

 The Diocese of  
Peterborough

The Benefice of Uppingham with Ayston  
& Belton with Wardley, Rutland





St Peter & St Paul's Uppingham and our Silver Eco Award winning churchyard

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This is an exciting time to be joining Peterborough Diocese as we pray, dream, consult and plan to find the way God is leading us in our mission and ministry.

Rutland Deanery is mainly rural with the towns of Uppingham and Oakham, being key within the county.

I am looking forward to working with the Rectors of both towns to pray and discern what the shape of thriving rural ministry might look like in our area.

We want to reach out to our communities, from the smallest village to the larger towns.

There is great potential and an exciting opportunity to be part of the conversation around enabling our churches to develop and flourish, as we work together parishes, deanery and diocese.

**The Venerable Alison Booker**  
Archdeacon of Oakham

## Welcome to our Church & Community



Thank you for your interest in the post of Rector of the Uppingham Benefice, we hope you find this profile helpful in your search for the next step in your career.

Uppingham, and its surrounding villages, is a thriving and growing community at the heart of Rutland, the "Cotswolds of the East Midlands". A well-connected place to make a home within easy reach of major cities and travel hubs, a town with good schools, retail outlets and excellent life-style opportunities close by.

Our churches are central to life in the town and villages being our largest public spaces hosting many community activities.

As Rutland's second town, Uppingham plays a leading part in many county events.

Our congregations are generous with their time, warm and friendly and look forward to welcoming a person who will bring renewed energy, vision and leadership to the role of Rector.

**Richard Cole**  
Church Warden - SS Peter & Paul,  
Uppingham



Uppingham is a market town, a civil and ecclesiastical benefice in the England's smallest county, Rutland. It's located on a crossroads of the A47 between Leicester and Peterborough and the A6003 between Corby and Oakham.

The town's population is just under 5,000 people who live in approximately 2,000 dwellings and was named as the "best place to live in the Midlands" in 2022 by the Times newspaper.

At the centre of our town is the Market Square where weekly Friday markets have been held since 1281. It's also the site of the UK's only market place Fat Stock Show in November. Standing proudly at one corner of this focal point is our parish church of St Peter and St Paul.

Uppingham Town Council is proactive in working to retain and enhance the traditional values of our town, ensuring that future development reflects the community's needs and aspirations. It is aided in this venture by the fantastic community spirit. I hope that you will come to love living in Uppingham as much as I have always done.

**Cllr Dave Ainslie BEM**  
Mayor of Uppingham



Uppingham CofE Primary School has a close relationship with St Peter and St Paul's, Uppingham.

The Rector serves as an active member of the governing body, playing a key role in developing the strategic vision of the school, centred on our shared Christian values. A church representative leads worship on a weekly basis in school, enriching the spiritual atmosphere of the school and the church is utilised as a vital resource for curriculum learning.

The church is used for key school services such as our Carol service and leavers service, where we welcome our school community to come together, and all Year 6s are presented with a Bible at the end of their school journey.

Our school choir has supported the church choir in numerous performances and services, strengthening the links between us.

The relationship between Church and school is a mutually beneficial, one that enriches the lives of the local community.

**Julia Exton**  
Head Teacher  
Uppingham CofE Primary School



# What makes Uppingham and Rutland so special?

Uppingham is a growing market town at the heart of the beautiful county of Rutland in the English Midlands. It regularly appears on lists of the best places to live in the UK.

Nearby Belton is a quiet village set in Rutland's agricultural heartland.

We are situated in the Rutland Deanery of Peterborough Diocese.

Uppingham Independent School is an important economic driver for the town.

Consequently the community enjoys many facilities that are usually only found in much larger conurbations.

Among the amenities are:

- Two state primary schools (one of which is a CofE affiliated) and a Community College for School Years 7-11
- Local Six form colleges are situated in nearby Oakham, Stamford and Corby. Students also travel to Leicester, Melton Mowbray and Peterborough
- A major GP Surgery and other health practices including dental practices and a vet
- A small hospital situated six miles away in Oakham and Corby has a walk-in emergency facility

- An international standard sports centre plus local cricket, football and rugby clubs and golf courses are a short drive away

- Restaurants, bistros, pubs, coffee shops, a hotel, B&B's and Airbnb properties are all within the town

- Wide employment opportunities

- Uppingham has a small theatre

- Several new housing developments planned

- Rutland Water, a beautiful countryside park and reservoir is just five miles away. It offers up to 26 miles of varied and picturesque walking and cycling opportunities

- Launde Abbey, the Diocesan Retreat Centre is just a 15 minute drive from the town

- The town hosts an annual Fat Stock Show, and Vintage Car Rally. Just down the road an International Bird Fair and County Show are other big draws

- Good road and rail connections to the rest of the country

- Twinned with the Normandy town of Caudebec-en-Caux since 1982

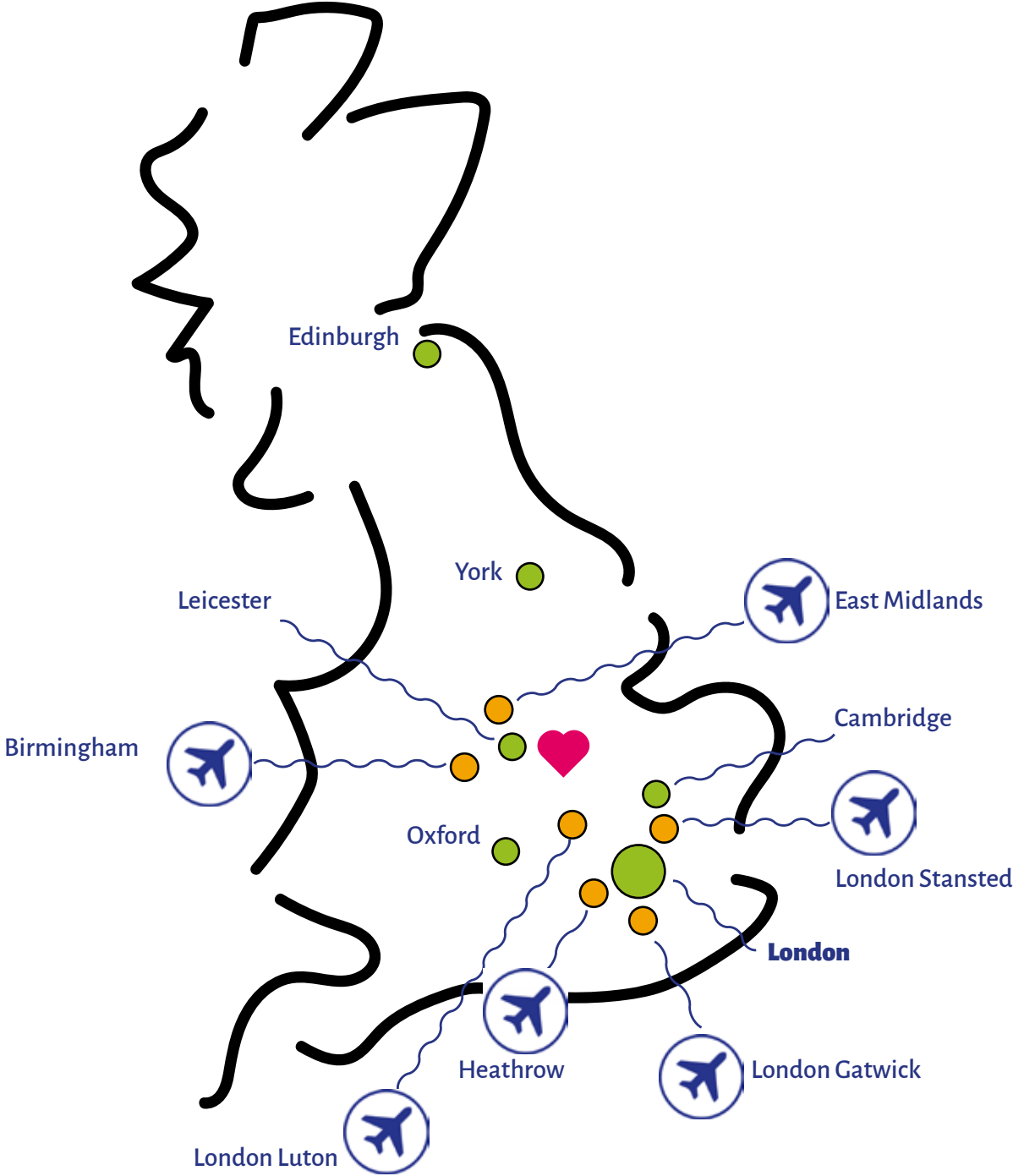
All of this while retaining a 'village feel'.



Uppingham's Summer Feast Day



# Uppingham - At the heart of the country



## Uppingham - the connected town

- London St Pancras International 1hr 10 mins from Corby Rail Station (9 miles away)
- Four international airports within 60-90 minutes travel including Birmingham International and London Stansted. East Midlands Airport is a major holiday destination departure point
- The cathedral cities of Leicester and Peterborough are both just 20 miles away
- Birmingham & Nottingham just over an hour away by car
- Great road access to both Cambridge and Oxford





## Our Vision & Mission

“Serving God through love in action in Uppingham”

Uppingham Parish Church has had this Mission Statement for over ten years. It is drawn from our Mission Action Plan, which is updated each year by the PCC during a dedicated away-day. It is reviewed at PCC meetings but not widely publicised, though many in the congregation live it out in their lives in the town. It is something that needs refreshing and a refocus.

A copy of the latest Mission Action Plan can be downloaded from the URL or QR Code on page 16.

Bishop Debbie in Uppingham



Bell Ringers celebrate King Charles' Coronation

## Our Team

We recognise that our new Rector needs help and support. It's available.

We have:

- Two retired members of clergy with PTO
- Two Readers
- A paid Parish Administrator
- A paid Director of Music
- A paid Treasurer
- Two churchwardens
- A small welcoming team
- A dedicated Server
- A dedicated Safeguarding Officer
- A Gift Aid Secretary
- Willing volunteers who organise flowers, refreshments, social & fundraising events

Uppingham Parish Choir



## The Church and its community

The Parish churches of St Peter and St Paul, Uppingham and St Peter's, Belton have long histories.

We are looking for a Rector to add a new and exciting chapter to those stories.

As the Church community in Uppingham we feel we have many strengths that a new incumbent can rely on and help grow.

These include:

- Varied worship services (From BCP and Choral Evensong to a regular relaxed Family service and Common Worship Eucharist)
- Our high quality choir, music and bell teams
- A fabulous Families Officer working in the church with un-churched toddlers and mums, taking assemblies at the CofE Primary School and hosting the monthly family service with others
- We believe we are a welcoming and kind congregation. Our welcome team includes Daisy, the Cockapoo. Other canine friends come too
- We use a screen and AV for all our main services
- We have willing volunteers and ad hoc teams for organising events
- We have a Silver Eco Award and have started work towards a Gold medal
- We host many community events and music concerts, both at lunchtime and in the evening
- Our Parish Hall (next to the church) is one of the very few economic hireable venues in the town. Many outside community groups use it. It's a place where the church and community intersect.
- We are seen as the Civic Church of Uppingham. We annually host Remembrance Sunday, and recently have been the venue marking the funeral of the late Queen and King Charles' Coronation. In 2023 we hosted the Princess of Wales Carol Service for the East of England
- Our church is heated and open all day, every day for people to visit
- The community as a whole has a great respect for the role of Rector, and we believe this is a key to growth
- Uppingham Churches Together is an informal collaboration with our Methodist and small Congregational churches



Remembrance Sunday



Palm Sunday in Uppingham Market Place

## We are not perfect

Like every church or institution we have our weaknesses. These we acknowledge and are looking for a new leader to help us improve.

They include:

- Our age profile. We have an aging core congregation, but have few children and no teenagers
- No Exploring faith courses, retreat or study days
- No confirmation classes
- Few home groups
- A lack of Pastoral visiting provision. Uppingham has a number of senior care homes
- We recognise that our on-line presence is weak, lacking social media presence but have initiated a redesign of our website
- Not going out enough to engage with the wider community
- Non-inclusive language
- Little knowledge of how to access grants and funding for improvements





Wedding Dress Festival



Little Fishes  
Toddler Group

Below: Nearby Rutland Water  
and its weekly Park Run



## Challenges

There are some of the big challenges and opportunities that we face alongside our new Rector.

### Our Demographic

The age demographic of the core congregations is elderly. They are loyal and there most weeks, but our numbers have been declining, mostly because of death, for the last ten years.

In Uppingham we do have some younger members, but (like every other church) we'd like more.

Our hard working Families Officer is attracting new congregations to non-Sunday events like the *Little Fishes* Toddler Group held in the church every Monday morning and we have links with a successful, after-school Youth group, *Youth Space*, which meets in Uppingham Town Hall on Wednesdays. We have a well equipped children's area in the church for families to use during services. But the truth is, it's often empty.

### Finances

Our finances are a cause for concern.

Nearly 40 members of the congregation make regular monthly contributions to the church through the *Parish Giving Scheme*. The church has a Dona Card Reading machine by the main door for ad hoc gifts and donations from visitors. We do have a collection at our main Sunday service and two particularly hard working volunteers organise fundraising events across the year. Our Gift Aid secretary makes quarterly claims to HMRC. All of this is overseen by a freelance Treasurer.

We pay our Parish Share.

BUT the church is running at a deficit of £10k per year.

Were it not for two annual, substantial donations which the PCC receives church finances would be extremely exposed.

However, good news ... we can do it! A few years ago our training Curate galvanised the congregation and community to the extent that for one year we closed the deficit from £10k to zero.

We need fresh enthusiasm and initiatives to help us raise our game to build on that momentum to consistently increase our income.

A copy of our last set of Parish Accounts can be downloaded from the URL or QR Code on page 16.

### Few supporting clergy

At present Uppingham has two PTO retired clergy and two Readers and a Families Officer to support the ministry of the Church. We hope that a new Rector will enable and empower others to take on lay roles within the church to support its work across the community.

### Engagement with young people

You will have read elsewhere in this document about our work with children and young people. Teens and young adults are notable by their absence (as they are in many parishes across

the country). We would welcome any ideas others might have, especially as Uppingham, in particular, has a lot of young people living in the town.

### Provision of internet and wifi

The thick medieval walls of the 14th century church of St Peter and St Paul's are among the issues that have prevented the installation of the internet. The drawbacks (wifi access) which ensue make the church appear antiquated, out-of-touch and unable to live-stream events.

## Opportunities

During COVID we filmed short outdoor 'services' which were watched by hundreds of people. This hasn't translated into more folk in church, although they were much valued at the time. It feels as though we 'stalled'. We want to get going again.

We believe we are welcoming to everyone, that we try to offer something for most people.

We accept that some locals and visitors just 'pop' in occasionally. New people moving to Uppingham do join us, if they have a Church tradition already.

However, we recognise that getting through even an open church door for many is difficult. A church building can be difficult to approach and that services can seem irrelevant or strange.

### Potential to Grow

We are successful with Occasional Offices, particularly at times of bereavement, but now

have few baptisms or weddings and want more.

We have been a training parish in the past, and would hope to be again.

We have contact with un-churched families, and hope this could grow and expand, such that they know the church is there for them.

There are many retired and older people in Uppingham and Belton who value the role of the Church and we could widen this significantly.

We would like a variety of music. Our excellent choir and musical director bring a joy and talent to our worship. We could benefit from even more variety.

The relationship with our CofE primary school is very good, and with the help of our families officer could grow.

We have good connections with several social outreach programmes in the town including, the Community Fridge, Mental Health Café and the Bereavement Help Point.



## St Peter's, Belton



(Left) Chancel of St Peter's, Belton  
(Right) South Aisle

The parish of Belton with Wardley was formed in 2010, by the merger of the former parish of St Botolph, Wardley, with the parish of St Peter, Belton. The enlarged parish has a population of about 360, of which about 20% are aged under 16 years. Together we make up half of the Uppingham Benefice.

The PCC of St Peter's is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. Our services, many drawn from the Book of Common Prayer, put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

### Electoral Roll

At the end of 2024, there were 28 names on the Electoral Roll roll, three of which live outside the parish.

### Finance

At the end of 2024, the monthly receipt from 16 contributors to the *Parish Giving Scheme* was £575.35 including Gift Aid, an average of a little under £36 per donor. Of the donors, half are regular churchgoers.

During 2024, irregular Gift Aided donations, via the envelope scheme, totalled £826.

Each year we organise a major Fund Raising Event. In 2024 it was Open Gardens and this year it will be a Fashion show. These have the dual purpose of fund raising and including the village community.



### Ambitions

Presently our main objective is to improve the accessibility of our building. We would also like to install both a toilet and a servery, which would open up the building to greater community use.

### What we can offer you

- St Peter's in Belton-in-Rutland is a warm and welcoming church, with a smallish congregation, which has grown during the last four years. We have been fortunate to maintain a traditional weekly Sunday morning Communion service.
- The volunteers, our retired member of Clergy with PTO and long serving member of the PCC especially, have worked wonderfully together, but we look forward to welcoming a new Rector to guide us
- St Peter's is in a good state of repair, although it may need some work on the internal plaster when the north wall has dried out. A major draining project was completed in 2024
- Belton has a CofE affiliated Pre-School which use the church and there is a Village Hall on Main Street. These are independent from St. Peter's

## Our other churches



The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ayston (left) and St Botolph's church, Wardley (right) and are both closed and in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. Very occasional services are held in both.

## Eco Church

A dedicated group has steered Uppingham Church to both Bronze and Silver A Rocha Eco Church Awards.

They are now hard at work beginning the task of assembling data and examples for a Gold Award. This includes regular 'challenges' to the church congregation.

Currently we are spending a month recording our use of single use plastics, for an effort, next year, to reduce the number.





# Are you the Incumbent for us?



Daisy, a member of the Welcoming team with Liz



Annual Fat Stock Show in Uppingham Market Place.

## Person specification

We are looking for someone who is able to demonstrate:

- Being collaborative
- Being passionate to share the Gospel
- Valuing other people
- Enabling others
- Being creative
- Being a good communicator
- Being a team player
- Being able to develop and implement a vision
- Sharing their spiritual passion with enthusiasm, balanced with openness

You will also

- have empathy and a heart for engaging with people
- Be approachable and have the ability to put those around you at ease
- Have a sense of humour
- Be a good listener

## Role description

Your role includes:

- Renewing the vision and spirit of the Church & its congregation, building on their strengths
- Leading various forms of worship
- Encouraging the congregation in their diversity and inclusion of different life views
- Challenging the status quo with new ideas
- Enabling the congregation to implement those new ideas
- Building teams within the Church community
- Working with neighbouring clergy and Benefices
- Engaging with those inside and outside the Church in this area of Rutland
- Participating fully in community activities
- Being a full member of the Primary School and its spiritual life



# Your new home



The diocese is currently in the process of completing the purchase of this property as Uppingham's new Rectory. At the time of writing this profile, an offer has been made and accepted on this detached property, with a separate double garage, which is about two minutes drive from the centre of Uppingham and its church. Like all property purchases nothing is certain until the final contracts have been signed. However, we are hopeful that is house with four bedrooms and two bathrooms will become our new Rectory before you (and your family) move in.



Children's area in SS Peter & Paul's



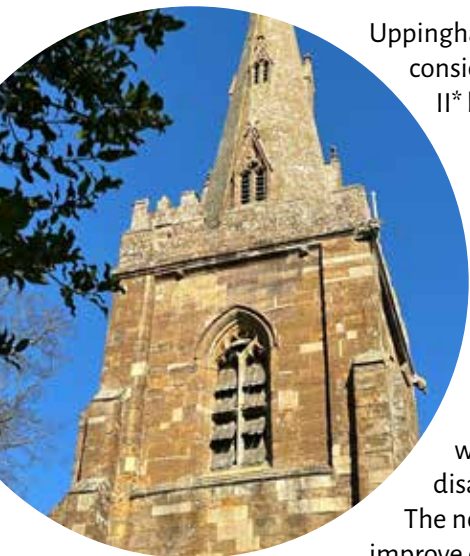
Liz Sargeant OBE, Safeguarding Officer (Below) 'Lions' menacing Daniel!





Our church buildings

St Peter & St Paul Uppingham



Uppingham Parish church is mainly 14th century, considerably reconstructed in 1861. It is Grade II\* listed.

The church fabric is in reasonable repair and an ongoing programme of maintenance is in place.

The church is famous for its stained glass and late Saxon paintings.

Reordering and repair during 2002 - 2004 saw work carried out to the roof and tower parapets. The medieval font was also reinstated. The Chancel was extended into the Nave to improve disabled access to new Communion rails.

The north porch was glazed and automated to improve disabled access, and a sound system and improved lighting were installed,

In 2006 a fully refurbished organ was installed. In 2016 the sound system was updated and in 2018 a new screen, television screens and audiovisual system put in. The church has a CCTV system which means we can be confident in leaving it unlocked during the day.

The tower houses eight bells plus a Sanctus bell.

The section of lead-covered roof is alarmed.

Both churchyards are closed and maintained by Rutland County Council. Uppingham has two other cemeteries, both managed by Uppingham Town Council.

St Peter's Belton

The building is a Grade II\* listed and is in good repair. Currently money is being raised for the 'defeat the damp project' which is to improve the drainage and solve some issues with damp in the church. A Faculty is also being sought to install a toilet within the church.

The oldest part of the church dates back to the 1200s, and it has undergone changes along the centuries.

The church has an audio and loop system installed.

The roof lead work is protected by an alarm system,

The last major changes were made around 1897-1898. The Chancel was remodelled and has an ornate altar and organ case in the style of Bodley, all of which have been cleaned and restored within the last 25 years. There is a Nicholson organ which is regularly maintained. The tower has a set of six bells.



Above; SS Peter & Paul, Uppingham.  
Below; St Peter's, Belton

Our regular services

Sunday 1st-3rd	8.00 BCP Eucharist Uppingham	9.00 BCP/CW Eucharist Belton	10.45 CW Eucharist Uppingham	
Sunday 4th	8.00 BCP Eucharist Uppingham	9.00 CW Eucharist Belton	Come Rejoice All Age Uppingham	6.00 BCP Choral Evensong Uppingham
1st Tuesday		10.00 MU Corporate Communion Uppingham		
Thursday	8.00 Morning Prayer Uppingham			
Saturday		9.30 CW Said Eucharist Uppingham		

FAQ

Does the Parish pay clergy expenses?  
Yes both parishes pay full clergy expenses, claimable from the Treasurer.

What is the capacity of the churches?  
SS Peter & Paul Uppingham 220, though for the Remembrance Day service 250 is not unusual.  
St Peter's Belton - 100

What is the average Sunday attendance?  
Uppingham - 43 Adults 1 person under 16 plus a choir of between 10 and 15.  
Belton - 12

What Parish groups meet regularly?  
Mothers' Union (Uppingham's branch is the largest in the diocese)  
Emmaus Group  
Bible Study Group  
Eco Church Group  
Little Fishes Baby & Toddler Group  
Choir  
Bell ringers  
Churches Together in Uppingham  
Reports from these and others can be read in our Annual Report.  
Download from links on page 16.

What is the composition of the PCC and how often does it meet?  
Uppingham - 15 members meeting 9/10 times a year.  
Belton - 7 meetings held in 2024

When was the last Quinquennial Inspection done?  
Uppingham - 2024.  
Belton - Next due in 2027

What work is outstanding?  
Given the historic nature of the buildings, there is always more both parishes could do. All Priority A issues are addressed. Both buildings are sound, weather proof and have heating systems.



A performance of Captain Noah & His Floating Zoo in church

Deanery of Rutland



Lying within the Oakham Archdeaconry, the Rutland Deanery is made up of 53 parishes – all except four (Carllby in Lincolnshire, Harringworth, Wakerley and Duddington in Northamptonshire) are in the county of Rutland.

Five parish churches are redundant, one now being a chapel of ease. In recent years the deanery has undergone organisational changes with the formation of nine benefices: it is possible that there are some changes still to be made.

The deanery, one of 12 in the diocese, has a proud record of paying in excess of 95% of its requested parish share. It is regularly in the top three contributors of all deaneries.

Rutland Deanery Synod is active with 55 lay members and 7 clergy. There are four meetings each year plus an annual deanery Eucharist. The two winter meetings are held on Zoom. All our meetings are 'open' and we have a full programme planned for 2025-26 set by a small Mission and Pastoral Committee.

The deanery also takes an active role at Diocesan Synod through elected members, the Rural Dean and Lay Chair.

Clergy Chapter is a supportive group and meets regularly, usually for Eucharist, lunch, exchange of news and fellowship.



## Downloads

To download copies of our Mission Action Plan, Annual Report, 2024 Accounts, Guide to the Church leaflet visit [www.uppinghamchurch.co.uk/documents](http://www.uppinghamchurch.co.uk/documents) or scan the QR Code below



## Useful websites

Uppingham Parish Church  
[www.uppinghamchurch.co.uk](http://www.uppinghamchurch.co.uk)

Peterborough Diocese  
[www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

Uppingham Town Council  
[www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.uppinghamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Rutland County Council  
[www.rutland.gov.uk](http://www.rutland.gov.uk)

Discover Rutland  
[discover-rutland.co.uk](http://discover-rutland.co.uk)

Rutland First  
[rutlandfirst.co.uk](http://rutlandfirst.co.uk)



*The Rutland Madonna,  
a triptych in Uppingham church  
by artist David Kirk*

## Next steps

We hope that this has inspired you to want to know more about us, our town and beautiful county.

Your next step could be an informal conversation with Canon Jane Baxter, our Rural Dean, who knows Uppingham and Belton well. (Her Benefice is next door.) Call her on **01572 822717** or [revjanebaxter@gmail.com](mailto:revjanebaxter@gmail.com).

Alternatively you could speak to the Archdeacon of Oakham, the Ven Alison Booker on **01733 887019** or [archdeacon.oakham@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:archdeacon.oakham@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

Scan the QR Code to access an application form

