



Benefice of

Upper Stour

with

Maiden Bradley



From the Bishop of Ramsbury, Rt Rev Dr Andrew Rumsey

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the post of parish priest for the Benefice of Upper Stour with Maiden Bradley, part of the Ramsbury area of the Diocese of Salisbury. This post is a super opportunity for pastoral care and outreach in one of the most beautiful parts of Wiltshire.

The ancient see of Ramsbury, covering much of that county, is rich in spiritual heritage, from the cathedral city of Salisbury and the valleys of its five rivers, 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 inspire and guide our communities in making 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.

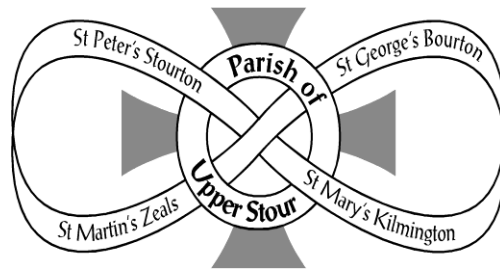
These are, then, times of transition for the village churches of Wiltshire, which I sometimes liken to the oak trees of the Savernake Forest near my home, and which gradually join their root systems to survive individually. Churches must likewise learn how to collaborate 'beneath the soil' to flourish 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 may the Lord guide you into his will for your future.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Rumsey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long tail on the final letter.



Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

The Parish of Upper Stour

Introduction

The Parish of Upper Stour consists of four villages, Bourton, Kilmington, Stourton and Zeals, situated close to each other and similar in many ways but each with its own characteristics, and each with a beautiful church.

We all worship together in one of our churches every Sunday.

Our administration is simple. We have one Parochial Church Council, and we have been a successful unified parish since the 1970s, now about to join with Maiden Bradley

We are an active and friendly church family committed to worship, witness, service and fellowship.



Palm Sunday 2023

Our current situation

- We feel now is the time for our church to reach deeper into the wider community, and especially to focus its efforts towards children and young people.
- We recognise that we are not getting any younger! We very much feel that now is the time for regeneration and being optimistic and forward looking.
- We have been affected by 2 interregnums which have inevitably created some uncertainty over the past 18 months and with the impact of Covid it has meant that our congregation numbers are down.

We offer:

- An openness to explore new things
- Active village life, four churches, two primary church schools, two village shops, three pubs and two post offices.
- Enjoyable fundraising and other events
- A vibrant housegroup
- A strong musical tradition

We are looking for a priest who:

- Has good listening and inter-personal skills
- Will connect with the wider community and be able to communicate with people of all ages
- Will be proactive and enthusiastic in working with local schools, and help us in our aim to encourage children and families to worship with us
- Will lead us in a regeneration of the parish, building on a current core team and encouraging and training the laity in teaching them to take on more responsibilities

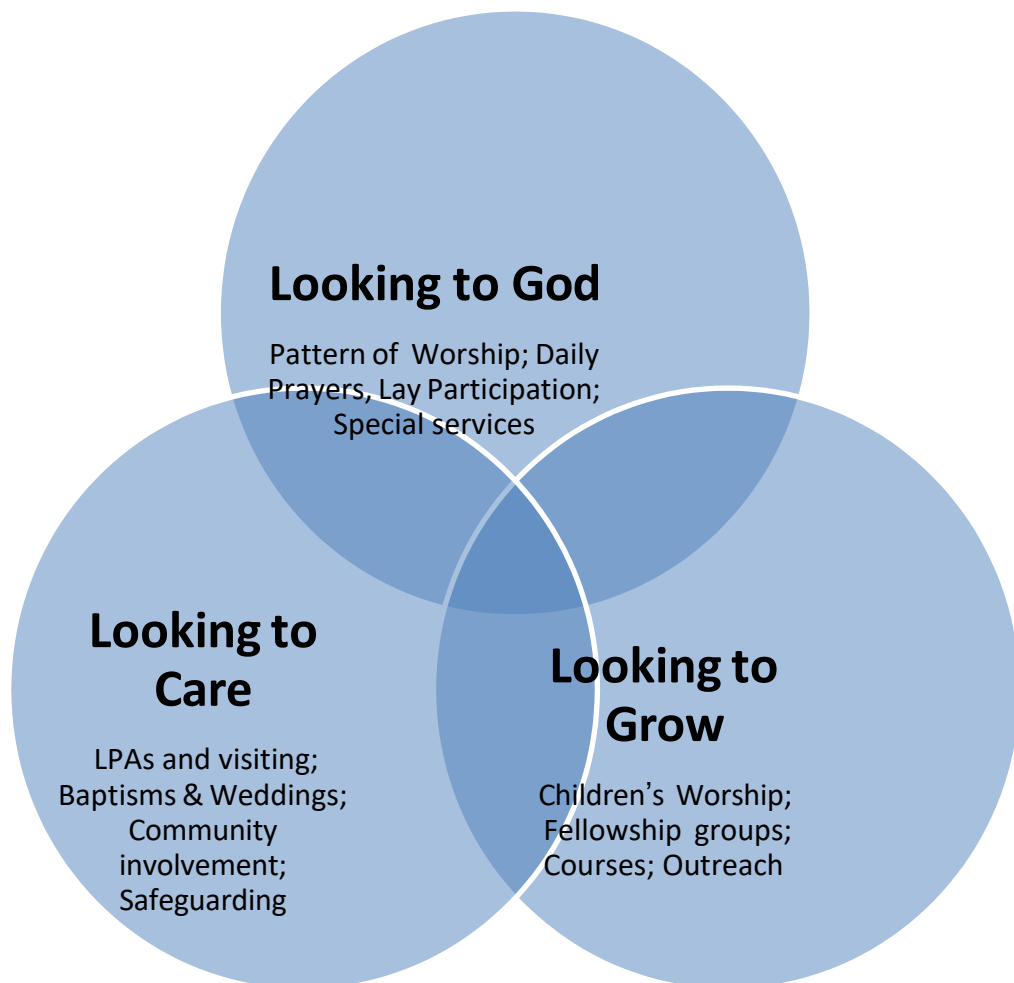


6 am "Sonrise" Service, Easter 2023

Our Mission

In 2018, after much prayer and discussion, we committed ourselves to a new Mission Statement: *'Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow'*.

We summarised our activities under these headings, recognizing that many of them will overlap.



Looking to God

Pattern of worship

Sunday Services : We normally hold one service a week, rotating around the four churches during the month. In months where there is a fifth Sunday, services rotate through the year. We think this is a unique arrangement which has been in operation since the 1970s. We have a congregation of 35-40 weekly

Our services comprise a 10 o'clock Parish Communion (CW), Morning Worship, and we also enjoy occasional alternative forms of worship, such as Songs of Praise, Harvest Festival on a farm and pet services on a farm. This latter always attracts children and young people. **We are very open to changes in the pattern of worship, but are keen to worship together as one congregation.**

There is a core body of parishioners who travel from church to church each Sunday and who enjoy the Service and coffee together. Numbers have declined since Covid and the interregnums, and this includes a decline in family involvement.

Midweek Services: We have weekday Services in three of our churches: Morning Prayer in Bourton on Mondays, Midweek Communion Service in Zeals on Wednesdays, Morning Prayer in Kilmington on Thursdays.

Special Services: We try to reach out into the community for special Services,

- **Palm Sunday:** A donkey leads our Palm Sunday procession, and we have Holy Communion on **Maundy Thursday** and Meditation on **Good Friday**.
- **Easter Sunday:** We have a well-attended 10am service, and this is preceded by a 6am **"Sonrise"** somewhere in the parish, followed by breakfast.
- **Mothering Sunday** always attracts a large congregation. Posies are presented.
- **Remembrance Sunday:** A service is held followed by Act of Remembrance at one of the War Memorials and each village commemorates Armistice Day.
- **All Souls** A Service is held in November to which we invite the recently bereaved.
- **Christmas** is celebrated with many Carol Services and also a Christingle and a Crib Service for children. We always have a very full church (up to 300 people) for the renowned Carol Service in St. Peter's Stourton on Christmas Eve. There is a Midnight service and a well-attended service at 10am on Christmas Day. Christmas services are held for both of our schools, as well as a Leavers Service in July.

Associate Priest

We are extremely fortunate in having an Associate Priest, Rev Mike MacCormack, who has been invaluable during the interregnum. He has been happy to help out a great deal, and has been invaluable in taking services as well as officiating at baptisms, weddings and funerals. He will be happy to continue at a supporting level in future as required and requested

Lay Participation

We are looking for someone to lead and to encourage our Ministry team of one Licensed Lay Minister, two Lay Pastoral Assistants, one of whom is also a Lay Worship Leader. We have an active core team who are doing a good job in keeping the Church active during this interregnum. We want to build on our strengths and increase them, and to develop our own gifts and talents.

Ways in which we might do this could be by growing and developing worship, developing relationships with families presenting for baptism, increasing the very positive relationship with children, staff and families at our village schools, and focusing on the relationship with our current congregation. We would also wish to reach out to those areas of our villages where there is social need and loneliness.

We value the participation of lay people in worship and in our day-to-day activities. Lay people lead the prayers in services, and readings are always by lay people. Lay people organise the rotas for intercessions and readings, and our House Groups are led by lay people.

Looking to Care

As well as the pastoral care which our priest will bring, we have two Lay Pastoral Assistants who administer home communion and provide support for those in need, including: visiting the house-bound, help at the time of bereavement, hospital visits and residential home visiting.

- **Baptisms:** These are usually held within a Service, and, where appropriate, are preceded by a short act of thanksgiving in an earlier Service. We send cards on the anniversaries of the baptism for the first two years, and we visit families who are presenting children for baptism. We would like to build on the contacts made through these activities. We have an active weekly toddler group led by an LWL
- **Weddings:** We usually have about 10 to 12 weddings a year, mostly at Stourton. Many of the couples do not live in the parish but have connections here. We try to get to know the bride and groom and their families and encourage them to join in with church activities. This is something that we would like to build on and expand. We hold a Marriage Preparation Day in February for all the couples due to be married.
- **Community:** Our LPAs visit vulnerable people regularly. In addition we have well attended monthly soup lunches for the community in Bourton and Zeals.
- **Safeguarding:** We regularly review our policy with our Safeguarding Officer. All those who work with children and vulnerable adults are DBS checked. We take our safeguarding responsibility very seriously. Health & Safety is also well managed and monitored.



Easter
Sunday
April
2023



Looking to Grow

We would like to build on what we do well, and we are very open to change anything less successful.

Children's Worship

We believe that there is great potential in working to develop worship opportunities with our two church schools, at Zeals and in Bourton, and we consider this to be an urgent area of mission.

Fellowship Groups

We have a thriving Fellowship Group, organised and led by laity, with a total membership of 10 people. The Group has established mutual trust amongst members, which generates candid and honest discussion. Reading the Bible and understanding our faith is the driving force for this Group, and a wide variety of books from the Bible have been chosen to study and discuss.

In addition, in the recent past we have held Lent Groups within the Parish, including Alpha Courses, an E100 Course, and a Pilgrim Course.

Outreach

We recognise the challenges of a rural community, and there are good links with all the various village activities. These include

- The Parish Pop Up Café days in August and October: we offer home-made soups, sandwiches, cakes, home produce etc to Stourhead visitors. These fundraising days are supported by churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike. We enjoy interacting with the public, and we also enjoy working together.
- Visitors to St Peter's: Many people come into St Peter's when they are visiting Stourhead Gardens. We have held a wonderful Flower Gala at St Peter's annually at the end of May for the past 40 years. There is a parish prayer tree at St Peter's where members of the public regularly leave contributions.
- Bellringing : we have an enthusiastic band of bell ringers, who ring at three of our parish churches as well as other local churches. Our bellringers ring for services and for weddings. We have restored two sets of historic handbells and these are used in the schools to encourage the children in bell ringing.
- The Upper Stour Parish Magazine: this is distributed each month free of charge to every household in the parish. The objective is to be inclusive, aiming to reach churchgoers and the parish community alike. It is self-funded by advertising.
- The Parish Councils (one for each village): some of our more active churchgoers also serve on their respective Parish Councils. This can provide a helpful crossover of information and ideas.
- The Parish website (www.upperstour.co.uk) is regularly updated. We also have a Facebook page: Parish of Upper Stour.

Church Data and Finances

In 2022 it cost nearly £30,000 to run all the churches and the Parish office, which might be 5-10% higher in 2023. This excludes the £30,000 (extra for steel) being paid out spring 2023 for replacing the stolen lead roof (of which £20,000 was funded by a generous benefactor). In addition, our Parish Share request by the Diocese is £58,405 for 2023. So our projected outgoings in 2023 will be over £100,000.

Funding for these costs is from membership donations, fees and (mainly) fundraising. We have had a small surplus in recent years, but there is always more maintenance needed in three of our church buildings. (Our fourth church, St. George's, is not yet owned by the PCC or Diocese, although the Trust owner is keen to complete the transfer, initiated over two years ago.) The Parish Share has been partly paid since our last priest left. In case our annual costs exceed income during interregnum, we have been reserving funds into a separate account monthly.

Church members and visitors donate about £40-50,000 per annum excluding Gift Aid. This is through collections, appeals and monthly standing orders, plus £30,000 fundraising and fees.

The fundraising effort (and income) is due to the teamwork of our four LCCs, and comes particularly from the Pop-Up Café in August (one day) and October (3 days) and the Illuminations event in December.

In addition, the parish magazine in recent years has generated a surplus of which around £1,500 is passed back to the PCC.

There is a new fund-raising committee for 2023 which is looking to enhance or increase the opportunities. It is considering how to fundraise through events which focus primarily on bringing people together, whether regular churchgoers or not. We are also considering how to build communications with the wider communities in the parish through more regular use of mailing lists and through social media, especially the local Facebook groups etc.

Parish of Upper Stour in numbers - Year to December 2022

Population of each village (2021 Census):	
Bourton	947
Kilmington	313
Stourton	195
Zeals	668
TOTAL	2123
Total on Church Electoral Roll	104
Average Sunday attendance - adults	40
- children	2
Attendance at Easter Day Service - adults	64
- children	16
Attendance at Christmas Midnight Service	22
Attendance at Christmas Morning Service	70
Baptisms held in 2022	14
Funerals	6
Burial of Ashes	3
Weddings	7

Our Church Family

We have one PCC, with a current membership of 11.

We have five Churchwardens, who hold regular Local Church Committee meetings to discuss matters pertinent to their village and church, as well as local fundraising and mission opportunities.

We have a Worship Group which meets monthly, mainly to schedule upcoming Services.

Our Parish Administrator works from home in Zeals two mornings a week supporting the work of the Parish. She is paid from PCC funds.

We have a Licensed Lay Minister and a Lay Worship Leader who leads lay worship once a month.



Our Ministry team is:

Our Associate Priest
One Licensed Lay Minister
One Lay Worship Leader
Two Lay Pastoral Assistants
A group of lay people who lead intercessions and read at Services

Music



Music is very important to us, and we have a strong tradition of music making. We have a Choir Master who leads our small and dedicated robed church choir. The choir sings at each Service as well as on special occasions. Our Choir Master is an excellent organist.

Our Choir Master also organises a large ad hoc choir in the winter months, which brings together people from the surrounding area for a performance in the spring.

Pictured: the choir with the Bishop of Salisbury, The Rt Rev Stephen Lake, when he visited the parish in March 2023



Where we are

Most of the Parish is in South Wiltshire, but the village of Bourton is in Dorset and we are very close to the Somerset border. The A303 (in bold on the map below) forms the boundary of most parts of the Parish and links us to the south west and Yeovil, and to the south east, with London about 100 miles away.

The nearest town is Gillingham (Dorset). Most of our children go on from our local primary schools (*see later*) to Gillingham School, which has an excellent reputation, at both secondary and sixth form levels; some children go to Warminster School. Gillingham has a railway station (fast direct rail link to London Waterloo in 2 hours); it also has major supermarkets and opportunities for employment.

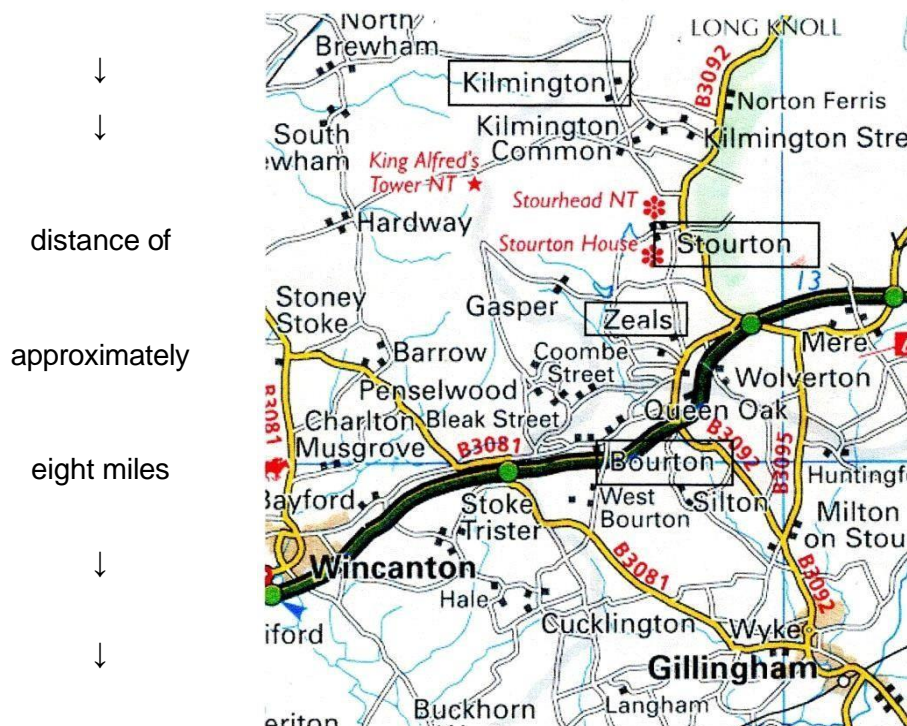
Closer is Mere, with whom we have links through Churches Together. Mere has doctors, dentists, a Post Office, a pharmacy, a greengrocer and antique shops; there is also a small supermarket.

To the north there is Warminster (15 miles away), and to the east Salisbury (approximately 30 miles away). The parish is about 25 miles south of Bath.

Bristol airport is about one hour's drive north west of the parish with direct national and international flights.

The area is served well by three major hospitals: Salisbury, Yeovil (25 miles) and Bath. There is also a smaller hospital in Shaftesbury (15 miles)

Map of the Parish



Our Parish Room

The Parish Room in St Martin's Zeals is a well equipped space with a small kitchen and cloakroom attached to it and galleried landing space above. The Parish Room is used for evening prayer, choir practice, PCC and other church meetings and other small community events.

Our Parish Churches and Our Villages

All of our 4 churches are very different – but all are held in great affection by local residents.

Bourton Village & St George's Church



The Church of St George was founded in 1810 in the time of King George III. It has a unique foundation history. A body of local men raised funds to build a small Chapel of Ease. At that time the village population numbered 1000 and many were employed in the local flax industry. The church grew and was further developed in the Victorian era with the addition of a beautiful chancel and a highly regarded organ.

The Church holds true today to its founding purpose: to promote worship, to enable the spiritual growth of individuals through Bible Study groups, to draw the community together. To this end we hold various events, including: an annual Flower and Produce Show, a Village Day, and a monthly soup lunch in the Village Hall. The village has an active group of performers who produce a pantomime annually. The Church works closely with the community.

Trustees currently own the building and consequently insure it. However they are in the process of handing over this responsibility to the PCC, retaining the right as patrons to be involved in the appointment of a new priest. This process will be completed by the end of 2023

The village has a doctors' surgery and garage with shop and Post Office. There is also an excellent pub.

Kilmington Village & St Mary's Church



St Mary's Church at Kilmington has completed the re-roofing of its chancel and vestry, and also the tower, in the recent past.

St Mary's has its place in history as the location of the Hartgill murders in 1557 when the family were besieged in the tower and were then murdered by Lord Stourton and his henchmen, which ended by Lord Stourton being hanged in Salisbury market place. An outdoor play about this was put on in 2021 which attracted many people and was most successful.

The village, which incorporates the hamlet of Norton Ferris, has a population of around 300. There is mix of agriculture, small businesses, retired people and young families. Being very rural, there are plenty of areas for walks and quiet lanes to explore.

The Kilmington & Stourton Home Guard Club: in spite of the Home Guard being disbanded in 1944, the Club is still very active and is well known for skittles matches and many other social activities.

Stourton Village & St Peter's Church

St Peter's Church, which is Grade I Listed, has been extensively restored following the theft of the lead roof (three times). A sound system has been installed, and the bells were restored in 2016.

Stourton is a small spread out rural village which includes the National Trust property of Stourhead with its world famous gardens. These are visited by over 400,000 people a year, many of whom also visit the church. Most of our weddings are at St. Peter's Church and we try to engage and involve the wedding couples as well as the visitors. At Christmas we decorate the church with a Nativity theme and sell homemade produce to the very large numbers of the public who visit St Peter's at the end of the Stourhead Illuminations trail. We have done this as a parish fundraiser, using our Payaz machine, for the past three years.

There is a pub and the Memorial Hall, which is used for our Pop Up Café fundraising event in the autumn, as well as village events and other functions.



Zeals Village & St Martin's Church



St Martin's is opposite the Rectory in Zeals. There is a full set of six bells which were rehung in 2010. They are rung regularly by an enthusiastic team of ringers. The church organ is deemed to be one of the best in the area and has also been refurbished.

There is a Friends of St Martin's Group which fundraises in support of the church.

The village hall is a few minutes walk from St Martin's, and members of the church use it to host lunches and coffee mornings for the wider community regularly throughout the year.

In the village there is a garage with shop and Post Office, and a very good pub.

Zeals Almshouses manage 5 single occupancy alms house cottages. These are open to citizens from the ecclesiastical parish villages, but also from the wider neighbourhood as trustees decide. When vacancies arise word is customarily put out through the parish pastoral group. The incumbent is an ex-officio member of the management committee.

The Rectory

The new rectory, built in 1978 in the walled vegetable garden of the old rectory, is just across the road from St. Martin's Church in Zeals. It has a large south facing garden at the rear of the house, a manageable lawn and trees at the front, a drive with parking space, and a double garage with paths to both front and rear entrances. There is an electrical car charging point.



The house comprises a large kitchen/utility room; a dining room/study; a lounge with an open fire and parquet floor; cloakroom; hall. There is also a study and cloakroom which can be locked off from the main residence; this has been used in the past as the parish office.

Upstairs there are 5 bedrooms (2 with wash basins); a family bathroom; plenty of storage space and a boarded-in loft area.

The house is double glazed, and there is oil fired central heating. A new boiler was installed in 2014, when the house was completely refurbished.

There is also a large garage

Schools

Whitesheet Church of England Primary Academy

This local small primary school is a part of the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust (DSAT). They have an Executive Head who is also Head at Shrewton School. Both the Ofsted and the SIAMS reports in 2016 found the school to be 'Good'.

The staff and children are strongly supported by the church community; four of the local Governing Board members are regular worshippers in the parish and the priest in charge may also be appointed to the board

Apart from taking an active interest in the management of the school the Governors regularly visit the school to hear readers or take small groups to improve mathematical ability and social skills.

Within the village boundary we have an OFSTED-recognised outstanding day nursery called Leaping Frogs. This is open 51 weeks a year and offers exceptional indoor and outdoor activities.

St George's CofE VA School Bourton

The other school in the parish is in Bourton, Dorset. The Ofsted inspection of 2013 found the school to be outstanding and in the more recent SIAMS inspection they were judged to be good. Quote from their prospectus; "As a Church School, we have close ties with the local parish church. The Church community regularly lead assemblies and church services". The last OFSTED inspection was excellent and the school is awaiting a further inspection at any moment. The school is at present seriously considering the option of becoming an Academy. The school greatly values the input from the Open the Book team but misses the input from a weekly Christian Assembly, and looks forward to having a priest to resume this role.

The close links with the parishioners of Upper Stour are: six of the governors are foundation governors and the priest in charge is also part of the Governing body.

School values and ethos are based on nine Christian Values and when visiting the school it is very obviously embedded in its day to day life.

Both schools in the parish feed into the highly rated Gillingham Secondary School in Dorset.

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Open the Book



There is a small group of parishioners who form an Open the Book team.

They take great pleasure in visiting the two schools in the parish where they perform Bible stories. They visit the schools to take part in the school's worship between four and six times a term.

The children, staff and the team look forward eagerly to these occasions.



Profile of the Parish of Maiden Bradley

THE VILLAGE

The parish of Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield sits in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty near several Sites of Special Scientific Interest. There are entries as far back as the Domesday Book where 'Bradley' describes a clearing in woods and Yarnfield, now only visible in grassy mounds was once a medieval village between Maiden Bradley and Kilmington. Essentially a rural parish with a current population of 328, over the last century though lifestyles have changed dramatically, the core of village life still revolves largely around farming, with two or three families still farming here through four generations or more. Bradley House, in the centre of the village, is the seat of The Dukes of Somerset, and their Bradley Estate owns 20% of the village property, which is let out privately. In recent years, several properties have changed hands in the village, with the pleasing introduction of one or two young families and a small development of houses currently being built bodes well for a slight increase in the population. It is a friendly village where a new incumbent would be sure of a warm welcome with plenty of support and soon feel part of a caring and active community.

Mainly as a result of parishioners suggesting fresh ideas to the village, it is currently enjoying a renewed energy and community spirit. Perhaps as a direct consequence of the isolation brought about by the COVID pandemic, there is a keenness to be involved in the many activities the community organises. A call for volunteers made through the parish newsletter or facebook page is guaranteed to be rewarded with an excellent turnout, and cheerful engagement. The recent litterpick on a wet Saturday morning, for example, attracted 40 volunteers; a tidy-up of the churchyard brought out 18 willing gardeners and farmers lending their machinery to take away the debris.



All Saints with its well kept churchyard

The village is blessed in having people who are prepared to give their time and effort to improve the lot of the whole. The Community Garden is a place of great pride and produces sufficient surplus for parishioners to benefit from the work of the regular gardeners. A group of young mothers have started a group who meet with their babies every week in the Village Hall. And the Village Hall is a thriving center for many of the activities which range from coffee mornings, to staging pantomimes, produce shows, film nights, history talks, the weekly visits of a GP and Post Office and the Harvest Supper, to name just a few.

In Autumn 2023, the Village Shop with a café will open under inspired new management and promises to be a very enjoyable resource.

Although the church building is unsuitable (through lack of modern facilities) to host these village activities, a great effort is made by the PCC to be involved, engaged and make effective contributions so that there is an underlying sense of mission in the community at large. We are fortunate to have the support of the Bradley Estate who are taking practical steps to ensure the longevity of the family's historic link to the church building.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BUILDING and HERITAGE

All Saints is a Grade 1 listed building. The first written mention of the church is 12th century but there is some evidence that it had a Saxon foundation. The surviving fabric is mainly 14th century with many remaining historic features.

We have lately been delighted to accept the return of our historic turret clock mechanism, built by William Monk – dated around 1740, which now stands proudly inside the church.

The churchyard is lovingly tended by a group of volunteers and funds for fabric maintenance have been raised by the Friends of Maiden Bradley Church, set up as a charity in 2013, to seek goodwill from the local community and those who have moved away.



A medieval inhabitant of Maiden Bradley?
building a more welcoming, comfortable place to visit.

Fund raising has proved successful thanks to a small number of generous well-wishers. A quinquennial report, delivered during the pandemic years, highlighted many repairs of varying degrees of importance or urgency, but which are now largely under control. A benefactor is funding improvements to the heating and electrical systems, repairs to areas of the tower roof, and other light maintenance work which do not require faculties. All these improvements help to make the

Like many English churches, our bell-ringing team is always on the lookout for ringers. They currently tour several local churches and they are booked early for special services, weddings and other important events.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE and WORSHIP

In 2012 the population of Maiden Bradley had a mean age under 40; although the majority of All Saints congregants are more elderly, the balance has shifted very slightly in the last year or two with a few village children (and babies) now regular worshippers. The electoral Roll which had been falling, with a number of prominent supporters having in recent years either moved away or died, has stabilised in the last two years and is currently 38. The congregation remains committed and willing to keep things going. Our bank balance stands at £5,489. Last year's share was paid in full.

As the only active place of worship in the village, All Saints must cater for a wide range of churchmanship. While traditional services are still valued by long-standing worshippers, it is recognized that more family orientated services also attract higher numbers.

Thus the pattern of monthly services in recent years has usually been:

- 1st Sunday – Catchup – coffee morning with breakfast in the Village Hall, provided by PCC or others in the village on a rota basis
- 2nd Sunday – Morning Service – Lay led, run by members of the congregation
- 3rd Sunday - Morning Service, Matins or Songs of Praise led by our Licensed Lay Minister
- 4th Sunday - Morning Service – with communion (Common Worship Order 1 or BCP).

Sunday congregations are small though families are beginning to make more frequent appearances. Retired farmers occasionally come to services but the younger farmers are often busy on their farms on Sundays. Children travel to school in Zeals at primary level, and further afield for secondary education. This, together with sporting activities tends to exclude children from attending church on Sunday mornings. It is usual, however for there to be a stronger attendance at major festivals such as Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas and the farming community, is celebrated on Plough Sunday and Rogation Sunday.

We are fortunate to have an organist resident in the village and a talented team of flower arrangers. Their creativity enriches the experience of the space and the beauty of the building.

CHURCH and COMMUNITY

Maiden Bradley social life revolves around the Village Hall and The Bradley Hare pub. The Village Hall is well equipped and has excellent facilities for hospitality. An aim of the PCC, particularly during the current vacancy, is to align closely with village life. Opportunities for engagement with non-churchgoers at jointly run events, church-run events and 'brought in' events, bring a sense of mission to life. The Friends of Maiden Bradley Church holds fund-raising and general awareness-raising events to promote the value of the church and it is open to new, inspired ways to engage with the wider community.

With a growing sense of inclusion and cooperation in the village, there are many reasons to be optimistic about the future of All Saints and its place in the community. All Saints is a much-loved church with lots of potential. We look forward to having a new incumbent to lead us into the future.



The PCC meeting outside during COVID

Thank you for reading our Profile.
We hope that it has sparked your interest in this Parish
and that it will lead you
to apply for the post.
We all look forward to welcoming you!



**Midweek Evensong with Bishop Stephen
St Martin's Zeals, March 2023**



Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow