number of important social and supportive ways, such as bell-ringing, joint meals, fundraising, ‘hymnathon’, and music-sharing for our common support of USPG.

## **Our Mission:**

In our Benefice we believe that God wants us to be welcoming and hospitable, serving and building within our communities.

Our worship seeks to embrace and value the variety of our world’s Christian worship and witness, and especially that of all those worshipping here together.



**We’re  
Ringing  
the  
‘Change!’**

Would you like  
to join us?

## 2 THE BENEFICE AT PRESENT

### The Village of Chalgrove

Chalgrove is a rural village within the South Oxfordshire District. It is situated approximately 12 miles south east of Oxford City and comprises 1,100 homes in about 2,750 acres. The current population is about 3,000, many of whom have lived in the village for most of their lives. The main part of the village is residential and has, as well as St Mary's Church, a post office, several shops, community halls, three public houses, a primary school, a modern doctor's surgery, and other amenities.

*"Chalgrove is a village with a heart wearing a coat of green"*  
Quote from a resident

Planning permission has been granted for 320 new homes to be built on two sites in the village. The airfield, which is leased to Martin Baker Ltd (manufacturer of aircraft ejector seats), is being considered for 3,000 more homes in the SODC Local Plan (see [www.chalgroveshield.org.uk/the\\_news/](http://www.chalgroveshield.org.uk/the_news/) for the latest updates on the consultation).

The village architecture reflects its history. There are 34 listed buildings in the village among the more modern housing. The site of the Civil War Battle of Chalgrove is listed in Historic England's Register of Historic Battlefields. Additional information can be found in Appendix 2 and at [www.chalgrove.info](http://www.chalgrove.info).

St Mary's church is a 12<sup>th</sup> century Grade 1 listed building containing a nationally important set of medieval wall paintings in the chancel. It has recently undergone complete refurbishment (see [www.chalgrovechurch.org](http://www.chalgrovechurch.org) and Appendix 1 for further details).



Medieval wall paintings at St Mary's

## Life at St Mary's Church

We are a traditional but liberal-minded church, using vestments and candles. We welcome everyone who comes.

Our congregations comprise both Anglicans and Methodists from the parish, an agreement having been drawn up between the two congregations following the closure of the Methodist Chapel in 2016 (see Appendix 4). Two lay ministers, one Methodist Lay Preacher and one Anglican Reader/Licensed Lay Minister, assist with the services and preaching (see Section 4 for complete list of supporting clergy).

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month there is an 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion, followed by a family all-age worship service at 9.30 am. In January, April, July and October this service is a family Eucharist. On every other Sunday of the year the 9.30 am service is a CW sung Eucharist. Every Wednesday at 10.00 am there is a BCP Holy Communion, with Anointing on the first Wednesday of the month. On Wednesday afternoons at 2.00 pm there is a 'TOTS' service for young children and their Mums/ Dads/ carers (see Appendix 3). Sunday services are assisted by a choir led by a professional organist who is also the

choirmaster. During the 9.30 am service, young children are encouraged to enjoy colouring activities at the back of the nave. The village is welcomed to church by the six bells in the tower, regularly rung by the Chalgrove bell ringers.

Twice a month there is a small Prayer Group (Thursday evening) and a Bible Study Group (Wednesday evening) both of which are held in private houses.

*Hannah, aged 12, writes: "I really enjoy the church because of the friendliness of the church, like the choir and the pictures on the walls, and the colouring for the kids at the back of the church. And I love how at the end of the service the kids get to go up the front to show their art work."*



Standing room only as the Carol Service fills up

We have a good connection with the village Primary School, who regularly use the church for services such as their Carol Service in December.

The Church contributes to the social life of the village as well as its spiritual wellbeing. For outreach and fundraising the PCC organises a Christmas Fayre in the village hall which attracts commercial stallholders as well as village organisations, and Father Christmas, of course. An Autumn Banquet is held in the church nave and attracts approx. 65 paying guests. A Progressive Supper is held every Spring which combines friendly social activity with fundraising. The Church Quiz in February is also a highlight of the village calendar.



TOTS' outing

Bereaved families are visited and given a bouquet of flowers from the church. They are also invited to the 'Lost for Words' events during the year, namely an Epiphany lunch on the second Sunday of January, and three or four 'Lost for Words' teas spaced out through the year on Sunday afternoons. Attendance at these events averages around 30 people.

We have a thriving Friends scheme, working under the auspices of the PCC, its aim being to bring together a community of people who, regardless of faith or belief,



Concert at St Mary's

share a desire both to financially support the life, work and fabric of St Mary's, and to promote awareness of the church and its heritage both locally and further afield (see Appendix 8).

The churchyard is open and is maintained by a gardener who receives an honorarium for his work.



St Mary's Autumn Banquet by candlelight



St Mary's Choir

# The Village of Berrick Salome

Berrick Salome lies two miles south of Chalgrove. It is an ancient community of four settlements, Berrick Prior, Berrick Salome, Roke and Rokemarsh, currently populated by about 300 residents. The Parish is rural in nature, several of our 127 houses having been expanded from original farm dwellings. The roads, originally designed for horse and carriage, are very narrow, so little further housing development has taken place for many years, although the Neighbourhood Plan anticipates the addition of a few extra dwellings. For further information about the work of the Parish Council, see [www.berrickandroke.org.uk](http://www.berrickandroke.org.uk).

For centuries, Berrick was an unimportant agricultural community; by 1086 only around 50 inhabitants were recorded in the Domesday Book. Over the last century, increasing mechanisation resulted in fewer people working on the land, and villagers started to commute to work outside the village, e.g. at Oxford Cowley Morris works, and then, with increasing use of cars, commuting further afield to many different towns. Today, in the digital age, the work pattern is changing again: frustrated by the negligible Broadband speeds, the villagers installed fibre-optic cable in 2017, and this has now enabled many people to run their businesses from home.

St Helen's Church is an unusual, small, stone building with a timber-framed bell tower (see [www.berricksalomechurch.org.uk](http://www.berricksalomechurch.org.uk) and Appendix 1 for further details).

In addition to St Helen's Church, the parish boasts two farms, two public houses, a village hall, a band hall, a children's play area and allotments. Because it has no public transport, amenities such as shops, doctors or schools, are only accessible by car.

## ***Life at St Helen's Church***

In contrast to the situation in larger parishes, the church plays a central role in the life of the whole community. Whether or not individuals choose to worship at the church on a regular basis, the church's fund-raising events have become the social glue which holds people together, and there is a well-established pattern of community involvement in such activities as the traditional Garden Fête, the Christmas Fair, the Open Gardens, the Progressive Supper, the Tennis Tournament, the Ride and Stride for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, quizzes, and concerts in aid of USPG. While these are mainly non-religious in nature, they have always enjoyed the enthusiastic participation of the Rector, which in itself provides a good platform for community involvement and raises awareness of St Helen's Church.

So while the congregation on any given Sunday may be small, the whole community is involved in our activities – the church and the village coming together around the church. It is this support from the community which has enabled us to keep a working

church in our village, as witnessed by over £40,000 being raised for the bell refurbishment in 2015.

Our activity-based children's services are always popular



Christingle-making in Family Service

*Emily, aged 6, says:  
I love going to church because I love singing and dancing to the hymns and I like helping to collect the money. It's important to learn about God because he looks after us all. I also really like getting biscuits at the end!*



Baptism in an active Family Service

We now have a beautiful and well-maintained building and churchyard, supported not only by the PCC but also by voluntary teams of 'Flower Fairies' and 'Holy Mowers' who make St Helen's an inspiring place to visit and reflect in peaceful calm – a 'hideaway' church which is well-appreciated, judging by the many comments in the visitors' book. These visitors often express their gratitude for the fact that the church is always kept open.

**The community itself is more important than the building *per se* – but the two together are synergistic, and our new incumbent will be very warmly welcomed as an important member of our community.**

A service is held each Sunday and, with only one incumbent, the services of Chalgrove and Berrick are co-ordinated to make it possible for two Sunday morning services to be taken each week 'end-to-end', in Chalgrove at 9.30 am followed by Berrick's service at 11.00 am. We currently offer a variety of 11.00 am formats to suit all tastes, and each has its own adherents. The first Sunday of the month is a non-Eucharistic Family Service, with a special activity-based children's service every quarter. On the second Sunday we have a BCP service with KJV readings, and on the third to fifth Sundays we have a Common Worship Sung Eucharist (see summary in Appendix 3).

Harvest is marked by a whole-community bring-and-share lunch following the Thanksgiving Service, and on Christmas Eve we have a special (standing-room only!) 6.30 pm Candle-lit Carol Service, enhanced by a bespoke carol or two by our own composer and sung by the once-a-year scratch choir.

The church benefits from a recently installed Allen organ and has access to regular organists. The congregation in church each week is often small, but it is very enthusiastic, welcoming and friendly. As we have no regular choir, the help of the incumbent to lead the singing in the service is always appreciated.



Flower Fairies preparing for a village wedding

Two of our  
dedicated  
teams of  
volunteers



Holy Mowers in their Synchronised Strimming routine

## Benefice Outreach and Charitable Giving

Though a large proportion of the funds we raise goes towards paying our collective Parish Share, we see donating to charities as an important focus for outreach. Both churches support The Porch, a facility for the homeless in Oxford, by sending food and other items as part of our Harvest Thanksgiving services, and also by donating such items directly during the year via a collection box in St Mary's Church. We have supported USPG together for the last 35 years or so, collecting for them through special events, such as a recent Benefice concert in Berrick, and gift envelopes during Lent and Advent.

The Children's Society benefitted from the St Helen's Christingle service at Advent. We are Fairtrade churches, and have collections



Benefice USPG Concert in 2018

during the year for Christian Aid and Water Aid. At St Mary's December family service we donate toys and tins for the Salvation Army to distribute in Oxford at Christmas, and the collections taken during the Christmas Carol, Midnight Mass and Morning services are divided equally between a local charity, such as the Chalgrove Age Concern, and Christian Aid.

Other opportunities for outreach include monthly articles to keep villagers in touch with the church in Link, our local magazine, and visits by the incumbent to Chalgrove Primary School. Life events in the community (weddings, funerals, baptisms, pastoral care) also contribute to villagers' understanding of the church and the role it plays in their lives.

The members of both our congregations are actively living out their faith at work, e.g. as councillors, counsellors, carers, managers, doctors, etc, and as volunteers in the community in groups such as Age Concern, the WI, the Royal British Legion, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Chalgrove Scout Group. The previous incumbent also acted as Chaplain to Age Concern, the RBL and the Scout Group.

# 3 LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

## What do we have to offer a new incumbent?

### We offer:

- Two hospitable congregations, who value warm-heartedness and inclusivity, and will be open and responsive to your leadership in our shared worship of God.
- Two communities which are strong and involved, with congregation members playing active roles in many groups.
- Two beautiful, historic and well-maintained churches (as confirmed by recent Quinquennial Inspections), with St Mary's completing a major refurbishment in 2016 and St Helen's undertaking a full bell restoration in 2015, enabling the use of the churches for community events.
- A regular choir at St Mary's, excellent organists in both churches with a new organ at St Mary's; a toddler group and weekday service; a prayer group and a house group at St Mary's; an active bell ringing group for both churches.
- The supportive presence of our Methodist sisters and brothers in the St Mary's congregation.
- Two supportive and conscientious PCCs and enthusiastic teams of volunteers within the churches and the whole community.
- Two parishes with stable finances, and no foreseeable major expenditure.
- Two historic, picturesque villages, with opportunities for further mission provided by new housing developments.
- Parish office facilities available in the John Hampden Hall if required.
- A modern vicarage, which will have been newly refurbished, in the centre of Chalgrove, with garden access to the High Street and the John Hampden Hall.

## Why might you want to come to us?

### **You would:**

- Be playing the central and much-appreciated role in a Benefice of two parishes with vibrant communities and a diversity of needs.
- Be challenged with:
  - ✓ Drawing people to Christ through your inspiring ministry;
  - ✓ Maintaining and growing the awareness of the part that the Church plays in all our lives;
  - ✓ Developing our mission and bringing your spiritual leadership to carry on God's work in our communities;
  - ✓ Spreading the good news to the younger generations;
  - ✓ Collaborating ecumenically with our Methodist worshippers.
- Contribute to the work of an exciting and supportive Diocese.
- Have the opportunity to make your home in the heart of Chalgrove, in a beautiful part of rural England at the foot of the Chilterns, within easy reach of Oxford, London and the Midlands.

### **We would welcome a new incumbent who:**

- Is able to stimulate us to grow in discipleship and take our mission out into the community, providing leadership in pastoral care.
- Has a positive and versatile outward-looking attitude, is willing to work with our Anglican and Methodist congregation at St Mary's, is ecumenical, and who will welcome all-comers.
- Is approachable and fun, able to engage children and young people in order to attract more families into the congregations, and to encourage and motivate further lay participation.
- Is enthusiastic, with a sense of humour, and able to work with the whole community, is empathetic to all villagers even if they are not part of the congregation, and who wants to participate in the life of the two villages.

## **Are we the place to which you are being called?**

# 4 ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

## Parish Share

Berrick and Chalgrove between them pay the Parish Share for the two churches, with Chalgrove contributing 2/3 and Berrick 1/3. For several years now, we have paid our full share on time, and received a discount as a result.

## St Mary's PCC

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, Chalgrove, has thirteen members. The incumbent is an ex-officio member, as is the Licensed Lay Minister. A lay Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, two Churchwardens and three Deanery Synod representatives are elected at the annual Parochial Church Meeting. The PCC meets six times a year. There is a Fabric and Finance Sub-Committee which meets more often. The John Hampden Hall Committee and the Friends of St Mary's Committee are also both sub-committees of the PCC with members of the PCC on both committees.

We currently have 91 people on the electoral roll.

Income is provided by the members of the congregation through standing orders and the Envelope Scheme. Additionally funds are raised throughout the year by events, some organised by the Friends and some by the PCC. The Church Estate Trust also supports the services of the church (see Appendix 7).

## St Helen's PCC

The PCC of St Helen's consists of six members, plus two ex-officio Deanery Synod Reps, and one Churchwarden who is also ex-officio. There are usually five PCC meetings a year. The PCC is too small to have formal standing sub-committees, but from time to time, small groups get together as needed for specific projects, sometimes informally co-opting members of the village.



Current members of St Helen's PCC

We currently have 51 people on our Electoral Roll.

St Helen's has regularly paid its Parish Share and met its liabilities from regular giving and annual fund-raising activities, which are inclusive social events, well supported by the village. The PCC has seen as important that sufficient reserves be established over many years to ensure the future of St Helen's as a working church in our community.

However, we acknowledge the fact that our regular congregation is ageing which, common to many other village parishes, presents a challenge. We have been successful in meeting our costs, helped by the fact that the community, whether regular church-goers or not, wholeheartedly supports initiatives when necessary.

Another challenge has been to attract more of the rather few village children. However, we now have several young families with children reaching an age where they might become interested – hence we have recently introduced a quarterly thematic and active family service involving families with children, which has proved popular.

## **Safeguarding**

The Safeguarding Officer is elected by the St Mary's PCC and covers the whole Benefice.

## **Trusteeships in the Benefice**

The incumbent is an ex-officio Trustee of the following:

### ***Chalgrove Church Estate***

For details, see Appendix 7.

### ***Church Lands Charity (Berrick Salome)***

The PCC of Berrick Salome is the administrative Trustee of the Church Lands Charity tenanted farm land measuring 10.4 acres.

### ***Relief in Need & Vicar's Discretionary Fund***

This civil Charity was set up many years ago to provide relief for the poor of the parish. The charity is administered by Trustees, one of whom is the incumbent. It is funded by the rent from a piece of agricultural land farmed by one of the neighbouring landowners and owned jointly by the villages of Berrick Salome and Chalgrove.

In recent years grants have been made to householders to assist with flood damage repairs, heating, and disabled care, and the charity has also helped students with grants towards books etc. for university.

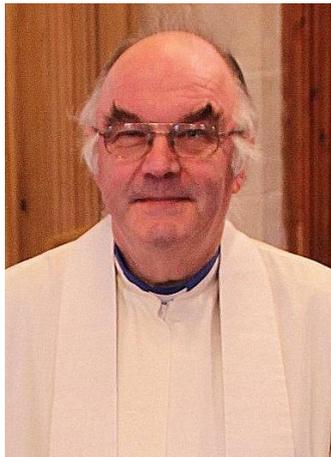
# Supporting the Ministry

Revd John Anderson, Methodist Minister, has recently been appointed as minister responsible for the Methodist congregations of Watlington, Great Milton and Chalgrove, and conducts a service each month at St Mary's.

Revd Julian Dunn, PTO, Deanery of Aston & Cuddesdon, and a resident of Great Haseley has supported our Benefice for a number of years, taking services as requested by our Vicar.

We have two lay Ministers: Jennifer Thompson, Methodist Local Preacher, and Bob Heath-Whyte, Church of England Reader/Licensed Lay Minister (LLM).

In addition, Ross Martin, a resident of Chalgrove and member of St Mary's congregation, is an LLM and assistant Chaplain at Littlemore Hospital.



John Anderson  
*Methodist Minister*



Jennifer Thompson  
*Methodist Local Preacher*



Bob Heath-Whyte  
*Anglican LLM*

## 5 OTHER BUILDINGS

In addition to the two churches, further details of which are in Appendix 1, the Benefice has the following buildings in Chalgrove.

### The Vicarage

The Vicarage is in Brinkinfield Road in Chalgrove and is 30 years old. It is set in a large garden with mature trees and bushes. A driveway at the front accommodates up to four cars. On the ground floor there is a large living room, a kitchen/dining room, study, hallway with toilet, and a bedroom with en suite wetroom. Upstairs are four bedrooms, and a bathroom.



Vicarage garden party

## The John Hampden Hall



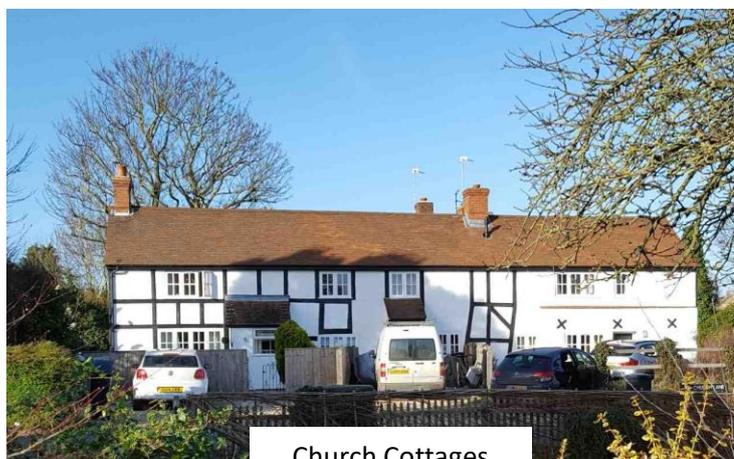
John Hampden Hall

The Hall was erected, next to the old Vicarage, in 1906 by the efforts of the Revd. John Howard Swinstead who held various fund raising activities including recitals and whist drives. The Hall was The Village Hall until the erection of the present hall on the Recreation Ground in 1989. The John Hampden Hall is owned by the Church and run by a Committee of Managing Trustees comprising of PCC members and users. It was completely refashioned inside in 2000 with the aid of a lottery grant and a SODC grant.

The Hall comprises a foyer, computer room run by Age Concern, an area used as a Parish Office at present, a storage area, kitchen, toilets and a fair sized Hall which hosts PCC meetings, Parish lunches and teas. It is also home to many village groups including the W.I., Chalgrove Local History Group, the Brownies, Age Concern, Scrabble Club, Flower Club and numerous children's activities. All these are charged at a subsidised rate to help these village groups survive, but parties, exhibitions etc. pay the full rate. A cleaner/caretaker is employed. There is a pretty garden maintained by the Committee (see [www.johnhampdenhall-chalgrove.org](http://www.johnhampdenhall-chalgrove.org)).

## Church Cottages

Three terraced cottages at the end of Church Lane are owned by the Church Estate Trust and let to tenants. They have been regularly maintained and upgraded over the past thirty years.



Church Cottages

# The Red Lion

The Red Lion public house is owned by the Church Estate Trust (see Appendix 6) and leased as a family-run free house by Raymond and Suzanne Sexton. It is a 15th century building and has been thoroughly refurbished twice in the last 30 years.

It serves excellent meals as well as wine and craft beers/real ales.

Visit [www.redlionchalgrove.com](http://www.redlionchalgrove.com)



# 6 OTHER INFORMATION

## Diocesan Information

Diocese of Oxford

[www.oxford.anglican.org](http://www.oxford.anglican.org)

St Mary's Church Chalgrove

[www.chalgrovechurch.org](http://www.chalgrovechurch.org)

St Helen's Church Berrick Salome

[www.berricksalomechurch.org.uk](http://www.berricksalomechurch.org.uk)

## Local Government and Other Services

Chalgrove Parish Council

[www.chalgrove-parish.org.uk](http://www.chalgrove-parish.org.uk)

South Oxfordshire District Council

[www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

Oxfordshire County Council

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Schools, Health and Care Services

Chalgrove Community Primary School

[www.chalgrove.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.chalgrove.oxon.sch.uk)

Icknield Community College in Watlington

[www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk)

Chalgrove and Watlington Surgeries

[www.watlington-surgeries.nhs.uk](http://www.watlington-surgeries.nhs.uk)

Oxford University Hospitals

[www.ouh.nhs.uk](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk)

## Additional Parish information:

**St Mary's Annual Yearbook**

[www.chalgrovechurch.org/the-church/](http://www.chalgrovechurch.org/the-church/)

**Friends of St Marys Quarterly Newsletter**

[www.chalgrovechurch.org/the-church/friends-of-the-church/](http://www.chalgrovechurch.org/the-church/friends-of-the-church/)

**St Helen's Newsletter**

[www.berricksalomechurch.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.berricksalomechurch.org.uk/newsletter)

# APPENDICES

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# The Church Buildings in the Benefice

## The Church of St. Mary the Virgin Chalgrove

The Church of St. Mary is an ancient Foundation. The church's current form dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD, and there may be an Anglo-Saxon church beneath or near the medieval building. The church contains one of the best preserved and most colourful set of wall paintings not only in Oxfordshire, but in England; these are described in detail in an illustrated guide book written by our LLM, Bob Heath-Whyte. The quality and beauty of the decoration is probably due to royal patronage as a prebend of Wallingford. This influence perhaps ensured that the living of the church passed to Christ Church, Oxford, the new foundation of King Henry VIII.



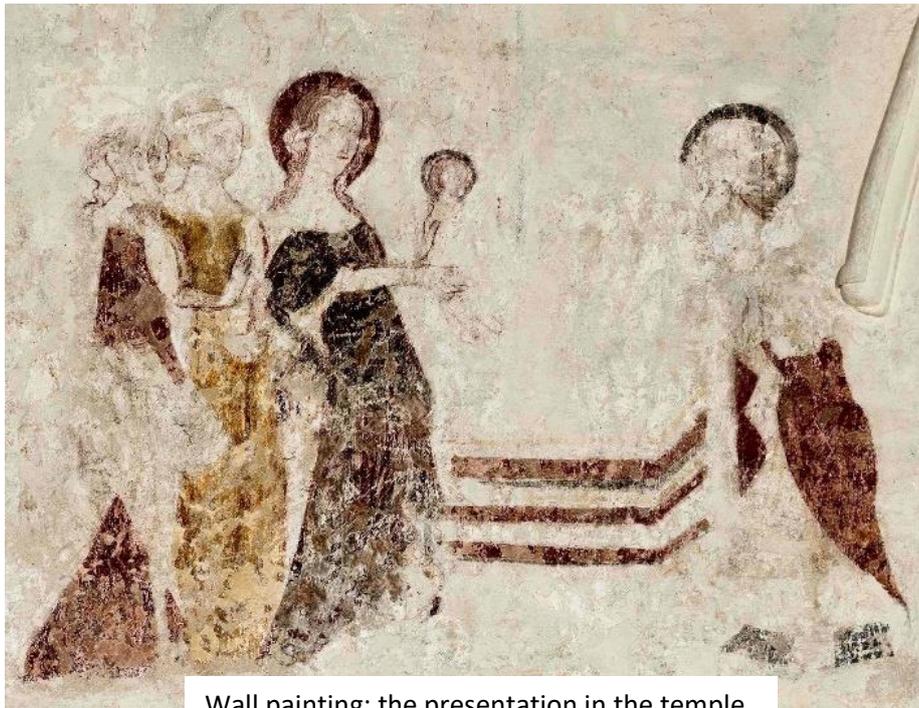
St Mary's Chancel

The Church of St. Mary is a good example of Norman transitional architecture in Oxfordshire. In addition to the exceptional early 14<sup>th</sup> century wall paintings, the carved stone piscina with credence and three-seated sedilia are very fine examples of high-quality medieval design and craftsmanship, possibly with Florentine influence. The exceptional historic, architectural, art historical and archaeological significance of the building is recognised in its Grade 1 listing, which places it in the top 2.5% of England's most important historic buildings.

The building has benefited from several years of restoration and repair culminating in a £1.2 million restoration scheme in 2015/6, and contains chancel, nave with north and south aisles, and a three storied tower with six bells. The church benefits from a bespoke lighting and sound system,

with a hearing aid loop. It is heated by radiant heat from novel panels in the roof of the nave and side aisles. The chancel is equipped with a Viscount digital organ professionally voiced to suit the building's acoustics. The capacity of the church is approximately 200 persons.

As part of the restoration scheme in 2015/6 new interpretation aids were developed including audio-visual handset guides for use by visitors, the content of which can also be downloaded as an app for smartphones and tablets (look for St Mary's Chalgrove in Apple or Android app stores). Work is continuing on producing guides for visually impaired people (VIP) in co-operation with the Ashmolean and Natural History Museums in Oxford. A number of volunteer guides have also been trained to help visitors. Some 400 people visit the church each year, and visiting groups can request an hour-long talk about the wall paintings - see 360° view at [www.chalgrovechurch.org](http://www.chalgrovechurch.org) .



Wall painting: the presentation in the temple

## The Church of St Helen Berrick Salome



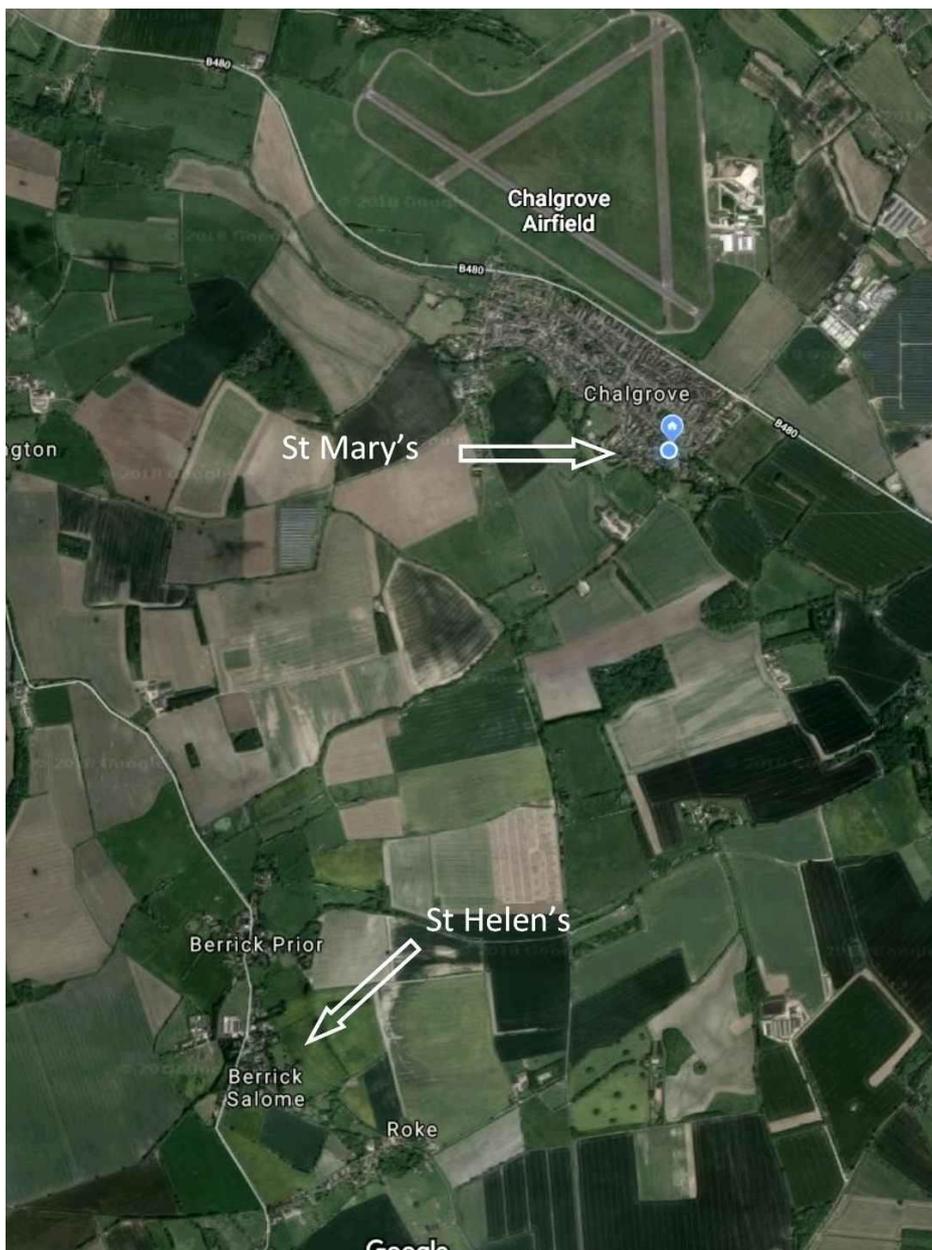
The basic church itself was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century of rubble-filled stone walls and the south door way has a Norman arch. It was always impoverished, depending on the largesse of landowners rather than the village farm-labourers. Many improvements were made in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the money from the sacking of the monasteries (after Henry VIII's divorce) circulated around the country: people became philanthropic and the church gained a new roof, the west gallery, an oak chest, some silver and an oak bier. After that, the church fell into disrepair, compounded by the rise of non-conformism, but eventually a vestry was added in the great restoration of 1890. The bell tower was

recently found by dendrochronological testing to have been erected in 1429, and it is unique in Oxfordshire for being a timber-framed tower on a stone church. It has a ring of six bells, restored in 2015. Further details can be found at [www.berricksalomechurch.org.uk](http://www.berricksalomechurch.org.uk)

The church lies at the end of a cul-de-sac lane, and the churchyard borders onto fields on all sides. A relatively recent addition has been a small car park on a parcel of land donated for this purpose. The churchyard is regularly tended by volunteers who maintain its rural nature while keeping the paths and graves clear. There is a memorial area for interment of ashes.

## What it's like to live in Chalgrove

**The Parish Setting:** Chalgrove is surrounded by agricultural land. There are a number of public footpaths leading to open countryside and a popular walking circuit around the village of 2.5 miles on narrow quiet country lanes. The village is built largely on the flood plain of the Chalgrove brook and as such the environment tends to be dominated by the water environment. There are well defined streams and drainage channels that support a variety of wildlife.



The style and appearance of the buildings in Chalgrove have evolved to match the various developments that have taken place over the years, predominately built of light brick with open frontages. There are a number of historic buildings, particularly in the centre of the village, that reflect its early origins.

**Community life:** Chalgrove is a friendly, engaged community, a fact borne out by the responses to the Village Plan which was produced by a team of local volunteers, under the leadership of the Parish Council. Following this the volunteers achieved a number of successes. These include: two new children’s play areas, and an extended skateboard park in the recreation ground, planting of fruitful hedgerows and hundreds of daffodils, regular litter picks, free dog waste bag dispensers and bags, the launch of a village website, welcome packs for new residents, swap shops, apple pressing, and a Christmas tree in the village centre.

Age Concern Chalgrove Area (ACCA) is a small local charity dedicated to providing the opportunity for companionship and entertainment for the elderly of Chalgrove and surrounding villages. They hold their main sessions on Tuesdays, with other activities on other days, and the vicar of St Mary’s has been a keen supporter of their work, a regular visitor, and has also provided services at key points in the Church’s year for their members, during Tuesday /Day Centre sessions.

The existence of many clubs, societies and events for all ages provides a social framework and a method of entry for a newcomer into the community. Among these are an active youth club, a Flower Club, Chalgrove Local History Group, Chalgrove Hospital and Assisted Transport Service, Chalgrove Flood Alleviation Group, and branches of the Royal British Legion and the Women’s Institute.



Remembrance Day Service at the Chalgrove Memorial

K. Poile

The 1<sup>st</sup> Chalgrove Scout Group has Scouts, Cubs and Beavers sections, and there are Guides and Brownie packs too. Village activities cater for all ages and include football, walking football, netball, cricket, tennis, yoga, pilates, scrabble, zumba, tai chi, and table tennis.

In addition there are several halls and meeting places and large recreation grounds, with a floodlit Multi-Use Games Area, in the centre of the village for all ages to enjoy. The Chalgrove and Watlington Children's Centre is located in the village.

The Parish Council is well run and proactive in working for better amenities. We have recently completed the long process of making a Neighbourhood Development Plan and had it approved by the South Oxfordshire District Council (see [www.chalgrove.info](http://www.chalgrove.info)).

There is a very popular May Festival in the village on the May Bank Holiday Monday, with a 10K Fun Run. The Royal British Legion hold an annual Horticultural Show in September and organise the November Remembrance Sunday service in conjunction with the Vicar.

**Location and Transport:** Chalgrove is located on the B480 between Watlington and Stadhampton, with the M40 within easy reach. There is a local bus service between Watlington and Oxford which calls in regularly at Chalgrove. There is also a weekly bus service to Thame.

**Population:** Approximately 3,000, but this will increase when the planned 320 houses are completed in the new development which has now started.

**Employment:** The Chalgrove Monument Park industrial estate houses a large number of industrial units and is managed efficiently by Jennings Ltd. Martin Baker Co Ltd lease the airfield and are developing their facilities. The BMW MINI plant in Cowley is only 8 miles away and RAF Benson is 4 miles away. There are several Science Parks around Oxford, Abingdon and Didcot and the Harwell and Culham scientific hubs are also within easy commuting distance.

*We were looking for houses in the area, and my boss suggested Chalgrove. When we were searching, Chalgrove felt rural, away from the bustle and stress of other villages that had just become through-roads. Chalgrove seemed very different. We surmised that was how villages used to be: self-sustaining in the sense it had its cultural heart still intact. Yes - it had pubs, a church, a post office and a school, but the key thing was it was an active village: families staying, growing up and remaining part of the community. People lived here for the village and cared about it, as opposed to a 'biscuit-tin' village that had swapped its residents for people seeking semi-rural living but not willing to be neighbourly. When we came to view potential houses in Chalgrove, we knew straight away we would feel welcomed and become a part of community life. People stopped to talk, they told us about the village, why we shouldn't look anywhere else. They talked about festivals and fetes - there seemed so much going on. We knew we were going to enjoy living here.*

Comment from a recently-arrived Chalgrovian

## PATTERN OF WORSHIP IN THE BENEFICE

### A summary

DAY	CHALGROVE	BERRICK	NOTES
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	08.00: BCP Holy Communion  09.30: All-age family service. In Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct this is a family Eucharist	11.00: All-age family service  11.00: 4 x year: special activity-based children's service	Non-Eucharist services often led by a LLM or Methodist Local Preacher
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	09.30: Sung Eucharist with Methodist liturgy, Often led by Methodist Minister, with choir	11.00: BCP Holy Communion with KJV readings	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	09.30: CW Sung Eucharist, choir-led	11.00: CW Sung Eucharist, Rector-led	
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday			
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday			
Wednesdays	10.00: BCP Holy Communion with Anointing on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of each month  14.00: TOTS service for young children parents and carers  2 x month Bible Study in private houses (evening)		
Thursdays	2 x month Prayer Group in private houses (evening)		

# St Mary's Ecumenical Declaration

## OUR DECLARATION OF ECUMENICAL WELCOME AND COMMITMENT

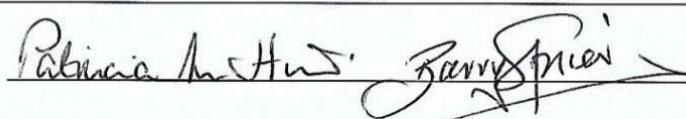
*By the Parish of St Mary Chalgrove*

1. We rejoice in our close fellowship with Christians of other denominations, and especially that between the Chalgrove Methodist Class and this parish, since our shared worship in 2015-16, prior to the closure of the Methodist Chapel in 2016.
2. We, the Vicar and people of St Mary's Church, are aware that St Mary's is the only church in Chalgrove, and therefore we invite all Christians in Chalgrove to be as fully a part of our life and fellowship as they are able.
3. We invite those of Christian traditions other than our own
  - to share in the ministry and mission of the Church in this community
  - to worship and, if baptised and communicant members of other Churches, to receive Holy Communion at St Mary's,
  - to be part of the decision-making of the church and to contribute to a common fund for the mission and ministry of the wider church, in so far as their continued giving to another church will allow.
4. We undertake
  - to give pastoral care to all those who desire it
  - to invite ministers of other churches to take part in leading worship
  - to incorporate the riches of worship of other traditions as appropriate
  - to include this ecumenical declaration as an integral part of the parish profile.

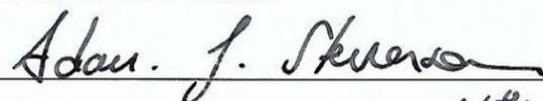
Following the submission of this Declaration to the Bishop of Oxford, and to Churches Together in Oxfordshire (our 'Intermediate Body'), we have been pleased to receive their blessing and encouragement in so far as we have embarked on this ecumenical journey.

For St Mary's Chalgrove

Vicar 

Churchwardens 

for Chalgrove Methodist Class

Minister 

*on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018.*

## Benefice data

In 2018	Chalgrove	Berrick Salome
Funerals	5	2
Memorials	1	1
Interment of ashes	3	2
Marriages	5	4
Baptisms	7	1
Total Sunday attendance	2114	801

## Parish Finances: Parochial Church Council of Chalgrove

St Mary's Church in Chalgrove is valued within the community; Sunday service attendance maintains a steady level, and events are well supported.

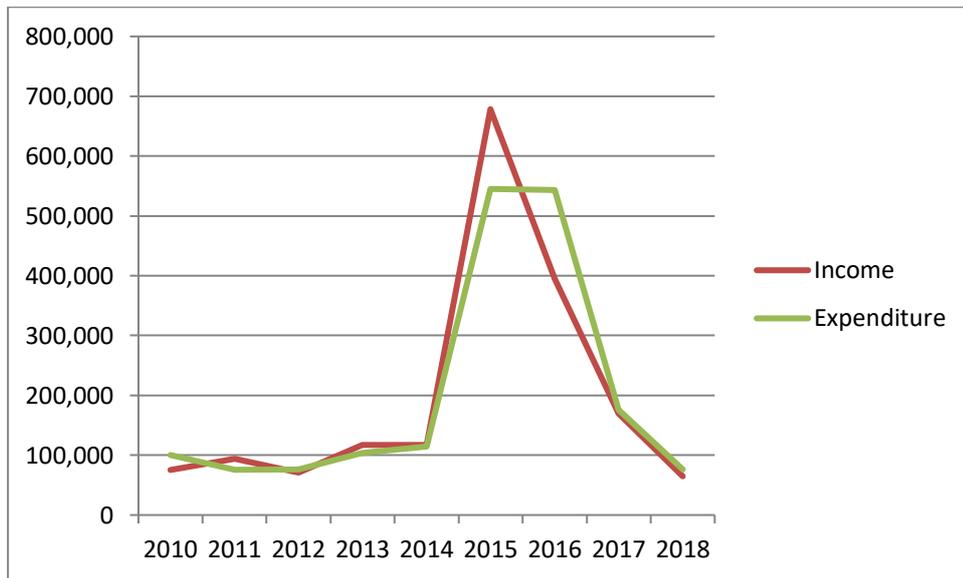
Financially there is always a challenge to balance the books, and fund-raising events remain key in meeting financial obligations. Regular events include an annual banquet (autumn) and progressive supper (spring), plus St Nicks each December, as well as a variety of music and cultural events organised and / or supported by 'Friends'.

Meetings are held six times per year, with the option for extraordinary meetings attended by the Standing Committee, and a sub-set of the PCC meet two weeks prior to the PCC as the Fabric and Finance Committee.

Over the years, the PCC has undertaken several significant projects to repair, maintain and improve the fabric of St Mary's Church, which have included:

- works to repair the roof, creating a structurally sound and waterproof property for Parish services;
- installation of a mezzanine level to create a new bell-ringing chamber, and the installation of a small servery and utility area, including toilets at the base of the tower;
- refurbishment of the bell-ringing mechanisms,  
and more recently;
- the refurbishment of the church and conservation of historically significant items, including a nearly complete set of medieval wall-paintings.

Year	Income	Expenditure	Net	Building works
2011	94,362	75,635	18,727	2,036
2012	70,481	76,432	-5,861	2,856
2013	117,327	104,070	13,257	28,908
2014	117,260	114,609	2,651	41,366
2015	678,444	545,091	133,353	474,186
2016	394,799	543,203	-148,404	469,265
2017	169,560	175,682	6,122	96,641
2018	64,745	76,559	-11,814	-15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,706,978</b>	<b>1,711,281</b>	<b>8,031</b>	<b>1,100,258</b>



NB 2012 to 2017 reflects the refurbishment and conservation project; income and costs are still settling down following this significant project. During 2018 a loan, used to support the refurbishment project, was settled.

# Parish Finances:

## Parochial Church Council of Berrick Salome

We are grateful to the individuals who support the Church with their regular giving. Historically we have regularly met our financial obligations and managed to return a small excess. We will need to encourage new income from gift aid and maintain the generous support for the fund raising events to ensure that we continue in this vein. Bank current and deposit accounts at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 were £106,724 much of which is allocated to specific funds for the future maintenance and care of St Helen's Church.

### St. Helen's Church Berrick Salome

#### Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2017

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account		2017	2016	Payments	
Receipts				2017	2016
<b>RECURRING INCOME</b>					
Income from donors					
Planned giving from Deeds and Gift Aids		7732.20	6892.04		
Legacy					25.00
Income Tax Recovered		2002.18	2190.94	25.00	
Colleagues and other giving		1360.19	1366.17		
Bell Fund Donation			700.00		
<b>Other voluntary incoming resources</b>					
Fund Raising			2469.65	14450.49	14091.66
Summer Fete			0.00	1652.11	1658.49
Gardens Open Day		2074.60	0.00	216.58	475.29
Christmas Fayre		2365.70	2286.40	640.17	713.94
Progressive Supper		1485.00	1280.00	126.00	584.16
OHCT Sponsored Ride		419.75	382.50		
Pop Quiz		0.00	0.00		
Quiz Night		0.00	954.30	0.00	0.00
Tennis Tournament		846.00	0.00	576.50	582.58
Concert		0.00	0.00		
Christmas Fair 2015		0.00	217.82		
<b>Income from investments</b>					
Interest on Nat Westminster Cia		195.71	279.80	230.00	824.20
Interest on CBOF Deposit A/c				0.00	39.92
Interest on Charity Bond				0.00	376.33
<b>Other income</b>					
Church Estate		405.48	405.48	399.31	613.50
Fees		202.00	1209.00	245.40	
Insurance					
<b>RECURRING EXPENDITURE</b>					
Donations to Charities					
USPG					
OHCT					25.00
Christian Aid					
PKCT					
St Barnabas					
Church Housing Trust					
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church					
Dioecesan Parish Share				14450.49	14091.66
Insurance				1652.11	1658.49
Church Running Expenses		2074.60	0.00	216.58	475.29
Ministry Expenses		2365.70	2286.40	640.17	713.94
Repairs and Maintenance		1485.00	1280.00	126.00	584.16
Quinquennial Inspection		419.75	382.50		
Land Registration		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accounts Software		0.00	954.30	576.50	582.58
Southern Electric		0.00	0.00		
<b>Fund Raising costs and Church administration</b>					
License fees - SODC				230.00	824.20
Fund Raising costs		195.71	279.80	0.00	39.92
Printing Envelopes/Tickets/Cookbook				0.00	376.33
Sundries				0.00	0.00
Wedding Fees				0.00	0.00
Church Land Professional Charges				399.31	613.50
<b>Special Projects and Transfers</b>					
Flower Fund		405.48	405.48		
Unrestricted Legacy Fund		202.00	1209.00	245.40	
Organ Fund					
Churchyard Fund					
Restoration Fund					
Bell Tower Fund					
<b>MAJOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>					
Bell Tower Refurbishment				0.00	7.30
Adjustment		0.00	0.00		
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>19306.81</b>	<b>20634.10</b>	<b>18561.56</b>	<b>20062.59</b>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		747.25	551.51		
Bank current & deposit accounts at 1 Jan 2016 (1 Jan 2017)		105977.44	105425.93		
Bank current & deposit accounts at 31 Dec 2016 (31 Dec 2017)		<b>106724.69</b>	<b>105977.44</b>		

## Chalgrove Church Estate Trust

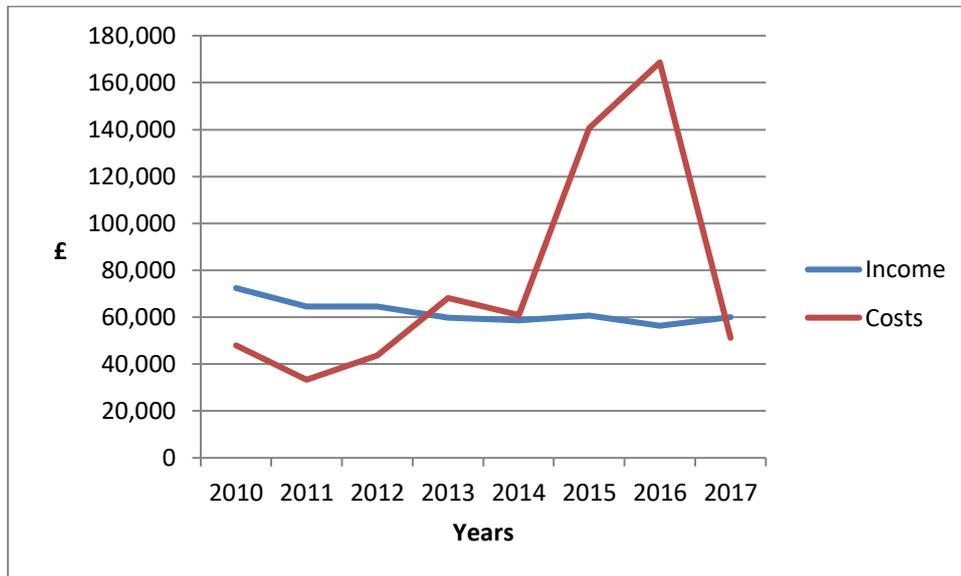
### Church Estate Trust - Finances

The Church Estate Trust was established in 1887 to support the repair, improvement and maintenance of the fabric and furniture of the Parish Church of Chalgrove and the maintenance of its services. The Trust is served by seven trustees: the Vicar (1) and Churchwardens (2) who are ex-officio; co-optative trustees (2), appointed by the other trustees, and nominative trustees (2), appointed by the Parochial Church Council.

In financial terms support is achieved through the maintenance of fixed assets investments and generates income through the rental of its investment properties, which consist of three cottages and one mixed-use property, all located within Chalgrove.

- ❖ Regular income comes from property rental;
- ❖ Properties are managed by a third party agent;
- ❖ Due to the age of the properties, there are often significant repair and maintenance costs;
- ❖ Gas supplies have recently been connected to the cottages;
- ❖ During 2016 and 2017 the Church Estate supported a £1.2million refurbishment and conservation project of the church, by providing a grant (£30,000) and a loan (£100,000);
- ❖ Trustees meet four times a year, with occasional extraordinary meetings, as necessary.

Year	Income	Costs	Net	Assets
2010	72,415	48,046	24,369	1,420,158
2011	64,479	33,321	31,158	1,446,963
2012	64,630	43,640	20,990	1,478,370
2013	59,881	68,238	-8,357	1,483,312
2014	58,556	60,919	-2,363	1,484,129
2015	60,681	140,542	-79,861	1,410,818
2016	56,353	168,661	-112,308	1,314,940
2017	59,948	51,115	8,833	1,336,032



NB The increased costs during 2013, 2015 and 2016 represent the funding support provided during the £1.2m Heritage Lottery Fund supported project to refurbish the Parish church and conserve the historical features, including the nearly complete set of medieval wall-paintings.

### The Friends of St Mary's

On behalf of St Mary's, the Friends host events and other fund/awareness raising activities. All members receive the Friends Quarterly newsletter that gives news from St Mary's and details of forthcoming events. There are now 51 Friends and, to date, monies raised from membership donations and events have annually exceeded £3000. Membership is open to all and new members are always welcome to join the scheme by completing the Friends membership application form.

An example of the Friends Quarterly can be found at [www.chalgrovechurch.org/the-church/friends-of-the-church/](http://www.chalgrovechurch.org/the-church/friends-of-the-church/)

# Draft Role Description

### SECTION ONE: DETAILS OF POST

**Role title:** Vicar of Chalgrove and Rector Berrick Salome

**Type of Role:** Full time stipendiary

**Name of benefice:** St Mary Chalgrove with St Helen Berrick Salome

**Episcopal area:** Dorchester

**Deanery:** Aston and Cuddesdon

**Archdeaconry:** Dorchester

**Conditions of Service:** Please refer to Statements of Particulars document issued in conjunction with this role description

**Key contact:** Archdeacon of Dorchester

**Clergy Terms of Service:** This role falls within the Clergy Terms of Service formally known as Common Tenure. The Archdeacon of Dorchester is the designated person by the Bishop of Oxford to issue the Statement of Particulars for the post holder.

**Accountability:** Priests share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church. Whilst, as an office holder, the individual is expected to lead and prioritise work in line with the purpose of the role, they are encouraged to inform the Archdeacon and Churchwardens about any issues exceptional or otherwise that have the potential to affect ongoing delivery of ministry

**Additional Responsibility:** N/A

### SECTION TWO: CONTEXT

#### Wider Context

With the appointment of the new Bishop of Oxford the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft a new Common Vision is emerging for the Diocese of Oxford ...

The vision addresses what kind of church we are called to be – A Christ-like Church.

What are the marks of a Christ-like 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 some of the following strategic priorities:

- Make a difference in the world
- Support and grow the local church
- Establish new churches and congregations
- Serve our schools
- Renew discipleship and ministry

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 its priests to flourish in ministry and to deepen their enjoyment of God.

### **Local Context**

The Diocese is working on its Common Vision to become a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world. Its core values are being Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous.

## **SECTION THREE: ROLE PURPOSE AND KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **General:**

A. To exercise the cure of souls shared with the bishop in the Benefice of Chalgrove with Berrick Salome in collaboration with colleagues, including the praying of the Daily Office, the administration of the sacraments and preaching

B. To have regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy (as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy) and other relevant legislation including

- bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making him known to those in your care
- instructing the parishioners in the Christian faith
- preparing candidates for baptism and confirmation
- diligently visiting the parishioners of the benefice, particularly those who are sick and infirm
- providing spiritual counsel and advice
- consulting with the Parochial Church Council on matters of general concern and importance to the benefice
- bringing the needs of the world before God in intercession
- calling your hearers to repentance and declaring in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins
- blessing people in God's name
- preparing people for their death
- discerning and fostering the gifts of all God's people
- being faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us

C. To share in the wider work of the deanery and diocese as appropriate, for the building up of the whole Body of Christ

### **Key responsibilities specific to the local situation**

Leadership and working collaboratively to maintain the ecumenical relationship between St Mary's PCC and the local Methodist congregation and the Oxford Circuit.

Other responsibilities as outlined in the Benefice Profile. The key responsibilities listed there will be supported by long and short-term objectives to be agreed between the post-holder and the Archdeacon and Churchwardens after appointment.

### **Other responsibilities**

- Participate in the Bishop's Ministerial Development Review scheme and engage in Continuing Ministerial Development.
- Carry out any other duties and responsibilities as required in line with the benefice needs.

- Take care for their wellbeing including health and safety and building a good repertoire of spiritual and psychological strategies.

## **SECTION FOUR: BENEFICE SUMMARY**

### **The Benefice of**

Benefice: St Mary Chalgrove with St Helen Berrick Salome

Patron(s): Christ Church

PCCs: Chalgrove 13; Berrick Salome 9

Churchwardens: Mr Barry Spicer & Mrs Patricia Hunt (Chalgrove); Dr Marian Shaw (Berrick)

Ministers: 1 LLM, 1 Methodist Local Preacher

Benefice paid staff: nil.

Benefice unpaid staff/ volunteers (numbers): Everyone on the PCC and many others who contribute to the working life of the churches.

Buildings: Two churches, 1 vicarage, 1 hall, 3 cottages and 1 pub

Churchyard(s): 2, both open

Church Tradition: Traditional but liberal and inclusive

Pastoral Reorganisation proposals: none foreseen

**For more detailed information, please refer to the Parish Profile.**

## **SECTION 5: KEY CONTACTS FOR THE ROLE**

### **Generic and specific to the role**

#### **Groups & committees**

- The PCCs
- Deanery Chapter
- Deanery Synod
- Deanery Pastoral Committee
- Methodist Church Oxford Circuit

#### **In the benefice**

- Churchwardens – as listed above
- Ministerial Colleagues - Revd John Anderson, Methodist Minister, Watlington
- Head teacher(s) of local school - Ms Sam Gillion, Chalgrove Primary School
- Chairs of various trusts (see Section 4)

#### **Support structures**

- Area Dean of Aston and Cuddesdon
- Area Bishop, Right Revd Colin Fletcher OBE
- Archdeacon, Ven. Judy French
- Staff at The Diocesan Office with key responsibilities for various aspects of supporting

## **SECTION SIX - OTHER**

This role description is issued alongside and should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- The Ordinal
- The Canons of the Church of England
- Guidance for the Professional Conduct of Clergy
- Bishop's Licence

- Statement of Particulars issued to the office-holder on successful appointment
- Diocesan Clergy Handbook
- Benefice Profile
- Ministry Action Plans (MAPs)
- Any objectives discussed and agreed between the post holder and the supervising minister
- Role description signed off by: The Venerable Judy French Archdeacon of Dorchester