

Upper Kennet Parish Profile 2024



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## Upper Kennet Parish Profile 2024

The parish of Upper Kennet is made up of seven active churches, plus one redundant church, spread across the Upper Kennet Valley, in an area of outstanding natural beauty, running from just South of Swindon in the North to the edge of Marlborough in the East, including the World Heritage Site of Avebury.

Until recently, the parish was a Benefice consisting of 5 parishes, each with its Parochial Church Council, spread out across the seven churches. This resulted in previous incumbents attending a large number of PCC meetings and removed valuable mission and ministry time from their working week. To remedy this we have recently amalgamated our 5 parishes into one, following a full and thorough consultation period, and so we now have one PCC, and 5 Local Church Committees (LCCs), who handle routine matters and refer and report to the PCC when necessary.

For further information on our parish, please visit our website: [Upper Kennet Benefice \(kennet8.org.uk\)](http://kennet8.org.uk)

### **The Parish**

The Upper Kennet Valley runs along the edge of the Marlborough Downs, a rural and beautiful landscape situated within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Rectory is a four-bedroom house with a pleasant garden, on the edge of the Avebury Stone Circle, a World Heritage Site linked with Stonehenge. The River Kennet, a tributary of the Thames, rises in Uffcott and flows through an area of farmland and unspoilt chalk downland rich in wildlife, archaeology and history. The working population commutes to the towns of Swindon, Marlborough and Devizes, although some travel further to London, Bristol and along the M4 corridor, and since the COVID19 pandemic some also work from home. Long-established family farms now employ fewer workers, although local horse stables, manufacturing and service industries in Swindon, Lyneham and Wootton Bassett also offer employment to those who live here. Many in our communities, including the retired, are very active in village clubs and societies. Two successful Primary Schools – Kennet Valley Voluntary Aided Church of England School and Broad Hinton Voluntary Controlled Church of England School – feed comprehensive schools at St. John’s Marlborough, Royal Wootton Bassett Academy and Ridgeway School in Wroughton, as well as independent schools.

## **The Rural Deanery**

The Deanery is rural in nature, being geographically large but sparsely populated. Marlborough is our largest centre of population. Part of the The Ridgeway Path, The Avebury Stones and Silbury Hill fall within the Deanery, as does the Roman villa at Littlecote House, near Chilton Foliat.

The comparatively small size of the Clergy Chapter (six stipendiary posts) is turned into a strength, as we are very supportive and we enjoy each other's company. The monthly Chapter Meetings are regarded as a priority and there is good co-operation across the Deanery; we are open to working across parish boundaries where appropriate (for example, in our 2018 "Living Nativity", which involved members of 20 parishes).

We are currently building a relationship with a Diocese in South Sudan. An earlier building on the site of Holy Cross Church in Ramsbury was the cathedral of an ancient Saxon Bishopric (10th/11th Century), which was revived as the title of one of the Diocese of Salisbury's Suffragan Bishops around a millennium later.

The current holder of the title, Bishop Andrew, lives in Marlborough.

## **Our Vision**

The Upper Kennet Parish has a vision for a strong, vibrant and forward-looking Christian community which plays a meaningful part in the lives of the local population, visitors and wider community. Through our two Church of England Primary Schools within our parish, which are linked to the Salisbury Diocese through our foundation governors and Ministry Team, we ensure outreach to children and young families - fundamental in giving the inclusivity of a strong Christian fellowship that is relevant to all.

Through the all-encompassing Local Church Committees (LCCs), we can now let parishioners be custodians of their church through either active working groups or worship within the building without the legal responsibilities of PCC membership.

Faith and community are the foundations for our parish and all we believe in.

## **What we value**

We value a wide range of church services and 'offerings', including traditional, choral, meditative, children and family and outdoor services, reaching out to meet the individual needs of both church and village communities, especially those who seek God and spiritual support.

We value the wide range of Lay Ministry within the parish and the encouragement of their individual strengths and knowledge of individual villages.

We value open and accessible church buildings (all our churches are open in daylight hours) and the space afforded to individuals for private prayer.

We value the joyful presence of rest and refuge that each church offers to all.

We value the strong presence and central place of each church within its own community and the need to ensure that all members of the community are valued for their support and goodwill, however it is shown.

We value the workings of the new PCC and the forming of LCC's as we work together in friendship and support whilst retaining each church's individual identity.

We value the links with our local schools and the importance of introducing young people to understand the Bible and faith and to feel comfortable within the church environment.

We value the links with the wider interfaith groups and the mutual respect that has been gained with each other.

We value co-ordinated and centralised support from the Church Office and their ability to assist each church and the Minister in post.

## **Pastoral Care to the Pagan Community**

The village of Avebury is a world heritage site that includes an archaeologically important stone circle. As well as attracting a significant number of pagan pilgrims each year, the village is home to a small yet significant number of pagans. In the spirit of the Diocesan mission to “make Jesus known”, the church has established good relationships with this community, and look to continue this into the future. In practice this currently sees the pagan community attending the annual Plough Sunday Service at Avebury and Christian involvement in the village Wassail. The incumbent rector also provides pastoral care to these individuals in the same way as they would for any parishioner. St James’s Church in Avebury is maintained as a place of welcome and peace to all, demonstrated by the presence of the Hiroshima peace flame that arrived in the Church in 2013. A prospective candidate would be expected to be sensitive to the complex community dynamic within the village of Avebury, provide pastoral care to all, whilst also maintaining themselves and the Church as an example to all of Christ’s eternal presence and truth.

## **What we have been working on**

1. The major task that we have been working on currently is the formation of a single overarching PCC. Up until very recently, we had 5 PCCs for the 7 parishes making up the former Benefice (3 parishes had a combined PCC). In 2012 and again in 2018 the decision was made to investigate the possibility of combining all these PCCs into a single PCC. Individual churches would continue to have a locally run Local Church Committee (LCC) which would look after the day to day running of the church. A Working Group was set up under the guidance of the incumbent and every aspect of the running of the enlarged PCC was investigated.

Eventually in late 2023 agreement was reached by all to form the single overarching PCC and this received authorisation from the Diocese and Church Commissioners in November 2023. Only one aspect of the amalgamation was left unsolved and that was the forming of a single PCC Bank Account. Other aspects of running the enlarged PCC, such as the handling of Faculties are in the process of being completed. The new PCC is still finding its feet, but the will to make everything work is there, and wrinkles are being ironed out as we move forward.

2. We are fortunate in having a strong Ministry Team and the make up and working of this Team is covered elsewhere in this report. The links to the Deanery in Marlborough remain strong and work will continue to strengthen the Ministry Team further.

3. The Parish Office, which is central to the smooth running of all of the churches has recently been moved to a permanent location in the church of West Overton.

## How we work together

- The Rector is supported by a number of those living in the parish: one ordained priest (retired, with PTO), one Licensed Lay Minister, three Lay Pastoral Assistants (of whom one is an Anna Chaplain), and three Lay Worship Leaders. This Ministry Team support the Rector – and keep things going during the vacancy – both in pastoral care and taking services. They all have long-term commitment to our Parish, its churches and its congregations, and we expect this to continue.
- Churchwardens – three in Avebury, and two for each of the other churches except for Berwick Bassett and Fyfield (which is a Chapel of Ease with an assistant warden) – provide practical support in preparation of services and matters concerning the fabric of the churches and churchyards.
- Our Parish Office, providing administrative and secretarial staff to all the churches and congregations in the Parish, has three staff: two are part-time and paid, and the third is a volunteer. They all have long experience of the Parish, its churches and its communities. The Office has telephone and wi-fi connections, and other appropriate office equipment, and is situated in a section of the north-west area of St Michael’s Church, West Overton. Many parishioners offer additional volunteer support, for example for fund-raising and other community activities.
- The Parish has two monthly newsletters. One, the Upper Kennet News, covers the whole Parish, is typically 12 pages long, and carries information about church services and other events, news from all the churches in the Parish, contributions from organisations active in the Parish, etc. Advertising revenue covers the cost of a free monthly copy to every house in the Parish. The other, ‘Local News’, covers the villages of Uffcott, Winterbourne Bassett and Broad Hinton. Both are thriving, and are edited by volunteers.
- We have a varied pattern of social events, generally aimed at fund-raising for our churches. These include Quiz nights in a local pub, concerts, ceilidhs, coffee mornings and lunches, and of course the annual church bazaar (from which we make useful surpluses from sale of Christmas trees as well as from sale of donated goods).
- A number of shared community events are focussed on the two church schools in the Parish, Kennet Valley School in Lockeridge and Broad Hinton School. Members of the Ministry Team take collective worship in the schools on a regular basis, normally once a week during term time.
- Groups of parishioners meet ad hoc to discuss various aspects of church life, for example preparing and leading family and children’s services; baptism and bereavement preparation; and Lent and Bible Study groups. We also collaborate from time to time with our local churches, for example contributions from our churches to a ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ installation in St Mary’s Church, Marlborough, in 2023. Volunteers from all the churches help in making biscuits and cakes, and serving, for “Teas for Tourists” in Avebury Church. This has been successful both in raising funds and for outreach.
- Teams of bell-ringers ring at Avebury, Broad Hinton and West Overton.
- The Parish is part of the Marlborough Deanery, which has 4.5 stipendiary clergy posts, one house for duty post and .5 post paid for by Preshute church. The Deanery can act as a significant resource for all four of its united parishes/benefices, not least because the Chapter is proving a place of real fellowship and support. The deanery has recently entered into a partnership with Morobo Diocese, South Sudan, and is involved in fund raising to support the mission of the diocese. The parish of the Upper Kennet has been involved in fund raising and is represented on the committee.

## How We Worship Together

We pride ourselves in offering an eclectic mix of services across the Parish (see Appendix 3).

- Whenever possible each of our churches take turns in providing a Parish Communion service each month; other services being taken by the Rector or by one of our lay ministerial team, currently numbering seven.
- Fyfield and East Kennett provide Book of Common Prayer services.
- East Kennett has a Wednesday evening Taize meditation fortnightly, lay led.
- We provide morning prayer from 8.30 to 9.00 daily on zoom.
- A Celtic service is held weekly at Avebury.
- There are a variety of services at Easter including Sung Compline at East Kennett and a Walk of Witness at Avebury.
- We hold Songs of Praise services occasionally, as well as childrens' and family services.
- Our two schools hold school services at West Overton and Broad Hinton Churches from time to time.
- The parish has an active and vibrant series of children and family services. In practice this is a termly Muddy Church or Messy Church service in the two halves of the parish, whilst the two Church Schools have an annual leavers service and either a lay or rector led service approximately every fortnight. The parish aspires to be a multi-generational worshipping community where families are made to feel valued and welcome.
- Several other active retired clergy live in the area and are willing to take services, for example standing in to take a Eucharist when the Rector is not available.
- Members of the Ministry Team take non-eucharistic services, successfully, and are accepted in this role.
- Since the pandemic, we have had one Eucharist each week, in one of the churches on a rotating basis. This brings members of the different congregations together.

We hope that our new incumbent will not only identify with and support this mix of services but will add to and enrich them generally.

### **What we are looking for in our new priest**

Somebody who is comfortable with providing a range of services according to parish needs.

Someone who will work with the lay team, church wardens and office staff and use their individual strengths when possible.

Someone who believes pastoral and mission work is very important.

Someone who will mix well in both the religious and secular life of the villages.

Someone who is willing to understand the complexities of rural life and small villages and work with others to retain rural identity.

Someone who can relate to multi generations and social diversity within communities and families.

Someone who continues to encourage strong links within the two schools.

Someone who will continue in helping build interfaith links and provide occasional interfaith services thus ensuring that all residents are valued.

Someone who will take church out into the community when appropriate (services other than within the church building)

Someone who is willing to listen to the needs of others and approach matters with an open mind.



## **Upper Kennet Churches Parish Office**

(Formerly the Benefice Office)

The Upper Kennet Churches Office is situated in a self-contained room in West Overton Church. It is well equipped and has recently had very welcome improvements made to the lighting and insulation.

The office is open from 10 am to 1 pm Mondays to Thursdays. However, those hours are quite often extended and e-mails and phone messages are usually checked before the weekend in case something urgent has arisen.

The Office (currently three people doing a job share) offers administrative support to the Incumbent in many aspects of their ministry and we do our best to fulfil all their requests. We also liaise with LPAs, LWLs and also the LLM.

We are often the first point of contact for bereavement and people needing pastoral care. We are able to work on our own initiative in dealing with baptism, marriage, funeral and memorial requests, referring them to the incumbent as and when necessary. The office deals with the estimates, fees, etc related to the above.

We assist in the Rector's admin by drawing up draft service rotas, printing service sheets where necessary, ordering seasonal items such as palm crosses, paschal candles, transfers, advent candles etc. We provide a substantial amount of information to the two parish magazines. We keep records of decision processes within the parish and hold all the records of pastoral services.

We are proactive and resourceful and do our best to help at all times.

## The Rectory

The rectory is situated in Avebury, and was built in 1975 in part of the large rear garden of the former Vicarage in the High Street. It is in a secluded position set amongst a large garden with open country to south and west. On the ground floor is the south-facing dining room, with a door to the garden, and a lounge with open fireplace; the east-facing kitchen and breakfast area facing west, lead to the utility room. On the first floor are four double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, bathroom and separate toilet, airing cupboard and boarded/insulated loft. There are two garages next to the house. The property is double-glazed and was recently redecorated and extensively updated.

The entrance lobby, study/office and cloakroom with toilet are separate from the family accommodation.

There is an excellent choice of shopping facilities in Marlborough, Devizes, Wroughton and Swindon, to which there are direct and regular bus services. Transport is also provided to the local Primary and Secondary Schools. There are train stations in Swindon, Pewsey and Great Bedwyn. Avebury has its own Community Shop and a part-time Post office as well as other facilities. In addition, there are many leisure activities suitable for families, within easy reach of Avebury.



## Where you would be living and working



The villages lie roughly along the line of the River Kennet, although the river itself is rarely visible in summer, rising in the wetter months of the year. From Uffcott to Fyfield, the two villages at either end of the benefice, is about 9 miles, along good roads. Each village has its individual character and is much loved by its inhabitants. The seven churches in the Parish are all well-maintained. Major works are to be undertaken at Fyfield Church with an enthusiastic fundraising team

Most of the churches have been meeting their Diocesan and Benefice Quota. In all, we have a population of about 3000 of which 158 are on their respective parish Electoral Rolls

## The Parish of Broad Hinton with Uffcott

These are the most northerly villages within the Parish and have a joint population of approximately 630 in 256 households (2021 census) and a mid-range deprivation index of 6381. Broad Hinton and Uffcott are busy, friendly communities in beautiful chalk downland with lots of lovely walks. There is a strong farming feel to the rural aspects with 4 farms in the community.

Broad Hinton Church of England Primary School is one of two in the Parish. It has been very successful and popular, with 74 pupils currently on roll, with space for over 100, feeding the local comprehensive schools in Marlborough, Wroughton and Royal Wootton Bassett, as well as independent schools.

The Village Hall is 15 years old and is central to many clubs and activities in the village. A coffee morning is held every Tuesday morning, a joint venture between the Church and the Village Hall Committee which has been regularly supported by our Rector as it gives a valuable opportunity for interaction between the Incumbent and those in the village who don't necessarily go to church regularly. We would like this to continue.

There are many organisations and clubs in Broad Hinton, including Badminton Club, Ridgeway Ladies, Drama Group, Table Tennis, Karate, Pilates, Youth Club, and Ball Room Dancing,

The village has a post office service that visits the Village Hall on Tuesdays.

There is a thriving Allotment Society with allotments adjacent to the church.

The White Horse Cricket Club is located to the northwest of the village.

There is one public house, The Crown, and an Italian restaurant called La Strada.



## The Church of St Peter ad Vincula



We currently have two services a month: a Eucharist (on the first Sunday of the month) and a Morning Prayer on the third Sunday. Additionally we have Festival Services and Matins or Evensong as occasional events, (attended by a more committed membership of 25 – 35, with festivals attracting 50 or more).

There is an active church choir which is a welcome presence at all services. There are several organists in the valley who happily provide cover on our high-quality organ, on the odd occasion when our wonderful Organ Scholar is unable to play.

Our band of bellringers perform at all of our services and the tower is increasingly used by visiting bands.

There has been a church on this site for more than a thousand years. The building was ‘rebuilt’ in 1634 and has a very good example of a tie and hammer beam roof of the nave from this date.

The 15th Century tower contains a peal of six bells. In 1843 the vestry was added, the nave re-seated in oak, the pulpit erected, and a gallery removed. In 1880 extensive repairs and alterations were made, including the enlargement of the chancel and addition of the organ chamber.

More recently some the rear pews were removed to provide space for tea and coffee after the services. There are plans under consideration to remove further pews at the back so that a kitchenette can be added to provide increased flexibility in use. We are also considering removing unused pews at the front to provide further performance space. A faculty is in preparation.

St. Peter’s is one of two churches in the parish, the other being St James’s, Avebury, who fund raised for, and installed, a live streaming service. With permission of the Vicar, services are livestreamed via YouTube, and this provides a much-needed link with the church for those who are too poorly to attend in person, or who are unable to attend on the day. If required, this service is available for weddings and funerals.

We are fortunate that the church is well supported by many in the village who don’t necessarily attend services, but nevertheless think of it as ‘their church’ an important part of their village lives, and who support with mowing, cleaning, flower arranging and general maintenance.

The church fabric is well supported by the charitable Broad Hinton Church Building Trust



## The Parish of Winterbourne Bassett.

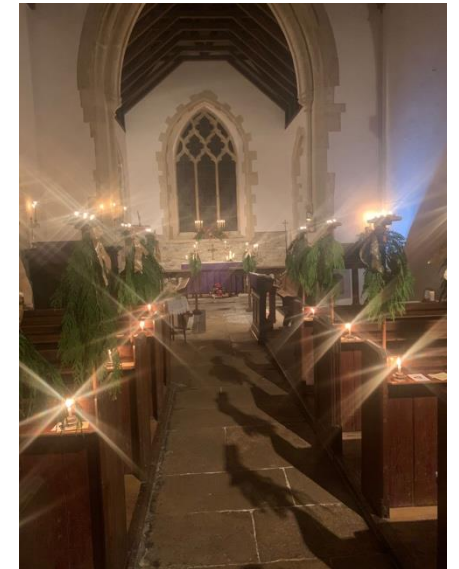


The next village going south along the A4361 is Winterbourne Bassett, which derives its name from the watercourses that run through the village in winter. The village has a population of approximately 170.

There is a good community owned public house around which much of the village social life tends to revolve and which is happy to host and support events for both the village and the church. Winterbourne Bassett has very close ties with Broad Hinton, with the children attending school there and sharing amenities like the village hall and a joint Parish Council.

### The Church of St Katherine and St Peter

This church is described in John Betjeman's Guide to English Parish Churches as 'an architectural gem'. It is probable that part of the existing structure dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The font dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the tower from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. This church is centrally situated on the Pilgrims route from the Midlands down to Bristol and there are excellent examples of graffiti carved by pilgrims who overnighted in the church. The historical links with pilgrims has recently been resurrected with a regular group of modern pilgrims visiting and staying overnight within the church.



## **The Parish of Winterbourne Monkton with Berwick Bassett**

The Parish of Winterbourne Monkton with Berwick Bassett (Penny Gold and Philip Scott to write)

Further south along the A4361 are the villages of Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton: the latter lying about a mile north of Avebury. The populations of these villages are approximately (43) and (146) respectively.

There is one public house, open 4 evenings a week, and a new Community Hall which hosts a variety of social and fund raising events for the villages. Community spirit is lively and cheerful, with a goodly number of people willing to work and contribute to the good of all. The recent addition of 12 houses near to the church has enriched our community. A varied programme of fund raising and social activities is laid on by the LCC, and these events are well supported by non church-goers too. Volunteers from both villages keep the church clean and the churchyard neat and tidy.

### The Church of St Mary Magdalene, Winterbourne Monkton

The church was built around the Chapel which was in existence in 1133. It was extended through the centuries and was renovated in 1877 by William Butterfield, an eminent Victorian church architect (this was one of his last commissions). The font is 12th Century and the nave 14th Century. This church has been awarded a Bronze Eco certificate and is keen to develop this further.



### **Berwick Bassett**

Berwick Bassett is a small hamlet with a population of 43.

The redundant church of St Nicholas dates from the 14th Century and is used twice a year for special services. These services are generally well attended and supported by the other parishes.

## The Parish of Avebury

Avebury is situated six miles west of Marlborough, adjacent to the Marlborough Downs. Geographically, Avebury is the centre of the group of seven churches comprising the Upper Kennet living, and the Rectory is in the village. The Parish of Avebury consists of Avebury, Avebury Trusloe, Beckhampton and West Kennett (with an approximate population of 650 people).

Although small in population, Avebury is world famous for its Neolithic Stone Circle, inside which lies part of the village. Together with Silbury Hill, West Kennett Long Barrow, the Sanctuary and Windmill Hill, much of this area forms part of the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge and Avebury. As a result Avebury receives many visitors, a large number of whom visit the church during their stay.

Avebury has a village Community Shop, manned mainly by volunteers. There is also an outreach Post Office open for three hours daily on four days of the week, and two Public Houses, the Red Lion at Avebury and the Waggon and Horses at Beckhampton.

There is also the National Trust run Avebury Manor cafes and a café at the sports club.

Organisations at Avebury include the Circle Day Nursery in the old school building, and the Cricket Club. The village Social Centre hosts yoga, village lunches, fundraising events, craft fairs, musical events and the very popular panto.



### The Church of St James

There has been a church in Avebury since Saxon times, a 'Minster' being built here in about 1000 AD for a small community of clerics giving care to the area. Part of the Anglo-Saxon stonework, plaster and windows can still be seen today. The font is believed to be Saxon with Norman carvings and the aisles and south doorway date from the 12th century. The 15th century roof loft is one of the few to survive the Reformation; it had been hidden behind a false wall and was rediscovered in 1810.

Avebury was in the past a gathering point for pilgrims who left the church for their onward journeys, via Bristol, to Santiago di Compostela. Recently, Avebury has hosted modern day pilgrims and seen them leave us, with our blessings, as they continue on their chosen paths.

As toilet and kitchen facilities have been installed in the church we have been able to offer an overnight stay to a group of pilgrims of varying faiths. These facilities also give us scope to offer refreshments after services and are also used for fund-raising events. Live streaming has been set up, and with the permission of the Rector enables links to the services for those unable to attend.

The church has been awarded a Silver Eco Award.





## The LCC of West Overton with Fyfield and East Kennett

This part of the parish lies along the A4 between Avebury and Marlborough, bringing together the villages of West Overton, Lockeridge, Fyfield and East Kennett with a total population of approximately 1,350. Though they are all part of the same LCC, each village is proud of its own unique identity.

Kennet Valley School in Lockeridge is at the heart of the village community and hosts regular “Communi-teas” that are open to the wider public to harness and embrace community links. The weekly Collective Worship is led by a member of the Ministry Team and the church and school have forged vitally strong links which embeds itself in each and every child that comes through the school.

The Kennet Valley Hall, situated on the West Overton side of Lockeridge, provides a venue for shared community activity; (there is an annual pantomime, a Burns Night fund raiser for the churches and the school hold many summer picnics and sports events here). The Public House in Lockeridge is a vibrant part of the community and provides a strong support and link to both the church and school events.

Since 1925 the three churches in West Overton, Fyfield and East Kennett were united into one PCC and most recently a single LCC.

### Christ Church, East Kennett

East Kennett has been a small agricultural settlement since prehistoric times. Neolithic and Bronze Age sites of major importance lie adjacent to the village. The population is still small – approximately 100 people – and this is reflected in the size of the church. The Ridgeway runs through the village, which results in many visitors to the church.

There has been a church on the same site since the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1863 the Matthews family funded the rebuilding and endowment of a new church – which was built in the typically English style of the period.

A car park, toilet and kitchen has now been built adjacent to the churchyard.



### The Church of St Michael and All Angels, West Overton

West Overton is the largest village in the parish, population approximately 950 including Lockeridge. There has been much demographic change in the last few years as many of the houses on the local authority estate have become owner-occupied.

There have been churches on this site since the 13th century and the current large and beautiful church was restored/ rebuilt in 1870 with Mr C E Ponting as architect. The church plays a central role in the parish for large community services. It is spacious and has good acoustics and therefore can be used for concerts and other musical events. In 1999 a meeting room was made at the back of the north aisle. This has proved a great success in enhancing the worship in the church and for a variety of community activities. The bells in the tower have recently been repaired and brought back into use after a silence of 17 years.

### The Church of St Nicholas, Fyfield

Fyfield is listed in the Domesday book 1086 AD and was then called 'Fifhide' in the 'Hundred' of Selksbury (perhaps now Silbury). The church remains date from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and are believed to have Saxon foundations. After further investigation, it is understood that the earlier Anglo-Saxon church contained some remarkable Celtic carved images of the Holy Trinity, which were incorporated into the roof apex in the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> centuries during an extension and rebuild of an earlier church. The tower and three east and west windows date from 1420–1450. The frieze around the nave is 1634 onwards.

St Nicholas was directly linked into the pilgrim's route as an overnight station offering shelter to pilgrims travelling to Bristol. There they took the empty sherry ships returning to Spain, walking to Santiago di Compostela and onwards to Rome and Jerusalem. There are graffiti marks on the outside of the church made by the pilgrims.



## **Our two schools**

There are two Church of England Primary Schools within the Parish which are supported by our Rector, Ministry teams and Foundation Governors.

### Kennet Valley Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Kennet Valley Primary School serves an increasingly diverse community with children coming from both the local villages (Lockeridge, Avebury, East Kennet, West Kennet, Fyfield and West Overton) and towns slightly further away (Marlborough, Devizes and Calne). Although many of our pupils come from families which attend church, many others do not and consequently the invitational and inspirational aspects of Collective Worship are essential to ensuring that everyone feels welcome and a part of our community.

As a school, we pride ourselves on the care and guidance that we provide for our pupils. Our core values are at the heart of all we do. We teach the children that Compassion is more than just kindness, it is about understanding the experiences of others and acting to help them. We teach them that Curiosity will lead to wisdom and joy. Finally, we teach them that Courage will give them the strength to be true to themselves now and in the future.

Because of our small size, we currently have 71 on roll, every child is well known to the staff and we are able to offer personalised provision. We believe that every child should have the opportunity to be equipped with essential skills which will enable them to succeed in life, academically, artistically, through sports and social engagement as well as spiritually. Much of the learning at KVS is based on real life experiences and whenever it is possible we make use of the outdoors to support our learning.

Further information can be found on the website: <https://kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk/>

The recent OFSTED report can be found: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/126446>

The SIAMS report can also be found: <https://kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Kennet-Valley-SIAMS-report.pdf>

## **Broad Hinton Church of England (Controlled) Primary School**

The Church has enjoyed a long relationship with Broad Hinton Voluntary Controlled Church of England School over many years. This is reflected in their SIAMS and OFSTED reports, which highlights the importance of the Rector's connection with the school – both in good times and in more difficult ones, such as staff changes, illness or deaths of key school community members, and much appreciated support during covid.

The Rector normally leads worship weekly and visits on an ad hoc basis providing pastoral support for all who wish it. During the vacancy collective worship will be led by Alison Andre (Anna Chaplain). The school comes to the church for teaching of the Christian faith, for major festivals, and there is an annual leavers service. We would like to see our new Rector build on this work through regular contact with the school and as the ex-officio Governor.

Further information about the school can be found on their website: <https://broadhintonschool.org/>

The recent OFSTED report can be found:

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50205129>

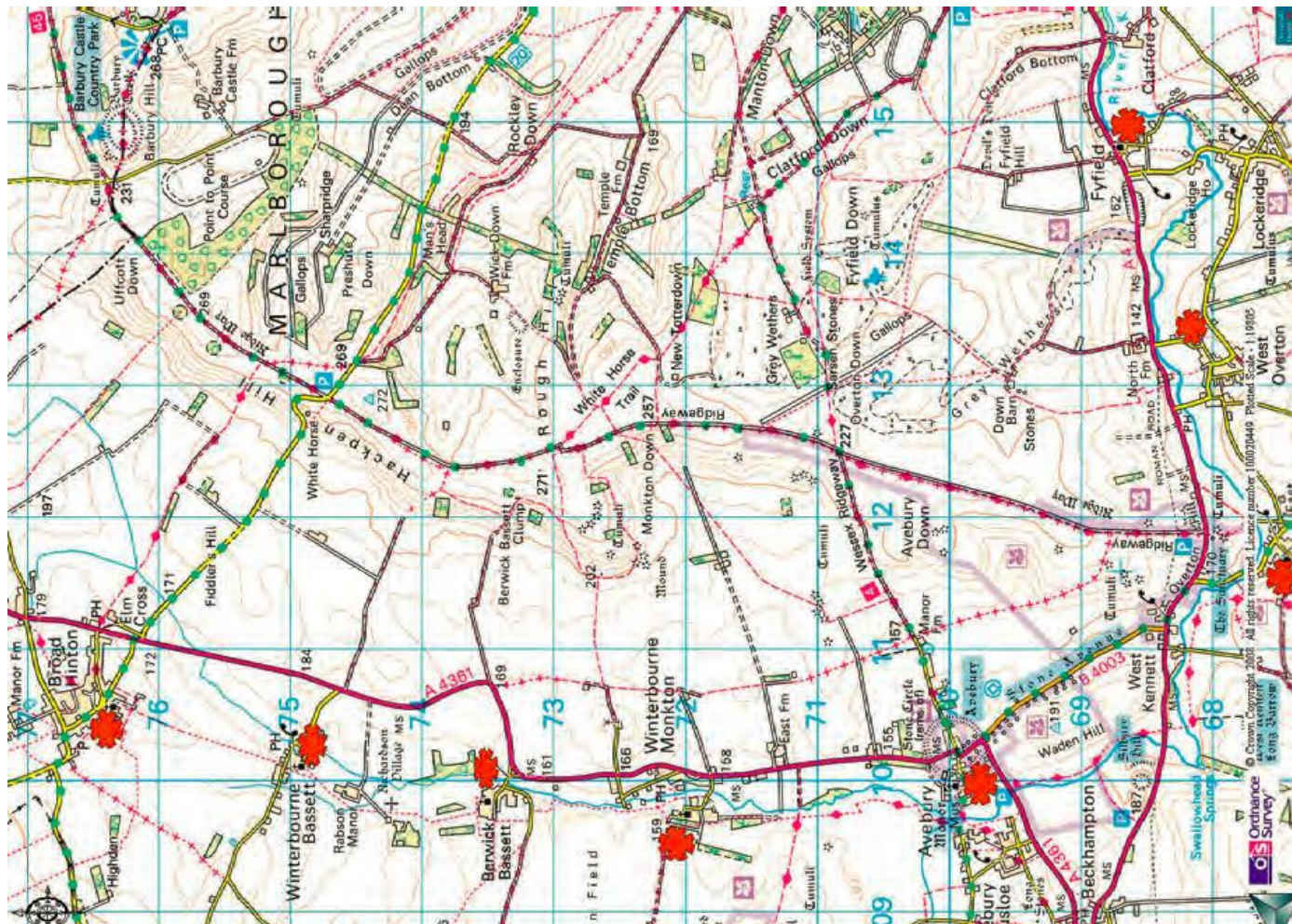
The SIAMS report can also be found:

<https://broadhintonschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Final-SIAMS-report-Broad-Hinton.pdf>

## **Secondary education**

When leaving primary school, pupils go to either St. John's in Marlborough, which is now based in a large school with good facilities to the south of the town or to The Ridgeway School in Wroughton, or to an Independent School. Marlborough College, in its original charter, was started as a school for the sons of clergy and this ethos continues today whereby sons and daughters of clergy can apply to attend the college as boarders at a greatly reduced fee structure. Another nearby private school is Dauntseys just outside of Devizes.

Appendix 1, Map of the Area



## Appendix 2, A Typical Month's Services

### UPPER KENNET CHURCHES – SERVICES FOR MAY 2024

	St Nicholas FYFIELD	St Michael & All Angels WEST OVERTON	Christ Church EAST KENNETT	St James AVEBURY	St Mary Magdalene WINTERBOURNE MONKTON	St Katherine & St Peter WINTERBOURNE BASSETT	St Peter ad Vincula BROAD HINTON
Wednesday 1 May				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Morning Prayer (SL)			
5 May Easter 6	<u>8.30 am</u> Prayer Book Communion (KL)					<u>10.30 am</u> Morning Service (CS)	<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion Service (A/D Sue)
Wednesday 8 May			<u>6.30 pm (GK)</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)				
12 May Easter 7		<u>10 am</u> Morning Service (MT)	<u>4pm</u> Children & Family Muddy Walk (AH & AB)	<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion Service (KL)			
Wednesday 15 May				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Morning Prayer (AA)			
19 May Pentecost			<u>8 am</u> Morning Prayer (GK)		<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion Service (KL)		<u>10 am</u> Morning Prayer (CS)
Wednesday 22 May			<u>6.30 pm (GK)</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)				
26 May Trinity Sunday		<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion Service (KL)					
Wednesday 29 May							

#### Services:

Nearly all non-communion services are currently lay-led. The monthly Benefice service, and a minimum of two Sunday Services, are likely to be taken by our new priest, with visiting or retired priests helping out with other services. In the past 12 months there have been 14 baptisms, 4 confirmations, 12 weddings and 23 funerals.

**Congregations:** The attendance at services at each church varies considerably from month to month. On festive days most churches are usually full, and the Benefice Services are always very well supported. At other services congregations are: Fyfield average 15; West Overton from 8 to 20; East Kennett up to 12; Avebury and Winterbourne Monkton from 12 to 20; Winterbourne Bassett from 9 to 15; Broad Hinton from 15 to 30