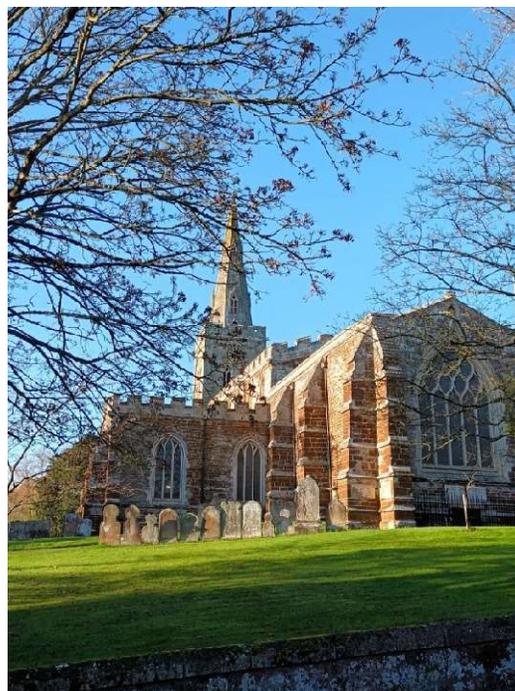


# Parish Profile

## St Mary The Virgin Finedon



2022

# Welcome

Dear Prospective Incumbent

Thank you for taking the time and the interest to read the Parish Profile of St. Mary's Church Finedon.

Visitors tell us we are a warm and welcoming church in a close and supportive community. We look forward to a productive and positive future with a new incumbent supported by our enthusiastic team. Together with a forward thinking PCC we look towards a new future, continuing to spread the love of God amongst our community, and caring for the people of Finedon.

There is a very strong choral tradition in our church and we are an affiliate member of the RSCM. The choir is well known for the quality of its singing. The choir members actively take part in the RSCM Voice for Life Training Scheme and have achieved varying levels of awards.

There are particularly good connections with Finedon Mulso Junior CE School and the Infant School, with the incumbent and members of our church serving as Foundation Governors for the Junior School. To further strengthen the bond between church and school we would welcome an incumbent who would help encourage children and young people and their families in exploring faith.

Finedon people like to see the Incumbent as a visible and approachable member of the community.

We look forward to meeting you if you feel you have been called to serve the Lord in Finedon.

Yours sincerely

Jane Read, Churchwarden  
Peter Grindrod, PCC School Liaison Officer

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Front cover – Members of our PCC

# St Mary The Virgin Finedon and Surrounding Area

## The Parish

The church of St Mary the Virgin lies on the western edge of the small town of Finedon on the edge of the countryside. It was built around 1350 using local ironstone in a decorated style. The church is not part of a benefice.

## Characteristics of the Parish

- Small historical rural town on the A6 surrounded by countryside with a population of approximately 4,500.
- Former shoe making town; all former factories now developed into residential accommodation.
- Socio-economically mixed area; approximately equal numbers of owned, mortgaged and rented properties.
- Approximately 95% of the population is White European heritage.
- Independent Wesleyan Chapel within the community with a new Minister.
- In spite of housing development in other local communities, there are no future plans to expand Finedon due to the historical excavation of ironstone; recent expansion has been largely infill.
- The larger town of Wellingborough is three miles away, which has a diverse population including people from the Indian sub continent and Eastern Europe; the town has places of worship to cater for different faiths. Other close towns include Irthlingborough and Burton Latimer, both two miles distant, slightly bigger than Finedon; Kettering, seven miles; Northampton 15 miles and Milton Keynes 20 miles. Modern shopping centre with cinema and restaurants at Rushden Lakes, 4 miles away;
- Good transport links to all parts of the country, Wellingborough is on the East Midlands Railway and is one hour from London, Northampton station on the London Northwestern Railway is 10 miles away and Peterborough on the London North Eastern Railway is 25 miles away. Finedon is close to the A14 East-West link and within 20 miles of the M1, M6 and A1. Nearest airports are Birmingham, Luton and East Midlands, about 50 miles away; regular bus services to local towns
- Facilities include four small supermarkets, hairdressers, antique shops, Community Library (staffed by volunteers), restaurants, a pub and clubs, garage, children's playgrounds, vibrant cricket club, playing field, tennis courts, bowling green, pocket park/wooded area/wild life walk.

Finedon Pocket Park



Community Library

- Popular clubs and groups catering for a wide variety of activities and pastimes include: cricket, bowls, tennis, football, running, local history, Mothers' Union, Townswomen's Guild, Women's Institute, Over Sixties, Beavers/Cubs/Scouts, Rainbows/Brownies/Guides, Trefoil Guild, Allotment Association, RAOB (Bufs), Finedon Pantomime - Finedon Church Sunday School Entertainment Society have produced Finedon Panto for over 100 years – oh yes they have!



The bowling green and tennis courts



- Finedon Town Council and North Northamptonshire Council are the administrative authorities for the Parish

## Schools & Education

- Infant and Junior schools, 300 pupils in total - part of a local trust, both share one head teacher; Mulso Junior CE School is a Church of England school, formerly designated a Voluntary Aided School, sharing good links with the church.
- The incumbent is a Foundation Governor of the Junior School. There are two further Foundation Governors.
- A member of the PCC is the designated link between church and school.
- The incumbent leads Worship in the junior school weekly.
- The pupils attend special services at the church with parents invited.
- Pupils from the Infant school, not a church school, are part of the services; incumbent leads occasional assembly at the Infant school
- At age 11, the majority of pupils transfer to Huxlow School two miles away in Irthlingborough. A small number each year transfer to Bishop Stopford School in Kettering, a Church of England School.

## Health Care

- Medical centre in the town, plus larger one in Burton Latimer, which caters for Finedon residents; outpatients clinic at Nene Park two miles and large general hospital in Kettering. Dental practice within the town.

## Other Churches in Finedon

The church enjoys good relationships with the Independent Wesleyan Chapel. Events across both churches include:

- Songs of Praise on the village green each summer;
- Christian Aid lunches
- Inter-church quiz
- Beetle Drives
- Local Scarecrow Festival

Children taking part  
In the Scarecrow Festival



## Vision and Mission

To reach out and welcome people to worship in the comfort of this medieval church providing worship which is in the choral tradition particularly Book of Common Prayer Evensong.

To enable all in the continuation of growth and development on their spiritual journey and to welcome new members of all ages and backgrounds to the faith community, especially families and young people, through Sunday worship and developing further our connection with schools and with families at life events such as weddings, baptisms and confirmation.

To retain our current traditional provision, and explore ways of extending our services, to incorporate families and young people. Finding creative ways that respect and celebrate different ways of worshipping and different stages on our spiritual journeys.

# Church Buildings

- The church is a Grade 1 Listed Building
- The Quinquennial inspection took place in 2020 and the church was found to be in good order. Lightning conductor and electrical Inspections are booked. Fire Inspection took place in 2021.
- The church can accommodate around 350 people and is well known for its Strainer Arch and famous organ.
- Church grounds in a pleasant southerly facing aspect and well endowed with trees; well maintained by a dedicated team of worshippers.
- The churchyard opposite the church in Church Hill is closed and is maintained by the local Council.
- Reordering - Plans await a faculty for a disabled toilet and servery at the rear of the church.
- Church archives dates from 1538 with a library of 885 books. Theological Books left by Sir John English Dolben are housed in what is known as The Monk's Cell. The church has its own archivist.

Church archives stored in The Monk's Cell

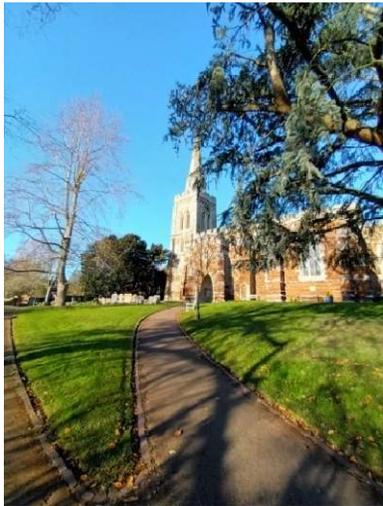


- The Mission Room, just under half a mile from the church is used for various groups including the Mother's Union. The building is self supporting and in good repair.

The Mission Room



The church showing the strainer arch and organ



# Sunday and Weekday Services

There are a total of 142 on the Electoral Roll consisting of 111 residents of Finedon and 31 non-residents.

*It is important to note that the next section refers to the situation prior to March 2020 and the impact of the pandemic*

- Worship is traditional with readings based on the Liturgical Year; hymns are traditional.
- Sunday services are held at 8:00, which is said and has about 20 communicants; and at 9:30, which is sung with about 90 communicants. Both services celebrate the Eucharist. Members of the congregation read the first and second lessons, the psalm and intercessions. Children have their own activities at the rear of the church. Additionally choral Evensong is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month, unless it occurs near to a major festival.
- Robes are worn by clergy and lay persons involved in services.
- The choir members, who are robed, sing at all services designated as “sung”. They practice weekly and sing at special services throughout the diocese. They are available for weddings and funerals. The choir sings each month at a local care home in Wellingborough.

## *Covid update*

*Between January and March 2021, services were conducted on line, including weekly Evening Prayer during Lent. Evening Prayer is still provided each Sunday on line. Numbers at services have fallen from those outlined, particularly families and young people, however we celebrated Easter 2022 with a congregation of over 100 people and although numbers have decreased after Easter Sunday we are finding that our congregation are steadily returning. Children’s groups did not take place during the time of Covid restrictions but have now been re-instated.*

Members of our Choir and singing outside during Covid restrictions



## Other Services

Additional services celebrated are:

- Advent Carol Service
- Weekly Compline each Wednesday during Advent
- Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
- Christingle Service
- Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day Communion at 9:30
- Epiphany Carol Service
- Distribution of the Ashes on Ash Wednesday
- Weekly Compline each Wednesday during Lent
- Daily Eucharist during Holy Week, including Washing of Feet on Maundy Thursday
- Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, preceded by procession through Finedon
- Service of Meditation on the afternoon of Good Friday
- Harvest celebrations
- Festival of Remembrance
- Occasional “one-off” services throughout the year

Remembrance Day Service



Sunday morning worship on Flower Festival weekend

### Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

In 2021 there were 9 baptisms, 12 funerals and 4 weddings

## Support Available

- Two licensed readers and a retired priest support the incumbent.
- A Parish Clerk supports the incumbent with the administration of weddings and baptisms.
- Servers, including a number of members who are licensed to administer the Chalice, help with the celebration of the Sacrament; young people as acolytes support them.
- A group of bell ringers announce services.
- Members of the congregation read the first and second lessons, the psalm and intercessions.
- The choir members, who are robed, sing at all services designated as “sung”. They practice weekly and sing at special services throughout the diocese. They are available for weddings and funerals.
- A new Director of Music has recently been appointed and is making steps to re-introduce the children’s choir once more after Covid restrictions
- Pastoral Care Team, a group who visit the sick.
- In the past year a new Secretary and Treasurer have been appointed to the PCC.
- Magazine Editor and treasurer plus a group of volunteers who deliver the magazine throughout the Parish

# Youth and Children's Work

- Members of the congregation support children during the 9.30 am Sunday service at the rear of the church, taking part in their own activities
- Monthly 'Open Church for Families' on Saturday morning with activities for children and families with a religious theme linked to the liturgical year

Saturday morning activities



- St Mary's Thursday Club meets in the Mission Room on Thursday afternoons, for parents and preschool children.
- Guides parade on the first Sunday of the month at the 9.30 am service.
- The incumbent is a Foundation Governor of Mulso Junior School. There are two further Foundation Governors.
- A member of the PCC is the designated link between church and Mulso Junior School
- The incumbent leads worship in Mulso Junior School weekly.
- The pupils attend special services at the church with parents invited.
- Pupils from the Infant school, not a church school, are part of the services; incumbent leads occasional assembly at the Infant School



Christmas Nativity and Christingle



## Church Groups and Activities

- PCC, which meets each quarter at a minimum, and more regularly as appropriate There is a Standing Committee, Stewardship Committee, Social Events Committee, Reordering Committee, a Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Planned Giving Officer, Safeguarding Officer and Electoral Roll Officer.
- Parish Magazine published monthly and delivered throughout the parish upon request.
- The weekly information sheet is handed out in church. It contains details of hymns, readings and names of those requesting prayers, names of recently deceased as well as an update on forthcoming events and special services.
- Mothers' Union.
- St Mary's Thursday Club for parents and preschool children.
- Guides, who parade on the first Sunday of the month.
- Pastoral Care team, a group who visit the sick.
- 15 Sidesmen and women who welcome worshippers and assist in stewarding special events.
- Flower Festival Committee and arrangers– who organise the annual Flower Festival in September and provide arrangements at other church festivals and weddings.
- Bellringers who regularly ring on Sunday mornings and other events and weddings.
- Volunteers who organise and supervise the children's activities during the 9.30 am Sunday service
- Volunteers from the congregation who provide refreshments after the 9.30 am Sunday service.
- Meditation Group.

Sunday morning  
after service refreshments



## Finance

- The PCC has a Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Planned Giving Officer, Standing Committee and a Fund Raising Group.
- Regular volunteers count and record monies collected each week.
- Parish Share - The Parish Share is difficult to fulfil. The church makes every effort to pay this in full. The final payment for 2020 missed the deadline and has been added to 2021.
- The Parish Share for 2021 has been paid in full.
- Reserves – the current reserves policy is to maintain a minimum General Fund balance of £50,000.
- 50 people currently use the 'Planned Giving Scheme' and pay directly to the bank account.
- A set of accounts accompanies this document.

## Fund Raising:

- Weekly sponsorship of the floodlights, which highlight the physical prominence of the church in the community
- Church Tote
- Flower Festival Weekend, each September



Preparing for our Flower Festival

- Christmas Tree Festival, over the weekend of Advent Sunday
- Prize Draw, linked with the Christmas Tree festival
- Church Fete
- Beer and Hymns evening



In full voice at the Beer and Hymns Evening

- Other one off events
- Christian Aid – the Church supports the annual Christian Aid Appeal and holds a joint Christian Aid lunch with the Independent Wesleyan Chapel

# Organisation

The PCC, which meets each quarter at a minimum, and more regularly as appropriate, is made up of:

- Incumbent
- 2 church Wardens
- Lay Readers
- Deanery Representative
- 12 elected members of the laity

with the support of a secretary and treasurer who are not members of the PCC

Committees reporting to the PCC are:

- Standing Committee
- Stewardship Committee
- Social Events Committee
- Reordering Committee

Church organisations regularly reporting to the PCC are:

- Deanery Synod
- Mission Room
- Mulso School
- Parish Magazine
- Archivist

Members of our PCC



# Person Specification for a new incumbent

The PCC are looking for an incumbent with the following characteristics:

- To help the congregation and wider community to grow spiritually through preaching and leading small group learning and discussion.
- To develop, guide and utilise the skills of the Ministry Team and to encourage others to join the team, so that they are able to fulfil their role
- To have a strong focus on encouraging young families and especially children back to into the church
- To actively engage with the local schools and youth groups
- To maintain the traditional services but to look at widening provision to cater for young people and families and work towards a blended provision of worship
- We would welcome an incumbent who values and celebrates the Choral worship tradition but can also focus on bringing back young families into the fold.
- A good sense of humour. This is Finedon!

## The Vicarage

- The Vicarage is a new ironstone building behind the church, opposite the 'Old Boys School' and across the road from the Cricket Field set in a beautiful part of Finedon. It is about 20 years old, with a study, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, downstairs toilet, 4 bedrooms, (1 of which is en suite), double garage, summerhouse and enclosed private garden.



# A position for you?

You can find out more and visit us on the Web at

[www.stmarysfinedon.co.uk](http://www.stmarysfinedon.co.uk)



St Mary's Church, Finedon

If this is a position for you and you feel God's call please contact:-

Informal contact can be made with:

The Archdeacon of Oakham The Venerable Alison Booker:

[archdeacon.Oakham@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:archdeacon.Oakham@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

An application form can be obtained from the Archdeacons' Office  
Cheryl Cullen (PA)

Tel: 01733 887019

E mail [pa.archdeacons@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:pa.archdeacons@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

# A TASTE OF FINEDON



The Obelisk



Mulso CE Junior School and Infant School



Banks Park and children's playground



The War Memorial



The Green, High Street/Well Street

Recreation Ground and Play Area



The Cricket Ground – in winter



The Church, viewed from the Cricket Club



The Lych Gate

