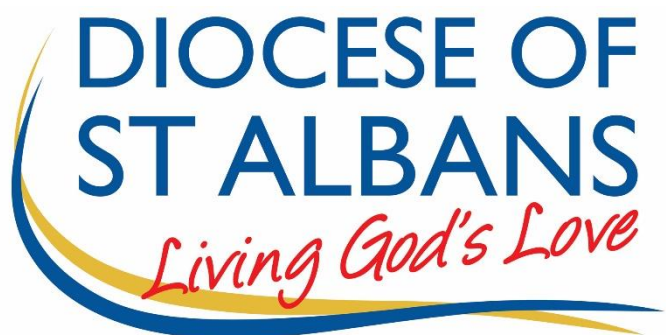

The Parish Profile of St Peter and St Paul's Flitwick

2021



In God's name, we seek to be a welcoming, loving, active, Christian community that aims through our life and worship together, to love, serve and care for everyone.

Our Church on a Page

Buildings:

- **St Peter & St Paul's Church** (Grade I listed; dating from 12th century) capacity 220 people
- **Chapter House** (built 1980s, attached to the church) with Kitchen, Toilets, Boiler Room and Vestry
- **St Andrew's Church Hall** (no longer used, beyond economic repair; in the process of being sold)
- **Vicarage:** 4 bedroom detached house with garden, double drive, and office

Worship Pattern:

- Sundays 9.00am all-age worship
 10.30am Parish Eucharist (sung)
- Wednesdays: 10am Holy Communion (said)
- Monday to Friday: 9.00am Morning Prayer

Special Services:

- Harvest
- Baby Loss
- In Loving Memory
- Remembrance
- Christingle
- Blue Christmas
- Christmas Carols

Church Membership:

- 165 members on electoral role
- Average Sunday pre-Covid = 90
- Current average congregation = 60

Outreach:

- Churches Together
- Schools
- Cadets
- Royal British Legion
- Town Council
- Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs
- Fresh Expressions
- Make Lunch
- Flitwick Carnival
- Pastoral Care

Children and Young People:

- Children's Church & Messy Church
- Toddling Tots & Little Fishes
- Youth Group

Accreditations:

- Eco Church Bronze award
- Inclusive Church

Communication:

- Website
- Facebook & Twitter
- Monthly Newsletter (email)
- Parish Magazine (suspended)

Finances:

- FY20 income £122,685
- FY20 expenditure £127,010

Committees:

- PCC
- Standing Committee
- Fabric Committee
- Eco Church
- St Andrew's (managing sale)
- Stewardship
- Social Committee
- Mission & Ministry

Church Groups:

- Choir & Music Group
- Churchyard Team
- Bellringing
- Flower Team
- Pastoral Care
- Bible Study & Lent Groups
- Mothers' Union

Charities supported have included:

- Need Food Bank
- Christian Aid & Shelter
- Bishop's Harvest Appeal
- St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger
- Mary's Meals

Fund raising events:

- Christmas Fayre & Summer Fete
- Crib Festival & Flower Festival
- Beds & Herts HCT Bike 'n' Hike

Church Policies:

- All church policies are regularly reviewed and available on our website.

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God's Growing Family: Praying, Loving, Transforming



Welcome,

Thank you for your interest in St Peter and St. Paul's Church. We hope that you will find everything that you are looking for within this profile and that it will help with your search along the road to where God is calling you.

Nestled in the heart of Bedfordshire, the Parish of Flitwick is seeking a committed, prayerful, spiritual and energetic minister to lead the Church out of pandemic restrictions and help us continue our work serving the wider community. Our Church is committed to building on our strengths and tackling the challenges ahead to benefit the people we serve.



Chris Macintosh – Churchwarden



Linda Foale - Churchwarden

Hopes for the Future

St Peter & St Paul's is a very welcoming Church and we are very much looking forward to welcoming a new incumbent.



We feel Flitwick Parish Church will benefit from an incumbent who is:

- Dedicated
- Supportive
- Compassionate
- Inclusive
- Environmentally friendly
- A strong leader but good delegator
- Positive with a happy disposition
- Family orientated

St Peter & St Paul's is a traditional place of worship but also recognises that it needs to be diverse in its services to attract more people to services. Our 9am Sunday Celebration, which started as we came out of lockdown and took up from where our Fresh Expressions work left off when we went into lockdown, fits this approach. We would like this part of our worship to go forward and would encourage a prospective incumbent to embrace both forms of worship and to be enthusiastic and considerate when introducing new ideas.



We would like our incumbent to:

- Encourage and develop the vocations of others
- Be a good teacher and mentor
- Be sympathetic, have empathy and compassion
- Encourage and motivate
- See potential and strengths in others
- Be sympathetic to the Liturgical and Eucharistic traditions
- Be forward thinking in worship
- Committed and approachable
- Interact with the Community
- A good communicator

We would like someone whose preaching will increase the congregation's knowledge and understanding and help them to relate the scriptures to the modern world and their everyday lives.





Children play an important part in our Church and we would like a new incumbent to be enthusiastic about involving children in Church life, encouraging them and bringing the best out of them.

Toddling Tots

During the summer of 2021 a new group was formed called Toddling Tots. This fun outdoor group is for under 5 year olds accompanied by at least one adult. Both children and grown-ups found this nature inspired morning engaging and exciting and joyful, the aim is to continue every school holiday, we would expect the new incumbent to be enthusiastic and supportive of this venture.

Children's Church

Going forward from the pandemic disruptions, we would like to re-start our children's church, encourage new members to join and introduce exciting ways all ages can explore their faith and understanding of the Bible. We would hope the new incumbent would enthusiastically support and embrace its return.

Children from local schools were asked what they would like the new vicar to be like. Here are their responses:

- Someone who thinks about the needs of the people of Flitwick
- Someone who takes a pride in what they do for everyone who goes too Church
- Shows generosity by giving their time to talk to people
- Someone who is able to help and tell people who else they can go to for help
- Somebody who is willing to visit the schools in Flitwick and lets children visit the Church
- Somebody who is welcoming, happy and enjoys their job
- Someone who is kind and promotes the Church among teenagers
- A happy one please!



The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a four bedroomed family home and is located close to the Church on Dew Pond Road. The original dew pond is still present at the top of the road with many ducks and wild fowl making their home there. You can often see a mother duck walking her ducklings across the road.

The property was refurbished six years ago and a garden room added which acts as an extra office. There is also a gate in the garden leading on to Church Road.

The garden is laid to lawn with shrubs and fruit trees.

There is a double garage within the property, part of which has been incorporated into the study.

The quinquennial inspection has taken place during vacancy.



The property comprises

- Entrance hall
- Study
- Cloakroom
- Kitchen with utility room to garden
- Dining room
- Lounge with French doors to the patio
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Further double bedroom
- Two single bedrooms
- Family bathroom



Our Strengths

We have an open, friendly and inclusive congregation that understands and accepts the challenges we face, and is willing to embrace change. Throughout the years, Church members have always risen to address various challenges both financially and in partnership with other churches. The parish church is steeped in history, and being on a secluded road on the outskirts of town

makes it an idyllic setting for those seeking peace, tranquillity and quiet reflection with God. The location combines the ancient church, maintained churchyards and modern Chapter House. Whilst the Church may be viewed from the outside as traditional, there are worship patterns and activities to suit all age groups. We have many talented people within our congregation who are dedicated to the upkeep and care of our Church buildings.

The Challenges We Face

As in many other commuter towns, people are immensely busy and the general population do not see fellowship and worship as a priority, however, despite this our congregation has doubled in size, over the last six years. Although the church is tucked away from the town centre, and is therefore not an obvious presence in the town, attendance at the Christmas Carol Services regularly total over 700 people, demonstrating that its location is not an obstacle. There are constant financial pressures of having to maintain a Grade I listed building and the continued need to meet the parish share. Before Covid 19 our budget was fairly steady and we came through this time well with our congregation being very generous in their donations.



The Way Ahead

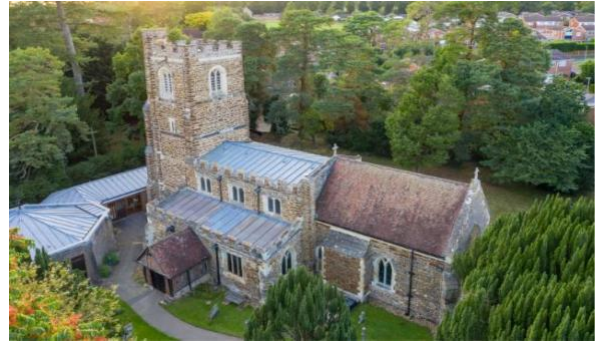
Whilst as a Church we have a solid foundation on which to build, we need to embrace change. We have just joined Inclusive Church and look for our new minister to act as a catalyst to explore that challenge. We see the appointment of a new incumbent as a catalyst to enable that change and an opportunity for our Church to reflect and set its future direction.



The Church

At the 2021 APCM there were 165 names on the electoral roll with the majority residing in Flitwick.

The church and connected buildings are Grade I listed, with the original church building dating back to the Twelfth Century with the chancel and South aisle having been added in the Fourteenth Century



In 2013, two further major restoration works were undertaken. Firstly, the bells were retuned and rehung professionally with help from the bell ringers themselves, and the Chapter House and link way were extensively reroofed in order to resolve issues with water ingress.



The tower was built in 1380 and the porch was added approximately a hundred years later. Records show little was changed until 1858 when the north aisle and vestry were built. In 1867, the nave and South aisle were reroofed and in 1885 a new roof was put on the chancel. The tower has six bells, the

oldest of which dates back to 1608. In 1906, the original ground-floor ring was raised to its current height in order to increase seating capacity under the tower. In 1982, the Chapter House and link way were built. Also in the same year, the churchyard was closed for burials. The current cemetery, which is managed by the Town Council, is opposite the church; a new cemetery is being planned and will be located on the outskirts of Flitwick. In

the 1990s, a major programme of restoration

works was commenced, which included re-roofing the chancel, nave and tower, as well as major repointing of all buildings and replacement stone work to the tower.

Services

Sung Holy Communion from Common Worship is held at 10.30am every Sunday. Before the pandemic, the service on the first Sunday of the month was a more informal family communion service – the Sunday Celebration – with music led by our music group. During the lockdowns, the 10.30 am service was first livestreamed from the vicarage kitchen and then from Church. We have continued to live-stream this service since returning to church. Daily morning prayer is currently livestreamed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and in Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



As the church building is too small to enable the whole congregation to socially distance, we also started to hold an all-age Sunday Celebration service outside on the lawn at 9 am every Sunday. This extremely popular service is currently run by lay members of the ministry team and aims to have communion once every other month.



Special Services

Special Services take place at St. Peter & St. Paul and are usually incorporated into the Sunday services. Mothering Sunday is observed and posies are made and donated by the Mothers' Union and are given to all ladies in church. During the Covid restrictions posies were made by our talented flower team and MU members and delivered. Harvest services are usually all-age services as these are well attended by families. Christingle services have been held within services and more recently on the Saturday before Christmas.



Remembrance Sunday is marked by the reading of names from the memorial and a moment of silence to remember the fallen and by taking part in the town's afternoon Remembrance parade. Each year there is an In Loving Memory Service held for all those who have died in the previous year and those for whom a special request has been made to be remembered. This usually takes place on the last Sunday in October. We also arrange a Baby Loss Service in October and a Blue Christmas Service in December for those who find the normal Christmas services difficult.



Music

Music is very important at St Peter and St Paul's. We have a wonderful choir, though slightly depleted by Covid restrictions, and we have an eclectic and enthusiastic Director of Music with a Masters' degree in Cathedral Music, who is very keen on building it back up and introducing a children's choir.

The Director of Music works with several regular freelance organists, one of whom directs the Music Group that plays on the first Sunday of the month, introducing a different way of worshipping without the organ. Recently, we have also recently had organ scholars in conjunction with the Beds and Herts Organists' Association.



On Palm Sunday, after a brief service at the gates of the Manor Park, the choir leads us in procession up to Church with a pony joining us to represent a donkey.

Occasional Offices

Baptisms usually take place at 12.30 pm after a Sunday service, although congregational members do sometimes have Baptisms as part of a Sunday service. Weddings and Blessings are now being held on weekdays as well as the traditional Saturdays and occasionally on Sundays. Funerals are booked through the incumbent and lay assistants help at all these services. Confirmation Services have been held in the church in the past, and when there is a Confirmation Service taking place elsewhere in the Deanery candidates from Flitwick are sometimes confirmed there.



Organisations

The Church hosts a number of groups that offer a variety of both religious and secular activities to the people of Flitwick. Aimed principally at members of the Church, groups include Children's Church, Mothers' Union, the Music Group, Choir, bell ringers and Little Fishes (a baby and toddler group that meets during the week). For the wider community, there is Messy Church once a half term. There are also a number of home groups.

There is an active youth group who have recently slept overnight in Church, raised money for one of our supported charities and taken part the Council-run Scarecrow competition.



Churches Together

Within Flitwick and nearby Ampthill, there are generally good relationships with other Christian churches and ministers of the churches meet regularly to arrange services. The local Churches Together meets three times a year and united services are held from time to time. However, due to various changes in ministers, as well as the effects of Covid, links to other Christian churches will need reviving.

PCC

The full PCC meets on the second Monday of every other month with the Standing Committee which consists of the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Safeguarding Officer and Secretary meeting on the months in-between. We also have a fabric committee, a group steering the sale of the St Andrew's site, and an Eco church group. We also hope to set up an Inclusive Church steering group.

Laity

We have a very involved and committed ministry team which includes a Reader, a Lay Leader of Worship, a Pioneer Ministry Enabler and an Ordinand, who has just started training. We are also a training parish for curates and have other people exploring vocation.

Lay people also assist in Sunday services as welcomers, readers, intercessors, servers and chalice assistants. There is a rota for these positions, which is distributed on an eight week basis. Lay people also take Home Communion to various residential homes in Flitwick and the surrounding area. Laity are also involved in baptism preparation and some general visiting within the community. The day to day running of the Church comprises approximately eighty different roles, most of which are undertaken by members of the Church. In order to ensure that any member of the Church is able to perform any of these roles, documented procedures are available in printed and electronic formats should the need arise.

Maintaining the Church

We have a dedicated group of volunteers who keep the Church clean on a weekly basis, dusting and polishing the wood and brass work. Once a year it's all hands on deck to give the Church a good spring clean.

In 2019 the floor in Church was renovated. A group of enthusiastic volunteers cleared the whole Church of pews and other furniture in order for this to go ahead and then put it all back together again when the work was complete. During this time services took place in the Chapter House



The Lychgate

Also in 2019, we had our Lych-gate restored, with some timber repairs and re-laid brickwork. This was another big job that needed specialist contractors for the work to be carried out.

The Bishop preached at a dedication service which was attended by Flitwick's mayor and officials. Also present were family members of the Reverend and Mrs Francis Ashpitel, who gave the gate in memory of their three sons in 1901.



Website and Social Media

The Church receives the majority of enquiries for Occasional Offices through the website, which is maintained by our Parish Administrator. The Church also advertises events and services through Facebook and Twitter, which serve as a practical mechanism for members of the congregation and the wider community to receive updated information regarding events in the parish. During lockdown we started sending out newsletters giving information and support, keeping the Church family and beyond a feeling of not being alone. This has continued as restrictions ease so those who are not ready to come back to Church keep up to date with all that is happening in the Church Community.

Magazine

Before Covid, a parish magazine was produced ten times a year and included many articles, a contribution from the incumbent, puzzles, life stories and recipes, as well as advertisements. This was available to all Church members and is distributed around the community to individual subscribers. The magazine was also available in a number of public places, such as the library, dental surgeries and health centres. The circulation was 350.

Whether or not to reinstate the magazine will be decided early in 2022 or when the new incumbent arrives.

Eco Church



The churchyard team have worked hard to keep the churchyard as wildlife friendly as possible keeping areas full of wild flowers and not cutting the grass while the flowers look their best.

The churchyard attracts a lot of insects and animals with hedgehog and bee houses in place. You can walk through and come across, muntjac, squirrels, rabbits, hedgehogs and foxes on occasions and a wide variety of bird life. Beautiful butterflies can be also seen enjoying the flowers.

Flitwick Church has reduced its own palm oil use by switching to Ecover cleaning.

The PCC are very supportive of those working so hard to protect our planet and were delighted when after a very short time we were awarded with the A Rocha bronze award.

Since then we have added a bicycle rack to encourage people to leave their cars at home when coming to Church.



The brilliant churchyard team led by the Churchyard Manager also keep the grass cut and keep the surrounding area well maintained



The Flower Team

We have a very talented and dedicated flower team who each week keep the Church looking beautiful with their stunning displays. We also hold regular flower festivals which involve the whole community.



The flowers are sponsored by individuals who like to remember significant dates for birthdays, anniversaries etc. and in remembrance of those who have died.



They also decorate the church with wonderful displays for weddings when required



The Chapter House and Fund Raising

The Chapter House is used for many Church activities and also hired out to various community groups. It is a very versatile hall with a fully equipped kitchen with plenty of cupboard space. For Church activities it has been converted into a Tardis for Messy Church, used for Stir-Up Sunday pudding making and as a meeting place for after-service refreshments.



The Chapter House is also used for serving cream teas during the Spring Fair and Crib Festival.

The annual spring fair is held on the lawn. This is an extremely popular event in Flitwick attracting all ages. We are fortunate to have support from the adjacent Flitwick Manor who let us use part of their grounds and their chef has judged our best cake competition. We also have had a competition to make a parachute for teddies and they “jumped” from the bell tower. There are the usual stalls and a barbecue.

All church organisations, businesses and individuals were invited to take part in our 2019 Nativity Festival.



The Church looked amazing with so many different displays of the birth of Christ. There was even one made out of Doc Marten boots!



Charities

We support the Need Project – our local Foodbank – acting as a drop off point for non-perishable foods. Gifts and donations from our Harvest Festival also go to this charity. We also choose one or two charities each year and hold events to fund raise for them, we have recently supported St John's Hospice in Moggerhanger, Shelter and Mary's Meals.

Social Outreach

In 2020 we started an initiative called Make Lunch that ran in conjunction with Transforming Lives Together. The scheme provides children who would usually have free school meals and their families with dinners at a lunch club during the school holidays. Because of Covid that was not possible so Cook In Lunch boxes were made up and distributed to these families. The boxes included recipes and ingredients for two main meals and two puddings and activities. The boxes were very well received and the cost was funded by grants and donations from local companies. We have now decided to operate independently, and it is hoped that the lunch clubs will be able to start properly in October half term.



Safeguarding

St Peter & St Pauls have very clear safeguarding policies, keeping up to date with any new guidelines which come into effect.

Our Safeguarding officer ensures that everyone is up to date with their training and is at the correct level of awareness.

The Safeguarding policy is on our website and a copy kept in Church along with the Risk Assessments

Finances

As with all churches during Covid our income was reduced but we finished in a good position thanks to the generosity of our Planned Giving subscribers and to an extremely successful Christmas present appeal.

The planned giving scheme has 45 people giving through that monthly, a further 31 giving through a monthly stewardship standing order and we average around 36 stewardship envelopes a month. This has helped us to always pay the parish share.

We have recently had a few regular givers move away from the parish and recognise that we do now need to run a giving drive and would hope that a new incumbent would push this forward.

With the upcoming sale of St Andrews, proceeds of which will come to the parish, there will be money to be spent. The PCC members will be the trustees of this fund and we would like our new incumbent to help discern how to put it to best use.

Summary of the financial position as of 31st December 2020.

	2020	2019
Unrestricted Funds	£50,221	£46,502
Restricted Funds	£109,901	£113,202

Expenses of Office

Expenses are paid at the end of each month after an invoice is submitted to the Treasurer with accompanying receipts/paperwork.

Salaried Staff

There are two salaried staff currently, the Parish Administrator and the Director of Music. The Parish Administrator works in the office at the Vicarage and is working some extra hours during the vacancy.

Mission Action Plan

Our Mission Action Plan is up to date and due for review in early 2022. It can be viewed [here](#).

Parish – Deanery – Diocese



The Parish of Flitwick

Flitwick (pronounced “Flit’ick”) is a small town in Central Bedfordshire situated halfway between Luton and Bedford and is five miles from Junction 12 of the M1 motorway. It shares many services with the neighbouring town of Ampthill to the north. Other villages nearby include Maulden, Greenfield, Steppingley, Westoning and Millbrook. We are also situated six miles from Woburn with its Abbey and Safari Park very accessible. St. Peter & St. Paul, the main parish church, is in the South-West of the town. The Church owns St. Andrew’s Church Hall, which is no longer fit to be used and is in the process of being sold with planning permission for housing.

The Deanery of Ampthill and Shefford

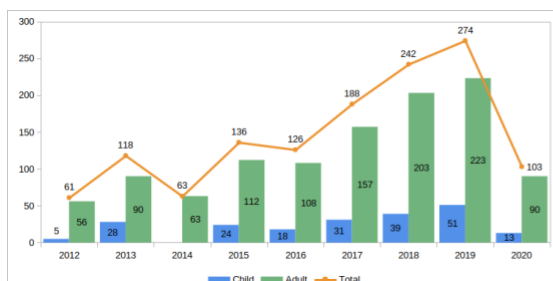
The Deanery of Ampthill and Shefford is one of six within the Archdeaconry of Bedford and comprises over thirty parishes located between Woburn Sands in the West and Shefford in the East.

The Diocese of St. Albans

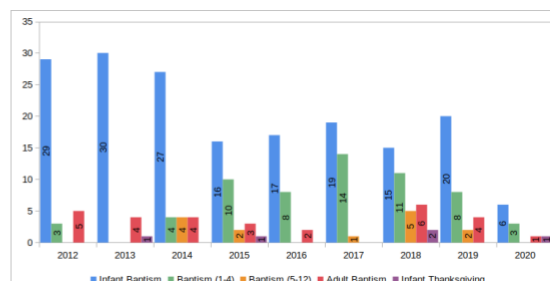
The Diocese of St. Albans comprises the counties of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, the Borough of Luton and part of the London Borough of Barnet. Within the three Archdeaconries of Bedford, Hertford and St. Albans, there are 20 deaneries, more than 400 churches and more than 330 parishes, of which about a third are rural. There are about a dozen urban priority area parishes, mainly in Luton, Bedford and Watford. The population of the diocese is 1.8 million and the parish electoral roll totals approximately 50,000. There are 332 clergy in the diocese and more than 300 lay readers.

Diocese of St Albans Mission Statistics

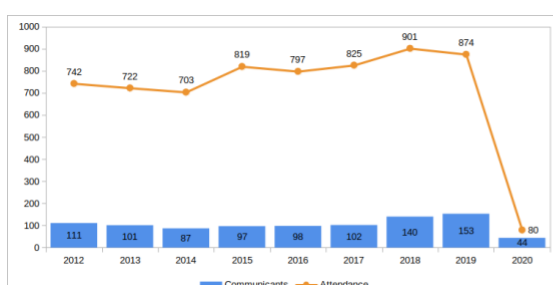
Average Weekly Attendance



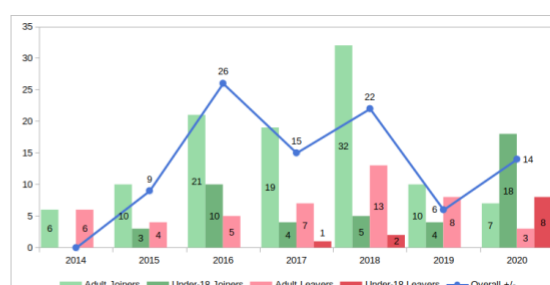
Baptisms & Thanksgivings



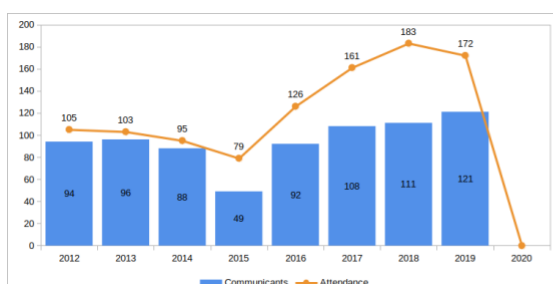
Christmas Services



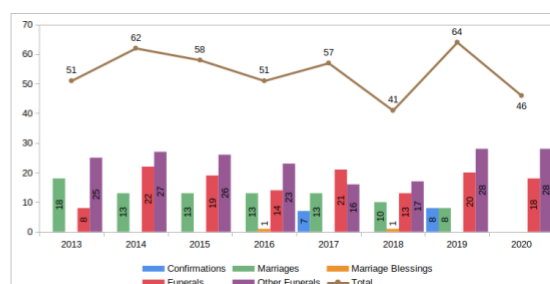
Joiners & Leavers



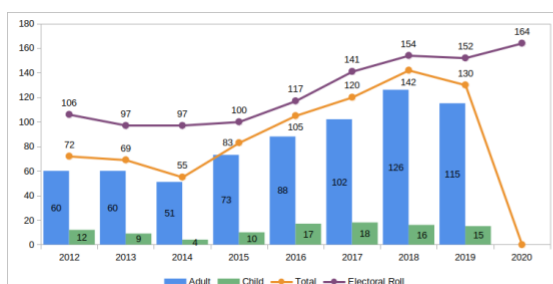
Easter Services



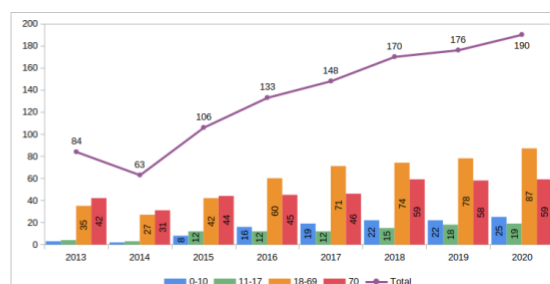
Life Events



Usual Sunday Attendance



Worship Community by Age



Introducing Flitwick

There is history of permanent settlement on Flitwick Moor as early as 4000 BC, but the village gained importance when the Romans built a road through Flitwick linking Ermine Street with Watling Street (now the A5). Flitwick is mentioned in the Domesday Book as a “Hamlet on the River Flitt”. In 1150 AD, the parish church of St. Peter & St. Paul, together with Flitwick Mill, were gifted to Dunstable Priory by the Lord of Flitwick. The Priory held the church until the dissolution of the monasteries.

Population

The population of Flitwick has grown over the last twenty years to around 13,570. Several large new estates have been built with more planned in the future. Most houses are owner occupied, some are privately rented and there is a small amount of social housing. There are also three residential homes for the elderly.

Today

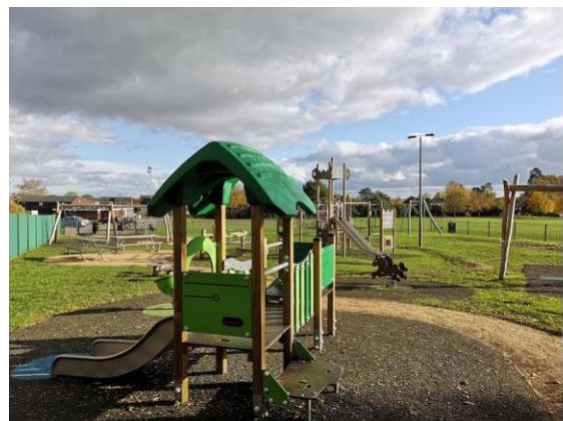
Flitwick is seen as a commuter town and is split in two by the Bedford to Brighton mainline railway that runs through the centre. Many people commute by train into Bedford, St. Albans or London (St. Pancras). Trains to London run every fifteen minutes with a journey time of 45 minutes. Flitwick also has easy access to junction 12 of the M1 making it easy to commute by car, and many people work in Milton Keynes, which is 18 miles to the west. However, there are numerous places of work both in Flitwick and the surrounding towns and villages. In the spring of 2014 Woburn Forest Centre Parks opened which is situated to the northwest of the town

on the road to Millbrook; this has provided numerous jobs to the people of Flitwick and the surrounding areas.



The Skate Park

An annual skate board competition is held at the skate park which is situated in Millennium Park. Within the park there is also a basketball court and a play park for the younger children. The youth hub is close by and the village hall (which is used by many different groups) and its car park are used each week for the visiting market. The Church uses the village hall for its Christmas Bazaars and Craft fairs and it be also hired for private occasions.



Young People

Flitwick hosts many organisations including very well attended Scouts, Guides, Boys Brigade and Sea Cadets.

Central Bedfordshire operates a three tier education system and as such Flitwick has three community lower schools and one middle school with a Upper School on the Flitwick Ampthill border and another in nearby Harlington.



The Church has good relations with the lower and middle schools and members of the Church visit some of the schools for Open the Book assemblies. The children are encouraged to attend Church activities such as Messy Church through assemblies and notice distribution Sports Clubs.

There is a very popular Football club located near the Upper school catering for boys, girls, seniors and ladies teams; it has a club house which can be hired for private functions. There is a well-established Cricket Club situated between Westoning and Flitwick which also runs junior teams as well as men's and ladies' teams. It also has a club house that can be hired for private functions.

Community

Flitwick caters for all ages of the population, 4YP are commissioned by the Council to deliver services for young people in the town centred around The Hub in Coniston Road, 4YP offer a range of services including detached youth work out in the community, mentoring, fundraising, holiday provision and projects. The Hub is well equipped with all you expect in a youth club.

Flitwick hosts The Royal British Legion, WI, Rotary Club, gardeners association and many more clubs suited for assorted age groups.

Retail

Flitwick has a medium sized Tesco classed as a superstore which includes a separate pharmacy and petrol station. There is also a small Co-op and a couple of independent grocery stores. There is a Barclays bank, a few estate agents and hairdresser and barbers. There are a number of restaurants, four pubs and a social members club which was once the Conservative club.

There also is a doctor's surgery and health centre, a library, post office and vets.

There are numerous nurseries and pre-school groups situated around the town offering daily and weekly care of under 5yr olds.



Leisure Centre

The Leisure Centre was opened in 2016 replacing the original building on an adjacent site.

Facilities include

- eight-lane 25m swimming pool
- a 120-station health and fitness gym
- a court-sports hall with four courts for activities such as badminton, martial arts, trampolining, table tennis and gymnastics
- two squash courts
- a climbing wall
- three studios offering a range of classes

The centre is great for families and features a toddler splash pool, a separate learner pool with a variable height floor suitable both adults and children to use, swimming lessons, a crèche and a cafe for light refreshments.



Carnival



Scarecrow Competition



Town Council

Flitwick has a Town Council that owns and operates from The Rufus Centre, which is situated on the outskirts of the town. As well as housing the Town Council offices and other businesses, the centre is a conference and special events venue and has been used as the covid vaccination centre during the pandemic.

The Town Council organise various events during the year with a very well attended carnival in June, a Classic car show in August, a best garden competition and in 2021 a Scarecrow competition. Food festivals and family fun days have also been introduced.

The councils redevelopment plans for the town centre although delayed are hoped to come into fruition soon, these will include extra retail and a bus terminus at the much used railway station.

Manor Park



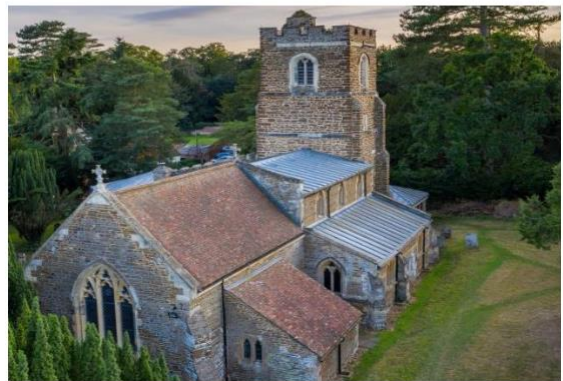
Manor Park was originally part of the Flitwick Manor Estate and was purchased by the Town Council to preserve it for the community.

It is full of history. In 1632 Edward Blofield purchased the Manor of Flitwick from the Crown and rebuilt the Manor House, now known as Flitwick Manor, which is a hotel. It was in the early 19th century that it came into the hands of John Thomas Brooks who landscaped the grounds around the house, planted trees, introduced deer, and incorporated the surrounding farmland into his vision. The well-maintained gardens with arboretum and deer park, surrounded by woodland and parkland, were widely praised in his time.

Sadly, the estate was neglected after John Brooks died in 1858 and a lot of land was sold for housing. But the heart of estate, the glorious Flitwick Manor Park remained for all to enjoy. It is Grade II listed in the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens.

Many of the original features of the park have been reinstated by the Town Council and the Flit Valley Walk volunteers. The Flit Valley Walk takes you through Manor Park.

The Sweet Chestnut Avenue, created by John Brooks in 1831, and Flit Water, created by Henry Dell in the mid-18th century, have already been restored. Take a walk through the woodland and spot the different carved animals hidden along the way. The magnificent jumping fox sculpture can be spotted from quite a distance.



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