



**ST
ANDREW'S
CHURCH
PROFILE
2023/24**



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WELCOME TO BURNHAM ON SEA

We are delighted that you have chosen to look at our profile! We are seeking to appoint the right person to lead us into the future of our 14th century church.

St Andrew's Church forms part of the Axbridge Deanery.

Burnham on Sea is a seaside town nestled at the mouth of the river Parrott upon Bridgwater Bay and edged on the Somerset Levels. The area is nestled between the beautiful Quantock and Mendip hills.

The M5 motorway is on it's doorstep with easy links to Devon and Cornwall as well as North towards Bristol and West across the Severn Bridge (toll free) into Wales. Highbridge station is 2 miles away with main links to the Southwest and North.

The town has many amenities, accommodation, from guest houses to caravan parks, family pubs, swimming pool, local shops, Apex lake and park, local park run (free weekly), theatre, cinema, clubs and community groups, the RNLI and BARB (Burnham Area Rescue Boat).

There is a mixture of older residential areas together with several housing estates. The population is diverse with many retired residents occupying bungalows and flats and estates housing families.

Local shops are concentrated in the high street area including two supermarkets.

Out of town business areas have been developed to the east of the town close to the M5 motorway where many residents and commuters are employed.

During recent years Burnham-on-Sea has been famous for the filming of television period dramas.

The town has its own GP Surgery and local hospital with a minor injuries service as well as local dentists.

There are three primary schools, one infant, one junior and a secondary school locally.

The last census in 2021 recorded 16,315 residents in just Burnham-on-Sea.



AXBRIDGE DEANERY

Axbridge Deanery is situated from the west coast at Brean as far as Easton at the other end towards Wells. We are mainly made up of rural villages, with the larger centres of population being mostly near the coast and with our main tourist areas around Brean and Berrow attracting over 50,000 people in peak tourist season. Axbridge Deanery is also home to the famous Cheddar caves, another area of significant tourism. The area around Highbridge and Burnham has recently seen significant housing development and population growth.

We have great respect for each other in all our different contexts – chapter meetings are very supportive as we share our joys and our concerns over lunch and help each other through the often complex demands of parish life. Deanery Synod gathers around four times a year and we encourage active participation through discussion in groups and in plenary to ensure that each meeting is a good learning environment.

Along with all other deaneries in the diocese (and most other dioceses) Axbridge Deanery is in the middle of significant changes when it comes to how we organise ourselves and ensure that together we can resource effective ministry for effective mission. As incumbent of by far the most populous parish in the deanery, the new Vicar of St Andrew's Burnham-on-Sea will be at the heart of shaping the formation of a new group ministry encompassing the parishes in the Western half of the Deanery (a similar group is to be formed in the eastern half). The intention is that this will strengthen the mutual support of both lay and ordained ministers that already exists and will offer a means of ministry that honours the link between a person and a place while opening up possibilities of wider ministry.

Axbridge Deanery is also committed to a Mission Plan that is based around the five Anglican Marks of Mission and so explores ways in which we can resource each other in specific areas around each mark.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH VISION

Our Vision is:

A Church where the image of God is recognised and valued in each person [and throughout creation].

A place for Spiritual guidance, compassion, and celebration of God's goodness.

A church where we can continue to learn, appreciate and value Diversity.

Being a place of welcome and a safe space for all.

Being a congregation who are willing to engage with our community.

Being a congregation who are faithful.

Offering administration support and committed teams (welcome, eco, etc)

Supporting liturgy with our robed choir, flower arrangers etc..



We are looking for a priest who is and will:-

- Be able to effectively communicate with all ages
- Continue to build relationships with schools and other community organisations
- An effective delegator and decision maker
- Work collaboratively as a leader of our team
- Share our commitment and enthusiasm for God's word and works
- Revitalise our work with youth
- Be compassionate
- Be instantly hospitable and approachable
- Be a good communicator across generations
- Be instrumental in the formation of a group ministry encompassing the parishes in the western half of the deanery.

INCLUSIVE CHURCH NETWORK

St Andrew's has been a member of the Inclusive Church network for several years. We view diversity as a gift of God in creation, and our aim is to welcome and serve all people in the name of Jesus Christ, and to enable people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of God for His Creation.

We actively seek to be a church congregation which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate against people on grounds of disability, age, economic power, ethnicity, gender, identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

Our Associate Priest Rev'd Sharon has links and experience serving the local LGBTI+ community, establishing chaplaincy teams for Pride events both in Weston-super-Mare and in 2023 the inaugural Pride festival to be held here in Burnham-on-Sea



HISTORY OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Our church was consecrated in 1315 and is a grade I listed building.

The tower, which is 78 feet high, was built on poor foundations and leans at an angle of 15 degrees, this happened after its construction at the end of the 14th century. It supports a peal of 8 bells and there is a light on the top of the tower to aid shipping navigation.

The gallery was added in 1838, which provided additional seating.

St Andrews Church is home to the Grindling Gibbons sculptures, which were commissioned by James II and formed part of the Alter piece in the Chapel of Whitehall Palace in London.

They were later moved to Westminster Abbey and placed behind the High Altar.

In 1820 the Bishop of Rochester, who was also the Vicar of Burnham-on-sea obtained them and placed them in the Sanctuary.

Later the Alter piece was dismantled and placed around the church.



In 2009 the Angels were taken away for restoration and replaced in their present position.

In recent years there has been much work to enhance and repair the church, which have included removing some pews to give a larger user-friendly space, a kitchen, reroofing the nave and north aisle and repairs to the roof structural beams and stonework to the parapet wall.

Restoration of the organ and cleaning the chandelier, upgrading the heating, lighting and adding a sound system, information table and area for children with toys and books.

We are in the process of working with the architect to have a disabled toilet installed at the back of the church and a memorial garden outside in the church grounds and repairs to the roof over the vestry.



**We are a bronze level
ECO-FRIENDLY CHURCH
and striving towards silver**



SUPPORTING CLERGY



Revd Sharon Eldergill, Associate Priest

It is acknowledged that as a Self-supporting minister (SSM) I offer my ministry as a 'gift' and my work in the parish should be seen in that context.

I offer the parish up to 3 sessions a week, equal to a full day. In addition to these sessions, I engage in liturgical ministry up

to 2 Sundays in the month, in line with the rota of celebrants and preachers.

Liturgical Ministry - Participation in the liturgical rota with a commitment to preaching and celebrating on Thursdays and on Sundays at the 10.00am. services (including Edithmead) as delegated. I am not be expected to take the 8.00am service.

Pastoral ministry - Visits and/or telephones the housebound and parishioners for the occasional offices and for other, varied pastoral needs including some home communions.

Responsible for the Bereavement Café and 3rd Thursday service.

Community ministry and mission - Regular Involvement with the ecumenical minister's meetings and Deanery

I take the opportunity to network and develop links with individuals and groups to enable mission, evangelism and pastoral care.



Revd Richard Sigrist

I was Ordained in 1971 to a curacy in Yeovil. I Entered the Royal Navy in 1974 as a chaplain and served for 10 years before joining the Sidmouth Team Ministry (Exeter diocese) where I served as rector until leaving for an Anglican parish in Northern California in 1994.

I returned to the UK in 1999 to become vicar of St Bartholomew, Plymouth, and retired in 2011 to return to Somerset where I grew up. I also sing in the choir and conduct services when asked.

Clergy continued.....



Revd Richard Lee Allen

Having been NSM Priest in Charge of a largely rural village parish of some 2000 souls in Lancashire for 17 years until I was 65; Kath and I moved, in late 2006, to live in the Parish of Burnham-on-Sea.

From then I have helped with Services as President and Preacher, as needed here and widely in surrounding parishes in times

of shortage, inter-regna, holidays and illness. I have done poster design work and reproduction of choir music and Orders of Service.

Shortly after we came to the parish, we were invited jointly to become Deanery Retirement Officers, a role that we still have.



Revd Kathleen Allen

Richard and I retired to Burnham in 2006, moving here from Blackburn Diocese. I had retired from teaching in 1994.

I look after the weekly and monthly news sheets, sing in the choir and play the organ on the 3rd Sunday and major festivals.

I look forward to the arrival of the new incumbent with new ideas and impetus for St Andrew's and will do whatever I can to give him or her support.



WORSHIP

St Andrew's Church Choir - written by organist Jenny

Our choir are a friendly band of choristers who keep music "Alive and well" throughout the year.

We meet every Friday at 2.30pm for Choir Practice when we rehearse music for Sunday morning worship at 10.00am.

This includes an Anthem which is sung during this service. Also, we try to sing something special for all festivals, weddings and funerals throughout the year. 2022 was a very busy year.

We performed "The cross of Christ" on Palm Sunday and John Peterson's "Night of Miracles" at Christmas, with great success. On a lighter note we put on concerts for special occasions and entertain at numerous church social events - singing anything from Vera Lynn to Abba .

Our musical repertoire is both interesting and challenging. But above all enjoyable.

Long may we continue to **SING UNTO THE LORD**



EDITHMEAD CHURCH

The 1919 Edithmead Church building was located on the current site but was originally an Adult School at East Brent.

A Service is held every third Sunday each month and on the main festival Sundays e.g. Easter Day, Christmas Day, we hold a Carol Service, Harvest Festival and a Songs of Praise Service.

The congregation members come from the local communities and we welcome holidaymakers who stay locally.

Marriage Blessings and Baptisms are held at the church. Unfortunately, the church is not licenced for Marriage Ceremonies



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL

Situated across the road from St Andrews church.

It is over 150 years old and used daily by different groups and organisations.

The building is in need of repairs, particularly on the drains, car park and roof.

We have had the hall surveyed and are now in the process of prioritising the work required and will be applying to either Viridor or Hinckley for grant funding.



ST ANDREW'S CE VC JUNIOR SCHOOL

St Andrew's CE VC Junior School and St Andrew's Church have close links with regular visits made by the clergy and Craig Schmitt to lead assemblies.

The children attend and participate end of term services to celebrate Christmas and Easter at the church.

Regular history visits are also made by St Andrew's school.

Close links will remain in the future between the school and church.



ST ANDREW'S YOUTH

SAY – Saint Andrew's Youth – is our church's Sunday School. We meet in the hall during the 10.00am Eucharist and sometimes join the church service towards the end. At the moment we hold monthly sessions. We try to follow the liturgy, with licence to dive off into topical subjects if we like. We display the children's work on a board in the hall. We would love to build on our small but dedicated group of 3 to 6 children, attracting more children from St Andrew's Junior School. Retaining older youths into their teens is another goal, perhaps with a Youth group on a Sunday. Our aim is to have fun and hopefully play our part in engendering a lifelong faith for our youngsters.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

My Role within the Parish as Christmas Tree Festival Secretary was a venture which was intended to involve initially the businesses of the town which has been fairly successful, although the level of artisan involvement has not brought the benefits to the parish that might have been secured. A huge response by other organisations, clubs and societies has however meant that it has grown enormously over the ensuing years. The year of the general re-organisation of the church and the three years of Covid19 have been the only years when we have not held the Festival and in 2022 we had the best year ever with 40 trees and over 400 visitors, during non-Services times. This was only possible because of the superb response from a small group of the congregation to act as "Welcomers" so that the Church could be kept open for at least five hours a day. From the comments and general comeback that have been received over the years "Christmas Tree Festival" alongside the Life-size Crib Scene is approved of, and welcomed, by the townsfolk of Burnham. It will need someone with a lot of time, energy and dogged commitment to take on the leadership in years to come. The simple Dedication Service on Saturday evening brings a considerable congregation many of whom are seldom or never seen at other times – who enjoy the occasion and are what must be called a very friendly fringe. It does mean that they do enter the building with the funny shaped doors without feeling out of place and enjoy the hospitality of hot mulled wine and mince pies in a convivial and easy atmosphere.



GROUPS

Burnham Bereavement Café

Burnham bereavement café is a monthly space available to any one whose life has been affected by bereavement. It is open and available to anybody throughout the town or surrounding area, of any faith or none, held on the Third Sunday of each month in St Andrew's Church hall.

The café is held as a session, lasting an hour rather than a drop in style, and is a place for meeting, listening and discussing some of the thoughts feelings and issues that surround bereavement, grief and loss.

People who have volunteered and had some training in listening and engaging with people going through bereavement, and the thoughts and feelings that this can stimulate.

St Andrew's Friendship Group

We are a small group who meet once a month in the Church Hall and usually have a speaker, a quiz or sometimes a Beetle Drive. Some of us knit or crochet blankets and children's garments. These are passed onto people in need. Our aim is to offer friendship with a cup of tea and someone to talk to.

Everyone is welcome and we do not ask for a membership fee . . . just the cost of a cup of tea and biscuit.

We endeavour to stay in touch with old friends who are no longer able to attend our meetings.

3rd Thursday Group

3rd Thursday is a place to feed your body and soul:

A dementia friendly space with a short simple church service of familiar and well- loved hymns, bible readings and prayers to feed and nourish our souls.

The service is followed by tea, coffee, cake and sandwiches to feed our bodies.

3rd Thursday is open to all and is a space for people of any faith or none, come along, you'll be welcome. Held every 3rd Thursday of the month.

Woman Who Write

This was launched in 2019 and involves a small group of volunteers of all ages writing letters and cards to all who feel lonely, isolated or suffering from dementia.

OUTREACH GROUPS

Mission to Seafarers

We are a coastal parish and St Andrew's has a long tradition of support for the Mission to Seafarers, which was founded in 1856 some 20 years after a companionate priest had the idea to share God's love with seamen in ships anchored in the Bristol Channel.

Every year at Christmas members of the St Andrew's congregation and their family and friends fill individual shoe boxes with gifts of toiletries, chocolates, warm knitted items, small games and other goodies. These are collected at church and are taken by members of the congregation to the local mission at Portbury along with additional knitted goods and monetary contributions (to be used for SIM phone cards and other items visiting seafarers may need). Seafarers are away from home for many months at a time and speaking to family is a priceless gift.

On Sea Sunday in July, we hold a service at 10.00am with a speaker, usually with connections to a life at sea, chaplains, naval and merchant seafarers and we have an envelope collection for the Mission to Seafarers.



Christian Aid

There is a small group that organises the Christian Aid activities for the church. We tend to meet online or by telephone. Our main focus is to provide a visible presence during Christian Aid Week each May by having collection envelopes in the church on the relevant Sundays and by organising collection at a local supermarket.

A couple of times a year we put an article in the church's monthly newsletter to remind people of the value of giving to this cause. In 2022 we raised £626.38 during Christian Aid Week.



Children's Society

The Burnham on Sea Appeals Committee was started in April 1976 and hold events such as coffee mornings, strawberry teas and quizzes during the year to raise funds for the Society.

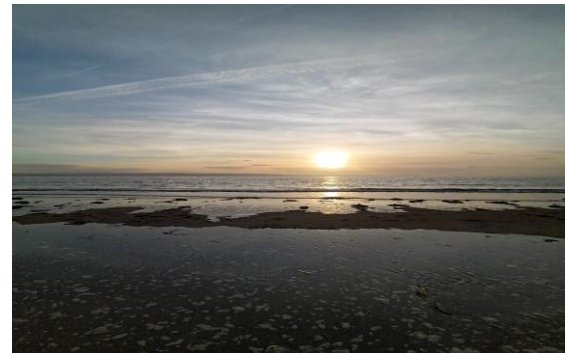
We have a Christingle service in church each year and a life size stable scene is erected from the beginning of December until Candlemas.

People are also invited to have a collection box in their own homes.



Burnham Area Julian Meeting

We are privileged to host a monthly Julian Meeting in St Andrew's entitled 'Burnham Area Julian Meeting'. This is to emphasise that our meetings are entirely ecumenical, even crossing over into other faiths, open to all. We are registered with Julian Meetings nationally and internationally. This wonderful voluntary organisation produces excellent resources including a quarterly magazine and publicises its individual membership meetings on the internet.



SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING

Various events are run by the Church Social Committee specifically to raise funds for St Andrew's. They raise money for other good causes such as the Children's Society or the Mission to Seafarers amongst others, and sometimes they are just to provide opportunities to spend time together socially enjoying different occasions.

Over the past year our Church and hall has been used to hold several Social Events from quizzes to cream teas etc..

Throughout the year, both our church and our church hall are used for a variety of fundraising and fundraising concerts. These are organised and led by the church choir and by other local singers and musicians with whom we have built up close links.



FINANCE

We are proud of our congregation who sustained giving throughout the covid closures. We have 100 or so regular, mostly retired, contributors (4914 recorded communicants in 2022) including 69 planned givers of whom 13 or 14 cannot regularly attend church. Annual donations total around £50k.

Our annual running costs plus parish share (£47k) total approximately £100k. Whilst prudently managing costs, we rely on other funding sources to make up the required income. This comprises rental from our church hall, rent from a parish-owned property, fees from funerals (approximately 50 per year), occasional weddings and baptisms (18 in 2022) and fundraising events.

We aim to meet our parish share or pay at least 10/12, during 2023. We are a registered charity and claim approximately £8k gift aid rebate per year. We have restricted/designated funds which will be used on a number of projects: approximately £84k to maintain our lovely 700-year-old church, some of which will be used to install an accessible toilet in church supplemented hopefully by grants; £27k bequest to provide transport assistance to the elderly; £8k donated to establish a memorial garden. Our congregation has responded to recent stewardship schemes, but our chief aim is to encourage more people into the St Andrew's fold.

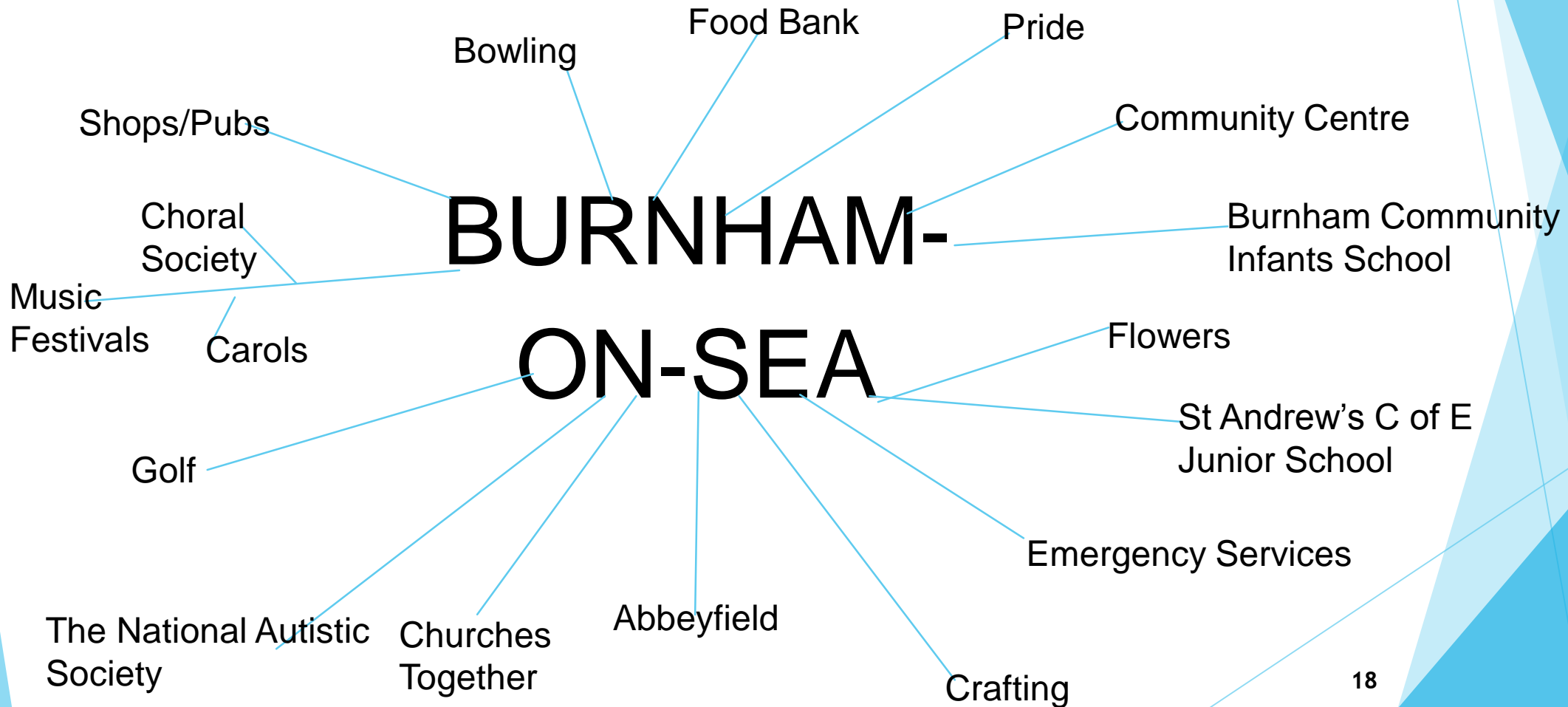
If you wish to see our accounts, please contact us or look us up on the charity commission website, Charity Registration No 1128895.

YOUR NEW HOME

The Diocese of Bath and Wells are currently in the process purchasing this new four bedroomed property, which includes office space and private parking. The property is close to amenities and with a ten minute walk to St Andrew's Church.



LINKS WITH OUR COMMUNITY



STRENGTHS

We uphold Anglican and liturgical traditions

Inclusive Church

Committed Social Committee

Bereavement care and Ministry

Beautiful old building

Bereavement Care and Ministry

Incantational Ministry

Church welcoming sessions

Home Ministry

Memorial Garden

Friendly Congregation

Flower arranging group

Rewilding Area

Community involvement

Support Charities

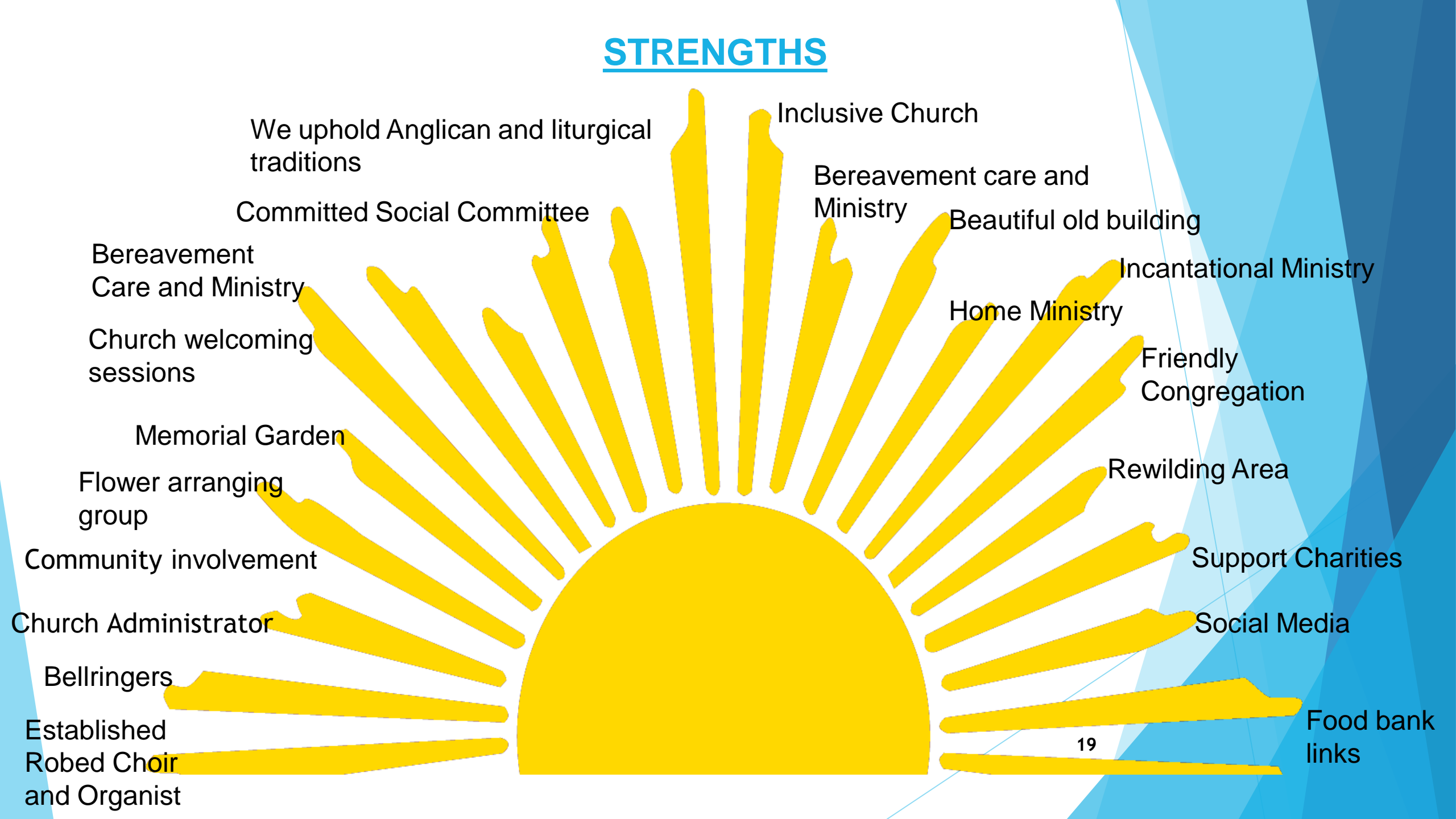
Church Administrator

Social Media

Bellringers

Established Robed Choir and Organist

Food bank links



CHALLENGES

Developing a way Forward with Safeguarding

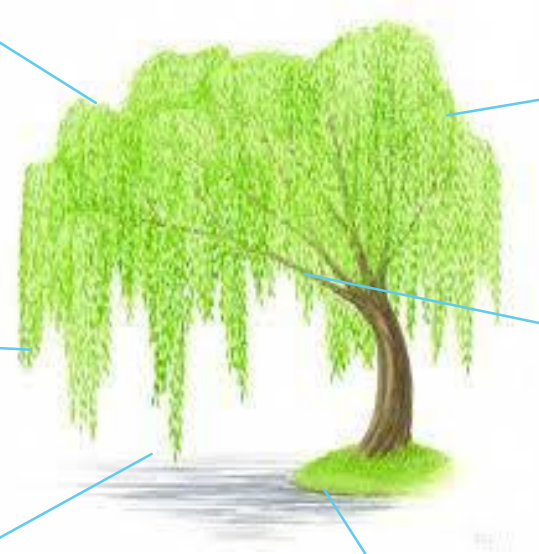
Youth Groups

Relying on retired clergy and assistant vicar

Maintaining the church and hall

Encourage all ages

Paying Parish Share



ASPIRATIONS

