



Parish Profile

We believe in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and we find love in our worship.
We are looking forward to appointing someone who will rejoice with us, pray with
us and lead us in service.

Might this be you?



I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'
Isaiah 6:8

Report Date: 25 January 2025 Bridges

Group

CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	2
BISHOP'S INTRODUCTION	3
DEANERY SUMMARY	4
THE BRIDGES GROUP - SITUATION	5
THE ROLE AND PACKAGE	7
A LITTLE MORE ON THE BRIDGES GROUP	9
ABOUT THE PARISHES.....	14
NAPTON-ON-THE HILL AND THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE.....	14
HOW TO APPLY	25
PARISH FINANCES, STATISTICS FOR MISSION AND SERVICES	26

Bishop's Introduction

There is much love and life at the heart of The Bridges Group of Parishes.

The churches of the Bridges Group have emerged well from the effects of the pandemic and the church family are in good heart. In recent years they have grown together and there is a deeper sense of unity and greater working together. Their shared vision is that each church at the heart of their village communities can build on individual local identities, and yet come together in a creative and collaborative 'collective' for serving communities and sharing the Good News of Christ.

There are warm relationships with schools, young parent groups and uniformed groups. Support for a range of mission projects is strong and there are tangible signs of an hospitable and willing church family who desire to use their gifts for mission and set the compass firmly in the right direction to see the gospel reach more lives across these communities.

The group is formed of two benefices (of 3 parishes each) that were previously under a single House for Duty Priest-in-Charge. We are now looking for a 0.5 Priest-in-Charge who will further build on the foundation already laid and who will further help these benefices to work together in the Gospel, enabling each parish to flourish and play to its respective strengths.

A new colleague can be confident of finding a deanery with supportive clergy who have a track record of doing mission together, and a diocese that is working towards restored health, and renewed relationships.

I warmly commend this post for your prayerful consideration.



+ Sophie Jelley

Rt Rev Sophie Jelley
Bishop of Coventry

Deanery Summary

The Southam Deanery is in the Coventry diocese, currently made up of 15 parishes within a six-mile radius of the market town of Southam.

As a Deanery we have a strong focus on mission together, with a number of joint initiatives taking place, from a 'Mega Messy church' to 'Forest Church', ALPHA, and joint worship.

The Deanery chapter is supportive, friendly, and collegiate, and we would welcome new colleagues to join us.

Currently we have 8 of our 15 parishes in vacancy, which has been a challenge for our small clergy team, but we have a wealth of committed and talented lay people who are doing all they can to support their parishes during their vacancies. As I have helped to cover the parishes of the Bridges Group I have been warmly welcomed and have greatly appreciated their friendly nature and support in my role as a relatively new Area Dean.

I am in discussions with the new Mission Hub based in Leamington Spa to see what support can be offered as this new initiative develops.

We have recently developed a Deanery Plan, but this is currently under review as we wait to see what response we receive to the current vacancies, but the present situation has also been a means of increasing unity and developing the gifts of our committed congregations.

Our Deanery has some of the most attractive and historic churches in the diocese, which is, of course a mixed blessing, as often small and elderly congregations struggle with the cost of maintenance and development.

As someone who was not expecting to be called into rural ministry I can confidently state that I have found in our parishes and our Deanery places of unexpected opportunity and wonderful blessing, but of course despite the relative affluence of our communities there are still areas of real need, and these are often hidden. We work closely with the local foodbank to support those in need, and often our parishes have close contacts with the farming community.

On behalf of myself, and John Eld, the Deanery lay-chair, we look forward to new colleagues who will be able to bring their gifts to our small, outward-looking Deanery.

Rev Andy Batchelor (Area Dean)



The Bridges Group - Situation

The Bridges Group is a group of six rural parishes (two benefices) just outside the charming market town of Southam in Warwickshire. Our rural ministry has been enlarged by working together as a group of parishes with many fine examples of what collaboration has achieved.

Situated in the south-east corner of the Diocese of Coventry, renowned globally for its commitment to peace and reconciliation, there is a large capacity for ministry and mission amongst the churches of the Group with several good examples of successful engagement with the local communities.

Our parishes are linked by a series of picturesque red-brick humpback bridges on the West Midlands canal network, where the Grand Union and Oxford Canals meet. It is this unique feature that inspired the name of the Bridges Group as well as our vision: to see people connecting with God.



By working together, we have been able to sustain a good programme of worship during this period of vacancy with many people confident and competent to devise and lead imaginative and engaging worship, as well as a good number of worship leaders who have taken responsibility for developing worship opportunities. We have a Licensed Reader and a leader licensed to the whole Deanery for funeral ministry and services. We have excellent worship leadership by others across the group, not to mention some very handy musicians! We also have a candidate for ordination via the Caleb Stream*, This will need checking as I think Bishop Sophie has put Caleb on hold as there is a new pathway in the pipeline who, if accepted, will be exercising a part-time ministry in the Bridges Group within eighteen months.

The local community is well-supported by an outstanding secondary school in Southam and several excellent primary schools in the surrounding villages.

Indeed, this is what some of the pupils at our schools have been asking for, and please excuse some of the spelling: courtesy of Elliot, Ida, Eleanor, Ella, Evie, Niamh, Beth, Rosie, Isa and Skye:





Also, the children at the school in Priors Marston worked together to summarise the following requirement:

"What we would really like is someone who is kind, open and willing to listen"

And one of the children in Napton has provided us with a useful glossary of the requirements, those stated in their pictures:



We also like this from one of our parishioners:

"A local Priest, that villagers of faith or none can associate with, is tremendously important. It's one of the figureheads that every community requires for cohesion; albeit some may think unnecessary ---- until the need arises!! My prayers for success are with you all."

The Role and Package

Location: Rural Warwickshire

Position: Priest in Charge 3 days per week

Salary: 0.5 stipend including housing

Rooted in a rich history of faith, our congregations are eager to welcome a priest who will treasure our gifts, nurture spiritual growth, foster a strong sense of community, and embrace the unique opportunities of rural ministry.

We are looking for a pastoral leader and a community connector who will:

- enjoy the challenges and opportunities of rural ministry
- work collaboratively and constructively across the group and with our local groups, schools and organisations
- love the way that Jesus' ministry was anchored in the countryside, that his teaching used examples of the smallest to demonstrate that the rule of God is always to put the last and least first. In other words, we are looking for someone who will love and treasure our "small" congregations
- resource us theologically and liturgically as we continue to grow our capacity for mission and ministry.
- be able to offer pastoral supervision to those already exercising licensed ministry locally and to those who would like to develop their vocation in ministry and mission.

Key Objectives:

Developing Worship & Outreach

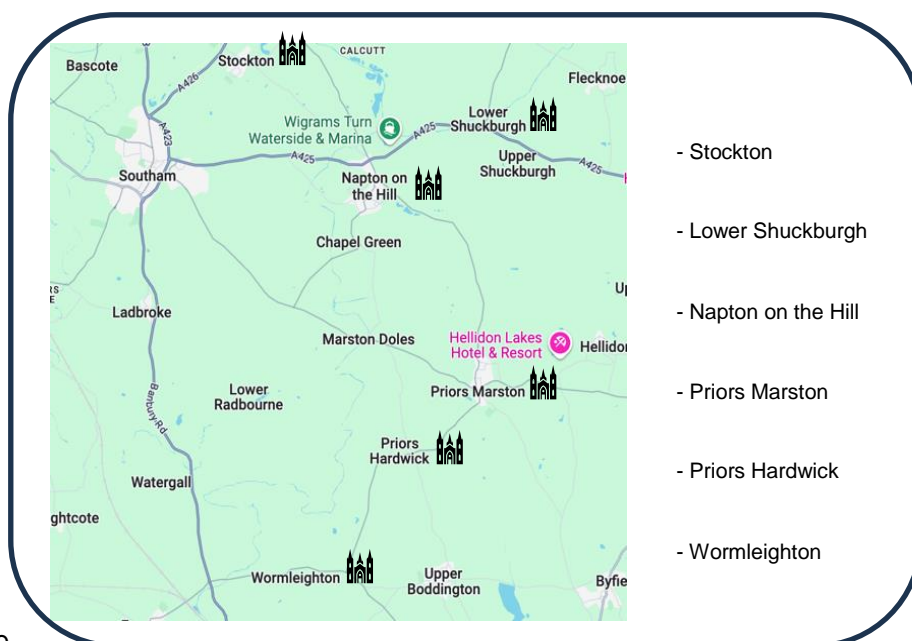
Develop and implement creative and engaging worship experiences that inspire all age groups, including those on the fringes of faith. Strengthen outreach initiatives to connect with the wider community, making the church an accessible and welcoming presence in rural life – outside of the church walls.

Developing Lay Ministry

To work alongside us to identify, encourage, and empower lay leaders within the parishes to take on key roles in ministry, pastoral care, and community engagement, fostering a sustainable and resilient leadership structure.

Developing Mission

Work collaboratively and be a transforming presence in our communities towards a clear, unified mission focusing on spiritual growth, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the church - people, buildings and resources. Continue to build a discipling church.



Key Personal Attributes:

Pastorally Gifted

A faithful follower of Jesus and the rule of God's kingdom which puts the least first and foremost and someone who will patiently wait with us while we grow. An empathetic and kind-hearted leader with a natural aptitude for pastoral care, able to listen deeply and relate to people from all backgrounds, especially young families, while extending compassion to others and themselves. We are hoping for someone full of energy to ensure that this happens.

Visionary

A motivated and enthusiastic leader who empowers others to discover their potential, creates a discipling community, and unites diverse parishes while working collaboratively for the good of the wider community. Skilled at working as part of a team, including ecumenical partnerships (e.g., Stockton's LEP with the Methodists), and promoting unity among parishes while building relationships that strengthen the church's role in the community.

Missional

Passionate about bringing people into a deeper relationship with God, fostering spiritual growth, and encouraging participation in a variety of forms of worship. Energetic and resourceful, able to face challenges with creativity and positivity, and comfortable navigating the complexities of rural ministry in a dynamic and diverse setting.

Safeguarding:

"The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer church for all." Safeguarding Policy, Diocese of Coventry.

Our parish safeguarding officers endeavour to support and guide our six churches as we work together towards the implementation of the Five National Safeguarding Standards. We aim to develop our culture of awareness and safety for all, so that our listening is patient and kind, and our actions are effective.

Church Wardens:

We acknowledge that we have a challenge in the group with the recruitment of churchwardens.

We seek guidance to resolve this and believe that since there are people in the group willing to liaise with the diocese and work with churchwardens on building fabric matters, then the burden of churchwarden responsibility is eased somewhat and so becomes more attractive. The search for churchwardens needs to be through positive search channels, since there are people who would likely enjoy taking on this extra responsibility and the opportunity to serve. We are working hard in our PCCs to develop a culture that encourages and supports those who might be interested in becoming a churchwarden.

The Package

The vicarage is located in the picturesque Priors Marston village centre. A modern houses, with four bedrooms, garden and separate study.

Images of Priors Marston Vicarage



View of the house from road



View of the House from the school field



We offer a 3-day working week in the parish

You will have the support of the Deanery chapter as well as a very experienced team of churchwardens and volunteers. This includes experience in Diocesan liaison on church fabric. Your leadership will be very welcomed, and you and your family can be assured of significant pastoral support. In addition, you will have the support of a paid, part-time Bridges Group administrator.

You will be supported and encouraged to take advantage of training opportunities, and we would be supportive of an annual retreat.

Pay and expenses will be as per diocesan guidelines.

A Little More on the Bridges Group

The benefice comprising the three parishes of Priors Marston, Priors Hardwick, and Wormleighton joined with the benefice comprising Napton, Lower Shuckburgh and Stockton in 2009 to form The Bridges Group.

We encourage our church families to see themselves as part of something larger than their individual parishes. This shared identity is reflected in joint worship and social events. While some remain loyal to their “home” church, there is growing willingness to travel for preferred forms of worship, including BCP Evensong, Informal Worship, Forest Church and Messy Church.

On fifth Sundays, we unite for a single service, **The Gathering**, which is well-supported and much appreciated. We also come together for prayer meetings, Lent, Alpha and other courses, plus activities like Lent lunches, teas on the green, Christmas fairs, and concerts.

To improve effectiveness, we operate a Steering Group, meeting at least bi-monthly for strategic oversight, and hold regular meetings for treasurers, building managers, safeguarding officers, children's leaders, a pastoral team and an online weekly prayer meeting for the whole Group.



A part-time administrator works from home and is supported by contributions from each parish to a joint bank account from each parish. This account covers shared costs such as administration, travel, training, service resources, and outreach initiatives. Recently, we conducted a stewardship campaign and explored new fundraising initiatives with varying levels of success.

We stay connected through weekly **Bridges Group Newsletter**, monthly village magazines and social media channels. We use “AChurchNearYou” for an online presence and have a limited website requiring some work.

Our Churches & Churchyards

The Bridges Group is home to six ancient and beautiful church buildings, each with unique character and history. All are cherished as sacred spaces and central to our communities. In some villages, the church is the only public building, making it an invaluable community asset for mission and ministry.



As part of our commitment to sustainability, we are working toward creating eco-friendly churchyards and achieving net-zero carbon buildings.

We also manage our graveyards:

Stockton's graveyard is closed except for the Garden of Remembrance, with a well-maintained parish council cemetery nearby.

Napton's graveyard is nearing capacity, and the parish council is exploring alternative sites.

Graveyards at the other four churches remain open and operate under diocesan guidelines.

Funerals are also held locally at crematoriums in Oakley Wood, Banbury, and Rainsbrook.

Our commitment to services of worship

We love to worship. Our worship pattern is varied to reflect the seasons and uses the full liturgical resources of Common Worship and BCP.

We enjoy a wealth of different lay and clergy led forms and traditions of services that are inspiring and help people to connect with God:

- Common Worship Holy Communion
- BCP Holy Communion and Evensong
- Lay-led Worship (contemporary, reflective, family)
- Methodist-led services (in LEP at Stockton)
- Messy Church
- The Gathering on 5th Sundays
- Forest Church



The major festivals and other seasonal services are popular and attract families and large proportions of our communities, including the Advent and Epiphany family services, Christingle services, the Crib service, Carol services (involving the Young Farmers and Women's Institute), the Easter Carol service, Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance Day and Bereavement services. Rural spirituality has a unique character, closely connected to the seasons and the land. We try to use different occasions to encourage people to experience God in different ways. Forest Church is a good example of this.



Part of being a welcoming and inclusive church is the importance of the occasional offices. These are valuable for building relationships across the generations. They are generally well attended and are an important opportunity to share the Gospel.

Music is varied, from traditional to contemporary, from organs and clavinova to a small worship group with guitars, flute and keyboard.

Our Commitment to Growing as Disciples



We long to grow a core of deeply committed Christian disciples in each village, who will be equipped to share their faith, and live out the love of Christ in their daily lives.

We are working with the deanery to address this and help people have the confidence to share their stories about their Christian journey. Nevertheless, the activities that we do undertake help us grow closer to God, to

build stronger relationships with each other and help us to be accountable to God and one another:

- a network of home groups that have mostly grown out of Alpha courses
- encouragement of personal prayer, village-based prayer groups, a team who lead intercessions in services, and participation in “Thy Kingdom Come” prayer initiatives
- special Lent and Advent courses and quiet days
- formal and informal links with other local churches – Stockton is an Anglican / Methodist LEP, and within the wider deanery
- Alpha courses
- Diocesan Rural Ministry Greenhouse events
- attendance at national Christian gatherings such as New Wine, Greenbelt, Spring Harvest and Rural Ministries
- Online Prayer Group for the six parishes

Home groups are recognised as valuable, safe spaces for sharing, being held accountable, building relationships and offering an opportunity to pray for each other and to study the bible in more depth together. We would like to encourage more members of our regular congregations to get involved with a local home group.



Active work with children and young people includes Messy Church, clubs and in schools through assemblies, *Open the Book*, Godly Play and festivals/end of year services in church with families. Although some people in the villages still have a traditional expectation that the “vicar” should be doing everything, we have seen people grow in their confidence as leaders of home groups, children’s

groups and Sunday services. We need to continue the efforts to identify gifts and skills, to train and empower lay people into roles currently undertaken by clergy.

Committing Ourselves Locally

We are all about building relationships, offering hospitality and being generous. We believe there is a considerable amount of goodwill in our villages towards our local churches which we need to build on and nurture. We are increasingly engaging with our local communities outside the church walls, helping to create a loving, caring society where all are valued and included.

Social activities (that often help to raise funds) include monthly lunches, afternoon teas, coffee mornings such as “Coffee & Chat” in the Priors Hall, concerts, literary events, Christmas Tree festivals, flower festivals, Christmas and summer fairs, craft sales, plant sales, Knit & Natter groups, children’s holiday clubs and pancake parties.

Our Create & Play and Babes & Tots groups provide invaluable support and encouragement for parents, carers and grandparents.

Our parishes regularly give gifts, including Messy Church bags, at Christmas, Easter, Mothering Sunday, baptisms and weddings. We support several charities – both financially and as volunteers, including the Carriers of Hope (who work with refugees in Coventry), the local Fosse and Woodford Halse foodbanks and Embrace the Middle East (following a visit with the charity to the Holy Land by one of our home groups several years ago).

Individuals are also involved with many other charities, especially those which support farming communities such as the Addington Fund and the Farming Community Network.

Many members of the church family support and are involved in village organisations, schools, local businesses and personal networks. We have teams of people in each community who help to care for the buildings and churchyards, without necessarily considering themselves to be part of the church family.



We offer marriage and baptism preparation classes to encourage healthy marriages and family life.

We take part in the evangelistic events planned and organised by the Deanery Mission Team, such as concerts with nationally acclaimed Christian performers, Massive Messy Church and afternoon tea parties hosted by the clergy as a thank-you to all the laity involved in local church life.

About the Parishes

Napton-on-the Hill and the Church of St. Lawrence



Napton is a hilltop village, mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086). It currently has a population of around 1200. It is a village full of character and charm with a diverse array of properties, some dating back 400 years. The hill is encircled by the Grand Union and Oxford canals. The canals and the numerous footpaths give people a chance to explore the wonderful countryside.

There are two pubs, a social club, sporting facilities, village hall, and shop (with post office and café) which supplies local and eco-friendly produce. There are two schools: the C of E primary

school of St. Lawrence and the Arc – a private school that provides for needs that cannot be met in mainstream settings. The church enjoys being actively involved with life, families and many community activities, held in and around the parish, including the much-acclaimed annual music festival and bike ride.



St. Lawrence's Church dates to the medieval period with evidence of older fabric of Norman influence. It is situated on the top of the hill, alongside the windmill, with breath-taking views. It attracts many birdwatchers as the church is on a migratory route for many birds. It is a delightful, peaceful church, with a strong spiritual presence. It has a variety of interesting features and improvements, including toilets and an area to serve refreshments. Worship is celebrated in several ways, from Common Worship Holy Communion to lay-led informal worship. There



are two active home groups. The church family supports those in need, of all ages, in both the local and wider communities. It has recently taken over the running of the weekly “Babes & Tots” group which meets in the village hall. Various events take place throughout the year to celebrate the love of God, to build relationships and raise essential funds, both in the church and out in the village. The church welcomes St Lawrence C of E Primary School to special festivals and joint services. Church members also support the school as governors and volunteers in the classroom. We are also starting to make connections with the Arc School and hope to be more actively involved with them as they develop their RE curriculum.



Lower Shuckburgh and the Church of St. John the Baptist



Shuckburgh village is owned by the Shuckburgh Estate. Sir James Shuckburgh, who is custodian, lives with his family at Shuckburgh Hall, Upper Shuckburgh. The church of St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness, next to the hall, is a “peculiar” with services held there by invitation only.

Further along the main road, Lower Shuckburgh has approximately 25 houses plus outlying farms and the church of St John the Baptist. There are no other public places to meet in the village for social events, so it is very quiet unless Sir James organizes an event at the hall.

As the land and buildings are owned by the Shuckburgh Estate there have been no new builds and most of the houses are tenanted. The children travel to other local villages to attend school.

St John the Baptist Church is situated towards one end of the village. The church was built on the grounds of the previous one, in 1864 by John Croft, for Sir Frederick Shuckburgh. It is a Victorian building featured as one of Pevsner’s “England’s Thousand Best Churches”. Its unique exterior and interior Moorish architectural style attracts many visitors.

There is no car park, but the neighbouring farmyard can be used with permission for bigger events. There is electricity with overhead heaters, but no water or toilet facilities which can be difficult at times.

There are three fetes a year at Easter, Summer and Christmas, which are all successful at raising funds for the church. Regular coffee mornings and afternoon teas are also held in support of a cancer charity along with heritage open days for visitors. All are well supported from within the village, local churches and further afield.



Up until end of May 2023 a BCP service with Holy Communion was held every 4th Wednesday at 10am. This attracted a small congregation with attendees from Lower Shuckburgh village. From June 2023 this service moved to every 4th Sunday at 9am.

A popular Christmas Carol Service is held on Christmas Eve, attracting people from further afield, and a family service on Easter Day.

The church and village are a special place but are struggling to build community through the church and worship. The pictures feature the 2024 Christmas scene and shots of our summer fete.



Stockton and the Church of St. Michael and All Angels (Stockton and Methodists in union)



Stockton is the largest of the 6 villages with a population of around 1500. It has a history of being a quarry village, with newer housing added over the years. The village has a bus service to Rugby and Leamington.

Stockton has a primary school run by Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust. There is also a local post office & shop,

pub and village hall. There are multiple social and sports clubs, with activities for young and old.

The Church is situated in the heart of the village, and we are in a local ecumenical partnership with the Methodist Church who supported the re-ordering of the Church in 2008. The building is now fully accessible with underfloor heating, projection & PA systems as well as a kitchen and toilets. Car parking is available on the street.

Our worship style is a mix of Anglican & Methodist Holy Communion as well as lay led informal worship. Church festivals are celebrated and the school children come into Church for the occasional end of term service.



Our vision is to be an inclusive community hub and we currently host a monthly soup lunch and family lunches during school holidays. Weekly events include a toddler group, knit and natter, a prayer meeting, and drama group. Special occasions comprise Christmas Tree and Flower festivals, a plant sale, and pancake party!



We would love to build relationships with local families and teenagers, as well as strengthen our relationship with the village school.

Priors Marston and the Church of St. Leonard



Priors Marston is a growing village at the geographic centre of the Group. Its population of 700 has risen with the influx of young families wanting children and toddlers to go to its Free School, the first village school in England to gain that status. It has grown from 20 to 100 pupils, and is right next to the church building, churchyard, vicarage, and village pub, bang in the centre of the village. The churchyard is large – 1.5 acres and a great place to meet people

as they enjoy walking its pathways and seeing its wildlife.

The Priors Hall, near the church, is a modern building with brand new solar panels and heating. It houses the Post Office, hairdresser, and regular village activity such as the W.I, film nights, a weekly toddler group, and 'Coffee and Chat' organised by church members for everyone. It is a great venue for wakes, celebrations, and parties.

The church building dates from the early 14th Century, was substantially extended and re-ordered in the Victorian age, and then in 2011/2012 was re-ordered internally to provide a kitchen, toilet and a flexible meeting area for many purposes, including craft and children's work, hosting of meals, safari suppers, seasonal village events, wedding receptions for couples who need a budget



wedding, informal prayer and teaching meetings. The re-ordering included also opening up the tower arch to let light stream in from the high west window through a glass screen on which are crosses from every Christian tradition to say: you are welcome here. There are windows for Bible events, including the recent Holy Spirit and Creation windows. It is acoustically outstanding and loved by visiting choirs such as the Oxford Male Voice Choir.

The church has a Common Worship service of Holy Communion and two (currently) varied lay led services a month. Attendances were of course hit by Covid but have



recovered. Special occasions such as Christmas and term-end services for the school, with which we have a very close relationship, fill the church building.

Priors Hardwick and the Church of St. Mary the Virgin



Priors Hardwick is a picturesque village lying between Wormleighton and Priors Marston, both in size and geography. The houses form a ring around a large meadow, the site of the medieval village, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The most dominant buildings are the Grade II* stone church, dating from around 1300, followed by the nearby Butchers Arms, until recently a renowned Portuguese

restaurant, which is currently on the market. Most of the 185 village residents live in freehold houses, many of them built, like the church, of ironstone and nine of which are also Grade II listed, as are the old red telephone box and seven of the graves and tombstones in the churchyard. In recent years many properties have been bought by young professional families.

Our three services per month at 9.00am and 5.00pm are BCP services of Holy Communion and Sung Evensong when we are joined by people from other parishes and beyond the Bridges Group. The latter is lay-led and much enhanced by the two-manual pipe organ which is widely acknowledged as one of the best in the area, together with an accomplished organist. The 9.00am service on the first Sunday of the month is also lay led. It is usually a less formal form of Morning Worship, in which members of the congregation are invited to participate. Other less formal services, to draw in members of the wider community, are held up to twelve times a year a year, including a Pet Service, and an Easter Carol Service held on the Sunday after Easter, and a traditional Harvest Festival and all other major festivals of the Christian Year. Although the church does not yet have a water supply, refreshments are usually served after each service to encourage increased fellowship.



It is usually a less formal form of Morning Worship, in which members of the congregation are invited to participate. Other less formal services, to draw in members of the wider community, are held up to twelve times a year a year, including a Pet Service, and an Easter Carol Service held on the Sunday after Easter, and a traditional Harvest Festival and all other major festivals of the Christian Year. Although the church does not yet have a water supply, refreshments are usually served after each service to encourage increased fellowship.



Following the recent Quinquennial Inspection a major overhaul of the building is being planned,

including alterations at the West End and vestry to incorporate a toilet, servery and an open area which

can be used for both church and community meetings and activities. Currently our team of

handbell

ringers use it for practices to participate in most of our 'festivity' services. There are also other informal

groups and activities in the village.

The PCC members include mostly active retired people, some with business experience; some are very long-standing residents of the village, others who have recently come to the village. This has led to excellent relationships between church and community. We shall have one churchwarden, but 'inhouse' duties are bountifully supported by teams from both the church and the community who look after cleaning, flowers, building and churchyard maintenance.



There are other informal groups and activities in the village; in addition to the handbell ringers, there is a weekly lady cycling group and a monthly walking group. Historically much of our social activity is linked with Priors Marston – dating back as long from 1849, when the Earl Spencer entrusted land and buildings to the community (Priors Marston and Priors Hardwick) forever, if it was used for

education. In 1966 the school was closed in favour of a new state school being provided at Napton, but the villagers maintained a school on the Priors Marston site until 2011 when it became one of the first Free Schools. Our links with Priors Marston also resulted in The Priors Hall, a Millenium Project which accommodates a Post Office, Hairdresser's and rented offices on the first floor. The two villages will be completing repayment of the mortgage this year. The Sports Club with its excellent facilities and recently refurbished pavilion has been a joint venture between the two villages, as has the WI, for many years.

Wormleighton and the Church of St. Peter



Wormleighton is a small parish having a population of approximately 100 people occupying some 40 houses of varying sizes which are nearly all from the Victorian era. It is in an elevated location in the south-east corner of the Diocese, bordering the Peterborough and Oxford dioceses. This attractive and picturesque hamlet has only one modern dwelling and is best described as being a manorial

settlement with most of its population living near to the 16th century manor house. The manor was once much larger, being the original home of the Spencer family prior to their move to Althorp.

Most of the land around the hamlet is part of the Spencer property portfolio and is basically divided into two large, tenanted farms, plus some smaller independently owned agricultural holdings. The parish demographics change quite regularly as some of the Spencer-owned houses are occupied on short-term rentals. The hamlet is essentially rural, and its Grade 1 Listed church is its only public amenity, since the recent closure of the village hall. The nearest shop, doctors' surgery and pub are all about one mile away. The Oxford Canal, which follows the contours of the land, meanders through the parish and draws occasional visitors to the church.



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The church is a Grade 1 listed building of significant historic interest, built around 1150. Its many original features have remained unaltered for more than 400 years. Its basic simplicity creates an immediate impression of timelessness. The church has always relied for its existence on the enthusiasm of a few positive-thinking people who recognise its unique value as a part of manorial settlement with royal connections and an interesting history. It has close ties

with Priors Hardwick and has always had good support from people outside of the parish.

This church's organisation is essentially fragile due to its small parish population and the administration being in the hands of a few - now mostly elderly - people. A new team of

volunteers has recently emerged and are devoting much time and effort in keeping this church alive as a centre for Christian and community-related activities.

Regular worship activities consist of one service per month - a lay-led family service.

A considerable amount of money has been raised in recent years for repairs and the modernisation of the building including a new roof, toilet, servery and a modern heating system.

How to apply

For further details and an application form please contact:

Debbie Niblett, HR Officer and Archdeacons' Administrator by email to Debbie.Niblett@Coventry.Anglican.org

For informal conversations, please contact:

Acting Archdeacon Pastor, Tim Cockell, on tel: 07983 300675 or Tim.Cockell@Coventry.Anglican.org

Area Dean, Rev Andy Batchelor on tel: 01926 714295 or rev.andyb@gmail.com

An application form can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website:
http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/vacancies/current_vacancies

An Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post

Parish Finances, Statistics for Mission and Services

Income	Lower Shuckburgh				Napton				Stockton				Priors Marston				Priors Hardwick				Wormleighton			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Planned giving	£1,080	£1,080	£1,080	£1,090	£8,100	£7,775	£6,945	£7,953	£6,900	£10,120	£11,940		£5,934	£4,146			£4,050	£4,833	£15,178		£1,120	£600		
Other giving	-	-			-	-	734	575	-	-	0		£5	-			-	-			£20	-		
Collections at services	£140	£717	£336	£1,131	£3,060	£7,194	£5,007	£6,248	£1,755	£2,859	£2,492		£1,058	£2,356			£3,683	£3,676	£3,380		£1,084	£2,348		
All other giving	£506	£5,395	£1,493	£5,558	£8,764	£3,437	£810	£2,399	£2,277	£1,550	£2,462		£25	£3,686			£240	-			-	-		
Gift Aid	-	-	0	0	£4,246	£3,849	£3,794	£3,768	£3,734	£3,115	£3,471		-	-			£2,624	£1,941	£2,566		-	-		
Legacies	-	-	0	0	-	£1,000	10000		-	-	0		-	-			-	-			-	-		
Grants	-	-	0	0	-	-	600		-	£500	0		-	-			-	-			£3,633	£5,000		
Fundraising	£2,062	£2,133	£1,931	£2,152	£2,447	£2,875	£4,396	£3,405	£413	£741	£0		-	£681			-	-			-	-		
Interest etc	-	£11	0	£0	£2,569	£2,236	£1,600	£1,600	-	£48	0		£4	£2,753			£637	£906	£735		£3	£67		
Fees	-	£119	90		£3,227	£3,540	£3,165	£4,875	£2,192	£905	£569		£1,973	£1,238			£746	£1,227	£80		£1,265	£1,506		
Trading	-	-	0	0	-	-			-	-	0		£1,133	£1,757			-	-			-	-		
Any other receipts	-	-			-	-	5030	2184	-	-	0		£581	-			-	£548			£1,180	£138		
Unrestricted total	£3,788	£9,455	£4,930	£9,931	£32,413	£31,906	£42,081	£33,007	£17,271	£19,838	£20,934	£0	£10,713	£16,617	£0	£0	£11,980	£13,131	£21,940	£0	£8,305	£9,659	£0	£0
Restricted total					£6,452	£636	£9,202	£3,361					£4,431	£2,652			£100	£145						
Total	£3,788	£9,455	£4,930	£9,931	£38,865	£32,542	£51,283	£36,368	£17,271	£19,838	£20,934	£0	£15,144	£19,269	£0	£0	£12,080	£13,276	£21,940	£0	£8,305	£9,659	£0	£0

Expenditure	Lower Shuckburgh				Napton				Stockton				Priors Marston				Priors Hardwick				Wormleighton			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fundraising costs	-	£102			£320	£221	£183	£172	-	-	0	-	-	-			-	-			-	-		
Mission & charity	-	-			£1,544	£1,980	£1,082	£935	£123	£453	£867		£149	£309			£205	£1,263			-	£529		
Parish share	£630	£1,261			£8,006	£6,820	£8,781	£8,655	£3,369	£7,938	£8,707		£2,500	£6,377			£3,388	£3,000	£3,500		£1,808	£1,810		
Salaries etc	-	-			£470	£845	£855	£1,150	-	£2,730	0		£485	£440			£420	£435	£435		-	-		
Clergy expenses	-	£375			£2,306	£2,406	£2,384	£2,217	-	£564	0		£2,574	£1,718			£1,067	£750	na		£542	£542		
Church expenses	£1,937	£2,895			£7,006	£3,080	£14,519	£5,495	£5,549	£2,880	£2,963		£1,904	£3,370			£10,109	£2,639	£5,091		£1,773	-		
Utilities	£142	£319			£1,218	£5,923	£1,025	£2,203	£1,726	£2,688	£2,804		£3,021	£1,275			£690	£1,068	£1,068		£1,256	£1,825		
Cost of trading	-	-			-	-			-	-	0		£1,632	£1,840			-	-			-	-		
Major repairs etc	-	-			-	-		14032	-	-	0		-	-			£4,463	£169	£34		£3,000	£14,690		
Other payments	£18	-			£305	£164	£116		£2,451	-	£0		£200	-			-	-			-	-		
Unrestricted total	£2,727	£4,952	£0		£21,175	£21,439	£28,945	£34,859	£13,218	£17,253	£15,341	£0	£12,465	£15,329	£0	£0	£20,342	£9,324	£10,128	£0	£8,379	£19,396	£0	£0
Restricted total					£2,589	£1,300	£2,806	£966					£6,719	£722										
Total	£2,727	£4,952	£0	£0	£23,764	£22,739	£31,751	£35,825	£13,218	£17,253	£15,341	£0	£19,184	£16,051	£0	£0	£20,342	£9,324	£10,128	£0	£8,379	£19,396	£0	£0
Cash balance *	£2,098	£6,589			£47,269	£56,433	£50,020	£59,227	£5,331	£8,209			£36,927	£37,309			£44,785	£48,592			£15,550	£5,747		
Investments	£823	£833			£13,231	£11,674	£12,771	£13,064	-	£9			£13,976	£14,160			-	-			-	-		

Statistics for Mission	Approx population	Worshipping community				Electoral roll				Baptisms				Weddings				Funerals (+ crem)			
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Lower Shuckburgh	100	2	2	2	1	13	14	15	11	0	1	0	1	-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Napton	1500	28	18			21	21		21	1	2		2	1	2			6 (2)	5 (1)		
Stockton	1700	17	15	13	13	14	15	14	14	5	2	6	1	4	1	0	0	3 (1)	2	2	5
P. Marston	700	18	20	21	18	21	21	24	24	-	6	1	1	2	1	1	0	2 (1)	3	3	4
P. Hardwick	190	32	35			20	24		24	1	1		1	1				2 (3)	2		
Wormleighton	100	20	6			10	9		9	2				1				3	1		

Pattern of Services	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
Priors Hardwick	9.00am Morning Worship <i>Lay-led</i>	5.00pm BCP Evensong <i>Lay-led</i>	9.00am BCP Communion	-	Gathering - hosted in turn
Wormleighton	-	-	-	10.30am Morning Worship <i>Lay-led</i>	
Lower Shuckburgh	-	-	-	9am BCP Holy Communion	
Napton	10.30am CW Communion	10.30am Morning Worship <i>Lay-led</i> alt mths	10.30am CW Communion	5.00pm Sung Evensong <i>Lay Led</i>	
Stockton	10.30am Morning Worship <i>Lay-led</i>	10.30am Methodist Service <i>Methodist Minister</i>		10.30am CW Communion	
Priors Marston	10.30am Morning Worship <i>Lay-led</i>	10.30am CW Communion	10.30am Morning Worship <i>Lay-led</i>		

Forest Church	St Lawrence, Napton open to all parishes	8 times per year following the Celtic Church calendar
Messy Church	At the villages with schools, ad-hoc events	