

Oxford Episcopal Church

<http://www.stpaulsoxford.org/>

34 Main St. PO Box 72, Oxford, NY 13830

Nestled in the fertile, verdant hills of New York State's Southern Tier, Oxford is a small town with rich soil and a rich history. Currently home to approximately 5,000 people, the town was founded in 1793, and named after Oxford, Massachusetts. Oxford is also home to Oxford Academy and Central School District. Which, having been founded in 1794, is the fourth oldest school district in New York State.



Agriculture has historically been a major industry in the town. We have a number of horse, dairy, and alpaca farms. You can sample the wares that these farms provide at the Oxford Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings from 9-12. With large tracts of undeveloped pasture and woodlands, Oxford teems with an abundance of wildlife.

The town has long been a hub for activity. Starting in 1837, the Chenango Canal connected the Susquehanna River in Binghamton with the Erie Canal in Utica. In 1848, the Erie Railroad arrived and replaced the canal, then in 1924 New York State Route 12 supplanted the railroad. However, as transportation has progressed Oxford has been here. There is even a house in town that was a stopover on the underground railroad.

Oxford continues to serve as a bedroom community to nearby Norwich, Greene, and Binghamton. With major employers such as The Raymond Corporation, GE Unison, Norwich Pharmaceuticals, NBT Bank, and Chobani, employment opportunities abound.

About Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

St. Paul's was the first church edifice erected in the village. Although it no longer stands today, a marker can be found on the east side of Fort Hill Park. Consecrated by Bishop Hobart on September 8, 1816 this humble wooden structure served for more than forty years. By the 1850's, the congregation had outgrown its original structure and in 1857 the current Gothic Revival stone structure was built at 34 Main Street.

A key element to the construction of this building was proximity to the Chenango Canal which made bringing building materials to the site much easier. The oak timbers came from what is now Wappanacau State Forest in Norwich, and the bluestone came from local quarries.

The true strength of St. Paul's however does not come from its building materials, but from its ties to the community. Since 2020 St. Paul's has been the home of the Oxford Food Pantry, which is run out of the former rectory. Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the rectory conference room on Wednesday evenings. St. Paul's is also the charter organization for Cub Scout pack 316. Since the early 2000's our soup kitchen, Soup & Sandwich, has served many thousands of meals to community members in need.

The Parish House, home to Soup & Sandwich, boasts a modern industrial kitchen, has been freshly painted, and the bathrooms were recently renovated to provide a welcoming, well functioning space for this vital outreach.

If you are someone with a love of history, beautiful open spaces, is eager to help the community, and values outreach you will find a warm, welcoming home at St. Paul's in beautiful Oxford, New York

