

Welcome

The Cannings & Redhorn Team had a total population of 5345 in the 2011 census. There has been significant building in the benefice since then in the Northfields area of Bishops Cannings parish.

There are eight churches in the benefice which comprises 18 villages and hamlets situated to the west of the Vale of Pewsey, bordered by Bishops Cannings Down, Horton Down and All Cannings Down to the north and Salisbury Plain to the south. The Vale is an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' mainly given to open farmland and unspoilt chalk downland which is rich in wildlife, history and archaeology.

As in many rural areas, community life is starting to build again in our villages following the Covid 19 Pandemic. Clubs and societies cater for almost every age group and interest. Our village halls, and occasionally our churches, provide the venue for these regular events.

There are four Church Schools in the team, all of which take children from 4 to 11 years old. All the schools have close ties with their respective local church, with the churches providing governors, venues for services, and volunteers (both lay and ordained) for assemblies.

Our Ministry Team

The Rector of The Cannings & Redhorn Team is The Rev'd Richard Curtis.

There is a stipendiary Assistant Curate The Rev'd Sam Park (who joined us at Petertide 2023)

Two retired clergy regularly support us as well.

The Rev'd Canon Dr Chris Burdon lives in Devizes and takes one service a month at St Mary the Virgin, Bishops Cannings as well as helping out at St John and St Mary Devizes

The Rev'd Canon Frank Scammell lives in Urchfont where he takes a service a month at St Michael and All Angels, Urchfont.

We are also fortunate to have The Rev'd Liz Bailey The Rev'd Canon George Royle who help us occasionally.

There are four Lay Worship Leaders who lead services in Bishops Cannings, Marden and Urchfont.

Also there are four Lay Pastoral Assistants. Their ministry is principally focused on pastoral visiting. There are two residential homes in the benefice where LPAs have in the past taken home communion. At the moment we don't have an active ministry in either home. One of the homes is ministered to by the assistant curate at St John and St Mary, Devizes and we hope to be able to maintain the ministry he has developed there when he moves on.

There is a weekly house group in Urchfont, and we offer Advent and Lent groups across the benefice.

We are fortunate to have a part-time Team Administrator, Helen Rawlings, working from her home-office, who provides valuable administrative support for clergy and laity alike.

The benefice share two very effective Parish Safeguarding Officers and we are committed to Safeguarding in line with Diocesan and Church of England policies.

We Are Seeking

We are looking for someone who:

- will be able to help us develop the ministry in our smaller parishes by:
 - enabling us to expand the Sunday services we are able to offer in those smaller communities.
 - helping the smaller church communities to develop their evangelism.
- will help discover, encourage and build up lay ministry and leadership to enable sustainable patterns of worship, evangelism and pastoral care.
- will be a presence across the benefice.
- will help build a sense of community across the benefice churches.
- will be open to seeing new opportunities within the benefice and within the deanery.
- will be used to working with a team of lay and ordained, paid and voluntary people.
- will be broad in their outlook as our church communities are broad in their traditions.

Benefice Vision

The benefice produced a benefice vision in 2016 but there have been huge changes nationally, regionally and locally since then. We would hope that our new colleague would play a full part in working towards a new sense of vision with the benefice as we move into a new era. The deanery plan is an ongoing and evolving document and as a deanery we are working to keep this in line with the diocesan vision “Making Jesus Known”. We hope that a benefice vision would be in line with the diocesan vision and the deanery plan.

The Team Council

The Team Council consists of the team staff and a representative from each church. During the periods of lockdown we met online monthly. We continue to meet mainly online with at least one physical meeting during the summer. Normally we meet about 4 times a year to discuss all aspects of the life and worship across the parishes. Minutes of these meetings are published and circulated to all the PCCs. The representatives from each parish act as liaison, reporting back to their own PCCs at each local meeting.

Team Finance

The finances and fundraising activities of each PCC are maintained separately. Expenditure made on behalf of the whole team for items such as clergy expenses is paid through a team account. The individual parishes contribute to this in proportion to their size.

The Devizes Deanery

The Cannings and Redhorn Team is part of the Devizes Deanery. This Deanery is made up of 25 parishes within a ten-mile radius of Devizes.

There are three parishes serving Devizes and the remaining parishes are more rural in nature. The Clergy Chapter meets regularly and has an important role in providing mutual support, prayer and encouragement for all the clergy across the deanery.

The current Rural Dean is The Revd Jonathan Poston, the vicar of St John's and St Mary's, Devizes.

Life Together

Children and Young People

'Open the Book' runs regularly in two of our four schools and we are hoping to reestablish sessions in the other two schools during the coming school year. 'Open the Book' has been immensely popular with children and adults alike and helps to build the links between our schools and our churches.

Mothers' Union

There is one Mothers' Union group in the team which meets monthly, normally in Urchfont village hall. Members enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake while listening to speakers and sharing experiences. There is also a monthly (except for August) corporate communion at Urchfont on the first Wednesday of the month. In addition, discussions are held focusing on current affairs and what is happening around the world. Making a difference in the lives of others is an aim for our groups and members often get involved with initiatives, such as the 'Scholars Packs', which were sent to children in primary schools in Africa. During the year, there is usually a special communion service held in Salisbury Cathedral for all Mothers' Union members. Another aim of the Mothers' Union is to build a wider community and with this in mind our Mothers' Union groups welcome members and non-members, men and women alike.

Attendances

Regular church attendance is largely supported by the over-50s. While our larger parishes attract more consistent, higher numbers in the congregation, our smaller parishes are well supported by regular churchgoers and experience significant peaks in congregation numbers for festivals with all ages attending. Bishops Cannings has a robed choir which is always open

to new members of all ages. Marden has recently become a festival church so services there will focus on celebrating festivals when the congregation is normally larger.

Mission

Some churches have long-established links with a Church Mission Society partner and each parish has its own individual links with, and support for, various organisations or individuals. Many of these links have continued for several years and contribute greatly to the life of our churches - not least the strong Diocesan link that exists with the Church in the Sudan.

Most of our churches and villages contribute regularly to the local Food Bank in Devizes.

Worship

At the moment we have a complex rota of services. Bishops Cannings and Urchfont have two mid-morning communion services a month and two lay lead services of the word. The other 6 churches have a midmorning communion service on a 6-weekly rota. This means that we actually run a rota over a three-month period. As well as these mid-morning services we have a few 8.00am BCP Communion services and 6.00pm BCP Evensong services.

From January we hope to start an enhanced rota so that our smaller churches have a mid-morning service once a month rather than once every 6 weeks. When the House For Duty post has been filled an important change will be to revisit the rota to increase the number of services in our smaller churches.

There are some annual special service.

Wilsford has an annual Lawn Service, followed by tea; the Ascension Day Service is held in the morning, overlooking the beautiful valley at Stert, where the view is never the same twice. Urchfont has had a Maundy Thursday Agape service in recent years. The open-air events that take place have also become an important link between Church and community; in Urchfont, 'Candles around the Pond' attracts the whole village and offers time for meditation and an opportunity to light a candle to remember loved ones and on Palm Sunday we have had a pilgrimage between a couple of geographically close churches.

Our Parishes

The benefice is make up of six parishes with eight churches and seven PCCs. More details of the churches can be found by following the following hyperlinks.

- [All Saints, All Cannings](#) [Historic England](#)
- [St Mary the Virgin, Bishops Cannings](#) [Historic England](#)
- [St John the Baptist, Chirton](#) [Historic England](#)
- [St Andrew's, Etchilhampton](#) [Historic England](#)

- [All Saints, Marden](#) [Historic England](#)
- [St James, Stert](#) [Historic England](#)
- [St Michael and All Angels, Urchfont](#) [Historic England](#)
- [St Nicholas, Wilsford](#) [Historic England](#)

Church Schools

There are four Church Schools in the benefice. More details of the schools can be found by following the following hyperlinks.

- [All Cannings C.E. VC Primary School](#) - Part of the [Equa MAT](#)
- [Bishops Cannings C.E. VA Primary School](#) – Part of the [Equa MAT](#)
- [Chirton C.E. VC Primary School](#) – Part of the [Equa MAT](#)
- [Urchfont C.E. VC Primary School](#)

Residential Homes

There two residential homes in the benefice. More details of the homes can be found by following the following hyperlinks.

- [Avebury House Care Centre](#)
- [Hayward Care Centre](#)

Remuneration

This is a House for Duty post consisting of two days per week plus Sunday duties. However, the house is currently unavailable so the person appointed will be entitled to a housing allowance under the Diocesan Clergy Housing Policy and annual water rates and council tax can be reclaimed from the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance. For more detailed information about this please contact the Archdeacon of Wilts.