The Parish of All Saints Kettering in the Diocese of Peterborough

“The Church in the Park” growing in faith and hope and love: seeks a male or female full-time incumbent to lead and support the people of this parish, and to nurture and direct the energies of this church towards the achievement of its Mission:

Mission Statement

We promise to maintain the Christian Faith, to share our talents within stewardship, and to do God’s work within the world.

Vision

A happy, thriving church of committed people, increasing in numbers, with a strong Christian presence in the whole parish, and reaching out to God's world.

http://www.kaspc.btck.co.uk or @AllSaintsKett
https://www.facebook.com/allsaintschurchkettering (plus the events page)

Christmas Collage, made by the children of All Saints’ Scramblers
Aspirations for the Future

We pray that the new incumbent will be led by the Holy Spirit to enable us to draw on the talents of all our members, both young and old, and so help us to continue with our aspirations to:

- Be the praying heart of the parish, witnessing to God’s saving love and remaining true to our Catholic Christian heritage in a full and inclusive sense
- Grow in faith and in numbers encouraging vocations to ordained and lay ministry
- Bring together people from a wide range of age groups, backgrounds and perspectives; providing a welcoming place of worship
- Continue with current mission activities at residential care homes and work closely with the parish’s schools; helping them to provide spiritual guidance, and introducing their children to the life of All Saints’ and to that of the wider church
- Promote the church building as a focal point for the life of the wider parish community working with community groups (Brambleside Community Association, Friends of Rockingham Road Pleasure Park) to put on community events
- Actively support the deanery and the diocese – contributing to the development of plans for the future, and helping to implement them within the parish
- Work alongside other Christian Churches in our parish (e.g. Rockingham Road Baptist Church) and with neighbouring parish churches where there is a particular need (e.g. Keystone); creating a supportive and complementary relationship with them
- Be a source of pride, affection and inspiration in which everybody feels accepted and valued supporting the work of Christian Aid, Us, The Children’s Society and other organisations which show God’s love in the world

We pray that the new incumbent will take the work of All Saints’ further forward by:

- Achieving a greater visibility and impact throughout the parish, but in particular in its northern and western areas (i.e. Brambleside and the new housing to the west of Rockingham Road)
- Establishing a strong relationship with Kettering Buccleuch Academy
- Finding new ways to reach out to particular groups within the community, and bringing them into the life of the church
- Placing a greater emphasis on youth work including its growth
- Working with others in the town to rebuild a sense of community; placing the church at its heart
- Ensuring the sustainability of All Saints including:
  - Improving its financial position
  - Ensuring a continuing flow of volunteers for positions of responsibility especially of lay officers
  - Retaining and expanding its congregation
The Town of Kettering is the second largest town in Northamptonshire. Kettering District – which encompasses several small towns and villages – has a population of about 94,000 of which 60% live in the town of Kettering. Like its neighbours Corby and Wellingborough, it is expanding rapidly under the government’s development plans.

Kettering evolved from a medieval agricultural market town to a manufacturer of woollen cloth in the 17th century. Elements still remain in the town’s ‘Heritage Quarter’ which contains the church of St Peter & St Paul and an excellent museum. Kettering expanded rapidly in the late 19th century, as Northamptonshire became a major centre for boot and shoe manufacture, supplemented by the engineering and clothing industries.

The shoe industry has all but disappeared. All Saints’ parish contains one of the last remaining factories. Several of the former factory buildings still remain, converted for other industrial use or flats, with thousands of terraced houses also dating from that era.

The town’s economic activity is now predominantly in the health service and distribution sectors. Kettering General Hospital provides acute services and A&E, employing over 3,000 staff, whilst Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust provides physical, mental health and speciality services mainly in the community, and employs almost 4,500 staff.

The shift has been aided by the town’s central location, and its excellent transport connections. The A14 is a well-developed primary route linking the M1 and M6 to the west and the A1, M11 and the East Anglian container ports to the East. Oxford, Birmingham, Nottingham, Peterborough, Cambridge and Luton can all be reached within an hour by car. Kettering lies on a mainline rail route, roughly an hour from Nottingham and Sheffield to the north, whilst London St Pancras International an hour to the south makes it only four hours from Paris!
Kettering has a long-standing non-conformist tradition; William Carey and Andrew Fuller, founders of the Baptist Missionary Society, both lived in the town in the 18th century.

William Knibb, born in Kettering in 1803, was a Calvinist missionary and a major figure in the fight against slavery.

Kettering is home to Wicksteed Park, the first leisure park in the UK, opened in the 1920s. It still thrives, and attracts visitors from many miles away, as well as being a highly valued resource for the people of the town. Close to Wicksteed Park is Tresham College of Further & Higher Education.

Bishop Stopford is a successful Church of England secondary school which has been established for 50 years. It currently educates 1,450 students in the Anglican tradition, and now has academy status.

Kettering also has a newly built Church of England Primary School – Hayfield Cross opened in September 2015 and a secondary school is planned for the same development.

Kettering is set in pleasant, rolling countryside and is surrounded by exceptionally attractive limestone villages, such as Geddington and Grafton Underwood.

Boughton House, the home of the Duke of Buccleuch, is a couple of miles to the north of All Saints’ parish.

There are areas of significant social deprivation and disadvantage within the town, as well as the challenges that will be encountered anywhere, irrespective of economic conditions – for example, of supporting people through old age and ill health, of tackling loneliness and isolation, and of nurturing our children into caring and responsible adults.

Kettering has been a location for settlement of migrants at various times in history and in recent years it has become home to a significant number of people of eastern European origin.

All Saints’ contributes to food banks, Home Start and various appeals during the year.

Now the town, and its council, businesses, voluntary organisations and churches, face the additional challenge of supporting and sustaining people through a process of major expansion; and throughout this seek to:

- develop and maintain a true sense of cohesion and community;
- enable people to achieve spiritual fulfilment, as well as material satisfaction; and
- ensure that more vulnerable or disadvantaged people are not left behind and forgotten.
Kettering Deanery

Kettering Deanery comprises twelve benefices in and around the town. Given its non-conformist history the area retains a strong Christian identity with a heart for prayer and mission across the denominations and an active Churches Together group which All Saints’ is active within. The Deanery has its own mission plan which recognises that the primary unit of mission and growth is the local parish and seeks to build relationships, share skills and resources to encourage mission and growth. All of this is underpinned by prayer and the deanery prayer group, spanning a breadth of traditions, meets monthly to pray for each parish and to build understanding and support across the town and surrounding area. We hope that whoever is appointed will be keen to play an active part in all of this and help build even more effective partnerships across the Deanery.

The Parish and Church of All Saints

The parish

All Saints’ Parish was one of several created in 1916, out of the former single parish of Kettering, to accommodate the expansion of the town.

However, there has been a church on the present site since 1898.

The parish has a population well in excess of 9,000.

Overall, a full range of backgrounds, experiences and age groups are well represented within the parish.
The parish is almost entirely residential; comprising late-Victorian and Edwardian terraced housing in the south; a central area which was developed progressively over the first half of the 20th century; and a still larger area of recent housing in the northern and western parts of the parish which has seen substantial increase in the last five years and continues to grow.

Beyond the north-western boundary of the parish, an extensive green-field development of warehousing, hotels, etc has been built in the last few years.

However, one can still walk out into fine open countryside from many points in the parish.

Towards the southern end of the parish, and overlooked by the church and the vicarage is Rockingham Road Pleasure Park; providing the community with a bowling green, nature play area, outdoor gym equipment, bandstand and open green spaces with mature trees.

*Photo by kind permission of Damian Lynch*

There are four primary schools in the parish, Park Infants, Park Junior, Brambleside and Buccleuch Academy which also caters for pupils aged 11 to 18.

All Saints' has strong links with Park and Brambleside schools.

The previous incumbent, Father Andrew Dutton, supported the spiritual development of the children at both primary schools, and was a governor at Park Junior School; one of the churchwardens is a governor of Park Infants. Park Infants' School usually holds its Easter celebrations at All Saints’.

Together with the schools, a number of residential homes, two pubs and a working men's club, the church provides one of the few focal points for community identity and social activity within the parish and “Beer & Carols” at a local pub have proven popular!
The church

The present church building dates from 1929.

It is a tall, brick building, slightly truncated because some elements of the original design were not completed.

It includes a nave and two aisles, which effectively combine into, and are used as a single open space; sanctuary, single-bell tower; vestry; and at the western end the Jubilee Room, comprising an entrance lobby, function room, kitchen and toilets. It is surrounded on three sides by lawn, trees and flower borders; and to the west, a car park.

This building replaced the original 60ft long ‘Iron Church’, opened on 2nd April 1898.

The former church continued to be used as a hall until the 1970s, when it was demolished and the new church building was adapted for multi-purpose use.

Since that time, the building has provided a venue for a range of activities, run both by the church itself and by the wider community. Its ability to support these activities was greatly enhanced by the development of the Jubilee Room in 2004 which was dedicated by the church’s patrons.

The church provides an important and much-needed community facility, used by people from this and neighbouring parishes for a range of events.

The Rainbows, two Brownie Units, Girl Guides and Senior Section are sponsored by All Saints’ and all attend quarterly Sunday morning family services.

The church is rented by a private playschool group every weekday during term time, and is occasionally used by CRUSE and various religious groups including Franciscans.
In addition, a variety of activities intended both to raise funds to maintain All Saints, to support charities, and to contribute to the life of the local community, are run in the church and its grounds by members of the congregation, including:

- Monthly car boot / table top sales
- Regular quiz nights, talks, art festivals, tea dances
- Coffee mornings
- Craft and Christmas Fairs
- Refreshments on Kettering Carnival Day, which coincides with events in the neighbouring park
- Other events include: music concerts, choir recitals and talent shows etc

The bell tower is undergoing repairs which will be completed in 2016. The work will be paid for by donations and fundraising.

We have no outstanding debts.

The vicarage is a large, four-bedroomed house on Pollard Street.

It is located in a substantial enclosed garden adjoining the church grounds, and also overlooks the park.

**Worship at All Saints’**

**Churchmanship**

The church has a strong, long-standing Anglo-Catholic tradition, and this is still very actively maintained. Incense is used at major festivals including Maundy Thursday Watch, Easter Eve, All Saints’ Patronal Service and Midnight Mass.

A wide range of ages and experience are readily accommodated within the congregation.

The church has a ‘mixed economy’ and has a reputation for the warmth of its welcome and the friendly atmosphere which pervades.

Members of the congregation pay visits to others who are unable to attend services as a result of illness and to those in residential homes.

In 2015, our house groups re-started and are progressing well.
The Family Services usually include a visit from Rev and Vera operated by the younger members of the congregation or the Brownies and Guides!

Photo by kind permission of teenager Keely Morris!

Messy Church

Messy Church has been established in 2015 with a core group of committed volunteers.

An average of 25 children attend. We had our first Messy Baptism last December!

Photo by kind permission of the Langley family
**Current worship pattern**

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| **Sunday** |        | **10.30am**  
Sung Parish Eucharist  
Common Worship Order 1  
Average Communicants: 57  
“Scramblers” *(Sunday school)* is run by members of the congregation  
during the first part of the Service  
An “All Age Family Service” with communion is held once a month |
| 3pm       |        | Messy Church once a month                                           |
| **6.15pm** |        | 3rd Sunday of the month:  
United services alternate between All Saints (following the pattern of worship from Taizé) and those at Rockingham Road Baptist Church (in the style of Café Church). Average attendance: between 20 and 30 |
| **Monday** |        | **7.30pm**  
Said Eucharist  
Common Worship Order 1  
Communicants: 12-20 |
| **3rd Monday of the month** | | Service of Wholeness and Healing with Holy Communion |
| **Tuesday** |        | **10.00am**  
Eucharist – informal (tea/coffee afterwards)  
Common Worship  
Congregation: 5-10 |
| **Thursday** |        | **11.00am**  
Holy Communion outreach to care homes:  
1st and 3rd Thursdays - Abbeyfield  
2nd Thursday - Ashley Court  
4th Thursday - Thorndale |

Holy Communion is also taken to parishioners in local hospitals and homes when required.
Festivals

Mass is also held on a limited number of Saints’ Days. Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning Eucharist are held and the Easter Triduum is fully observed.

Other Services

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals - take place as required.

Baptisms normally take place during the Sunday Parish Eucharist.

The number of baptisms has risen during the past few years as more family homes have been built in the parish, and as a result of contacts established with parents of children who attend the playschool group.

Patronage

The Patron of All Saints is the Society for the Maintenance of the Faith.

Style of Worship

The style of worship is an open relaxed expression of the Anglo-Catholic tradition.

There is no choir, and this encourages good participation by the congregation in hymns and responses.

A wide range of music is used, ranging from long standing hymns to more modern music. A significant number of the congregation read the lessons on a rota basis and a number also lead the intercessions.

There is a team of altar servers, comprising both adults and children and there are ten Eucharistic Ministers.

Reader

The parish has a licensed Reader.

Electoral Roll

There are 96 people on the electoral roll.
**Finance**

All Saints' parish has fully paid their required share for over forty years. The annual report and accounts are available upon request.

Although the Jubilee Room has been fully paid for, the parish is left with virtually no substantial reserves after a new boiler for the heating was required and a Parish Centenary Fund (2016) has been started for repairs.

48 members contribute to the Stewardship Scheme and all contributions are subject to Gift Aid (except in the case of a few non-taxpayers).

All Saints’ regularly supports Us, Christian Aid, the Children’s Society, Home-Start and the local food bank.

The gardens are mostly tended by a small number of willing volunteers.

An events committee feed into the PCC to assist with fundraising.

Weekly bulletins and our monthly “Saints Alive” parish magazine are prepared by our voluntary church administrator.

**The PCC**

The PCC meets monthly and is keen to work alongside someone who has:

- Strong pastoral and inter-personal skills, with an ability to challenge
- Experience of growing a congregation spiritually and numerically and is a stimulating preacher and leader
- A passion for community engagement
- Imagination and perseverance to help re-vitalise the church building
- Good communication skills and is a team player

**If you feel that God is calling you to apply then please contact:**

The Venerable Gordon Steele, Archdeacon of Oakham on 01733 887017 or e-mail archdeacon.oakham@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

To further discuss the role please contact our Rural Dean, The Reverend Canon Brian Withington on 01536 791373 or e-mail revdbrian@uwclub.net