

## **Welcome to Coker Ridge Benefice**

The Coker Ridge Benefice comprises seven rural parishes (Closworth, East Chinnock, East Coker, Hardington Mandeville, Pendomer, Sutton Bingham and West Coker) situated in South Somerset, close to the Dorset border in beautiful countryside but within easy reach of larger towns and cities.

We are a faithful community of people working together, growing as disciples, seeking to fulfil the Diocesan vision of "Living and telling the story of Jesus" in our villages. We are delighted that you are considering joining us as we strive to follow God's calling in our Benefice.



## The Coker Ridge Benefice

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### Where are we heading?

Our vision and priorities have emerged through a process of consultation involving PCC members, congregations and gathering opinions from our local communities. When we asked our communities about the role of a village church, responses included support in difficult times, hosting events that bring the community together, and "Christianity in action".

Our vision is to increasingly see signs of the Kingdom of God in our communities, our churches and in the lives of the children and adults living here.

Lay leaders in one of our parishes meet weekly to pray blessings for the people of their community, including that people will be blessed with "a growing awareness of God's love for them and His invitation to them."

In Matthew 5, (14 & 15) Jesus tells his followers "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house"

Jesus' words are echoed in our Benefice logo - flames of the Holy Spirit over each parish on the hills around Coker Ridge. As we pursue our vision to see signs of the Kingdom of God in our communities what might that mean for us in practice?

## How will we get there?

- With your help, shape and articulate a Benefice vision that can be contextualised and brought to life within our diverse villages, parishes and traditions.
- Our parishes are ready to explore their own vocations and find ways to best use their gifts, skills, and unique place in the Benefice.



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- We love our traditions, but we want to make sure our churches and services are relevant to the needs of more people in our community.
- We are conscious of the young people in our community, and are keen to find ways to connect with them, and support them with opportunities to experience God's love.
- Living in a rural area, we are mindful of those who cannot, or don't always want to, engage in a church service. We therefore want to be church not just on Sunday but also offer people other ways of encountering God, through prayer, through our presence, through events which connect the community to one another and to church.

#### We recognise this will mean:

- Even greater involvement of lay volunteers, exploring our gifts and developing our ministries as lay people;
- Renewed commitment to prayer for the people, businesses and farms of our communities, exploring practical ways to incorporate prayer into the regular rhythm of life in our communities;
- Continuing to deepen our faith and discipleship; and
- Exploring different, more accessible forms of worship in different locations.

## How you can help us

From consultation across our diverse parishes, we share a common eagerness for a Rector who will bring gifts and experiences that include those listed opposite.

We're looking for someone with skills and experience to help us:

### Vocation and discipleship

- Grow in our vocations.
- Reflect on how best use people's gifts, skills, and each church's unique place in the Benefice.





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- o Continue to deepen our faith and discipleship.
- o Explore what it can mean to be a flourishing rural church with strong traditions.

#### Outreach

- Ensure that the church is not just for this generation and for Sundays.
- Explore different ways, times and places of offering worship.
- Address the spiritual needs of our communities, including children and young people.
- Be imaginative and courageous in offering people fresh ways of connecting with God in our rural context.

#### Pastoral

- Creatively build connections with all ages in our communities
- Engage with the pastoral needs of the elderly, lonely and families.

#### What we offer you

We know that clergy life isn't always easy, and that we parishioners are often part the problem! We're therefore keen to support you in every way we can. This includes having a committed and supportive team around you – the Benefice Council, an experienced and efficient Benefice Administrator, a Benefice Treasurer, dedicated Church Wardens, LWAs and other experienced Lay Ministry team members.

We're also committed to supporting your well-being in other practical ways like respecting your days off, paying your expenses in good time, and you not being required to attend every PCC meeting.

Additionally, funding is available for a Benefice Children's and Families Worker, a role which is currently vacant.



#### Rectory

The Benefice Rectory is a large four-bedroom modern house, with enclosed garden, garage and ample off-street parking, in West Coker. The house is adjacent to the church, within a few minutes' walk from the school, pub, Post Office and shops.



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#### Introduction to the Benefice

The Benefice was inaugurated in February 2013, and is guided in its collaboration by a Benefice Council comprising representatives from each parish, meeting quarterly.

The local landscape is gently undulating rising to 130m at Coker Hill and East Chinnock Hill, the ridge running between these two points giving the Benefice its name. The region is predominantly rural and agricultural, with limited shops and services, but close by are Yeovil, a market and industrial town, and Crewkerne, a Georgian market town.

Yeovil and Crewkerne offer a wide range of shopping and leisure and entertainment facilities, including Yeovil Country Park, theatres hosting shows, films and lectures, including the Yeovil Literary Festival, as well as several National Trust properties nearby. Also, some of our churches (Pendomer, West Coker, East Coker and East Chinnock) hold musical concerts which are open to everyone and offer support with fund raising.

Yeovil is the local centre of employment, the largest being Leonardo Helicopters, the home of British helicopter manufacturing, and Yeovil District Hospital.

West Coker and East Coker have primary schools, feeding secondary schools in Yeovil. For post-16 students, Yeovil College offers a variety of courses and a University Centre with links to several higher education establishments.

For a wider choice of arts and culture Bath, Bristol and Exeter are easily accessible. For recreation and stunning scenery, the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site is only half an hour away by road.

There are good communication links from the Benefice. The A303 and M5 provide links to London and the South West. By train it is only two and half hours to London from Yeovil or Crewkerne. The airports of Bristol, Exeter and Bournemouth are all less than 50 miles away giving access to Europe and farther afield and cross-channel ferries are closer than two hours away.



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#### **Illustration of Service Pattern**

Date	Time	Parish	Service	
1st Sunday	10.00	East Chinnock Church	HC * BCP *	
	11:00	Sutton Bingham Church		
	11:00	West Coker Church	MP **	
<b>2nd Sunday</b> 09:15 Cl		Closworth Church	BCP *	
	10:45	East Coker Church	MP **	
	10:45	Hardington Church	HC *	
	10:45	West Coker Church	FS **	
3rd Sunday	09:15	Pendomer Church	HC also via Zoom *	
	09:45	East Chinnock Village Hall	Café Church **	
	11:00	West Coker Church	HC *	
	18:00	East Coker Church	ES **	
4th	11:00	East Chinnock Home	HC *	
Wednesday				
4th Sunday	08:00	West Coker Church	BCP * FS also via Zoom** FS ** HC *	
	09:45	Pendomer Church		
	10:30	Hardington Church		
	11:00	East Coker Church		
	11:00	West Coker Church	MW **	
	18:30	Closworth Church	Evensong **	
5th Sunday	10:00	Benefice Communion Service	HC *	

**Key**: \* Clergy Led Service, \*\* Lay Led Service

Over recent years the combined Benefice Communion Service on fifth Sundays has become a valued opportunity for the church communities to enjoy worshipping together.



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### The People

The Benefice is home to just over 5000 people with nearly 40% of the population 60 years of age or older. The 2021 census gives a population of 199 for the combined parishes of Closworth, Pendomer and Sutton Bingham.

Village	Population of Civil Parish (2021)	Church Electoral Roll	Regular attendance	Attendance at Christmas
West Coker	2036	44	20	54
East Coker	1721	58	23	50
Hardington Mandeville	587	24	14	35
East Chinnock	503	19	20	40
Closworth	109 (2018)	5	10	12
Pendomer	46 (2018)	15	15	45
Sutton Bingham	36 (2018)	7	18	15

## **Outreach and Evangelism**

Outreach initiatives include Café Church, Men's Breakfast and a Craft group that meet monthly. The Benefice begins running the Archbishop's Difference Course in January 2024. Additionally, a Toddlers group, Acorns (see below for more detail) runs weekly in term-time. A number of our churches hold Lent Lunches, Winter Warmer Lunches and Quizzes which bring wonderful fellowship within our communities. Up to 2022,





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the Benefice employed a Children's and Families worker, for which vacant position the funding remains available. One of our parishes also run a street prayer initiative, involving a rotation of streets to pray for each month.

#### **Discipleship**

Groups include the Pilgrims group and Bible Study groups which meet weekly.

#### **Our Benefice Choir**



The Choir has been in existence in one shape or another since the Second World War, and our current Choir Master took over the task in 2003.

We currently have about 20 singers from across the Benefice, with a balance of the four voices; soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Whilst the repertoire is primarily sacred

music, we do enjoy singing secular pieces, and are always keen to try something new!

The choir usually contributes at the regular 5th Sunday Benefice Communion service with an anthem, and sing for as many of the festival services, weddings, funerals and other events as we are able.

## **Our Young People**

## **West Coker Church of England Primary School**

In West Coker there is an active and vibrant, two-class primary school with around 30 pupils aged four to eleven. The School had a March 2023 Good OFSTED rating. Their website is www.westcoker.somerset.sch.uk



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Collective Worship takes place everyday and includes singing and celebration, Bible stories and wellbeing. Friday's assembly is a celebration of all that the children have achieved, in or out of school, and is preceded by a coffee morning open to parents, carers and their families.



In addition, the pupils attend a monthly service in church, as well as festive services such as Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle and Carols.

The school emphasises developing the 'whole child', preparing children to be conscientious, well-equipped citizens of the future, through their roots in the school's Christian Values and ethos of collaboration.

#### What does the School want from the Rector?

West Coker C of E VC Primary School staff have developed strong links with the church Lay Ministry Team and the wider community. They welcome and look forward to strengthening those relationships, working alongside the Lay Team and the new Rector. The school would love the new Rector to engage with the school, contribute to the RE curriculum and to lead Common Worship.



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#### Acorns - Stay and Play

Acorns is a group for babies, toddlers and their carers once a week in West Coker C of E School Hall. The School is pleased to host the group as it offers a warm introduction to the school for potential future pupils. Run by volunteers from different churches in the Benefice, Acorns' focus is very much on outreach, providing a warm and friendly place for parents to come together, to meet one another, in a welcoming Christian environment. (find us on Facebook: West Coker Acorns Stay and Play)

#### **East Coker Primary School**

The primary school in East Coker is not a Church of England foundation but there have been links with St Michael's over many years. The school comes to the church for annual harvest and carol services and each year the school leavers are invited to the church for a picnic and to receive a Scripture Union booklet "It's your move", to help them prepare for their transition to senior school.

#### **Overseas Mission**

The parishes of St Michael's and St Martin's in East and West Coker are linked with the parish of Twapia in Zambia, part of the diocesan link between Bath and Wells and Zambia. In 2018 Jacqueline Clough, one of our LWAs, participated in a diocesan visit to Zambia.





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## **Administration and governance**

The Benefice Council meets quarterly, comprising representatives from each PCC. While the primary focus of each PCC is their own parish and matters specific to their context, Benefice wide initiatives and collaborations are the focus of the Council.



The Benefice has an Administrator who works on a voluntary basis. A wide variety of tasks are carried out by the postholder, which include being a point of contact across the Benefice/deanery/diocese/funeral directors etc., producing a weekly newsletter, organising and amending the service pattern, ensuring there is a clergy member to take any communion services, funerals, baptisms and marriages. The Administrator also undertakes all invoicing, and other admin tasks as necessary.

We also have a Benefice Treasurer who manages the budget held by the Benefice.

#### **Finance**

### **Our strengths**

Four of our parishes are consistently able to fulfil their parish share contributions (Closworth, East Coker, West Coker and Hardington). Closworth benefits from the income generated by a phone mast located on the church tower.

## Our challenges

Our other parishes struggle to meet their share and would find doing so through congregational giving alone unachievable. This also means they have negligible resources for investment in mission and ministry. Some parishes are therefore exploring alternative funding sources. Further details available on application.



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## **Lay Worship Assistants**

The Benefice has four Lay Worship Assistants actively involved in services across the Benefice. In addition, other lay ministry teams are involved in planning and leading services such as Café Church in East Chinnock.



## **Yeovil Deanery**

Yeovil Deanery comprises four urban churches, surrounded by 18 small rural parishes mainly in three multi-parish Benefices. The recent deployment plan means that in future there will be 7.5 stipendiary priests across the Deanery.

The 2023 Deanery Mission Plan focuses on:

- Local mission; particularly in new housing areas, establishing new forms of church, and sharing resources across the Deanery to help each other with outreach.
- Shared local ministry; identifying and developing the gifts of lay people, particularly in the areas of worship, pastoral care and schools' engagement, and working across the Deanery to promote and enable this.
- Oversight ministry; seeing stipendiary clergy as oversight ministers, supporting and enabling local church leadership across the Deanery and across all parishes

The Deanery leadership are looking at ways for the Deanery to work together, sharing resources and training, and providing more mutual support. There is a small but supportive Deanery chapter, which puts a high priority on the pastoral care of local clergy.



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#### Closworth

#### **Our Village Community**

Closworth is the southernmost parish in the Diocese, bordering Salisbury Diocese and Dorset County. All Saints' church's fine Perpendicular period tower marks the traveller's arrival both in Somerset, famous for such towers, and the Diocese of Bath and Wells.



The building, the faith and ambition of those who built it over the centuries, nurtures our faith today, which is synonymous with our dedication to maintaining the building's fabric and continuing the worship here, as successors to all those who have gone before.

Recent projects have included the restoration of the church bells and installation of a pipe organ, the first it seems in the church's long history. We have a mobile phone mast on the tower, making discreet use of an existing structure, enabling us to raise revenue for maintenance of the building.

## **Church Community**

We have an average attendance of 10 from 47 houses. We use the Book of Common Prayer and the King James Bible, welcome to visitors who seek the re-assurance of time-honoured worship.



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#### **Parochial Church Council Members**

We see our role as keeping the fabric of the church intact and its use alive, and to be there for others, active Christian or no, in times of need, be it for consolation-with pastoral help- celebration or grief. As well as the recent projects already mentioned on page 14, we have also:

- Mapped and catalogued the graves, of help to those seeking their ancestors. We have added the name of a parishioner to our war memorial, the first victim of the Falklands War;
- Mapped the parish, numbering each house and listing their occupants, enabling personally addressed delivery of circulars such as a Christmas card, with service details and invitation to come to them.



Robin Bryer Churchwarden and Secretary



Timothy Glover
PCC Member
and looking after the
Fabric of the church

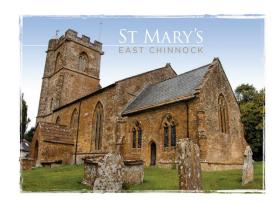


James Owen Churchwarden and Treasurer



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#### **East Chinnock**



### **Our Village Community**

We are a rural community beside the A30 between Yeovil and Crewkerne. We have a population of 503 according to the 2021 census. Over half the population is in the 18-64 age group, and 29% are over 65. Overall, 57% describe themselves as Christian and 42% as of 'no religion'.

#### **Church Community**

We are a diverse group of about 30 people. For some, St Mary's has been their church family for many years, through the joys and pains of life. Others have moved into the village and joined more recently.

Over the last two years we have been thrilled to see informal Café Church in the Village Hall flourishing with 20+ regulars aged from 3 to 90.

Since regaining use of the 120-year-old Parish Room 18 months ago, responding to a village survey by St Mary's, the renamed "room@thepark" regularly hosts a range of activities, all part of our vision to bring 'church' into the heart of the village.

## Worship

Currently we have three services each month. (see Service Pattern illustration above) Our vision is to add a fourth service of a different format, potentially in the room@thepark.





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#### Lay Worship, Ministry and Outreach Team

Alongside the PCC, other lay teams include a Café Church team of eight, a Men's Breakfast team of four, and a team of seven for a Saturday outreach Café in the room@thepark.

Every week lay ministry team members meet to pray blessings for different streets of the village. Twice a year every home receives a card from St Mary's letting them know we're praying for them and their neighbours. In 2023, six of the congregation, including four PCC members enjoyed attending 'New Wine' together.

John Chappelle - Church Warden

#### **Peace and Reconciliation**

During WW2, the village became 'home' to a German PoW. Following his return to Germany, he joined his family's stained-glass business. Over the years up to the 1980s, out of gratitude to the village and as a symbol of reconciliation, he commissioned the designs, made and then installed the stunning windows throughout the whole church.

Drawing on that history, we ran a peacebuilding and reconciliation one-day event in 2023 with 40 participants, and speakers from the Community of the Cross of Nails in Coventry and from the Northern Ireland peacebuilding process. Our vision is to grow this peacebuilding and reconciliation ministry, running the Archbishop's 'Difference' course in the New Year, and aiming to hold further 'Peace Talks' events.

#### **Building for the future**

An application submitted in 2022 has been approved in principle for the installation of a toilet and servery in the church building. Funding raised by Friends of St Mary's has been fruitful and the final cost of £30-40K is within reach.



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#### **East Coker**

#### **Our Village Community**

The village of East Coker is a thriving community with a school, café, pub and village hall, as well as a variety of interest groups, which meet regularly. The recreation ground is well used by local sports teams and for occasional village events, such as the picnic to celebrate the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the King's Coronation. The associated Pavilion building provides space for the teams and is also used by the Parish Council and the pre-school play group. The village also has an active Scout Group.



The village has a population of 1721, 49% of whom are over 65 years old and 64% describe themselves as Christian. The church is seen as an important feature of the village, even by those who rarely attend the services. The church of St Michael and All Angels is a grade II\* listed building and is of historical interest. It attracts visitors from around the world due to its connection to T S Eliot, whose ashes are buried in the church.

#### **Church Community**

We are a friendly and welcoming community who worship at St Michael's on a regular basis. In recent months we have been joined by a number of people new to the village. Worship is traditional in style, using forms of service from Common Worship enhanced by organ music and congregational singing. At special events and Benefice services, the singing is uplifted by the Benefice Choir. Each month St Michael's has a service of Holy Communion and lay led services of Morning Prayer and Evensong. Our Lay Worship Assistant is central to the worship, assisted by a willing team who read lessons, lead intercessions and act as sides persons.



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#### **Toffer Beattie - Church Warden**

St Michael's has an active PCC with a Churchwarden and full complement of officers.

The church offers a focus for fellowship and support within the village. It offers a quiet, peaceful space for meditation and reflection with a feeling of spirituality and faith passed down through the ages. There are usually several weddings and baptisms celebrated at St Michael's each year and many of the



local community are remembered in the church with services of thanksgiving for their lives.



#### **Ecumenical Life**

The East Coker Christian Fellowship holds a weekly service in the village hall, which is lively and well attended and brings people from a wide area into the village. Members of St Michael's and the Christian Fellowship are welcome at one another's services.

#### **School Links**

See details of East Coker and West Coker Primary Schools in the 'Young People' section.

## **Project Beacon**

Project Beacon is a wide-ranging, reordering plan to enable greater use of the building and encourage links with the village. The plans seek to preserve that which is loved and cherished in St Michael's, but sensitively open up its precious space by removing some pews and creating an area able to be used for social and cultural activities. The inclusion of a servery will allow the easier provision of refreshments. This is a forward-looking initiative, but one that takes due regard to centuries of faithful worship that has taken place within St Michael's walls and the precious heritage with which we have been entrusted.



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## **Hardington Mandeville**



#### **Our Village Community**

Hardington is a beautiful, very friendly and caring village of around 580 people. It comprises three communities: Hardington Moor, Hardington Mandeville and Hardington Marsh. There are lots of activities - the Garden Club, The Players, The Niblicks and the Cricket Club (shared with West Coker) to name

but a few - and it has a Village Hall which is always busy with one thing or another. Hardington is fortunate in having three essentials for an active and lively community - the church, the shop and post office and the pub, all of which provide focal points for meeting and engaging with others in the village.

The village holds an annual 'Party in the Park', and a 'Street Fayre' raising funds for the church and the Village Hall. Church members always play an active part in both these events.

From a recent survey, it is clear that villagers value the shop, the pub and the church and are concerned that they remain open. Beyond that, there is real concern that many village activities are run by elderly people. Our aim is to encourage wider involvement of the younger generation.

### **Church Community**

St Mary's is widely seen as a key part of the community, playing an active and leading role in the village, including addressing its concerns and challenges, for example: the church is recognised as being active in caring for those who are ill or in need of support. In addition, we support national activities such as Christian Aid. We have recently



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celebrated the 900th anniversary of the present building (though an earlier church existed from the time of King Alfred). It has a dedicated group of regular worshippers, with a much larger number attending on festivals, such as Christmas and Easter, or on Remembrance Sunday. The regular congregation enjoys the inclusion of former members of other denominations, all of whom regard St Mary's as their village spiritual home.

### Our hopes for the future

We are keen to see families and younger people within the church family again.



Church Wardens:
Daphne Creed
and
Richard Middleton



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#### **Pendomer**

#### **Our Village and Church Community**

The parish church is dedicated to Saint Roch and is located close to the Manor House in Pendomer village near Yeovil in Somerset (Postcode BA22 9PH). The ecclesiastical parish of Pendomer falls within the civil parish of Closworth which also embraces Sutton Bingham. There are 19 dwelling houses in Pendomer with a population of about 30 adults and 11 children. In 2022 there were 15 people on the Church Electoral Roll, four of whom resided outside the parish.

A significant proportion of our regular services are lay led, and the Zoom facility set up during Covid continues to be appreciated by those choosing to join worship online. We hold an annual open-air service which is very well attended, attracting people from across the Benefice. After worship, we enjoy getting together over coffee and cake.

## The Parochial Church Council (PCC)



Church Wardens Robin and Sheila Carpenter alongside their fellow PCC members.



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As far as possible, our full complement of PCC officers and Church Wardens represents all parts of the small community to which we belong.

In addition to meeting immediately after the APCM, the PCC routinely meets twice a year. Additional meetings are convened when required to consider fabric or other particular matters.

### **Our Church building**

The church building dates from the 14th century or possibly as early 1297, was modified in the 15th century, and is a Grade II\* listed building. The interior includes a memorial dating from 1328 and an effigy of a knight believed to be John de Domer. There are remains of 15th century stained glass in some of the windows.



With a particularly good acoustic, it has been our pleasure for the last several years to host professional concerts in the building, managed by 'Concerts in the West', with full houses each time.

To facilitate donations, we were pleased to install in the building an electronic payment device which we bought via the Diocese.



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## **Sutton Bingham**



building, situated close to the shores of Sutton Bingham Reservoir. The interior has a series of fine wall paints from the 1300s which draw worldwide visitors.

### **Our Village Community**

Sutton Bingham is a small community about three miles to the south of Yeovil with eight properties including the Manor, church and Sailing club and a population of about 25.

All Saints' is a 12th Century Norman church, designated a Grade 1 listed



#### **Our Church Community**

The church has a congregation of around 18 for a regular BCP service with Communion



held on the first Sunday of each month. We also hold a Harvest Festival and Carol Service which are well attended by members of the small number of households in the village and friends of the congregation. The church has also celebrated a wedding this year.

## **Elaine Taylor – Acting Church Warden**

The congregation is very friendly and welcoming, made up mostly of older people who have always attended All Saints', but we have also been blessed by some who have joined recently.

The church has parking close by, and level access with only two small steps, providing very accessible services for those with mobility difficulties.



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#### **West Coker**

### **Our Village Community**



West Coker is a village of around 900 residents in the ecclesiastical parish but around 2000 residents in the civil parish, situated on the A30 just two miles southwest of Yeovil. The village has a C of E Primary School (see above), post office, butchers, general store and garage. There is a busy pub with a second in refurbishment, and the only surviving Victorian twineworks in the country. There is also a hotel and

restaurant and a GP surgery. West Coker has a large modern village hall and a new youth and sport pavilion, and offers a wide range of housing. For more details see the village website <a href="https://www.westcoker.net">www.westcoker.net</a>

## **Church Community**

Our building is chilly but our welcome is warm. We are a congregation of generally around 20 retired people. We would love younger people to join us. At St Martin of Tours, we have a service every Sunday morning, except on the fifth Sunday when there is a Benefice service at one of the other churches. There is one Common Worship Holy Communion service and one Book of Common Prayer service in each month. Other services are lay led, and not too formal. To encourage participation by dog owners, we welcome those who bring along their dogs to services. To encourage fellowship, we always offer refreshments after the services.

There are activities with community involvement, such as Lent Lunches and Harvest and Winter Warmer lunches, in the village hall. A popular activity with the wider community has been churchyard tidy up days with tea and cake provided. The church has good acoustics and is ideal for concerts which are a good means of contact with the wider community.



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#### The Lay Ministry Team

We have a Reader-in-training who is half way through his second and final year of formal training, with licensing anticipated in October 2024. Additionally, we have two Lay Worship Assistants who take part and lead services across the Benefice, two very active Churchwardens, a full team of 6 PCC members, treasurer, two Deanery Synod representatives, and a Foundation Governor at the school.



#### **Sue Bonning and Mick Collins - Church Wardens**

## **Our Church Building**



The large building dates back to the 15th century, with a medieval font, Jacobean furniture and Horn window, but was extensively rebuilt by the Victorians. Our last Quinquennial Inspection was in 2020 and we are gradually working through any works that were highlighted.

The people at St Martin's organised and managed a complete roof restoration which involved not only securing a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, but also a loan (now paid off) from our generous neighbours at St Michael's.

We have eight bells in the tower, which are regularly rung at weddings and appropriate festivals and we have regular visits from local visiting ringers.



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# **Benefice Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for the Coker Ridge Benefice,
that we may discern the vocations and ministries
of individuals and parishes so bringing us together
that we may serve you in holiness and truth,
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen