



# Walgrave Benefice

**'Our vision is to spread God's word of abiding love and to bring the light of Christ into all areas of our community.'**



# Contents

A message from the Bishop	1
Walgrave Benefice Vision and Future Direction	4
Our Thoughts	5
The Benefice	6
A Supportive Church Community	7
Services	9
Organisation	10
Church Groups	11
Children and Young People	12
Links with Walgrave Baptist Chapel	13
Charitable Activities	14
Our Church Buildings	15
Living in the Benefice	19
Contacts	24

# A message from the Bishop

Warm greetings as you explore the possibility of ministry in Peterborough Diocese. Dioceses vary in their culture and their approach to ministry and mission. I hope it will help if I spell out some of our commitments, expectations and aspirations. You can find more on our website; this simply paints the picture in broad brush strokes.

Roughly speaking the diocese covers Northamptonshire and Rutland as well as the City of Peterborough (which used to be in Northants, is now in Cambridgeshire for ceremonial purposes, but is a unitary authority running its own affairs). The Archdeaconry of Northampton covers the towns of Northampton and Wellingborough, and the rural areas, market towns and villages of West Northants. The Archdeaconry of Oakham covers Peterborough, Rutland, the towns of Corby and Kettering, and the rural areas, market towns and villages of North Northants.

The diocese is medium sized in population with a little under a million people, but the rural areas of Northants and Rutland include many small villages with fine, and usually modestly proportioned, medieval churches. There is one suffragan bishop, John Holbrook, Bishop of Brixworth since 2011, and two archdeacons: Richard Ormston of Northampton since 2014 and Alison Booker of Oakham since February 2022. Bishop Donald came to the diocese in 2010 charged to reverse the serious decline in churchgoing and to instil a greater sense of diocesan identity and unity.

Clergy morale is important to us. Bishops visit all licensed clergy in their homes every three years on a purely pastoral basis. We talk about “shared episcopate” and encourage rural deans, parish clergy and chaplains to be leaders in mission, confidently getting on with ministry. We are increasing the number of ordinations and of parochial clergy.

We believe in church growth. All our senior staff saw growth in their earlier parish ministries, and it is our expectation for every healthy church. Rather than a detailed diocesan strategy we are working in terms of a vision for each parish or benefice to develop and own a growth action plan. Interdependency and a shared belonging and commitment to mission are important, but each local unit should have its own aspiration to being a growing, viable, missional, serving and worshipping community.

Both bishops cover the whole diocese with distinct responsibilities rather than geographical areas. The Bishop of Peterborough has taken responsibility for clergy in parish ministry, and for lay ministry. The Bishop of Brixworth is responsible for ordinands, curates, retired clergy, sector chaplaincies, and environmental matters.

The Archdeacon of Northampton chairs the Diocesan Board of Education. The Archdeacon of Oakham encourages and oversees mission across the diocese. These responsibilities change from time to time. The Bishop and the Dean, Chris Dalliston, work closely together, and we present the Cathedral (even though geographically it is towards one end of a long and narrow diocese) as the spiritual centre of diocesan life. Most of our clergy come to the by lunch in the Bishop’s Palace. Retired clergy come for a summer Eucharist and lunch. Parish clergy return in the autumn for a day of worship, teaching and fellowship. Ordinands join the senior staff for two social events at the Palace each year.

As we look for and encourage clergy to join the diocese we are committed to providing them with good and well maintained housing, a decent stipend and appropriate training and support. In turn, we look for certain commitments:

- to share with the Bishop in the cure of souls, and to work strategically for growth in numbers among the worshipping community
- to teach Christian discipleship including the principles of giving
- to take seriously the pastoral and missional opportunities of occasional offices, aiming for good working relationships with funeral directors and others
- to enable the full participation of children and young people in the whole life of the church, and to develop mission among the younger generations

- to be involved in both church and other local schools as far as possible, actively seeking opportunities for mission and preferably offering a chaplaincy role and leading collective worship rather than chairing the governing body
- to be involved in deanery and diocesan activities and in the life of their local community
- to promote and enable lay ministry in both church and community
- to take part in our ministry review process, consisting of a three-year rolling programme: a pastoral visit by me to your home, a formal review by a member of my senior team, and a review of training needs
- to engage with the continuing ministerial development programme offered by the diocese and in personal study, nurturing your own spirituality
- to hold a current DBS certificate, to undergo safeguarding training as required by the bishop, and to follow and promote the diocesan safeguarding policy.

We look forward to meeting and welcoming those who share our values and want to serve the Lord, the Church and the Gospel with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Debbie". The plus sign is a simple cross, and the name "Debbie" is written in a cursive, flowing script.

Bishop of Peterborough



# Welcome to Walgrave Benefice



Four vibrant church communities within the heart of Northamptonshire

# Walgrave Benefice Vision and Future Direction

‘Our vision is to spread God’s word of abiding love and to bring the light of Christ into all areas of our community.’

## Churchmanship

In the Walgrave Benefice, we have the broad mix of churchmanship, usually found in rural parishes. We see this as a strength as we are blessed with people from Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, Evangelical and Baptist backgrounds. We do our best to provide a range of services that will cater for these many styles. However, being one church family within the Body of Christ is what we are constantly striving for.

## Your role

We are looking for someone who will provide us with the core of traditional worship led by a priest in robes, and a significant proportion of the congregation would also be interested in exploring a range of worship traditions. We would particularly like to provide services and weekly groups to engage families with children of all ages. We feel that our focus has shifted away from families in recent years, and we want to prioritise allowing young children to experience the awe and wonder of the living God.

We would like our new incumbent to be visibly present, with dog collar on, across all four villages and to engage with those outside of our worshipping community. There is much village support for our church buildings, but not so much for the people of the church, as we have not always explained our purpose and how others can join us. We would like someone to lead us in being more of a church presence in our communities. We would like to follow St. Paul’s template of getting alongside people where they are before we start sharing the Gospel message with them. Getting alongside people in every part of our community is essential to us being a light for them in times of trouble.

## Future Direction

- For the Church Family to thrive
- For the Church Family to be dynamic and a force in the community
- For the Church Family to be inclusive of all people
- For the Church Family to be known for being welcoming, encouraging and loving towards all people
- For the Church Family to progress and adapt to meet the needs that arise at different times



# Our Thoughts

Here is a selection of thoughts from our community on what we would like to achieve with the help of our new incumbent and the qualities we think they should have.

*"We want an enthusiastic and outgoing individual who will lead us in growing the church family. For some parishioners, that might mean full participation in the church family, and for others, life pressures might mean a more part-time involvement, and we would like all to be encouraged and not pressured or judged."*

*"We would love to join with our new incumbent to grow our numbers and offer our community an opportunity to worship in a way they feel is accessible."*

*"During the past few years, our fundraising efforts have been channelled into meeting our parish share in full. However, our fundraising has brought our communities together, allowing new friendships to be made and promoting the light of Christ in our community. We want to be able to financially support the good work of a number of charities both at home and abroad, as well as invest in the future of our parish."*

*"It would be great if we could restart Walgrave's quarterly Cafe Church event; it started with a breakfast roll and coffee, then a small amount of liturgy, maybe a hymn, a good discussion about the topic of the day, an activity for grown-ups and children and then a blessing."*

*"We would like to restart our 'Thy Kingdom Come' activities with prayer stations in the church and daily acts of worship."*

*"We would like 'A Songs of Praise' service with congregation members coming up to tell the church family why they have chosen a hymn and what it means to them."*

*"We would like two services per Sunday, at different churches, one aimed at families and the other either traditional or an alternative format on rotation."*

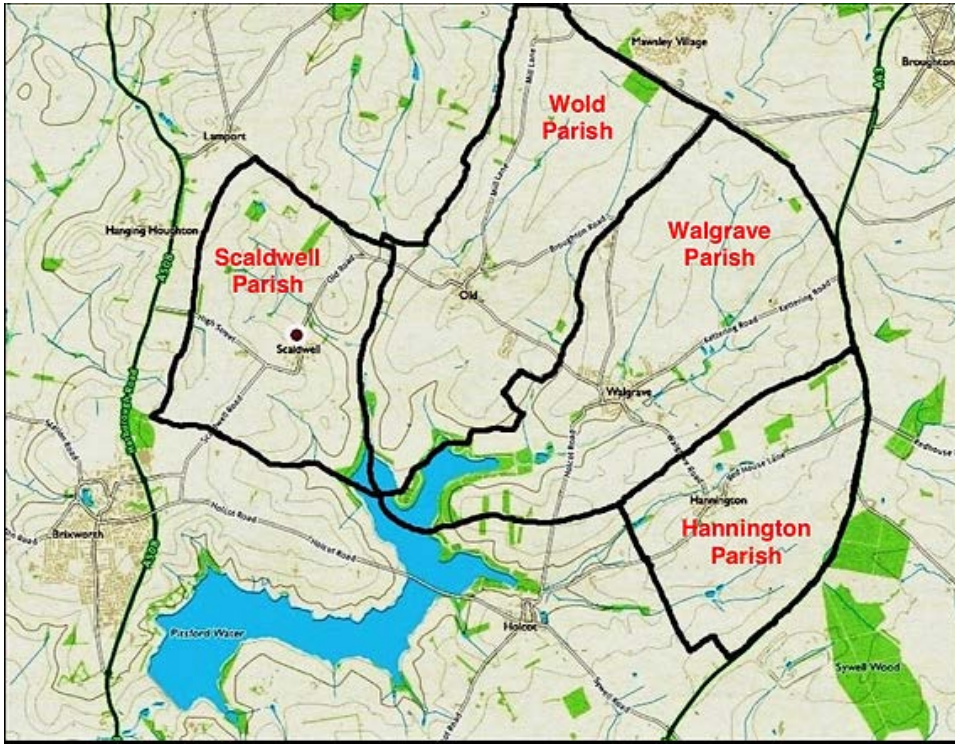
*"We would like to extend our bible study group with the addition of an evening meeting."*

*"We are very keen to investigate reintroducing a Sunday School in the Benefice."*

We asked people to consider the characteristics they thought our new vicar should have, and they responded with the following:

- Dynamic and outgoing
- A leader
- Passionate
- Mission focused
- Enthusiastic
- Sociable
- Inspiring

# The Benefice



The Walgrave Benefice consists of Hannington, Scaldwell, Old and Walgrave parishes. The parishes are in rural locations, and the Benefice size is approximately 28km<sup>2</sup>.

Our website: <https://www.walgravebenefice.org>

## Sunday Attendance

The four-week Sunday Service Rota around the four churches means that the average Benefice service attendance of 32 features parishioners from all parishes; however, some individuals will only attend services in their village church.

## 2021 Census Profile

	Total Population	0-17	18-64	65+	% Christian	% No Religion
<b>Hannington</b>	264	40	139	81	66.4%	29.6%
<b>Old</b>	469	96	267	109	58.3%	38.8%
<b>Scaldwell</b>	294	55	171	67	64.9%	33.3%
<b>Walgrave</b>	947	197	539	212	46%	51%



# A supportive church community

The Benefice is blessed with a very active group of helpers, lay worship leaders, churchwardens, eucharistic assistants, readers and sidespeople in each parish. Lay worship leaders hold regular ministry team meetings.

## Lay Worship Leaders



### **Alex Elston** (Old)

I have lived in Old with my son Ben for twenty years. We are lucky enough to live in the Townson Close community, where we have been supported by Old Parish Charities. I became a Christian after asking God to save my brother at the Hillsborough disaster. I've been a Reader since 2014 and was licensed a few months after my husband died suddenly from a stroke. I'm also a primary teacher and a cricket coach. Cricket is a huge part of our family life, as are animals.



### **Brian Hardy** (Scaldwell)

I recently retired and moved to Scaldwell. I have been involved with many churches, from the choir of my father's church in Dundee to a Methodist chapel and a URC church in Hemel Hempstead. I have completed training as a Lay Worship Leader, but I am still a rookie in the CofE!

### **Vicki Kelly** (Walgrave)

I am originally from South Africa and moved to Walgrave in 2012. I have been an active member of the Church, first as secretary of the PCC, then as churchwarden, helping with various fundraising events, and now as the pastoral contact. I am currently training with Peterborough Diocese as a Lay Reader, and I have recently led my first service.

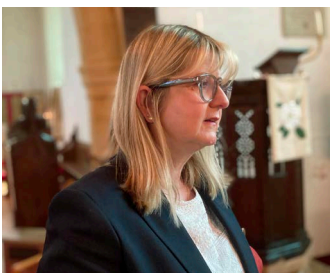


### **Tim Kidger** (Hannington)

I live in Hannington and have been active in the church for 43 years. Since retiring from psychiatry in 2004, my involvement has grown. I hold several parish roles, and I serve as secretary to the Peterborough Anglican Cursillo secretariat.

### **Katrina Parker** (Walgrave)

I have been churchwarden from 2009 to 2015 and 2024 to date and PCC member at other times. I have led two services during the vacancy, with more to come. I am also a Kettering Street Pastor and work part-time as an administration officer at the local primary school.



### **Jane Wren** (Walgrave)

I am a Lay Worship Leader and Churchwarden at St Peter's in Walgrave. I have held both positions for a number of years and am happy to continue to serve our Benefice in a worship capacity. I live just behind the Church and consider the Church a second home - my other family.

## Musicians

The Benefice has four musicians who provide accompaniment on the church organs and other instruments. We are very fortunate to have live music at all our services.



## Bellringers

The bellringers operate at Scaldwell and Walgrave. Most of the band are members of the Guilsborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers. Our leader, Elaine, is a very active member of the Association of Ringing Teachers, which enables a high standard of teaching to be undertaken by a fully qualified instructor.

## Churchwardens

Hannington: Andrew Greatrex and Jacki Hurst

Old: Alex Elston and Gill Parton

Scaldwell: David Kier and Christopher Angeloglou

Walgrave: Katrina Parker and Jane Wren

## Maintenance and cleaning teams

Each parish has an active team of volunteers who clean and maintain the churches. Each PCC maintains a programme of work.



## Fundraising events

Each parish conducts its own fundraising events to support the churches. Recent highlights have been 'Ale and Alleluias' in Old, 'Carols and Canapés' in Walgrave, as well as safari suppers and theatrical evenings.

# Services

## Weekly Services

Currently, the Benefice conducts a service rota in which each church hosts a service once every four weeks, but we would like to review this with potentially more services. The service rota is prepared three months in advance at a meeting between the Churchwardens, the Lay Ministry team, and the incumbent.

## Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

- 4 pm - carols readings and children's nativity activity in Scaldwell
- Later evening - nine lessons and carols, led by the Swarbrick Singers conducted by Ian Clarke, Old
- Midnight Mass - Hannington

Christmas Day

- Family Communion Service, Walgrave

## Easter Services

- Easter Sunday Family Communion Service, Walgrave
- Maundy Thursday Service and Stations of the Cross, Scaldwell

## Harvest Festival

We currently have harvest services in each of the four churches and usually a harvest lunch/supper in Walgrave. Partial or entire proceeds from the produce auction go to support a charity agreed by the PCC.

## Remembrance Services

Walgrave has a service of remembrance that remembers all who have died, those in wars, but also our family and friends. We light a candle in the service to remember them. We then join our wider village community for an act of worship at the war memorial at 11 am.

## Bread Service

Scaldwell Bread Service is celebrated on the first Sunday of December, the Sunday closest to the birthday of Thomas Roe, who lived in Scaldwell in the 1700s. He stipulated that bread should be distributed to the poor of the village, a thanksgiving service should be held, and a sermon preached to continue the charity. Nowadays, money is donated instead of bread to the Kettering Food Bank to benefit those in need.

## Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The incumbent leads the preparation and support of candidates and families for each of these services, with support from the lay ministry team. In Walgrave, the churchwarden welcomes those being baptised into the Walgrave church family and presents the lighted candle.

## Benefice Confirmation Services

The last Confirmation Service in the Benefice was held at Walgrave St Peter's in January 2024 when five individuals were welcomed into the Benefice family.



# Organisation

## **Benefice Council**

There is no formal Benefice Council. There are occasions when members of each PCC meet to discuss an issue that involves the Benefice as a whole, but this only happens when necessary. We do have regular Benefice Ministry team meetings and would like to introduce churchwarden meetings.

## **Parochial Church Councils**

Each church has active Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) that meet three times a year in addition to the annual meeting. The councils work independently of one another but do support each other. Each council comprises a chairperson, secretary, treasurer, churchwardens, elected members, lay minister(s) if living in the parish, and the incumbent, the latter two being ex officio members. Excluding the incumbent, the sizes of the various PCCs are:

- Hannington has six members
- Old has seven members
- Scaldwell has four members
- Walgrave has eleven members

In each case, an attempt is made to ensure that members of the PCC are drawn from parishioners across the age range and experience.

## **Committees reporting to the Parochial Church Council**

Because of the size of each parish and congregation, there are few subcommittees reporting to the PCC.

## **Finance**

Each PCC has its own treasurer, who is responsible for the financial control of their parish. When issues requiring a consensus across the Benefice occur, the treasurers meet and report to the individual PCCs; this includes paying the parish share. Clergy expenses are paid promptly and apportioned to each parish.

A Parish Giving Scheme is in operation across the four parishes. Most regular giving is by monthly standing order, although some parishioners choose to give weekly in the collection during church services. There are a number of people who are not regular churchgoers or members of the various Parochial Church Electoral Rolls who give regularly and are included in the Parish Giving Scheme. Usually, each of the treasurers circulates a letter throughout the villages annually to encourage giving.

We have a contactless card reader, which we use at fundraisers and large church events. Monies raised from events are generally, but not exclusively, reserved for the required major building repair and improvement programmes. Quinquennial repair works are also supported through various grant providers, including the Northampton Historic Churches Trust and the National Churches Trust.

Each PCC maintains a general account and fabric account for major works. They also hold a contingency reserve. There is no benefice-wide fund.

Each parish donates part of its annual income to charitable purposes. The decision to support charities is not made benefice-wide but by each PCC.

The Annual Report and Accounts for each parish in the Benefice are available on request from the Secretary to the Archdeacon by contacting [pa.archdeacons@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:pa.archdeacons@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

## **Safeguarding**

The churches in the Walgrave Benefice take their responsibility very seriously to protect and safeguard the welfare of the children, young people and vulnerable adults they come into contact with. We have safeguarding officers in each church. We aim to protect and safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults through the application of the procedures linked to the policies on the Church of England website.

## **Digital communication**

The Benefice communicates via our website, What's App, an opt-in email circulation list, and the various village Facebook pages.

# Church Groups

## **Bible Studies**

We believe that the Bible is inspired by God and holds the key to living truth-filled lives here on earth and points the way to living forever. The group meets on Tuesdays at 10.15 am in Old Community Centre. We would like to extend this to an additional evening Bible Study Group.

## **Benefice Alpha Courses**

Three Alpha courses have been held in the last five years with 35 individuals (32 adults and three under 18). The format of each Alpha meeting is a meal, a video and a chance to chat in a small group. We promise three things – no pressure, no follow-up and no charge.

## **Men's Breakfasts**

The Men's Breakfast started as an initiative to engage more men in the Church community; it has blossomed into a thriving success story, making us all proud of this successful initiative.

The monthly breakfasts are held in Walgrave and Scaldwell churches. A cooked meal is provided for a voluntary contribution, a blessing is said, and we occasionally have guest speakers.

In Walgrave the Men's Breakfast began over a year ago and we regularly have at least 20 attendees from a wide cross-section of our community. There are a few churchgoers, but most are men who might only attend church on high days and holidays.



# Children and Young People



All the churches in the Benefice are welcoming to all people but make special efforts to encourage and welcome the young. Once they become old enough and wish to do so, many become involved with greeting people as they come for a service, handing out service and hymn books, collecting and taking offerings to the altar during services, and reading lessons.

## Support at Sunday Services

Old, Scaldwell and Walgrave churches have spaces where young children can play and do activities during services. The other churches have tables and chairs suitable for young children and provide toys, books and colouring sheets. Many of the colouring sheets and activities link to the readings and theme of the service. An effort is made to involve the children, particularly during the sermon. Hannington is limited by space.

## Sunday School

There are no Sunday Schools in the Benefice at this particular time, although they have been in all the churches in the past, and this is an area that we are very keen to reinvigorate. Doing something separate for children during our Family Services (as many churches do) is a solution, but we would like to do more.

## Messy Church

As part of the Walgrave Groove on the Green Festival, the Benefice hosts Messy Church, a crafting event to entertain while spreading the word of God.



## Walgrave School

Message from *Ms Julia Hyde, Outgoing Head Teacher*

"Walgrave Primary School has always enjoyed a close relationship with the Walgrave Benefice. In the past the minister has been a governor and visited regularly to give assemblies to the children. Walgrave Primary School has been the proud winners of the children's prize at the Christmas Tree Festival organised by St. Peter's Church on more than one occasion. Members of the laity also memorably once led children through the story of Easter.

For many years the Good News Club ran after school, supervised by members of the laity at one point topping 25 members. Sadly this club did not revive after Covid 19. In recent years members of the laity have visited the school to conduct Open the Book assemblies which are always well received by the children. St. Peter's Church in Walgrave has kindly hosted our Christmas production for some years as it provides the necessary capacity along with year 6 leavers assemblies and Christingles.

On occasion classes visit as part of the RE curriculum and their topic work. There will be Open the Book assemblies at Walgrave Primary School every month for the forthcoming academic year led by the laity team.

We look forward to many more years of a warm relationship with the Walgrave Benefice."



## Muddy Boots Pre-school

Muddy Boots Pre-school is a warm, nurturing and vibrant village pre-school for children from the age of 2 years old. It is located in its own dedicated building on the grounds of Walgrave Primary School and boasts a beautiful outdoor woodland area ready to spark every child's imagination.



## Youth Groups

Walgrave has a Scouts group that meets on Thursday evenings at Walgrave Village Hall. The Beavers meet from 6 pm to 7 pm, and the Cubs meet from 7 pm to 8 pm.

## Links with Walgrave Baptist Chapel

We have a strong relationship with the Baptist Chapel in Walgrave and regularly hold joint activities. On Palm Sunday, we have a joint service and parade through Walgrave from the School to the Chapel, singing hymns and waving palms. We also host a joint service in one of our churches each year.



# Charitable Activities

## Food Bank

The Benefice has arranged a bi-weekly collection of donations from the four villages for the Kettering Food Bank since 2018. Villagers also make financial donations to the charity and manage the collection and delivery of the food donations.



## Ride and Stride

This annual event raises money for the fabric of churches in Northamptonshire, with 50% of the money raised going to the church of the participant's choice. Our participation entitles us to apply for grants from the central fund. We have many riders and striders who walk or cycle between participating churches.

The Ride and Stride is well supported across the Benefice. At St. Peter's church supporters regularly raise enough funds for comment in the NHCT Report and Accounts. All churches are open for the event, and visitors can be sure of a warm welcome.

<https://nhct.org.uk/Main/RideAndStride>



## Other Fundraising

Collections from some services are donated to selected charities.



# Our Church Buildings



## St Peter and St Paul, Hannington

Grade I listed

The original construction commenced in or around 1100, but evidence has been found that there may have been an earlier Church. It is thought that the current Church was constructed over a long timescale, as the architecture changes from Saxon through to Norman, with some evidence of the early decorated style.

The Church is situated at the west end of the village and stands high on an almost circular mound, thought to be a Moot Mound, where the business of the village would have been carried out in past times. It is regular in design, with the North and South doors opposite each other.

However, the interior design of the Church is unique; there is a bisected nave, a design only found in one other Church in the country at Claythorpe in Lincolnshire. Many theories have been put forward to the reasons for this unusual design, one being that it was part of a Gilbertine Priory, and the nave was constructed in such a way to maintain a screen to separate the Monks from the Nuns. This theory has not been substantiated.

The other unique feature of the Church, relates to the Bell tower, which is positioned half in and half out of the main body of the Church. There are just three bells in the tower, all with chiming mechanisms and are used before a service to call the faithful to worship.

A notable feature of the Church is the fine stained glass window at the east end. This was installed in 1868 and is dedicated to the Rev John Downes, who during his tenure as Rector of Hannington, arranged and paid out of his own pocket for major repairs to the Church. Most of the Church interior furnishing you see today was facilitated by him. The Rev John Downes studied botany at Cambridge and was offered the position of botanist on the HMS Beagle, but he turned it down in favour of the priesthood and Charles Darwin replaced him.

**Capacity:** 100 people.

**Facilities:** There is no water, toilet or servery in the church.

**Churchyard:** The church is surrounded by a churchyard, which is still open for burials and the interment of ashes. Maintenance of the churchyard is managed by the current Churchwarden, mowing is contracted out and payment for this service is funded by donations from villagers and a small grant from the Parish Council.

### Quinquennial Report:

The inspection took place in June 2022. Several issues were identified, particularly from damage caused by water ingress in the Chancel area; this is an ongoing repair issue. The architect is currently obtaining quotes from suitably qualified builders for repairs to be undertaken. Funding will be required as and when figures are available. Plans to improve the church's facilities, including the water supply and installation of a toilet and servery, are currently on hold until the repairs detailed above have been completed.



## St Andrew's, Old

Grade 1 listed

St Andrew's Church is located in the centre of the village, just behind the village pub, The White Horse. It is built mainly of ironstone, with a slate roof, and is surrounded by the churchyard, which remains open for burials. The Church was built over the entire period of Gothic Church architecture in medieval Britain. The earliest surviving part of the Church is the south aisle, which dates to the middle of the thirteenth century, with the nave, tower and north porch dating from the fifteenth century. The chancel was virtually rebuilt in 1874-5, with chambers added to either side which now serve as vestry and organ chamber.



The bell tower contains 5, rather than the more usual 6 bells, with the oldest dated 1629. Unfortunately, wear to the frame means that the bells cannot currently be rung full circle, but it is hope this will be rectified in the future.

The organ was built by a local constructor, G. M. Holdich, and installed in 1853. It is listed in the British Institute of Organ Studies' register of historic pipe organs and has one manual and a full octave on the base pedals. It provides welcome accompaniment to services, weddings and funerals, in particular to our well-attended Christmas Eve Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, led by Ian Clark of the Swarbrick Singers.

The Church benefits from a modern servery and WC, as well as chairs, rather than pews, which allows for more flexible service arrangements and uses of the space, including for concerts, the Agape Supper and fundraisers such as the Christmas Fayre.

**Capacity:** 200

**Facilities:** Servery, toilet, microphone, AV facilities and large retractable screen, movable chair seating, Wi-fi.

**Churchyard:** The churchyard is open.

### Quinquennial Report:

The report was completed in 2023 and raised no issues of significant concern, although some maintenance work is required to the roof, and we are advised that eventually we will reach a point where repairing becomes uneconomic and re-roofing will be advised. The architect has recommended that we start planning for these works.



## St Peter and St Paul, Scaldwell

Grade II\* listed

St Peter and St Paul Church sits on raised ground just off to one side of the village green. It is thought that a church has been in this position since between 800 and 1000 AD. It is built from local stone and comprises a bell tower, a central nave and two side naves, chancel with main altar, and side chapel named after St Edmund. The church has evolved over the centuries with major work being carried out in the 13th, 15th and 19th centuries.



There are pews in the central and south naves to seat about sixty people. The pews in the north nave were removed when the kitchen and toilet were added about six years ago to provide a flexible space for such

things as coffee mornings and, until recently, Mum's and Tots, but they can be filled with a further forty chairs when services require. St Edmund's chapel was refurbished about three years ago.

The five bells in the bell tower are regularly rung and also used for teaching new ringers from within the Benefice. An electronic system was recently added for teaching purposes, allowing the bells to be rung as normal without the bells making a noise outside but producing simulated sound via a computer in the tower.

**Capacity:** 100 comfortably, 130 maximum.

**Facilities:** Kitchen, toilet, flexible seating in the north nave, microphone system, 5 working bells.

**Churchyard:** The churchyard is still in use for burials and for the interment of ashes. The PCC maintains the churchyard.

### Quinquennial Report:

The inspection report was February 2023. The only urgent work highlighted that has required attention was the repairs to the tower roof. After receiving approval from the Archdeacon, this work was completed during April 2024. This work was necessary to repair a rain leakage problem. Due to financial restrictions and the fact that all the work in the report is not urgent, no further repair work will be done until after the next inspection in 2028.



## St Peter's, Walgrave

Grade I listed

St Peter's Church stands on high ground in the centre of the village, mainly constructed around 1339 in the architectural style of the 'decorated' period, although Nikolaus Pevsner, in his 'Buildings of England,' attributes the tower and spire to the late 13th century. Like many medieval churches, St Peter's was originally under monastic patronage. In return, the 'tythes' of the village (one-tenth of all produce) went to St Augustine's in Daventry, a daughter house of the La Charite sur Loire monastery in France.



With the exception of the vestry in the southeast corner of the nave, the plan of the church is remarkably symmetrical, with north and south aisles and north and south porches directly opposite each other. Unusually, the nave itself is narrower than the chancel. The light and spacious nave has three magnificent arches on each side on clustered columns, with quatrefoil clerestory windows above.

The embattled parapet at the top of the walls is said to have been added in 1633 by Bishop John Williams. Well before this time, the church passed from monastic patronage to the huge diocese of Lincoln, together with most of the parish churches in Northamptonshire. They became part of Peterborough diocese in 1852. In the churchyard to the west of the south porch is the socket and stump of a churchyard cross.

**Capacity:** 160

**Facilities:** Toilet, servery, 5 working bells, microphone system.

**Churchyard:** Burials no longer take place in the churchyard. A public cemetery was opened in 1914 at the edge of the village on the Holcot Road. The churchyard grass is mowed by the Parish Council contractors and maintained by volunteers from the church family in accordance with our maintenance schedule.

### Quinquennial Report

The inspection was conducted on 11th January 2022. The overall report was positive, and the Architect complimented us by saying that he could see the church was well looked after. The electrical inspection was also completed. There were no major issues with the fabric and structure of the building. A possible roof leak was investigated and found to be condensation due to temperature fluctuations. The roof is sound. Immediate actions were the cleaning and removal of debris from gutters, which is now complete. The earth was replaced to the organ. All other items requiring attention within a 0 to 24 month time frame have been attended to.



# Living in the Benefice

Walgrave is the largest village in the Benefice and where the rectory is located. It is in mid Northamptonshire, 6 miles from Kettering and 9 miles from Northampton. It is a very friendly and active village as you will read in the following pages.

There are good road networks via the A14 to the M1 and M6, and train stations with direct links to London from Kettering and Northampton. There are major hospitals in Kettering and Northampton and local GP practices in Brixworth and Mawsley. There is a primary school and pre-school in Walgrave and secondary schools in other local villages. The village also benefits from a thriving village pub and volunteer-run community shop.



## The Rectory

The Rectory is situated in the heart of Walgrave and about 100m from St Peter's Church. It is a large, five-bedroom gas centrally heated family home that was fully refurbished in 2019.

### Ground floor:

Study, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, toilet and enclosed rear porch area.

### First floor:

Two double and three single bedrooms with built-in storage, a family bathroom and a large airing cupboard.

### Outside:

A large garden is at the front of the property, and a smaller one is at the rear, which slopes uphill.

To the front is an attached garage and large parking area, and to the rear is an attached brick shed.

# Hannington

Hannington is a small, friendly village with the Church of St Peter and St Paul at its centre. The Village Hall provides the focus for many village activities, including a regular coffee morning.

## Facilities:

Village Hall  
Pocket Park

## Clubs & Activities

Hannington Hikers

This walking group has been in existence since 2007 and everyone is welcome. The walks are monthly on the fourth Saturday and start at 10:30am at Hannington Church gate. The distance will generally not be longer than 4.5 miles, and we usually end at a pub, although it is not obligatory to stay for a drink or a meal.



Art Group

The Art Group meets every Tuesday in Hannington Village Hall.



Hannington Vintage Tractor Club

Founded in 1969, this active club holds a meeting on the first Monday of the month. There is a permanent display of vintage tractors and farm equipment at Lamport Hall.



Hannington Rural Heritage Group

This small group organises talks, visits and activities that reflect local heritage.

## Regular Events

New to you sale

Easter Activities - Easter hunt + crafts, tombola, raffle, cake etc.

Tennis Tournament

Quiz Nights

Coffee Mornings

Christmas Event - gifts, toys, books sale, meet Santa, craft activities, cake

Hannington Trail - Quiz spotting things around the village with coffee and cake

Table-top sales



# Old (Wold)

Old, including Cherry Hill, a housing estate on the edge of the village, is a village of approximately 470 people living in a range of owned, rented and social housing. We have a lovely community spirit, and there is much collective work done between our various organisations.

Old Parish Charities, of which more below, the Church, the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee are the four main drivers of village events. There is much collaboration and various people contribute to each organisation; this allows us to jointly arrange events such as Open Gardens and Art Exhibitions, the Horticultural Show, D-Day Remembrance with Thanksgiving, the Village BBQ and the Safari Supper.

We are fortunate to enjoy the benefit of Old Parish Charities, which was founded by the Reverend John Townson in 1668. This charity is primarily for the benefit of the poor of the parish, as well as offering financial support for the educational needs of the residents, and supporting their pastoral needs, as required. The Charity owns the community centre, the playing fields, and a number of bungalows, operated as almshouses. Weekly coffee mornings and monthly lunches are held by the Charity in the Community Centre, and this is also open during the winter months to provide a warm space for the whole community. The community centre is also available to the Church, as required, and more informal services are sometimes held here during the winter months, as well as PCC meetings. The Vicar of St Andrew's Church is an ex-officio Trustee of the Charity and is invited to attend Trustee meetings when possible.

In addition to the Community Centre, the village also benefits from a large modern village hall, from which a number of groups operate on a regular basis.

We also have the dependable White Horse pub where there is always a warm welcome, and the food can be relied upon.

Old Cricket Club play to a high standard and always asks whether the new vicar could please be a good batsman/woman! They have men's, youth and ladies' teams, also providing All Stars and Dynamo programmes during the summer months. Pitches are on the playing fields of both Old and Walgrave.

## Village Organisations:

- Old Cricket Club
- Neighbourhood Watch
- The Old Crafties
- Yoga/Pilates
- Table Tennis
- Women of Wold
- Men of Old
- The White Horse Golf Society
- Bridge Club
- Indoor Short Mat Bowls
- Film Club

## Useful website

<https://www.villageofold.org/>



# Scaldwell

Scaldwell is a peaceful and picturesque place built largely of Northamptonshire stone with a village green at the centre. The close community hosts many events and activities for the villagers. Agriculture has been the lifeblood of Scaldwell, with a history of ironstone Quarrying from 1913 to 1963.

## Facilities

Village Hall

Tennis Courts

Children's Playground

The Scaldwell Club. Formed by volunteers after the closure of the last pub in the village, the club is open 2 evenings a week and runs special events.

## Clubs & Activities

U3A Groups, including Travel, Gardening and History

Art Group

Pilates

Neighbourhood Watch

Scaldwell Helping Hands. Formed during the pandemic to support villagers

## Regular Events

Biennial Open Gardens to raise money for the Church

Carol Singing around the village to raise money for local charities

Monthly Men's breakfast in the Village Hall

Pensioners Christmas lunch for approx 50-60 villagers in the Village Hall

Ladies' night once a month with the Scaldwell Club

Burns Night with the Scaldwell Club

Bingo, Racing and Quiz nights with the Scaldwell Club

Treasure Hunts with the Scaldwell Club

Summer Party in the Park with the Scaldwell Club

Sports Club at the Village Tennis Courts

Scaldwell Lovely Ladies held in various village gardens

## Charitable Organisations

Scaldwell Education Charity - grants to Scaldwell residents or village groups for educational/training purposes.

Scaldwell Parish Trust Charity funds any charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish.

Scaldwell Relief in Need Charity is for villagers in need and donations to other organisations that provide services for people in the village.

The Thomas Roe Foundation provides grants to Brixworth CEVC Primary School and cash grants to under 25 year olds who live Scaldwell or Brixworth to support their education.

23 Church Allotments. 11 allotments owned by the Scaldwell Parish Trust Charity with the income providing grants for the benefit of the village.

12 allotments are owned by the Church with the income going to the Diocese.

## Useful website

<https://www.scaldwellvillage.org/>





# Walgrave

Walgrave is a village with a fantastic community spirit from the Wednesday coffee mornings in the pub to the extravaganza of Groove on the Green, there is always something to do and celebrate.

## Facilities:

Walgrave Primary School  
Muddy Boots Pre-school  
Village Hall and Playing Fields  
Skittles Community Shop - community enterprise shop operating daily  
The Royal Oak public house and restaurant  
Pocket Park  
Books not Bunnies lending library

## Clubs & Activities

WOWSA - Women of Walgrave & Surrounding Areas  
In Stitches craft group  
Walgrave Scouts  
Ukelele Band  
Bridge Club  
Village Voices Choir  
Walgrave Cinema Club  
Walgrave Wild Walkers  
Walgrave Village News  
Walgrave Neighbourhood Watch  
Walgrave Bowls Club  
Walgrave Volunteers

## Regular Events

Groove on the Green  
Established 12 years ago, Groove on the Green is now a highly popular Northamptonshire Music and Comedy Festival. During the day, it hosts a family fun day with stalls and entertainment, transforming into a vibrant festival on the Friday and Saturday evenings.

## Old Tyme Music Hall

Recently revived, a small local cast performs favourites from the Music Hall to raise funds for local and village charities.

## Open Gardens

The hugely popular annual charity event raises significant funds for the village. The Church provides refreshments to the visitors.

## Wednesday Cake Therapy

Built on our love of chat and cake, our wonderful volunteers host a charity community coffee morning every Wednesday at the Royal Oak pub. The event attracts villagers of all ages and is the chance to catch up and meet new friends.

## Christmas Tree Lighting

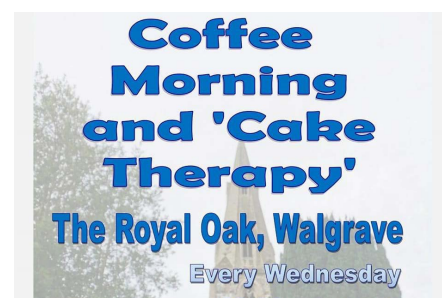
Carols and festivities for everyone.

## Useful websites

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

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

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



Thank you for taking the time to read our parish profile. We are a Benefice diverse in traditions and churchmanship, and we look forward to welcoming an incumbent with the enthusiasm and energy to lead, guide and serve our community in the coming years.

If you feel that God is calling you to apply for this vacancy, you can arrange an informal chat with::

The Archdeacon of Northampton The Venerable Richard Ormston  
[archdeacon.northampton@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:archdeacon.northampton@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

Archdeacons Office:

Cheryl Cullen (PA)

Tel 01733 887019

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

An application form can be obtained from the Diocesan website, vacancies section,  
[www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/vacancies2](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/vacancies2)