

# OUR PARISH PROFILE

## St Mary's Parish Church West Moors



*Loving God, Loving West Moors*



## Loving God, Loving West Moors

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## Introduction to the Vacancy by the Bishop of Sherborne

This post offers an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to bring their own skills and gifts to a welcoming, and lively benefice.

West Moors in the Wimborne Deanery enjoys both a rural and suburban outlook, with the New Forest in one direction and the beaches of Hampshire and Dorset in another. With the towns of Ringwood, Bournemouth, Poole and Salisbury all close at hand. There are good transport links directly to the M27 and then to the A34 northwards and M3 to London.

The deanery is extremely supportive and has worked hard in recent years to bring together its suburban, town and rural benefices. The deanery has a clear plan and collaborative leadership.

West Moors church itself has good leadership (Lay and ordained) and has very much adopted the vision of the diocese to Make Jesus Known. We are therefore looking for a community-minded priest who can further develop all that is already happening in the benefice to enable the church to reach out into the local community, and continue to welcome all ages into its life and fellowship. Church, school and community are vital in meeting local needs and to bring about community transformation. The new incumbent should be able to form creative partnerships for mission and ministry and to help people in their journey of discipleship, including children and young people.

In turn the benefice offers a warm welcome, a willingness to work with and support the incumbent. There are excellent schools and leisure activities for all ages on the doorstep, including Moors Valley Country Park.

Ministry in Dorset is rewarding and enjoyable. In recent years significant changes have been made in the way clergy are supported and encouraged, leading to a greater sense of collegiality.

Should you wish to know more about this post please do not hesitate to pay a discrete visit to take a look around or contact the Assistant Archdeacon, the Revd Canon Lucy Holt (077134 90076) or the Assistant Rural Dean, the Revd Jane Burgess (01202 699319).

We look forward to hearing from you

***Bishop Karen***



Loving God, Loving West Moors

## Thank you for taking an interest in our parish of St Mary, West Moors; maybe you will be our new Vicar!

We hope you will find much in this profile to interest you and please do contact us if you would like any further information.

St Mary's church is a friendly and welcoming church in West Moors, recently designated a town, but with a village vibe and a strong community atmosphere.



We, at St Mary's, are a friendly group of Christians journeying through life together and seeking to share God's love with others. We believe our calling as a body of Christians is to love God and to love our wonderful community of West Moors .

### Loving God, Loving West Moors

We believe there are great opportunities for sharing the gospel, and *Making Jesus Known*, in our parish.

Over the last few years, we have been on a journey through Covid, which we survived well, emerging into a changed and changing world offering new opportunities and new challenges.

We are looking for a Vicar who can lead us further on our journey of faith and mission.

We pray for a leader who will help us build on some things we are already doing and, bringing new vision and insights, lead us in some new directions along the way.



## What can we offer?

- an openness to explore new ways to Make Jesus Known and grow our church spiritually and numerically
- a group of Christians seeking to honour God through worship, witness, service and fellowship
- a supportive and friendly church within a strong community
- a team of committed leaders and volunteers, lay and ordained
- warmth, hospitality – and lots of cake!
- a very warm welcome to whoever God sends to be our next Parish Priest

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### What are we looking for?

A parish priest who:

**is able to inspire us through their own continuing faith journey**

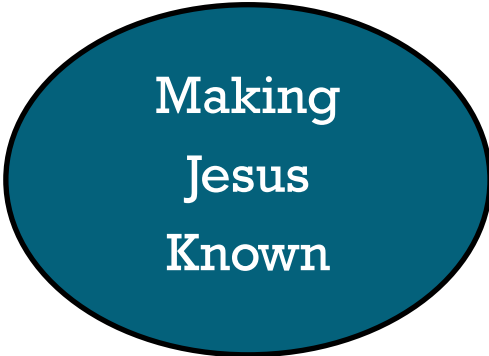
- can share their faith and love of Christ clearly, confidently and joyfully
- will lead, inspire, challenge and encourage us as courageous Christians on our journey of faith and mission
- will value and build on our current patterns of worship and develop a variety of worship styles rooted in scripture, prayer and sacrament

**is confident in their leadership and willing to discern and encourage the gifts of all**

- is able to foster, encourage and grow everyday faith and discipleship
- is able to work collaboratively with others, lay and ordained
- will listen, communicate well and motivate and empower others
- is comfortable and competent in organising, delegating and decision-making, sharing effort and responsibility with others
- is comfortable and proficient with IT

**values the best of what we have and guides us as we explore ways of Making Jesus Known in this church and this community**

- is friendly and approachable, reaching out to schools, other groups and individuals of all ages
- will embrace village life, being visible and known in the community
- is caring and compassionate with a heart for all in need
- is able to encourage and foster enjoyment, laughter and life in all its fullness
- will grow to love West Moors and the people who live and work here



Making  
Jesus  
Known

## Loving God, Loving West Moors

### Who are we?

#### *The Ministry Team*

- a Vicar (vacancy - could this be you?)
- an Assistant Curate (priested in July 2023) - shared curacy with St Michael's, Verwood
- 2 retired priests (PtO)
- a Licensed Lay Minister
- 7 Lay Pastoral Assistants, including a Bereavement Co-ordinator
- a part-time Parish Administrator
- strong lay participation in all our services

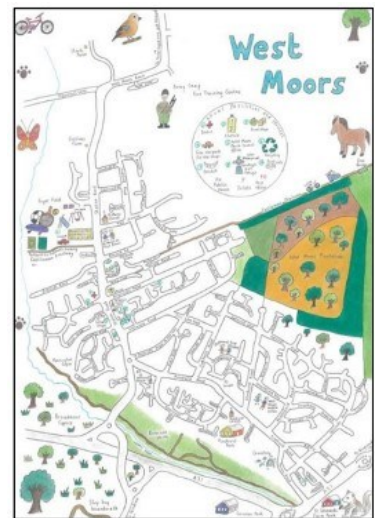
### Where are we?

West Moors is situated between Ringwood (5 miles) and Poole (12 miles) and close to Wimborne (5 miles), Bournemouth (10 miles) and Christchurch (13 miles), with easy access to the A31. West Moors is perfectly placed, adjoining open countryside with riverside, meadow, heathland and plantation walks, but also in touch with the conurbation, nearby coastal resorts and the New Forest.

There was considerable expansion in the village about 40 years ago and there is a good mix of housing with modest family homes, spacious detached houses, flats for social housing, bungalows attracting retired people and sheltered housing, with some pockets of often hidden deprivation. There are Residential and Care Homes and some housing for military families.

West Moors was designated a town in 2021 but is still referred to and has the atmosphere of a village. With a population of approximately 7,500, West Moors is a popular residential area for those working in the surrounding towns and with the retired who move into the area. The attractive centre has benefited from refurbishment in recent years and there are several specialist shops, including a butcher, as well as three small supermarkets (Spar, Tesco and Morrisons). Ferndown, only a mile away, provides more shops and larger supermarkets (Lidl and Sainsbury's and Tesco). There are also two pubs, four lovely coffee shops and a bakery, a doctor's surgery, a dentist, a pharmacy and a civic cemetery. West Moors Parish Council has a Parish Office in the centre of the village. Several charity organisations, including Coping With Chaos and Community Larder, have their base in West Moors.

There are three schools in the village (two First Schools and a Middle School), and two Pre-Schools, an active library, a small Youth Club with its own premises, a multi-use games area, football pitches and pavilion and newly built skateboard park, two children's playgrounds, open-air exercise equipment, a Guide Hall and a Scout Hut. The Memorial Hall, opposite the church, provides a venue for many of the numerous clubs and associations catering for a wide range of ages and activities. West Moors is a friendly place to live, with a very strong community spirit.



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## VISION AND MISSION

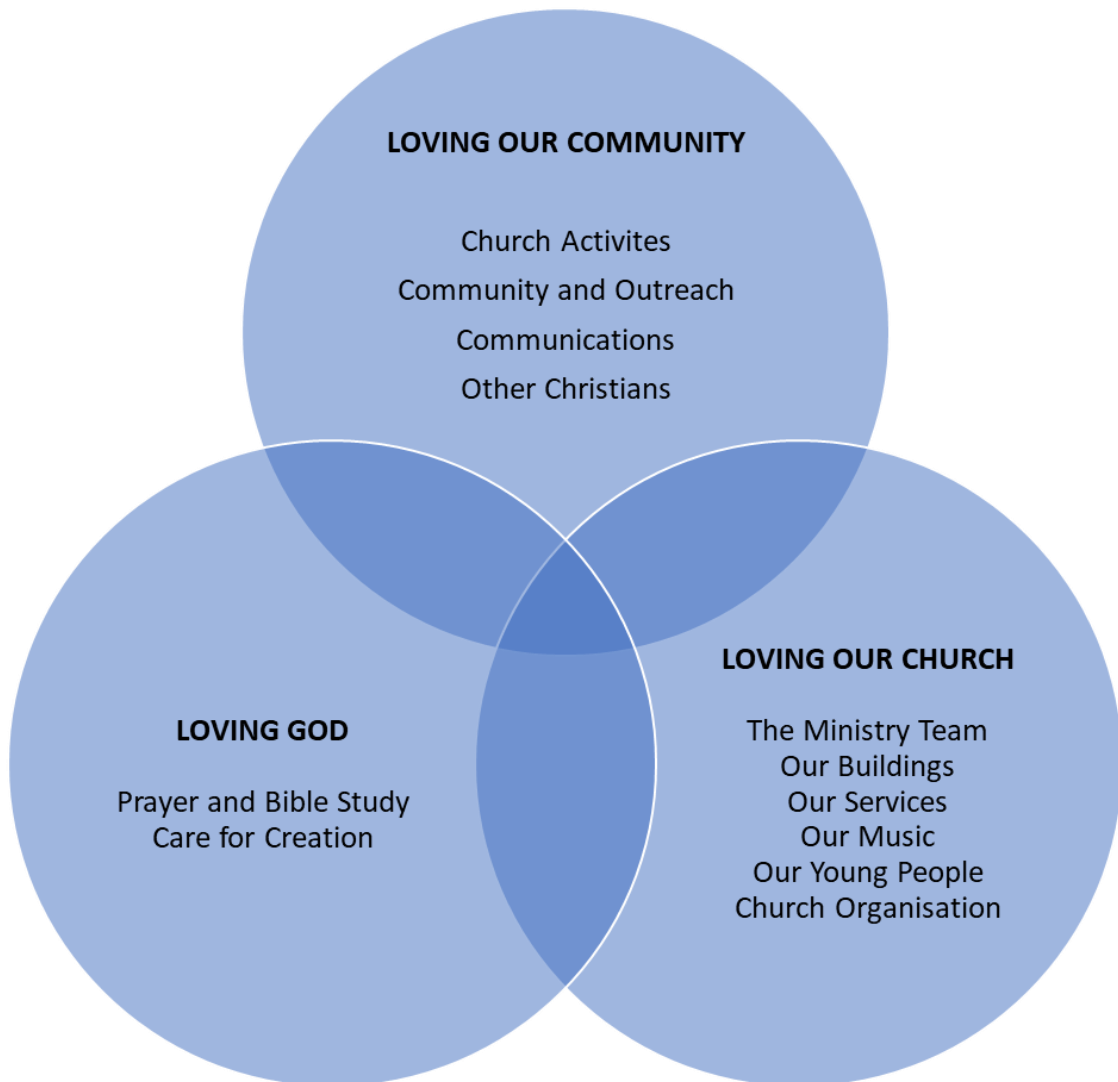
Our Vision, Mission and Worship are summed up in our Mission Statement



*Loving God, Loving West Moors*

### 'LOVING GOD, LOVING WEST MOORS'

We, at St Mary's, are a friendly group of Christians journeying through life together and seeking to share God's love with others. We believe our calling as a body of Christians is to love God and to love our wonderful community of West Moors.



## Loving God, Loving West Moors

### LOVING GOD

Exploring our spiritual life, our love of God and care for His Creation

#### Prayer and bible study

- **Daily Prayer** is integral to the life of our church with services on most days in church
- **Home Groups** - five groups meet on different evenings - for bible study and discussion,
- **Lent Study Group** - in the Church Hall, led by Home Group leaders. Most recently, 'Unanswered Prayer', 'Living in Love and Faith', 'Life on the Frontline'
- **Away Days and Quiet Days** provide opportunities to strengthen our spiritual life

#### Care for Creation

##### Eco-Church

St Mary's is committed to being an Eco-church and we have a committee that helps us to focus on environmental issues, caring for Creation and being good Stewards of God's World.

This forms part of our teaching throughout the year. We have recently been awarded the **A Rocha Silver Eco-church Award**, building on our previous Bronze.

- Our modern Church Hall is fully insulated and double glazed and also, we generate electricity from our PV panels on the hall roof. The church lighting is LED.
- We are a recognised Fairtrade church, using fairly traded products in church social activities
- We have made a commitment to not use any disposable plates or cups during our social activities.
- We endeavour to promote recycling both in and outside the church, including participating in a crisp packet recycling scheme.
- The churchyard is managed as part of the Living Churchyard Scheme. We are blessed with rare orchids and our gardener manages the churchyard to ensure these rare orchids (and the creatures that depend on them) flourish.



- We have a Bug Church that was constructed and filled by our (h)ALL@4 congregation, and which is sited within the churchyard.

- Members of the congregation participate in tree planting schemes run by the local Town Council, and we also recently planted 'The Jubilee Tree' an Irish Yew planted to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen.





## LOVING OUR COMMUNITY

### We are a welcoming church.

Wherever someone is coming from and wherever they are going, they are welcome at St Mary's. We embrace a wide range of views within our church family.

Some of the ways we act out our inclusivity:

As a **Roofbreaker** church, St Mary's actively welcomes people with diverse abilities and we are committed to empowering the gifts of everyone. ([info@throughtheroof.org](mailto:info@throughtheroof.org)).

We are a **Dementia Friendly** church and have strong links with West Moors Dementia Action Group. Four times a year as part of Churches Together in West Moors, we hold a **Forget Me Not service**, a gentle and inclusive service for those living with memory loss and their families and carers.

**An Autism Friendly service** – a short and very gentle and relaxed service, in collaboration with Sturts Community Trust and The Lantern Community, is held occasionally in church – and has been up to once a month - followed by refreshments.

St Mary's actively supports the **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community** in West Moors and the surrounding area with the issues that matter most to them and we are always available for pastoral support. It is also our great privilege to support the community through baptisms, weddings and funerals.

We have a strong team of Welcomers or Sidespeople and we actively encourage people to stay for coffee after services if they would like to.

We continue to journey along the process of **Living in Love and Faith** having valued the experience of following the course in Lent 2021, which helped us to grow in understanding, love and faith. As in many churches, people in our congregation cover a full spectrum of viewpoints with integrity. As we journey together, we continue to hold love for each other and celebrate the ability to hold difference.

## Loving God, Loving West Moors

### Church Activities

A wide variety of activities providing for the full range of our congregation and beyond, include:

- a monthly Church Breakfast
- a Flower Arranging team
- a monthly Tea @3, with activities and food, provides valued fellowship for members of the wider community including Care Home residents.



- numerous opportunities during the year for sharing food together with meals at Harvest, Easter and many more celebratory occasions

- regular social and fund-raising occasions



## Loving God, Loving West Moors



- a **Knit 'n' Natter group** has worked on projects providing Twiddle Mitts and Wiggle Worms for those with dementia or anxiety, Trauma Teddies for Ukraine, Layettees for Babies Born Sleeping and baby clothes for Women's Refuge and Child Centres. We are currently knitting scarves, gloves and hats for the Salvation Army's support for people who are homeless in Bournemouth.
- St Mary's has an active and vibrant **Mothers' Union group** which meets monthly. The Mothers' Union is very important in bringing a global aspect to our church life, running events to raise funds in support of local, diocesan and overseas MU Projects.

## Community and Outreach

The people of St Mary's are involved in a number of outreach activities.

We are committed to supporting others, both here in this country and overseas.

- **The Sharing Shed** was launched by the church and St Mary's First School and Nursery in June 2021. The idea of the Sharing Shed, sited at the entrance to the Church Hall and available 24 hours a day, is that it is a place where we can gift food items when we have plenty but more importantly take food items away when we are a little short. It is not a foodbank but it is a true place of sharing Christ's love, of giving and receiving. **No need to ask and no questions asked.** Now we are looking to support the Castleman Community Larder, a new initiative in West Moors, which might change the way we operate the Sharing Shed.
- **Sturts Farm** We have worked steadily to establish a bond with this local community which enables supported living and is passionate about the environment. Seasonal shared worship is fun and uplifting, as in the Palm Sunday Pilgrimage walk around the farm.





## Loving God, Loving West Moors

- **Soup Lunches during Lent** raise money for Christian Aid with pupils from St Mary's First School assisting with serving.



- **Lent Charity**- each year the congregation is invited to make a donation to a chosen local charity – in recent years, Christians Against Poverty in Ferndown, Multiple Sclerosis Society in West Parley and Coping With Chaos in West Moors. Visiting speakers from these organisations have been inspiring.

- We also throughout the year give financial support to charities with which we have strong links - MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship), Friends of St James Mission & School Zimbabwe, Myra's Wells and Mission Direct in Uganda and various charities closer to home.

- **Children's Society** We support the work of the Children's Society throughout the year and especially at Christmas in conjunction with St Mary's First School and Nursery.

- The profit from our parish events is tithed to support chosen charities.

- **St Mary's Monkeys** – our Church Hall provides a space for local Mums and Carers to run a Baby and Toddler Group each week.





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### Communications

Communication and engagement with our congregation and wider community developed markedly with the use of digital technology, through the pandemic.

- **Streamed services** – the Sunday 10:00am service, live-streamed on Facebook, is an integral part of our church family life, providing wider engagement and enabling housebound members of our congregation to access church.
- **Pew sheet** – every week circulated digitally with some hard copies in church, helps with everyday notices, weekly events, prayer lists etc.
- **Magazine** - The monthly 28 page Parish Magazine is very much a community magazine with regular contributions from the schools and village organisations. It is now hybrid with primarily digital circulation and about 200 copies printed in the Parish Office distributed free of charge through local shops and library.
- Our **parish website** and Facebook page aim to widen our communication.
- **Advent card** - a card with details of all the services and seasonal events at Christmas has been delivered to every home in the village at the beginning of Advent with an invitation to all.
- **Email circulation** – a list of church members, friends and many in the wider community receive regular news and information.
- **Telephone calls** – a group of callers with an allocated list of contacts helps to support and keep in touch with potentially lonely and vulnerable members.

### Our Life Within the Local Christian Community

**Churches Together** - We cooperate with our friends in the other churches in West Moors. Meetings have been on a regular basis to share matters of common concern. Our Vicar was the most recent Chair of **CTWM**



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We are united in leading open air services on the village Petwyn for Remembrance Day and Carols on the Petwyn at Christmas. These are very significant events in the West Moors calendar and in recent years have attracted gatherings of around 2,000 people of all ages.

### Our Life Within the Wider Diocese

We are very involved in the wider life of the Diocese of Salisbury with three active representatives on Wimborne Deanery Synod, one of whom is Lay Chair. The Chair of Salisbury Diocese House of Laity and member of Diocesan Synod – and a Lay Canon of Salisbury cathedral - is also an active member of our congregation. Church members are active in the Mothers' Union both at Deanery and Diocesan level, with two elected Diocesan Trustees and three members on the Deanery Committee.

## LOVING OUR CHURCH

### What are our Services like?

St Mary's has a strong middle of the road Anglican tradition with vestments worn and the Common Worship Lectionary and Common Worship Liturgy used for most services.

But we also embrace a Mixed Ecology approach to Worship, with a variety of types of service.

- **Sung Parish Eucharist** on Sunday at 10am with a small robed choir, followed by refreshments in the Hall.
- **Said Celebration of Holy Communion** every Sunday at 8am using the Book of Common Prayer – a strong, regular congregation, with active and committed members of our church family.

## Loving God, Loving West Moors

- **Sunday @10** – on the fourth (and fifth) Sunday of the month at Sunday@10 the service takes a lighter and more interactive feel with a worship band. We also use a nave altar and share home-made bread during the Eucharist. And followed by refreshments in our church hall.

- **h(ALL)@4** – on the first Sunday of the month, a relatively new café-style church service at 4pm in the church hall, with worship songs and a fun and relaxed style...and of course there is coffee and cake!



- Daily Prayer is integral to the life of our church and on Thursday and Friday there is **Morning Prayer** at 8.30am in church.
- **Tuesday@9** - A chance to explore the Gospel for the following Sunday in the context of a short service of Morning Prayer.
- **Said Celebration of Holy Communion** (Common Worship Order 1) - a relaxed and gentle service on Wednesday at 10am in the Church Hall followed by coffee and cake.
- All baptised people are invited and encouraged to take communion at these services and young people are prepared to receive communion from the age of 7.

During the year there is a variety of different styles of worship as we celebrate the church seasons. For example

- In Advent, Carol Praise with seasonal readings, Festival of Lessons and Carols, Family Crib Service and Midnight Mass.
- In Holy Week, Compline every evening, a Supper on Maundy Thursday before the Eucharist of The Last Supper and Foot-washing, Solemn Good Friday Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross, Easter Sunday Dawn Service and more. The beginning of Lent is marked with an evening service burning the palm crosses and followed with services on Ash Wednesday offering the Imposition of Ashes.





## Loving God, Loving West Moors

- Ascension Day Dawn service followed by breakfast.
- All Souls service of Memorial and Hope.
- Special occasions, national and seasonal, are an opportunity to welcome the wider community to join us in church.
- Occasional offices with a particularly strong funeral ministry.



### And our music?

- We sing a variety of traditional and modern hymns, worship songs and Taize chants from our pew hymn books 'Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New'.
- There is a traditional two manual organ with a regular organist and two assistants. An electric keyboard is also used regularly within services.
- A small but dedicated robed choir helps to lead the singing and they occasionally sing an anthem after communion.
- An augmented choir with invited singers from other local choirs sings for special occasions.



- A small band plays at our more informal services.





## Loving God, Loving West Moors

### Church and Young People



We encourage children and young people to take a full part in the life of St Mary's Parish Church.

Young people are welcome at all our services and there is a children's area with plenty of toys and books



### Schools

We enjoy a close relationship with St Mary's C of E First School, across the road from the church. The church and the school are seen very much as St Mary's family. The Vicar has been a Governor at the school, has been Vice-chair of the Local Governing Committee and has also been a Trustee of the Heath Academy Trust. Members of the church also serve on these committees. The school community worships in the church on a termly basis as part of the school's liturgical year. The established pattern is that members of the Ministry Team lead collective worship in school on a weekly basis. Students also take part in some of the social events, like the Lent Lunches.

The family of church and school have a shared vision of reaching out to, and believing in better for the community of West Moors. We work in partnership in exciting ways to live out that shared vision; The Sharing Shed is a notable outcome of this partnership. Church and school have been working with Sturts Community Trust as West Moors Community Group. This partnership promises to be an exciting initiative in the community which looks at food education and community cohesion.

The Ministry Team also takes assemblies at West Moors Middle School and we are proud to support the wonderful education that is provided to the young people of West Moors

*We firmly believe that the collaboration between our school and the church is vital for fostering a nurturing and inclusive educational environment rooted in shared values and spiritual guidance.*

*The support that the church community has shown to our school has been invaluable. Through various initiatives, events, and partnerships, they have consistently demonstrated their commitment to our students' well-being, growth, and educational journey. Their involvement in our school life, such as leading worship, providing pastoral care, and organising community outreach, has greatly enriched the experiences of our students and staff.*

*Furthermore, our shared vision of "Believe in better, be more awesome - for anything is possible with God" serves as a guiding principle for our collaborative efforts. It reminds us that with faith, determination, and the support of the church community, our students can develop their full potential and become positive contributors to society.*

*The relationship between St Mary's Church and St Mary's CE First School & Nursery is integral to our shared mission of providing a holistic education that nurtures the mind, body, and spirit. Together, we believe in creating a supportive, inclusive, and inspiring environment where our students can thrive academically, emotionally, and spiritually.*

**Roy Sewell Headteacher St Mary's School**

## Loving God, Loving West Moors

### What are our buildings like?

St Mary's church was built in 1897, extended in 1926 and is in a very good state of repair, with all Quinquennial targets met. In the last twelve years the church, including both vestries, has had a thorough refurbishment with new heating and lighting, new carpet, professional cleaning and decorating and stripping and polishing of the original parquet and tiled floors. More recently a new audio system was installed with wi-fi and live streaming equipment.



The adjoining Church Hall, replacing a leaking flat-roofed 70's extension, was built and paid for in 2010. Over half the cost was raised by donations from congregation and local residents with the rest funded by the sale of land on which stood the former small wooden church of St John's within the parish, declared unsafe and demolished in 2000.



The kitchen has a 5 star 'Score on the Door' rating and over 16 members of the congregation have the Food Hygiene certificate.



A paid groundsman and church cleaner, who is also a member of the congregation and on PCC, keeps the church and surrounding churchyard in good order, with grass and bushes well managed as a Living Churchyard.

The church building is open to visitors most days.



## Loving God, Loving West Moors

### The Vicarage - maybe your home?

The vicarage offers a large, detached, centrally-heated house with a good-sized garden and double garage. There are two large reception rooms, one with an open fireplace, and a spacious study. The kitchen has an adjoining utility room and there are two downstairs cloakrooms. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a shower/bathroom. The vicarage is on a very pleasant residential road some 15 minutes' walk from the church and 7 minutes from the village centre shops.



### Church Organisation and Finance

- There is a strong and active PCC with two Church Wardens, two Deputy Church Wardens, and a Lay Chair. A Standing Committee with strong lay leaders creates a very collegiate style of working.
- The Parish Share, through very careful management and stewardship, has been and is paid in full. A Stewardship Campaign took place in 2021. The Parish Planned Giving scheme involves approximately 70% of the households on the Electoral Roll and of these over 75% give under the GiftAid scheme. Last year we introduced a card payment machine which is increasingly used at services and events. The church is registered with the Charity Commission.
- As with many churches, the Covid pandemic had an effect on finances as has the sharp rise in fuel costs. We are working to reduce and eliminate an annual deficit but the fabric of the church is in good condition and bequests restricted to this area will provide more than adequate support. The small number of items raised in the quinquennial inspection have been addressed.
- We passed the triennial Periodic Archdeacon's Inspection in 2022 and our paperwork and practices were found to be in good order.



## Loving God, Loving West Moors

- Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda. Policies and guidance are updated regularly in line with Diocesan and House of Bishops' requirements. Our Safeguarding Representative, trained by the diocese, has run courses at St Mary's and in the Deanery. Those requiring DBS checks have completed these and Safeguarding training as necessary. This includes the whole PCC as Trustees as well as Church officers and those leading activities for children and vulnerable adults.
- The requirements on data protection were addressed in a letter to all on the Electoral Roll, inviting their agreement on the church's use of data.
- Health and Safety is well managed and monitored.
- Printing is all done in-house on the church's own printer and collator.
- A Parish Administrator is paid for 15 hours per month.



## Loving God, Loving West Moors

### Looking to the Future

There is much to celebrate in the life of our parish – as demonstrated in this Profile. But there is a job to be done here in West Moors.

- Over the last few years, we have lost some key members of our congregation – some moving to be nearer family, and others called home to the Father. Children of core members of our congregation have grown up or moved away. Part of a familiar cycle over the years and we look forward with trust, prayer and new vision to a period of regrowth.
- We have a good financial record, but, as with many churches, sustainable finances have become an area of concern in the last year as energy costs rose and Parish Share increases. As we look to the future this will need to be addressed.
- We have people with energy, vision and commitment and we are excited at the prospect of building on our strengths and moving forward.
- It is a good point in our journey for us to reflect, to review our Mission and take some steps in a new direction – especially as we engage with the new Salisbury Diocesan Vision *Making Jesus Known*.

***Maybe you are the one to lead us on that journey!***

### And what can we build on or do better?

- Our children's work needs re-thinking and re-energising. Groups for children, such as Messy Church and a small social group for young teenagers have recently been discontinued during the Vacancy. We need a new vision and a new direction.
- Discipleship – making confident, courageous Christians; Alpha course / other courses.
- Review Worship - explore new and various styles of worship.
- Develop school links. There are three schools in West Moors; we have a strong relationship with one but limited engagement with the other two. Maybe exploring mentoring, chaplaincy, mental health/well-being support for young people.
- Build on our Bereavement Ministry.
- Further community engagement – outdoor events / services / topical discussion, talks and forums.
- Explore the potential of technology and digital communication to support us in doing God's work.

## Loving God, Loving West Moors

## Church Data

## St Mary the Virgin Church West Moors - Parish Fact and Figures

## Attendance Summary

West Moors population (persons)	7500
Electoral Roll (persons)	133

Usual Sunday (persons) adults	70
Usual Sunday (persons) children	4
Usual Wednesday (persons)	10
Christmas (persons)	155
Easter (persons)	263

## Worshiping community (persons)

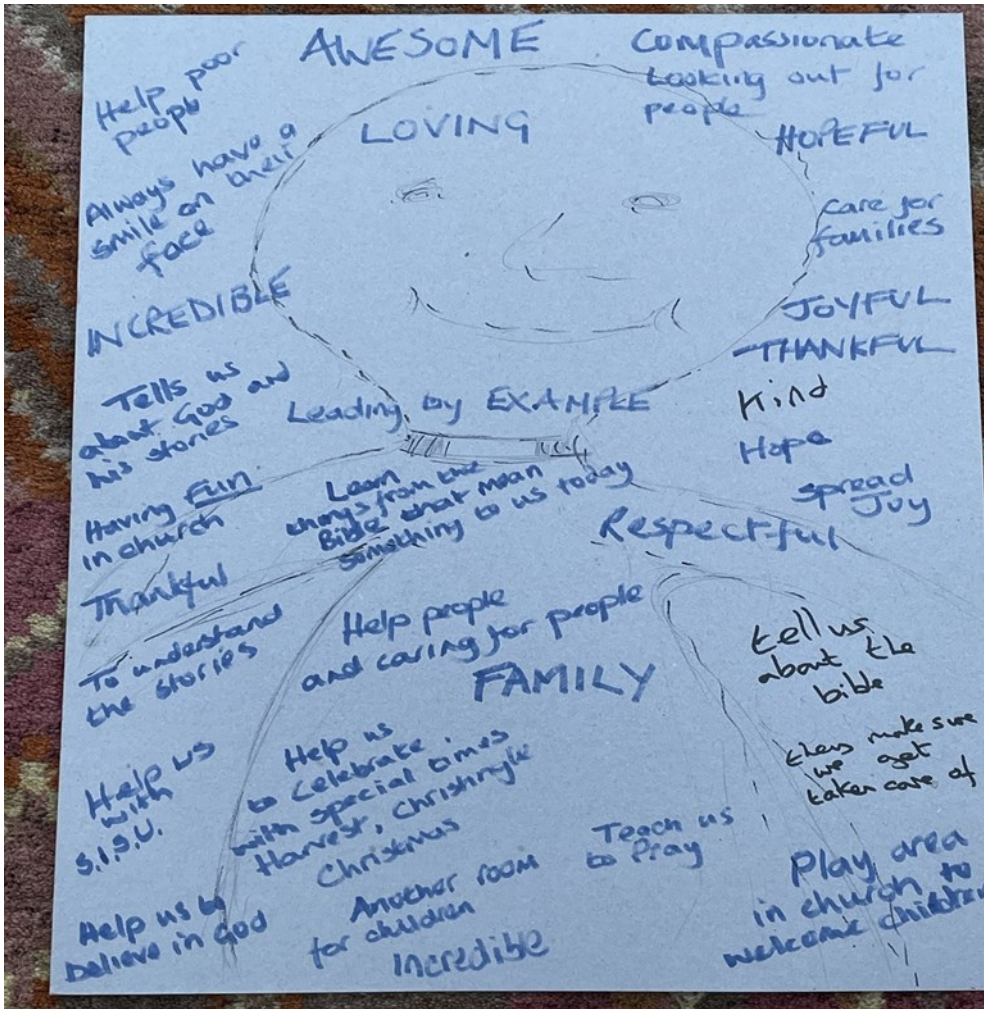
Age 0 - 17	4
Age 18 - 69	65
Age 70+	75

Baptisms (services)	17
Marriages (services)	3
Funerals (services)	25

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APPENDICES

VIEWS FROM YEAR 4 AT ST MARY'S FIRST SCHOOL



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**Loving God, Loving West Moors**

**VIEWS FROM THE PEWS**

**How would you best describe St Mary's Church?**

**What is distinctive about our Church?**

Friendly Family orientated Welcoming, well-kept

Good food Sociable Warm Hospitality

Welcoming people in – everyone made welcome Outgoing

A loving environment that is welcoming to all A warm and loving atmosphere

Care for one another Caring loving

Traditional Good mix of services Open to new ideas

Beautiful Peaceful Calming

Well-run People all working together

A very good community feeling

A good relationship with St Mary's School

Filled with love and friendship Worship and fellowship

Helping many causes in the town, drawing attention to the poor and disadvantaged

Welcoming, innovative, helpful, outgoing

Good intentions and involvement with the community

Supplying food for others

Church is self-absorbed and inward-looking, seeking its own values and future.

Single benefice which gives rise to this.

A loving church – love God, love one another, love West Moors

We are a warm loving family who care especially for the young

Hugely welcoming – beautiful building but most importantly its people, both clergy and community

Good relationships in a strong, loyal, Christian community

Constantly exploring faith issues Both inward and outward looking Social and supportive

The people who make up the church here are friendly and always helpful in a crisis. We do lots of events reaching out into the community.

Good at thinking of others, encouraging others, hosting events

Small friendly church; style of worship not too high (eg incense) nor too evangelical

A great comfort to many



## Loving God, Loving West Moors

Friendly Family orientated Welcoming, well-kept

Good food Sociable Warm Hospitality

Welcoming people in – everyone made welcome Outgoing

A loving environment that is welcoming to all A warm and loving atmosphere

Care for one another Caring loving

Traditional Good mix of services Open to new ideas

Beautiful Peaceful Calming

Well-run People all working together

A very good community feeling

A good relationship with St Mary's School

Filled with love and friendship Worship and fellowship

Helping many causes in the town, drawing attention to the poor and disadvantaged

Welcoming, innovative, helpful, outgoing

Good intentions and involvement with the community

Supplying food for others

Church is self-absorbed and inward-looking, seeking its own values and future.  
Single benefice which gives rise to this.

A loving church – love God, love one another, love West Moors

We are a warm loving family who care especially for the young

Hugely welcoming – beautiful building but most importantly its people, both clergy and community

Good relationships in a strong, loyal, Christian community

Constantly exploring faith issues Both inward and outward looking Social and supportive

The people who make up the church here are friendly and always helpful in a crisis.  
We do lots of events reaching out into the community.

Good at thinking of others, encouraging others, hosting events

Small friendly church; style of worship not too high (eg incense) nor too evangelical

A great comfort to many

We welcome the community with love, kindness, hospitality

At a crossroads in moving forward, willing to listen; welcoming, sharing

## Loving God, Loving West Moors

It's friendly, with a lovely warm atmosphere. Busy with lots going on and plenty of encouragement to join in. Having been brought up as a catholic and a Presbyterian we like the idea of a more relaxed service aimed at life today not just reading passages from the bible. It would be lovely to see more children at the church especially as we are joined to a school, but that is probably a sign of the times.

We are welcoming but could go further and include more villagers at 'the edge'

Friendly, Caring, Welcoming.

Open to everyone regardless of faith, gender or circumstances.

We are proud of our Church.

We in West Moors are very lucky to have a church like St Mary's. I have visited churches in Dorset where Vicars cover three or four churches and many have only one or two services a month.

### What could we do better?

More sociable events needed / choral music / suppers

Be more forward looking

Do more to bring in youth – we want the church to live on in the future

Keep on doing what we do

Always room for improvement

Attract new people

All person ministry, not bound by age, disability

Use all people giftings

Bible related / Jesus centred

Would be good to have a Sunday School and something for teenagers

Encouraging more youth and families

Need to do more to recognise and help people in distress

Improve communication – advertise events more widely, report PCC meetings and results

Reach out to youth

Be open to all in spirit and action. Church family is too middle class and does not serve the social dynamic of the parish. Where are the young families and ethnic groups? Perhaps we need to look at ourselves more honestly.

## Loving God, Loving West Moors

We need to attract young people, families and more newcomers, make the services more accessible. Less formal services.

Try to reach more people with the Good News

The church building is a lovely parish church but only full of worshippers so we need to encourage young people at our services

We need to get into more community projects

### **What sort of skills or qualities would we look for in our new vicar, at this time and in the place?**

Our new Vicar needs to be willing to challenge all aspects and to be probing, not just 'safe'; we should agitate

Computer efficient with tech knowledge; one who will stay longer

A good listener; someone approachable

Someone who will engage with, encourage and work to bring young families together to worship. All round experience of working and understanding

A loving communicator; a people person

Someone with grace, humour, empathy Compassionate

Leading in and into the Christian faith; strong at building relationships, valuing, motivating, communicating

Interested and involved in West Moors community

Ability to get to know us and see ways to take us forward

Loving, caring, listening

Approachable – more important than whether male or female

Organised, IT minded, prayerful and sympathetic Sense of humour

Ordinary – not up themselves

Community oriented Compassionate and empathetic

A real people person Prepared to join in

Friendly and good communicator Good at working with young people Moderniser

Good sense of humour Energetic Good organising skills

Truly spiritual man or woman who ideally is comfortable with young or old



## Loving God, Loving West Moors

Someone who is caring, thoughtful, organised, observant

Someone who loves the Lord and will care for the congregation and the parish

Caring loving friendly supportive

To get on with all; love must be paramount on all things

Sense of humour, young at heart, welcoming, approachable

A person with energy. Young but caring of the older community as well

Someone who will reach out to the younger generation

Young, plenty of energy, outgoing, committed to a medium term in West Moors, approachable, cheerful. Time for a lady Vicar

Good communicator, able to connect with young and old

Help us on our spiritual journey with Jesus

Someone that will gather us together to be as one with all of us

Someone to give support Caring approachable person Patience and forgiveness

We are not averse to change but want someone to respect our churchmanship

The new Vicar would be much involved with the lives of our congregation

Someone who is young at heart. Will listen to our problems. To encourage more people to attend church

Charismatic and humorous; compassion and kindness.

A man who relates well with children – or woman of course

Kind and caring to all the congregation, modern, down-to-earth; have compassion, energy

Kind, caring, independent, leader, male or female

Humility, humour, outgoing, down-to-earth;

Able to unify church and community

Spiritual, flexible, someone willing to be 'seen'; good with young or old; inspirational; a team person

Family person; good with young people; able to delegate; listener who acts

Loving, accessible, pastoral; creative, innovative; open to ideas; take on outreach with local groups, schools

Openness and willingness to challenge the mindset of those in church who think they have everything right

## Loving God, Loving West Moors

A leader

Someone who follows our Mission Statement – Loving God, Loving West Moors

Someone that can deal with all ages and types of people

Someone that takes us forward on our bible journey

It would be nice to have somebody who would embrace village life and join in with community activities. Happy to visit nursing homes, the schools, scouts, guides, etc.

Who will bring new ideas and be enthusiastic rather than someone more set in their ways.

Someone who will continue from where we are now, and encourage all of us.

Someone who cares about West Moors and EVERYONE who lives there.

Who respects the existing worshippers and their services but at the same time actively engages and encourages a mixture of new people into the Church.

Not too Evangelical “Happy clappy!”

We need someone who has strong links with the school – we need more young people in church. We have been lucky with our vicars in the past.

Someone who will lead us in our journey