

MILTON PARISH



MILTON PARISH

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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in coming to work in the diocese of Winchester where we are committed to serving people and communities across Hampshire and East Dorset. Our vision is to 'Live the Mission of Jesus' and in doing so we want to make a difference and see lives transformed through the love of God.

We serve a range of diverse communities, from rural to urban, with our Cathedral being sited in the historic city of Winchester. From coastal Bournemouth to Andover, Southampton to the villages around Basingstoke, ministry takes place through our churches, chaplaincies and schools and we are delighted to encourage lay ministry in all its varied forms.

We are committed to being a truly representative diocese and we recognise our need to develop in diversity.

The Diocese of Winchester is an exciting place to be and we look forward to receiving your application.

The Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen
Bishop of Winchester



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Deanery

We are a very mixed deanery with 7 benefices and 26 churches. These range from suburban, through small town and large village to tiny hamlets. There is a variety of theology, spirituality and ways of being Church and we value and respect this.

The Synod is active and focussed on supporting the mission of the Parishes. And the Chapter is friendly and supportive. A Deanery Mission Action Plan is in place and we will shortly review and enhance it. We encourage all of our clergy to play an active role in the life of the Deanery.

We know that Christchurch Deanery is a great place to live and minister as together we seek to join with our Bishop in 'Living the mission of Jesus'.

Revd Canon Gary Philbrick
Area Dean



Revd Canon Charles Stewart
Assistant Area Dean



Susan Lyonette
Lay Chair



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Introduction

New Milton is a market town in southwest Hampshire. To the north is the New Forest and to the south the coast at Barton-on-Sea, to the west is Highcliffe and to the east are a number of small villages and the New Forest. The village of Milton dates back to Anglo-Saxon times. In March 1888 the railway arrived. A new town developed from the railway station which expanded rapidly. The name New Milton was used for the first time in 1895. New Milton encompasses Old Milton, Barton on Sea, Ashley and Bashley.

The town is a mixture of rural and urban environments with the villages of Milton, Ashley and Barton having expanded, over the years, to create the town of New Milton.

Milton Parish serves a population of over 27,000. There are three churches in the Parish;

1. The parish church, St Mary Magdelene, is located in Old Milton
2. St. Peter's church is located in Ashley
3. St John the Baptist is located in Bashley village just inside the New Forest boundary.



There is one PCC with trustees of the charity responsible for all legal and financial obligations.

The town (according to the 2011 census data) has quite a large retired population with just over 34% over 65. The population of under 18s is about 15%. People between 45 and 65 make up 26% of the population.

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There are 2 Infant schools, 2 Junior schools, 2 Secondary schools, one for mainstream students and one is an Alternative Provision Free School, 2 private schools covering primary to secondary ages.

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Our Vision

We believe God is calling us to be more visible as a worshipping community and to be active in sharing God's love with all.

We aim:

Worshipping

1. Our Worship

To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

To honour our current styles of worship and doctrine.

To worship with reverence and awe.

To be flexible, creative and innovative in exploring other expressions of worship.

Growing

2. Spiritual Growth

To encourage discipleship and spiritual growth, for individuals and the church community as a whole, through worship, teaching and opportunities for refreshment.

To encourage every member's ministry, discovering and exercising the gifts and abilities of all.

Serving

3. Pastoral Care

To value, nurture and support each church member where they are.

To expand lay involvement in pastoral care we aim to develop and equip people to offer a wider ministry to the community, including home communion.



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Growing

4. Being more outward looking

To make our churches better known in their local communities.

To provide a living witness to the love of God in demonstrating the practical sharing of our faith.

To maximise the use of our churches by groups and individuals in the community.

To build bridges with all those who live and work in our parish.

To develop joint working with neighbouring parishes and other Christian communities.

Serving

5. Work with Children

To respond to and develop our work with children, young people and their families.

To continue making the churches a welcoming place for schools to visit.

To explore ways of meeting these needs through joint working with other clergy across the town, the wider Deanery and with other Christian communities.

Belonging

6. Ethical and Environmental work

To make sure our churches are always looking for ways to lower our carbon footprint.

To regularly include care for God's earth in our weekly intercessions.

To achieve these aims we will look to our incumbent to join with us in discerning the best ways forward.

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Our Church Life

Each of the three churches has its own Church Life.

St Mary Magdalene

Eucharist every Sunday at 9:30 using the Common Worship (Holy Communion Order One) service book, followed by coffee at the back of the church. Pre COVID there was also a Book of Common Prayer Communion at 8 on a Sunday.

Said Eucharist every Friday at 11 using the Book of Common Prayer.

Messy Church after school second Tuesday of every month except August.



Local Junior and Secondary schools services for Easter, Harvest and Christmas Carols.

A number of Civic services are held throughout the year including Christmas Carols. The rector has for many years been involved in the Town Remembrance Day services.

Annual Patronal Songs of Praise festival.



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Lent lunches in weeks of Lent open to all.

Pop in Coffee morning last Thursday of every month except August attended by both church and non church people.

Members of the congregation are involved in the team leading “Open The Book” at a local infant school and some are also involved in a town wide prayer group.

Monday group meets on the afternoon of the second Monday of the month to hear speakers and have a general chat.

There is a growing social life as we have quizzes and meals to raise funds for the church open to all.

Tri-annual quilt festival and various concerts throughout the year.



Occasional Offices per year

Pre-Covid figures were:

Baptisms around 20 (up to 4 families at a time);



Weddings around 8; Funerals around 35 – 40.

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Post Covid the figures for 2022 were:

Baptisms 16 (one family at a time); Weddings 3; Funerals 27. The figures for 2023 are expected to be similar.

St Peter's

Eucharist every Sunday at 11:15 using the Common Worship (Holy Communion Order One) service book.

Said Eucharist on a Wednesday at 10am followed by coffee.

There were no occasional offices held at St Peter's during 2022. In 2023 there was 1 wedding and 1 baptism.

A community choir rehearses in the church each week.

St John the Baptist

Eucharist service or evensong every month on the afternoon of the third Sunday.

There were no occasional offices held at St John the Baptist in 2022 or 2023.

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Our Team

The main team consists of the following people:

Alan Beal – Churchwarden

I and my family have been regular worshippers at St. Mary Magdalene since 1994 after we moved to the area and having first tried St Mark's in Highcliffe. During this time, I have taught Sunday school, visited baptism families, helped organise and run a family service, helped organise and run Messy Church, taken on the role of Parish Administrator and served on the PCC before becoming a churchwarden 4 years ago.



Marion Brehaut – Deputy Churchwarden

I have lived and worshiped in the parish of Milton for over 50 years. During this time I attended Sunday school. Then joined the church choir after my confirmation in 1969, where I stayed until 2020. I also became a server, and became the trainer for any new servers. I took over the role of Sacristan, in the 80's, and assisted my father who was the verger for 30 years. I am currently organising fundraising events, coordinating Shoeboxes, and plan and organise the food for Messy church. I became Deputy Churchwarden 4 years ago.



Liz Lock – Churchwarden

I have been a regular worshipper at St. Mary Magdalene since 1986 when I first brought my four year old daughter to the Sunday school, having also been married here in 1976. During this time, I have taught Sunday school, visited baptism families, cleaned the church, helped organise a family service and served on the PCC before becoming a churchwarden 4 years ago, a role which I am extremely proud of.



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Alan Ponting – Licensed Lay Minister

I was admitted as a reader in 1993 and served in the parish of St James the Greater, Pokesdown. Having moved to the Dorset-Hants border, I joined the Parish of Milton in 2001. Since then I have served in all three churches, preaching and leading other parts of services, including Eucharists by extension when no priest has been available. In 2011 I became a member of Christchurch Deanery Synod. During the interregnum I am leading a monthly sung evensong at St John the Baptist and contributing articles to the Parish Newsletter. Believing the second L in LLM to be important, I have happily sat unrobed in the congregation since the lockdown when not preaching or leading.



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Our Organisation

The Parish of Milton has one PCC for the whole Parish and in the past has had separate committees for each of the churches. At present the only one still running is the St Mary Magdalene committee. St Peter's and St John the Baptist both have informal meetings.

Formal accounts are only presented for the whole Parish. The finances of each church are handled by the PCC treasurer and are accounted for separately. The Parish finances are made up of the three churches plus those items that are Parish wide. We are running at a slight deficit but maintain our CMF contribution at present.

None of the three churches is 'physically' close to the centres of their areas.

We have a Parish Office in St Mary Magdalene Church Hall which is manned by volunteers for 2 hours every weekday. We are trying to use the iKnow program to support our admin. At present it is used for handling Rotas and email communications every week with the service sheet for that week, once a month the Parish News is emailed out. Other Parish wide emails may be sent as required. Hard copies of the Parish News are available in the churches and service sheets are sent out to those who do not have emails.

There is a Milton Parish Facebook page (see <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067507694250>).

There is a Milton Parish website at <https://www.miltonparish.org/home>.

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The House

A house will be supplied by the Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance, and details will be shared once they are available.

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Role Description

The role is for a priest who will lead, support and nurture the inhabitants of this town, building on the development already achieved and meeting its pastoral needs. We look for an experienced leader with good communication skills, and with a friendly personality who can communicate and build relations across all age groups.

As our Rector we are seeking someone who:

Spirituality:

- Leads a spiritual and ordered life of daily prayer and Bible study; who can share these gifts.
- Seeks to follow the model given us by Jesus Christ of active ministry
- Has a good balance of time with family and friends while meeting the demands of parish life.

Worship and Preaching:

- Is comfortable leading and participating in the diversity of parish services and will enrich them.
- Supports and encourages the ministry of lay people leading services.
- In preaching and other communications presents and interprets the Christian message in relevant ways, to encourage us to live and witness as Christians in modern Britain.

Leadership and Collaboration:

- Is a team player, working collaboratively with all the members of committees, the Diocese, Deanery and local group leaders.
- Is an effective delegator, good at creating teams and managing their workload under pressure.
- Is an effective chair of meetings, allowing all to contribute, to arrive at consensus decisions and implement them effectively.

Ecumenism and links with other bodies:

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- Maintains good relations and co-operation with all the other Christian Churches in the town.
- Builds up and welcomes new members to the congregation.

Discipleship, learning and nurture:

- Open and creative and strongly committed to seeing people grow and mature in faith, using their gifts in God's service.
- Actively encourages home groups and nurtures courses such as BCMs.
- Is prepared to lead or facilitate discipleship, nurture courses and is committed to the growth of small groups.

Evangelism and Social Justice:

- Is proactive and persuasive in sharing their faith with others and can enable others to gain confidence to do the same.
- Understands the imperative of parish outreach and mission.
- Will work creatively with schools, building on current connections and services in our church.

Pastoral care:

- Is approachable and sensitive to the varied needs of our church family and the wider community; sharing pastoral care with our own team.

Stewardship and Parish organisation:

- Exhibits and proactively encourages church members in the giving of their time, talents and money.
- Brings the ability to manage meetings and communicate effectively with all involved in the day to day organisation of the Parish.
- Is open to wider involvement with our community in developing goodwill and a sense of togetherness in the value of our churches.
- Is prepared to see our churches as open for community use for a wide variety of activities during the week.

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Appendix

Our primary vision is that while maintaining our current style of services we grow the Parish by adding more services of varied types. We would like to continue our traditional style Eucharist service at the two churches every Sunday and have a more relaxed service at a different time. We would like to continue the Eucharist service at the third church on the third Sunday of each month with the possibility of adding more services.

We wish to restart house groups.

We wish to grow our Messy Church.

We wish to restart Sunday School.

We would like all three churches to remain with more use being made of both St Peter's and St John the Baptist's.

We would like to improve the visibility of the Parish church within the town. As it sits outside the centre of the town down a little lane it is not well known by many people. None of the churches are close to the centres of their areas.

The Parish regularly supports the Basics Bank at Lymington.

We have an active Christian Aid group in the Parish which so far in 2023 has raised just under £15000. This has been match funded by the EU to give a total of £48000.

We have a number of famous graves in the churchyard and some war graves.

The church has beehives in the churchyard.

We have just fitted some Swift boxes to try to encourage Swifts to nest in St Mary Magdalene Church tower.

There are some bird boxes in the churchyard.

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There are two State Infant Schools, two State Junior schools and a State Secondary school in the Parish, none of them are church schools. One of each of the Infant and Junior schools is involved with Ashley Baptist church.

St Peter's church has a thriving Nursery group using the Church Hall.

A community choir rehearses regularly in St Mary Magdalene church.

St Mary Church Hall is used for community groups.

St Peter's church is used for local groups.

Bashley church hall has been used until recently for a nursery group.

We have an active Parish Action Group and a recent PMAP. This group has already introduced the iKnow Church admin software, started a Messy Church service, installed a servery at the back of the church, installed a cashless giving system and updated the Parish website.

The Parish supports the Deanery Mission to Kinkizii.

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'From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.'
John 1:16

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