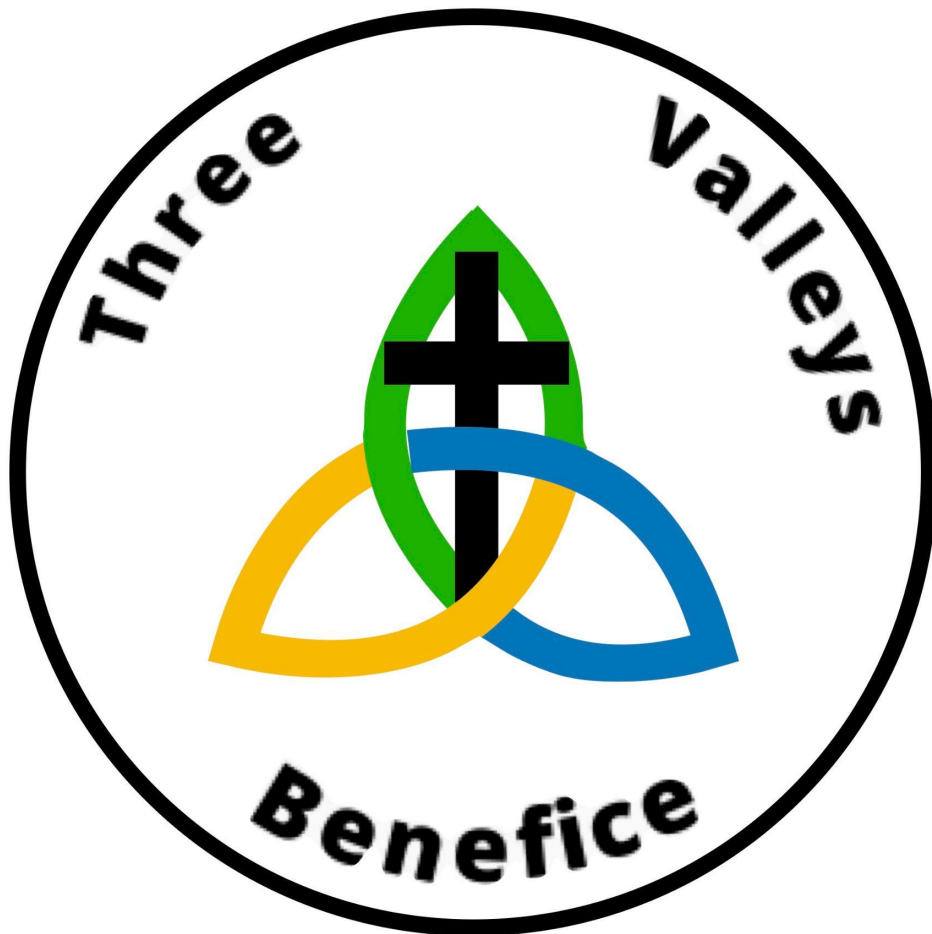
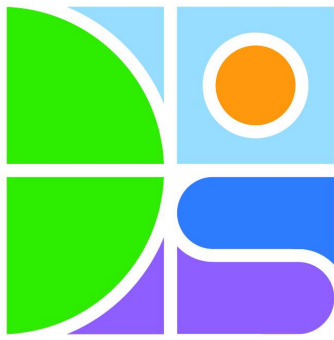


# Team Vicar Profile



So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.  
(1 Corinthians 3:7)



**Diocese  
of Salisbury**  
Making  
Jesus Known

## From the Bishop

Rural ministry in Dorset is a joy and a delight. In recent years significant changes have been made in the way clergy are supported and encouraged, leading to a greater sense of collegiality in our rural areas. We offer great opportunities, wonderful countryside, supportive colleagues and some deeply spiritual places of worship and retreat.

The Sherborne Deanery, in which the Three Valleys Benefice is situated, has been shaped to ensure there is good mutual support and fellowship. There will be a warm welcome amongst this clergy grouping for whoever comes here.

We are seeking a Team Vicar who will bring their own gifts and enthusiasm to support the Team Rector, Lay Worship Leaders, Lay Pastoral Assistants, LLMs, retired clergy and many active laity that make up this team. As the former Team Vicar has recently been appointed Rector this marks the next phase in the life of this benefice, where there is much realism and much potential. The Team Rector George is seeking a loyal colleague, someone passionate about Jesus Christ and what the Gospel can offer diverse communities; someone who enjoys carrying out day to day parish ministry and who can also contribute to the life of the team with new ideas and creativity.

Three Valleys enjoys beautiful rural countryside yet is within easy reach of Sherborne, Yeovil and Dorchester. Yeovil and Sherborne stations offer rail connections to Salisbury, Exeter and London Waterloo.

Should you wish to know more about this post please contact the Team Rector for an informal conversation.

Bishop Karen

# From the Team Rector

Dear Reader

I am regularly asked, 'How many are on your team?' The person asking has usually just heard that we have 16 parishes, 17 church buildings, 19 worshipping communities, and around 20 villages, so it is a natural follow-up question.

'Well,' I begin, 'I am the only paid clergy,' often there is a sharp intake of breath, so I hurry on, 'but our team is much bigger than that. We have a vast array of volunteers, so we end up doing a wonderful variety of things.' I meet a lot of people who are genuinely shocked by the size of our Benefice, but they've missed the good part. When you cannot be everywhere, then you can go anywhere — anywhere God sends — to look at what God is doing and join in.

So no one minds if you take a day out to cycle around villages, just bumping into people, or sit all morning in a coffee shop and see who appears. For we know that when we go where God leads, we are all renewed. For example, we felt it right to stick to a single 10 am morning worship slot rather than rushing from one service to another. This has created time to meet afterwards over coffee, and steadily, church by church, we are gathering, talking, being church, growing in fellowship. A simple thing but with a singular effect.

That is just one example, but I hope it reveals something of what a new Team Vicar would be joining. Later in the profile there will be lists of what we are looking for in a new colleague, but we hope anyone who joins us would seek God's specific guidance in ministry and mission as much as committing themselves to the essential demands of the ordained ministry.

We are a team ministry in more than name. We work, share, pray, and minister together as a whole Benefice. We don't assign certain churches or villages to certain clergy, but geography matters. Your natural home will be among the villages and people local to where you live. It is there that your roots and relationships will be strongest, and your opportunities for mission and ministry greatest. And there too you will find there is a wealth of spiritual support.

So, welcome to this wonderful part of the world and this wonderful part of God's mission in the world. We believe that when Jesus said, 'I will build my church,' he meant everywhere and that everywhere includes here. If you sense that you would like to join in, then read on. If, when you have, you would like to know more, get in touch — just drop me an email at [revgeorgemoody@gmail.com](mailto:revgeorgemoody@gmail.com) and we'll arrange to chat.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'George Moody', written over a horizontal line.

George Moody, Team Rector

# Introduction to the Area

## What's it like around here?

### Looking

Straddling the north-west tip of Dorset, the sixteen parishes that make up the Three Valleys Benefice form a heart-shaped ring around the southern half of the ancient town of Sherborne, with Hilfield Friary at the southern tip, and with Yeovil over the border in Somerset and Bath and Wells to the northwest. A circular walk of the Benefice covers about 34 miles and takes a whole day to complete, with wonderful views throughout. Yeovil is well known for the manufacture of helicopters and various light industries. It has much to offer with high street shops and many more local retailers and businesses. Sherborne has a strong tradition of high-quality education, both state and independent. It has a very fine abbey church with a strong musical tradition and it enjoys a flourishing cultural life, as well as markets, specialist shops, and excellent pubs and cafés. Nearby there are golf courses, sports clubs, gyms, swimming pools, and all the other usual amenities.

### Living

Several of our twenty villages are served by post offices, small village stores, village and church halls. There is a health centre in Yetminster, and Yeovil and Yeatman (Sherborne) hospitals are just on the doorstep. Sherborne also offers a variety of excellent health centres and other medical practices. Unlike much of the country, getting an appointment with a local GP is no problem. The villages in our Benefice, as well as our local towns, are well known for excellent pubs with real ale and good food. There are four thriving Church of England primary schools in the Benefice serving about 400 four to eleven-year-olds, most of whom then move on to our excellent The Gryphon Church of England Secondary Academy in Sherborne, with most young people travelling each day into Sherborne on a fleet of school buses. Our part of Dorset retains a strong rural industry, though many residents commute to local towns for work. Some even commute to London, though with remote working that is less common. The tranquil beauty and quiet rural life also attract many to retire here, so there is an active array of clubs and societies in our villages.

### Travelling

Our Benefice covers around 50 square miles of beautiful countryside, with many walks and excellent cycling. It is crossed by two main roads, the A352 Sherborne to Dorchester and A3030 Sherborne to Sturminster Newton, and is bordered on the west side by the A37 Yeovil to Dorchester road and in the north by a section of the A30. There is an extensive network of country lanes, and driving around the area is relatively easy once you get to know your way - with each rise in the road revealing a new vista of fields and farms, trees, and hills. The beautiful 'Heart of Wessex' railway line runs through the area between Gloucester and Weymouth and there are halts at Chetnole, Thornford, and Yetminster. Sherborne and Yeovil Junction stations are on the main line from Exeter to London Waterloo and a trip to the capital takes a little over two hours. To the south of us are the Dorset Downs of Thomas Hardy fame and over them lies the small county town of Dorchester, with its quaint shopping centre and many small businesses. The Dorset Coast is a short drive or train journey away, with Weymouth about 40 minutes away. The WPNSA (Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy) at Portland is about a 50-minute drive, with other water sports venues equally accessible. And if a trip to France or the Channel Islands is your thing, the Poole ferry terminal is about an hour away for the early ferry, with Portsmouth not much further away.

# Introduction to the Church

## Who are we?

### Team

We are a Team Ministry. We gather every week as a core team of Team Rector, Team Vicar (the vacancy), two retired clergy, and one LLM, and regularly with churchwardens, working at the challenges of benefice life together. Our PCCs meet frequently, in churches, halls, and homes, to work on church business and ministry. We have two small 'Open the Book' teams that prepare and then take Bible stories into two of our four schools. We have a children and youth team that meets quarterly and shares in telling stories and singing songs with one of our two nursery schools. We have many midweek gatherings, some weekly, many monthly, who share together in prayer, reading the Bible, and lots of chat.

### Worship

For Sunday worship, we gather in our church buildings around the Benefice (see the pattern of services below). This is led by our extensive team of clergy, retired clergy, brothers from the Friary, LLMs, and the 9 new LWLs, who also meet to support and encourage one another, as well as often to eat together. At one point recently, we began to count our volunteers but found that there were so many involved that it was a task almost beyond us. While the core team may be small, the real team is very large, all contributing to the life of the local church in one way or another.

### People

We are sixteen Parishes. Each one is different, with its own character and gifts, challenges, and opportunities. There is variety in style and culture, but all share in a desire to worship God and reach out to the people who live in their village. We have a wonderful buffet of Common Worship Holy Communion Services, Services of the Word, Festival Services, Book of Common Prayer Services, and Fresh Expressions. Some are focussed on the rural community, for example Plough Sunday. Others are more for the wider community, like our many Carol Services, Harvest Festivals, Taizé Services, and Informal Worship. Often we eat together, even if it is just a biscuit and a coffee, or a glass of sherry and a nibble.

We are one Benefice. We began as three Benefices about ten years ago, when the Gifle Valley, the Wriggle Valley, and the White Hart Vale merged to form the Three Valleys. Since then we have operated as one and steadily grown more aware of our shared life and ministry together, especially as we have come together for various events and decisions in recent times. There is an extraordinary depth of gifts and talents in the Benefice, and, as we work together, we have found joy in getting to know each other better. Our Benefice services have become an event and a celebration.

### Growing

We are on the move. In the last five years, we have seen the beginning of two new worshipping communities, one in the east and one in the west, one in a village hall and one in a school. Both are going strong. We have begun new ministries in the schools, our local care home, and the nursery, as well as reviving old ones. We have seen new small home groups spring up in all three of our largest villages, as well as a continuing weekly diet of prayer. Rural chaplaincy has solid support and, most excitingly, we have seen a few new Christians, so have had adult baptisms and confirmations as well as those for children and young people.

## Future

We are a place of opportunity. Our ministry in schools is growing, with a new Holy Communion Service planned, for example, but the opportunities far outstrip our ability to explore or develop them. While our demographic has a bit of a lull between 18 and 35, our churches have a gap between 0 and 55, so there is a huge challenge to engage parents and children, and adults of working age. We desire to make Jesus known and have led Christianity Explored recently, but there is much to do for anyone who senses God is sending them to us. While we have two nurseries, we are only active with one. Similarly, our care home has a very active congregation yet we can only visit twice a month. Many come to us for baptisms (christenings), weddings, and funerals, and this gives us great opportunities to engage with them in the future. Our links with the Ezo diocese in South Sudan give us an opening for deeper engagement beyond our borders.

# Introduction to your Home

## Where will you be living?

Holwell Rectory is a modern detached house in a good state of repair and decoration, with an extensive garden, a garage, and an outbuilding. Though outwardly it appears a little utilitarian, it is a great house to live in and would make a fine family home - you just have to get beyond the facade.

Entering by the front door, a glazed outer hall opens into a hallway, with stairs to the first floor. A door on the left leads to the large sitting room with an open fireplace. It has a large window to the front and French windows to the conservatory at the rear.

To the right of the hall, there is a good-sized dining room with parquet floor and serving hatch, and a large kitchen/breakfast room with a good range of floor and wall units, a sink and drainer, an electric cooker with extractor hood over, with space for an under-counter fridge and dishwasher.

A corridor leads from the kitchen to the utility room, which has space and plumbing for a washing machine and ample storage cupboards. Beyond is a large study and a cloakroom where the oil-fired boiler is sited. At the end of the corridor is a separate entrance accessible from around the side and rear of the building.

On the first floor are 4 bedrooms of which two are good-sized doubles, one with a small en-suite shower room (but no w/c). There is a family bathroom and separate w/c.

The house is set back from the village road behind a low stone wall and a lawned front garden. A path leads to the front door. To the side is a generous-sized driveway in front of a single garage. On the other side of the driveway, there is a two storey outbuilding left over from when a pub stood on the site. The downstairs area has been used as an office and storeroom by previous occupants. The upstairs room is accessible via an outside staircase. Until about 5 years ago, it was used as a venue for a church youth club. There is a wood store at the back.

A full-sized wooden gate gives access to the rear garden which is private, maturely planted, and wraps around the property on all sides. Previous occupants have had a good veg patch and a tree house, and report a wonderful array of birds and other wildlife visiting regularly. Beyond the garden are open fields.

The Rectory is close to the middle of Holwell, with a nursery just over the road. The 1920s village hall is used for many village events. Two miles away is the larger village of Bishops Caundle where you will find a shop, a pub, a primary school, and a petrol station. Holwell is about 7 miles south-east of Sherborne and about the same distance south-west of Stalbridge and Sturminster Newton.

# Is this for you?

## Personal characteristics

- Put aside personal time with God in prayer and worship
- Trust the power of the Gospel to change lives
- Teach the Bible with assurance as the opportunities arise
- Stay calm and measured under pressure
- Deal with others with love and tact
- Engage in varied worship in a multitude of settings
- Value the shared endeavour of building God's church
- Play your part in a varied team seeking to serve Christ
- Organise yourself and manage your own diary
- Get involved in local village life
- Pray with those in need
- Be ready to respond to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

# A wider picture

There are many opportunities - for example...

- Develop a ministry among the many young who live and learn in the area
- Take on management of a pastoral ministry (baptisms, weddings etc.)
- Grow a network of pastoral support with home groups at the core
- Explore new forms of worship and mission to those untouched by church
- Develop deeper links with others in Christian ministry near and far
- Support our churches with all the financial challenges of rural ministry
- Build strong relationships with institutions like local schools and nurseries
- Minister to the local farming community, as guided by our rural chaplains
- Deepen our prayer life to support 'the lost, the least, and the broken'
- Work with the rural poor and the many vulnerable adults in our communities

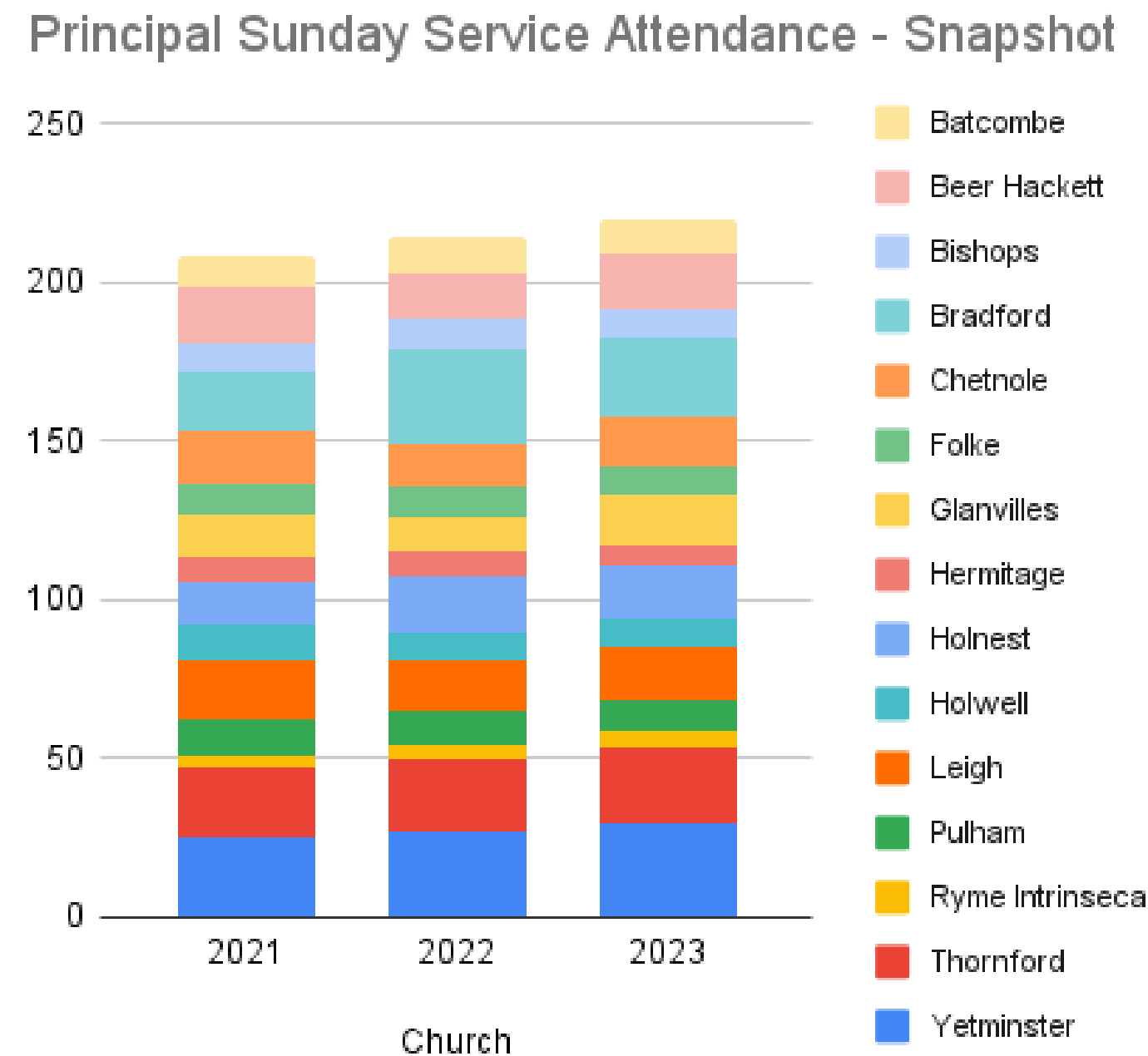
There are some necessities - for example...

- Engage in key monthly and quarterly Team meetings e.g. Staff, Chapter etc.
- Take services as directed by the Team Rector
- Take Holy Communion into people's homes and into the local Care Home
- Chair PCCs and APCMs as needed
- Take a full role in funeral, baptism and wedding ministries
- Work collaboratively within the Benefice Team
- Continue to learn and develop under the guidance of the Team Rector

# Pattern of Services

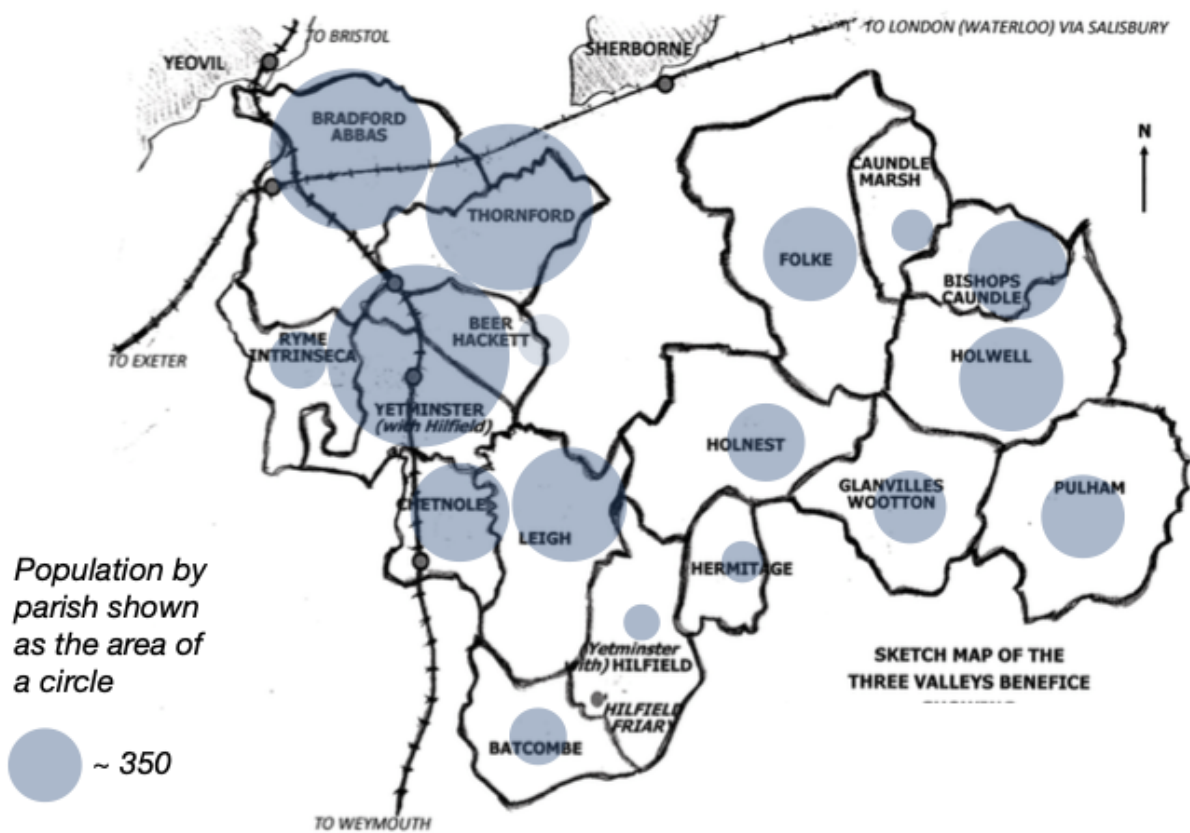
| Sunday             | First Sunday                                  | Second Sunday                                 | Third Sunday                                  | Fourth Sunday                             | Fifth / Occasional         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Zone South         |                                               |                                               |                                               |                                           |                            |
| Chetnole           | <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                    |                                               | 10 am Morning Worship                         |                                           |                            |
| Batcombe           |                                               | <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                    |                                               |                                           |                            |
| Leigh              | 8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) | 6pm Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)          | <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                    | 10am Community Spirit                     |                            |
| Hermitage          |                                               |                                               | 6pm Evening Prayer                            | <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                |                            |
| Hilfield           |                                               |                                               |                                               |                                           | <b>Festival Service</b>    |
| Zone East          |                                               |                                               |                                               |                                           |                            |
| Pulham             | <b>10am Holy Communion (odd months)</b>       |                                               |                                               |                                           |                            |
| Folke              | <b>10am Holy Communion (even months)</b>      |                                               | 10 am Morning Prayer                          |                                           |                            |
| Holwell            | 6.30pm Evening Prayer                         | <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                    |                                               | 10am Fourth Sunday (Holwell Village Hall) |                            |
| Glanvilles Wootton |                                               |                                               | <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                    |                                           |                            |
| Bishops Caundle    |                                               |                                               |                                               | <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                |                            |
| Holnest            |                                               | 6pm Evening Worship                           |                                               |                                           |                            |
| Caundle Marsh      |                                               |                                               |                                               |                                           | <b>10am Holy Communion</b> |
| Zone West          |                                               |                                               |                                               |                                           |                            |
| Yetminster         | <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                    | 10am Second Sunday (Yetminster School)        | 10 am Holy Communion                          | 6pm Taizé                                 |                            |
| Beer Hackett       |                                               | <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                    |                                               |                                           |                            |
| Bradford Abbas     | 10 am Morning Worship                         |                                               | <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                    |                                           |                            |
| Thornford          | 10 am Morning Worship                         | 8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) |                                               | <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                |                            |
| Ryme Intrinseca    |                                               |                                               | 8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) |                                           |                            |

# Snapshot of Attendance

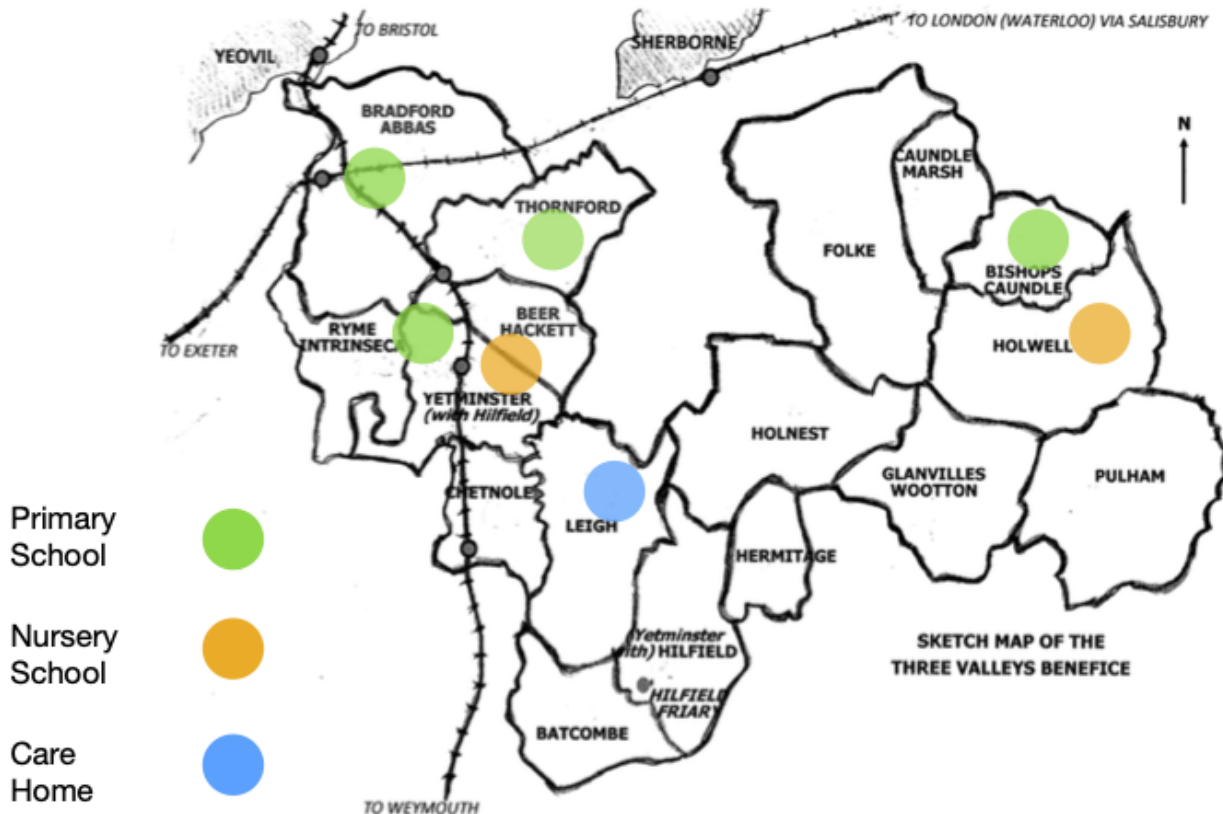


# Maps

Map by population



## Map of schools and care homes



# Introduction to the Parishes

## Batcombe

Batcombe is a small dispersed village at the head of the beautiful Wriggle Valley. The parish is mostly dairy farmland and comprises 30 or so houses, spread along the four arms of the central crossroads. Farming families form the bedrock of the population of 75 adults, which also includes business folk working from home or commuting and a few retired or second homeowners. The small but beautiful old church of St. Mary Magdalene is at the extreme south of the village. The church has a locally-built organ with an organist. The surrounding graveyard and adjoining car park are regularly maintained by a small but dedicated group of volunteers from the village. One mile to the east is Hilfield Friary, one of the foundation houses of the Society of Saint Francis, and Batcombe is blessed by the support of the Brothers, who preside at some services.

## Beer Hackett

Beer Hackett (with Knighton) is a thriving village of approximately 90 people. Alongside farms and smallholdings is an Automobility business with 47 employees. Having no pub or shop, St. Michael's church is the only gathering point for village events. Regular monthly services are held, with special services for festivals. Annual events include the Good Friday 'Way of the Cross' walk, a wine and cheese party, and a Christmas carol service. Other events are arranged by the Friends of St. Michael. The church has a proactive PCC and a well-organised team of cleaners and flower arrangers.

## Bishops Caundle

Set on the main A3030 through the village centre, the parish church has no dedication. Church services are held monthly. The church has good links with the village's All Saints Primary School, which serves many villages in the surrounding area and operates a weekly Forest School Toddler Group. Good facilities are available at the nearby well-equipped village hall. Here parishioners support various activities, including a musical Big Bash, a monthly Fair Trade Café, and the Harvest Supper, as well as Short Mat Bowls and Badminton. The village also has a pub and a shop owned and run by the community, open daily, with an outreach Post Office available on two afternoons a week.

## Bradford Abbas with Clifton Maybank

Bradford Abbas is a large village of around 1000 inhabitants, including some families who have lived in the village for many generations. It is a caring and friendly community, situated away from the main A30 approximately midway between Sherborne and Yeovil. It has a primary school and a pre-school, a pub and a village hall. There is a sports ground with a recreational club, a Variety club, a branch of the WI, a thriving history society, a camera club, and bridge and yoga clubs. St. Mary's is a beautiful grade I listed church in good order with a fine organ often used for concerts. There is a Heritage Fund for help with some major fabric works, and any appeals are supported by the villagers, even if they do not attend church. There is a Bible study group, an enthusiastic bell-ringing group, which also supports neighbouring churches, and a choir formed for Christmas carols. The church works closely with the primary school, organising several services throughout the year, and also supports the Sherborne Food Bank.

## Caundle Marsh

The church of St. Peter and St. Paul stands in a small churchyard adjacent to a working dairy farmyard and is well-loved by the residents of this tiny, scattered village for whom it provides a focus. The congregation is developing a unique identity as "the Church on the Farm", intent on developing relationships with the nearby Bishops Caundle Primary School and becoming a valuable resource for learners as an Eco Church. Services are held on the fifth Sunday of the month, and social events are held after the Harvest service and in early December - "Tune Up for Christmas", a carol-singing gathering. There is a committed PCC and the church has strong links with local farming families.

## Chetnole

St. Peter's Church, Chetnole, has a regular congregation that is slowly growing, but the level of support enjoyed from volunteers across the village gives substance to the claim that the church is at the heart of the village both physically and spiritually. The village population numbers around 300. The village has a pub and its own halt on the Heart of Wessex railway line. The village hall is an Artsreach Dorset venue and hosts an annual Art Exhibition. There is a strong sense of a church community, and regular church services include a lay-led service where representatives of relevant charities or church groups are often invited to speak. Major festivals and services are very well supported and a thriving Friends group raises funds to maintain the fabric of the church. Many other volunteers are responsible for flower arranging, cleaning and maintenance of the churchyard.

## Folke

St. Lawrence Church, Folke, also serves the larger village of Alweston and the hamlets of Bishops Down, Haydon, and North Wootton, offering the scattered local community a variety of services, always followed by coffee and chat. Special services include a very popular Carol Service and Nativity and a well-attended Pet Service every autumn. Newcomers to the village receive a welcome pack from the church. Alweston has a well-equipped Village Hall where an outreach Post Office opens for half a day each week. The Hall is used regularly for WI meetings, an art group and fitness classes. A big attraction locally is the Alweston Car Boot Sale, held on four Bank Holidays a year to raise money for the church and Village Hall.

## Glanvilles Wootton

St. Mary the Virgin is a beautiful Grade II\* listed church with a peal of six bells and an established band of ringers. The church is generally in good order, with a maintenance programme supported by regular fundraising events. The church leads many community events such as the annual fête, harvest supper, Christmas Fair, and a Pop-up Pub, held four times a year in the Village Hall. The Hall is shared with Holnest parish, with which the church has good links. Newcomers to the parish receive a welcome pack for each household, administered by the churchwardens, and at Christmas each year every home in the village is given a small gift from the PCC.

## Hermitage

The little village of Hermitage lies in a small valley with a population of around 80 people working in small businesses, including farming, fishing, and building. It is an active and supportive community, taking part in croquet and concerts in aid of the church, coffee mornings and parties in the village hall and a summer festival weekend on the village green. The simple church is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin and has a regular small congregation augmented at special services such as Harvest and Christmas Eve.

## Hilfield (with Yetminster)

Joined with the parish of Yetminster, St. Nicholas, Hilfield is at the southern end of the Benefice and is a lively, well-supported small church at the centre of a farming community set in glorious countryside with outstanding views. The village itself has no centre, but the church attracts a gathered congregation from the area, including the Friary, for its occasional services. A small team meets regularly and the church is well maintained.

## Hilfield Friary (in Batcombe)

The Benefice is blessed with the presence of the Friary, which is the foundation house of the Society of St. Francis. The Friary lies within the parish of Batcombe but straddles the border with Hilfield. The Community consists of five SSF brothers together with around 20 men, women and children who share in the life and ministry of the Friary. At the heart of the Community's life is a daily rhythm of prayer and worship. The Friary values being part of the local church and offers a range of resources to the Benefice:

- A community of daily prayer and worship to which all are welcome. Hospitality towards both individuals and groups (of up to 60 people) for meetings and meals.
- A place for study and Christian formation – the library is available to visitors; there is a programme of study days and weekends throughout the year; and individuals come for counsel and guidance.

- A centre for mission, connecting through work on the land with the local farming community; the Friary Families and Youth Camps; and environmental concern and action with 'green' groups and individuals.
- A community that offers an alternative model of Church and Christian living. Many of those who come to the Friary are on or beyond the fringe of the Church.
- Assistance with Sunday services – there are usually two priests living at the Friary, and other Community members can lead non-Eucharistic services.

## Holnest

The Grade I listed Holnest church is dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is surrounded by a large churchyard which is a designated Site of Natural Conservation Interest and holds the Eco Church Silver Award. The church interior is renowned for its Georgian box pews with unusual candle sconces. There are regular monthly evening services and special services include an Easter Eve Service of Light and a candlelit carol service. An enthusiastic fundraising group supports the PCC, and the church hosts music and literary events and an annual fête, as well as organising events in Glanvilles Wootton Village Hall such as a regular Community Breakfast and Countryside Walk, quiz and supper evenings. The Friends of Holnest Church aim to involve the wider community, who may not attend church but have a love for the building, in fundraising to conserve and maintain the fabric.

## Holwell

Holwell is the most extensive parish in the eastern White Hart Vale area of the Benefice, with a population of 400. It is a dispersed village and St. Laurence church, where two services are held each month, is on the edge of the main settlement. The church is in generally good repair, with bells rung at festivals by a local team. Church members are very active in the community and are involved in a wide variety of village organisations. A Summer Fete has been held for many years and more recently the church has been used for classical guitar concerts. At Harvest we join in with the Village Harvest Supper. A home group meets monthly throughout the year and weekly during Advent and Lent. Based on the Village Hall, Holwell hosts a monthly 'Fresh Expression' known as Fourth Sunday – one of two in the Benefice. This is a time of informal worship and fellowship, together with cakes and coffee! Folk come from across the Benefice and beyond.

## Leigh

St. Andrew's church is situated in the centre of the village. It seats 120 people and is in good order both structurally and spiritually, with four Sunday services per month. There are regular morning prayer meetings and the lay-led Community Spirit services, with a band of local musicians, are popular. There are two LWLs and an active PCC. The installation of a toilet has enabled the holding of concerts, talks, training and meetings, and the recent completion of a servery will facilitate further opportunities. A monthly coffee morning and regular breakfasts are both well attended. A children's sewing club, storytime, adult Pilates, and the community choir all utilise the facilities. An internet connection is shared with the village hall. A recent Apple Day and Harvest weekend made local apple juice to raise money for the church, hall, and RABI. A small team of volunteers manages the churchyard for wildlife and to provide a tranquil space. The completion of a 12-month Living Churchyard survey is awaited. The village benefits from film shows, live and streamed performances, and a wide variety of fitness and creative activities for all ages. There are many clubs and an annual flower show. The village also has a thriving shop and café and a care home, where the clergy and the wider community participate in regular events. Leigh is a progressive, welcoming village, and the church is valued by the community, whether they attend services or not.

## Pulham

Despite being situated well outside the centre of the village, St. Thomas à Becket church plays an important part in community life, and the village residents join in church-run events such as the carol service, harvest supper, open gardens, fête, and festival. The PCC ensures that these fundraising events also have a strong social side, and church members work hard to form bonds with the community. The church is happily ecumenical, welcoming members of other denominations, and prides itself on its inclusivity. Employment within the village is largely agriculture-based, with farms and other related businesses, and there is also a small industrial estate. There is a thriving pub which holds social events and a well-used village hall which also hosts regular events.

## Ryme Intrinseca

Ryme Intrinseca is a small ancient parish with a good sense of community. The 12th-century church's dedication to St. Hippolytus, is one of only two in England. The village has no parish council and, instead, the church hosts twice-yearly residents' meetings. Regular church services are held in alternate months and there are special services at Christmas. There is a small but active PCC, and events include a harvest supper and a summer garden party held every other year.

## Thornford

The church of St. Mary Magdalene has an active and committed congregation. Each month there is a lay-led Morning Service, a BCP Communion, and a "full" Communion. A regular home study group is led by the Team Rector, and parish prayer is held in the church every Wednesday morning. The church choir sings at the Easter, Harvest, and Christmas services and often at funeral or thanksgiving services. The church building is structurally sound and has a Benjamin Flight chamber organ. There is a strong link between the church and the village's Voluntary Aided Primary School, with clergy leading some assemblies and school services being held in church on special occasions. The village also has a shop with Post Office, a pub, and a garage. The Community Hub meets weekly in the village hall and celebrates special occasions for regular members. Additionally, Sustainable Thornford is an active community group, currently investigating an eclectic mix of bus services, hedgehogs, flooding, and wildflowers. There is also a Twinning Association – the village is twinned with Hudimesnil, Normandy, and exchange visits take place. Thornford benefits from a halt on the Heart of Wessex railway line.

## Yetminster (with Hilfield)

Yetminster is a large village, equidistant from Sherborne and Yeovil, with around 1100 residents of a broad social mix. St. Andrew's church, in the centre of the village, offers a range of services, including a monthly informal worship, Taizé services, and weekly Compline. The church's choir, St. Andrew's Singers, accompanies services on one Sunday a month and on special occasions. There is a good organist with deputies available. The tower has six bells and its own bellringing group – also a historic faceless clock dating from 1682, one of the oldest in England. The church and extensive living churchyard are kept tidy by many volunteers. There is a Church of England primary school and a Montessori nursery with a forest school which runs an after-school club at the primary school. The primary school also hosts a monthly Fresh Expressions service known as Second Sunday. Each term a Holy Communion service is held and a small Open the Book team visits. There is a monthly homegroup and a service each month for the nursery school. The village has its own GP surgery, pharmacy, shop, Post Office, pub, garage and repair shop, Scout hut, sports club and football team. The village hall,

known as the Jubilee Hall, is home to many clubs and societies, including Guides and Brownies, bowls, Pilates and gardening clubs, and a history society. It is an Artsreach Dorset venue and also hosts film nights, quiz evenings, and coffee mornings. In common with Chetnole and Thornford, the village has its own halt on the Heart of Wessex railway line.



So Jesus told them, "Let your net down on the right side of your boat, and you will catch some fish." They did, and the net was so full of fish that they could not drag it up into the boat  
(John 21:6)