

Half-time Team Vicar (Community Outreach and Mission)

in the
Vale of Pewsey Churches



Easter Morning Sunrise Service (Martinsell Hill)

**Our Vision is to see the Kingdom of God
growing in the Vale of Pewsey**

We are part of the [Diocese of Salisbury](#), and share its vision to:

Make Jesus Known



<https://www.valeofpewsey.org>

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Welcome

Welcome to the Vale of Pewsey.

Thank you for your interest in this **exciting new pioneering role** in the Vale of Pewsey Team.



We are praying that as you read this profile, God will show you if this is where He is calling you to serve Him in the next phase of your ministry. Before you read the profile, we invite you to pray the prayer that we are praying at this time:

*Gracious God, by your Spirit's power
grant us wisdom and discernment in the appointment of a new colleague.*

*Bless the one whom you are calling to join us,
and give us courage to embrace new ways to make Jesus known,
that your kingdom might grow here and now.*

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our vision and your part in it

Our vision is to see the **Kingdom of God growing in the Vale of Pewsey** and at the heart of this is our calling to **Make Jesus Known**, a vision we share with our Diocese.

We are not connecting as effectively as we'd like with much of the population, especially those under 60, and we want to change that. We believe the time is ripe to **prioritize reaching out more into our communities** and to **growing a more diverse community of faith**.

This is where you come in: **building relationships** and **developing safe spaces** where the curious can **explore** the Christian faith and **encounter** Jesus Christ. You will be freed from parish administration, and clear boundaries will be set so you have time to focus on this crucial, exciting task, being a **leader, encourager, role model** and **enabler** for all who are able to invest love, time, prayer and energy in outreach across the Vale of Pewsey.

A Message from Bishop Andrew

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the post of Team Vicar (Community Outreach & Mission) for the Vale of Pewsey, part of the Ramsbury area of the Diocese of Salisbury. As a half-time post, this is an exciting opportunity for ground-breaking ministry as part of a dynamic and friendly deanery, within one of the most beautiful parts of Wiltshire.

The ancient see of Ramsbury, covering much of Wiltshire, is rich in spiritual heritage, from the cathedral city of Salisbury and the valleys of its five rivers, across Salisbury Plain up to the Marlborough Downs. God is in this place – even though many know it not – and it offers an enriching context for ministry and mission today.

I am looking for devoted and visionary clergy, who can energise and inspire our communities to Make Jesus Known, which is our new diocesan vision. While this can appear a timeless landscape, our parishes are constantly changing and face all the challenges and opportunities of life in the 2020s. Because of this, the church must also change in order to grow, renewing its traditions for the contemporary situation.

These are, then, times of transition for the ancient village churches of Wiltshire, which I sometimes liken to the great oaks in the nearby Savernake Forest. Those trees gradually join their root systems to survive individually - and churches must likewise learn how to be joined 'beneath the soil' in order to flourish above ground in their own particular setting.

In the Diocese of Salisbury, we place a high value on the encouragement and pastoral support of our parish clergy and, should God guide you to serve here, you will become part of a committed and collaborative team.

Please contact the Ramsbury office if you need any assistance with your enquiry and be assured of my prayers as you seek the Lord's will for your future.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Rumsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

The Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey

The Vale of Pewsey Team

The team serves a population of approximately 8,400 living in the villages and hamlets of the eastern half of the geographic Vale of Pewsey. At the centre is Pewsey itself, home to almost half the population. The core ministry team comprises:

Team Rector - Canon Rhona Floate

Full-time Team Vicar - Revd Mark Windsor

Half-time Team Vicar for Community Outreach & Mission - vacant

Self-supporting Priest & Rural Dean - Canon Gerald Osborne

Licensed Lay Ministers - Anne Mantle & Libby Turner

Team Administrator & Ordinand – Brenda Woodrow



A number of retired clergy, Lay Worship Leaders, Lay Pastoral Assistants, plus the Open The Book Team, assist us in maintaining worship in churches and schools and offering pastoral care and support in the community. Figures for Life Events can be found in Appendix 2. We are looking forward to being joined by a non-stipendiary assistant curate serving their title with us from Petertide 2024.

Church Wardens, office holders and others also give their time and talents to this work and to the maintenance of some 16 church buildings and 15 PCCs. See www.valeofpewsey.org

All of this is underpinned by Brenda, our team administrator, who works part-time and amongst other tasks, oversees the production of a news sheet which provides the local church news in a weekly publication, and is available via the website and an email circulation list.

The PCCs have been brought together into a Team Council with strategic overview of mission and ministry throughout the Vale of Pewsey Team and to encourage collaborative working.

Our Team Safeguarding Officer, Pauline Dark, provides an essential service and guidance across all parishes.

“The Messenger” is the Vale of Pewsey Team Magazine which is published ten times a year and is made available online. Hard copies can be collected, free of charge, from churches and collection points in parishes, while some churches also have volunteers who deliver it to every household in their parish. See www.valeofpewsey.org/news/church-news/messenger/

The Team Website is maintained and developed by Iain Gutteridge, a professional website designer, and in his spare time, one of our lay worship leaders specialising in youth, children and families.

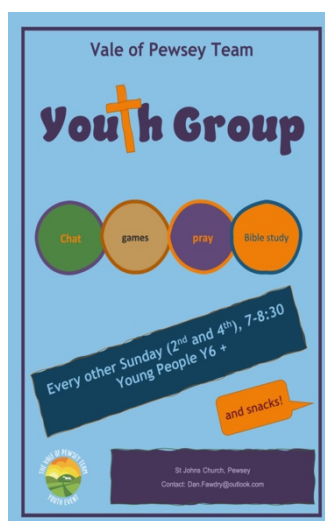
A number of regular outreach events take place across the Vale, including a monthly Sunday@6 service, a Men’s Breakfast, and lunches with a guest speaker to which church members are encouraged to invite friends and neighbours.

YACHT (Youth And Children & Families Team) leads on organising accessible events and services for youth, children, and families. These are mostly based in Pewsey which has better facilities but we are working towards developing this ministry across the team through improving communication with parishes as well as resourcing and supporting them more effectively. Between them they offer:



- a. **Muddy Church** - 4th Sunday each month, an informal outdoor gathering - a Wander and a Wonder - hot drinks/fire-pit/craft/prayer. Guests ~ 40.
- b. **Café Church** - Launched in 2022, this relaxed informal service in St. John's, with modern worship and an interactive style takes place 4 times a year.
- c. **Holiday Club** - 4 mornings in the summer holidays, for primary-age children. Different theme each year. Guests ~ 60.
- d. **Holiday Club Reunion** - Saturday morning in February, continuing previous summer's theme. Guests ~ 30.
- e. **Bunny Hop Easter Trail** - treasure hunt around Pewsey telling the Easter story.
- f. **Light Party** - Nearest Saturday to Halloween. Guests ~ 30.
- g. **Streets of Light Advent Trail** - Residents decorate windows to an advent calendar theme.
- h. **Christingle** - First Sunday in December. Guests ~ 90.
- i. **Crib Service** - Christmas Eve - turn up and join in Nativity. Guests ~ 100+

Team Youth Group – Pre-Covid, a group for those aged 10-16 met twice monthly at the Vicarage in Wilcot. It was re-launched by Daniel, a sixth-form student, in St John's Pewsey. As he moves on to university, a new leadership team is emerging. It mainly gathers teenage boys for a mix of games, chat, Bible study and prayer.



The Pewsey Deanery (Facebook: Pewsey Deanery)

Bishop Andrew talks of 'the gift of smallness' in the deanery. Though geographically quite large and with 26 parishes, it consists of just two team ministries, Vale of Pewsey and Savernake. We work together well under the leadership of Rural Dean Gerald Osborne and lay chair Philip Smith.



The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Plan includes exploration of how we can work together even more closely. We hope to recruit a person who can help with this by becoming some sort of 'Chief Operating Officer' for the deanery who will help coordinate such things as collective purchasing of utilities, expertise in fund raising and efforts to reach net zero, helping relieve some of the burdens on clergy and lay officers.

The Deanery Outreach Group focusses on supporting mission-minded members of local church and mission initiatives where the critical mass can be found at a deanery level, e.g. an annual Lent Programme and, this autumn, are promoting ***Christianity Explored*** across both team ministries with complementary day and evening sessions.

Schools in the Vale of Pewsey

There are three Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary Schools, all of which are part of academies, and a variety of other schools within the Vale of Pewsey Team's area. We have good relationships with all of them, although the frequency of regular engagement with each varies. Where possible we encourage and empower parishioners to become active school governors.

Oare Church of England VA Primary School - <https://oare.excalibur.org.uk/>

Rushall Church of England VA Primary - <https://www.rushall.wilts.sch.uk/>

Woodborough Church of England VA Primary School - <https://woodboroughschool.org/>

Easton Royal Academy - <https://www.eroyal.wilts.sch.uk/wilts/primary/easton>

Pewsey Primary - <https://www.pewsey.wilts.sch.uk/>

Pewsey Vale School (secondary school for pupils aged 11-16)- <https://pewseyvale.org/>

St. Francis (independent day school for children aged 0-13) - <https://www.stfpewsey.co.uk/>

Job Description

This is a half time stipendiary post (i.e., 3 days a week plus Sundays). Your role will be dedicated to community outreach and mission, and the freedom to exercise a pioneer-style ministry. You may have undertaken training as a Pioneer or be a parish priest who is already using pioneering approaches to reach a broader spectrum of your local population. In either case, you will bring passion, skills, and a proven ability to connect with a diversity of ages and backgrounds beyond the established church family and to facilitate their journey into faith in Christ, ideally in a rural context.

Your key priorities will be

- a. Engaging with and building relationships in the wider community outside current church membership, leading to new spaces for conversation, exploring faith, growing new disciples and new worship initiatives; collaborating with and encouraging parishes to adapt their current worship to be more inclusive and welcoming; and participating in our regular school ministry. Your focus is likely to be on the larger villages, among families with children, and among those sectors of the community that are largely missing from church life, but we would look to you to discern what will be most fruitful as part of our evolving vision to make Jesus known.
- b. Coordinating and developing the team ministry in an area of traditional ministry which offers potential for growing new disciples (one of baptism; confirmation; schools, youth or families work; or marriage preparation) depending on your experience, interests and expertise, and in discussion with the Team Rector and Team Vicar.
- c. Building good relationships with church members, especially those involved with or looking to grow new worshipping initiatives across the Vale, including YACHT, mentoring them as appropriate and empowering them, not taking over from them.

In addition, you will be asked to

- d. Lead 3 regular Sunday services per month; the pattern to be agreed with the Team Rector.
- e. Meet regularly with the Team Rector and Team Vicar to review, reflect and plan together; be part of the informal monthly Ministry Team Meeting and Team Council (usually three per year); engage with congregations and PCCs to inform them about your work, and to listen and encourage them in outreach in their parish and beyond, and take an active part in the life of the Deanery.
- f. Officiate at Life Events where you have developed a strong pastoral connection through your main responsibilities.

You will NOT

- × Be responsible for pastoral and governance oversight of any parishes in the team.
- × Be expected to serve as a foundation governor in any of the schools unless it will significantly aid you in the main focus of your role.

We will

- ✓ Be there for you in this new venture with us. There are many lay and ordained members who will want to work actively with you, as well as widespread goodwill, encouragement, and prayerful support for this new venture.
- ✓ Recognise it takes time to identify and develop opportunities; that finding the best way forward may involve experimenting, and some apparent 'failures' or learning experiences; offer space for co-creating this job description with you as the work evolves.
- ✓ Respect and actively help you protect the boundaries necessary in a part-time role.
- ✓ Encourage you to engage with others in outreach/pioneer roles in the diocese to provide mutual support (networks are already being established for this).
- ✓ Be open with you about the longer-term possibility of funding additional hours if that was appropriate for you (we are in the very early stages of exploring this feasibility).

The Person Specification

No one 'ticks all the boxes'. If you feel over 30% of these describe you and your journey, we'd really encourage you to have an informal, prayerful discussion with us:

Essential

- A lively, infectious **faith** in Jesus Christ with a **story** to tell of your own faith journey.
- Strong **communication** skills, that enable you to build **relationships** with a wide range of people in different settings.
- Your commitment and ability to lead Christian **mission, evangelism and discipleship**, including enquirer programmes.
- You **lead** and **facilitate** through **listening**, discerning, inspiring, encouraging, motivating and **empowering** individuals and groups.
- You always **safeguard** children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable.

Desirable

- Your vocation, training or experience of ministry beyond the walls of our many church buildings or pioneering work outside existing church communities.
- Your experience and passion for establishing, sustaining, or growing a new congregation among non-churched /all ages /younger generation/marginalised.
- You appreciate the riches of inherited tradition and the urgency and demands of growing new expressions of church.
- You're willing to commit to the team's strategic priorities and share your experience with wider church networks, especially the Deanery Outreach Group.
- You are committed to your own personal, spiritual, professional vocation and development and nurture this in others.
- Your time management skills enable you to maintain a balance of time allocated to key tasks, guarding time for rest and refreshment.
- Your vision for belonging in a mixed ecology church and ability to relate to local context.
- You hold a full driving licence with access to a vehicle.

Life in the Vale

The Vale of Pewsey is a good place to live: Situated within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it is within easy reach of the market towns of Devizes and Marlborough, and larger towns and cities including Salisbury, Swindon and Andover. The Kennet and Avon Canal passes through the Vale, and Pewsey Station provides mainline trains to Newbury, Reading and London Paddington, and to Exeter, the West Country, and Bath and Bristol via Westbury.

The population of the Vale has a broad demographic including a wide range of ages, backgrounds and occupations, including the armed services, commuters and the rural economy; and has its share of those with housing issues, mental health concerns, etc.

Pewsey is the largest village in the Vale, and offers a supermarket, shops, cafes, post office, churches, doctors, dentists, community centre, library, pool and leisure centre and allotments. It also hosts the oldest and largest Carnival in Wiltshire, and is a centre for providing foodbanks, foodshare and other schemes to support those in need.

All the villages, regardless of size, have their own unique character and social life, but all are welcoming. Across the Vale there is a wide range of sports, arts, music, food and local produce. But don't expect to find any night clubs here!

Information about the Vicarage, located in Woodborough, can be found in Appendix 3.

And finally...

Thank you for your interest in this post. This is an important opportunity for someone to bring their energy, enthusiasm, leadership, and creative gifts to **grow the kingdom of God beyond the boundaries of conventional church life** while also being **supported, encouraged, and prayed for** as you help us take forward this vital aspect of the future of the Vale of Pewsey Churches. We believe the role combines the tasks of leading and encouraging the development of pioneer mission and ministry with the complementary aspects of being a vicar, relating to the life of villages, schools, and other community organisations, in a way that we trust will be **fulfilling for the postholder** and a means of blessing for many who live in this very special part of Wiltshire.



APPENDIX 1 - Service Patterns

Church Services in the Vale of Pewsey for September 2023				
Date	3rd September 13th after Trinity	10th September 14th after Trinity	17th September 15th after Trinity	24th September 16th after Trinity
Readings	Exodus 3: 1-15 Romans 12: 9-end Matthew 16: 21-end	Exodus 12: 1-14 Romans 13: 8-end Matthew 18: 15-20	Exodus 14: 19-end Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-35	Exodus 16: 2-15 Philippians 1: 21-end Matthew 20: 1-16
St John the Baptist Pewsey *#	9.30am Parish Communion 6.00 pm Sunday@6	9.30am Morning Worship Carnival Opening 7.00 pm Old Fire Station	9.30am Parish Communion	4 pm Muddy Church Carnival Closing 7.00 pm Old Fire Station
St Mary, Alton Barnes	11am Parish Communion		11am Parish Communion	
St Stephen Beechingstoke	11am Breakfast Service B'fast served at 10.15		9.30 am Parish Communion	
All Saints *# Stanton St Bernard				11.00 Harvest Festival Jt with Alton Barnes
St James * North Newnton	11am Café Church	11am Parish Communion		
St Peter Manningford Bruce		9.30 am Pet Service		9.30 am Holy Communion
St Mary Magdalene # Woodborough	8.00 am Holy Communion BCP		11 am Morning Prayer	
St Nicholas Huish		6pm Harvest Festival		8.00 am Holy Communion BCP
Holy Trinity Oare	11.00 am Parish Communion			
Holy Cross Wilcot		11.00 am Parish Communion		6.00 pm Evensong
St Peter *# Milton Lilbourne		9.30 am Holy Communion BCP	11.00am Harvest Festival	
Holy Trinity Easton Royal		11.00 am Morning Service		11.00 am Parish Communion
St Andrew Wootton Rivers	9.30 am Parish Communion		9.30 am Pet Service	
St Peter Charlton St Peter		6pm Evensong		6pm Parish Communion
St Matthew Rushall		11 am Holy Communion BCP	11 am Holy Communion	11 am Matins BCP
St Mary # Upavon	9.30 am Parish Communion		8.00 am Holy Communion BCP	9.30 am Informal Worship
* Access for Wheelchairs # Loop system for the hard of hearing BCP Book of Common Prayer All other services Common Worship				

Fifth Sundays

10.30am Team Service of Holy Communion (in a different church each time)
 4.00pm Cafe Church at St John's Pewsey led by YACHT

APPENDIX 2 - Life Events

In 2022 there were:

- Funerals 57
(includes memorial services, burials and interments of ashes on separate occasions)
- Marriages & Blessings 14
- Baptisms 23
- Confirmations 0 (2 or more expected in 2023)

APPENDIX 3 - The Vicarage

The Vicarage is in Woodborough, one of the most popular villages in the Pewsey Vale. The village is served by an excellent C of E Primary school, a popular social club and the Whitehall Garden Centre, which has several boutique shops, antique shop, book binders, delicatessen and two coffee shops.



It is a large, purpose-built detached house with well-presented accommodation including 4 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms and double garage, with oil-fired central heating. It has ample parking and internet connectivity is reported to be good. Several areas of the large garden have been managed for wildlife habitat.

