
St Botolph's Barton Seagrave and St Edmund's Warkton

a United Benefice in the Diocese of Peterborough
the Archdeaconry of Oakham
and the Rural Deanery of Kettering



St Botolph's Church

St Edmund's Church

Profiles of the two parishes within the
United Benefice
2009

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Summary: Opportunity to work with St Botolph's and St Edmund's

The two parishes comprise the large suburban parish of St Botolph's, Barton Seagrave, and the nearby rural parish of St Edmund's, Warkton, both on the outskirts and to the east of the market town of Kettering. The United Benefice is seeking a conservative evangelical minister following the retirement of the present rector in September 2009.

The PCCs of both parishes have revisited the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1994. They voted against Resolution 'A' and for Resolution 'B'. Therefore the position as the incumbent or priest in charge of the benefice is only open to male applicants.

Profiles are provided for each parish, although many of the aspects of the overall ministry range over the whole benefice.



Section 1: Profile of New Rector

We are seeking a visionary leader who can help us develop a new mission statement and implement change to carry the churches forwards. In particular, we are looking for:

- **a conservative evangelical** who lives under the word of God, who finds joy and celebration in worship, and who by his personal example will help us to live and walk closer to our Lord Jesus
- **a pastor-teacher**, gifted in speaking from the whole Bible on the different issues of life, with clear exposition and application, from the pulpit and in small groups; a creative and engaging ministry from the Word to win the lost and to grow disciples in grace and love. A man who loves people and relates to them well, who is committed to all-member ministry and who wants to see each church member develop their gifts
- **a man of prayer**, committed to encouraging and promoting prayer as central to the life of the church
- **an effective leader** who has experience in management and motivation.
- **a discerning minister** who will enable each member of the body of Christ to identify and use the gifts the Holy Spirit gives them in order to encourage, strengthen and build up the church. A minister who will encourage us to 'keep in step with the Spirit', so that our lives and our fellowship will be characterised by the fruit of the Spirit
- **a supporter/leader of a variety of patterns of worship**

with a strong commitment to:

- outreach, evangelism, church growth
- the nurture of new Christians
- mission, with a vision for God's work in the whole world
- pastoral care and its development in others
- the full role of both lay men and women in the life of the church
- the key role of music in worship

who will be able to:

- train curates
- consolidate the work of recent years
- have a leadership role within the pastoral welfare of the united benefice
- develop our ministry to families
- continue the growth of the youth ministry
- be at ease with both contemporary and traditional styles of worship
- be willing to explore creatively the provision of worship at different times of the week

- be a good communicator with a wide range of people
- be sensitive to the all-age nature of the church communities
- be someone who enjoys working visibly within the united benefice
- be open to dialogue, co-operation and fellowship with other local Christian churches

The rector of St. Botolph's is patron of the church of Christ the King, Kettering. Details of this church can be found at www.ctk.org.uk

Section 2: Living in and around Barton Seagrave

2.1 Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire is known as the “Rose of the Shires” and as a county of “Squires and Spires”. Although there has been substantial industrial development over the years, it is still largely agricultural, with lovely countryside. The river Nene runs through it and it has many country parks and places of historical interest. The county has played a part in the cultural history of Christianity, providing a base from which William Carey (1761-1834) founded the Baptist Missionary Society leading him to be described as the “Father of Modern Missions”, and from which the missionary William Knibb (1803-1845) set out to make a major contribution to the abolition of slavery.

2.2 Barton Seagrave

Originally a self-contained village on the south east side of Kettering, Barton Seagrave has expanded over the years with a number of housing developments, providing a mix of private and council-owned properties for its predominantly white population of around 4,200. Although merging with a suburb of Kettering to the north, the village retains its own distinct identity.

St Botolph’s is the only church in the parish, situated in a sheltered position close to the A6004 with a green in front and field behind.

Barton Seagrave is well-provided for with its regular bus service, small supermarket and centre of shops, post office, petrol station and public house. There is also a residential home for the elderly, a playgroup and nursery, as well as a community centre, playing fields and cricket club.

Just outside of the parish but within walking distance is Wicksteed Park, the UK’s oldest theme park developed in the 1920s and now attracting 1.25 million visitors a season. It forms an extensive green belt between Barton Seagrave and Kettering. Adjacent to the top of the park is the new campus of Tresham Institute, a Further and Higher Education college, providing courses for 16,000 students.



2.3 Kettering

Once a small market town, Kettering currently has a population of around 86,000 and a low rate of unemployment. It saw rapid growth in the late nineteenth century with the rise of the boot and shoe trade, but by the end of the twentieth century this and other manufacturing industries had largely declined.

A number of large companies provide employment in the area, including Weetabix, Alumasc, Pegasus software, RCI Europe, Timsons Ltd and Morrison’s Distribution. Service

and distribution industries now form the basis of Kettering's economy due to the central position of the town and its strategic road and rail links. Kettering is on the A14 East-West trunk road, midway between the M1/M6 motorways and the A1. It also has good rail links north and south, making the locality an attractive base for commuting to London and other major towns. Kettering is within easy reach of Northampton, Leicester, Peterborough and Milton Keynes.

Kettering has all the amenities you would expect of a town of its size. There are tennis courts, gyms, a swimming pool and golf courses nearby. It also has a town football club (known as The Poppies) and a rugby club. There is an Odeon multi-screen cinema and Kettering Conference Centre incorporates the Lighthouse Theatre.



2.4 Local Schools and Hospitals

There are two schools in the village: Barton Seagrave Primary School with 391 children on roll, and Latimer Arts College, a co-educational comprehensive for 11-18s with 1139 students on roll and a Sixth Form of 138.

At St Botolph's, we have strong links with our local schools, built up over many years. Our children's worker and youth minister lead lunch-time Bible clubs in both primary and secondary schools, and frequently visit to take assemblies. We regularly use Latimer College's facilities for youth, mission and social activities; their 250-seater theatre has proved an ideal venue for concerts and other events. Three members of our church are school governors.

In Kettering there are four other secondary schools, including Bishop Stopford School, a large Church of England aided comprehensive attended by many of the young people from the united benefice.

Kettering General Hospital provides Accident and Emergency services for the northern part of the county.

2.5 Plans for Major Development in Kettering

Kettering has been identified as one of four national 'growth areas'. In all, 13,000 new homes are proposed for the Kettering Borough by 2021. Agricultural land to the east of Kettering has been earmarked for major expansion. Here, plans to build 5,500 new homes have been submitted. These plans are expected to be passed by the Council but in the present economic climate it is uncertain when building will commence. The designated area lies within the parish of Barton Seagrave and Warkton. The present rector and the Peterborough Diocese have been in discussion with the planners with a view to eventually planting up to three churches. Initially, the Diocese may appoint an Associate Minister to live in the first area of houses to be built. This initiative has been taken, closely involving our neighbouring parish of Christ the King, with its vicar, Rev. Steve Benoy. There would obviously be significant and exciting opportunities for outreach from the benefice.

Section 3: Profile of St Botolph's Church

3.1 Introduction

St Botolph's is a lively, evangelical church with 281 members on the electoral roll and an average congregation each Sunday of 198 adults and 43 children. Approximately 160 members belong to a home group. It has a strong, bible-based teaching and preaching tradition, and active children and youth programmes. It also has a long-standing commitment to mission.

We recognise the importance of evangelism, and the need to reach out to the local community, to nurture new Christians and build up one another in Christ, as a loving church. We are aware of a need to develop our pastoral care.

There is a staff team, and a number of committed volunteers who help in various capacities. We seek a Rector who lives under the word of God, who finds joy in worship, who loves people and has a hunger to make Christ known, someone who can lead and train both staff and laity and motivate an all-member ministry.



3.2 Position Within the Church of England

St Botolph's has a conservative evangelical tradition within the Anglican church. The teaching and preaching is usually expository, firmly rooted in the Bible. Across our range of services, the worship encompasses contemporary, traditional and informal styles.

Within the congregation we have members from a variety of denominational backgrounds, with views ranging from 'conservative' through to 'open' evangelical, and some with an experience of, and desire to see, charismatic ministry.

Robes (i.e. cassock, surplice, scarf and hood) are worn at formal services such as weddings and funerals, and at the twice-monthly 8am Holy Communion, as well as at all the Sunday services at St Edmund's, Warkton.

3.3 Strategic Overview, Vision and Priorities

Recent History

St. Botolph's has always had a vision for growth. During the 1970s when the Ise Lodge estate was developing, a new church was planted which became the church of Christ the King and eventually a separate parish. Over the past 30 years, there have been a number of other significant events in the life of the church. In 1981, the congregation took an extraordinary step of faith and purchased the former rectory (now known as Church House) and Rectory Cottage. The cost was over a quarter of a million pounds – an

unprecedented level of sacrificial giving, and God provided. A later massive building project in 1987 was the reordering of the church building itself during which the former Victorian fixed pews were removed to create the flexible seating we have now. The emphasis was on waiting on the Lord in prayer and being guided by the Holy Spirit for the vision to do these things. The result was a wonderful resource for our work in the parish. During the 1990s, St Botolph's planted another new church named Open Door which initially worshipped in the local primary school. It has since moved out of the parish and is no longer linked to St Botolph's.

In the last 10 years the Lord has led us towards investing in people. The first commitment was to appoint our current Rector's and Church Secretary and over the years to substantially increase her hours to 19 per week. In 1999, we then took on a lay assistant for a year. Her work was so successful, particularly with children, that a number of further lay assistants were appointed to succeed her and assist particularly with youth work. The one concern was the lack of continuity with the annual changes in lay assistants. After prayerfully considering the issue, and with a number of the congregation agreeing to commit to finance the position, Mark Paxton was appointed as a full time Youth Minister in 2004. Following this, a further step was taken by the PCC to appoint Sue Clutterham as a Children's Worker.

Plans for the future

In the future we would like to modify and upgrade St Botolph's buildings to facilitate further outreach. Ideas include a drop-in 'cafe' for young people returning home from Latimer school; and improvements to the vestry area of the church to include modernised kitchen facilities and possibly a toilet and crèche area.

Particular Challenges

Here are what we believe to be some of our future challenges and opportunities:

- To develop consistent powerful preaching and teaching every week
- To seek growth in the numbers of regular worshippers, which may involve exploring new times and places of worship
- To support that work with an effective discipleship programme to nurture new Christians
- To motivate greater "all-member" ministry
- To develop our pastoral work and involvement in the local community
- To develop our care of the elderly
- To extend our work amongst families
- To keep our teenagers within the fellowship by being creative in involving them in the life of the church and flexible in the programme we offer
- To develop work for the 18-30 age group, for which there is currently only limited involvement
- To develop the musical life of our church, with the involvement of more members of the congregation
- To increase the number of people attending homegroups
- To expand our missionary work.

3.4 Our Structure: Staff and Team Members

- The Rector, paid by the Diocese
- A full-time youth minister (since Dec 2004), paid by the PCC
- A part-time children's worker (4 days a week), paid by the PCC
- 3 Licensed Lay Readers, one at St Botolph's and two at St Edmund's
- 2 licensed Lay Pastoral Ministers
- A part-time secretary in Church House office – 19 hours a week, paid by the PCC

The Rector meets with the staff team on Mondays, 9.15 – 11am for Morning Prayer from 'Common Worship', prayer, feedback and planning. Regular meetings are held with wardens.

Barton Seagrave has a history of being a training parish: the last curate was in place from 2006 – 08

There is also a cleaner for Church House, paid by the PCC.

3.5 Lay Involvement

Teams of lay people are involved in many areas of ministry, including:

- Children's and youth work
- Evangelism
- Pastoral care
- Homegroups
- Mission
- Music/worship
- Finance
- Church House management
- Social committee

The PCC meets approximately 8 times a year.

3.6 Current Pattern of Services

8.00 am service - A service of Holy Communion (HC) on First and Third Sundays using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer with a five minute address and no music.

9.15 am service - The main Sunday service based on Common Worship, attracting all comers including a core of families with children. First Sunday of the month is HC. Second Sunday is a more informal all-age service (attended by Brownies and Guides). Fourth Sunday of the month includes prayer ministry whereby anyone may come to the communion rail for prayer with the laying on of hands. Third and fifth Sundays are Morning Prayer.

A children's programme called JAM Club (Jesus And Me) for ages 3 – 14 is provided at 9.15am services, except the monthly all age

services and during school holidays. There is a crèche for under-threes at all 9.15am services and a loop system enables helpers to listen in to services.

Refreshments are served in Church House after this service.

11.00 am service - A service based on Common Worship attended by 30-40 adults. HC takes place on first Sunday in month.

6.30 pm service - A more traditional Common Worship service mainly attended by adults and the youth group Link who meet together before the service. Occasionally it takes the form of a youth service or praise event, such as Advent Praise. Second Sunday of the month is HC.

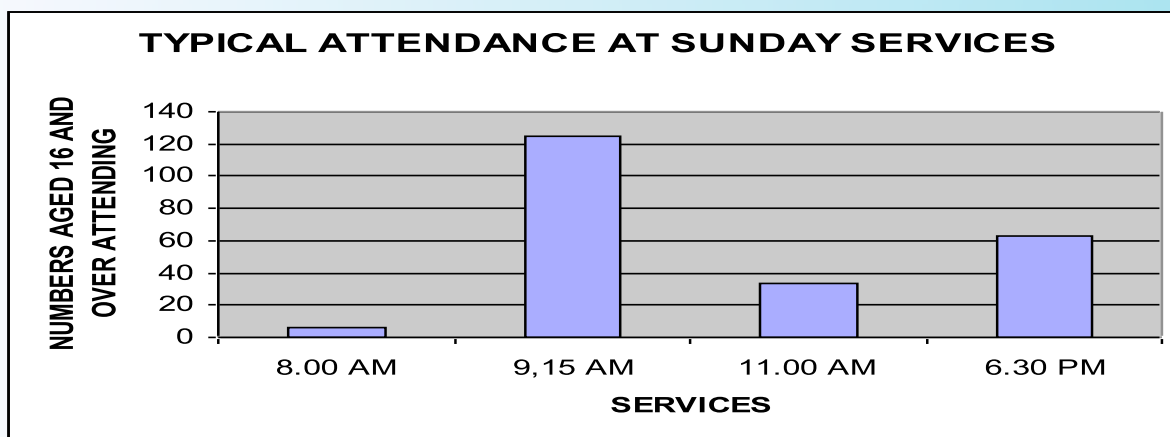
General features of services

- The recent introduction of a PowerPoint projector means we are developing our use of multimedia. Words of songs are now projected this way and notices displayed before services, as well as images and text to support sermons.
- Sermons are delivered by the Rector, a Lay Reader, the Youth Minister or a member of the preaching team. We welcome visiting speakers from other churches and have links with 'apprentices' from St Ebbe's, Oxford, who visit us in a preaching role. Mission partners are also invited to preach when they visit each year to share what God has been doing through their ministry.
- Music groups include singers and a range of instruments from keyboards and flutes to guitar and drums. Worship songs are contemporary, with some traditional hymns. The pipe organ is no longer used.
- The laity takes an active part with leading, intercessions and Bible readings.
- Young people take part in leading, prayers and music.
- Drama is sometimes included to illustrate the service theme.
- Copies of the New International Version of the Bible are provided.



3.7 Statistics for Mission

In 2008, there were 275 on the electoral roll with approximately 60% resident in the parish. Average church attendance in October 2008 was 43 children and 198 adults, with typical attendances shown in the graph below:



Number attending worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2008 was 409

During 2008 the clergy conducted 5 infant baptisms at the main morning service, and one youth baptism by full immersion; 5 marriage services, 5 funeral services at St Botolph's and a further 2 at the crematorium in Kettering. 7 candidates were presented for confirmation.

3.8 Other Worship and Music

Church Meets: a prayer meeting for the whole fellowship takes place in Church House on the first Tuesday of each month, led by different Homegroups or individuals.

Music Practice: a weekly session for the musicians and singers

Parish Week-end: Church week-ends away have become an established part of our programme for spiritual refreshment and renewal. They enhance our fellowship, give us 'time out' to draw close to God and build us up as a church family. Children enjoy a full and active programme, while adults have benefited from a variety of speakers. In the autumn of 2009 we will be returning to Willersley Castle in Derbyshire.

3.9 Ministries and Outreach

The Church has participated in various organised Mission weeks over the past years.

Lent courses have included visiting speakers on a range of contemporary issues.

In 2008 a Christmas Pageant, held on the village green, involving a large number of the congregation brought the news of Jesus to the local community. An estimated 450 people turned up to watch and many of those came into the church building afterwards for refreshments.



3.10 Children's Ministry

What's happening now for the under 11s and their families?

This ministry is co-ordinated by Sue Clutterham, our children's worker and supported by a large team from across the congregation.



JAM Club

St Botolph's has a long history of having a vibrant Sunday programme for children. Currently known as JAM Club (JAM stands for Jesus and Me), there are four groups as follows:

Name of Group	School Year	Current Numbers
Bubbles	pre-school to reception	12
Splash!	Years 1-2	15
Xstream	Years 3-5	18
The Grid	Years 6-8	14

The material used is the Scripture Union *Light* programme. Church House provides plenty of room for each group to have their own base.

Holiday Club

A key focus of our outreach to children and families is our annual Holiday Club, which has been running every July for over 30 years. It is one of the times when large numbers of the congregation across all age groups are involved in many different ways. A huge amount of goodwill has been generated over the years and it is a significant link with local families and an excellent starting point for 'friendship evangelism.'

We normally have a team of about 100 adults and 20 teenage helpers who cater for 150 primary-aged children from the local schools. Holiday club provides a great opportunity for fringe members to get involved and hear the gospel while they are helping with refreshments, games, craft activities and music, as well as the contact with families who don't attend church on Sundays.

The Event in the Tent

During August, Sunday morning services are combined for all-age worship.

In 2008, to sustain the momentum generated by Holiday Club, we introduced The Event in the Tent, using the Holiday Club marquee. This was preceded by a buffet breakfast and proved so successful that we will continue this pattern in the future.

Going Bananas

As part of the ongoing strategy for our work with children and their families, we follow up each Holiday Club with weekly after-school Bible clubs, Going Bananas, where children explore the Bible in an interactive way. The 35–40 children attending include a significant number from outside the church; whereas our Sunday JAM Club is attended mainly by children from church families. Increasingly, our aim is to extend what we do to involve families as much as possible.



Make and Play

This is our mums and toddlers group, which is an established part of village life for young families and, increasingly, child-minders and the children they care for. Twice a term we have a short child-orientated service in church and each week there is a singing session with percussion for the final twenty minutes, which includes Christian songs. This is ‘pre-evangelism’, but links well to our holiday club activities and special events at Christmas and Easter.

The programme for 2008 -2009 following Holiday Club is as follows:

- A family buffet breakfast during Sundays in August, preceding The Event in the Tent
- The Event in the Tent – a short all-age service in the marquee during August
- An all-age slot at the 9.15 service before the children leave church for their groups
- Monthly all-age services
- A group for mums and toddlers – Make and Play – meeting weekly during term time
- After-school Bible clubs – Going Bananas – meeting weekly during term time
- A Bible reading club – Snapshots – meeting weekly at Barton Seagrave school
- Regular assemblies at Barton Seagrave school
- Special Harvest services for Make and Play and a local playgroup
- A Halloween alternative – Light not Fright
- Christingle service
- Nativity pageant
- Crib service
- An after-school ‘mini-mission’ during Easter week – 4U

3.11 Youth Ministry at St Botolph's

Introduction

At the heart of our youth work at St Botolph's and St Edmund's is a desire to be faithful in proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, encouraging our young people to make a personal decision to follow Jesus and supporting and complementing the work of Christian parents where present and doing all this in prayerful partnership with the wider church fellowship.

We aim to equip our young people for their Christian life through an emphasis on faithful, consistent and relevant bible teaching, while also having lots of fun together and developing relationships within the group.

We aim to create a warm, welcoming and caring environment where our young people are valued and loved, and we work toward developing distinctively Christian groups where we are not ashamed to know and proclaim the gospel, and where those who attend are encouraged to invite friends.

Link

- School years 10 – 13 (ages 14-18). Meets Wednesday evenings and Sundays before evening service.
- Programme comprises bible studies, interactive talks, prayer times, refreshments and games. Complemented with regular socials.
- Core group of approx. 10 young people, with often up to 16 or more from both 'churched' and 'unchurched' families.
- Annual canal trip each year, also annual trip to 'Sorted' youth event in London.
- 1-2 Link 'helpers' appointed each year to support leaders and primarily to encourage young people to become committed, well-trained and supported leaders themselves, both within St. Botolph's and further afield.
- Link members play an active part in all areas of church life, including playing instruments in services, leading intercessory prayers and reading in services, helping at Holiday Club, attending our 'Church Meets' prayer meeting.



Grid

- School years 7 – 9 (ages 11-14). Meets Thursday evenings and Sundays during the 9.15am service.
- Programme comprises bible studies, interactive talks, prayer times, games, refreshments. Regular social events held.
- Core group of approx. 14 young people on Thursdays (fewer generally on Sundays dependent on parental attendance) with often up to 20 from both ‘churched’ and ‘unchurched’ families.
- Canal trip in May half-term last year proved successful, so we plan for this to become an annual event. Also annual ‘Rock Solid’ event held.



Work in Schools

- Weekly lunchtime ‘Simpsons’ club for Years 7 – 10 run at Latimer Community Arts College with keen regular group attending, also good relationships with the Head Teacher and the Head of Sixth Form in particular. School assemblies taken and participation in Religious Studies classes on an ad-hoc basis as requested.
- Ad hoc visits by school groups, primarily from Millbrook, Henry Gotch and Isebrook schools.
- Fortnightly boys’ bible study.

3.12 Links with the Community

Potters Place A monthly outreach event for older members of the community. It takes place in the Fellowship Room of Church House, starting at 10.30 am with refreshments and time to catch up on news before a Communion Service from 11.00 am to 12.00 am. We then serve a two-course cooked lunch followed by our afternoon ‘entertainment’ which could be a slide show, talk or demonstration. We usually finish at about 3.30 pm. This is a popular event attended by over 40 people, some of whom are unable to get to our normal Sunday services. Transport is provided where necessary.

Coffee Shop This is a monthly event advertised in the parish with the aim of reaching out to and welcoming local residents, by providing an occasion for people to meet together in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Around 20 – 25 people attend and it is proving successful in developing friendships and links with the community.

Make and Play for pre-school children and their carers (see Children’s Ministry above)

Going Bananas after-school clubs (see Children’s Ministry above)

Holiday Club (see Children's Ministry above)

Hire of Church House to local groups A number of organisations hire rooms in Church House for regular meetings.

Social events geared at promoting fellowship within the church rather than specific outreach, an important aspect of church life in terms of strengthening the church, encompassing evangelism, outreach and church fellowship. Recent events have included harvest supper, a murder mystery evening, beetle drive, children's swimming, and craft evening.

Women's Fellowship takes place one afternoon a month.

Men's and women's events take place from time to time. Men's dinners are well attended and women's lunches with an invited speaker are held for outreach.

3.13 Homegroups

Currently there are 13 home groups within St Botolph's. Home groups are considered an integral and vital part of church life, offering opportunities to study God's Word together, and providing pastoral care and support. Prayer and fellowship, together with personal friendships strengthen relationships within the body of Christ.

Most evening home groups meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. A group for 'twenties and thirties' (T 'n T) meets monthly as a home group and informally after evening services. There is also a women's Bible study group meeting weekly (see below).

We have used a range of resources from published Bible study material, DVD (Christian Life and Work) and videos (Open Home, Open Bible series) to booklets prepared in-house, some of which are linked to our current sermon series. New 'nurture' groups forming from time to time will follow a Bible overview course initially, and leaders may work through Just for Starters. A Home Group Co-ordinator offers pastoral support and regular training for leaders.

Women's Bible study group (weekly)

For many years, there has been a Bible study group for women on Wednesday mornings during term time. There is a crèche so that mothers of young children can come and currently up to 16 of us meet in a home to study God's word and enjoy fellowship together.

The group is led by Rachel Samways but others take a turn at leading a Bible study whenever she can persuade them! We have had the joy of seeing people accept Christ as their Saviour and have seen others established in their faith over the years. We share joys and sorrows alike and pray for one another and for the wider church.

Our desire is to "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever" (1 Peter 3 v 18)

3.14 Pastoral Care

The following complement the regular parish and hospital visiting undertaken by the clergy:

Our e-mail prayer network, where prayer needs and requests are shared and widely circulated, is well-used and is having a significant impact on the life of individuals within the church.

A visiting team responds to requests for visits. Its members meet monthly for prayer and to report on and review needs.

Much informal visiting takes place, and Home Groups provide pastoral support for their members.

Pastoral care is an area of ministry that we would like to develop further, such as the re-launch of a Welcome Team at services.

Marriage preparation courses are held each year. We are currently using The Marriage Preparation Course with DVD presented by Nicky and Sila Lee.

Families requesting infant baptism are visited in their homes by a Lay Pastoral Minister for a short baptism preparation course.

3.15 Evangelism

The Evangelism Group was established to encourage the fellowship to look actively at the role of evangelism in the church/benefice: to reach out to the community with the gospel, to encourage new Christians in their 'journey' and to call on the experience of mature believers to disciple others. We aim to encourage everyone to take part in this ministry.

The group plans a number of events and programmes to appeal to all age groups with the aim of building relationships and engaging with individuals in an unthreatening way. We pray that in time people will be encouraged to investigate the Christian message further. Our programme therefore encompasses a range of events to accommodate people at different points along their spiritual journey, as shown in the table below:

Pre-evangelism: to non-Christians	Evangelism: to encourage growth and explain the gospel	Nurturing: to develop new Christians and encourage them to grow	Discipleship: to encourage Christians to share the 'Good News'
Family events and quizzes	Christianity Explored	Home groups Just for Starters	Active participation in church ministry
Charity concerts	Guest speakers	Confirmation	Lost for Words
Coffee mornings	Outreach teams	18-30 Group	Regular ministry
Parents/Carers and Toddler group	Holiday club	Women's Bible study group	Lent courses
Food for Thought	After-school clubs	Youth groups	Home groups

As a church we have successfully encouraged the church family to be involved in a variety of events to actively deliver the Gospel message to as wide a population as possible in a purposeful, exciting and engaging manner. The table above is by no means an exhaustive list, but includes some key events.

3.16 Mission Support

St Botolph's takes seriously the task of supporting the work of both overseas and home missions. Its budget is reviewed annually by the Missions Committee, which makes its recommendations to the PCC, which ultimately has the responsibility for finance within the church. The amount allocated for mission support is a substantial proportion of the income of the church, which is felt to be honouring to God, and an attempt is always made to keep increases ahead of inflation. For 2008, the Missions budget was £25,000. This money is split equally into 6 "pots", one for each of 5 designated mission agencies, and a sixth pot for one-off support and special appeals. Currently the 5 supported missions are CMJ, Crosslinks, Eurovangelism, OMF International, and Scripture Union. The church recognises that missionary interest is immensely enhanced by personal contacts with individuals working with the missions supported. St Botolph's has a personal "Link Worker" with each of the 5 missions above, and expects regular visits from them or another representative of their missions. In addition to this planned giving from church funds, there is an annual "Missionary Shareplan" where individuals from the fellowship contribute to send a love-gift to one or other of our Link Workers (in rotation).

Our outgoing Rector has had a long involvement with Crosslinks, including holding the position of Chairman from 1997-2003, and has also forged close links with churches in Burma.

A Prayer for Israel group meets regularly in Church House.

3.17 Church Buildings

St Botolph's church

St Botolph's church is sited on ground that has been consecrated as a place of worship since 1130 AD. The original Norman church was extended in 1878 and in 1987 was modernised with the replacement of pews by chairs and carpeting across the nave and chancel. The church is light and airy with a large clear east end window and some stained glass windows in the nave.



The church can seat approximately 190 people in comfort. A small side chapel is used for 8 a.m. services, private prayer and an additional point for the administration of communion. The raised area of the chancel provides space for musicians and singers at the main Sunday services as well as extra seating. There is loop system in place and PowerPoint has recently been installed.

There is an electronic keyboard and at the front a moveable communion table and lectern. The original pulpit is no longer used, nor is the pipe organ as it is no longer in working condition. The bell tower houses 8 bells which are rung for Sunday services. There is a small vestry area.

The church building is in good condition with Quinquennial works having been completed in 2008.



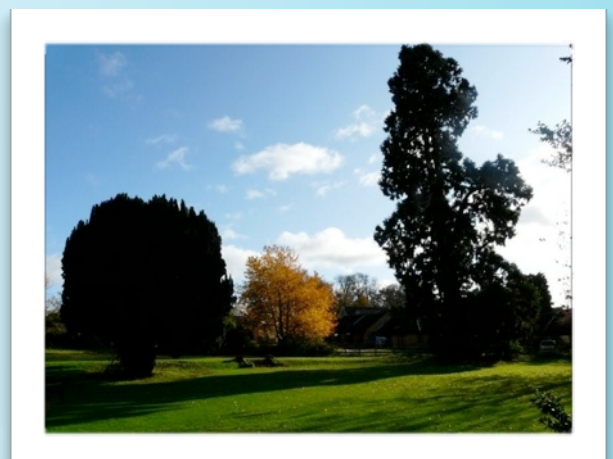
Church House

Church House is a substantial Grade II listed building constructed in 1705 and extended in 1806. It is an invaluable resource. The property houses the Church Office which benefits from computer equipment, printer and photocopier.



Church House provides rooms for the children's groups on Sundays as well as many other activities during the week. It has a large Fellowship Room used for meetings and for refreshments after services. The room can accommodate up to 110 people for meetings or up to 70 people for a meal. It has a large kitchen and a large garden. The crèche room has an audio link to the Church. Various rooms in the house are hired out to a playgroup and other organisations and are available for hire for regular and occasional use.

Church House also has two self contained flats currently let to church members.



The Rectory

In 1981 the Diocese replaced the former rectory with a spacious modern property for the incumbent. This comprises five bedrooms, four of which have built-in wardrobes; upstairs bathroom and WC; a small shower room; a living room, dining room, kitchen, store room and garage. Additionally, a study and adjacent WC are separate from the main living quarters, providing privacy for the incumbent's family. To the front of the property is a large drive with parking for several vehicles. The attractive rear garden is of manageable size.

The kitchen was re-furbished 7 years ago and the property also benefits from replacement windows throughout and a new central heating boiler.



Rectory Cottage

The Church PCC also bought Rectory Cottage, built in 1806, and adjacent to Church House. It has been used to accommodate curates in the past, and is now occupied by the Youth Minister and his wife. It has 3 bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, a study, large living room, kitchen and small garden.



Other property

The PCC owns and rents out a 2 bedroom bungalow on a private development to the rear of Church house. It also has title to a small plot of land with limited access and therefore of little value.

3.18 Finance

The Finances of St. Botolph's are looked after by a team of people headed up by the treasurer, Rachel Samways. It would be an onerous task for one person alone, but as the workload is dissipated among several people, it is more easily manageable.

A copy of the church accounts is attached at Appendix 5. A summary of Income and Expenditure for the General Fund (2007) is as follows:

Income from church members	£102,860
Tax recovered under Gift Aid	£ 25,480
Income from Church House Lettings	£ 7,055
Income from other activities	£ 28,315

Total Income	£163,710

Parish Share paid (2007)	£ 74,000
Staffing costs	£ 18,070
Giving to External Missions	£ 16,915
Overhead Expenses, Church and Church House	£ 27,160
Other Expenses	£ 24,985

Total Expenditure	£ 161,130

The last few years have been difficult financially. The budget has been very tight and it was hard to balance the books by the end of the year.

However, in October 2007 we held an initiative called Giving in Grace to encourage church members to prayerfully reappraise their commitment to financial giving. God has promised to 'supply all our needs' and in answer to prayer regular giving increased by £24,000 in 2008 compared with 2007. This has enabled us to pay the full Parish Share, to restore the Mission Budget to £25,000 and to put £8,000 into the Property fund.

3.19 Links and further Training Opportunities

- St Botolph's has beneficial associations with Moulton Parish Church, an evangelical church near Northampton. We have used their premises for PCC away days
- Apprentices from St Ebbe's, Oxford, and St Andrew the Great, Cambridge, visit as part of our preaching programme
- London Men's Convention – a good number have attended in recent years; a smaller number have attended the Women's Convention
- Oak Hill College – several curates and lay assistants in recent years have come from the college, which has also provided teams to lead mission events
- Proclamation Trust – several members of our congregation have attended The Cornhill Training Course, including former lay assistants. Staff members attend EMA conferences
- CPAS Ventures and Scripture Union Camps – these are well-attended by children and young people in our fellowship and over the years, our church has provided a number of leaders for these holidays (a member of our fellowship is a director of Scripture Union)
- Word Alive; Keswick and Spring Harvest – a good number of our congregation has benefited from these events
- Sorted! – annual youth event organised by Capital Youthworks
- Good Book Company - training days and conferences
- DEF (Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship) holds regular meetings in the area
- Scripture Union's Wordlive daily readings online and various daily Bible reading notes are encouraged
- Careforce – one of our young people is currently on a placement as an assistant youth leader at a church in Walthamstow

For further information about the United Benefice of Barton Seagrave with Warkton, you may wish to contact any of the following people via the Church Office (see page 2):

Patron

Church Society Trust

Youth Minister

Mark Paxton

Church Wardens

Phil Burch (Barton Seagrave)

Kate Curnock (Barton Seagrave)

Edward Lamb (Warkton)

Ian Wilson (Warkton)

Children's worker

Sue Clutterham

Lay Readers

Derek Wade (Barton Seagrave)

Sue Wells (Warkton)

Ian Wilson (Warkton)

Lay Pastoral Ministers

Kate Curnock and Ron Eyre

Appendix: Church Accounts
