

Welcome to
ALCESTER DEANERY

Rural ministry in the heart of England



Come and join us



DIOCESE^{OF}
COVENTRY

Resourcing our deanery to:

- grow confidence in outreach and faith-sharing
- discover whole-life vocation as followers of Jesus
- grow younger
- develop new ways of being church
- equip and release the whole people of God for mission and ministry
- reach new people for Christ



Alcester deanery appointments: Heart of England; Churches of Arden; Arden Valley; Beaudesert, Henley-in-Arden & Ullenhall

The Deanery of Alcester is at a unique moment in its shared life and purpose. With four benefices vacant we believe that this is a Kairos moment that God is inviting us to think differently about how parish ministry is exercised.

We recognise that ministers come with a range of skills, expertise and callings that could be shared more widely than the benefice which they are serving. Already, the Deanery Chapter is committed to cross-deanery working, as evidenced in our shared Marriage Preparation course, the Deanery Churchwardens' network, and Anna Chaplaincy.

We want to provide further opportunities for working together collaboratively across the deanery, for clergy and laity alike, in order to steward giftings well, learn from one another, and share the joys and burdens of ministry and administration.

We seek four ordained 'Rural Pioneers', each of whom will lead the parish mission and ministry in their own benefice, as well as contributing one or more missional specialisms to the whole deanery. In return they can expect to be able to draw on other colleagues' time and expertise. These giftings are likely to include mission to children and families, schools, older people and youth, as well as discipleship and evangelism. We are trusting that the Holy Spirit will be guiding the right mix of specialisms to the Deanery for this moment, and we are open to having more than one expert in any given field.

Evangelism

Elderly

Schools

Our
missional
priorities

Children
& families

Discipleship

Youth

Archdeacon's Welcome

You might be surprised to learn that Diocese of Coventry is quite rural! Our vision for Life in all its fullness has inspired an exciting vision for growth both spiritual and numerical.

This will be supported through a number of mission hub churches. Alcester Minister is our first rural hub church, and the re-scoping of these four full time posts represent an exciting approach to mission enabled ministry locally and across the deanery. Colleagues will work closely with the Mission Hub church leader, the associate leader, and the Area Dean to grow a partnership for rural mission in the deanery. We are praying to the Lord of the harvest that you might sense his call to explore becoming part of this Kairos moment in the deanery and the rural church.

The Venerable Barry Dugmore
Archdeacon Missioner



Clergy Chapter

You will be joining a collaborative and supportive Deanery Chapter. Meeting monthly, we pray for one another, plan deanery-wide activities and share knowledge and experience. We are augmented by around ten other retired clergy, actively working in the deanery and we enjoy at least one quiet day together, annually.

Kate Mier, Area Dean, Rector of Arden Marches

Kate loves ministry in rural Warwickshire helping churches and communities flourish. She especially enjoys working collegially with other clergy.



Katie Cross, Rector of Alcester Minster

Katie is Rector of Alcester and leader of the Alcester Rural Mission Hub.



Daniel Corlett, Alcester Rural Mission Hub

Daniel is an Associate Minister working with Katie to support church growth and planting in rural multi-parish benefices.



Sheila Bridge, Salford Priors

Sheila is an Associate Minister with responsibility for Salford Priors church in the Heart of England Benefice.



Steve Kelly, Alcester Minster

Steve is an Associate Minister and has a passion for prayer and discipleship and following where the Spirit leads in mission.



Julie Lindsay, Alcester Minster

Julie is an SSM Curate with ministry in her secular job as well as supporting the life and growth of the Alcester Minster.



As a chapter team, we have a heart for Jesus to be known and for all of our churches to be places of flourishing.

Our Benefices

Arden Valley: The Arden Valley Group of Churches is made up of five village communities located just north of Stratford on Avon. They share many similarities but have specific talents, needs and ambitions within each of them. We desire to be more inclusive and attractive to newcomers, especially the younger generation whilst continuing to support our older Parishioners.



Beaudesert, Henley-in-Arden & Ullenhall: A thriving market town and rural village; established community links; enthusiastic congregation and lay ministry teams; prayerfully open to progressive change; committed to bringing Jesus Christ into the hearts and minds of every parish household and organisation.



Our Benefices



Churches of Arden: Situated in the historically rich countryside of the Forest of Arden, the Churches of Arden consist of four rural parishes. While the four churches have different yet complementary worship styles, we share the common aim of being a welcoming community, journeying together to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to our villages at large.



Heart of England Benefice: Uniquely in the Deanery, our Benefice offers four church primary schools, six congregations, one associate minister, one family link worker and an administrator - all working together towards our shared vision. We share the beautiful scenery enjoyed by the whole Deanery but we have the river!

Our Benefices

Arden Marches: Large village on the edge of Redditch new town, together with two hamlets and one other village. Four church buildings across two parishes. Investing heavily in children and in older people's ministry, offering a wide range of worship styles and significantly engaged in wider community life.



Alcester Minster: Historic market town and the surrounding ring of villages - eight churches across five parishes. 218 regular Sunday attendance, experiencing growth especially among children and families. Exploring a range of new worshipping communities. Designated as a Mission Hub.



Deanery in brief

Population (2018 figures): 34940, made up of

Alcester Minster 9550

Heart of England 8788 (+ approx 1800 planned) - *vacancy*

Arden Marches 6743

Henley in Arden and Ullenhall 3844 - *vacancy*

Churches of Arden 3355 - *vacancy*

Arden Valley 2660 - *vacancy*

Worshipping community: 1168 (2020) 1167 (2019)

Church schools: 11 Primary or Junior CofE

Other schools: 3 RC Primary, 8 other Primary/Infant, 1 RC Secondary,
4 state Secondary

Alcester is the most Western of 11 deaneries in Coventry Diocese, bordering Birmingham, Worcester and Gloucester dioceses.



Alcester Minster Rural Mission Hub is one of six mission hubs across the Diocese, created to support the Diocese's ambition of creating 150 New Worshipping Communities by 2030.

Centred on Alcester Minster, and serving the whole deanery and beyond, the Hub exists to:

Trial new ways of being church with a range of new worshipping communities and events being developed in the Minster. **Share stories and experiences** providing a focal point to talk about what is and isn't working in rural situations. As we share stories and listen, these conversations stimulate new thinking and new confidence to try things.


Support rural clergy by providing a place to connect for support, encouragement and ideas. A rural clergy prayer network provides an important lifeline.

Review and take stock through consultancy and support to help rural churches and benefices review their strengths and resources and develop realistic plans to adapt and grow as churches.

Enable creative thinking through praying and sharing and being led by the Holy Spirit in ministry and mission. By connecting people and sharing expertise, churches can 'see before they try' and find support and training.

ruralmissionhub.org

Appointment Process



**01 May
2024**

The Archdeacons invite you to attend a Rural Mission and Ministry open day on 1st May 2024.

You will be given an introduction to the benefices followed by a meet-and-greet event with key leaders in the churches.

The Archdeacons and diocesan staff will be present and will share about the diocesan vision for growth and how colleagues can expect to be resourced, supported and enabled in their ministry.

We will invite you to indicate which post(s) are of interest and which of our missional priorities you can offer expertise into.

Following this, candidates will be invited into the usual application and selection process.