

ARE YOU READY TO BE PART OF OUR JOURNEY?



ASSOCIATE MINISTER
(HOUSE FOR DUTY)
FOR ST LEONARD'S CHURCH,
SHERFIELD ON LODDON

A CHURCH WITH AN OPEN DOOR
AND A WARM WELCOME



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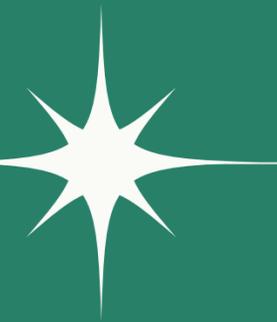
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WELCOME TO THE DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER



Thank you for your interest in coming to minister here in this Diocese.

We serve a whole range of diverse communities, from the historic city of Winchester with our glorious Cathedral, to the great port city of Southampton, the burgeoning boroughs of Basingstoke, Bournemouth, and Christchurch, thriving market towns such as Andover, Alton, Alresford and Romsey, and innumerable picture-perfect Hampshire villages. In all that there is much wealth – but there is also significant deprivation too, especially in our large urban conurbations where our churches are supporting some of the diocese’s poorest communities. In every context, we are committed to making the love and life of Jesus Christ known, through our churches, schools, and chaplaincies in a way that makes a tangible difference to those communities and their people.

In many ways the Diocese of Winchester is in transition, as is the world around us. In parish ministry we seek people who are aware of the challenges that we face, but who are motivated above all by faith, hope and love in addressing them. We welcome those who are committed to help God’s church to be the very best it can be, in the power of the Spirit, releasing all God’s people into the mission and ministry to which they are called. And we recognise, too, our need to develop in diversity.

We are excited by the opportunities before us, and warmly invite applications from those who want to join us in addressing them.

With the assurance of my prayers as you seek God’s best next step for you.

PHILIP MOUNSTEPHEN
THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER

THIS IS WHO WE ARE



St Leonard's is a good place to be. I'm continually impressed with the energy, creativity and commitment of people to discern and put in to practice the vision God is giving us for this parish. We've been on a long journey and we are now seeing growth in significant areas of church life, not least our worship together, our work with children and our desire to be welcoming and inclusive to everyone, especially those who don't yet come to church. Our values of 'everyone involved, learning together, growing community' help guide us to follow in the ways of Jesus: the Way, the Truth and the Life. I hope in reading this profile you will want to join us in the next stage of our journey with God.

MARK ANDERSON, RECTOR

**ARE YOU READY TO BE PART OF
OUR JOURNEY?**



A WELCOMING CHURCH



We are a friendly, family church who loves welcoming people. When someone walks through the main door we want them to feel at home with a warm sense of belonging. We have made big efforts to do this, with our weekly cafe 'Warm Place' in the cold months, turning in to 'Open House' when it's warmer. Lenny's started in 2024, a fortnightly cafe with activities for people living with memory changes. In this section we hope you will get a strong sense that we are a church, centred on Jesus, who is inclusive to all, helps people to belong, growing as a community who cares for one another.

**AN OPEN DOOR
AND A WARM WELCOME**



A WORSHIPPING AND PRAYING CHURCH

In the past few years, the St Leonard's team has refreshed our worship to offer variety and make services accessible for newcomers. Each month we offer:



Café Church, held monthly, alternately in St Leonard's Church and Sherfield Park Community Centre, begins with breakfast and includes worship songs led by our Music Group, drama, discussion and interactive prayers. There is also a joyous informal monthly contemporary Family Service with a mixture of modern and traditional music.



Twice a month our growing group of children meet in the church room as Kids Church to share Bible teaching, craft, and games.

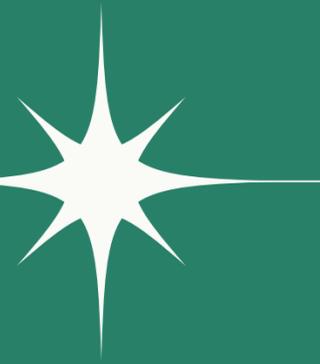
We have two Holy Communion services a month with hymns on the organ.

There is also a quarterly opportunity for the whole Benefice to worship together.

Prayer is at the heart of our worship, and our team of intercessors use a variety of prayer styles including Celtic and Lectio Divina.



A CARING CHURCH



St Leonard's has a much-used prayer chain, In-touch groups (our lovely pastoral support network) and caring homegroups. We are enthusiastic about ensuring the wellbeing of the vulnerable, home visits, taking worship into our local care homes, starting Lenny's our dementia cafe and supporting our community.

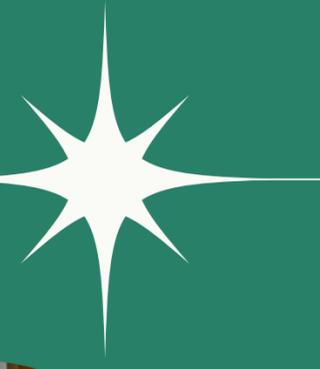


Creation care is especially important at our church, we have been proudly awarded Bronze Eco Church status, continue to encourage biodiversity and currently have active beehives in our churchyard.



Our new Kids Church is growing and opening new opportunities for Forest Church and creative God centred activities. Our aspirational goal continues to be committed to growing a strong spiritual community of Christ.

ST LEONARD'S IS A PLACE TO BELONG



Our church community is about living life in all its fullness, belonging together, sharing hospitality and caring for one another. With an open door and warm welcome that will greet you as soon as you come into our church. We provide a safe space where everyone can find peace and a place to belong.



Women's/Men's curry night
Women's supper
Women's/Men's breakfast
Cafe church



AN OPEN DOOR AND A WARM WELCOME

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY



Through supporting our local community with events throughout the year and sharing the word of Jesus we aim to enable an environment of positivity, caring for each other and living a life full of purpose and goodness towards others.
Creating a community that is welcoming to all.

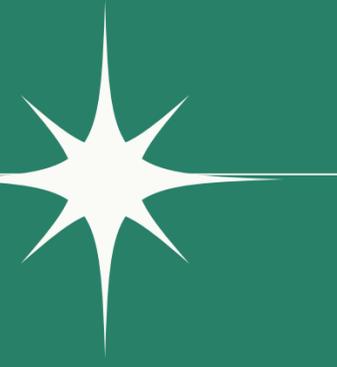


Movie nights
Supper club
Art workshops
Rogation walk
Village fetes
Serving local schools
Serving local care homes



EVERYONE INVOLVED, LEARNING TOGETHER, GROWING COMMUNITY

WE ASKED OUR CONGREGATION TO DESCRIBE ST LEONARD'S





A church has existed in Sherfield on Loddon for over 900 years, but in the last 2-3 years we have been on a prayer led journey to discover what we will be next.

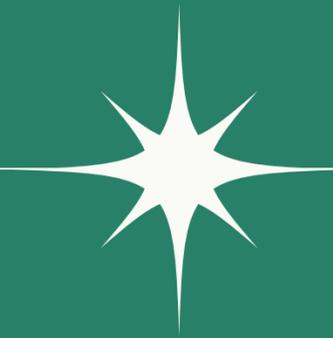


We have learnt that we are a Church Family who...

- Explores our faith in Jesus, together
- Is warm & welcoming, embracing new members
- Young at heart and confident in God
- Hopeful for our future, reaping the rewards of prayer

AN OPEN DOOR AND A WARM WELCOME

OUR JOURNEY AT ST LEONARD'S



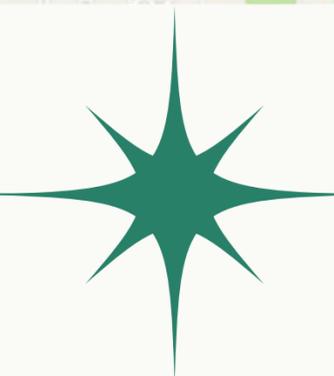


Sherfield on Loddon is a thriving and welcoming community that was proudly awarded 'Village of the Year 2023' by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils.

The Parish has a population of around 5,000 centred on the Green, the Shop, Coffee Shop and Post Office and the village pubs and the new residential developments at Sherfield Park and Longfield Place just to the south along the A33.

Sherfield on Loddon has the largest Village Fete in Hampshire, drawing in around 4,000 visitors each June. This popular event raises c £10,000 annually for local charities, a great example of the village's generosity and spirit.

The Village Hall is at the heart of community life, hosting a range of activities from the Happy Faces Play Group, Pilates, Carpet Bowls, St Leonard's Supper Club and the Annual Flower and Produce Show.



PARISH LIFE

Sherfield Park has a modern and busy Community Centre with a wide range of classes and activities for young mothers, Zumba, Cafe Church, Football, for all ages and more.

The Loddon Valley Link, the village's Church and Community Magazine, is written by local residents and supported by local advertisers. It's distributed free of charge to every household, keeping everyone informed and connected.

Located between the village centre and the new developments to the south, St Leonard's Church plays a vital role in the life of the entire community. Its members are always at the heart of Parish activities, volunteering and supporting local initiatives helping to foster a spirit of community that extends far beyond the church walls.



LIFE IN OUR BENEFICE – 4 WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

We are a Benefice of 5 parishes, 4 church buildings and 3 PCCs. The four churches all have their individual characteristics and personalities and in the last year or so we have been growing closer together and working out how to help one another become the churches God is forming us to be. We are half way through our involvement in the Diocese of Winchester's three year 'Growing Rural Parishes Project' which gives us access to training days, consultancy on children's ministry and £30,000, which we are mainly spending on employing a Benefice Administrator.



EVERYONE INVOLVED, LEARNING TOGETHER, GROWING COMMUNITY

LIFE IN OUR BENEFICE – ST. JAMES BRAMLEY

With two weekly Sunday morning services, we have about 70 adults and 10 children attend either our contemporary ‘Sunday@9’ service (with its growing children’s ministry) or the 10.30 service, which alternates between BCP Matins, Common Worship Communion and Morning Worship. This year we are updating our AV system in the church to expand our offer.

We hold social events and children’s events throughout the year in our hall, where the kitchen has just been refurbished.

There is an active flower team which decorate the church regularly and hold flower festivals. The active bell ringing group attracts new members, and we produce the high quality Bramley Magazine, delivered to every home in the parish.



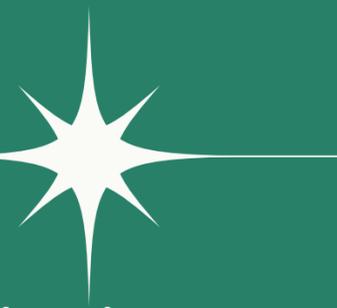
ST. MARY'S HARTLEY WESPALL & ST. MARY'S STRATFIELD SAYE



Over the past 3 years we have seen more young families and children join the church when we launched our monthly family service. There is a committed congregation of about 20 adults and 10 children. We also have a monthly BCP service and celebrate seasonal festivals in the church. We have strong links with the community and look for new ways to use the church building, which is the only community space in the village.



Our monthly family service meets 10 times a year and we also join together for seasonal festivals. Our congregation is very small but we are meeting to work out new ways to connect with, serve and invite the people of the village to church and community events, either at the church or the village hall.



We have a strong, capable, committed and enthusiastic team. They are already praying for you as they live out our benefice vision and mission.

Rector – Rev Mark Anderson
PTO - Very Rev'd John Morley

A faithful, well supported and united PCC with skills in community events, music, finance, safeguarding and IT plus an enthusiastic congregation

LLMs

Elaine Steere

Richard Elphick (also Churchwarden & Lay Chair of the Deanery)

Andrew Doggart (also an organist)

Churchwardens & Administration

Anne Hemmings (partnering Richard, above)

Anne Smith – Benefice administration, based in Bramley

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH

CAN YOU SEE YOURSELF JOINING US,
BRINGING YOUR FAITH, IDEAS, TALENTS,
INSPIRATION AND LEADERSHIP?



AN OPEN DOOR AND A WARM WELCOME

THE ROLE – WE HOPE YOU WILL LEAD US IN THESE WAYS



Primary pastoral leadership for St Leonard's, sharing good practice across the Benefice

Renewing our regular worship, where all people are welcomed and encounter God in different ways

Deepening our faith and discipleship by teaching us the Bible, how to pray and to live the Jesus Way

Leading our pastoral care, so people feel cared for and it is appreciated in all parts of the parish

Empowering and equipping the congregation to be confident in their faith, able to share it with others

Raising up new leaders and supporting those in leadership roles

Lead us in being a Christ-centred church for the whole parish community, taking the good news of Jesus Christ to the village, Sherfield Park and the new residential developments within the parish.

Helping us to connect with groups who are not well represented in our congregation

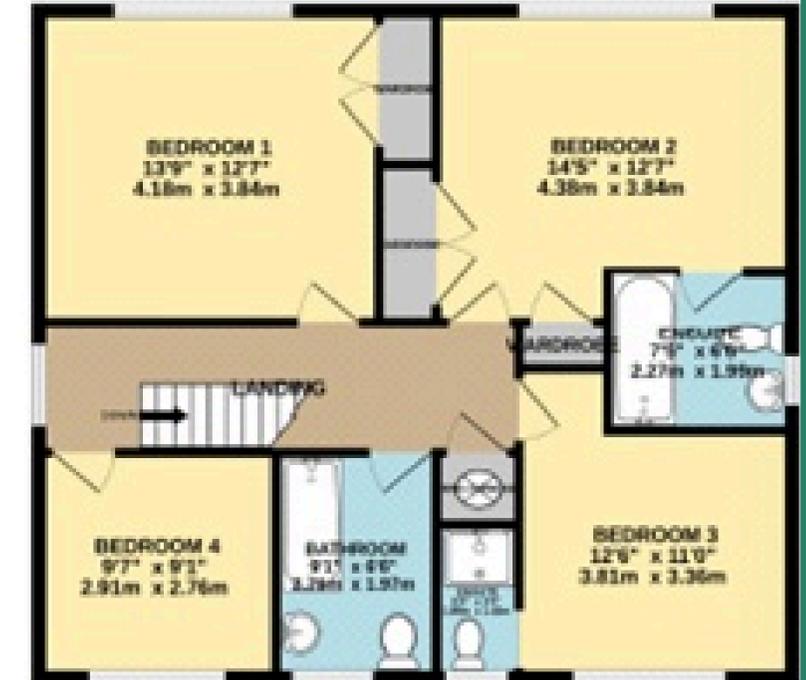
WE BELIEVE THESE CHARACTERISTICS ARE IMPORTANT IN THIS ROLE



- ★ A heart after God, Holy Spirit led, a love of rural ministry**
- ★ Warm and friendly, able to engage with a variety of people**
- ★ A thoughtful, inspiring and caring leader, with a deep faith and confidence in God, willing to share it with others**
- ★ Sustained by a grounded spiritual life; rooted in prayer, study and filled with the Holy Spirit. Able to rest well & guard boundaries**
- ★ A willingness to try new things, unafraid to fail and try again**
- ★ A love for God's creation and a willingness to care for it with practical action**

THE HOUSE

We want you to immerse yourself in village life, your home is situated in Northfield Road which is in the heart of the village of Sherfield on Loddon.



A PLACE TO BELONG



A full application pack, along with Terms & Conditions is available from the Diocesan website.

For an informal conversation about the role, please contact:

The Reverend Mark Anderson (Rector)
revmarkanderson4@gmail.com / 07480 067756

or

The Ven Richard Brand (Archdeacon of Winchester)
Richard.brand@winchester.anglican.org

or for more information about the application process, please contact:

Jane Hammond (Clergy Appointments Assistant)
clergy.appointments@winchester.anglican.org or 01962 737310



APPENDICES



AN OPEN DOOR AND A WARM WELCOME

ODIHAM DEANERY

St Leonard's Church is part of the Diocese of Winchester, which spans Hampshire and parts of Dorset. Led by Bishop Philip Mounstephen, alongside the Bishops of Basingstoke and Southampton, the Diocese is a dynamic and supportive community. The Diocesan Office is home to a dedicated team who offer guidance and encouragement to clergy across the region. Passionate about sharing the love and life of Jesus Christ, the Diocese seeks to transform lives through churches, schools, and chaplaincies.

Within the Odiham Deanery, St Leonard's belongs to a network of 6 Benefices, 19 Parishes, and 28 churches. The Deanery Chapter is very supportive and offers fellowship, prayer, and practical support, keeping clergy connected to local and diocesan initiatives. The Deanery Synod is another great opportunity for you to be part of a lively community, sharing in the mission of Jesus in this wonderful area.





Bramley

Bramley is a village of about 6,000 people, which has seen lots of new housing built with more to come. It has a station with trains to Reading and Basingstoke, a Church of England primary school, a shop with a Post Office, a GP surgery with a dispensary and a friendly car mechanic.

There's an excellent bakery, the Bramley Inn pub and a village hall.

The surrounding area is great for walking, with plenty of paths and bridleways. The Frith woods, Calleva Roman ruins, The Vyne (National Trust) and Pamber Forest are all close to the village.

Clift Meadow hosts community and youth facilities and hosts the Bramley Fete: a collaboration between Clift Meadow and St James church, with around 2,000 people coming for the stalls, music, displays and dog show.

There are two nursing homes in the parish with monthly church services for residents.

Little London, a village of a few hundred people, is 2 miles north-west of Bramley and is part of the parish. It has a homely and much-loved pub, The Plough.



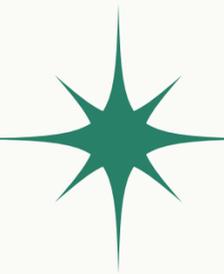


Hartley Wespall

We are a village of about 250 residents with a Grade 1 listed church building which has wide range of history dating back to the 14th century. As the only public building in the village, the church has a great opportunity to be the focal point for community activities such as Parish Council and 'Friends' meetings. St Mary's is well supported by many local residents who care deeply for their church, even though they may not attend often. They contribute by cleaning, flower arranging, and maintaining the church and grounds. This was demonstrated recently when nearly £70,000 was raised through donations and grants for the restoration of internal walls and the organ.

Stratfield Saye

Stratfield Saye is a charming village in the north of the Benefice, home to about 280 people, centred around a residential street with a village hall, with three other hamlets. Stratfield Saye House, home of the Duke of Wellington is in the parish and the Wellington Estate is a major employer and landlord, owning the Farm Shop, Country Park and pubs. The Duke is a generous supporter of repairs to the church, of which he is Patron. St Mary's is grade 1 listed, dating from 1758 and is situated in Stratfield Saye Park, with historic connections to the Dukes and previous owners of the Estate.



Bramley Church of England Primary School

Most of the young children in our benefice attend Bramley School. It has a very strong Christian ethos which pervades all aspects of school life, underpinned by core Christian values. There is a strong, established link between the school and St James Church, with clergy leading collective worship, staff training, RE lessons, RE visits to the church, taking an active role as a governor and hosting school services at the church throughout the year. The school has a weekly 'Open the Book' assembly, run by Christians from the local church communities. The school has about 450 children and has recently had a very successful SIAMS inspection.

Sherfield School

This is private school for children from nursery to sixth form, with some boarding there. It is located nearly opposite St Leonard's and in the past few years there has been a growing relationship between church and school with children visiting the church and school concerts held in the church; clergy taking RE lessons and speaking at school harvest and Christmas events.

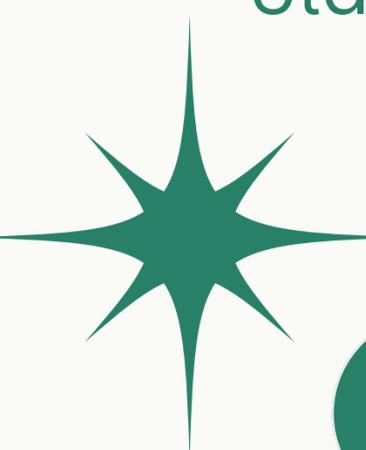


The Loddon School

This a residential school located close to the church and is home for children aged 8 to 19 with profound autism, who are non-verbal and have severe learning difficulties. Our previous Associate Minister visited the school monthly to spend time with staff and did a sky dive to raise money for the school.

Wellesley Prep School

Owned by and located in the Wellington Estate, it has 300 children from 2 to 13 years old. We currently don't go into the school but hope to do so in the future.



ARE YOU READY TO BE PART OF OUR JOURNEY?