



PARISH PROFILE

Rector for the Arden Valley Benefice



Area Dean's Introduction

Kate Mier

The Arden Valley benefice forms part of Alcester Deanery - a very beautiful part of rural Warwickshire with over 30 churches. Alcester, Studley, Bidford-on-Avon, and Henley-in-Arden are the largest population centres. We currently have a planned deployment of 6 full-time incumbents, and 3 House for Duty priests, supported by many helpful and valued retired clergy. Alcester Minster benefice is a Coventry Diocesan Mission Hub with a rural focus and has an additional Associate Minister to support this initiative.

We can offer you a very warm, supportive Deanery Chapter where we enjoy good relationships, meet regularly for prayer, fellowship, and mutual support, and share a common heart for the growth and flourishing of the mission of our churches across our Deanery and beyond. All our recent appointments have been of clergy who enjoy working collegially. We are at a Kairos opportunity moment in the deanery, in that several incumbents have retired or moved on from parish ministry at the same time. So we are exploring radically new ways of sharing ministry across ecclesiastical boundaries to develop a truly Deanery-wide approach.

We are looking for the next incumbent of Arden Valley to be a Rural Pioneer who enjoys working collegially with clergy colleagues, and who will be both the incumbent rooted in the benefice, and also take a lead in enabling a particular aspect of mission across the wider deanery as well as in their own benefice. There is plenty of scope for the person appointed to offer an aspect of their ministry skill set which they particularly enjoy. This aspect of the role is outlined in the Deanery Prospectus. We trust that this added dimension will enrich ministry in the parish as well as benefitting the wider deanery.

Arden Valley have not received consistent clergy oversight for several years. So, there is a lovely opportunity here for a priest to provide clear, supportive, loving leadership, being visible with the congregations and in the villages, and further developing the mutually supportive relationships between congregations that has developed in recent years.

Alcester Deanery

Rural ministry in the heart of
England

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 across the deanery, for clergy and laity alike, in order to manage gifts 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.



The Churchwardens

John Foster, Celia Spiers, Dorothy Mann, Adrian Hopkinson, John Cohen & David Harrison

The Arden Valley Benefice is made up of five village communities which, whilst they share many similarities, have specific talents, needs and ambitions within each of them. The five villages are situated in beautiful rolling Warwickshire countryside with good links to local towns and transport networks whilst maintaining their friendly rural charm.

The villages and their respective churches are represented by three Parochial Church Councils:

- Snitterfield
- Wolverton with Norton Lindsey and Langley
- Bearley

We are seeking to appoint a new Rector as the previous incumbent has recently left us to join the army chaplaincy.

We are looking for someone who can help the parishes grow individually and collaboratively, for the benefit of all. We would like to be more inclusive and attractive to newcomers, especially the younger generation whilst continuing to support our older Parishioners. We would therefore welcome a priest who will help us in achieving these aims.

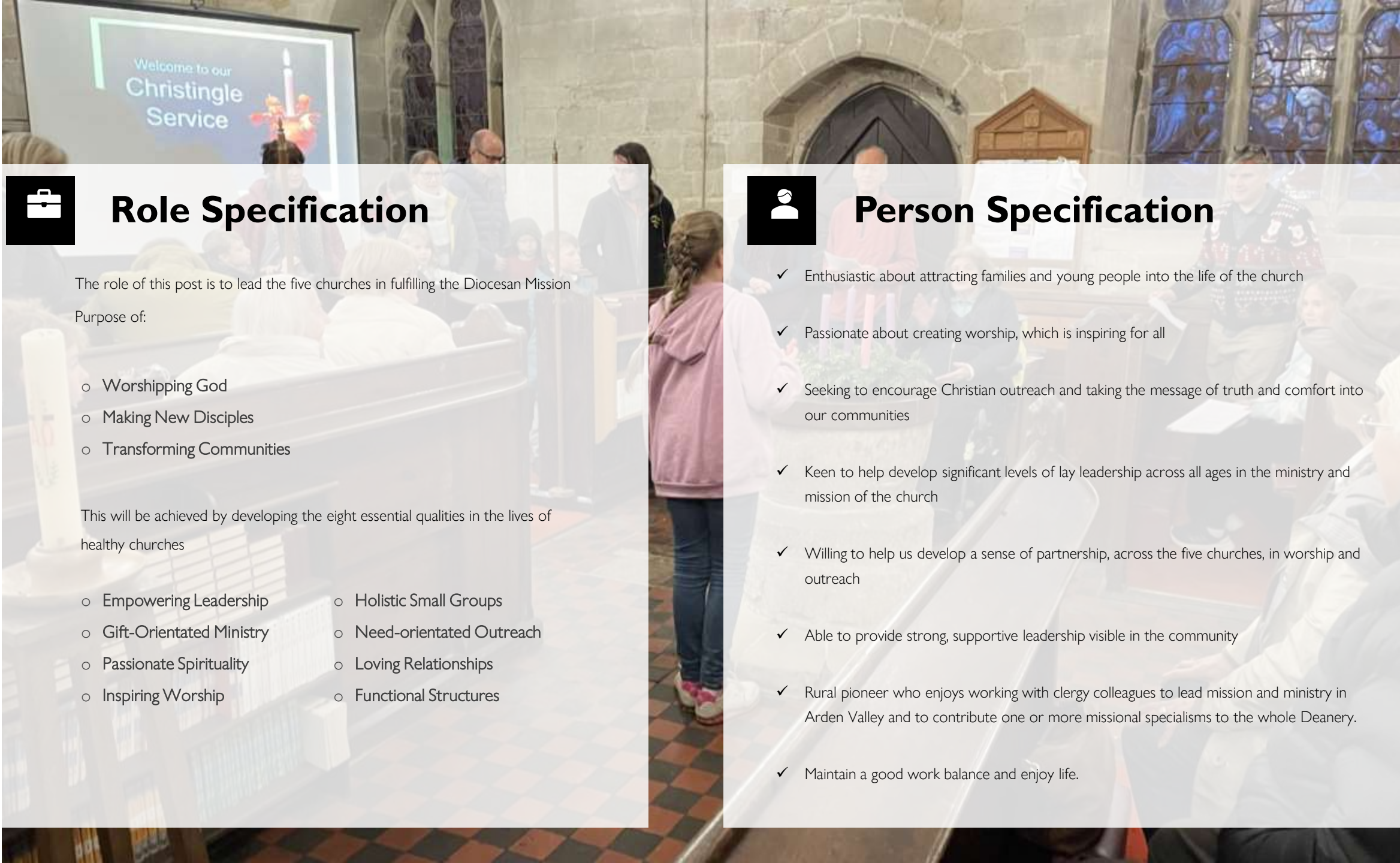




The Role & Person

Rector for the Arden Valley Benefice





Role Specification

The role of this post is to lead the five churches in fulfilling the Diocesan Mission

Purpose of:

- Worshipping God
- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities

This will be achieved by developing the eight essential qualities in the lives of healthy churches

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ○ Empowering Leadership | ○ Holistic Small Groups |
| ○ Gift-Orientated Ministry | ○ Need-orientated Outreach |
| ○ Passionate Spirituality | ○ Loving Relationships |
| ○ Inspiring Worship | ○ Functional Structures |



Person Specification

- ✓ Enthusiastic about attracting families and young people into the life of the church
- ✓ Passionate about creating worship, which is inspiring for all
- ✓ Seeking to encourage Christian outreach and taking the message of truth and comfort into our communities
- ✓ Keen to help develop significant levels of lay leadership across all ages in the ministry and mission of the church
- ✓ Willing to help us develop a sense of partnership, across the five churches, in worship and outreach
- ✓ Able to provide strong, supportive leadership visible in the community
- ✓ Rural pioneer who enjoys working with clergy colleagues to lead mission and ministry in Arden Valley and to contribute one or more missional specialisms to the whole Deanery.
- ✓ Maintain a good work balance and enjoy life.



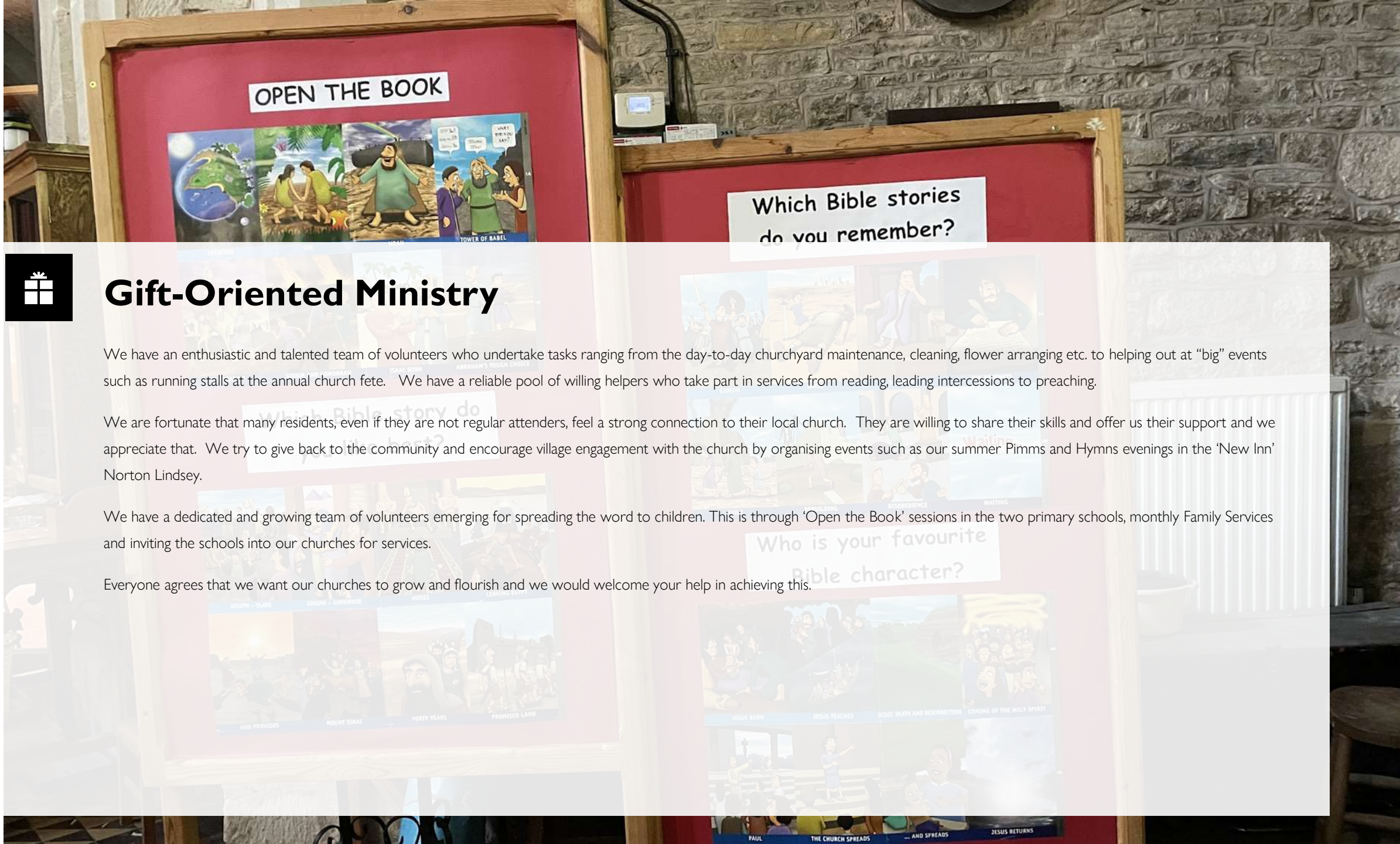
Gift-Oriented Ministry

We have an enthusiastic and talented team of volunteers who undertake tasks ranging from the day-to-day churchyard maintenance, cleaning, flower arranging etc. to helping out at “big” events such as running stalls at the annual church fete. We have a reliable pool of willing helpers who take part in services from reading, leading intercessions to preaching.

We are fortunate that many residents, even if they are not regular attenders, feel a strong connection to their local church. They are willing to share their skills and offer us their support and we appreciate that. We try to give back to the community and encourage village engagement with the church by organising events such as our summer Pimms and Hymns evenings in the ‘New Inn’ Norton Lindsey.

We have a dedicated and growing team of volunteers emerging for spreading the word to children. This is through ‘Open the Book’ sessions in the two primary schools, monthly Family Services and inviting the schools into our churches for services.

Everyone agrees that we want our churches to grow and flourish and we would welcome your help in achieving this.





Empowering Leadership

We look forward to welcoming a new Rector who will provide strong, supportive and visible leadership for our five churches – someone who will delight our core believers whose religious faith is bolstered by the spiritual enlightenment of an inspiring clergy.

In multi-parish benefices much depends on the abilities of lay leaders, and we are very fortunate to have several of our members who regularly take responsibility for leading worship, preaching and intercessions.

We have started the process of identifying and developing the skills of people who would be capable of taking on leadership responsibilities by following the Diocesan guidance: Release, Recognise, Resource, and encourage them to follow the diocesan 'Pathway' training.



Passionate Spirituality

Within our Benefice some pray and thank God openly, others prefer to pray privately. There are two monthly prayer groups which meet in our villages, and we have members who are specially trained to lead services and prayer sessions.

Bible study groups are held regularly and in 2020 St James Snitterfield organised a 48-hour bible Readathon.

Enthusiastic musical participation in services is also encouraged. We are blessed with many talented musicians within our villages who enrich our worship in different ways.

Many church services are covered on Zoom for those who follow from home.

We would like to welcome our new Rector to our community and look forward to them further impassioning our Spirituality.



Inspiring Worship

Our village communities associate strongly with their local churches, and it is lovely to see them full for the annual festivals of Christmas, Christingle, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Rogation, Wakes and Remembrance Sunday. We have smaller but loyal congregations attending the regular services during the rest of the year.

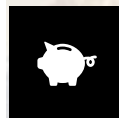
Currently, most of our church services are traditional. Robes are worn for all services of Holy Communion, marriages, funerals, and major festivals. For the future we are looking to vary the format for some services to make them more appealing to all members of our communities. In recent years we have needed to scale-down our service pattern. There is one Communion service in each church per month with the occasional evensong. This reduction in services has had the unexpected effect of improving integration amongst the five church communities as members are now more inclined to travel to attend a church in another village where the service is being held that week.

We hold a lively and inspiring monthly family service and would love to see this grow in popularity. Both Snitterfield and Wolverton Schools visit our churches during the year and our fundraising events are well supported by the local children.

We have a choir, formed from parishioners from the five churches, who rehearse to perform for major festivals, in particular for Christmas.

The increasing number of Baptisms and Weddings held in our churches brings in visitors of all ages and we make the most of these evangelistic opportunities. Guests at a recent wedding commented that the church service was by far the most memorable part of the day.

We look forward to continuing to inspire and be inspired by you in our Worship. We would like to work with you to encourage more young people and young adults to become involved in our churches and to grow our congregations so that our churches can thrive in the future.



Need-Oriented Outreach

Each of our beautiful and historic churches are a special place for people in village life, and we believe that our parishioners serve their communities as 'good neighbours'. Examples of this include:

- Members of the Congregation of St James' Snitterfield setting up collection points in Snitterfield and Bearley to support the local foodbank and organising deliveries to them.
- Wolverton, Norton Lindsey and Langley supporting the Salvation Army through gift services and donations.
- Having a member of the congregation in Snitterfield who is the local organiser for 'Fairtrade' and our church being committed to using Fairtrade products where possible.
- Regular Fairtrade sales are held in Snitterfield Church Hall and at the Christmas Fair and Village Fete.
- We give annual donations to several charities at home and abroad.
- Church members are involved in village organisations, home and care home visiting, taking home communions, school and nursery visits
- Advent and Lent bible groups

The churches are well integrated in village life e.g., summer fetes and Christmas fairs, Harvest Suppers, pantomimes etc. At the recent annual Snitterfield Village Fete a quiet area was set up where people came to talk about the work of the church and pray with members of the congregation. Bearley runs a very successful and well received free Garden produce stall for the community. Monthly Parish magazines are produced containing both Church and Community related news and events and delivered within each village.

Whilst most people attending church join with an existing faith, we take the opportunity to reach out and welcome people during 'life events', weddings, baptisms, and funerals.

We would appreciate your help in our work in this area and developing a process for identifying the 'needs' of the community so that we can focus efforts most appropriately.



Holistic Small Groups

There are several small groups operating in each church, including monthly Sunday School, bible study and Lent groups, home communion, bell ringing, choirs, prayer groups, fund raising and church hall groups.

Our weekly congregations are broadly representative of the ages, ethnicity, and social background of the individual parishes and may themselves be classed as faithful small groups. In general, church congregations veer towards the older age groups and there is a high level of trust between members.



Loving Relationships

For many reasons, the last few years have been a difficult time for the Arden Valley Benefice, however, this adversity has resulted in us being increasingly successful at working together. The rotation of parish services throughout the benefice has resulted in increased integration across the five church communities which we would like to maintain and build upon. When there is a 5th Sunday in the month our regular Communion service is followed by a popular 'bring and share' lunch, building friendships and fellowship.

We are looking forward to welcoming you into our community and becoming part of our fellowship.



Functional Structures

The five villages and their respective churches are represented by three Parochial Church Councils:

- Snitterfield
- Wolverton with Norton Lindsey and Langley
- Bearley

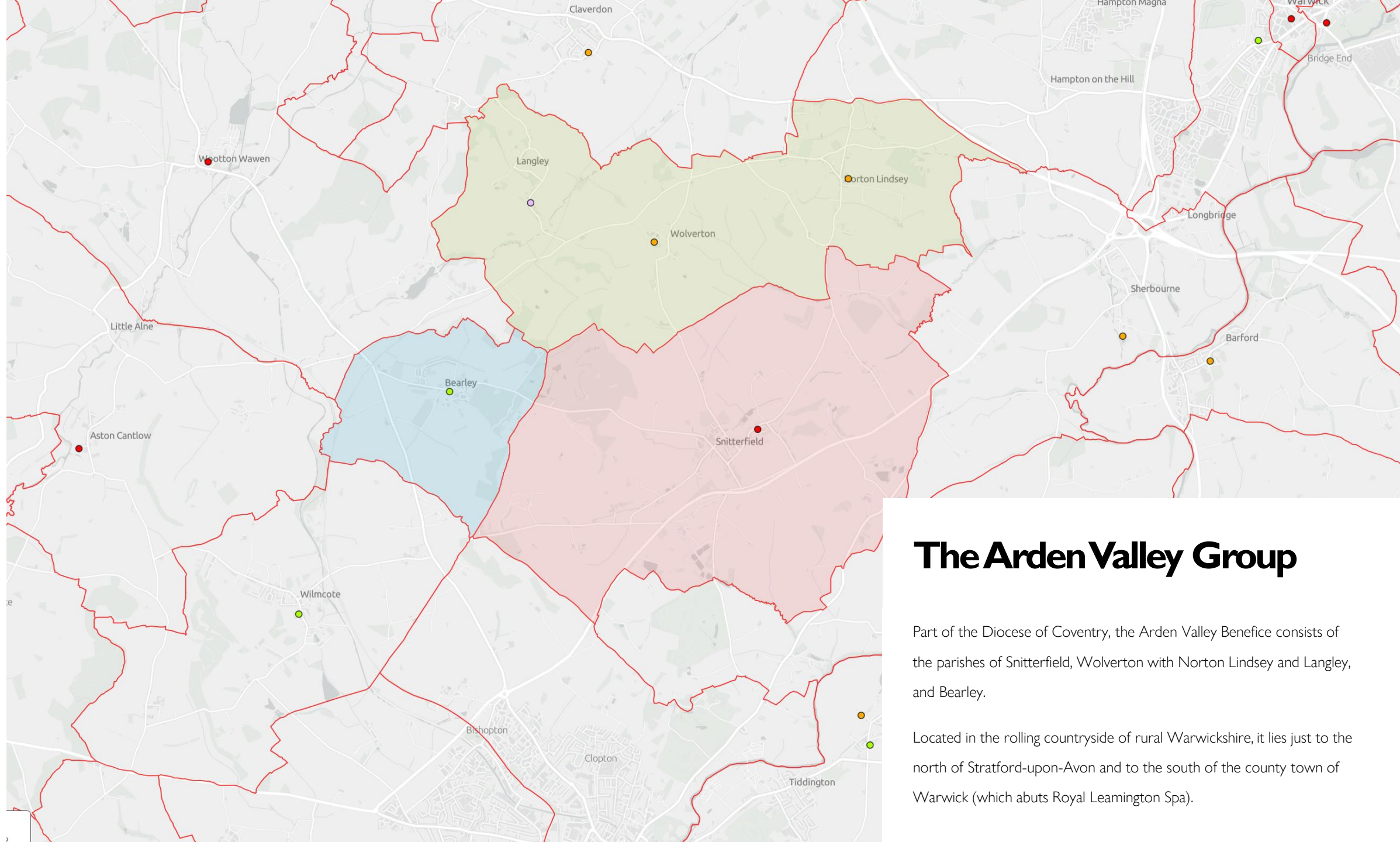
We have a hardworking and dedicated team of Churchwardens, Treasurers, Secretaries and PCC members who volunteer their time, skills and talents to dutifully coordinate the smooth running of the church functions, provide thoughtful stewardship of the buildings, financial management of church funds and pastoral care to our parishioners. The atmosphere at our PCC meetings is friendly, business like and increasingly more spiritual and mission focused, though maintaining historic church buildings and trying to cover financial liabilities does tend to dominate our agenda. In 2018 and 2020 our churches undertook the 8 Essential Qualities Survey, and this has helped shape the agenda for our meetings.

In each Parish, operational issues are dealt with routinely by Church Wardens and the PCC Secretary who meet regularly. An “Executive Committee” involving the Churchwardens and Secretaries of all 3 PCCs and the Vicar (when not in interregnum) meet on a 3 monthly basis to agree the pattern of forthcoming services, share problems and discuss solutions.

Our PCC membership is representative of the aging demographic of our congregations, and we are aware that the functional structure of these PCCs, associated committees and working groups will need to be reviewed when the new Rector arrives. We are open to reflecting on what structures and processes might be more appropriate as we learn to work together as a group.

A wide-angle photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground is a field of dry, brownish grass. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills with patches of green and brown fields. The background shows a line of trees and a few buildings under a heavy, grey, cloudy sky. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text.

Our Community



The Arden Valley Group

Part of the Diocese of Coventry, the Arden Valley Benefice consists of the parishes of Snitterfield, Wolverton with Norton Lindsey and Langley, and Bearley.

Located in the rolling countryside of rural Warwickshire, it lies just to the north of Stratford-upon-Avon and to the south of the county town of Warwick (which abuts Royal Leamington Spa).

Our Wider Area



2 trains an hour from Warwick Parkway to central London and Birmingham.

10-minute drive to M40 with fast access to Coventry, Birmingham, London, Oxford and High Wycombe.

Excellent choice of good and outstanding primary and secondary state, grammar and independent schools in the area.





Snitterfield

Snitterfield

Snitterfield is a large village (population 1,100) with a thriving community. It benefits from a wealth of amenities including a well-stocked village store, the Snitterfield Arms public house offering a wide variety of food and drinks, a sports and social club, the popular 'Cobbs Farm' farm shop and a village hall which has been at the heart of village celebrations since it was built in 1873. The village hall is used for many community events, such as the monthly rural cinema screening, community café, gardening club, VVI etc.

The village has a healthy mix of ages and families and a reasonably balanced social mixture of occupations, personal beliefs, and interests. The popular Snitterfield Primary School is OFSTED rated "Good", and the village also has an "Outstanding" nursery, a twice weekly toddler playgroup, playing fields, children's playgrounds and youth club

This is a rural village, mostly residential with a mix of predominately arable farms and a small selection of small to medium size businesses.

Residents also have the opportunity to be involved in a number of sporting clubs and organisations including the bowls club, tennis club, cricket club, junior football club, golf club, gliding club and riding stables.





St James the Great Snitterfield

Let all the people praise the Lord

The church is open 365 days a year from 9am to 6pm/dusk for visitors to look around, for private prayer and a quiet place for meditation. Monthly services have a faithful, enthusiastic congregation with special occasions (funerals, Christingle) filling the church.

The church has close associations with the family of William Shakespeare. His grandfather farmed in the village and worshipped here, and his father John was baptised in the church. Richard Jago the poet became vicar here in 1754 and is buried under the centre aisle.

Construction of the church started towards the end of the 13th Century and continued for more than 150 years. The interior of the church was much changed by the Victorians in the mid-19th Century. The Graham Simons Room is a contemporary wooden structured church hall within the churchyard with modern facilities. The hall is well used by several groups including a local choir, craft groups, wellness group, Parish Council etc and can be booked for parties.

The village community have pulled together to plant areas of wildflowers within the churchyard and put-up bird boxes etc. We are very proud to have gained the Eco Church Silver Award and are working towards the Gold Award.

The Bell Tower houses a ring of 6 Taylor Bells which can often be heard in the neighbouring villages when the Snitterfield bell ringers are ringing out a peal of bells. In 2020 the church with the support of the local community and the local Guild of Bell Ringers raised £48,000 to remove, refurbish and rehang the bells.

The graveyard was closed 13 years ago, with no burials having taken place in the previous 100 years but is still open for the interment of ashes. The village cemetery is situated close by.

The Vicarage

Church Road, Snitterfield, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 0LN

The vicarage available with this post is also located in Snitterfield, directly opposite St James the Great church ([Google Maps](#)). The accommodation is a brick and tiled two-storey, four bedroomed, detached family home with garden, gas-fired central heating and double glazing, enjoying a very pleasant position in this popular village.

- Ground Floor:
 - Entrance Porch & Hall with wood block floor, storage cupboards and coat hooks
 - Study 13'9" (4.19m) x 10'10" (3.30m) with built-in cupboards and bookcase
 - Inner Hallway with block floor
 - Cloakroom with WC and wash hand basin
 - Living Room 20'0" (6.10m) x 11'9" (3.58m) with open fireplace
 - Dining Room 11'9" (3.58m) x 9'11" (3.02m)
 - Kitchen 14'0" (4.27m) x 9'10" (3.00m) electric cooker.
 - Utility Room 9'10" (3.00m) x 6'0" (1.83m) with quarry tiled floor, wall shelving, floor-standing "Worcester" gas fired central heating boiler.
- First Floor:
 - Bedroom 1 17'3" (5.26m) x 11'10" (3.61m) with double built-in wardrobe and cupboards
 - Bedroom 2 13'0" (3.96m) x 10'10" (3.30m) with pedestal wash hand basin
 - Bedroom 3 11'9" (3.58m) x 9'11" (3.02m) with double built-in wardrobe
 - Bedroom 4 14'1" (4.29m) x 9'10" (3.00m) with recess having fitted hanging rail
 - Bathroom with panelled bath, pedestal wash hand basin and WC, shower cubicle, vinyl floor covering.
 - Separate WC with wash hand basin





Norton Lindsey

Norton Lindsey

The village of Norton Lindsey maintains its rural character although lying only 5 minutes from the M40, by virtue of being surrounded by six small farms, mostly with livestock. The village's focal points are the Cricket ground and club, the School (Ofsted Rating 'Good' and confusingly called Wolverton School), the New Inn pub and community shop, the village hall, and the Church with its own Church Room.

The village is split between the civil parishes of Wolverton, Norton Lindsey and Claverdon, which means trying to work out how many people live there can be difficult.

The Norton Lindsey pub, known as 'The New Inn', dating back to the 18th century has achieved renown as the first Community owned pub in South Warwickshire. It is owned by 220 investors and run by a committee of villagers. It is famous also for its wide range of beers and ales, and its quiz nights. The 'Pimms and Hymns' evenings have attracted a large following. On one occasion there was hymn singing until close to midnight (without any complaints!). It has recently opened a community shop which is run by volunteers.

A few years ago, a new state-of-the-art village hall was built, and the villagers are rightly proud of this facility. It has fast become the focus points of many events – from a memorable Platinum Jubilee for QEII to the coronation of KCIII, with numerous wedding receptions, karate classes, menopause meetings, dancing classes, fetes, WI nights, birthday parties and quizzes in between!

The village has an active Civil Parish Council who have proved supportive in the past with grants and guidance, and there are many community groups in the village who have strong ties to the Church.





Holy Trinity Norton Lindsey

Holy Trinity hosts a mixture of Holy Communion and Family Services and can be full to overflowing for the big annual festivals and the celebration of baptisms, funerals and weddings.

The grade 2* listed building, has a Saxon font which is all that remains of the original building. The chancel and nave date from 1208 and the Victorians added a north aisle and vestry in 1874 and 1880 respectively so that it can now seat approximately 115. The windows are filled with high quality, late Victorian stained glass of which the large East window depicting the Transfiguration is outstanding.

The clock chimes can be heard through much of the village, as can the bells signalling that services are soon to start.

Norton Lindsey Church Room is a small brick building with a slate roof dating from 1851. It lies alongside the churchyard on the site of the old vicarage. It has a small kitchen, which makes it useful for serving refreshments to the congregation after services and is regularly used for village meetings of the Parish Council and community events

The churchyard commands beautiful and extensive views across the countryside and is used for burials, there is a separate Garden of Rest for the interment of ashes. Both are carefully looked after by a volunteer team of gardeners



Wolverton

Wolverton

The main village of Wolverton is small with most houses visible from the road that winds through, plus a few outlying residences. It is surrounded by farmland belonging to the two working farms based in the village, so has a very rural flavour, with the church, a church hall and an animal rescue centre.

The population is mainly middle aged to elderly with just a handful of families with children. The church hall provides the social focus for the village. News of community events quickly circulates around the village through word of mouth, the village email and WhatsApp groups.

There is a long and interesting history to the village. Until the middle of the 19th Century, it was called Wolverdington. There is one house in the village which was once a row of cottages, originally of wattle and daub construction and dating back to 1469. Wolverton Court has a Tudor wing dating back to 1547.

The three churches of Norton Lindsey, Wolverton and Langley hold an annual Summer Fete which is well attended by local villagers.





St Mary the Virgin Wolverton

St Mary the Virgin Church, a grade 2* listed building built in 1208 mainly of lias rag stone with a tiled roof. It can only be reached by foot, up a steep hill and cannot be seen from the road – a hidden gem! It has many interesting features including a timber barrel ceiling, ancient glass, a rood screen and a 15th century font. The regular congregation is small, but it can seat 100 people. The churchyard, used for both burials and interment of ashes for the villagers of Wolverton and Langley, has recently been extended to include a small newly planted orchard and wildflower meadow.

The church hall, built over 80 years ago and located in the heart of the village, serves as a focus for village life with several fundraising activities taking place throughout the year such as Christmas parties, harvest festivals, quizzes, and themed evenings. It is run by a management committee under the jurisdiction of the PCC. It holds a regular coffee morning on Tuesdays and the parish council, Scottish dancing, and Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers all hire the hall on a regular basis. It is also available for hire for small meetings and parties. Recently, Café Church services have been held in the church hall.



Bearley

Bearley

Bearley is a friendly commuter village with a good sense of community centred on the church and its other organisations. For community events there is a village hall with a social club and playing fields on the outskirts of the village and there is a park with an excellent play area.

Clubs and organisations within the village which act as focal points for all the community include the Bearley United football club and Bearley Vets football club, the badminton group, the rifle club, Snipes short mat bowls club and the ladies' table tennis group. Bearley is also the home to the 1st Bearley and Snitterfield Scouts, Cubs and Beavers as well as many book clubs.

The village is surrounded by farmland with good transport links including a train station with trains to Stratford-upon-Avon, Leamington Spa and Birmingham.

There are several businesses in the parish including an agricultural machinery business, golf club, gliding club, social club and specialist food company.





St Mary the Virgin Bearley

St Mary's is a grade 2* listed small "single cell" building, (18.0 x 6.5m) which seats about 60. We celebrate all the major Festivals as well as occasional baptisms, funerals and weddings and we hold coffee mornings and sometimes also concerts in the Church.

The nave was probably built around the end of the twelfth century; the outline of a round-headed south door can be seen outside. The chancel with its thinner walls may date from the 13th or 14th century. The octagonal font is 15th-century. The bell-turret was constructed in 1830. During Victorian times the present bell was installed in the wooden bell-cote and the nave was lengthened by about 3 metres. The former north door was re-opened in 1962 and its porch with commemorative windows was added. The 20th century also saw the installation of an organ-gallery and new pews. while in 2015 a new Eminent digital organ with two manuals and pedal-board replaced the old instrument.

There is no toilet or kitchen facility, but we are actively considering installing a dry composting toilet (we have water, but no main drains!) immediately outside the building. We hold the Bronze eco church award.

The graveyard has been closed for many years, apart from an area for the interment of ashes close to the building. The Parish Burial Ground adjoins the graveyard and is almost full.

We have a good relationship with Bearley Parish Council and the Friends of Bearley Village.



Langley

Langley

The village of Langley stretches along a winding lane which runs from Wolverton up the hill towards Claverdon. It is a rural idyll with small farms, livestock, and a network of footpaths and bridleways. One generous spirited farmer has a busy winter towing cars out of the Ford on the Langley stream, every time it floods. The population has a high proportion of young families, and few elderly, relative to the other villages.

The church and the church hall are at the central point on the Langley Road. Until the church hall was diagnosed with structural problems, it was the centre of many village activities, including Jubilee celebrations, harvest supper, produce shows, May Queen parades, summer BBQs, scarecrow competitions and children's Christmas parties. Many of these celebrations have been temporarily relocated into the church whilst we are working to return the church hall to its former glory.





St Mary the Virgin Langley

Langley can boast significant singing talent, which with a little encouragement could regenerate the Christmas carol service – whatever time of year! Remembrance Sunday and Harvest Festival are always well supported at Langley. The church has movable pews which makes it adaptable for other purposes and for less traditional services.

St Mary's was built in 1890 predominately from brick with a tiled roof and a seating capacity of 40. A striking feature of the church is the Epiphany window. The church has an unusual status, due to it being built and financed by the Torre Trust – it is dedicated and not consecrated. The Torre Trust exists to provide maintenance and insurance of the building whilst it is being used for divine service. If services cease, the land including the church hall reverts to the original landowner.

The church hall is on the same site and dates from about 1880 and is run by the Langley Village Amenities Association under the supervision of the PCC. Until recently it was used for serving refreshments after services, harvest supper and for social and fundraising events.



Mary's Song

Oh my Spi-rit re-jo-ices and my soul glo-ri-fies
the-Lord O God my Sav-iour whom has thought of me
from now on all peo-ple they will call me blessed for the
mighty one has thought of me and ho-ly is his name.

Role Detail

Services

Our Normal Monthly Pattern Of Services

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday (when it occurs)
St Mary Langley	<u>9:30am Holy Communion</u>				United Communion Service – held at each church in rotation.
St Mary the Virgin, Bearley	<u>11:00am Holy Communion</u>				
Holy Trinity, Norton Lindsey	10am Family	<u>11am Holy Communion</u>		6pm Evensong (location rotates around churches each month)	
St Mary, Wolverton			<u>11am Holy Communion</u>		
St James the Great, Snitterfield				<u>11am Holy Communion</u>	

Services requiring clergy are highlighted in **bold underline**.

In recent years we have scaled-down our service pattern, this has been due to several reasons including Covid, declining congregation numbers, interregnum and clergy availability. There is one Communion service in each church per month, with the occasional evensong, and a monthly family service is held in Norton Lindsey. Whenever possible, services are covered on Zoom for those who follow from home.

When there is a 5th Sunday in the month our regular Communion service is followed by a popular 'bring and share' lunch, building friendships and fellowship. Once we have a new Rector in post, we are open to discussion on what our future service pattern should be and are keen to increase our offering.

Currently, robes are worn for all services of Holy Communion, marriages, funerals, and major festivals. We are looking to varying the format for some services to appeal to a wider range of the community. We would like our churches to grow and flourish and to attract families and young people into the life of the church. We would welcome your help in achieving this, creating worship which is inspiring for all.



	Wolverton (with Norton Lindsey & Langley)	Snitterfield	Bearley	Total
Planned Giving	£12,856	£8,619	£4,460	£25,935
Gift-Aid	£3,928	£2,173	£1,461	£7,562
Fundraising, parish magazine and Collections	£12,862	£12,559	£1,880	£27,301
Grants*	£456	n/a.	£0	£456
Total Income*	£30,102	£23,351	£7,801	£61,254
General Expenditure*	£32,746	£28,818	£9,044	£70,608
Of which Parish Share Contribution	£26,097	£17,600	£6,700	£50,397
Unrestricted Reserves	£70,630	£25,462	£32,615	£128,707
Restricted Reserves	£198,233	£3,702	£0	£201,935
Any special considerations, future expenditure etc.	£20,000 Repairs to Langley Church Hall £10,000 Repairs to walls and stonework Norton Lindsey	£35,000 Repairs to block flooring	£5,000-£6,000 Installing toilet	

*Income/expenditure excluding contributions to building improvements/churchyard extension.

The table summarises our financial situation in 2022. Full sets of accounts for the last three years are available on request.

Finance and Stewardship

Preserving our heritage, growing our community

During the year, several fundraising events take place in each Parish including concerts, Pimms and Hymns, summer and Christmas Fetes, Village Café and product sales, tea and coffee mornings etc. The PCCs are also very thankful for generous donations from both individuals and local organisations such as Parish Council grants, Snitterfield Village Community Project and 'Friends of Bearley'. However, the financial summary shows the clear story that General expenditure is currently more than total income and the PCCs realise that this situation is not sustainable and are looking for potential fundraising opportunities.

In the case of Langley, current expenses, and substantial capital costs can be recovered from a Trust set up by Mrs Hyacinthe Torre (widow of Rev Henry Torre) in 1906. The funds of the Torre Trust are not included in the figure for Restricted funds given. The Langley church hall and the church next to it are the focal point of the village, but the church hall requires potentially major repairs to its floor. It is doubtful that the Torre Trust will be able to contribute to these works. At present it is not clear whether that will require a complete rebuild or underpinning and restoration of the existing floor.

Parishes are expected to fund the costs of their own ordained ministry. This in effect means paying the full cost of all clergy. Currently the contribution for a Rector with all ancillary costs is approximately £65,000. The Arden Valley Benefice recognises there is a shortfall between current contributions and the full costs. We are grateful to those churches elsewhere in the Deanery and Diocese who help to support our ministry. It is our every intention to contribute more ourselves towards these costs as the congregations grow.



Support

Support



Licensed Reader

We are privileged to have a licensed reader who leads and preaches in all five churches of the Arden Valley Group, exercises funeral ministry, conducts Communion by Extension and exercises pastoral ministry through Home Communion and Visits, and is also a member of the Alcester Deanery Synod.

“As a Reader, I lead and preach at many lay-led services across the five churches - BCP Evening Prayer, Service of Commemoration, Service of Light, Nine Lessons and Carols. I make local pastoral and hospital visits in two of the parishes and take ‘Home Communion’ where appropriate.”

Dr Joan Wilkinson



Anna Chaplaincy

We have an Anna Chaplain in our group who is also a Churchwarden in Snitterfield.

“In September 2022, I was commissioned as an Anna Chaplain for Older People in Arden Marches and Arden Valley under the supervision of the Rev Kate Mier (Alcester Area Dean and vicar of Arden Marches).

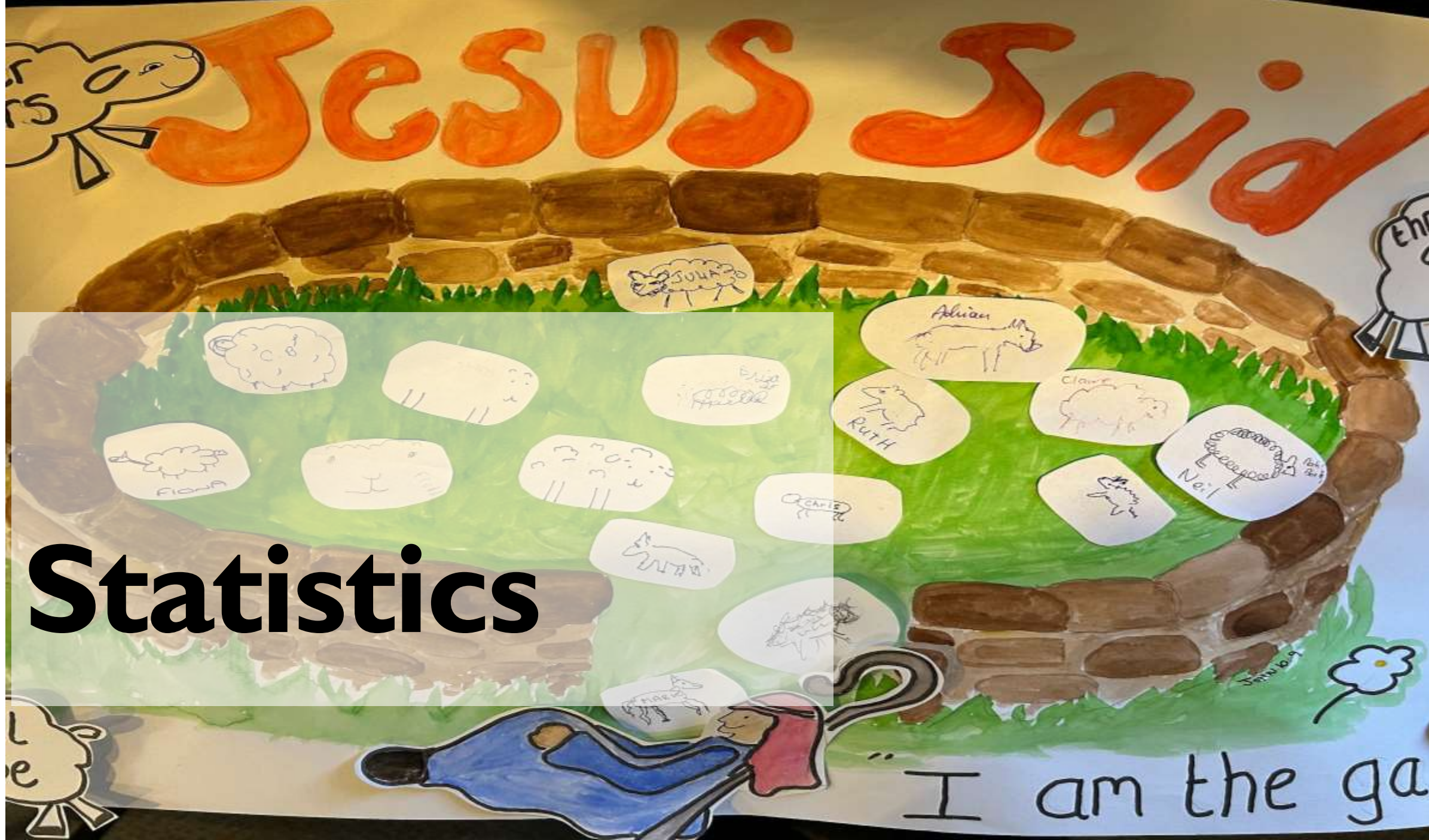
The Anna Chaplaincy ministry is becoming well-established in these areas and provides valuable pastoral support and spiritual nurturing to our older people.

Local highlights of Anna Chaplaincy in the Arden Valley include the monthly Snitterfield Village Community Café, involving people of all ages, carol singing at Cedar Lodge (Bearley) and supporting dear friends in their last days.

I regularly visit people in all the parishes of the Arden Valley churches, often with our reader, Joan, and I hope that in time others will join us in this ministry.”

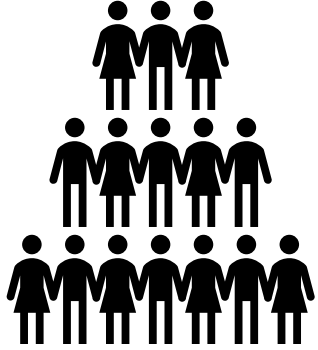
www.annachaplaincy.org.uk

Celia Spiers

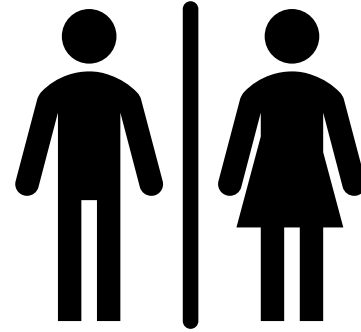


Statistics

Key Population Statistics



2,157 Residents



55% Female

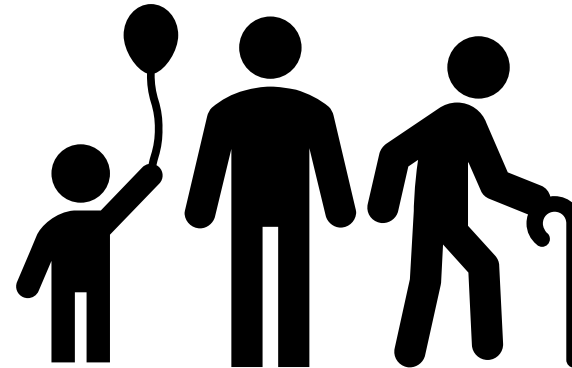
45% Male



62% Christian

2% Other Religion

36% No Religion



20% Under 18

51% 18 - 64

28% 65+



Detailed Population Statistics



	Bearley	Langley	Norton Lindsey	Snitterfield	Wolverton	Total
Population	691	199	334	1062	231	2517
Gender						
Males	321	103	154	497	115	1190
Females	370	96	180	565	116	1327
Age Group						
0-17 years	127	44	70	228	41	510
18-64 years	360	121	182	530	103	1296
65+ years	204	34	82	304	87	711
Age Distribution						
0-9 years	80	17	29	120	16	262
10-19 years	55	30	43	126	26	280
20-29 years	51	15	24	65	9	164
30-39 years	66	21	19	102	9	217
40-49 years	88	28	41	112	41	310
50-59 years	111	40	62	159	30	402
60-69 years	86	23	53	155	43	360
70-79 years	100	18	35	136	47	336
80+ years	54	7	28	87	10	186
Religion						
Christian	392	121	242	590	148	1493
Muslim	2	1	5		8	16
Hindu				5		5
Buddhist	1	3	2	3	1	10
Jewish		3	1	1		5
Sikh	5		4		6	15
Other				1	1	2
No Religion	231	67	72	403	76	849

Statistics For Mission

	Year	Snitterfield	Bearley	Wolverton (with Norton Lindsey & Langley)	Commentary
Worshipping Community	2016-2022	Just above 40	Falling from 25 to 12	Falling from 70 to 55	Stability, numerically at Snitterfield. Decline in others.
Usual Sunday Attendance	2016	32	14	32	Increasing attendance in Snitterfield and Wolverton group; Bearley drops below 10 in 2022.
	2019	22	14	42	
	2022	38	9	46	
% Children	2018	< 20%	< 15%	< 25%	Population 17-18%. So small numbers in church mirror small percentage in the villages.
Electoral Roll	2016	58	20	102	Fall from 2016 other than Bearley which is slightly higher.
	2019	40	26	95	
	2022	48	24	84	
Christmas Services	2016	320	45	250	Despite numbers reducing, great potential for special services. Unfortunately, Bearley was unable to hold a Christmas Service in 2022 as no priest was available.
	2019	290	21	200	
	2022	240	0	150	
Occasional Offices (baptisms, weddings and funerals)	2016	15	7	6	Steady at Snitterfield; slight increase at Bearley. Doubling at Wolverton group in 2022.
	2019	14	8	6	
	2022	15	9	13	
% Christian in Village Populations	2021	56%	57%	66%	National average is 49%. Likely to reflect nominal Christian (CofE) allegiance in more conservative rural villages.
Joiners versus Leavers (Net)	2016	-2	+4	-1	Net fall based on balance of new joiners and leavers, other than Bearley which saw a net influx of +4 in 2016.
	2019	--	-1	--	
	2022	3	-3	3	








THANK YOU


http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/vacancies/current_vacancies


Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post

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