



PARISH PROFILE

St John the Baptist

CROWTHORNE PARISH CHURCH

Date: 14 January 2006

Version: Final(2)

CROWTHORNE PARISH CHURCH

Waterloo Road, Crowthorne Berkshire RG45 7NT

Tel: 01344 761521

Email: stjohncrowthorne@btconnect.com Web: www.crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk

DIOCESE OF OXFORD

Having enjoyed the ministry of one priest for a great many years, St John's Church now looks forward to appointing a new priest who can help them discover and take forward God's mission in Crowthorne. Although there has been a long period of stable ministry – and this is reflected in the profile – the church recognises that there must now be change and development so that the church can meet the challenges of the 21st century and build upon the foundations of the past. In particular the church is looking for someone who will help them engage with some of the changes that have taken place in the church in recent years. For instance, the church wants to develop its priorities for mission and evangelism, and to explore new ways of worshipping. What is needed most is a spiritual leader who will love and care for the church and help the church fulfil its vocation and potential.

St John's is set in the heart of the community. There is a strong and committed congregation and able lay leadership. In the Reading Episcopal area, and as part of the Oxford diocesan vision and strategy, we are always looking to appoint priests who have a heart for mission, a desire to serve, and a vision for shared and collaborative ministry. Building on the good work of the past, this post presents a wonderful opportunity for an experienced priest to lead and pastor the church.

Bishop of Reading

The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell

THE DEANERY OF SONNING

The Deanery of Sonning comprises fourteen benefices with twenty-five worship centres. The parish churches in the towns of Wokingham and Sandhurst and in the larger villages of Crowthorne, Finchampstead, Sonning with Charvil, Twyford & Ruscombe, and Wargrave are the largest church communities having electoral rolls around or greater than 200 people. This is true also of the benefice of Arborfield & Barkham, which attracts an eclectic congregation from a wider area than its local community.

To move forward in mission, the Deanery plan recognises the need to engage with the evolving demographic and social patterns, reflecting that the nature of community has changed and is changing.

Parishes are encouraged and supported by the Diocese to work collaboratively in appropriate clusters within and across parishes, in order to be able to meet the challenge of developing fresh expressions of church. These ministry teams of lay and ordained are there to develop a “mixed economy” of ministry and mission approaches.

The Deanery will facilitate, support and develop these teams by creating opportunities for training, the sharing of good practice and the effective use of resources both stipendiary and non-stipendiary.

The Deanery will actively seek to be a catalyst for, and enabler of, the development of fresh expressions of church, based on clearly identified mission objectives, including allocating its available funds to imaginative and forward-looking pieces of work.

The Deanery will encourage and support parishes to work together to grow and equip lay Christians for leadership.

Parishes are to be encouraged and supported by the Deanery to prioritise the evangelism and nurture of children and young people, working collaboratively and creatively in effective and appropriate ways.

Area Dean

The Reverend David Hodgson

PARISH PROFILE

St John the Baptist

CROWTHORNE PARISH CHURCH

CONTENTS

1. OVERVIEW	5
1.1 VISION / MISSION	5
1.2 STRENGTHS	5
1.3 CHALLENGES	6
1.4 WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR	6
2. ACTIVITIES	7
2.1 CHURCH SERVICES	7
2.2 OTHER ACTIVITIES	8
2.3 YOUTH AND SCHOOLS	9
2.4 PARISH OFFICE	9
2.5 CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CROWTHORNE (CTC)	9
2.6 OUTREACH	9
3. PEOPLE	10
3.1 CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL	10
3.2 HONORARY CURATE AND MINISTRY TEAM	10
3.3 LAY PARTICIPATION IN WORSHIP	10
3.4 CHOIR	10
4. STEWARDSHIP	11
4.1 INTRODUCTION	11
4.2 TIME AND TALENTS	11
4.3 GIVING	11
5. FINANCE	12
5.1 INTRODUCTION	12
5.2 CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION	12
5.3 THE FUTURE	12
6. FACILITIES	13
6.1 BUILDINGS AND LAND	13
6.2 THE VICARAGE	14
6.3 CHURCH SCHOOL AND HOUSE	14
7. LOCATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS	15
7.1 GEOGRAPHY	15
7.2 TRANSPORT LINKS	15
7.3 STATISTICS	16
7.4 EDUCATION	16
7.5 HEALTHCARE	17
7.6 SHOPPING AND LEISURE	17
7.7 LOCAL ECONOMY	17
7.8 CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS	17
8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS	18
9. CONTACTS	18



PARISH PROFILE

St John the Baptist

CROWTHORNE PARISH CHURCH

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 Vision / Mission

To make our Lord Jesus Christ known and loved throughout Crowthorne, through the life of his Church

- By being a focus of worship and prayer
- By demonstrating God's love through the way we live.
- By seeking opportunities to reach out and involve people in God's purposes for the world
- By offering friendship, fellowship, prayer and support for everyone.
- By offering teaching on Christian faith and life

1.2 Strengths

St John's is built on a traditional foundation of worship and teaching. We do however recognise the need to change, to develop and, in some cases, to let go of things.

We are an active church catering to a wide range of parishioners providing a broad range of activities to the Church. Amongst our strengths are:

- The Eucharist at the centre of much of our worship
- The robed choir, large Sunday School and Sunday morning Young People's Group
- The three individual services on a Sunday, Evensong non-Eucharistic
- The annual Confirmation Services for Crowthorne children and adults
- The strong tradition of teaching, together with Emmaus and Bible study groups
- The Mother's Union and work amongst women of all ages
- The weekly Mother and Toddler service and monthly "Talkabout"
- The social events and strong parish involvement in church practical activities
- The outreach – Baptismal Support Group; Praying for Streets
- The active links with Churches Together in Crowthorne
- The regular giving to our Missionary Organisations
- The strong links with local schools



1.3 Challenges

Notwithstanding our strengths, there are areas the PCC have identified as needing more attention, and we would wish the new incumbent to help us to focus on what is essential and enable us to breath fresh life into our traditions. These areas include:

- Deepening our spirituality, the life of prayer and knowledge of the Bible.
- Experimenting with different types of worship and widen the scope of the music; e.g. Non-Eucharistic worship, services for healing, Taizé worship, Daily Offices, weekday ‘seeker’ services.
- Encouraging vocations to ordained and lay ministries in their widest sense.
- Developing our lay pastoral visiting group supporting people with short and long term needs.
- Being open to the ministry of women priests whose ministry has not yet been experienced by our church
- Leading in mission and evangelism in a church that, although quite strong numerically, has never really had a developed strategy for outreach
- Enhancing youth ministry amongst non-Church-going young people and strengthen links with uniformed organisations and other youth groups in the area.
- Enhancing outreach to the community particularly amongst the men, including through Churches Together in Crowthorne.
- Developing closer personal links with the Missionary organisations we already support.
- Developing stronger Deanery links; e.g. joint teaching and training courses and openness to sharing a youth worker.

1.4 Who We Are Looking For

St John’s is a ‘broad church’ set in the catholic tradition of the Church of England. We are looking for a priest who will value this tradition, but also work with us to give it fresh expression in a way that will be life-giving to a new generation. At the moment our worship is centred on the Eucharist. We want this to continue, but we recognise the need to try other things.

We are not looking for a priest who will do all this for us, but one who will inspire us with a vision for God’s kingdom, and work with us so that the whole church, and every member of the Christian community, can discover their part in God’s great mission of love.

We hope our new Incumbent will be

- An experienced spiritual leader, a person of prayer who, knowing their own need of God, is able to lead others to a fuller knowledge of God.
- Someone with a vision for the church in the 21st century who can think strategically, help us set priorities for the future and who can lead the church in its evangelistic mission.
- A good teacher, trainer and communicator with the ability to listen.
- An inspiring motivator, with the ability and confidence to delegate and empower others.

- Someone who can engage with the wide range of abilities and age groups in our church.
- A pastor who will care for our church and help us to care for the wider community.

All these things are important, but undoubtedly the first is the most important. We want someone who will help make God more real for us.

NB. Applicants will need advanced CRB check and hold a current driving licence.

2. ACTIVITIES

2.1 Church Services

St John's is traditional Church of England, with a broad range of churchmanship ranging from evangelical to moderately Anglo-Catholic. The main Sunday service is the Eucharist, for which vestments are worn. The Sacrament is reserved, but incense is not used. This is the important tradition that we offer to the community.

The table below lists the regular services held and their average attendances.

	Service Type	Average Attendance
Sunday		
8:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion, BCP 3 rd Sunday of the month.	35 communicants
10.00 am	Common Worship Parish Communion (crèche operates during the service). Followed by coffee. Sunday School (3–11 year olds, membership 60) Young Peoples' Group (11–18 year olds, membership 30)	120 communicants 35 10
6.30 pm	Evensong (Choral - 2 nd Sunday)	10
Weekday		
Monday and Tuesday	Sick Communion for individuals and in Nursing and Residential Homes	18 communicants
10:00 am Wednesday	Holy Communion BCP	12 communicants
10.45am	Mother and Toddler service	40 adults plus children
Additional Services		
Advent and Christmas	Christingle, Crib, Carols, Midnight Mass etc	1,500
Lent, Holy Week and Easter	Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Vigil, Good Friday, Easter etc	500
Baptisms	Average 45 per year	Varies
Confirmation	Average 20 candidates per year including some adults	200
Weddings including Wellington College	12 in the past year	Varies
Funeral Services	30 per year	Varies
Pet Service	Annual	70
Remembrance Day**	British Legion and Uniform groups	300
9.00 am	School Assemblies and occasional Services	Varies

** Past incumbent was padre to the British Legion, Crowthorne Branch.

2.2 Other Activities

The regular events are:

- The PCC meeting monthly.
There are 18 members with a secretary and the three Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and Honorary Curate ex-officio
Five members in addition to the clergy sit on Deanery Synod.
One member sits on Diocesan Synod.
- There are a number of PCC sub committees
Fabric, May Fair, Missions, Outreach, Pastoral, Social, Standing & Finance and Stewardship.
- A weekly group praying for the sick and those in need.
- An ecumenical Julian Group
- Weekly choir practice preparing music for Sunday worship
- A large Mothers' Union which meets twice monthly, holds a monthly prayer group and monthly corporate communion
- A monthly "Lunchtime Talkabout" for mothers with children of primary school age and younger (lunch and a crèche is provided).
- A weekly youth club aged 9 to 11 years old (19-25 members)
- Periodic Bible Study Groups, Emmaus and other courses.
- Baptism visitors and Befrienders groups
- Sunday School Nativity Play
- Fund raising and social activities including the May and Christmas Fairs, breakfasts, harvest suppers, barn dances, patronal festival barbecue and others.
- Fair Trade; both using and selling fair trade goods.
- Flower arrangers with a biennial flower festival as part of the Crowthorne Carnival
- Publicity; Weekly Sunday News Sheet, Monthly St John's News, a "welcome" white board in the foyer and articles placed in the Crowthorne Eye Magazine (5,800 distribution)
- Weekly Churchyard maintenance

In addition, there are groups who meet on an infrequent basis, but rota individuals to provide a vital service to the life of the church. These groups cover areas such as church cleaning and annual spring-cleaning and hedge cutting.

2.3 Youth and Schools

Regular contact with our schools is very important to the work done within St. John's with families and young people. We anticipate that the new incumbent would continue to develop these links. The Incumbent has and is expected to continue taking regular school assemblies at Broadmoor and Oaklands Schools with weekly assemblies at Crowthorne C of E School. R.E lessons have been given at Edgbarrow Secondary School in year 8. Also, the new incumbent would be a Foundation Governor of Crowthorne C of E School, which enables links to be forged within the school.

Links have also been made when children from the schools have visited the Church for Carol and Christingle services and similar events. The schools have also contributed to the biennial Flower Festival. These contacts, and those made through Baptisms and Mother and Toddler services have been a major factor in the large numbers attending Sunday School, preparing for Confirmation and attending the Youth Club. The Sunday Youth Group has also developed from these foundations.

2.4 Parish Office

At present the church office is open on Wednesdays from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm and is staffed by volunteers. Information is available in the office concerning all individuals, groups, rotas and activities, as well as a complete breakdown of all documentation filed throughout the church. The main role for the office is to ensure that any enquiries, queries or requests are directed to the person or persons responsible. Duties include keeping the diary up to date, filing, collating service sheets as required, etc. Facilities include a telephone / answer machine with remote access, a computer with broadband internet access, email account and copying facilities. There is also a small lending library.

2.5 Churches Together in Crowthorne (CTC)

The CTC includes Crowthorne's Roman Catholic, Baptist and Methodist Churches. The group also includes the Anglican churches of St Sebastian's Church in Wokingham Without and St James' Parish Church Finchampstead. The clergy of all these churches meet regularly as a Fraternal. Historically, St John's has a good working relationship with the CTC, however recently the loss of the joint monthly journal has made communication more difficult. There is a need to improve our role within CTC to extend the participation in its joint events.

There are annual Lent Study Groups with an Agape meal in Holy Week and Joint services on each Sunday evening in Lent. Joint services are held for Christian Aid week and at Easter and carols are sung outside Somerfield Supermarket one Saturday just before Christmas. Each week there are two CTC coffee mornings. St Patrick's Day is marked each year by a St Patrick's "market", this raises funds for Corrymeela.

2.6 Outreach

Praying for Streets is a scheme whereby each week we deliver leaflets in one or more streets. The leaflet says that we shall be praying for the people in that particular street on the coming Sunday and inviting people to send in requests for prayer or special thanksgiving. We are now into the third round of deliveries with a slightly modified leaflet. The number of people responding has not been large, but those who have responded have been really appreciative.

3. PEOPLE

3.1 Church Electoral Roll

The electoral roll currently stands at 282. Of those, 120 live within the Parish of St John's, 130 in Wokingham Without and 32 outside the Crowthorne area.

There is also a Family Roll containing the names of all the people involved within the Church, but not necessarily on the Electoral Roll.

3.2 Honorary Curate and Ministry Team

St John's has an Honorary Curate, the Reverend Canon Trevor Walt who is Head of Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care for the West London Mental Health NHS Trust, based at Broadmoor Hospital in Crowthorne, and responsible for chaplaincy provision at other West London sites. He also chairs the Oxford Diocesan Team for the Ministry of Deliverance from Evil. He conducts baptisms, weddings and funerals in the parish, but is seldom free to take part in Sunday or weekday services.

The current ministry team consists of three Licensed Lay Minister (Readers), one man (with Permission to Officiate) and two women (with full Bishop's Licence). They have met regularly with the incumbent for prayer, study and to discuss church matters.

3.3 Lay Participation in Worship

The ministries of lay people at services consist of an organist and choir director, sacristans, servers, sidesmen, lesson readers, intercessors and licensed Eucharistic assistants. Groups such as prayer meetings, Bible study and other courses are lead by lay people.

3.4 Choir

The choir is a robed choir with 20+ members: an even spread of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses and about 10 juniors. It is affiliated to the RSCM and all members work within that scheme to attain their ribbons. There are two Senior Bishop's Choristers. Music covers a wide range of styles; suitable for all services including at least one anthem which is sung during the Eucharist service at 10.00 a.m.

Junior choristers attend Sunday school in term time, leaving the service at the readings and returning for the Thanksgiving Prayer. Choral Evensong is sung once a month. The choir also sing at weddings.

We are seeking a new Choir Director/Organist after the untimely death of our previous leader. Currently, we have an organist from the congregation.

4. STEWARDSHIP

4.1 Introduction

Stewardship is a key part of the life in St John's. The management of Time, Talents and Money is a cornerstone of our desire to involve the widest participation in all activities within the church. There have been several Stewardship Campaigns in the past, encouraging the congregation to get more involved in all aspects of church life both spiritual and material.

4.2 Time and Talents

St John's has created a register of church members' Talents. This list has recently been put to good use. The Parish saved in excess of £25,000 during the refurbishment of the office, hall, storage and toilet facilities by doing much of the DIY and obtaining special deals from local tradesmen.

The Fabric committee also take advantage of the available skills within the church when ever feasible.

4.3 Giving

The Christian Stewardship list currently shows 146 financial pledges, split between monthly standing orders, regular giving envelopes and individual 'one-off' giving envelopes.

At the last analysis the average monthly shows: -

Money Given per Month £	% of Regular Givers.
0 -20	44.7
21 – 40	31.3
41 – 60	13.3
61 – 80	7.3
81 – 100	1.4
100+	2.0

The Stewardship Secretary and Treasurer ensure that the majority of donations are Gift Aided, thereby generating the maximum possible Inland Revenue Charity Repayment Claims.

Currently, the total income from giving together with Inland Revenue refunds represents around 70% of the income amounting to circa £70,000.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Introduction

Over the years, St John's has been running a deficit budget. During the past 5 years this shortfall has averaged £2,000 and was as high as £6,128 in 2001. Two years ago, a concerted effort has been made to profile expenditure and to forecast future pressures. By careful management and control, together with various sub-committee budgets, we now have much greater clarity.

5.2 Current Financial Position

St John's income is just over £100,000, excluding notional income from investments relating to the Crowthorne Parish Trust. The Crowthorne Parish Trust was set up to manage the funds generated by the sale of church property in the past.

The current budget has been constructed to operate at 'breakeven', which is being achieved by ensuring that 'unexpected' or 'unscheduled' payments are offset by appropriate 'savings' and 'economies', where feasible. The PCC reimburses the incumbent and church members for all budgeted and reasonable expenditure on parish related activities and travel.

At the end of 2004, the Balance Sheet reported a balance of £181k of which £143k is restricted (£141k Crowthorne Parish Trust and £2K various), £20k in designated funds and the remaining £17k as general funds.

The Parish Share this year is £66,246 which was an increase of 1.5% over 2004. We have been advised that the 2006 Parish Share will increase to £69,558 an increase of 5%.

The PCC has managed to maintain its policy of making missionary donations based on 12.5% of unrestricted giving receipts each year which amounted to £10,000 in 2004.

Two major contributors to the financial health of the Church are the May and Christmas Fairs. This year we hope to raise £12,000, which is £3,000 higher than any previous year. The past 5 year average has been £8,000.

5.3 The Future

The PCC is faced with two major expenditures in the next few years: -

1. Major refurbishment or replacement of the Church organ.
2. Major work on the Church roof and Church structure.

The expenditure necessary is expected to be in the region of £200k.

An investigation into the precise needs for the pipe organ is being undertaken to ensure the best value for money, longevity and sustainability.

The current thinking for the roof and structural repairs is that we split the costs over a few years. Sources of funds are being sought together with possible sponsorship from the local community.

The Standing and Finance Committee together with the Stewardship Committee are starting to discuss these funding requirements in more detail.

6. FACILITIES

6.1 Buildings and Land

The church of St John the Baptist is situated in the heart of the parish close the High Street shopping area. The church building will comfortably accommodate a congregation of 250 people. A maximum total capacity of 375 people has been recorded for some popular services using an overflow into the hall.

There is a pipe organ, which is a two-manual, made by Henry Speechly & Sons. It was installed in 1882 at the cost of £295 and has been regularly up-dated and re-built. The last major repair some 15 years ago cost £16,000. Further work is now due costing even more!

The site was given as a free gift by Mrs Gibson of Sandhurst Lodge and Mr A.W.Blomfield was appointed as the Architect. The foundation Stone was laid on 27 September 1872 and only 8 months later there was a great gathering for the Consecration of the new Church by the Bishop of Oxford, Dr J Mackarness, on 5 May 1873.

The church was built only as far as the Chancel until further funds could be raised. This was done with enthusiasm and the Chancel, the Lady Chapel, Organ Chamber and Vicar's Vestry were all completed in 1889. The lovely Victorian East Window was put in place in 1894 - the original Chancel Screen was added in 1899 and the Choir Vestry was built on nine years later in 1908. Outside the Church, the Lych Gate was added in 1913 and was later converted into a War Memorial to the men of Crowthorne who lost their lives in the 1914 -18 War; it is there the we hold the annual Remembrance Day service. The Churchyard Cross was erected in 1914.

The West End of the Church was altered in 1968 and the Hall extension added. During the early 1980's the Chancel was re-ordered into its present shape and an extension added to the Hall. Because of its age and the need to bring this up to new government regulations, the design and use of the whole Hall has been re-developed to accommodate a Parish Office with full office facilities, a Crèche, seven store cupboards, refurbished kitchen and toilets, a new disabled toilet and improved central heating and new carpeting.

St John's churchyard is the only graveyard in current use in Crowthorne. The graveyard is now only available for the interment of ashes or burial in existing graves, where possible.

Easthampstead cemetery and crematorium is nearby, at which our clergy officiate, when necessary

6.2 The Vicarage

1The Vicarage, 56 Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, RG45 6NY is a very spacious 4 bedroom detached family home with a large garden set back from the road. Mature trees and bushes around the garden protect it from neighbouring properties and give it a secluded atmosphere. The house is located a few minutes' walk from the church and village centre and under a mile to the railway station.

The house was built in about 1976. It is of brick construction, double glazed and the interior is in good decorative order.

Ground floor rooms include a substantial living room with open fire place and access to the garden; a large dining room; a fitted kitchen; a utility room with door to the outside; a cloak / washroom with adjoining lavatory; and an under-stairs cupboard. There is a spacious study/office fitted with a desk, cupboards and shelving, accessible independently from the rest of the house, if required.

Upstairs the four bedrooms range in size from 10'x10' to 16'x13' and all have fitted wardrobes. The first floor also offers a family bathroom, further shower room with W.C. and a landing airing cupboard plus linen store. The roof space is partially boarded.

The central heating is powered by gas and there is an alarm system connected to an alarm receiving centre. Broadband Internet access can be made available in the vicarage.

Externally, the drive, which is predominantly hedged, comprises a garage, carport and drive parking for several cars. Side gate access is available to the large, mature rear garden, bordered by a variety of trees. There are two paved areas and also a garden shed.

6.3 Church School and House

The PCC are trustees of the Crowthorne Church of England Primary School, Dukes Ride. It is anticipated that the new incumbent would become a Foundation Governor and take an active part in the life of the school.

Adjacent to the school is a house and associated land, which is administered, on behalf of the church, by Bracknell Forest Borough Council LEA.

7. LOCATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

7.1 Geography

Crowthorne is located in the Royal County of Berkshire close to the Hampshire and Surrey Borders. The village of Crowthorne is split between the Unitary Authorities of Bracknell Forest Borough and Wokingham District. The boundary of the parish runs parallel with Dukes Ride and just behind the Vicarage. 'South' of Duke Ride is the Parish of Crowthorne which falls under Bracknell Forest; the 'north' of Crowthorne lies in the Parish of Wokingham Without under Wokingham District. However, many people from the village outside the church parish boundary attend St John's because they identify it as their Parish church.

The parish is in Sonning Deanery in the Archdeaconry of Berkshire and in the See of Reading which is in the Diocese of Oxford.

The centre of Crowthorne High Street is currently being redeveloped with a central square and new library facilities. There is a recreation ground with adjacent hall and a Parish Hall in Heath Hill Road.

Crowthorne grew up in the second half of the 19th century when the establishment of Wellington College and Broadmoor Hospital attracted people to the area for work. In 1967,

the Transport Research Laboratory was established in the north of the village. In the last 60 years Crowthorne has grown enormously as a result of its proximity to London and to Heathrow Airport. Many new housing estates have been built and Crowthorne has become a desirable place to live. Crowthorne, like most of the SE, is in the middle of major expansion.

7.2 Transport links

Trains from Crowthorne station run a regular, direct route to Reading, Guildford and Gatwick Airport, with connections to London and the rest of the country.

Nearby Wokingham, Bracknell and Martins Heron stations are on the main line into London Waterloo.

There is easy access to both the M3 and the M4.

There are limited local bus services to neighbouring towns and to London.

Heathrow and Gatwick airports can be reached 'within an hour' by car or public transport.

7.3 Statistics

Information from the web sites of Bracknell Forest Borough and Wokingham District Council show that the population of the village of Crowthorne is approximately 15,000 and the average age of the population is 39 years, with 95% of the population being Caucasian.

72% declared themselves as Christian. The majority of the population aged 16 –74 years are in paid employment with less than 2% unemployed. The rest of the population is either retired (12%) or students (5%). The majority of the population live in owner occupied homes. Crowthorne village scores below the national average for crime statistics.

The population of the ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Baptist is approximately 7,000, the rest of the village is in the ecclesiastical Parish of St Sebastian's, Wokingham Without.

The village of Crowthorne covers an area of 4 square miles; a high proportion of which is rural.

7.4 Education

Crowthorne is well served by schools:

- Crowthorne Church of England Primary School with 193 pupils is situated in Dukes Ride. The school is voluntary controlled and has an above average educational standard compared with other primary schools in Bracknell Forest and in the country as a whole.
- Broadmoor Primary School and Nursery with 197 pupils from 3-11 years, the school has an above average educational standard compared with other primary schools in the country.
- Edgbarrow School, a secondary school which has recently been designated as a Business and Enterprise College. It is regularly oversubscribed.
- Wellington College, a renowned public school, which has a chapel with two chaplains, who have actively participated in the life at St John's during the interregnum.
- There are other schools in the area; Oaklands Infants, Oaklands Junior, Hatch Ride Primary, St Sebastian's Church of England Primary, which is attached to the neighbouring parish, plus various private primary and infant schools including, Our Lady's Roman Catholic Primary, Eagle House Preparatory and The Nest Nursery.
- Ranelagh, a Church of England Voluntary Aided Comprehensive School, in Bracknell and jointly serves the deaneries of Bracknell and Sonning. It has an above average educational standard as published in the Government league tables.

Colleges of Further Education are located in neighbouring towns. These include Farnborough College of Technology, Farnborough 6th Form College, Bracknell and Wokingham College, Reading College of Art and Design and Reading College of Technology.

There are a number of universities within commuting distance from Crowthorne. These include the University of Reading, University of Surrey in Guildford, Oxford University, Oxford Brookes University, Thames Valley University in Slough, as well as the London Universities.

7.5 Healthcare

Crowthorne has a two group medical practices comprising doctors, nurses and other health care professionals. There are private dental practices in Crowthorne with some taking National Health patients. The village has a selection of nursing and rest homes accommodating both elderly and psychiatric residents as well as sheltered accommodation and small care homes for people with learning disabilities. Also, a day centre is available.

The main general Hospital is Frimley Park (approximately 6 miles away). It is a 3 star hospital and has a Charter Mark. It was one of the 40 top hospitals in 2002 CHKS Awards. The other hospitals in the area are the Royal Berkshire in Reading, Wexham Park in Slough and Heatherwood in Ascot. Heatherwood has a minor injuries Accident and Emergency department. Broadmoor Hospital, part of West London Mental Health NHS Trust, is in the parish and Ravenswood, a Jewish foundation providing a community for people with learning difficulties, is located in Wokingham Without.

7.6 Shopping and Leisure

There are two shopping areas in Crowthorne, one on the High Street and one on Dukes Ride adjacent to the station. There are also some neighbourhood shops. There are several supermarkets in the village including a Somerfield. Safeway, Sainsbury's and Tesco are all within easy reach and there is a large Marks and Spencer at the Meadows in Camberley. There is a good selection of local shops, two Post Offices, Lloyds TSB, Barclays and HSBC banks.

There is a weekly market on Friday on the car park adjacent to the Morgan Recreation Ground. Edgbarrow School and Wellington College have leisure centres catering for a wide range of activities. There is also a recreation ground owned by Crowthorne Parish Council.

Within the village there are a selection of pubs, restaurants and take-aways.

7.7 Local Economy

Primary employers in the area include Heathrow Airport, the TRL, telecommunications and information technology sectors, Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Wokingham District Council and Broadmoor Hospital. A number of multinational companies have headquarters or offices within a 20-mile radius of Crowthorne. These include Nokia in Camberley, Panasonic in Bracknell and Oracle and Microsoft in Reading. Bracknell and Reading are in the "Silicon Valley" of the UK.

7.8 Clubs and Organisations

Crowthorne and neighbouring towns and villages have a variety of clubs and organisations catering for all ages. These include uniformed youth organisations, sports clubs, musical and dramatic societies, a British Legion and residents associations.

8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Letter from St John's Youth Group (*next page*)
St John's Annual Report 2004 -2005
St John's Financial Report ending 31st December 2004

9. CONTACTS

Bishop of Reading:

The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell BA
Bishop's House
Tidmarsh Lane
Tidmarsh, Reading
RG8 8HA

Telephone: 0118 984 1216
Email: bishopreading@oxford.anglican.org

Church Wardens:

Please do not hesitate to contact us on any issues of detail, if required

N.B. We are not on the Appointment Panel.

STEPHEN POPE

51 Napier Road
Crowthorne
Berkshire
RG45 7EJ

Telephone: 01344 778843 *evenings and weekends*
Mobile Phone: 07764 205525
E-mail: stephen.pope@pageone.co.uk

BOB WADE

St .John's Lodge
Church Street
Crowthorne
RG45 7PD

Telephone: 01344 772575
Mobile Phone: 07799 622400
E-mail: bobrh Wade@aol.com

Letter from St John's Youth Group

To all prospective candidates for the position of Vicar at St John's Church, Crowthorne

As the youth group of St John's Church, we are looking for a vicar who:

- can combine experience with a genuine youthfulness
- is friendly, approachable and interested in the views and issues of young people
- would be prepared to introduce and encourage different forms of worship including modern music (e.g. electric guitars, keyboards, drums) and more contemporary hymns
- would be willing to consider greater involvement from the congregation during the Sunday service
- can lead, inspire and motivate us, particularly in our quest to make sense of and respond to world issues such as terrorism, natural disasters and poverty
- can help us forge peaceful links with other faiths, such as the Muslim community
- can help us to take our church out to the community and encourage more young people to join us
- will encourage us to raise more money for charity
- will promote the use of the church for non-religious events such as schools/arts festivals which would open the doors to those who do not attend church
- will help us to make the church a more welcoming place to visit

