



**The Benefice of
Lyneham and Woodhill**

The Benefice Profile

Table of Contents

Welcome	1
Letter From the Bishop	1
Benefice Overview	2
Our Vision	4
The Team	4
Safeguarding	6
Rooted in God	7
Inspiring Communities	9
Engaging Through Love	11
Opportunities and Challenges	15
Our New Rector	18
The Rectory	19
Five Parishes – Six Churches – Shared Mission	21
Broad Town – Christ Church	21
Clyffe Pypard – St Peter's	23
Hilmarton – St Laurence	25
Lyneham – St Michael's and	27
Bradenstoke – St Mary's	27
Tockenham – St. Giles	31
Calne Deanery	33
Closing Prayer	33
APPENDIX	34



Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. - **1 Corinthians 12:4-7**



Welcome

Welcome to the Profile of our Benefice, which has been compiled by representatives of all the PCCs after gleaning thoughts and reflections on a future vision from cross sections of each community.

Letter From the Bishop

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the incumbency at Lyneham and Woodhill: a super opportunity to serve and shape our future ministry amid the beautiful North Wessex Downs in Wiltshire.

I am looking for devoted and visionary clergy, who can inspire and lead our churches in Making Jesus known – our diocesan vision. While this can appear a timeless landscape, our parishes are constantly changing and face all the challenges and opportunities of modern rural life. Because of this, the church must renew its mission and traditions for the contemporary situation – ‘ever ancient, and ever new’.



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,

The Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey
Bishop of Ramsbury

Benefice Overview

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to any prospective applicant discerning a calling to join us as the next Rector of our Benefice.

Our Benefice is made up of six churches across five parishes:

- **St Mary's Bradenstoke** – Part of Lyneham with Bradenstoke Parish
- **Christ Church** – Broad Town Parish
- **St Peter's** – Clyffe Pypard Parish
- **St Laurence** – Hilmaraton Parish
- **St Michael's Lyneham** – Part of Lyneham with Bradenstoke Parish
- **St Giles** – Tockenham Parish



Nestled in the heart of the Wiltshire countryside, our rural community enjoys the peace and beauty of rolling fields, winding lanes, and scenic walks. It's the kind of place where the hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful" feels especially close to home.



Each of our parishes shares a heartfelt vision: to make our churches places of sanctuary, welcome and spiritual support—centres of community life for people of all ages and walks of life.

We are proud of our strong agricultural heritage, though the nature of rural life means our congregations may be smaller on a typical Sunday. That said, there is a deep-rooted faith and a quiet strength in our people and places.



While some collaboration already takes place across our Benefice, we are eager to foster stronger ties, sharing in the planning and celebration of services and events that bring our wider community together. We see great potential in working more closely as one Benefice family.

We look forward to welcoming a Rector who will walk with us, encourage us and grow with us in faith, fellowship and service.



Our Vision

Rooted in God;
Inspiring Community;
Engaging Through Love

We are committed to building the Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill into an integrated and inclusive community that is a visible and proactive force within our villages. Our vision is to be rooted in God, and from that foundation, to inspire our communities and to encourage and support others through God's love.

The Team

We are fortunate to have a strong and committed team who are looking forward to supporting and working alongside our new Rector. These include a self-supporting Curate, an LLM, two LWLs and a volunteer Administrator.

Curate: Richard Holness

Richard has worshipped in the Benefice for 12 years and was a Lay Worship Leader, before training for ordination at Sarum College, becoming a Deacon in 2023 and Priest in 2024. He is self-supporting and works two days a week within the Benefice whilst also working in IT for a building society the rest of the week. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, occasionally baking and always avoiding gardening. His faith is rooted in the sacraments, but his main wish is to remind all people that they are loved and welcomed by God however often or not they are in church.



Licensed Lay Minister: Mandy Cook

Mandy has lived and worshipped in Tockenham for thirty years. She trained at Sarum College upon retirement as a teacher and was Licensed in 2022. Mandy is interested in spirituality, outreach and mission. She works across the Benefice in funeral ministry and works with schools and young families and leads Celtic style worship, currently predominantly in Tockenham. She loves being active and outdoors.



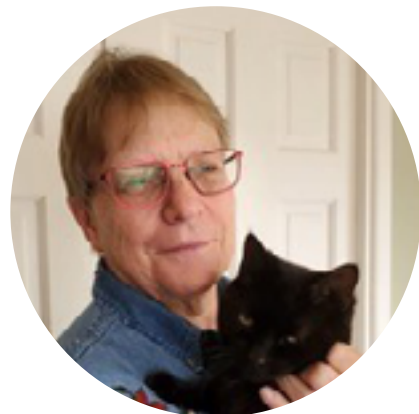
Lay Worship Leader: Janet Drury

Janet has worshipped in Broad Town Church for at least thirty-five years. She is a faithful and dedicated member of the church community and currently leads one Morning Prayer service a month at Broad Town as well as being instrumental in fund raising for the church. She loves music and singing as well as knitting. Janet's favourite retreat place is The Holy Island of Lindisfarne in Northumberland.



Benefice Administrator: Elaine Leighton

Elaine lives in Hilmarton and has been volunteering as Benefice Administrator for about 17 years. She works from the Benefice Office at Lyneham Church Hall one morning a week and from home for another morning, working approximately 6 to 8 hours per week. Elaine produces service sheets, electronic pew sheets and weekly newsletters. In addition, she administers details for occasional offices, including producing invoices, and deals with administrative enquiries. Elaine enjoys retreats at Hilfield Friary and, as an LWL, leads All-Age Worship twice a month in Hilmarton and Lyneham. Elaine loves her cat, baking and crafting and is also part of the bell ringing team at Hilmarton.



Additionally, we have a number of experienced and committed church wardens with active PCCs who support each other with different areas of expertise, such as finance, faculty applications and buildings. As well as dedicated cleaners, flower arrangers, fund raisers and pastoral volunteers who work behind the scenes to keep our churches maintained and our communities encouraged and sustained.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a priority across our Benefice. We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone within our church communities. All those involved in church life are actively encouraged to engage with safeguarding training, recognising its vital role in creating a safer environment for all.

We are currently in the process of transitioning the role of Safeguarding Officer from a long-serving member of our team. As part of this transition, we are exploring the possibility of dividing the responsibilities into two key roles: one focused on the administration of DBS checks, and the other dedicated to responding to safeguarding concerns and supporting those affected.

Our approach to safeguarding is shaped by the following key principles:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Implementing safe recruitment and providing ongoing support
- Responding promptly and effectively to concerns
- Offering pastoral care to those affected
- Ensuring regular training and raising awareness
- Maintaining clear accountability and oversight



Rooted in God

‘ Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there” and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’ - **Matthew 17:20**

Nurturing Faith in Our Benefice

Inspired by the profound truth of Matthew 17:20, our Benefice deeply values its life being rooted in God’s love. We actively seek to experience and share God’s love, discerning ways to help shape and inspire our community life. This sense of being nourished by God is sustained through worship, scripture and prayer. Also, by a feeling of God’s timelessness and steadfastness, reflected in our parish traditions and the rhythm of the seasons.



Our Worship Life

Services are held in each of our six churches twice a month, alternating between Communion services, traditional or Celtic-style Morning Prayer, and All-Age Services. As we continue our faith journey from a traditional foundation, we are exploring a mixture of worship styles. Our aim is to foster a sense of faith as an open-minded, joyful adventure that remains relevant to our modern context. While each parish has its own distinct personality and traditions, we strive to build a unified worshipping community, fostering togetherness through shared services. This includes Patronal Festivals, Benefice services and services connected to village events such as Songs of Praise for an annual fair or Harvest

Festivals. The Benefice also maintains strong ecumenical links with Hilmarton Chapel, the Methodist Church in Lyneham and the new church plant in Royal Wootton Bassett; The Light Church which hosts monthly worship evenings in Lyneham church.

All our churches warmly welcome individuals of all denominations, those exploring faith, and those from other faiths or no faith, to experience and engage in ways that are meaningful to them.



The Foundation of Scripture and Prayer

Prayer, scripture, and teaching form the bedrock for developing faith rooted in God. Importantly, scripture and prayer are integrated into many secular committees, events, and gatherings as a natural part of village life, extending beyond the church building itself. We encourage and support prayer at home through our weekly pew sheet, distributed via email to all who wish to receive it. News, reflections, and prayers are also shared through both digital and hard copy Parish Newsletters, ensuring faith remains an enduring presence and invitation at the heart of our communities. Additionally, a small Zoom prayer group meet fortnightly in one parish. Lent and Advent groups encourage engagement with personal and theological reflection, scripture reading, and prayer. There is a strong desire to develop and enhance these practices in the future.

Inspiring Communities

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.' - **John 15:5**

Enabling Discipleship

The Benefice engages in a wide variety of outreach and mission work, sharing the Christian message and reflecting the "fruits of the spirit" that are rooted in Jesus. Ordained and lay members of the worshipping community work to engage, inspire, and encourage people on their spiritual journeys. They do this by walking alongside individuals and providing a range of activities and events.



Engaging with Families

The Open the Book teams lead regular, very popular Collective Worship sessions both at Lyneham Primary School and Broad Town School. They contribute to Broad Town School's recent "good" accreditation by SIAMS.

The LLM also works at Broad Town school as a part-time SENCO and leads termly Collective Worship and whole-school Spirituality Days. There is a desire to extend these activities to other schools within the Benefice.



In Lyneham, the Church Hall and churchyard are often used for seasonal celebrations. The Easter Egg Hunt, Santa's Grotto, and the Summer Fair attract families and provide affordable fun in the community. Hilmarton also raises money through family-friendly events such as the Teddy Bear Parachute Jump.



Outreach to families and young children across the Benefice includes the Toddler Group, "Busy Bees". This group runs fortnightly during term time, providing exploratory and sensory play for babies, toddlers, and young children under five. It also offers company, respite, support, and signposting for mothers and carers, many of whom are linked to the military, frequently relocate, live away from family, or parent alone during long postings of soldier partners.

Local Communities

Events such as coffee mornings are held regularly, providing a place for people to meet, build connections, and support one another. Lyneham Church Hall serves as a community hub, hosting various classes like Slimming World and Tai Kwando. It is also the local branch of the Swindon Food Collective and distributes food to those in need. Lyneham also arranges regular coach trips to support and encourage community engagement. Additionally, strong ecumenical links with the Methodist Church are demonstrated by successful combined church events, such as the Walk of Witness at Easter.

At Hilmarton, the church connects with secular activities such as a popular Gardening Club and hosting Bingo evenings. A monthly CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) lunch is also held there. In Tockenham, a variety of reflective activities have been trialled, including reflective walks, quiet sessions in church for contemplative movement and stillness, and outside worship services. These events are intended to widen experiences and explore spirituality.



Engaging Through Love

'Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.' - **John 4:11-12**

Our Benefice in Community

Drawing inspiration from John 4, our Benefice is characterised by strong community connections. By demonstrating love and service to one another, we reflect God's presence in our daily lives.



Building Community Relationships

Our parishes benefit from established communities where long-time residents and newcomers integrate to form supportive networks. People genuinely look out for each other, enjoy shared activities, and participate enthusiastically in community celebrations and projects. Within this environment, members of our worshipping community are actively involved in lay ministries. This includes participation in groups like the Village Fair Committee, Book Club, dog walking groups, and coffee mornings. This relational approach to ministry provides opportunities to share God's light and love.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is important to the members of our church communities reflecting Christian principles of hospitality, care, inclusivity, and justice. We also maintain regular visits to the local Care Home in Goatacre, with the aim of offering residents the opportunity to receive Communion. Whilst our Lay Pastoral Assistants have retired, a strong sense of Christian compassion is maintained through existing networks of friendships and groups in each parish. There is a strong desire to license more LPAs in the future.

Life Events

Weddings, baptisms, and funerals are significant events within village life and are central to ministry in the Benefice and provide an opportunity to share God's love, build relationships and sow seeds of faith. These services are generally well-attended and deeply meaningful, particularly in smaller parishes where participants are often known as part of the wider village community.



Churches and Churchyards

The church buildings and churchyards are an integral part of our Benefice communities which serve as physical reminders of God's love. Residents and visitors are encouraged to use these spaces for prayer or reflection.

Concerts, talks and historical visits are welcomed in our Churches and other uses are being explored. Churchyards are managed with respect for creation and commemorate the lives of those buried there. Their history and military connections offer points of interest and contemplation. Church members provide support to families' grieving losses.



Partnerships in Education

The Benefice includes three schools: one church school in Broad Town and two community schools in Lyneham and Hilmarton. Our LLM (Licensed Lay Minister) supports Broad Town School with SEN work, leads Collective Worship regularly, and conducts occasional Spirituality Days. There are plans to further develop this work in the future.



Supporting Communities and Charities

In Lyneham, the church has strong ties with the Guide and Scouting movements as well as the Air Training Corps. These groups often volunteer to support church events and come together with the church for ceremonial and remembrance occasions. Hilmarton church also offer Champing during the summer months. This encourages visitors to the area to experience the historic building and special atmosphere of this holy space.



All parishes throughout the Benefice support other charities during the year including The Children's Society through the annual Christingle service, Macmillan nurses, Breast Cancer Now and SSAFA. For the past three years, Tockenham has supported the local Prospect Hospice with 10% of its fundraising proceeds.



Opportunities and Challenges

Caring for our Churches

These buildings are the heartbeat of our communities. Whilst they are undeniably beautiful and enable many and varied opportunities, their upkeep is not without its challenges. However, with careful planning and dedicated effort, we are proud of all that has been accomplished. Two of our churches have received new roofs, with a third roofing project currently in development. We've also completed a major restoration of a tower, bells, and clock, as well as substantial repairs to a bellcote and weathervane. Modern kitchen and toilet facilities have been installed or are in the planning stages, making our spaces more accessible and welcoming.



Beyond essential maintenance, we've also embarked on projects that enhance the character and spiritual richness of our churches. These include the upcoming installation of a REME stained glass window in Lyneham and the transformation of Hilmarton Church into an accessible and flexible space whilst honouring its historical and spiritual legacy.

We are excited to work alongside our new Rector to bring these inspirational visions to life, laying a strong foundation for the church's growth for generations to come.



Developing Faith

All of our churches have a committed band of volunteers, who are eager to support the village both within and outside of our worshipping community. This is brought to life, for example, through our work in schools offering a different approach for many children to discover spirituality which they may not previously have encountered elsewhere and sowing the seeds for future Christian discipleship.

We are looking forward to enthusiastically collaborating with creative leadership to grow faith in the wider community.



Enabling and Developing Skills & Teams

It's important that we harvest the talents we have within our villages to Make Jesus Known and to spread the word through our schools and community groups.

The people of the Benefice are faithful and have a heart for mission but feel that their skills and abilities would be further enabled by working together more closely.



The Trees of the Field Shall Clap Their Hands

We recognise that we live in times of challenge, but we aim to live as a joyful and hope-filled community, reflecting the abundant life of God's Kingdom through our shared love, worship and care for one another. We strive to make space for praise and encouragement. Inclusivity is at the heart of our gatherings.

We would like to seek solutions and rise above adversity in a unified and active way.

Let our lives be like the trees of the field - resilient and rooted in truth.



Our New Rector

We are seeking a Rector with a broad and inclusive outlook, one who recognises the richness in difference and can draw people together. Our hope is for someone to walk beside us in faith, lead with grace and help us grow as disciples of Christ in a changing world.

We have six churches in five parishes, each with their own challenges and strengths. This is a rare opportunity to help shape a shared future, grounded in faith and community life. We hope for a Rector with excellent communication skills, who will nurture cohesion across the Benefice. Compassionate pastoral care while balancing the dynamics and personalities of five busy and unique parish communities is also important to us.

Although many of the worshipping communities are elderly, we look for somebody passionate about outreach, connecting with the youth of our parishes.

What we can offer:

- A welcoming and supportive congregation across five unique parishes - each one with its own character, challenges and joys.
- A committed team of volunteers and lay leaders ready to be guided and empowered.
- Opportunities to shape and strengthen our youth and family engagement.
- A beautiful rural setting with a strong community spirit and scope for outdoor ministry and reflective spaces.
- Five strong, experienced PCCs to support you.

The chance to be a visible and trusted presence across villages that value their church leadership.



The Rectory



The Green, Lyneham, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 4PD

The property is approached via a five-bar gate with a large tarmac drive and turning area providing parking for several vehicles in front of the double garage.



The large spacious accommodation comprises 3 good sized reception rooms, kitchen and utility, 4 bedrooms and two bathrooms.



The property is set close to the centre of the village of Lyneham, which has good local facilities including supermarkets, cafes and pub. Situated 4mmiles southwest of the Market town of Royal Wootton Bassett, 5 miles north of Calne and 11 miles from Swindon with good road and rail links to London and being just 6 miles from the M4 Junction 16.



Five Parishes Six Churches - Shared Mission

Broad Town – Christ Church

Broad Town and its surrounding hamlets of Thornhill and Cotmarsh have a population of about 450.

We have a dedicated and loyal congregation of around a dozen who worship together twice a month, usually one lay-led service and one Communion service. We have a small choir who also sing at St Bartholomew's Church in Royal Wootton Bassett during special occasions.

More villagers attend services such as Harvest Festival, Carol Service and Christmas Day.

There is also a churchyard work group, including both worshipping and non-worshipping members of the community who meet monthly during the summer to keep the churchyard looking neat and tidy which the community and visitors really appreciate.

The village is fortunate to have a Church of England Primary School which currently has fifty-three pupils. The school use Christ Church for Christmas, Easter and Leavers' services.

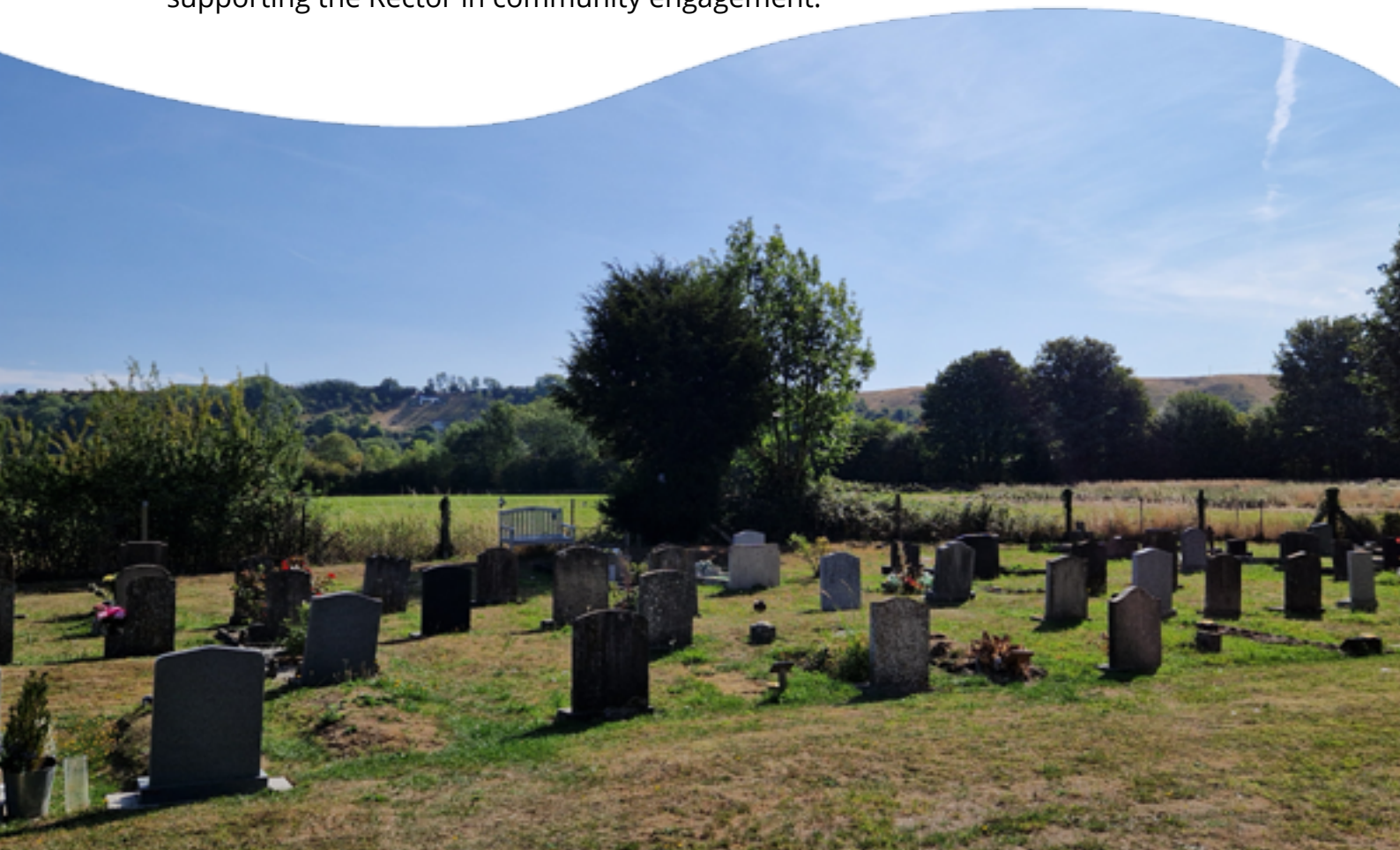


Within the small village of Broad Town we have a number of active volunteers who fund raise very successfully for a number of worthy causes including local and national charities, the Swindon Food Collective and Christ Church. We would like to nurture these links so that we can all encourage our community to work together.



Currently, many of our congregation are of the older and wiser variety, and whilst they bring so many talents and experience to church, we would like you to help us inspire others in the village to encounter God's love in whatever way is right for them and to find a special place in their hearts for our church. We are a welcoming and inclusive church and want others to experience this mission and evangelism in a number of different ways and styles of worship so that everyone feels that our church has something to offer to them.

We appreciate that our new Rector will be busy with six churches but visibility of the clergy and taking time to listen to villagers is so very important in building the engagement between the village and the church. The PCC is looking forward to supporting the Rector in community engagement.



Clyffe Pypard – St Peter's

The church is situated in Clyffe Pypard. However the Parish encompasses both Clyffe Pypard and the village of Bushton, where the Village Hall is situated. There are six working farms in the villages reflecting the rural nature of the area. We have a population of roughly 300.

We currently have 31 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. At the moment we have two services per month.

We are very proud of our much-loved church of St. Peter's. Inside the church is magnificent monument by John Duval the Younger in memory of the benefactor Thomas Spackman, whose educational legacy is still in place. And in the well-maintained churchyard is the grave of the noted historical Nikolaus Pevsner whose family kindly donated the gates to the church.



The building is Grade One listed and we are currently fund raising for a new roof. This is in the early stages. The process of fund and grant applications has given us a perfect opportunity to reexamine our thoughts on the use of the Church building and to refocus on its role in the current world. We are currently discussing many topics relating to multi-use of the building, internal changes and extending the reach of the congregation.

We have a thriving annual Plant Fair which contributes largely to the repairs to the Church as do the Harvest Supper - very well attended - and the Christmas Bazaar. The Church community is involved closely in these events.

The replacement of the church roof is being undertaken with the help of the Church Buildings department at the Diocese of Salisbury, together with their fundraising advisor. At the same time, we are also looking to incorporate sub projects to renew the electricity and heating systems within the scope of our renovation work, with a view to finding more ecological solutions for the future. We have had several successful fundraising applications for example two Grants from Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, including one of only three Churches to be awarded their 70th Anniversary Grant. The project itself is vital not only for the long-term preservation of a valuable historic building, but also for the safety of the medieval wall paintings and the Spackman memorial.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our new Rector. Being a Benefice of six churches, we are hoping that the new incumbent would be able to combine all our strengths into a thriving church community.



Hilmarton – St Laurence

The Hilmarton Parish is a friendly community encompassing the two villages of Hilmarton and Goatacre, along with eleven hamlets, comprising approximately 300 households.

We are proud of our strong community outreach and warmly welcome visitors to the Church of St. Laurence, a Grade I listed building from the 12th century, centrally located in Hilmarton Village. As a recently joined member of Inclusive Church, we strongly believe our doors should be open to all, and we actively access training for inclusivity across various groups, including disability, LGBTQ, and gypsy traveller communities. We sincerely hope that everyone who visits will appreciate the history, light, and architecture of this wonderful building. We have had the privilege of hosting overseas groups interested in our rare King James Bible and an 1875 Sweetland Pipe Organ. Most of our events include delicious homemade refreshments, for which we only request a donation, ensuring inclusivity for those on lower incomes.

Our active Bellringing Group encourages younger community members to learn the art of ringing. The bell band is available to ring for weddings, baptisms, occasional funerals, and all services upon request. The Church Electoral Roll currently stands at 35, with regular service attendance typically ranging from 12 to 15 individuals. Like many rural churches, our congregation expands significantly for special occasions and services.



The church building and grounds are well-maintained, with the last quinquennial inspection held in September 2025. We maintain a successful financial record, supported by the parish giving scheme, regular fundraising activities, and a steady income generated from April to October through “Champing” (church camping).

Hilmarton Parish benefits from strong links with our Pre-School and Primary School. Both institutions utilise the Church for special occasions and services throughout the year, and the school occasionally invites the Rector to lead an assembly. Hilmarton Village also features a well-attended independant evangelical Chapel and the popular Duke Hotel & Duchess Café with Farm Shop. The landlords of the Duke and Duchess are supportive of the church, organizing a fundraising Christmas raffle for us and other community groups.

In Goatacre, there is a sports and Social Club and a very active and successful Cricket Club that welcomes all age groups. Goatacre is also home to an Animal Sanctuary and a Nursing Home. An independent Newsletter, produced by the Parish Council, publishes details of church services and many other parish and benefice events.



Our most exciting vision for the future is to re-order our wonderful church to become a central hub for the Parish and surrounding areas. By removing all the pews, the building can become dual-use, allowing for more frequent and sustainable use as a functioning part of our community, especially given that our ageing church hall is now almost redundant. This re-ordering will significantly improve access for individuals with disabilities and young families. Parishioners have shown great enthusiasm, offering many suggestions for non-worship uses. Increased utilisation of the church will benefit its upkeep and generate income, helping us keep our doors open for future generations to enjoy.



Lyneham – St Michael's and Bradenstoke – St Mary's

Lyneham and Bradenstoke is a vibrant and active parish community, encompassing two main villages Lyneham with Bradenstoke as well as the smaller hamlets of Preston and Thickthorn.

A significant part of the Lyneham population is transient due to the ongoing expansion of MOD Lyneham, home to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Defence School of Technical Training. In January 2025, the Royal Air Force Fourth School of Technical Training also relocated here, further enriching the area's military presence.

While a large portion of our current worshippers are elderly, we remain committed to honouring their needs while also seeking to expand engagement with a broader demographic. We hope to grow the congregation through more inclusive and contemporary forms of worship and outreach.

Our two churches are centrally located within their respective villages. Today, the parish continues to enjoy a positive relationship with the Army Chaplaincy, and St Michael's Church has been designated as the Garrison Church. The parish continues to enjoy a positive relationship with the Army Chaplaincy and St Michael's Church has been designated as the Garrison Church.



The parish is home to thriving Scout, Guide, and Air Training Corps groups contributing to a dynamic youth presence. Additionally, five park home estates provide over 200 residences for those aged 50 and above, fostering a strong and supportive senior community.

Economically, the parish is supported by several active farms and a wide range of local businesses, including three small supermarkets, a ladies' salon and a gents' barber, village cafés and fast-food outlets, a fuel station and mechanics, a veterinary practice, a pharmacy and a pub.



Educationally, Lyneham boasts an excellent primary school, with secondary education available in nearby Calne and Royal Wootton Bassett. The church regularly invites the school to participate in significant community services such as VE Day, the Coronation, and Christmas carol services.

Given the military roots of the area, the annual Remembrance Service is a significant event. The church is often adorned with thousands of hand-knitted and crocheted poppies, generously created and donated by members of the wider community.

Both Lyneham and Bradenstoke benefit from well-used village and community halls, which host a variety of clubs and activities. Lyneham's Church Hall, in particular, serves as a hub for community engagement. It hosts popular seasonal events such as Easter, Summer, and Christmas Fayres to foster integration between long-standing residents and MOD families. Highlights include a

spectacular Christmas Grotto, a large summer Dog Show, and an Easter Egg collection, which sees donated eggs delivered to local care homes. Coach trips are also frequently organised for social outings.

The Church Hall in Lyneham plays a key role in local support initiatives. It functions as a distribution point for the Swindon Food Collective and works in partnership with the Co-Op (located directly opposite) as part of a local Food Share Group. Volunteers from the Church and Hall are dedicated to supporting those in need both locally and globally.

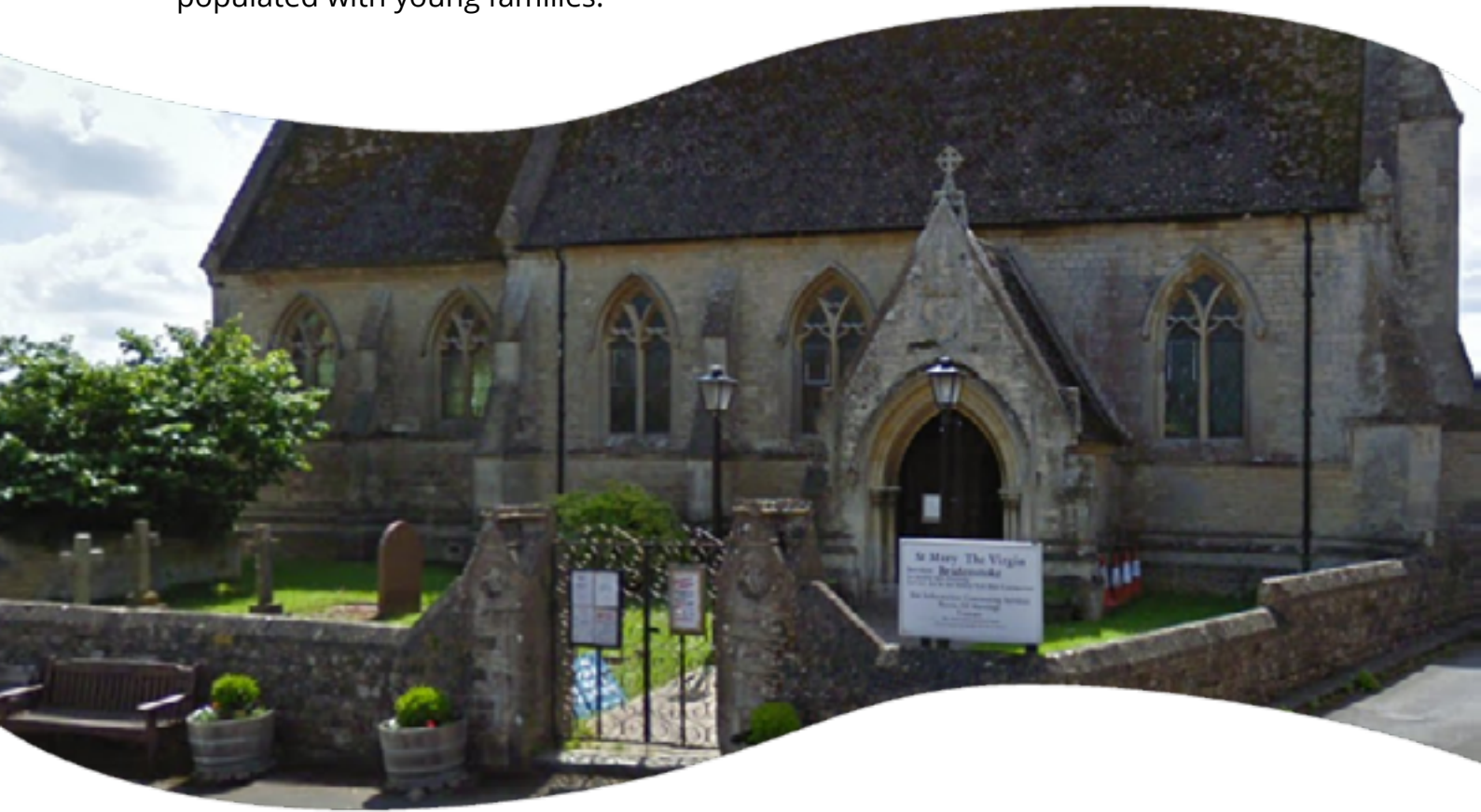
Some notable efforts include:

- Providing clothing, toys, and essentials for Ukrainian and Afghan refugees who arrived in the parish with very little.
- Organising large-scale donations in response to a powerful tropical cyclone disaster in Fiji
- Supplying household items for previously homeless individuals settling in the area.

These acts of compassion and service underscore the parish's strong ethos of care, inclusion, and global citizenship.



Bradenstoke has a lively community that organise many events throughout the year. Although in close proximity, the two villages have distinct characters. The demography will soon change as new developments in the parish become populated with young families.



St Michael's work tirelessly to offer a range of activities to bring the community together. St Mary's, is a much smaller worshipping community, who encourage community participation and initiate many of their village activities, such as: Oktoberfest held at the Cross Keys Inn and local history events like the village to the Medieval House and the Priory Ruins.

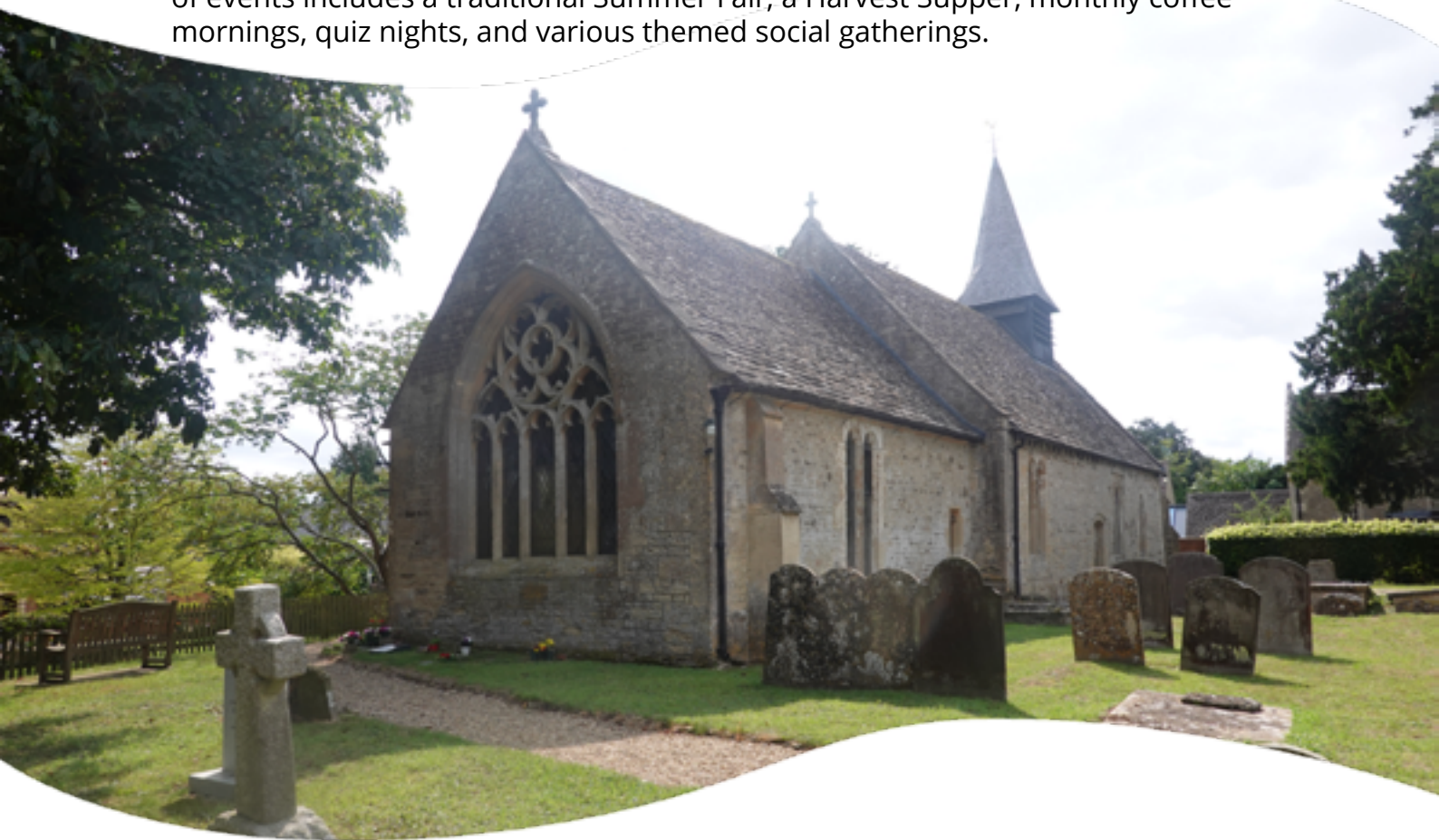
The village also has a busy hall hosting events such as: golden years keep fit, Alzheimer support, memory and wellbeing club, bingo, bowls, coffee mornings, art club and yoga. There is also a spacious dog-walking field and Parish Council owned allotments.



Tockenham – St. Giles

Tockenham is a charming rural village with a population of approximately 200 residents. Our beautiful, historic church is centrally located alongside the Village Hall and Recreation Area, together forming the heart of the community. Within Tockenham there is a deep sense of togetherness, blending tradition with new ideas and a spirit of welcome for all.

The strong community spirit is significantly enhanced through dedicated pastoral care and a variety of social occasions held throughout the year. These events are thoughtfully organised by the church, the Village Hall committee, and the Village Fair committee, often working in collaboration with one another. Our calendar of events includes a traditional Summer Fair, a Harvest Supper, monthly coffee mornings, quiz nights, and various themed social gatherings.



The village community is composed of both long-standing farming families who have resided in Tockenham for generations, and newer families drawn to our rural way of life and strong sense of community. We represent a wide range of ages, families, and economic situations, coexisting with a notable spirit of closeness and mutual support. Additionally, several small businesses operate from within the village.

Historical records mention a church in Tockenham as early as 1276. While it has undergone development over the centuries, its ancient roots can still be felt within its simple beauty and sacred atmosphere. The church holds a special significance for most villagers, as evidenced by the large congregations attending life events and seasonal celebrations. This strong connection is also demonstrated by the impressive response to our recent fundraising efforts to

repair the bell cote and a growing number of regular worshippers. Our typical church congregation ranges between 8 and 20 attendees, but for special occasions, attendance increases significantly. We often welcome up to one hundred people for our Christmas Eve Candlelit Carol service, and 50 for the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial.

The church is well-maintained, with all quinquennial work completed, and we have fully met our financial obligations. Our dedicated Churchwarden works alongside a team of villagers and church members to ensure the church remains beautiful through cleaning, flower arranging, and minor maintenance. This effort contributed to our "Best Kept Small Village Award" in 2024.



Alongside an active and engaged Parochial Church Council and a network of other volunteers, the Benefice LLM (Licensed Lay Minister) resides in Tockenham. This creates a strong foundation from which to provide a robust pastoral ministry and support an incumbent to enrich the spiritual life of the village. Previous examples include introducing different ways of worshipping, spiritually based events such as reflective walks, and activities like Harvest bread making workshops, Easter trails, and outdoor worship opportunities.

The model for our future vision symbolises the church as a vital bridge or gateway, fostering community cohesion and nurturing individual spiritual journeys. It reflects our belief that faith and belief are not confined to Sundays but are woven into the very fabric of daily life. Key components of this vision include enhanced visibility, welcoming inclusiveness, and a diverse provision of services, learning opportunities, and activities.

Calne Deanery

Lying just south of the M4 motorway, Calne Deanery is the most northerly deanery in Salisbury Diocese. It has a rich and diverse social mix and is an interesting place to live and worship.

The deanery consists of four benefices: the Marden Vale Team, comprising the market town of Calne and three neighbouring villages; the market town parish of Royal Wootton Bassett (RWB); a second rural five-parish benefice of Oldbury; and this Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill. 2025 has also seen the establishment of a church plant in RWB, The Light Church, under a Bishop's Mission Order, whose aim is to connect primarily with those that are unchurched or dechurched, and whose orbit of activity is the whole deanery.

The Deanery Chapter meets both as a greater chapter (including retired clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers) for hospitality and support, and as a smaller 'lesser chapter' (of the licensed & SSM associate clergy) for a more robust sharing of challenge and celebration.

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year, and although its membership is small in number we are committed to supporting and resourcing one another in our aspiration to be the parishes and church communities God is calling us to be in this place, mindful always of the Diocesan vision of Making Jesus Known.

For more information please contact the Revd Canon Jane Curtis on 01793 977395.

Closing Prayer

Gracious God,
We offer this Benefice profile to you, trusting in your faithfulness. We pray for a new chapter in the life of our parishes, filled with growth, service, and a deeper relationship with you. We ask for your blessing upon the new Rector and upon our entire community as we move forward together. In Jesus' name,
Amen.

APPENDIX

PARISH SHARE

Below is a table showing the Parish Share expectations and actual contributions for 2024.

Parish	2024 Share				
	Request	Contribution	Discount	%	Balance
Broad town	12,224	3,000	0	25%	9,224
Clyffe Pypard	10,217	10,166	51	100%	0
Hilmarton	11,927	11,927	0	100%	0
Lyneham with Bradenstoke	21,218	8,000	0	38%	13,218
Tockenham	7,792	7,753	39	100%	0
Benefice Total	63,378	40,846	90	65%	22,442

Parish Finances and Maintenance

The Parish Giving Scheme has been a vital source of financial stability for Hilmarton Parish, providing consistent support through regular donations. In contrast, Tockenham Parish has benefited significantly from a historic legacy which, when combined with prudent investment, continues to sustain its financial health.

Some of our other churches are currently facing challenges due to necessary building maintenance. These issues have impacted their ability to contribute financially. Both Bradenstoke and Clyffe Pypard churches are in urgent need of roof repairs, which remain a significant concern. Lyneham Church recently completed essential roof restoration, alongside major work to manage and preserve several ancient trees on the grounds, while Broad Town has faced a concern about the safety of their heating, which has been temporarily resolved.

We remain committed to maintaining our buildings as places of worship, heritage, and community, and we are deeply grateful for all ongoing support that helps make this possible.

SERVICE PATTERN

	Communion Services	Other services
First Wednesday	Hilmarton: Communion 2.00pm	
First Sunday	Clyffe Pypard: Communion - 9am Tockenham: Communion - 10.30am	Lyneham All-Age Service - 10.30am
Second Sunday	Bradenstoke: Communion - 9am Hilmarton: Communion (said) - 10.30am	Broad Town Morning Service - 10.30am
Third Sunday	Clyffe Pypard: Communion - 9am Lyneham: Communion - 10.30am	Tockenham Morning Prayer - 10.30am
Fourth Sunday	Bradenstoke: Communion - 9am Broad Town: Communion - 10.30am	Hilmarton All-Age Service - 10.30am
Fifth Sunday	Alternating Venue Benefice Communion 10.30am	