

# Boughton Parish Church of St John the Baptist 2025



Boughton actually has two parish churches – the familiar building in Church Street, dating from perhaps as early as 1100 AD, and the ruins of the original church on Boughton Green, belonging to the Eighth Century, but abandoned in the 1670s for what had been the private family chapel of the Vaux family. They owned the village and lived at Boughton Hall, but were driven out by the government because they continued to belong to the Roman Catholic Church, and so were fined heavily each week until they could no longer maintain their estate.

In 1841 the village was now owned by the Howard-Vyse family of Stoke Poges, in Buckinghamshire. The Rector of Boughton (and also of Pitsford) was the Reverend Granville Howard-Vyse, who remained in office until 1897. In that year Richard Howard-Vyse built the school rooms on the North side of the Church to provide an education for the children of the village. They remained as the village's only school until 1932 when the County Council built a new school in Moulton Lane.

In 1874 the Rector obtained permission to extend the tiny chapel using stone brought up to the village from the ruins on Boughton Green. It is possible to see where the original building is joined by a slightly different type of stonework, in a lighter colour. What we have today is very much as it was completed in 1874, thanks to Granville's great generosity both here and in Pitsford, where he also rebuilt the parish church and provided a village school.

The parish church exists to provide for the spiritual needs of everyone who lives in the parish, as it has done for more than 1,000 years in every parish in England. All are welcome to attend all of its services, and to take a full part in its life and activities.

Currently every parish church in England is renewing its electoral roll, which is done every six years. Everyone who lives in the parish or who worships at the Church is entitled to be a member if they sign an application form stating that they have been baptised and that they consider themselves to be a member of the Church of England.

Everyone is entitled to worship at the church whether or not they are a member of the electoral roll. It is used not only on Sundays for services at 8am and 9.30am but for the baptisms, weddings and funerals of all who request these ministries. All parishioners are welcome at every service and the Rector is always available and can be contacted on [boughtonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonchurch@gmail.com)

During the past year a Facebook page has been set up with details of weekly service and as a contact point for anyone looking for more information. The parish of Boughton includes Buckton Fields and everyone there is part of the church's parish, as it has been for many centuries. We hope to have a dedicated web page in the near future. More information can be obtained from the Church of England's national directory, [A Church Near You](https://www.achurchnearyou.com)

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16441/about-us>

The Parochial Church Council meets throughout the year to support the ministry of the Rector and to support the Church's mission throughout the parish. It currently has seven members. It is funded by the giving of church members and of those attending church services. We are very grateful for grants from time to time for repairs to the church buildings by the special trust maintained by the Humfrey Charity.

Growing numbers are learning to ring the church bells, which provide a very special sound for major festivals, on Sundays and occasionally when teams come to ring a peal. Please email us if you would like know more.

We are very grateful to the parish council for its generous grant at the end of 2024 to enable us to refurbish the Church Rooms, to make them more practical for use by the church and community. We are hoping for ecclesiastical planning permission (a Faculty) to be granted in April 2025, and for the work to be completed in May 2025, after which we will be pleased to receive bookings for use of the rooms by village organisations and parishioners. There is a great need for such a facility in the local community as a place where charities, committees, and functions such as coffee mornings can take place in a room which comfortably hosts smaller gatherings. We would very much like these historic buildings to be used regularly for the benefit of everyone.

We are hoping in due course to replace the redundant stone store room outside the Church Rooms with a village archive, so that those who live in our community can learn more about the history and faces of Boughton throughout the generations.

**The Reverend Stephen Trott MA LLM OCM FRSA**  
Rector of Boughton

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22 April 2025