



The Dasset Magna Group of Parishes

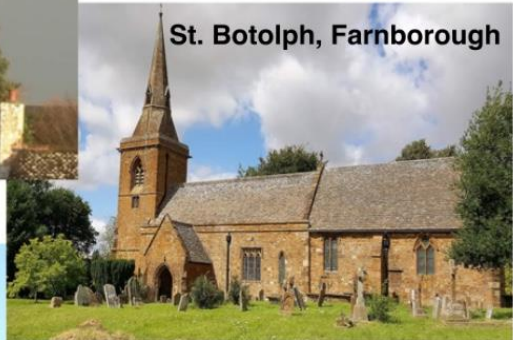
PARISH PROFILE



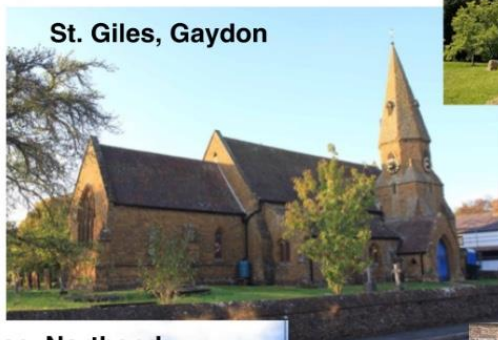
All Saints, Burton Dassett



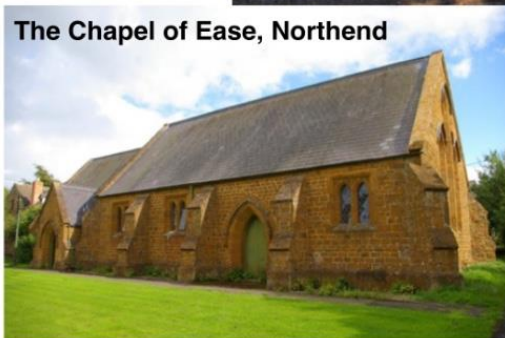
St. Peter & St. Clare,
Fenny Compton



St. Botolph, Farnborough



St. Giles, Gaydon



The Chapel of Ease, Northend



Group Parish Walk
between the churches

The parishes of Avon Dasset with Fenny Compton, Burton Dasset, Farnborough and Gaydon with Chadshunt.



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The Dasset Magna Prayer:

Come Holy Spirit
Fill the hearts of your faithful people
Kindle in us the fire of your love
Strengthen your church here in Dasset Magna
Increase our numbers, deepen our faith
Pour out your love, through us, on our communities
We ask this in Jesus' name.

2. FOSSE DEANERY:

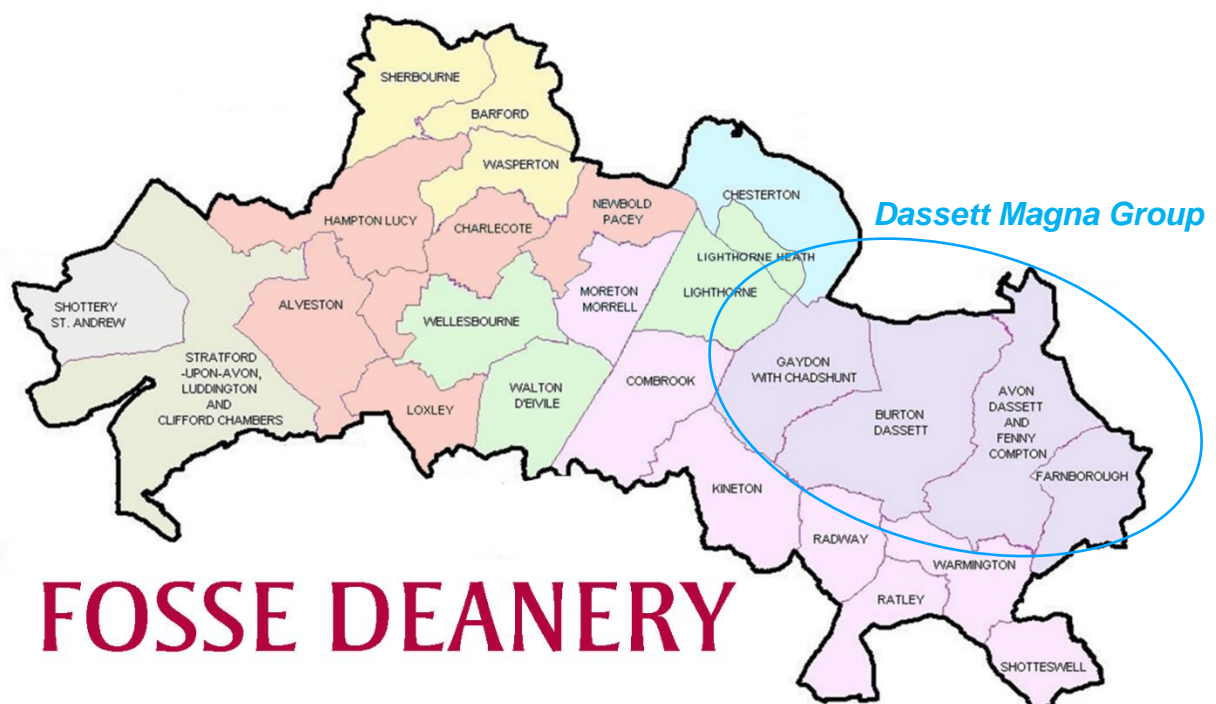
Patrick Taylor, our Area Dean, writes:

Fosse Deanery comprises the large town and suburban parishes in and around Stratford, a large village (Wellesbourne), and lots of smaller rural parishes. The deanery currently has provision for 8.5 stipendiary clergy posts, several self-supporting and retired clergy and 5 curates serving the 8 benefices with their 25 parishes. The Dasset Magna Group of Parishes sits to the east of the rural part of the deanery.

Mindful of both the many challenges and opportunities facing churches and benefices in this area, the Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) has been developing our 'Deanery Plan'. A key aspect of this is providing support for children and families ministry. It has also given us the opportunity to reflect on current configurations and whether or not they are the most appropriate for the missional opportunities of the future.

There is a genuine depth of friendship among the clergy and a number of the clergy meet for a monthly prayer breakfast. We support one another through Chapter meetings over a shared lunch, co-operation and generosity in sharing resources and trying new ways of doing things as we re-imagine rural and town ministry for today.

The Rev'd Patrick Taylor



3. INTRODUCTION

There are four parishes and 7 church buildings within the Dasset Magna group of parishes. The Diocese agreed that an advertisement for a part-time (0.5) member of clergy could be placed. Combined parish giving currently amounts to around £34,000 p.a, which is roughly in line with the costs for a 0.5 minister.

The role of this post is to lead the churches in fulfilling the Diocesan Mission Purpose of:

- Worshipping God
- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities.

4. OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MINISTER:

We are looking for a priest who:

Will engage, motivate and inspire our worship.

Will reach out to our growing and changing community.

Will challenge and support us to be (and do) the best we can.

Will be open to all members of our communities, empathetic, sensitive.

Will balance dynamism and directness with humour and compassion.

5. OUR CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

The Dasset Magna Group is located in the South Warwickshire countryside, very close to Warwick, Leamington Spa and Stratford-upon-Avon. The group of parishes cluster round the Burton Dasset Country Park, which is a Warwickshire County Council maintained area of 100 acres of limestone hills at the very northern edge of the Cotswolds.

The villages in this group are beautiful and have good transport links for Birmingham and London (M40), making this a property hot-spot. Nearby Jaguar Land-Rover and Aston Martin works mean that alongside traditional farming (arable in the Avon Valley, sheep on the Cotswold edge) high-tech and computer-based workers abound. They are eager to support their local communities at weekends, using the

Parish Profile for the Dasset Magna Group.

local hills for recreation.

We are also home to DM Kineton, the largest munitions depot in Europe. This is a community where military personnel regularly come and go. Recently, large modern building projects for cheaper and affordable homes in Temple Herdewyke and Fenny Compton mean that the demography is more even than it was. Both schools are growing, the villages are changing and the older-fashioned village generations are less able to cater to their growing needs in faith. Now is the time for a new beginning.



Burton Dasset Country Park



New development at Compton Locks

6. OUR CHURCHES AND PARISHES:

The group, which was formed in April 2007, consists of:

Avon Dasset with Fenny Compton



Fenny Compton is a vibrant village of around 850 people, on the borders of which a new development of 100 houses will add 200 – 300 to the population. The community is a cross section of society with a balanced age profile. The Dasset Village Primary School, which serves all the villages in the group, is sited

here, in addition to the Abacus Day Nursery. There is a very active scout group in the village, which also draws from all the villages and meets here. The village also

Parish Profile for the Dasset Magna Group.

has a surgery, a Co-op, two pubs, a part-time Post Office, a famous village hall, bowls club, sports field and children's play area. There are also some small industrial



operations, farms and a substantial marina on the Oxford Canal.

The neighbouring village of Avon Dasset has 220 residents. Its amenities include a community owned pub, part-time Post Office, a Reading Room and a children's play area.

The redundant church of St John the Baptist has been in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust since 1984 and the Roman Catholic church is now closed. The community holds an annual village country fair and annual downhill go-kart race, donating the proceeds to local good causes.



St. Peter and St. Clare

The church is situated in Church Street, and its earliest parts date to 1320. It is always open during daylight hours for prayer and reflection. There has recently been an increase in the numbers joining us for worship, while not large it is more than commensurate with the size of the community. We support a balance of service styles, to meet our differing needs. Following the closure of the Methodist Church in

Parish Profile for the Dasset Magna Group.

the village, we have continued our close relationship with their members, and they join us once a month with a Methodist preacher. We are a friendly congregation and seek to welcome new faces.

Farnborough

Farnborough is the smallest of the individual parishes within the group, with a population of approximately 300. As well as the church and Farnborough Hall - a National Trust property - Farnborough has a village hall, a pub and a garden centre with a nursery. While few in Farnborough attend church, there remains great support from the wider community for its maintenance and upkeep. From April to October a dynamic committee run afternoon Teas within the village hall for National Trust visitors and local walkers, which raises approximately £6,000 per annum for the church.



St Botolph's

The church is dedicated to St Botolph, its origins being in the 13th century. Most of the original architecture has been altered through the centuries, particularly during the 19th when the wide north aisle was built and a spire added to the 14th century tower. The tower has a bell chamber with a peal of six bells, which are rung regularly. Currently there is just one service a month, a 6.00pm BCP Evensong taken by our Reader and a supporting organist. Attendance is between 7 and 12 and is occasionally boosted by group members. The Carol Service was well supported by the local community, with a congregation of 70. The new PCC is looking at expanding the use of this wonderful building and thinking of community events such as concerts, organ recitals etc. The possibility of providing a toilet facility is under review. At the moment the church is only open on Sundays.

Parish Profile for the Dasset Magna Group.

The churchyard is beautifully maintained voluntarily by members of the village community. The building is also blessed with little need for maintenance, being of a sound structure.

Burton Dasset

The Parish of Burton Dasset supports two churches and comprises Northend, Knightcote and Temple Herdewyke, together with the hamlets of Burton Dasset and Little Dasset. These sit on or below the northern edge of the Burton Dasset Hills Country Park, with a total population of



around 1,300 souls. Alongside these communities is DM Kineton, a military armaments depot. There is one school, Temple Herdewyke Primary School, which serves armed forces families as well as longer-term residents of the village of Temple Herdewyke. In Northend, the Lost Pug pub will be re-opening soon. Also, there are two village halls (Knightcote and Northend) and a community centre at Temple Herdewyke. The largest community is Northend, with around 700 inhabitants.



All Saints'

All Saints' is a large, light-filled Norman church seating approximately 300. Built in the 12th Century and known locally as the 'Cathedral in the Hills', it is a Grade 1 listed building which has recently gained both a working kitchen area and toilets courtesy of fundraising

by the Restoration Committee. It is a beautiful and tranquil place of historical and

Parish Profile for the Dasset Magna Group.

architectural interest. The tower has a bell chamber with a peal of six bells (4 newly refurbished). The church has a large open churchyard.

In order to keep All Saints' a place of beauty and in a good state of repair, the Friends of Burton Dasset hold regular fundraising activities and apply for grants from organisations such as English Heritage. During the spring and summer months events such as concerts, art displays and Bank Holiday teas have been held as part of our fundraising programme. The Quinquennial was carried out in April 2024.

The Chapel of Ease

The Chapel of Ease, built in 1853 from local stone, is in Northend next to the vicarage and adjacent to the village green. Seating about 100, it is a homely, flexible and friendly space which benefits from a modern kitchen area and access to a toilet nearby.

This chapel is a daughter church to our main church: All Saints', Burton Dasset. It does not merit a quinquennial.



Gaydon with Chadshunt

There are about 530 residents in 200 dwellings in the parish with 28 houses being in Chadshunt. Community amenities consist of a picturesque Village Hall, a thriving community shop, a service station and The Malt Shovel pub. Chadshunt village lies about a mile west of Gaydon. This community is centred on Chadshunt House. Chadshunt is managed by the Churches Conservation Trust, although Gaydon PCC remains responsible for the Churchyard



St Giles, Gaydon

A service is held weekly, combining Holy Communion with a visiting priest and various lay led options. Attendance is around 7 – 8, with some increase for major festivals. A recent meeting with Claire



Strachan, Church Buildings Development and Project Officer, has committed to work with the Diocese to use the “Struggling Churches” process to explore options; this could result in closure as the building has sections that are structurally unsound.



All Saints Chadshunt

This church, which is cared for by the owners of Chadshunt House, opens annually for a Harvest service.

7. SERVICES

Christians in small rural communities often feel called to worship locally, whatever their own denominations, churchmanship or age. We value this diversity and are pleased that it is reflected in our pattern of worship across the month, which includes modern and traditional services. Eucharists, informal Family Services, modern language Morning Prayer and traditional language Evening Prayer. Over the years, each church has tried to respond to the needs of its parish and to adjust its provision accordingly.

The coronavirus pandemic initiated Zoom church – where parishioners and anyone with an interest may join a short morning service and evening service each weekday. These are generally led by our reader, John Davis. Links to this are through the church website.

Every fifth Sunday there is a Group Eucharist, which takes place in one church from the group, by rotation. Most of our church buildings are open during daylight hours, giving our community the opportunity to drop in. Prayer corners offer visitors resources for prayer and reflection. We also share many of the regular seasonal services, including Harvest, a Midnight Eucharist at Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Ascension Day and Advent services. Music is generally provided by organists and by digital hymnals.



Parish Profile for the Dasset Magna Group.

Gaydon Voices, a choir whose members are drawn from across the Group, contribute to our worship three or four times a year. There is an annual service of remembrance for the Civil War dead at the Edge Hill memorial on MOD Kineton.

We are conscious that no-one from Temple Herdewyke, Avon Dasset or Chadshunt attend church. This has been the case for many years, even before the churches in their communities were closed. This is an area of mission that we would like to address in the future.

Although our congregations are small, the greater village communities turn to the church for festival services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance and at major times in their life such as weddings, christenings and funerals.

We are blessed with beautiful rural churches and couples often call on the services of the churches for weddings and christenings. Our Carols by Candlelight service,



held on the third Sunday in December, can welcome more than 200 souls.

Weddings: Some who are not of the parish ask us to marry them and accept the churches requirements to attend church.

Christenings: At christenings all our churches give the baptised a Christian gift (children receive a bible story book).

Local wedding at Burton Dasset



Carol singing on the Green, Northend. First Sunday in Advent.



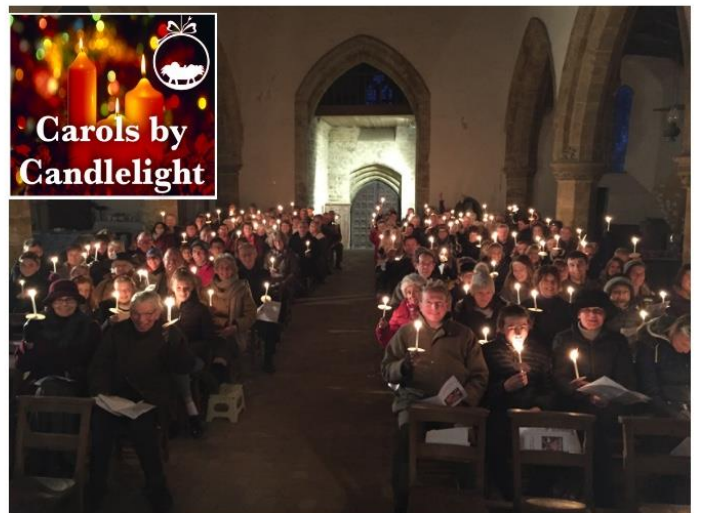
**Palm Sunday Procession
Fenny Compton**



Pet Service



Communion and BBQ in the Vicarage garden



Parish Profile for the Dasset Magna Group.

Parish	Weddings 2023	Christenings 2023	Funerals /memorial services 2023
Avon Dasset with Fenny Compton	1	1	7
Burton Dasset	2	10	3
Farnborough	2	0	3
Gaydon	1	0	1

Areas to improve: We recognise that the occasional services are an ideal time to link in with those in the communities that tend to only turn to church occasionally and in times of need. We need to explore new ways of cultivating relationships with these people.

Group activities:

In addition to worshipping together, Group members also come together for lay-led Advent and Lent groups, and socially in groups like the Gaydon Voices and our annual Parish Walk.

Individual parishes hold regular social and fundraising events such as concerts, community lunches and teas, Harvest suppers, fêtes and carol singing which are often supported by church members from all four parishes.

Festival publicity:

At key times in the year, letters, leaflets or cards are distributed to all homes in the Parishes providing information on services and activities related to the specific festival.

8. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Tots and Toddlers: St Peter and St Clare, Fenny Compton, runs a weekly Tots and Toddler Group in the Village Hall for babies and pre-school children, which is very popular with local mothers and child carers, both from the four parishes and further afield. The priest has been seen as a focus for this group in the past.

School links:



There are two primary schools situated within the Group and two nurseries.

THE DASSETT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL in Fenny Compton is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school with around 100 pupils to which the Priest-in-Charge of Avon Dasset with Fenny Compton is an ex-officio Foundation Governor. In 2017, the last SIAMS inspection found the school 'good' with some 'outstanding' features.



Assemblies: Due to the interregnum, a member of the congregation now takes weekly assemblies at The Dasset. Children come to church for key services through the year and we feel that it is important for our priest to provide regular Assemblies in school. We would like our priest to be well-known in school.



TEMPLE HERDEWYKE PRIMARY SCHOOL is a growing Community School with around 100 pupils. It is part of the Southam Academy group. At present there are no links between the church and the school.

9. COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Dasset Magna's strength is in its community and social activities. We encourage and receive wonderful participation from every community for all the services of celebration throughout the year. Our Harvest suppers celebrate our many links to the land and our Passover meal celebrates the Lord's Supper. Teams from Fenny

Parish Profile for the Dasset Magna Group.

Compton and Burton Dasset churches serve meals, soup, cakes, tea and coffee and the occasional glass of wine to everyone and anyone at many village events. Weekly teas and cakes at Farnborough Village Hall have, for many years, been the fund for Farnborough's parish share. Warm Hub, in Northend, donates to charity and Just A Bite, a monthly event in Fenny Compton, is partly fundraising but both provide fellowship and home-made food for those who are at home during the day.

There is an overwhelming core of strong community running through these villages, with those who worship at the churches very firmly established at the centre of each village. The church communities are visible in our three (soon to be four!) local pubs and five village halls. We are strong-willed and determined to put God at the centre of our villages through our work for all. Over the years there has been a vast array of church and social events within Dasset Magna. Plans are afoot this year (2024) for an old-style fete in Fenny Compton, a big-band swing night at All Saints' to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day and a black-tie event in Northend Village Hall. All of these events will be organised and staffed by members of the church communities, working alongside others who care about our parishes. They are fundraisers but also key moments in the lives of each community. We are ready to work on new ideas that might help to serve those around us in the second quarter of the 21st century.



Tea and fellowship at Burton Dasset

10. THE VICARAGE



The Vicarage is in Northend, near the centre of The Dasset Magna Group. It is a four-bedroomed family home beside the Chapel of Ease,



which looks across to the village green. There is a large garden on three sides. The property looks out over farmland to the south and west. On the ground floor the accommodation includes an entrance hall with parquet flooring, a cloakroom with toilet and basin, dining room, sitting room with a mixed fuel fire, study, kitchen and utility room. On the first floor there are four double bedrooms, a bathroom and separate toilet with hand basin. Outside there is a

single garage which houses a sit on mower for maintaining the vicarage lawns. The property has oil central heating, mains water and drainage. It also has double glazing throughout.

11. PARISH LEADERSHIP

We are blessed with an enthusiastic Reader who supports the Priest-in-Charge and by other lay people who are involved in many areas of worship, including preparing the church for services, assisting in communion, leading Family Services, reading lessons and leading intercessions. The Chaplaincy at MOD Kineton is filled by the Reader. A number of retired Clergy and Readers around the Deanery are willing to help when needed. At present Fenny Compton has two churchwardens and full PCC; Burton Dasset has one churchwarden and full PCC. There is a newly commissioned PCC in Farnborough.

12. PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Church administration is shared between the Churchwardens, members of the PCC and the Vicar. The current pattern of parish meetings preceded by a Group Wardens' meeting and, until now, 4 individual Parish APCMs.

The group uses a number of communication methods which are advertised on a poster in each church.

Parish Newsletters: Church news and service plans are circulated in each of the parish's newsletters:

- *The Compton Chronicle* which goes to the communities of Fenny Compton, Avon Dasset and Farnborough.
- *The Contact* which is delivered to the communities of Burton Dasset.
- *The Parish Magazine Village News* which goes to the communities of Gaydon.

Websites:

The Group website: www.dassetmagna.org.uk is updated when updates are available.

The Burton Dasset website: www.burtondassetchurch.uk is under re-organisation.

Facebook:

The group has its own Facebook page: Dasset Magna Parishes.



12. FINANCES

	Avon Dasset with Fenny Compton	Burton Dasset	Farnborough	Gaydon
	£	£	£	£
General Income	13405	6604	5169	2127
Planned Giving		6757*		3540
Gift Aid	2871	2467	1750	2505
Fundraising	3246	0*	1170	1325
Grants	0	300	400	600
General Expenditure	4120	5092	3408	3602
Parish Share Contribution	11872	8748	6096	7895
Unrestricted Reserves	26230	23126	13373	38676
Restricted Reserves	44537	43563	2418	10499

*All Fundraising is
restricted. £5163 net