

Report from Parish Priest, Revd Patrick Morrow

2025 was the Revd Patrick Morrow's first full year in post. He continues to enjoy getting to know people in the four villages he serves (as well as Ovington, this means Ashill, Merton, and Saham Toney). These four parishes together form the "Ashill Group". As of 1 April 2026 his title changed: his is now Rector of the Ashill Group.

Services at the Church have continued more or less according to the pattern Patrick inherited. The "default" is that he presides at a service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month; for the second, third, and fourth Sundays, Local Licensed Minister Jean Rockett-Woods leads the service. If there is a fifth Sunday in the month, there is only one service, for the whole Group, in one of the four churches, according to a rota.

To this, Patrick has added four more Group services: a chance to pray for our churches and our life together (in February); a chance to pray for the world (in September – this will be on 6 September, 10.30 am, at Ovington); a patronal festival (in 2025 this was the Feast of St John the Evangelist, on 28 December; in 2026 it will be on 6 December, the Feast of St Nicholas, at Ashill); the Sunday after Christmas will also habitually be a Group service (in 2026 it will be at Merton). Patrick is aware of the need to balance two things: demonstrating faithfulness in worship in each church, Sunday by Sunday; helping us to come together as one group of four, by meeting as one, from time to time.

Remembrance was again well marked in the village, and Patrick especially enjoyed the Carols evening (rich with poems and secular pieces as well as traditional Carols). We also revived our "Hymns on a Summer's Evening" in July 2025, something that we are "rolling out" into Ashill and Saham Toney as well as again at Ovington. This is more a "singalong" than worship as such.

Patrick lives in Ashill, but considers himself "equidistant" to all four parishes. He'd love to be seen simply "out and about" more in Ovington. He does have to remind himself that his post is half-time only, and much of his work has to be responding to what comes along (e.g. funerals). How to manage all of this continues to be work in progress.

Patrick has a new email address: frpatrickmorrow@gmail.com

His work number is 01760 330258.