

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the post of Team Vicar in the Chalke Valley benefice, part of the Ramsbury area of the Diocese of Salisbury. This post is a super opportunity for ministry within one of the most beautiful parts of Wiltshire, in a fruitful and collaborative team of churches.

The ancient see of Ramsbury, covering much of Wiltshire, is rich in spiritual heritage, from the cathedral city of Salisbury and the valleys of its five rivers, across Salisbury Plain up to the Marlborough Downs. God is in this place – even though many know it not – and it offers an enriching context for ministry and mission today.

I am looking for devoted and visionary clergy, who can inspire and guide our communities towards Christ's Kingdom. While this can appear a timeless landscape, our parishes are constantly changing and face all the challenges and opportunities of life in the 2020s. Because of this, the church must also change in order to grow, renewing its traditions for the contemporary situation.

At the heart of our diocesan vision to 'renew hope' is a commitment to growing new leaders within the local church, helping all to realise their Christian vocation. We place a high value on the encouragement and pastoral support of our ministers and, should God guide you to serve here, you will become part of a committed and collaborative team.

Please contact the Ramsbury office if you need any assistance with your enquiry and be assured of my prayers as you seek the Lord's will for your future.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Rumsey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

The Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey

Contents

Introduction

Vision

Role Description

Our Benefice

Our Church Life

Our Valley Life

Your Home Life

Further Information

Appendices

Introduction

Our Benefice of 9 parishes was formed in the mid 1990's and is now well established. As we emerge from the pandemic we recognise that it is important to review our church life and the community we serve. To that end, a group of 16 representatives from across the Benefice gathered to start a process of review and planning. The first stage of this was to reconsider our Benefice vision. In this, we found we were of one mind; our vision is to serve our communities. We have been encouraged and excited that our prayers for the direction of our Christian lives have been answered and shown God at work.

Our Vision

We are a family of churches seeking to grow in Christ, rooted together with our communities. We aspire to be salt and light in our villages by serving all our neighbours and listening to their voices.

We aim to share the Gospel by our example, wholeheartedly engaging with our neighbours and deepening our own faith by offering belonging, support and comfort.

We want to use, and build on, the skills and interests of our congregations and clergy, to bring God's life-enhancing love to those who live around us.

*"Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.
Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."*



Role Description

You will be a member of our Benefice clergy team undertaking routine ministry throughout the Benefice but with specific responsibility for the churches in the eastern end. You will also have the opportunity to grow your own ministry in one or both of the following areas:

- Engaging with and supporting the growing number of young families moving to our valley
- Developing our on-line presence

Team

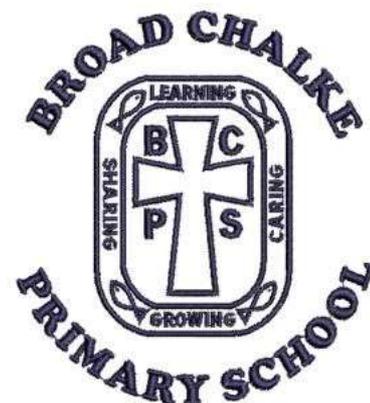
The clergy team meet weekly to provide collaborative and supportive ministry for all the churches in the Benefice. They also meet once a week for Holy Communion.

Ministry

- Leading worship and providing pastoral care (see appendix 4 for sample clergy service rota).
- Pastoral services (see appendix 2 for more information).
- Raising up and encouraging lay leaders in their work.
- Being enthusiastic and sensitive when introducing new ways to share God's love with our community.
- Understanding rural ministry.
- Being chair of several PCCs.

Schools

- Being a governor at one or more of the valley schools.
- Providing support and encouragement to both children and staff.
- Being responsible for regular collective worship in the schools.
- Assisting the Open the Book teams who visit the schools.



Benefice-wide role

Our review process recognised that we have a significant increase in the number of young families in our villages, with many investing in their 'forever homes'.

You will have the opportunity to develop your own ministry to the younger age groups by engaging with them in new and innovative ways, working alongside lay ministers.

We have many in the valley who enjoy both playing instruments and singing. We are looking to encourage them to use our churches as places to gather in music making. There is the opportunity to encourage and support this music initiative and enable greater involvement of music in our worship.

We provided online services for our congregations during lockdown. Many have found this form of worship ideal for their circumstances and would like it to be continued. There is the opportunity to oversee our online services and develop our general online presence.

As we are a rural Benefice you will need to be able to travel to all the villages in the valley.

Desirable attributes

Pastoral	– approachable and accessible, with a true concern for everyone in your care
Bold	– not afraid to challenge us to step out in faith and step into our calling
Innovative	– willing to explore fresh expressions of church, with both discipleship and mission in mind
Biblically knowledgeable	– able to demystify the Bible - we want to learn from you
A mentor	– able to lead us and also to encourage us to be leaders too
A team player	– comfortable working alongside other clergy, supporting others and accepting support where necessary
Child-friendly	– creative and engaging with children

Our Benefice

Overview

Our benefice comprises 14 rural churches in 9 parishes set along 17 miles of the River Ebble (see appendix 1). We are part of the Chalke Deanery within the Diocese of Salisbury. Our Benefice team is:

Team Rector – Catherine Blundell
Team Vicar – Jenny Taylor
New Team Vicar – You?
Curate – Roger Leake
Employed administrator – Emily Broomhead

We have many Lay Worship Leaders, Lay Pastoral Assistants and retired clergy who support the clergy team in leading Sunday worship and with pastoral care in our communities.



Governance

Our Team Council is a legally constituted body made up of the clergy and representatives from each parish. It is the main decision-making body in the Benefice and helps to reduce the burden on individual PCC's by overseeing the spiritual activity in the valley and assisting in the legal requirements for our parishes such as safeguarding and health and safety issues.

Each parish has its own PCC to oversee the work of the local churches, and within the PCCs there are groups dedicated to finance, fabric and pastoral care.

Buildings and Finances

Our historic churches are valued by our communities and well supported financially. All our parishes have paid their latest parish share and the church buildings are generally in good repair, some having recently had major refurbishments.

Deanery and Chapter

As Team Vicar you will belong to the Chapter of the Chalke Deanery. Currently there are 8 paid and 2 self-supporting clergy members along with a small number of retired clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers and the Deanery Lay Chairman. The Chapter has a monthly meeting and Communion Service. The clergy value this regular coming together for theological discussion and mutual encouragement, given the geographical spread of the Deanery.

Church Life

We have been united as a Benefice for more than 20 years and have found great joy in being small congregations but also part of a much larger family. Our approach to worship is fairly traditional but having unity without uniformity, we are able to approach our worship in a variety of different ways (see appendix 4).

Fellowship

Beyond our Sunday worship, we have a number of groups that meet regularly in fellowship and discipleship.

Lent Projects

Through our Lenten fundraising each year, our Benefice chooses to support a charity, alternating between UK and overseas charities. Working towards a common purpose, we have raised as much as £20,000 to achieve our objectives.

Bible studies/Home groups

A safe place to ask questions and go deeper. There is no set programme. Group leaders choose what to study. Over Lent, we share a common study course.

Wellspring

A group of around 35 Christians that meets weekly during term time to worship and hear Biblical teaching. It is lay led, but visiting clergy are warmly welcomed. This group has been the instigator of many activities including the men's breakfasts, Lee Abbey weekends, suppers and a highly successful charity, CRESS.

Lee Abbey

Biennially joining together as a Benefice to occupy the whole of Lee Abbey. This is a time for fellowship, worship and teaching, when our church family can really get to know God and each other better.

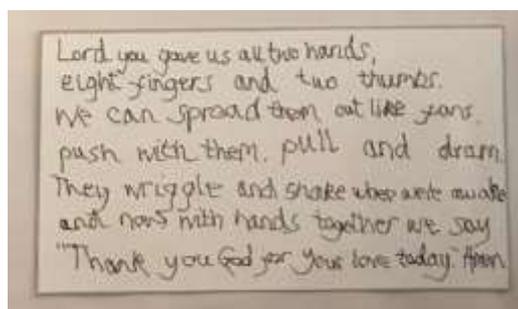
Informal Worship

Lay led fresh expressions of church are emerging in three different churches within the Benefice, with the aim of offering a more relaxed style of worship and teaching.

Visionary groups

A group of Christians from across the Benefice attended the CPAS run Thrive course and have continued to meet to encourage the development of lay leaders and community outreach within the valley.

The review and planning group has recently formed to reflect on how the pandemic has affected our parishes and how we will move forward in the post-pandemic world.



Worship during the pandemic.

During the first lockdown, we conducted our worship online, using both Zoom and YouTube recordings. Our schools were provided for by the clergy team recording collective worship. When permitted, we held creative outdoor services which were so successful that we have continued them for major festivals.

Prayer meetings

Some weekly, some monthly. In person or on Zoom. Our older congregation have embraced Zoom to make this possible.

Children

During the pandemic we hosted a Sunday afternoon Bible stories session on Zoom for our children and their families. Once restrictions had eased we all got together for more Bible stories and cake in the park.



Outreach

Rural ministry offers us effective and fun ways to share the love of God through the many events in our villages and churches. It is through these events that we can really be salt and light to our friends and neighbours.

Easter

We hold a number of outdoor services, including: a Dawn service, an Easter egg hunt and a retelling of the Easter story in poetry and re-enactment. We also had an Easter trail set out across a local farm.

CRESS

Christian Relief and Education for South Sudanese (CRESS) is our 'home grown' charity. The charity has supported over 80 children through education, provided assistance in setting up a medical clinic, funded many to attend agriculture and small business training and enabled the clergy in South Sudan to attend national conferences.

Christmas

Many of our parishes hold outdoor carol services. This year, people gathered around fire pits drinking mulled wine, singing carols and hearing the Bible. Door-to-door carol singing remains a popular tradition in all the villages, and our lay and clergy-led Christmas Day services are well attended.

Community events

Several of our churches have been adapted to be used for wider community use, including: concerts, plays, music practice, coffee mornings and barn dances.

Open the Book

These teams have worked for several years in all three of our primary schools. In-person visits were not possible during the pandemic, but the teams produced videos to share with the children.

Cueibet

We support Cueibet, in South Sudan, through our Salisbury-Sudan Deanery link. Some of our congregation and clergy have been to visit the area with gifts and teaching. We have provided the area with bicycles and school equipment through fundraising in past Lent projects.

Harvest

With a number of farms in the Benefice, our harvest celebrations are an important festival. They are a great opportunity to share our gratitude for God's generosity with our community. One of the villages holds a barn dance in their church.

Coffee Mornings

Coombe Bissett hosts regular coffee mornings and a monthly 'Golden Lunch'.

Cowshed Nativity

Around 100 people came to our first Cowshed Nativity this year, held on a local farm.

Valley Life

The collective population of the Valley is about 4,000 people, with villages ranging in size from just 20 to around 600. Whilst employment was originally in farming and agriculture, our population is now quite diverse. Many professionals, commuters, young families and retirees now choose to make their 'forever homes' in our villages, whilst our long-standing residents and small community of travellers ensure that we retain our links with the past. Families can often trace their connections with the area for many generations, providing an historical stability that is most welcome.

Whilst outwardly affluent, beneath the surface there are those who struggle to make ends meet – a situation that will soon become worse with the rising cost of living. Fortunately, there is a very strong sense of shared community ensuring a good support network for those in need.

Facilities

We are fortunate that we don't have to travel far to meet our health and recreational needs. There's much to get involved with right on our doorstep.

Shops

There are three shops: a farm shop in Britford, a community-run shop in Coombe Bissett, and a community-run shop and 'hub' in Broad Chalke.

Medical care

There are GP surgeries in Broad Chalke, Salisbury, Wilton and Downton. Both NHS and private hospitals are within the Benefice.

Link scheme

This is a community-run scheme to transport those unable to use public transport to essential appointments.

Entertainment

Village hall film nights, singing groups, book clubs etc abound throughout the valley, as do the seasonal pantomimes.

Food and drink

There are eight pubs within the Benefice, all are welcoming and serve excellent food.

Sports

Chalke Valley Sports Centre is home to several sports clubs, including football and tennis. Yoga and pilates classes are held at several of the village halls.



Home life

The Vicarage



The vicarage is located in the friendly farming village of Nunton, in the parish of Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham, towards the East End of the Chalke Valley Benefice. It is a detached, light 4 bed roomed home (see *appendix 3 for footprint*) set in its own garden. There is decent car parking space with an electric charging point and a single garage. It is just a few yards from St Andrew's Church and not much further from the pub and the

local milk vending machine (the milk is from the dairy herd that you will encounter daily on your walks).

Schools

There are three primary schools in our Benefice (Longford C of E primary, Coombe Bissett C of E primary, Broad Chalke C of E primary) and a good selection of other schools nearby. In Salisbury, just a short bus ride away, we also have a variety of private schools, 2 grammar schools and several highly-regarded secondary schools.

Transport links

Bus services into Salisbury and to the local secondary schools are within a few hundred yards with a 'village' bus service a few times a day. There are good A road links and rail services to the cities of Southampton, London, Bath and Bristol. Our nearest airport is in Southampton.

The city of Salisbury

The beautiful city of Salisbury is just 3 miles away. Known for its stunning cathedral, Salisbury is also home to Sarum College, where there are a number of theological courses to enrol on for personal study and continued professional development. The Royal School of Church Music is also located in Salisbury, so there are ample opportunities to be involved in Diocesan activities.

The city has everything you need: a range of high street shops, boutique coffee shops, a leisure centre, restaurants, parks and a brilliant theatre. For those with a desire for a greater variety of shops, West Quay shopping centre and Ikea are just 40 minutes down the road in Southampton.



Further Information

We hope you've enjoyed reading about our Benefice and the exciting opportunities we have for you here. As you can see, this role gives you a unique chance to work with and be supported by an established team, whilst growing and developing your own areas of ministry. Alongside your diverse work as Team Vicar, we invite you to share with us the pleasure of living in a fun and friendly community.

Our hope is that you too may become rooted in this place.



If you would like any further information, or to discuss the post in more detail, please contact:

Lynne Archer – PA to the Bishop of Ramsbury

lynne.archer@salisbury.anglican.org

01722 438662

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Map of the Benefice

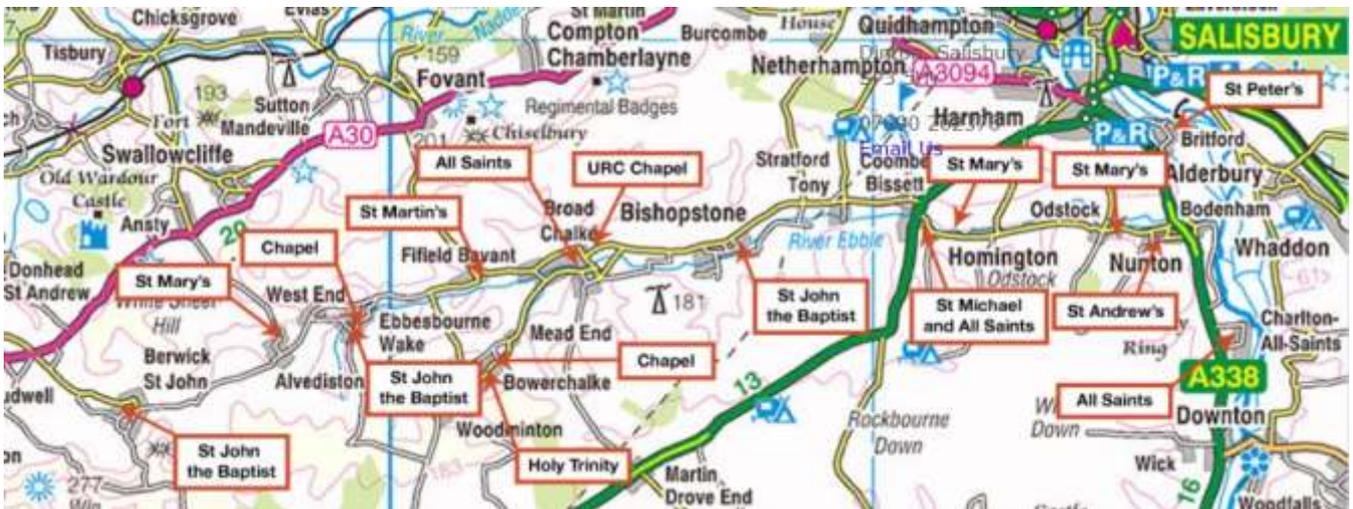
Appendix 2 – Pastoral Services

Appendix 3 – Vicarage Footprint

Appendix 4 – Sample Monthly Service Rota

Appendix 5 – Churches

Appendix 1 – Map of the Benefice



Appendix 2 – Pastoral Services

These are the pastoral service figures for the whole Benefice for the year 2021:

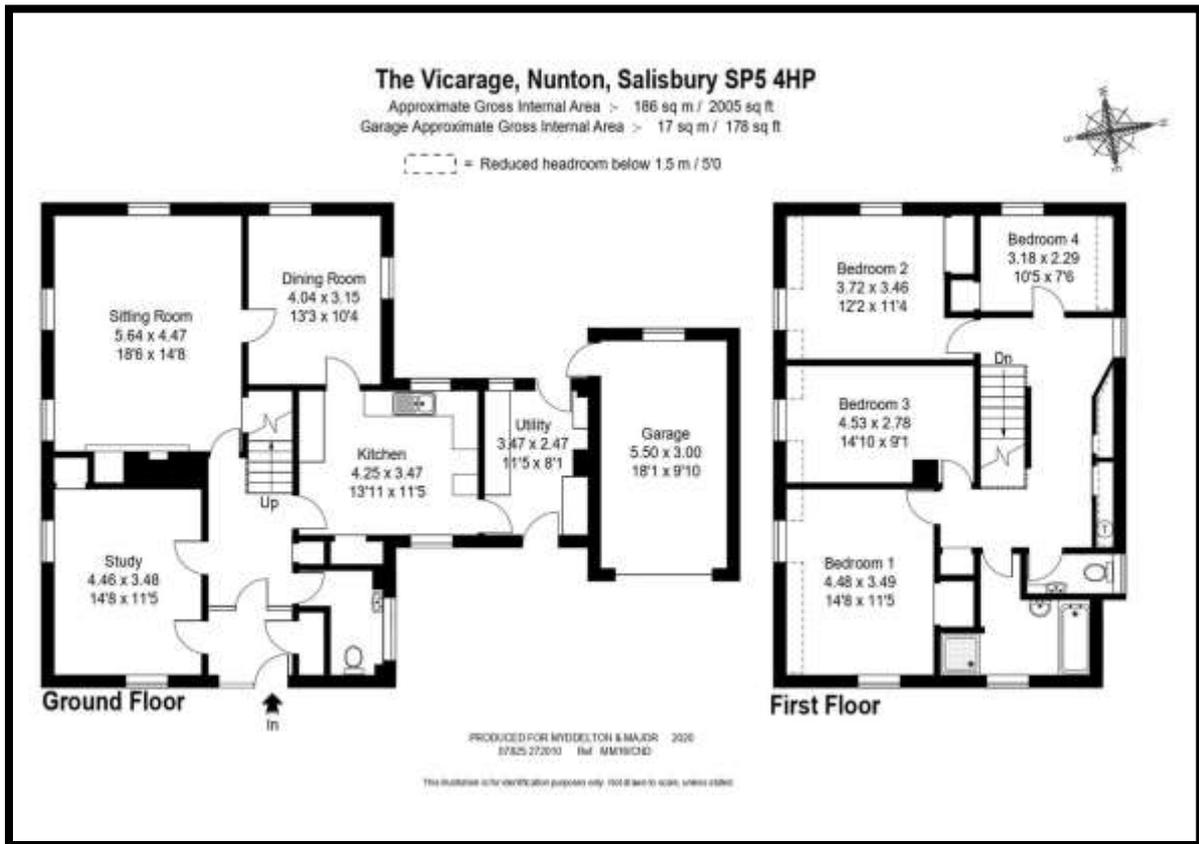
Baptisms: 20

Weddings: 15

Funerals: 50

We are pleased to have an open baptism policy in the Chalke Valley.

Appendix 3 – Vicarage Footprint



Appendix 4 – Sample Monthly Service Rota

 Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – March 2022 				
BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)				
Pattern of services during Covid 19 restrictions. Please follow all the safety rules in church. If the situation changes, services may be cancelled at short notice. Please check your church noticeboard and weekly e-bulletin.				
2 March ASH WEDNESDAY	12.15pm	Communion with Ashing (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	7.00pm	Communion with Ashing (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
6 March 1st Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service (CW)	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
9 March	12.15pm	Lenten Communion (CW)	Alvediston	Catherine Blundell
13 March 2nd Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Roger Leake
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Charlton All Saints	Rhoderick Voremberg
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
	3.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
16 March	12.15pm	Lenten Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
20 March 3rd Sunday of Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Catherine Blundell
	9.45am	REFRESH!	Broad Chalke V Hall	Lay Led
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Roger Leake
23 March	12.15pm	Lenten Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
27 March MOTHERING SUNDAY <i>BST Begins</i> <i>Clocks go forward</i> <i>1 hour</i>	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Kate Rosslyn Smith
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Roger Leake
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Homington	Roger Leake
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Lay Led	
30 March	12.15pm	Lenten Communion (CW)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
3 April 5th Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service (CW)	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
6 April	12.15pm	Lenten Communion (CW)	Odstock	Roger Leake
Ministry Team: Team Rector – The Revd Catherine Blundell: 01722 780134 Team Vicar – The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081, Curate – The Revd Roger Leake: 07947149456 Licensed Lay Minister – Mr David Blundell: 01722 780134 Team Administrator – Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376 URC Ministers – The Revds Ana & Tod Gobleddale 01722 330980, The Revd Jackie Lowe: 01722 780008				
Assisting Ministers: The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 01722 420942 The Revd Canon Ann Philp: 01722 555178, The Revd Kate Rosslyn Smith: 01722 780011				
Lay Worship Leaders: Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 826785, Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, Sally Leaver: 01722 780447, Naomi Martin: 07713031774, Don Morgan: 01722 718557, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862, Gill Riley: 01722 780538, Janet Roe: 01725 519242, Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoderick Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152				

*Refresh: A new, lay led, family-orientated service.

Appendix 5 – The Churches



All Saints, Charlton All Saints
Parish of Charlton All Saints



St Andrew's Church, Nunton
Parish of Odstock, Nunton & Bodenham



St Mary's Church, Odstock
Parish of Odstock, Nunton & Bodenham



St Peter's Church, Britford
Parish of Britford



St Mary's Church, Homington
Parish of Coombe Bissett & Homington



St Michael & All Angels Church, Coombe Bissett
Parish of Coombe Bissett & Homington



St John the Baptist Church, Bishopstone
Parish of Bishopstone & Stratford Tony



St Mary & St Lawrence Church, Stratford Tony
Parish of Bishopstone & Stratford Tony**



All Saint's Church, Broad Chalke
Parish of Broad Chalke



Holy Trinity Church, Bowerchalke
Parish of Bowerchalke



St Martin's Church, Fifield Bavant
Parish of Ebbesbourne Wake, Alvediston & Fifield Bavant



St John the Baptist Church, Ebbesbourne Wake
Parish of Ebbesbourne Wake, Alvediston & Fifield Bavant



St Mary's Church, Alvediston
Parish of Ebbesbourne Wake, Alvediston & Fifield Bavant



St John the Baptist Church, Berwick St John
Parish of Berwick St John

**St Mary & St Lawrence Church in Stratford Tony is under the Historic Churches Trust, and the benefice conducts one service a year here.