

House for duty: Lyneham and Woodhill



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Benefice Prayer

Almighty God we pray for the priest whom you are calling to serve with us in the Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill, may they bring both challenge and compassion and may they act as a catalyst for our growth in prayer, service and outreach for the people of these communities within and beyond the church, in the footsteps of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Welcome

Welcome to a wonderful opportunity to join us as we begin a new and innovative era within the group of 6 churches and 5 parishes that are represented by the Parish of Lyneham with Bradenstoke and the Benefice of Woodhill.

Lyneham with Bradenstoke is one parish with two churches and a population of 5,300 [population figures given are all from the Parish Spotlights of 2011] the Parish of Lyneham with Bradenstoke - also embraces the expanding presence of MOD Lyneham, the home of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Defence School of Technical Training, the Headquarters of the Defence College of Technical Training, the Headquarters of the Defence School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, 8 (Training) Battalion REME and shortly also to be the home of 5 Force Support Battalion REME.

The Benefice of Woodhill is made up of the four parishes (each with a church) and their villages and hamlets of Broad Town (population 600), Clyffe Pypard (population 300), Hilmarton (population 700), and Tockenham (population 200).

The group of churches are in the process of becoming a single benefice to be called Lyneham and Woodhill. While we hope that the person who becomes our next House for Duty priest will be a recognised part of the whole group we recognise that in practical terms the main focus will be on the parish of Lyneham with Bradenstoke where the parsonage house is (this will be the residence for the house for duty post).

Lyneham with Bradenstoke has previously had a house for duty post as their priest in charge and the PCC and church community are used to supporting and enabling their priest while recognising the practical realities and constraints of HfD posts.

As a group we are looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead and believe we offer an exciting opportunity to develop outreach and support in particular for the community within Lyneham and across our local primary schools of which there are three:

Lyneham Primary School
<http://www.lynehamprimary.co.uk/>

Broad Town Church of England Primary School
<https://broadtown.wilts.sch.uk/wilts/primary/broadtown>

These two schools are part of a cluster together.

Hilmarton Primary School
<http://www.hilmarton.wilts.sch.uk/>

While Broad Town is the only Church of England school all three enjoy good relationships with their local churches as part of their community. Enjoying visits to and from their churches, through Open the Book (OTB) in Lyneham and Broad Town and through Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Leavers' services in the church as well as occasional visits and regular assemblies (at Broad Town) from the Priest in Charge. Broad Town also has a New Start coffee morning.

This unique challenge is an exciting opportunity to develop and support an ever changing and diverse community.

We anticipate changes in our patterns of worship, ministry and governance as we grow together. At present our worshipping communities are predominantly older than the demographic of the villages in which they are based. We are seeking someone who will

value them and respect their needs but will focus on developing interaction with a wider representation of the community which we know is likely to need less traditional forms of worship or outreach.

In order to enable this person to enjoy their House for Duty role the parishioners are happy and willing to continue working hard to support them so that their workload is balanced and that the requirements of the role do not have a detrimental effect on the priest's homelife.

The Ministry Team and other support

The priest in charge of the Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill, the Rev'd Rachma Abbott became the incumbent of Lyneham with Bradenstoke in January 2019 having been Associate Priest there and Priest in Charge of Woodhill since 2014.

Rachma benefits significantly from the gifts of Padre Keith Barry in presiding and preaching regularly at St Michael and All Angels and taking some occasional offices, in particular those with a military connection (also at Lyneham). Padre Keith is the Garrison Chaplain on the MOD base. The Revd Jonathan Beach, Chaplain at St Mary's Calne and a previous RAF chaplain at Lyneham has also assisted, although his main parish base is at Royal Wootton Bassett, and the retired clergy of the Deanery have assisted with services within the group in this time of transition. (There are no resident retired clergy holding PTO within the group).

Within the Benefice of Woodhill there are three very skilled and experienced Lay Worship Leaders (LWLs): and many people who read lessons and lead intercessions. One LWL is assisting at Lyneham taking a monthly family service there, as well as in her home church of Hilmarton.

Within the Benefice of Woodhill there is one very skilled and experienced Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) who has a ministry of visiting, home communion, taking dementia friendly services and sitting with the dying at Goatacre Manor Care Home and within the village of Hilmarton. Within Lyneham with Bradenstoke, there are three LPAs who help with the organisation of the Thursday weekly coffee morning, visits and a 'Tea and Toast' morning and one of whom is training to take home communions. There is a Woodhill Benefice Busy Bees group (parent/carer & baby/toddler) and there is one LPA in training.

There are plans to discern and develop further those with skills to read the lessons, intercede and lead worship within Lyneham and Bradenstoke and there is a thriving ecumenical Open the Book group that go into Lyneham Primary School regularly as well as a developing OTB group in Broad Town.

There will be a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM aka Reader) in training from September 2019. There are also people exploring and discerning a call to ordination and lay ministries.

Across the group there are good teams on the PCCs and involved with the care of the churches. There are also many volunteers for the ministry of hospitality that is in evidence across the whole group of churches: whether it is CAMEO, coffee mornings, harvest suppers, Lent lunches etc.

Several of the parishes have significant building work recently completed or in hand (mainly roofs) and all of the parishes work well and effectively towards these tasks and care for their buildings using their Quinquennial inspections towards planning and monitoring. One PCC is without a church warden but is planning and managing this well and all have PCC Treasurers and Secretaries.

We have had the services of a volunteer Benefice Administrator 2 mornings a week for Woodhill and for one of these mornings she is working from the parish office in Lyneham.

We have someone who has supported the administration of weddings in Woodhill and now does this across the group and another who follows up on baptisms and runs the New Start group at Broad Town, she is expanding her ministry through being part of the OTB group in Lyneham and developing a group in Broad Town.

The group of churches share one Parish Safeguarding Officer and we take seriously our commitment to Safeguarding in line with Church of England and Diocesan best practice. This includes an approach to training, the recruitment of volunteers and our use of photographs in this profile.

Job Description

We would wish our new priest to:

Share in the ministries of preaching, teaching and presiding at services

Develop and enable the discipleship of all

Have a clear sense of God's calling and purpose to this place at this time

Be prepared to develop ideas and relationships to build God's Kingdom within our expanding and diverse community

Work well as part of a team with the Priest in Charge to prioritise the work in Lyneham and Woodhill

Be a person of prayer and a thoughtful teacher of the Bible able to interpret this afresh for seekers and those on the margins

Continue to work with the present congregations celebrating their strengths and recognising their needs

A commitment of two days a week plus Sundays (in line with HfD Statement of Particulars but we hope to offer the kind of flexibility that enables family friendly patterns and annual leave including Sundays)

Person Specification

We are hoping our new priest will have:

spiritual energy and enthusiasm

compassion and a pastoral heart

an honest, encouraging approach

an open mind, be a good listener

a sensitive and diplomatic ability to work with all age groups and the ability to inspire others.

The Vision

The wider vision for the group of churches that make up Lyneham & Woodhill, sits underneath both the Diocesan Vision of Renewing Hope and plays its part within the Deanery Plan.

Across the whole group our vision is to become places of welcome and hospitality within and beyond the churches where people can encounter the living God in friendship and sacrament, follow Jesus Christ in service to others and so through the gifts of the Holy Spirit enable our churches and communities to laugh, lament, learn and live together.

We recognise that maintenance and use of our buildings and our mission and outreach must be rooted in the local community to flourish and thrive and so we have specific objectives for each parish across the 5 years 2019-2024. These are listed under the brief descriptions of each parish.

For the individual parishes of Woodhill these were the specific objectives within the APCM reports in addition to the pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical mission of the Church.

The objectives for the wider group as a whole are below:

For the whole group 1 Governance – these objectives rest primarily with the Priest in Charge

- completion of the joining of Lyneham with Bradenstoke and the Benefice of Woodhill as one Benefice (Lyneham and Woodhill)

- to continue exploring changes to governance in terms of PCCs and other structures in order to free time for fun and faith

- to streamline our administration practices to create efficient and effective working across the group.

For the whole group 2 Worship and Ministry – these objectives are shared with CWs, LWLs, LPAs, LLM in training and with this HfD post

- to grow in confidence, depth and commitment in prayer

- to enhance our ministries of hospitality in coffee mornings, CAMEO and elsewhere building bridges between belonging to community and belonging to faith; and between belonging and exploring belief, prayer and spirituality

- to develop our own discipleship and our capacity to share our personal faith.

LYNEHAM with BRADENSTOKE

We trust you will be as excited as we are at the prospect of this opportunity and potential to build a flourishing ministry in a beautiful part of the country here in North Wiltshire.

The parish of Lyneham and Bradenstoke is in the heart of the Calne Deanery in the Diocese of Salisbury. We are expecting the 'House for Duty' priest to soon feel at home in these communities and in the modern purpose built four bedroomed Vicarage at Lyneham.

THE CHURCHES:

St Michael and All Angels, Lyneham was first mentioned in 1139 when it was part of Bradenstoke Priory. The church and churchyard lie in the centre of the village. Although the church dates largely from the 14th and 15th centuries the structure has remained largely unaltered.

St Mary's Bradenstoke is a traditional Victorian church that held its first Service on 6th April 1866. The spiritual roots of the 'church' date back to 1142 when an Abbey was founded as a Priory for Augustinian Canons which at one time rivalled Salisbury Cathedral in importance. Ruins of the original Abbey can still be seen.

In the early 1960s a unique agreement was reached between the Bishop of Salisbury and the Chaplain in Chief of the RAF whereby the RAF Chaplains at RAF Lyneham were to serve the Parish of Lyneham with Bradenstoke. This arrangement worked very well and lasted for over 40 years and came to an end in 2003 when a civilian Priest was appointed.

RAF Lyneham closed in 2012 and after a period of uncertainty the base reopened in 2016 as MOD Lyneham. Although MOD Lyneham is the Headquarters of the Defence College of Technical Training for the whole of the Armed Forces, it has a particularly strong army component since it is also the home and training hub for the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). Approximately 2,500 personnel, mainly young adults, military and civilian will be working or training at MOD Lyneham by late 2020 and many Armed Forces families live in MOD housing in the local area. There is a good relationship and understanding between the present incumbent and the army Chaplaincy on the Camp and close relationships with St Michael's as the parish church. The chaplaincy on the base is not licensed for marriages and we work together to support the needs for occasional offices from those on the base.



There are currently two Churchwardens who, although tend to be associated one with each church, work very well together and with the PCC.

The congregations include communicants from surrounding towns and villages. Everyone, irrespective of denomination, is made welcome at the churches.

Worship is supported by a choir, bell ringers and an excellent team of volunteers.

Palm Sunday Procession Lyneham

The well-appointed Church hall is well utilised by Church and Community. There is a good relationship with the Methodist Church in Lyneham and the Baptist Chapel in Bradenstoke. There are thriving Scout, Guide and ATC organisations at Lyneham.

Thursday Coffee morning in Lyneham Church Hall



LYNEHAM and BRADENSTOKE VILLAGES:

Since the 1940's Lyneham has grown alongside the RAF Station which was the home of the Hercules Aircraft for over 40yrs and became the base to which Repatriated Military Personnel were flown home. Bradenstoke lies on the western side of MOD Lyneham and is a Medieval market town (now village). It is a more traditional community in a conservation area. There are limited transport facilities within the village. There is a mixture of housing in both villages which is reflected in the general demographic, although there is a strong contrast between very settled homes and the transitory nature of military personnel. There are four park home estates within the villages which provide over 200 homes for people aged 50 and over and a number of working farms.

Of the whole group only Lyneham has a near 50/50 mix between home ownership and rented accommodation, in the other villages this is closer to 80/20 although there are Almshouses in Hilmarton so on the Spotlights it has the highest proportion of social housing.

The specific objectives for Lyneham with Bradenstoke –

To support and serve the needs of our service personnel in the village of Lyneham working with the MOD base with its present remit for training a large cohort of young people and the home of REME and supporting its historic RAF connection (which remains a present reality for many church members and local residents).

To build on our existing relationships and work with Lyneham Primary School, through Open the Book, Broomes' Charity, prayer and pastoral care.

To maintain and repair the fabric of our churches and churchyards.

The Vicarage and local facilities



The Vicarage that will be your home is set in a garden plot 30m at one end of Lyneham Village. Part of the garden is completely secure and private. This four-bedroom detached property has en-suite facilities to two bedrooms, as well as a family bathroom. The downstairs accommodation is spacious and light, and includes a study and accessible toilet. There is a large garage with a store attached and ample parking to the side of the house.

It is ideally located with access to public transport. Bus services are excellent in the area, and run along the A3102. There are good rail links from Swindon and Chippenham (both on the main London – West country / Wales line) and the M4 motorway is a 15 to 20 minute drive from Lyneham giving driving times within 30 minutes to Swindon, 1 hour to Bristol Airport or Oxford and 1 ½ hour drive to Heathrow Airport.

Lyneham has a variety of shops and businesses, including cafes, pubs and supermarkets. There are excellent Secondary Schools in Calne and Royal Wootton Bassett and a good choice of Primary Schools in the parishes of the group. The parish is close to the neighbouring towns of Calne, Royal Wootton Bassett, Marlborough and Chippenham with the larger towns of Swindon and Bath within easy reach. Doctors' surgeries are based in Royal Wootton Bassett or Calne, which also has a good NHS dentist (both 5 miles). The Great Western Hospital is in Swindon just off the M4 junction 15.

The Woodhill Parishes -

Broad Town –

The parish of Christ Church, Broad Town includes the village of Broad Town with its school and two hamlets: Cotmarsh and Thornhill, and its White Horse, used as a symbol of both school and parish.

The Church completed its roof project in 2018 and is very aware of the generosity of the whole community of village, church and school. The ministry of hospitality here is shown in both church based and village hall based coffee mornings, harvest suppers and many other activities in the school and the village often fundraising for other charities too. There is an entrepreneurial approach to fundraising including taking an annual market stall in Royal Wootton Bassett, and the Churchwardens have worked hard developing a group of loyal, local volunteers (most of whom are not regular worshippers) who maintain the churchyard and producing a village newsletter.

The village hall also offers a home for many local activities such as the Wiltshire Artists Guild, Bumps and Beyond and Fitsteps as well as providing a Friday evening bar to ease the loss of local village pubs.

There is a Broad Town preschool and Broad Town Church of England Primary School has 77 children on roll. They regularly use the church for their services and celebrations and have links through Foundation governors and the priest in charge who offers an assembly at least termly and through shared projects such as their Spiritual Garden, the Memory Plane and New Start (an MU initiative)

The specific objectives for Broad Town

To support Broad Town Church of England School, its staff and children, parents and carers. This includes looking at the maintenance and development of our church building to that it can continue to serve the needs of the school community into the 21st century and our involvement with New Start and the development of an Open the Book group in Broad Town.



Through the Community Coffee Morning, which meets in the village hall, to engage with the community who do not worship in the church on a regular basis and serving the needs of this group.

Community coffee morning



To maintain and repair the fabric of the church and its churchyard.

Clyffe Pypard –

The parish of St Peter's Clyffe Pypard includes the villages of Clyffe Pypard and Bushton and the tiny hamlets of Bupton and the Barton. The parish has 5 dairy farms (both organic and conventional farming) and an equestrian business, so agricultural life and its rhythms is still very important here. Among the most significant events is the annual Plant Fair hosted courtesy of Bushton Manor which has many volunteers and is a significant fundraiser. The church and Rectory (where Rachma lives) have hosted several quiet days and one quiet evening and the church seeks to make use of its location and history in this way. There is an active community group exploring taking on the Goddard Arms as a community asset, which might make parking easier. It is a quiet setting with lots of interesting bats and birds.

The specific objectives for Clyffe Pypard

To build on our successful fundraising events, as a way of engaging with the community who do not worship in the church on a regular basis.

To maintain the 'living Churchyard & bi-centenary project.

To maintain and repair the fabric of the church and churchyard.

Hilmarton -

The parish of St Laurence's Hilmarton is a rural parish about three miles from Lyneham and on the same bus route. The parish consists of two villages, Hilmarton and Goatacre, and nine hamlets.

The average attendance at our Sunday morning services is 20-30, fewer attend evensong. Although, in common with many rural parishes, our regular congregation is mostly aged over 50 we have several families who attend All-Age services and for special occasions. There is an active choir, bell ringing team and we have the services of 3 different organists. Services are usually held on 3 Sundays a month with an afternoon midweek service once a month.

The parish church of St Laurence is a grade 1 listed C13th church in the centre of the village. The church has toilet and kitchen facilities so it can also be used for non-worship events. Regular village events are also held in the church hall. There is a plan to trial opening as a community café in 2020.

The building is in a good state of repair.



We paid our Share in full in 2018, helped by ongoing fundraising activities. Regular events include a Christmas raffle, harvest supper, monthly Bingo and soup lunches and garden teas.

Although not a church school, the village school holds regular services in the church (2 or 3 times a year) and has visits to the church. It occasionally has assemblies led by the Priest.

The parish has various groups which meet regularly, such as the Smile coffee morning, Gardening Club and Phoenix Group. Movieola also bring a monthly film which is shown in the Church Hall. The community has a Scarecrow Festival which raises money split between a nominated charity, school, pre-school and church which had a Bingo theme in 2019.

The village has an F.I.E.C. (Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches) affiliated chapel with whom we share services at times, normally our midweek Eucharist especially in the winter months.

There is an independent quarterly newsletter which publishes details of church services and events.



There is a Sports & Social Club in Goatacre. Goatacre also has a nursing home which an LPA visits regularly and administers home communion.

The village website is www.hilmarton.org

Image from 100 years 100 days Armistice Centenary project 2018 (used with permission)

<https://www.facebook.com/Remembrance2018Hilmarton>

The specific objectives for Hilmarton

To develop our ecumenical relationships with the local Chapel and our Christian friends who worship there.

Through the CAMEO group which meets in the church hall to engage with the community who do not worship in the church on a regular basis and serving the needs of this group.

To maintain and repair the fabric of the church and its churchyard.

Tockenham –

St Giles church is an ancient building with origins in the 12th Century. It is a beautiful, welcoming, prayerful space which is enhanced by a dedicated team of supporters who maintain, clean and decorate it with great dedication. The church lies in the centre of this close knit, community minded village and the building and its work are much loved and appreciated by the whole village, whether or not they are part of the worshipping community.



The parish of St Giles, Tockenham is the smallest in the group but has a strong sense of community and a wonderful traditional summer Fair now in its 82nd year. The Village hall is next to the church and is the venue for Busy Bees. Until her move this year the parish has benefitted from the ministry of a gifted LPA, and it is from the Tockenham church that Mandy Cook has come to discern a calling as an LLM (Reader) for which she will be training in the autumn.

Tockenham Fair

The specific objectives for Tockenham

To support the Benefice group of babies and toddlers, Busy Bees, and their parents and carers which meets in both the church and the village hall, as a way of engaging with the community who do not worship in the church on a regular basis and serving the needs of this group.

To maintain and repair the fabric of the church and churchyard.

Calne Deanery

Lying just south of the M4 motorway, Calne Deanery is one of the most northerly deaneries in Salisbury Diocese. It has a rich and diverse social mix and is an interesting place to live and worship. The deanery consists of four benefices: the Marden Vale Team; the market town parish of Royal Wootton Bassett; a second rural multi-parish benefice of Oldbury (similar to Woodhill) and this Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill.

Under the enthusiastic leadership of the Rural Dean, the Revd Canon Jane Curtis, the Deanery is refocussing its plan to support and develop under the umbrella of the Diocesan vision of Renewing Hope: Pray, Serve, Grow. The Deanery Synod meets three times and year and seeks to enable the development of the lay leadership in terms of discipleship, the sharing of resources and the church in our linked dioceses in the Sudan.

The Deanery Chapter meets both as a greater chapter including retired clergy and LLMs for hospitality and support and as a smaller 'lesser chapter' of the incumbents & SSM associate clergy for a more robust sharing of challenge and celebration. For more information please contact the Rev'd Canon Jane Curtis.

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