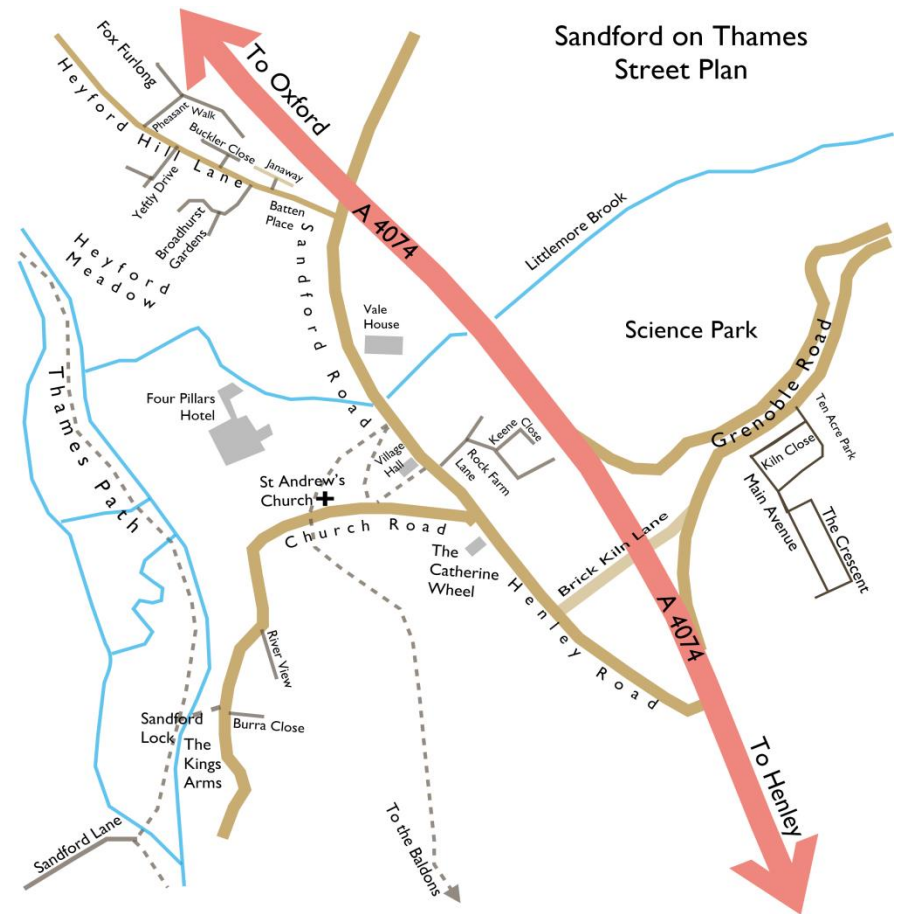


# Sandford-on-Thames



A brief guide for newcomers

Welcome to the village of Sandford -on-Thames. This leaflet has been put together by St Andrew's Church in the hope it will help newcomers settle into the village more quickly, and give some idea of the various groups and activities that go on here.





## Sandford-on-Thames Parish Council

[www.sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk)

The Parish Council has 7 members

For more details, see the parish website:

[www.sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk)

To contact the council, email the Parish Clerk:

[clerk@sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk)

*South Oxfordshire District Council:*

Sandford is in the ward of Sandford and the Wittenhams

For more details and to contact your local *District Councillor*,

see: [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

*Oxfordshire County Council:*

Sandford is in the ward of Berinsfield and Garsington

For more details and to contact your local *County Councillor*, see:

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

*Local MP:* see [www.parliament.uk/business/commons](http://www.parliament.uk/business/commons)

### Parish Council meetings

Sandford-on-Thames Parish Council meets on the first Monday of each month at 6.30 pm, unless it is a bank holiday, and residents are welcome to attend.

Minutes of all parish council meetings are posted on the website, as well as on the two village notice boards, with extracts in 'The Link' magazine.

### St Andrew's church

The parish church of St Andrew, in Church Road, has been at the heart of the village for over nine hundred years. We meet for worship every Sunday, and our ground source heat pump provides a warm building, open seven days a week, and the opportunity to use the church more widely for concerts, meetings and other events.

The churchyard and Garden of Remembrance are also open to all as a peaceful and beautiful place for reflection and prayer.

We celebrate a parish communion each Sunday at 10.00 - once a month the Westward Communion is less formal. There is also a BCP Communion service at 11.00 each Wednesday. All are welcome, and if you would like to know more about the service beforehand, please contact the clergy, Bob on [robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk)/01865 748848 or John on 01865 434256/[john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk), or see our website [www.sandfordchurch.org.uk](http://www.sandfordchurch.org.uk).

The Sunday Club (Childrens' Church) is at 10.00 in the Harris Room next to the church – just come along any Sunday. Evening prayer is said (or on special occasions sung) every Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

For information about bible study and other events see the website or contact Bob or John to be added to the parish mailing list.

### St Andrew's choir

The choir meets to practice every Wednesday at 7.30 in church. All who enjoy singing are welcome to join us between 7.30 and 8.10. Some members attend Sunday services, others join the choir for six special services during the year – including a Palm Sunday service before Easter, the Christmas Carol Service and three Choral Evensongs. If interested, come along on a Wednesday for a 'taster', or contact the choirmaster, Christian Bradley at [cwwbradley@gmail.com](mailto:cwwbradley@gmail.com). New members with a variety of abilities are welcome.



## Talking Shop: Sandford's Community Shop and Café

in the Village Hall

Open Monday to Friday 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.  
and Saturday 9.00 a.m. to 12 midday

Talking Shop is run by the community, for the community, with any surplus profit fed back into the project or spent for local benefit.



The shop stocks fresh fruit & veg, bread, eggs, meat, dairy, gifts, cards, daily newspapers, wines and beers, household stuff and more – selling local produce when possible

There is a weekday daily menu of delicious lunches, snacks, homemade cakes and barista coffees, in a bright airy space, with wifi, parking for cars and bikes, and a lovely garden with a gate straight into the playground.

On Saturdays the Market has guest stalls, and the café serves its famous bacon and egg baps.

Talking Shop can provide catering for events in the Village Hall: from coffee and pastries for your meeting, to lunches, dinners and parties.

## Volunteering at Talking Shop

Talking Shop depends on volunteers to staff the shop and café.

Volunteering offers a great opportunity to meet more people, learn new skills and revive old ones, while helping to support a much loved and valued community resource.

There are many ways to volunteer, different shifts and roles -to find out more, drop in and talk to one of the managers, or email [volunteering.talkingshop@gmail.com](mailto:volunteering.talkingshop@gmail.com).

## Activities at Talking Shop

### Wednesday Afternoon Teas

Normally on the first Wednesday of each month from 2.00 – 4.00: delicious tea and cakes for over-18s.

### Monthly Community lunches

Normally on the second Wednesday of each month between 12.30 and 2.00. Enjoy a delicious lunch and pay what you can. All are welcome to this family friendly event with children's play area; no need to book, just come along.

**Knit and Stitch** Mondays 10.00 – 12.00. Just drop in.

### Gardening Club

The beautiful garden has become a real attraction, and is run by a dedicated team of volunteers who work on Monday from 10.00 – 12.00.

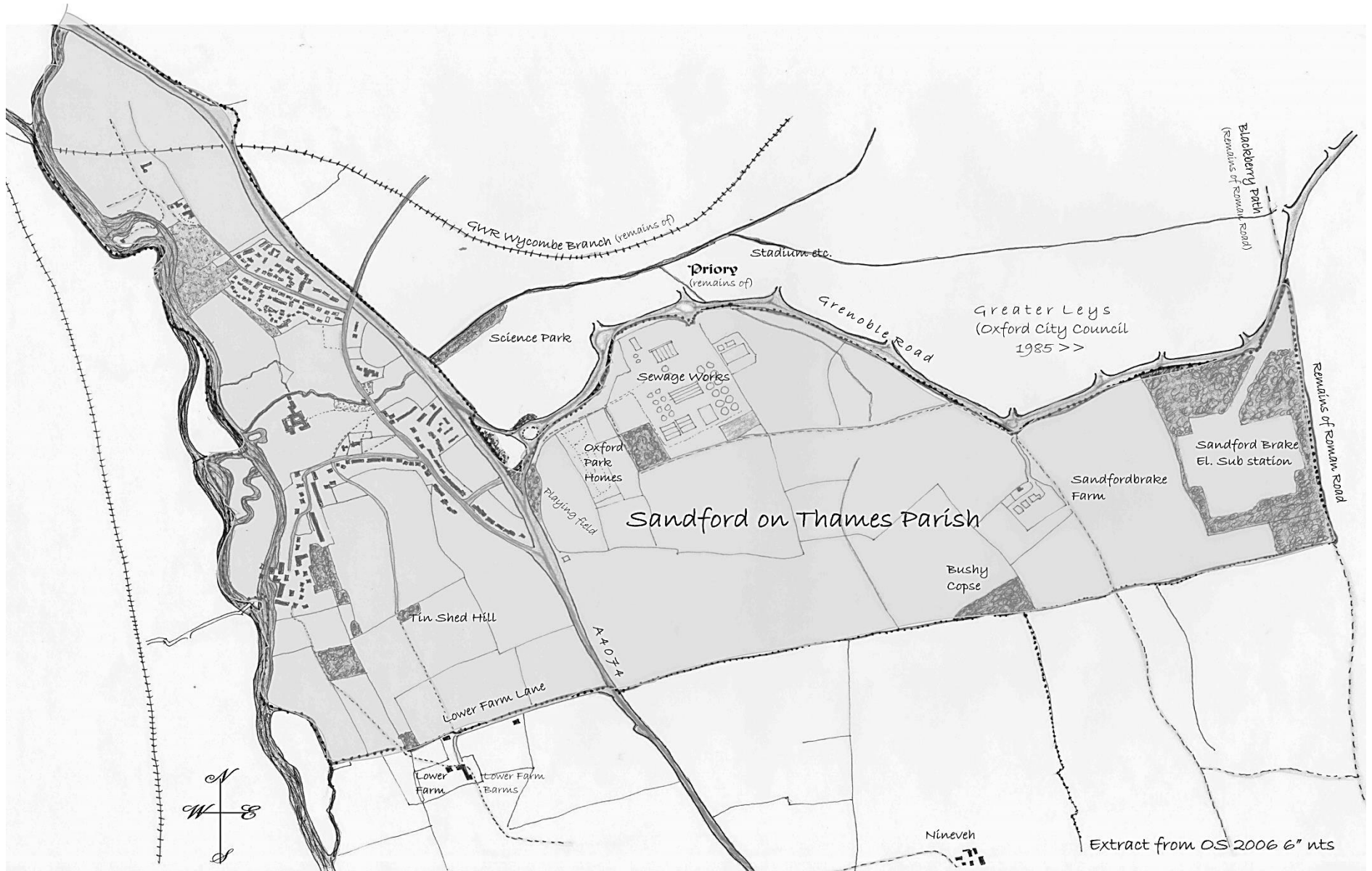
**Spokes Shop:** a volunteer bike mechanic team visits the Saturday Market every few months.

### Keep up to date and find out more:

On Facebook or Instagram @ TalkingShopSandford

Sign up to the newsletter: [email.orders.talkingshop@gmail.com](mailto:email.orders.talkingshop@gmail.com)

Visit the website [www.sandfordtalkingshop.org](http://www.sandfordtalkingshop.org)



## Other places of worship

*Roman Catholic:* St Dominic Barberi, Cowley Road, Littlemore, OX4 4JX

*Baptist:* Littlemore Baptist Church, Edith Kempson House,

Chapel Lane, OX4 4QB

*Methodist:* Rose Hill Methodist Church, OX4 4JP

*Mosque:* Oxford Central Mosque, Manzil Way, Oxford OX4 1DJ

*Emmanuel Church:* see [emmanueloxford.org](http://emmanueloxford.org)

## Village Hall

Our beautiful and recently renovated Village Hall is at the centre of the village and of village life. It is home to Talking Shop and café, the Saturday Market, and many other village events. There are two upstairs meeting rooms and a large hall, all available to hire with a preferential rate for Sandford residents.

For bookings, please contact Robert Rodrigues, the Hall Manager, at [sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com](mailto:sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com) or 07759 890696.

The Hall is run by a management committee which welcomes new members as vacancies occur.

Some current activities include table tennis, Pilates, Toddlers Group, Youth Tae Kwondo and the Oxford Guitar Society. The programme is posted on the noticeboard inside the Village Hall.

## Pubs and Restaurants

The village is very well supplied by the excellent

**Catherine Wheel**, 38 Henley Road, and

**King's Arms**, at Sandford Lock

## Parish websites

[www.sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk)

[www.sandfordchurch.org.uk](http://www.sandfordchurch.org.uk)

[www.sandfordtalkingshop.org](http://www.sandfordtalkingshop.org)

[www.facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford/](https://www.facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford/)

[www.facebook.com/sandfordonthamesWI/](https://www.facebook.com/sandfordonthamesWI/)

## Communications

The Link parish magazine comes out quarterly (March, June, September, December) and is delivered free in the village or available from Talking Shop. Any submissions welcomed by the editor at [robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk).

The Parish Council noticeboards situated at the corner of Church Road and Henley Road, and at the beginning of Heyford Hill Lane, display information about forthcoming events and Parish Council news.

Talking Shop produces regular leaflets which are distributed throughout the village with information about the café, shop and market, and news of forthcoming events and activities.

Another useful source of local information is the 'Littlemore Local', online in the 'Community' section of [www.littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk).

## Buses

As at July 2023 Sandford is served by the 3A to the city centre (see Oxford Bus company for timetable); the 45 goes to Cowley Centre (Thames Travel), and the X40/NX40 go to the city centre, and out to Wallingford and Reading (Oxford Bus Company) but only stop at Sandford in the later evening – before that they go to Sainsbury.

## Post Office and post boxes

*Post Office:*

Littlemore Post Office, 40 Cowley Road, OX4 4LD is open on weekdays from 8.30 until 7.0 and shorter hours at weekends. Collection times vary.

*Post boxes (collection times vary):*

At the Henley Road end of Church Road.

At Grenoble Road, Oxford Park Homes.

At Heyford Hill Lane.

At Littlemore Hospital (opposite St George's Manor).

## Recycling

The nearest recycling centre is the Redbridge Recycling Centre at Old Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4XG.

## Some local groups and events:

### Sandford Village Fete and Flower Festival

is the big event of the year, held over a weekend in July. Keep an eye on the Link for more information, or if you might be able to help in any way.

### Sandford Women's Institute

Our excellent and lively WI meets in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 2nd Thursday in the month and has a very varied programme of talks, events and social activities.

Contact Jill Love at [jpappslove@hotmail.com](mailto:jpappslove@hotmail.com) or 01865 7116557 or Carole Tasker at [caroletasker27@gmail.com](mailto:caroletasker27@gmail.com) or 07876701151.

And see [www.facebook.com/sandfordonthamesWI/](http://www.facebook.com/sandfordonthamesWI/)

### Toddlers Group

A welcoming group meeting on Monday from 10-12 in the Village Hall. Open all year round, ex. Bank Holidays. 0-4 year olds. Mums, dads, grandparents, carers welcome, craft activity every week.

£1 per family, first session free!

### Annual Village Quiz Night

February/March in the Village Hall – watch the Link for information.

**Christmas celebrations** vary each year.

## Opportunities for volunteering

If you would like to become more involved in our community there are numerous ways of giving a little of your time – a few examples are:

St Andrew's warmly welcomes the offer of occasional help keeping the graveyard tidy, especially when the grass is growing . . .

Talking Shop is reliant on its amazing volunteers – any amount of time given, however small, is valued. Drop in and talk to them.

Talking Shop and the Village Hall have occasional vacancies on their governing boards and welcome enquiries.

Or you might think about becoming a Parish Councillor.

Play a part in making Sandford a great place to live!

## Heyford Meadow

Heyford Meadow is an award-winning nature reserve, accessed from Broadhurst Gardens. It was created a few years ago, with the help of local volunteers, by the Oxford Preservation Trust, who restored the derelict site into a beautiful place filled with wild flowers and butterflies, and a remarkable number of different species of birds and other wildlife. There is still work for volunteers, and anyone interested should contact OPT via [www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk).

## Some walks around Sandford:

**Shakespeare's Way** is a long-distance footpath between Stratford-upon-Avon and London. Coming up the towpath from Oxford it crosses the river at the lock to Sandford, follows Church Road and Henley Road, turns left towards Grenoble Road and then sharp right at the far side of Oxford Park Homes and into open country. As far as London if you are that way inclined.

### The Towpath

Can get a bit muddy in winter but is always a pleasant walk, with birds and wildlife. Go on the Thames Path south towards Abingdon (or as far as London) or north towards Oxford (and the source of the Thames) - see [http://www.thames-path.org.uk/thames\\_abingdon\\_oxford.html](http://www.thames-path.org.uk/thames_abingdon_oxford.html).

### Toot Baldon

One footpath at the very end of Church Road and another past the church on the left as you go towards the lock, across Tinshed Hill - both lead to Lower Farm Lane, and the footpath that crosses the A4074 and leads you to the Baldons.

### Sandford Lane

Across the lock and up Sandford Lane towards Kennington and then up to Bagley bluebell woods.

