

The parishes of St Mary's Hutton and St Augustine's Locking North Somerset



***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind,
.. and love your neighbour as yourself”
Matthew 22: v37 & v39***

January 2024

Sharing in Ministry in Bath and Wells



Bishop Michael and the whole team here in Bath and Wells are delighted that you are considering a move to this beautiful part of the country. We want to take a moment to share with you our own vision and priorities, which we hope will help in your prayerful discernment as to whether a move to Somerset is right for you.

We have a strong commitment to seeing our mission statement become a lived reality: **“in response to God’s immense love for us, we seek to be God’s people, living and telling the story of Jesus’**. We are praying for clergy who will join us in seeking to lead **growing churches** across the Diocese and to see those churches being a **transforming presence in their communities**, all in the power of God’s Spirit.

We have discerned four particular areas of ministry and mission, on which we are focused on at the moment:

To value and cherish the people and resources we already have. We want our starting point to be valuing the people and resources that God has given us, rather than wishing we could start from somewhere else! In practice this means valuing all those, lay and ordained, who share in ministry and valuing the people and communities they serve, so that together we can grow in faith and build God’s kingdom. It also means valuing the different contexts across our diocese: areas of rural sparsity, urban or suburban areas and areas with significant levels of deprivation. There is always more work to be done to support people but the Bishop’s office, Archdeacons’ offices and diocesan support services are all committed to supporting and encouraging the work done locally in parishes, chaplaincies and schools. We also have a fully funded clergy well-being service and the offer of peer support groups and mentors.

To develop new Christian worshipping communities. Whether it be new forms of worship in a wide variety of settings and times, church plants, or church revitalisations, we long to see the good news of Jesus connect with those our traditional offering struggles to reach.

To share in ministry and leadership. We are committed to the New Testament vision of the church as a vibrant body of people all using their God-given gifts. We are committed to raising up and training lay and ordained leaders able to share together in leading the church.

To deepen and grow faith. This is foundational to all we do. We long to see people of all ages and backgrounds having opportunities to explore, discover and grow in faith. This is perhaps most acutely needed now for children, young people and young adults,

If those priorities chime with your own sense of call at this time, then we would love to encourage you to look at this role in Hutton and Locking. If you would like to talk to someone further about the role, please don’t hesitate to contact the Archdeacon Adrian:

The Venerable Dr Adrian Youings
Archdeacon of Bath
56 Grange Road Saltford Bristol BS31 3AG
Telephone: Direct line: 01749 685149 PA: 01749 685278
Email adbath@bathwells.anglican.org



Thank you for taking the time to read this profile and praying about whether to apply to come to work with us in the Locking Deanery. This is an exciting time for both the Deanery and the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Although this is a time of many financial challenges, the Deanery is focused growth and change, with investment in Pioneer ministry, new housing, church revitalisation and placing mission and evangelism at the heart of everything we do. The post for Hutton and Locking would place you right in the heart of our Deanery both geographically and strategically.

The Locking Deanery is made up of 27 churches covering an area from the beaches of Weston-super-Mare to the slopes of the Mendip Hills – ‘a diverse family of churches sharing the love of God and embracing His Kingdom together’. We have an active Synod and DMPG leadership team, with a supportive Clergy chapter. Our Mission Action Plan prioritises Youth and Children, Students and Young Adults, Seniors and the Ageing population, and the Disadvantaged and Socially isolated under the banner of ‘Sharing Life and Inspiring Mission’. We have good Ecumenical links and value partnership working as we discern together what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do.

For more information, and to get a feel for the Deanery, please do visit <https://lockingdeanery.org>. We are praying that these next few years will be a really fruitful and rewarding time to minister in the Locking Deanery. If you would like to find out more or would value an informal chat about applying please do call me on 07584 124 198.

With prayerful best wishes in Christ

Andrew
Rev'd Andrew Hemming – Area Dean of Locking

Welcome

Welcome to our Benefice Profile. We hope that you are as excited to learn about us, our two parishes and their opportunities, as we are to find a Vicar who can come on a journey with us to develop the Christian faith in Hutton and Locking in North Somerset to its full potential. Our Benefice is in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, and the Deanery of Locking.



The Diocese of Bath and Wells is a family of churches and schools across 500 parishes serving the 900,000 people of Somerset.

Locking Deanery is a group of 27 Anglican churches serving North Somerset.



Hutton and Locking Benefice



The Benefice of Hutton and Locking was formed in 2009. Located within 3 miles of each other, St Mary's church, Hutton, and St Augustine's church, Locking, each have their own identities and come from different backgrounds and styles of worship. St Mary's had a rector and a range of styles of worship from the traditional to modern, whereas St Augustine's had a vicar and is evangelical. As churches seeking to reach out the Christian word of God to the local communities both have a common purpose, and we have made much progress in sharing and working together. There is much still to do.

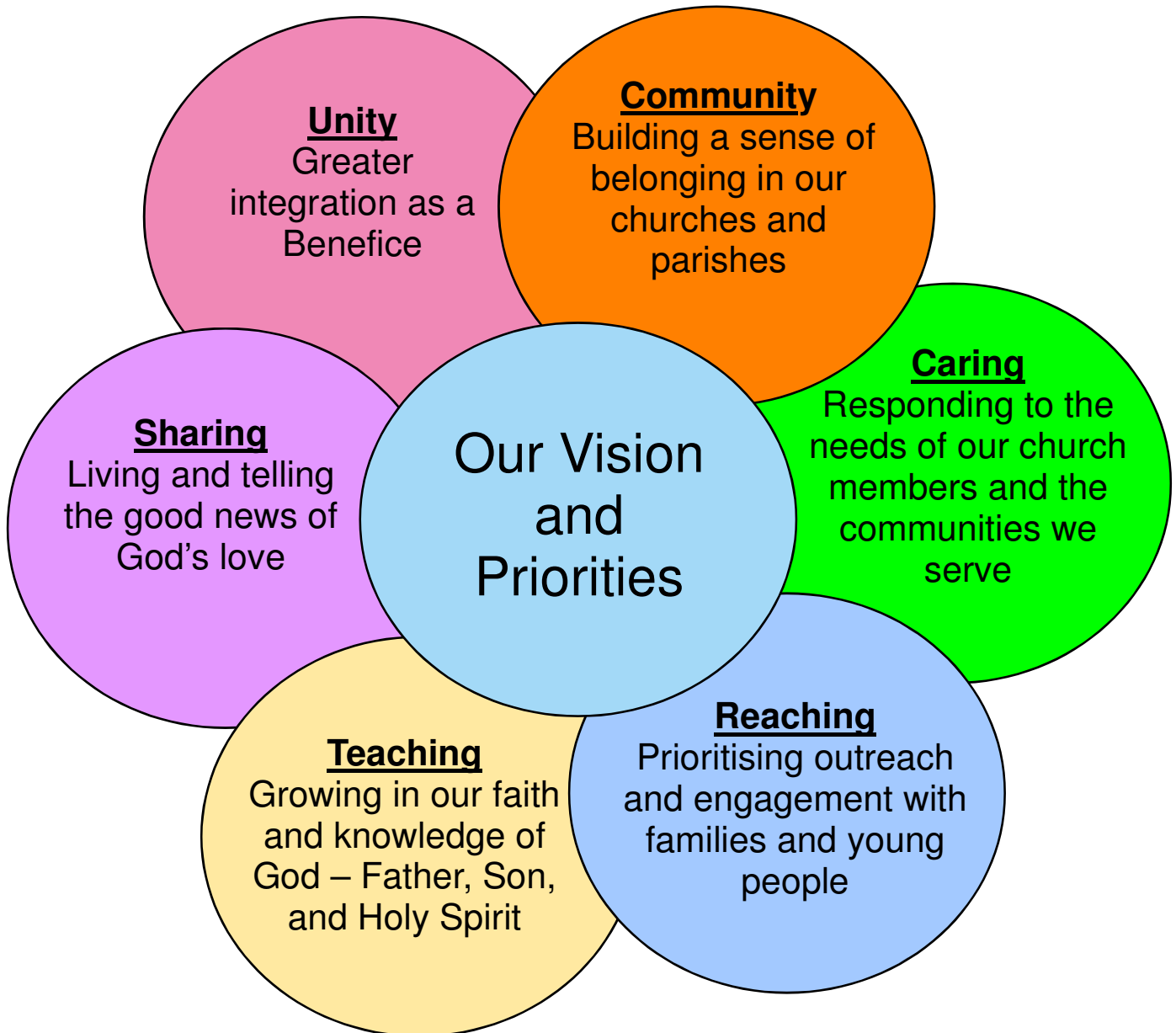
During the vacancy worship in Locking is being led by retired vicar Rev Geoff Hobden who is a member of St Augustine's congregation, and Lay Leader Cliff Dumbell. Geoff was previously vicar at Christ Church in Weston-super-Mare. Lay Reader Jane Barry is leading in Hutton assisted by Geoff and visiting clergy.

In preparing this Profile both churches have worked together to consider what is God's vision and purpose for this Benefice, who we are and what we offer, our priorities for the next few years and what qualities and skills we are looking for in our new Vicar.

Please take a look at the information on our church websites <http://stmaryshutton.org> and <http://staugustineslocking.org> and read on in this Profile for more about us, what we discern to be God's future for this Benefice and how we are looking for someone to lead us forward into that future.

Our Vision and Priorities

Vision meetings have been held with each church on what we think is God's vision for our benefice, what challenges we face, and what we do well and not so well.

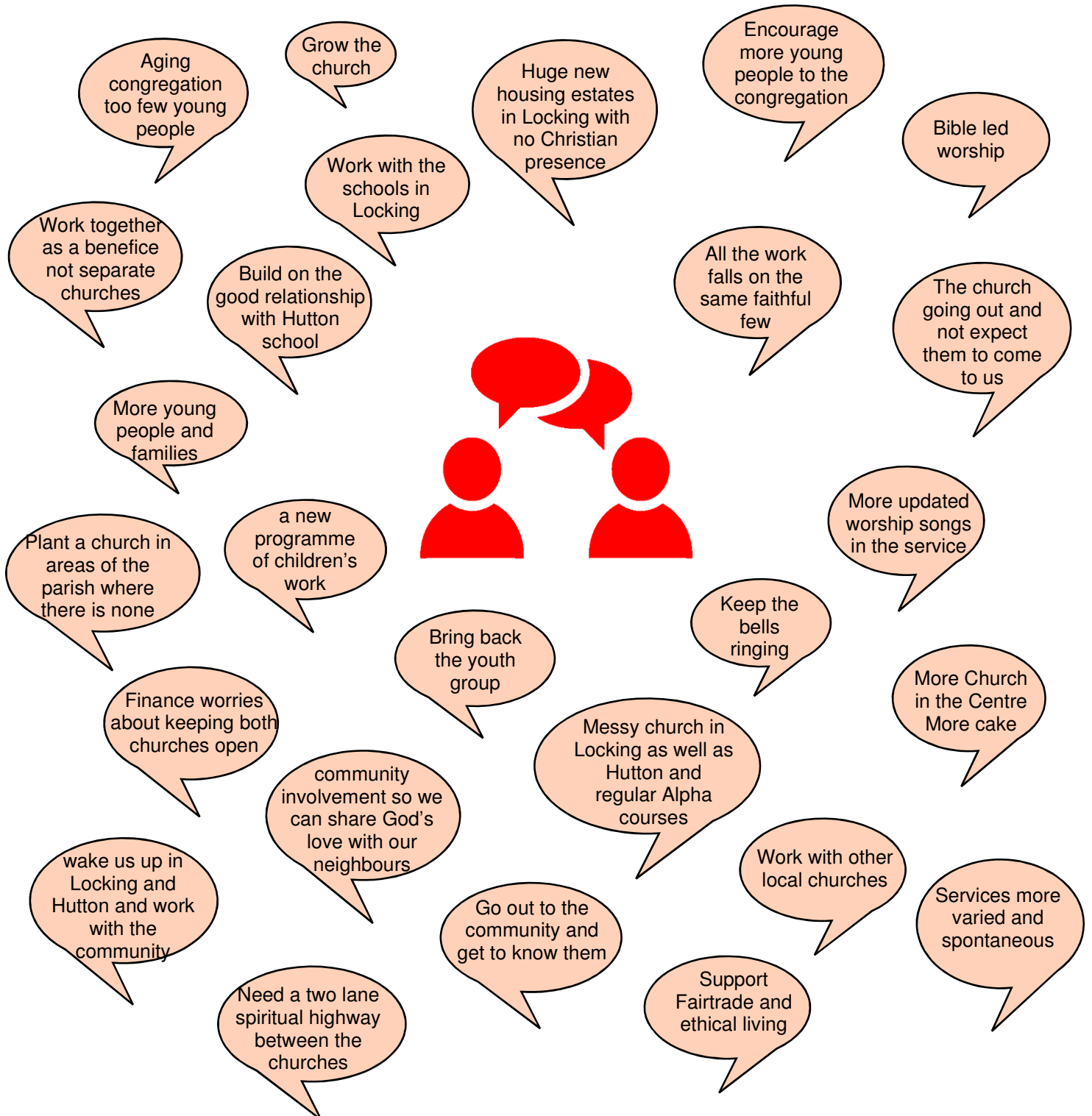


Our Vision for our Benefice is to grow together as a united church family in knowledge and love for our Lord and each other, enabling us to live out our faith with confidence, hope and joy, and to share His love with all in our communities through service and outreach. It is our particular longing to see families coming to faith in Jesus and becoming actively involved in the life of our churches in a welcoming, safe, and nurturing environment.

Views from church members and parishioners

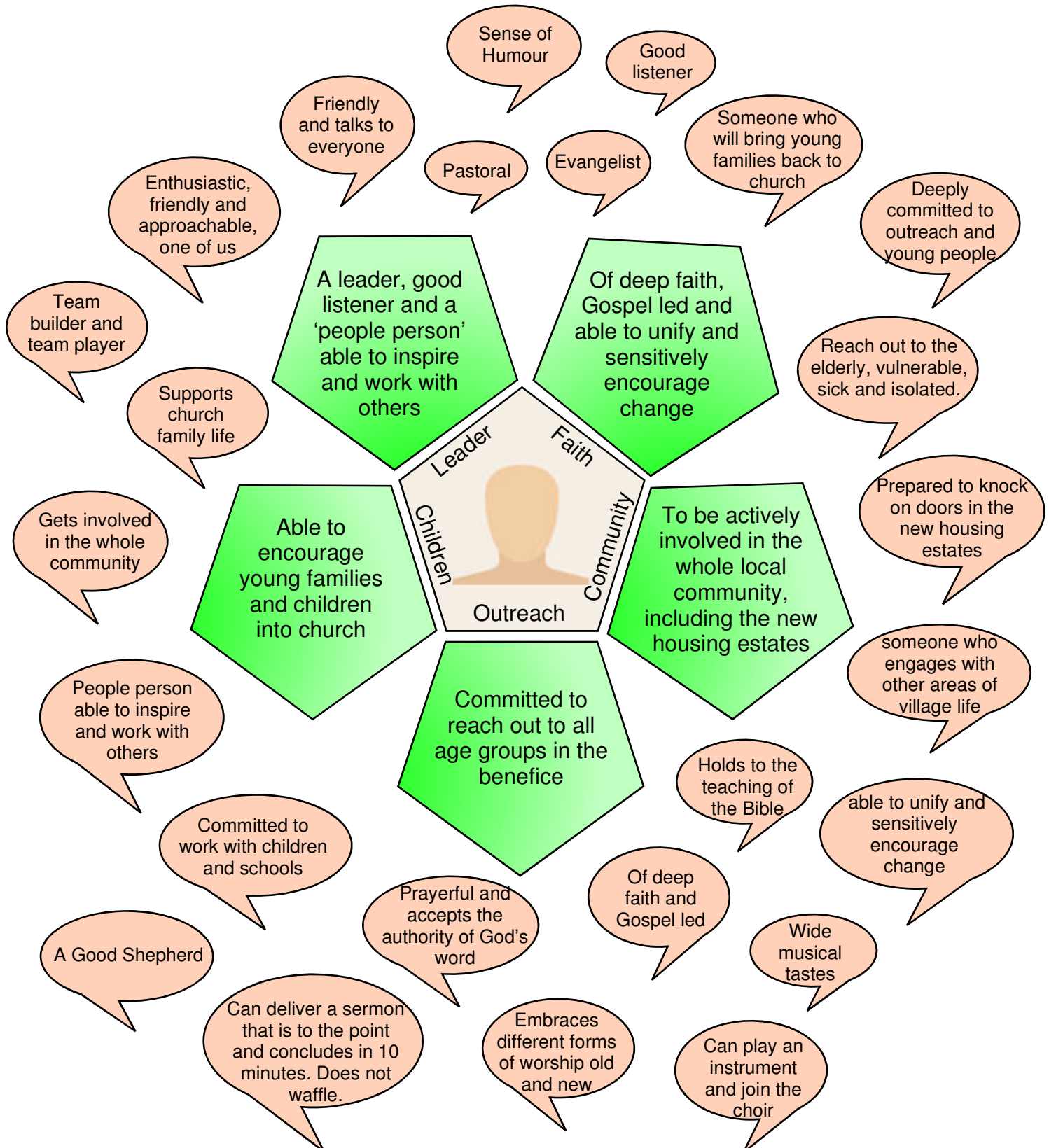
As well as the Vision meetings we carried out written, online and face-to-face surveys of church members and parishioners in both parishes for their views on our churches and our challenges for the next 3- 5 years. These include age groups from 6 to 90 years old, people who attend church regularly, occasionally and never.

Here are some of their comments.



The Vicar we are Looking for

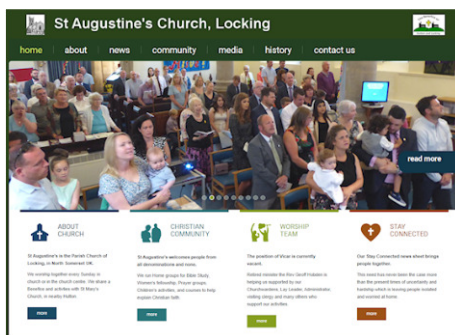
In the Vision meetings and the Surveys people from both parishes were asked what qualities and skills we are looking for in our new Vicar. The responses are shown below and summarised in the centre.



What we offer

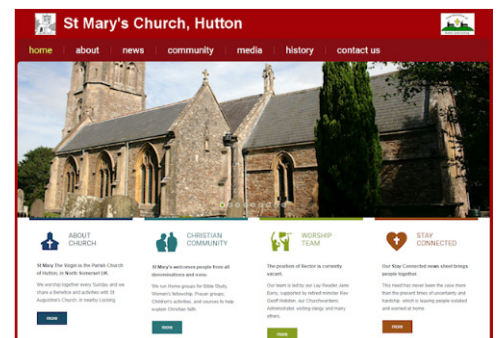
- ◇ Two churches, one benefice
- ◇ Dedicated leaders
- ◇ Faithful group of regular worshippers and helpers
- ◇ A church community who care and look after each other
- ◇ A benefice administrator and office
- ◇ A large 4-bedroom comfortable home for the Vicar
- ◇ Two beautiful historic church buildings
- ◇ Modern Church Centre building in Locking
- ◇ Two Parochial Church Councils
- ◇ Congregations wanting to grow and welcome others
- ◇ Benefice regularly worshipping together
- ◇ Pastoral care to the elderly
- ◇ Strong mission links and commitment to prayer in both churches
- ◇ 'Messy Church' and 'Church in the Centre'
- ◇ Community cafe and outreach events
- ◇ Support of a loyal choir in Hutton
- ◇ Music and concerts in Hutton
- ◇ Strong links with Hutton CofE school
- ◇ Growing links with Locking primary school
- ◇ Parishes with rapidly expanding housing and many new homes
- ◇ Links to Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, Guides
- ◇ 'Stay Connected' church newsletter
- ◇ Regularly updated online presence
- ◇ Both churches have audio/visual equipment, and contactless and online giving

Communications



<http://staugustineslocking.org>

Both churches have an online presence through their websites which are updated weekly with news and events. We make a particular point of adding our Sunday sermons each week to reach out the words of the Bible to the world, and to feature the Christian missions that we support.



<http://stmaryshutton.org>

During Covid lockdown our video services were streamed directly from the websites.

Our 'Stay Connected' news letter is regularly emailed out to 140 church members in both parishes and featured on the websites. Copies are hand delivered to older parishioners. Church news is also featured in the 'Hutton Parish News' and 'Looking at Locking' magazines prepared and distributed by the parish councils.

Monthly Pattern of Worship

	St Mary's Hutton	St Augustine's Locking
1 st Sunday	10am - Holy Communion	10am - Morning Worship
2 nd Sunday	10am - Morning Worship 4pm - Choral Evensong or Evening Prayer	10 am - Holy Communion
3 rd Sunday	10am - Morning Worship	10am - Morning Worship
4 th Sunday	10am - Mattins	10am - 'Church in the Centre' informal family service in Church Centre 4pm - Evening Prayer
5 th Sunday	10am - Joint Service with Locking	10am - Joint Service with Hutton



The monthly 'Church in the Centre' in Locking led by our lay leader in the church centre is an informal café style service aimed at families and youngsters. It is popular with those who like a more relaxed style of worship.

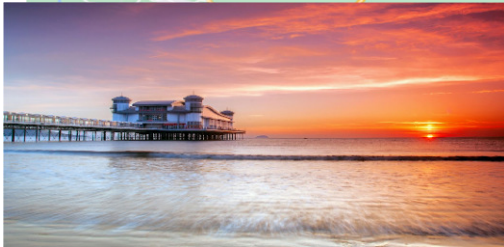
Messy Church is held from 4pm - 6pm each month on a Saturday in Hutton



The churches worship together on a 5th Sunday and share leaders, Alpha course, harvest suppers, Maundy service, men's breakfasts, women's fellowship, and other community and social activities.

Where we are

Locking and Hutton are within 3 miles of each other in a semi-rural area some 5 miles from the seaside town of Weston-super-Mare. Situated not far from the coast and Junction 21 of the M5 motorway there are good road and rail links to Bristol, South Wales, London, the Midlands, and Devon and Cornwall. Bath is situated 30 miles away and Wells 20 miles away.



The Vicarage home of our Vicar is located in Locking in a quiet cul-de-sac opposite St Augustine's church and next to the Church Centre. It is a large detached house built in the 1970s with 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, utility and study. Gardens surround the house and there is a drive, garage and parking for several vehicles.

About the parishes

Locking Parish

The Parish of Locking has grown over the past few years from a small village community to a parish of over 2000 homes with large recent housing developments. There are three main areas:

1. Locking Village - approx 720 homes
As well as the church and vicarage, the village has a primary school, pub, general store and post office, café, pharmacy, Chinese takeaway and hairdressers. The villagers are mostly long time residents. There is some social housing. There is a church hall, a parish hall and the school has a hall.
2. Oak Tree Park - 140 homes
Mobile home park on the village outskirts. Few facilities other than a small community room. Residents are all aged 50+.
3. Areas on the former RAF Locking site comprising former RAF housing on Locking Grove (90 homes), on Flowerdown and Handley Place (290), and a large new development Locking Parklands of approx 450 new homes planned to increase to 2,150 by 2025/26. These house mostly younger families with a mix of private and social housing. A primary school has opened and new secondary school is due to open in January 2024 but as yet few other amenities. There is a community hall in the former RAF chapel, and the schools have halls.

Worle Baptist Church established a small ecumenical church in a community centre on Locking Parklands, however unfortunately this has recently closed due to the lack of a pastor.

Hutton Parish

The Parish of Hutton has also grown from a small village community to a parish of around 2970 homes including recent housing developments. There are four main areas:

1. Hutton Village - approx 700 homes, mostly long-term residents. The village has a church, primary school, village hall, scout hut, pub and Chinese takeaway
2. Elborough - 150 homes mostly detached built in 2000 to the East of the village. No community facilities
3. Area to the West of Hutton bordering Winterstoke road, and new development Foxglove Meadows which has 120 homes and set for further development.

2021 Census	Locking Parish	Church ¹	Hutton Parish	Church ¹
Population	3973	58	2655 ²	56
Age 0-17	23.40%	8 (13.7%)	16.80%	0 (0%)
Age 18-64	56.40%	5 (8.6%)	51.70%	13 (23.2%)
Age 65+	20.10%	45 (77.5%)	31.40%	43 (76.8%)
% Christian	46.30%		55.60%	
Parish Deprivation ³	7306		7183	

Notes: 1) Worshipping community figures from the 2022 Diocese statistics for mission dashboards

2) Hutton population excludes 'Haywood Village' housing estate, and area bordering Winterstoke Road

3) Parish deprivation scale used by Diocese Rank 1 = lowest

The figures show how few regularly worship in church and how the the congregations are predominately older people.

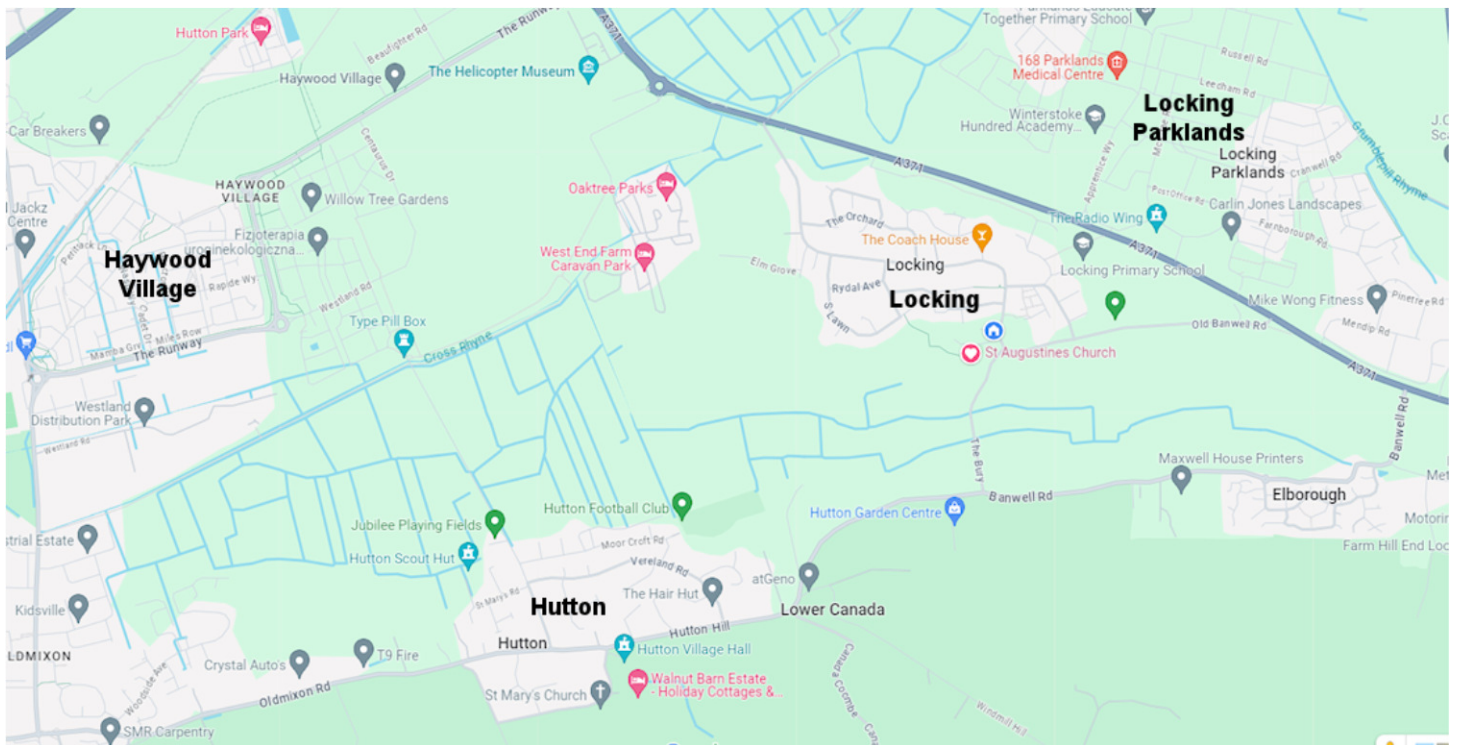
About the parishes

Hayward Village Conventional District

Within the benefice, a new church has been planted on to the Hayward Village estate, one of a number of areas of new housing in the region. A Conventional District (CD) was established for this church plant.

A CD is 'a defined but adaptable structure for a particular geographical area which has a different identity from the main parish(es) because of housing development or a particular missional context – it may sometimes be a stepping stone to the creation of a separate parish later. A CD has a Minister in Charge appointed by the Bishop, rather than being within an existing benefice'.

The current 'minister in charge' is one of our curates, Fiona Mayne. Once she is 'signed off', she will continue as 'minister in charge'. When a new incumbent comes to the benefice, a conventional district always has to be 're-agreed' with that incumbent. However, the clear plan of the Diocese and Deanery is that this exciting flourishing church plant continues and thrives as a CD under Fiona's leadership, with the support and encouragement of the new incumbent.



Schools

Hutton Church of England Primary School

St Mary's Church has an excellent and close relationship with Hutton primary school and always considers the school as part of Hutton Church and the church as part of the school. The school is a founder member of Kaleidoscope MAT which is seven local primary schools, four of which are church schools. Website: huttonceprimaryschool.co.uk. Little Owls Pre school is also in the school building.



"The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding"
SIAMS Inspection



The school ethos is: *'Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.'*

Locking Village Primary School

Locking Primary school is not a Church of England school, and relations between the school and the church have varied with several changes of head teacher and teaching staff.

Website: locking.n-somerset.sch.uk

Before Covid St Augustine's employed a part-time children's worker who ran weekly after-school and holiday club sessions in the church centre. There were school visits to the church and history walks from the church to the school.

The relationship with the school has recently improved with a new head teacher, and church leaders have taken school assembly. We plan to restart some of the previous activities, and there is good scope to work closer with the school.



Locking Parklands Primary School

Locking Parklands primary school is a new school opened in September 2018 for the rapidly expanding community on the Locking Parklands housing estate. It is part of a group of 'Educate Together' schools whose ethos is *'Children of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds have a right to an education that respects their individual identity whilst exploring the different values and traditions of the world in which they live.'* Website: parklandset.org.uk

There has as yet been limited contact between St Augustine's church and the new school, so this is work to be done. The former Parklands community church set up by Worle Baptist Church met for a while and ran a monthly pop-up cafe in the school hall. A new secondary school is also being built on Locking Parklands and is due to open in 2024.

St Mary's Church, Hutton

St Mary's is mainstream Church of England with a traditional leaning and styles of worship from traditional to modern. Our patron is the Diocese.



Our worship is currently led by our lay reader Jane Barry, and Rev Geoff Hobden who is shared with Locking. We have 2 churchwardens, 2 deputy wardens, our organist and choirmaster Eric Holdaway, our verger John Chatburn, our part-time benefice administrator Corriene Wilson who works 3 mornings per week, and our PCC which meets bimonthly.

The current pattern of worship at St Mary's is shown on Page 8. On 5th Sundays we have joint services with Locking. There is a rota for readings, prayer ministry and a prayer chain. Most of the congregation is of retirement age and there are currently few children, although to some extent this is offset with our excellent relationship with Hutton primary school and Messy Church. However it must be said that we rarely see them at Sunday services.

Music is one of St Mary's major strengths for which we are well known in the community. We have a



strong and enthusiastic, mainly robed choir with a very dedicated organist and choir master who also has a strong and inspired musical relationship with Hutton CofE school. The children come into church to sing at least twice a term to sing, worship and learn. The choir lends much to the outreach in Hutton with concerts and musical evenings in the church and village hall.



An enthusiastic and dedicated team have been celebrating Messy Church monthly on Saturday 4pm-6pm in Hutton since 2011. We stay mainly committed to the Messy Church criteria so that whole families enjoy crafts, songs, fun and games, worship and tea in an atmosphere of family fun and worship. Hutton school offers huge support to Messy Church, and always promotes it in their parents newsletter.

We have home groups, a monthly prayer group and a pastoral care team who provide home visits and communion. Reaching out to the community we initiate



- ◇ Fairtrade Coffee Mornings
- ◇ Quiz Evenings
- ◇ Concerts
- ◇ Taste of Somerset BBQs
- ◇ Harvest Festival Suppers
- ◇ Lent Lunches
- ◇ Songs for Christmas
- And shared with Locking
- ◇ Men's Breakfasts
- ◇ Women's Fellowship
- ◇ Open gardens

There are currently 53 on St Mary's electoral roll. Occasional offices in a year are 3 Baptisms, 3 Weddings and 6 Funerals.

Church news is shared in the Benefice 'Stay Connected' newsletter, on our website and in 'Hutton Parish News' magazine.

We have 6 bells in our tower and practice on a Wednesday evening. We ring on Sundays when possible.



St Mary's Church, Hutton

Finance

St Mary's financial figures for 2022.

Total Income	£42,727
Parish Share paid	£19,000
Total Expenditure	£47,273
Funds held unrestricted	£19,151

Giving by St Mary's to supported Missions

The amount given by St Mary's to our supported missions in 2022 was £3,258. This was donated to Hutton's Twin Village of Dabaso in Kenya, Christian Aid, Compassion, Open Doors, Christians Against Poverty, Samaritans Purse and the Children's Society. Funds are also given to Somewhere to Go, Food Bank, School Year 6, and Royal British Legion,

Church Building



The Grade II* listed, Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin in the village of Hutton, lies in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty nestling in the lee of the last of the Mendip Hill range.

Our historic church stands as a timeless testament to faith and community. Inside the church, worshippers and visitors alike are treated to a sense of awe and tranquillity in an atmosphere of serenity, peace and reflection. There is seating in the Church yard for peace and quiet to take in the woods and fields to the west, from which amazing sunsets may be witnessed.

There is a sound system in the church and wall mounted projector and screen for presentations.

St Mary's Church is more than just a building: our vision extends beyond the walls of our sanctuary, reaching into the very fabric of our community. We are not just a church we are a family – a family which cares, supports and grows together. As we pray to stand at the heart of Hutton's vibrant community we are filled with gratitude for the relationships we



have nurtured and the shared moments of faith, joy and support which defines us. So we continue to build a community that reflects the love and grace of our shared faith. Together we can make a difference in the lives of individuals and families fostering a sense of belonging that transcends the ordinary.



We have a meeting room, kitchen and toilet. We hold Messy Church, Lent Lunches etc in church. There is a Village Hall for our use close by. It is also the hub of countless village activities. In addition we have the Scout Hut which is used mainly by the Uniform groups but is available for other occasions.

St Augustine's Church, Locking

St Augustine's is an evangelical church. Our Patron is the Church Pastoral Aid Society. Currently led by Rev Geoff Hobden and our lay leader Cliff Dumbell, we have 2 churchwardens, 2 deputy wardens, part-time benefice administrator Corriene Wilson shared with Hutton, and a PCC which meets bimonthly.



We don't have a choir but we have a regular music group – with keyboard, cornet and guitar – and enjoy good strong congregational singing. PowerPoint slides are used at most services, and often include video from Youtube of modern Christian songs.

There is a singing group who meet for fun and carol services, a team of bell ringers and a handbell ringing group.

The current pattern of worship is shown on Page 8.

On 5th Sunday we share services with Hutton. There is a rota for readings, prayer ministry and a prayer chain.

Locking electoral roll is 63 of whom around 58 regularly attend at least once a month. Occasional offices in a year are around 3 Baptisms, 2 Weddings and 5 Funerals.



The monthly 'Church in the Centre' led by our lay leader in the church centre is an informal café style service aimed at families and youngsters. In the Summer we have Church in the Park.

Locking church has a Mission team and a strong focus on Bible based worship and supporting Christian missions including Tearfund, CPAS, CAP and HoverAid. We are a Fairtrade church, and support the local food bank and 'Somewhere to Go' for homeless in Weston. Our activities include

- ◇ Prayer Meetings
- ◇ Home Groups / Bible study
- ◇ Monthly Community Cafe
- ◇ Weekly Warm Room
- ◇ Little Ark Mums and Toddlers
- ◇ Craft Club
- ◇ Monthly lunch club in the pub
- And shared with Hutton
- ◇ Harvest Festival Suppers
- ◇ Men's breakfasts
- ◇ Women's Fellowship
- ◇ Open gardens

We have 6 bells in our tower and practice on a Tuesday evening. The hand bell group rings on Thursdays leading up to Christmas services.

Church news is shared in the Benefice 'Stay Connected' newsletter, on our website and in the parish 'Looking at Locking' magazine.

St Augustine's Church, Locking

Finance

St Augustine's financial figures for 2022

Total Income	£46,782
Parish Share paid	£27,690
Total Expenditure	£52,819
Funds held restricted and unrestricted	£41,374

Giving by St Augustine's to supported Missions

St Augustine's donates each year around 7.5% of all that we receive to the Mission partners we support. The amount given in 2022 was £2,996 to missions including Tearfund, Hoveraid, CPAS, Christians Against Poverty and Somewhere to Go. Further amounts are given to special appeals throughout the year.

Fund raising

In 2019 the parish raised £110,000 including grants for repairs that were carried out on the church tower and bells.

Church Buildings



St Augustine's church is Grade II* listed and has a long history. It was founded around 1217 by the Augustinian monks of Woodspring Priory.

The Celtic Norman font dates from 1217. The tower dates from 1380, and the pulpit from 1480. One of the 6 bells in the tower is original from 1380 and among the oldest bells in the country still in regular ringing use.

There are fine examples of Victorian stained glass windows, and a collection

of biblical texts painted on the walls above the nave archway, doors and windows.

The list of Vicars of Locking goes back to 1319.

The church is fully carpeted, centrally heated, cosy and equipped with audio visual equipment.

There are movable chairs at the front and pews at the back. The church is small with maximum seating of just under 100. For busy services such as Remembrance Sunday we remove the seats at the front and the children sit on the floor and in the chancel.



Repairs were carried out in 2019 to the tower and bells paid for by church fundraising and grants.

As well as on Sundays, the church is normally opened to visitors 2 or 3 days a week during the summer months for peace, quiet and prayer. There is a small local history exhibition in the church.

Church Centre



Locking church centre, built in the 1980's and enlarged in 2005, is modern and well equipped. There are large and small halls, a lounge, a fully equipped kitchen and the church administrator's office. It is used for church activities, including the Church in the Centre, monthly Community Cafe with stalls, mums and toddlers group, craft activities, uniform groups (rangers, scouts, guides, brownies) and hired out for other users to generate income. The centre has disabled facilities, solar panels and a car park.



Church Centre



Fully equipped kitchen



The Green Lounge is used for meetings, prayer groups, crafts, and the weekly community warm room.



Community Cafe and Events

Interregnum Prayer

While we wait for our new Vicar here is the prayer we have been praying in both churches

Heavenly Father

We come to you with hearts full of praise and thanksgiving.

We pray for growth in faith, love and hope in you and each other.

Bless this gift of time and reflection as we look for our new incumbent and send your Holy Spirit to guide us by your vision and purpose as we trust in you.

We pray for renewed strength and encouragement knowing you have a plan for us and for who is chosen. Give them a heart on fire for you and your people, ready to serve and grow your Kingdom.

May this time be a blessing for us all, as we work together with humble, prayerful and obedient hearts to the glory of your son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Links

Bath & Wells Diocese: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk>

Locking Deanery: <https://lockingdeanery.org>

St Mary's Church: <http://stmaryshutton.org>

St Augustine's Church: <http://staugustineslocking.org>

Hutton School: <https://huttonceprimaryschool.co.uk>

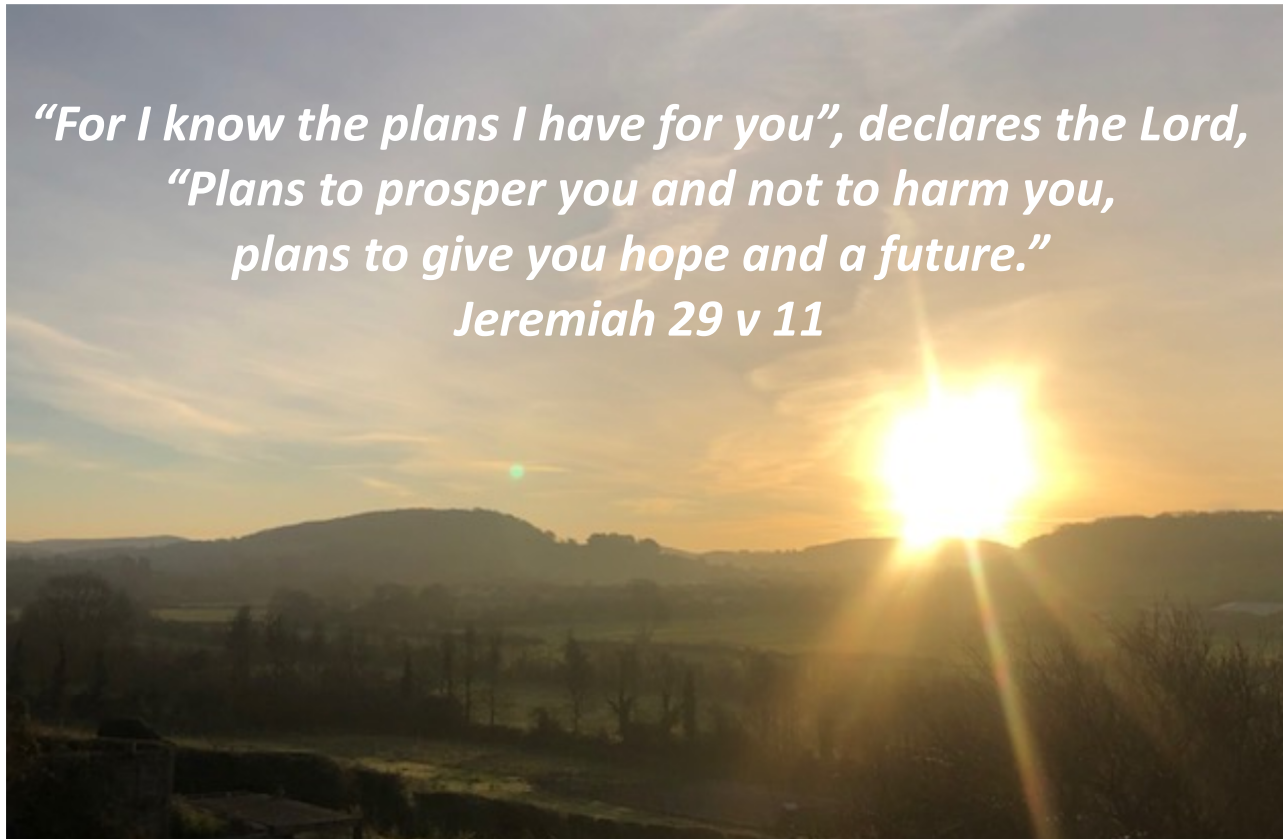
Kaleidoscope Schools: <https://kaleidoscopemat.co.uk>

Locking School: <https://www.locking.n-somerset.sch.uk>

Hutton Council: <https://www.huttonsomerset.org.uk>

Locking Council: <http://www.lockingpc.co.uk>

The Next Chapter



We invite you to consider prayerfully whether you are called to be our next Vicar.

You are assured of a loving welcome here in Hutton and Locking.