

Welcome to your next home and family in the heart of the Levels in beautiful Somerset. Find out more in this profile of our new Benefice.





Thank you for considering our new Benefice of Aller, Curry Rivel, Drayton, Fivehead, High Ham with Low Ham, Huish Episcopi cum Langport, and Swell in the heart of the Levels in Somerset as a place where God may be calling you to serve in the next stage of your ministry.

We trust that in the pages of this Benefice Profile you will discover what underpins the life of our churches and our villages, and how God provides so generously in all that we do.





# Us and You?

Fivehead 2023

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:11





## Our Benefice

Following the reorganisation of the parishes in the Diocese of Bath and Wells in 2024, a new Benefice will be formed in the summer 2025 and we are seeking to appoint a Priest in Charge, its first Rector. We are a group of seven parishes, set in the beautiful Somerset countryside around the town of Langport, which are coming together to form the new Benefice. It was previously organised as the Benefice of Curry Rivel, Fivehead, and Swell and the Benefice of Aller, High Ham with Low Ham, and Huish Episcopi cum Langport, with the Parish of Drayton also joining the new group. It has been a time of change for the Churches, as we seize the opportunities the new partnership offers. We are already building links and learning from each other.

The church family in each parish is active with a timetable of regular services in all churches, at some point throughout the month. There are also Lay-led prayer groups in people's homes and online, and several Bible study house groups.

In the town of Langport, we are fortunate to have The Angel, a former public house, now run by a charity, the Langport Church Community Trust. The building provides a community space, and a café, as well as meeting spaces for hire. It is very well used.

You will be leading and working with a Benefice team including an Associate Minister, the Rev. Scott Patterson, who will be working three days a week plus Sundays, as well as a licensed Reader and another in training. Given the size of the new Benefice, the parishes are looking at ways to provide a part time Benefice Secretary to assist with the administration of the Benefice.

St. Andrew's Aller is the reputed site of the baptism of King Guthrum and the Danish army after their defeat by King Alfred at the Battle of Edington in 878. Aller is organising a pilgrimage to commemorate these conversions.





Craft and Coffee



Community Market



Bellringing



Carols, Bangers and Mash



A House Group



One of the Food Banks



Churchyard Clean up



Café at the Angel



Messy Church



Safari Supper "Starters"



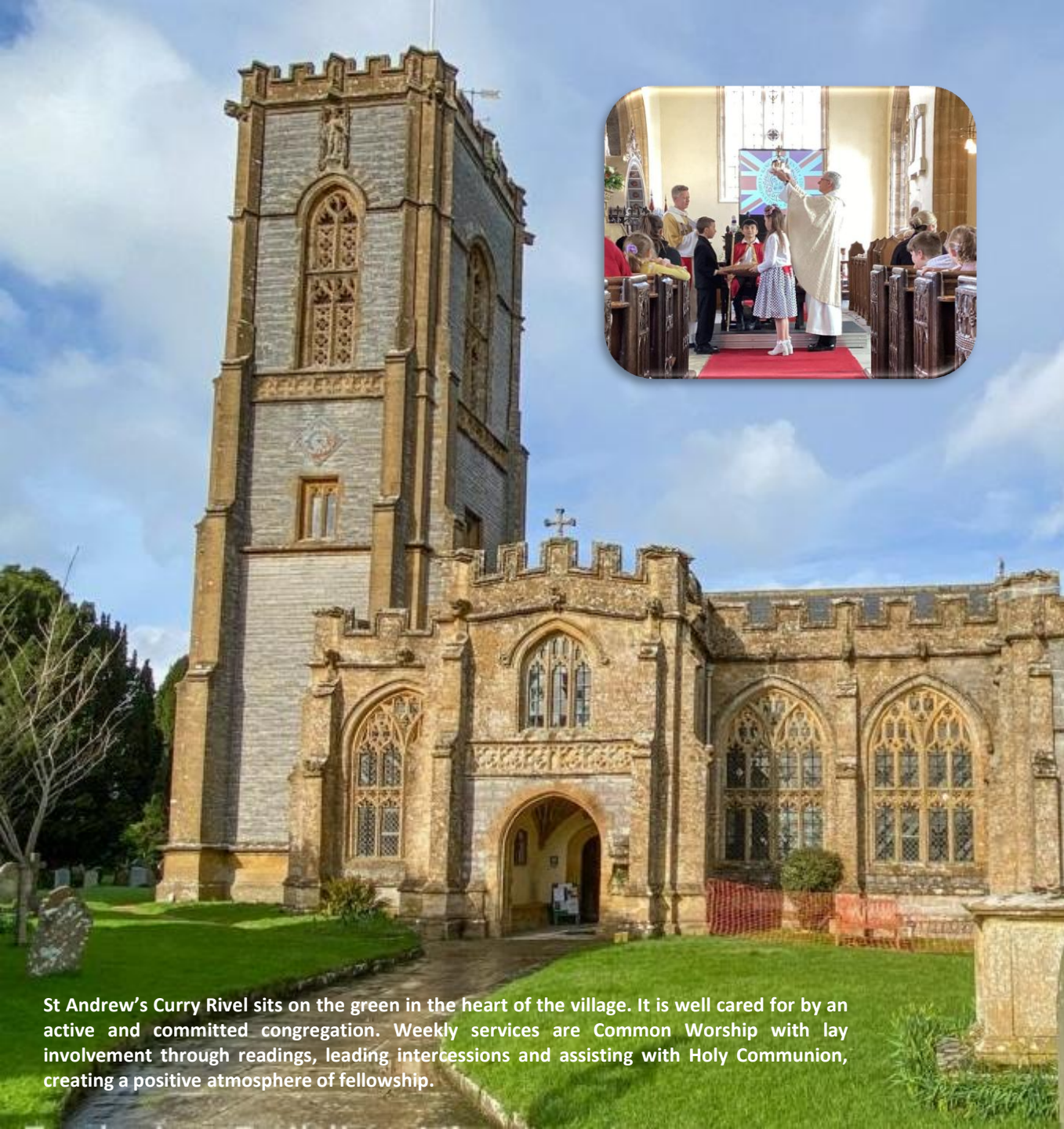
Choir Practice



Craft Fair

....more than just the churches.





St Andrew's Curry Rivel sits on the green in the heart of the village. It is well cared for by an active and committed congregation. Weekly services are Common Worship with lay involvement through readings, leading intercessions and assisting with Holy Communion, creating a positive atmosphere of fellowship.

## We took time to ask our community what mattered to them

We consulted our congregations, and the wider communities our churches serve, including the church schools, to help us identify the key challenges in our new Benefice area. We conducted two large surveys and presented the results at an open community meeting attended by over 70 people. The themes that emerged were not surprising in the post-Covid world and are reflected nationally in terms of financial constraints and worries, concerns about housing, and lack of support for the elderly and vulnerable. More relevant to our rural area, there were concerns about transport and more specifically about isolation and the need for community support and activities.

It was pleasing to see that the place of the parish church in the community was still considered as important by the majority of those who responded, although its influence was felt to be diminishing and there was a hope for the Church to be more relevant to the demands of today.

Full details of the surveys are included with this Profile for your information but....

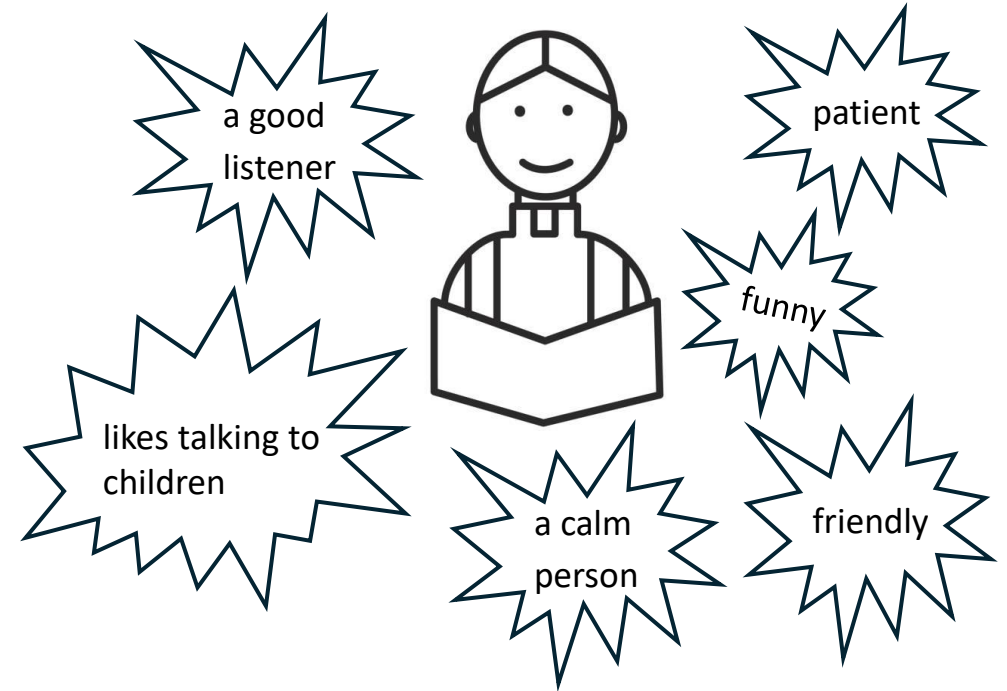






Christingle Service at Curry River CofE Primary School 2023

## Children's choices



We ask you to...

- ❖ Lead worship sometimes and tell us about God
- ❖ Tell Bible stories
- ❖ Come into school and talk to us
- ❖ Organise things for us to do in church
- ❖ Share our values





## The Challenge

From these consultations and discussions within our congregations, we have identified three main challenges that need to be addressed:

- ❖ **The need to unite and build a strong new Church family in our new Benefice.** Some of the churches have been in vacancy for some time and are looking forward to the leadership and direction a new incumbent will bring. The churches are very different in the types of services they seek and the people they currently serve, but all of us welcome the opportunity to create a new Benefice that will bring Christians back to the Church, as well as welcome those new to the faith.
- ❖ **The need and desire to grow our churches and engage with the younger generations making the Church attractive and relevant to today.** With ageing congregations, there is a need to attract new members, especially children, young people and their families, and to grow the regular congregations in all our churches.
- ❖ **A need for pastoral support for the people in the parishes, in particular the elderly and lonely in our area.** As individuals in our parishes, we work hard to provide support, reaching out to the vulnerable and sharing God's love but there is a feeling that we could do this in a more co-ordinated way that can extend further and have more impact on those in need.

St Catherine's, Drayton nestles firmly in the middle of the village, situated on the edge of the Somerset Moors. It is the centre of wellbeing for the community. We look forward to our Communion with Christ and opportunities for fellowship.





St Martin's, Fivehead stands in the centre of a small, friendly, welcoming rural village. We believe the church reflects this and we welcome all. We generally have a small congregation but are supported by other local churches too. At our fundraising activities throughout the year, we are generously supported by the local community, who value the presence of our church.

## Our Aspirations

We would like to build and develop our new Benefice. Although from different parishes, there is a strong feeling of willing to work together and, as this process of searching for a new incumbent has shown, we agree on many things and share a similar vision for the future. We are looking for a Rector who will celebrate and respect the breadth of traditions within our churches to offer the most complete pattern for worship in the new Benefice. We seek a leader who will help to bring us together, recognising the skills and qualities in our different congregations and helping to develop and share these across the Benefice and wider communities so we can further the work and Word of the Lord.

While individual churches are working with children or in schools, we really want to make our churches more family friendly and would welcome support in this, particularly in bringing the gospel to life through services that are accessible to children and families. By strengthening the existing relationship with the two church schools, alongside identifying opportunities to work with the non-church primary school and the Academy, we can demonstrate what our churches can offer to our communities, of any age.

We know that within our communities we have people in need of practical and spiritual support, and we must be able to reach out to them. There are many willing people within our new Benefice with a good knowledge of their local community who need to be empowered and organised to offer the support that is needed. We need a leader who will help facilitate this support and who will bring the Church out into the community and the communities back into church.







St Andrew's High Ham stands in the middle of the parish just off the village green. It adds considerably to the appeal of living in the area. The primary school on the opposite side of the green is a Church of England school and enjoys close ties with the Church. St Andrew's has an enthusiastic band of bell ringers and the church is always filled with wonderful flower arrangements. The parish hosts a popular monthly lunch club. Services include BCP worship, family worship, and Evensong.

## What We Can Offer

### People

- ❖ An enthusiastic and welcoming community of churches, which are already starting to work together and looking forward to welcoming a new Rector to help build and shape a thriving and vibrant new Benefice.
- ❖ A part time Associate Minister and, currently, a Curate, who is seeking a new parish.
- ❖ Active PCCs and Churchwardens.
- ❖ A Reader, a trainee Reader, Lay Assistants, two safeguarding officers.
- ❖ Good relationships with the two Church Primary Schools.

### A Home

- ❖ A spacious and modern rectory in the heart of the village of Curry Rivel (TA10 0HQ). The village has 2 shops, a post office, petrol station, an excellent pub, a [Primary School](#) with a Nursery and lots of village groups and activities. Nearby in Langport, there is [Huish Episcopi Academy and Huish Sixth](#) and more local shops, including a large Tesco. Taunton has [three independent schools](#), offering scholarships.

### Buildings

- ❖ The Angel office facilities and meeting rooms.
- ❖ Church halls - the Old School Room in Curry Rivel and All Saints' Hall in Langport. Village halls can also be easily used.
- ❖ Seven beautiful churches, including four of Simon Jenkins's, '*England's 1000 best churches*'. Two other churches managed by the Churches Conservation Trust.





## The Angel, Langport

A fantastic facility in the Benefice, run by a charity under the control of Huish Episcopi cum Langport PCC, who are the management trustees. This acts as a Benefice Office and meeting rooms that can be hired out commercially, together with a small café and retail bazaar, selling crafts and small gifts. It has a garden for use in the summer.

A number of local community groups use the space, which are listed on the website above. One of the two food banks in the Benefice operates out of the Angel. It also provides a pet food bank in liaison with the local vets.







## How we will support you

We realise that working in a large Benefice of seven parishes can be demanding and we look forward to you enjoying working with us.

- ❖ You will have the support of the team, including an Associate Minister and Readers.
- ❖ We intend to work alongside you in the journey ahead. The survey has shown that there are people, who are willing to step up and take on responsibilities in many areas, to share the load.
- ❖ We expect you to take your day off each week, your annual leave quota and to claim your expenses.
- ❖ Let us support you as you share your joys and concerns with us.

St Mary's Huish Episcopi serves the town of Langport and the wider Huish Episcopi area. It is an ancient church, with a churchyard and the use of a large car park near the local war memorial. The congregation is active in Bible study and prayer groups, as well as supporting social action (e.g. the Food Bank).





## Current Service Schedule across the new Benefice

Week	Aller	Curry Rivel	Drayton	Fivehead	High Ham	Huish Episcopi	Swell
One	10.30 CW Communion	6pm CW Evening		10 Family 11.15 Said HC	9am BCP Communion	10.30 CW Communion	
Two	10.30 CW HC rotates*	11 CW Communion	10am CW Communion		10.30 CW HC rotates*	10.30 CW HC rotates*	9.30 BCP Communion
Three		10.30 Family 11.45 Said HC		9.30 Morning Worship CW	11am Family	10.30 CW Communion	
Four		11 Morning Worship		9.30 CW Communion	4.30 BCP Evensong	10.30 Informal Worship	6pm BCP Evensong
Five	10.30	United	Benefice	Service	Holy	Communion	rotates

One of the first tasks of the new Rector will be to rationalise the service schedule across the new Benefice taking account of the number of churches and the time available. As part of the surveys, q.v., we asked about the type and frequency of services that each parish would like, and we hope that you will take account of this in drawing up the new schedule.

\*Either at Aller or High Ham or Huish Episcopi by rotation in successive months.

St. Catherine's Swell is a simple, ancient church situated amidst a secluded farmyard. She has a loyal, happy congregation offering traditional BCP worship, lit only by candles, that, whispering the lost enchantments of the Stuarts and Hanoverians, draws in worshippers from other local churches.



Benefice Aspiration	1ST CHOICE	I AM OK WITH THIS	I DO NOT LIKE THIS	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Common Worship Communion	43% 33	54% 42	3% 2	77	3.38
Book of Common Prayer 1662	31% 24	46% 35	23% 18	77	2.84
Common Worship Evening Prayer	1% 1	81% 62	18% 14	77	2.65
Informal Church Worship without a formal liturgy	9% 7	55% 42	36% 28	77	2.36
Worship outside a church setting	0% 0	62% 48	38% 29	77	2.25
Taize or Meditative worship	0% 0	49% 38	51% 39	77	1.99
Anglo-Catholic High Mass	4% 3	30% 23	66% 51	77	1.71

Parish Aspiration	Common Worship	BCP	CW Evening Prayer	Informal Worship	Non-Church Worship	Taize	Anglo-Catholic
Benefice	3.38	2.84	2.65	2.36	2.25	1.99	1.71
Curry Rivel	3.59	2.30	2.81	2.63	2.56	1.96	1.44
Drayton	3.29	2.71	2.43	2.57	2.43	1.86	2.14
Fivehead	3.33	3.11	2.78	2.44	2.33	2.11	1.00
High Ham	3.30	3.50	2.80	2.10	2.00	2.00	1.60
Huish Episcopi	3.31	2.81	2.50	2.38	2.13	1.75	2.44
Swell	3.00	3.75	2.25	1.50	1.50	2.50	1.75

## Spirituality and Tradition in the Benefice

We surveyed the congregations as to what kind of services within the Church of England they preferred. The results are shown on the two tables on this page. The weighted average was given by assigning 4 points to 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 3 points to OK and 1 point to not liked. So scoring is out of 4.



This showed us that the parishes have their own preferences and that there is no overall tradition within the new Benefice. We therefore seek a Rector with the flexibility and skills to work within this culture and to rejoice in its variety. We want to build on these foundations to create churches which provide a spiritual home and welcoming beacon for all Christians, in all our diversity in one united Benefice.



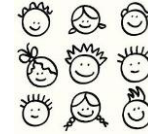
# We are praying for a Rector who will be:



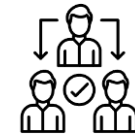
A good listener, understanding, approachable, and responsive to the needs of both the church and the wider community.



A good communicator who can relate to people of all ages and can make the Word accessible to all.



Committed to making the church a welcoming place for children and young people.



A team player who will share with, delegate to and develop the laity.



Outward looking and will take the Church into the community and bring the community back to the churches.



Flexible and adaptable to the needs of the different parishes and their communities.



A leader with the vision and energy to lead us through change as our Benefice evolves.



Someone with a sense of humour, who can keep a sense of proportion when times are tricky!



# Facts about the benefice and your new life in rural Somerset

"So, I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad." *Ecclesiastes 8:15*



A corner of Drayton Fair 2024



## Facts about the Benefice from the Diocesan parish dashboards

Statistics	Benefice	Aller	Curry Rivel	Drayton	Fivehead	High Ham	Huish Episcopi	Swell
Population	8369	381	2346	428	560	931	3670	53
Area sq.miles	31.2 (10x3m)	5.6	5.5	3.6	2.8	7.8	3.7	2.2
Deprivation *		4696	4659	8393	3261	4696	4904	3274
% >70 years		21.0	23.8	25.1	27.2	20.9	21.1	18.7
% <20 years		16.7	19.4	14.8	17.6	17.1	19.4	14.2
% Christian		53.7	54.5	54.6	58.0	55.7	51.0	54.8
% No religion		38.6	37.5	34.6	36.6	33.8	40.5	37.6
Electoral Roll	262	N/A***	70	35	33	44	59	21
Sunday Attends	133	6	44	12	14	15	28	14
Baptisms/Weddings/ Funerals Total of last 5yr	55/34/144+Aller	N/A	18/8/32	2/4/8	8/1/6	13/6/25	14/13/70	0/2/3
Parish Share	£108,432	£4,289	£45,287	£8,467	£10,140	£9,724	£25,793	£4,732
% Paid 2024	£89,198	0%	67%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2025 Share **	£113,609	£4,522	£45,287	£9,444	£9,920	£10,305	£29,482	£4,649
Quinquennials		2021	2024 £159k	2022 £100k	2022 £45k	2021	2021 £20k	2024 £5k
Works finished		N/A	None	£14k	£12k	£28k	£18k	£7.7k raised

\* Deprivation is the order of CofE parishes from 12239, the least deprived, to 1, the most deprived in England.

\*\* Parish share is now based on a “costs of ministry basis” and the full Benefice share will be £130,104 in 2026, after transitional adjustments are removed.

\*\*\* Not available



# Ideas for you and your household

None of these are endorsed or promoted, they are just ideas

Entertainment	Sports	Shopping
Cinemas in Taunton and Yeovil	<a href="#">Somerset County Cricket Club</a> , Taunton	The City of Bath – a vast range of shops and attractions
<a href="#">Strode Theatre</a> , Street for arts and culture	<a href="#">Taunton and Pickering Golf Club</a>	Taunton – a full range of the usual multiples
<a href="#">Westlands Theatre</a> , Yeovil for general entertainment	<a href="#">Long Sutton Golf Club</a>	Wells – a Saturday <a href="#">market</a> and a great <a href="#">cathedral</a>
<a href="#">Somerset Life</a> – monthly magazine shows what and where	<a href="#">Somerton Tennis Club</a>	<a href="#">Clarks Village</a> , Street – a retail destination
<a href="#">Activities in Somerset</a>	<a href="#">Martock Tennis Club</a>	Waitrose in Crewkerne and Wells
<a href="#">Outdoor Adventures</a>	<a href="#">Rugby Club</a> , Somerton	<a href="#">Petrol at Thornfalcon</a> – always the cheapest by far
<b>Local Groups</b>	<a href="#">Sports and Social Club</a> , Huish Episcopi	<a href="#">Brown and Forrest</a> – delicious local smokery
<a href="#">Guides</a> and <a href="#">Scouts</a> , Langport and Somerton	<a href="#">Mendip Shooting Ground</a> for Clay Pigeon shooting	<a href="#">The Trading Post</a> , Lopen – speciality food treats
<a href="#">Sports Centre and pool</a> , Huish Episcopi	<a href="#">Rifleman Firearms</a> - a rifle range	<b>From fine dining to local pubs</b>
<a href="#">Sedgemoor Gardens Club</a> , Langport	<a href="#">Langport Runners</a>	<a href="#">Holm Restaurant</a> , South Petherton
<a href="#">Fivehead Drama Society</a> , Fivehead	<b>Health</b>	<a href="#">Mount Somerset Hotel</a> , Henlade
<a href="#">The History Hut</a> , Low Ham	<a href="#">Musgrove Park Hospital</a> , Taunton	<a href="#">Rose and Crown (Eli's)</a> , Huish Episcopi
<a href="#">King Alfred Project</a> , Aller	<a href="#">North Curry Health Centre</a>	<a href="#">The Boar</a> at Barrington – 35 <sup>th</sup> best gastropub in the UK
<a href="#">Music Group</a> , Curry Rivel	<a href="#">Langport Surgery</a>	<a href="#">The Firehouse</a> , Curry Rivel
<a href="#">Red Cross Theatre Group</a> , Langport	<a href="#">Ilminster Chiropractor and Massage</a>	<a href="#">The Drayton Crown</a>





Floorplan of Curry Rivel Rectory





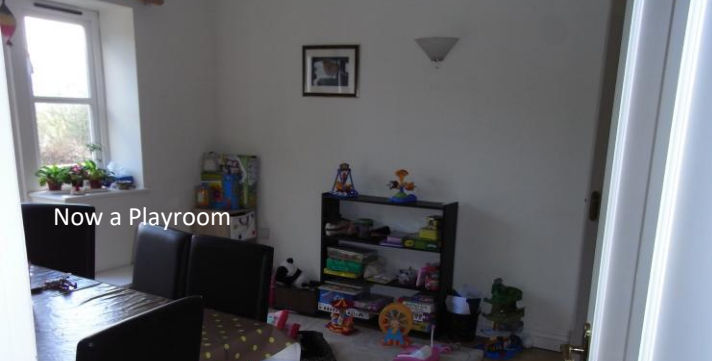
The Study



Curry Rivel Rectory TA10 0HQ



The garden looking east



Now a Playroom



The heart of the home



The Sitting room



The garden looking west





## Messages from colleagues

Archdeacon of Wells  
Ven Anne Gell →

**Bishop of Bath and Wells**  
**Rt Rev Michael Beasley**

Area Dean of Ivelchester →  
Rev Bruce Faulkner

Associate Minister →  
Rev Scott Patterson





# Diocesan statement – our vision for growth and transformation

## Introduction

We are delighted that you are considering whether this post of Priest in Charge of the Parishes of Curry Rivel, Fivehead, Swell, Aller, High Ham with Low Ham, Huish Episcopi cum Langport and Drayton in the Diocese of Bath and Wells might be right for you. In order to help your prayerful discernment, we want to share a bit about our diocesan vision, within which we hope your own ministry might flourish.

Appointing a priest incumbent is amongst the most significant decisions that any benefice makes. When appointments work out well, they contribute significantly to parishes flourishing and growing in a host of different ways – in spiritual depth, in impact within local communities and in the numbers of people becoming part of the local church. Such flourishing is not, of course, all down to the person appointed as priest. It depends first and foremost upon God. It also depends upon everyone in a benefice being willing and able to contribute their unique gifts, skills, resources and abilities: working alongside their priest and sharing in the ministry of the benefice.

The flourishing and growth of churches always needs attention, but especially now as we come out of the shock created by the COVID pandemic. The impact of the pandemic created a sharp acceleration in the pattern of decline in church attendance that has been seen in our diocese over many years. Thankfully, there are some signs that we are recovering from the COVID decline. For example, data showed that average adult weekly church attendance in our diocese rose between 2021 and 2022. Statistics only ever tell a partial story. It is even more encouraging to see churches around our diocese developing approaches that respond to the opportunities and challenges in their local context and enable growth to happen.

## A vision for growth and transformation

Our diocesan context, described above, has convinced us that for our next season at least, our aim across all our parishes needs to be growing our churches, within and beyond our church buildings, in both numbers and depth of faith, so that we can better work for the transforming of our communities and the life of God’s Kingdom amongst us.

## Shared priorities

To help us pursue this aim, and following consultation across the diocese in 2023, we are inviting all parishes to focus on four particular areas of our ministry together. It is important for clergy considering working in our diocese to know what these priorities are, even though what they look like in practice will vary in each place.

<b>To value and cherish the people and resources we already have</b>	<b>We aim to ensure each person is well supported and equipped as a follower of Jesus Christ and for any ministries they may feel called to undertake, within the local church and wider community. We are committed to supporting the well-being of all our leaders and church officers, both lay and ordained. We have a fully funded clergy well-being service, the offer of peer support groups, and an excellent team of Diocesan support staff fully focused on supporting our parishes, chaplaincies and schools.</b>
<b>To develop new Christian worshipping communities</b>	Whether it be new forms of worship in a wide variety of settings and times, church revitalisations or church plants, we long to see the good news of Jesus connect with the people in our communities that our traditional offerings struggle to reach.
<b>To share in ministry and leadership</b>	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 a model of shared local ministry: raising up and equipping lay and ordained leaders able to share together in leading the church and serving God’s world.
<b>To deepen and grow faith</b>	This is foundational to all we do. We long to see people of all ages and backgrounds, but perhaps especially children, young people and young adults, having more opportunities to discover, explore and grow in faith.



## The outcome we are looking for

When he talks about his own ministry in 1 Corinthians, Paul captures the dynamic we are seeking to achieve. "I planted," he says, "Apollos watered, but God gave the growth"(1 Cor 3: 6). We know that our churches will only flourish and grow as a result of God's action among us – it is God who gives the growth.

But Paul is also clear that we have a part to play too – in watering and planting, in doing the things that enable the conditions for God's growth to be supported. So, covered by prayer, our confident hope is that if we are intentional in seeking God's guidance in planning and supporting growth, then God will honour that to see his people flourish and thrive - in spiritual depth, in impact within local communities, in the numbers of people becoming part of the local church and in transforming communities locally and beyond.

## Local shaping and diocesan support

There can't be any 'one size fits' all approach to turning the priorities outlined above into action. They always need to be adapted to local circumstances, opportunities and needs. The task of our diocesan support services is to get behind all that local benefices are doing and apart from their general support, there is specific support for exploring how to grow new Christian communities, how to discern and equip a growing range of ministries in your context and how to work well with children and young people. All these areas of support are grounded in exploring what it means to live out our faith.

## What implications does this have for the appointment of clergy?

It is important for us all to appoint clergy to benefices who are ready, willing and able to pray for and share in the vision we have for the flourishing and growth of churches and Christian life in our diocese. We want to create an environment that could be described as high challenge, high support. This means appointing clergy who will not only value all that already exists but will be eager to work with others to build on and develop it. It means appointing clergy who are committed to learning, being creative, and to starting with the gifts God has given to them, their benefice and the wider community. We are therefore looking to appoint candidates who will

- be committed to praying and intentionally seeking the growth and flourishing of the benefices in their care
- relish and expect to work in an environment that is high challenge, high support
- work joyfully and collaboratively with those who share with them locally in ministry and leadership, with their congregations and with others in their locality, to identify ways to grow and develop their churches with the grain of local priorities, resources, skills and passions
- enjoy working in partnership with deanery and diocesan colleagues.

We hope this might be you! We hope that you'd like to join us on the adventure and course we've set for our next ten years. We're praying that God will send us the right labourers for the harvest that God has set before us. Could this be you?



Rt. Rev. Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells



Ven. Anne Gell, Archdeacon of Wells



## Ivelchester Deanery – Rev. Bruce Faulkner

The historic Deanery of Ivelchester (founded in 1218) has 29 parishes split across five benefices ministering to just over 29,000 spread across its 180 square miles. Within the parishes you will find ten primary schools and two secondary schools. Employment is considered 'full' by national measures, but like many rural parts of Somerset the incomes generated by households are mixed and dependent on whether high income skilled aerospace jobs are held or agricultural and 'cottage' industries undertaken.

The opportunities and challenges for parishes to be places of mission and worship are at the core of both the Deanery Mission Plan and those plans generated by each parish. The core aims of the Plan focus on supporting the parishes in their local mission and worship, through enabling partnership and facilitating development and sharing of ministries.

2025 will see us look to changes in ethos of being church, moving from clergy-centric modes towards a model of Shared Local Ministry, looking to enable and equip all the baptised in their offering of 'souls and bodies to be living sacrifices sent in the power of the Spirit to live and work to the praise and glory of God'. Partnerships and the sharing of ministry are at the heart the ministry we seek to model as leaders, both lay and ordained, within the Deanery. As such, it is hoped that any new incumbent within the Deanery will be open to sharing their expertise in enabling and equipping all for their local mission.

Chapter? We are a sociable group, supportive of colleagues. We meet monthly on rotation about folks' homes with Communion or Bible Study, and above all for the chance to share and care for each other in our ministry. We also take the opportunity at Easter and Christmas to get to the pub and have a good lunch together!

## Associate Minister – Rev. Scott Patterson

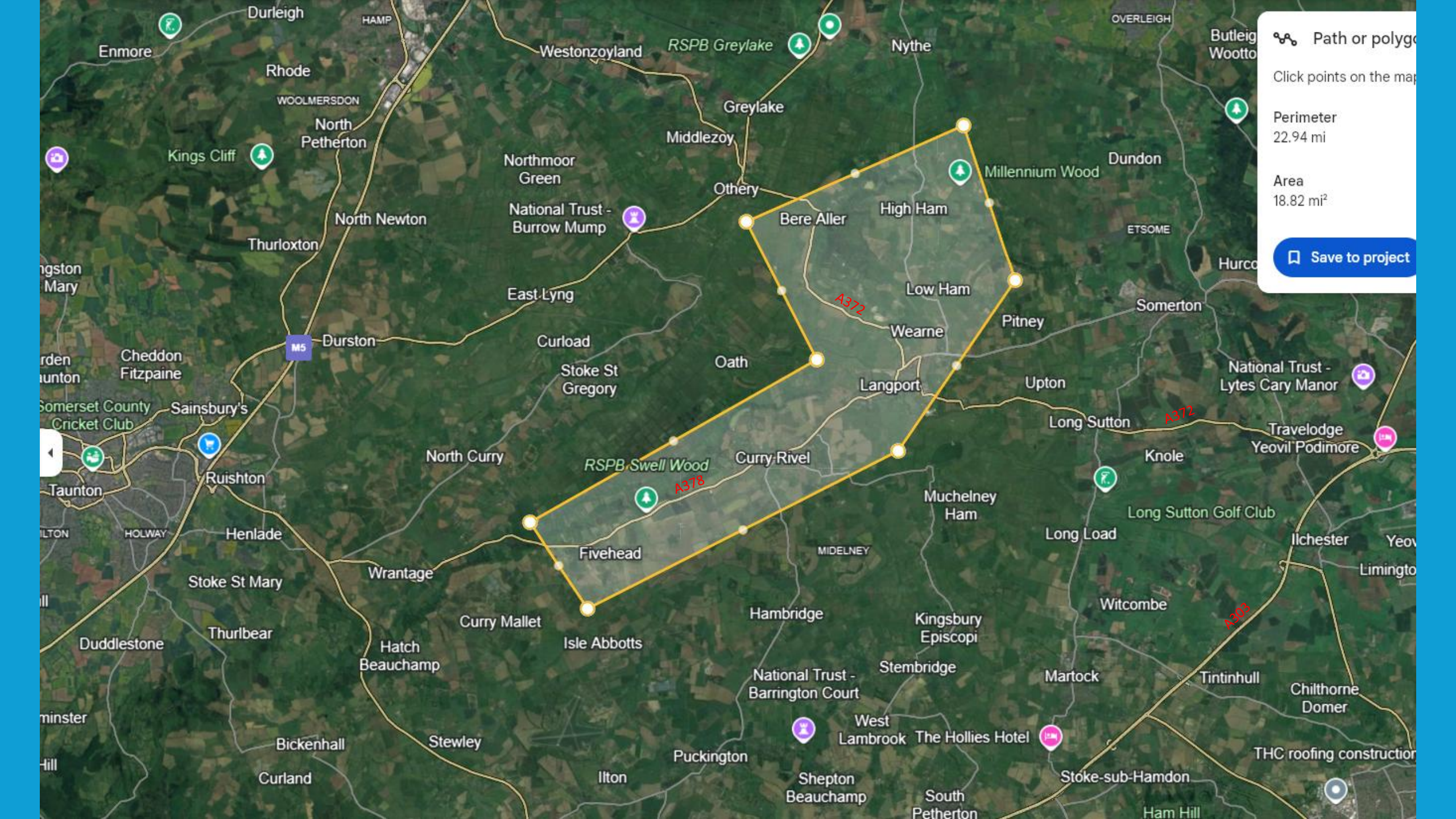
Hi, my name's Scott. I'm 53, married to my wife, Rowan, for 25 years and we have two teenage daughters. I grew up in rural Somerset and trained at a London music college before freelancing as a classical musician. Following this came seven years in an RAF Military Band and, to cut a long story short, I emerged from this into 15 years of ordained ministry. For 11 of those years, I served as Rector for the now merged Benefice of Curry Rivel, Fivehead and Swell.

My faith journey began in earnest in my 20s as part of the Orchestra at All Souls Church, Langham Place. This evangelical rooting has led to a passion to understand, teach and apply God's Word, and to live as faithfully as I can under Scripture's authority.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the unusual circumstances regarding the Associate Priest being the ex-Incumbent of part of this new Benefice and I want to offer reassurance. Recognising the trust Bishop Michael has placed in me in accommodating this transition for me and my family, I will seek not to be 'a thorn in the side' of a new incumbent, but rather a flexible, supportive, prayerful, creative, partner in shared gospel ministry. I believe that the insights and experience of the last 11 years, and the more recent relationships formed since my licensing to all seven parishes in July, will be of value to our new Benefice team.

So why become our Incumbent? Well if you're up for the challenge of developing the good that's already here; if you feel ready for shaping a new Benefice in a strategic and creative way alongside a team seeking to connect meaningfully with our communities; if you're keen to develop the gifts, people and resources already here, and recognise the value of not facing this alone, then this could be the place for you, then I believe there is great potential here that, through faithful witness and courage, the Lord will richly bless.





Path or polygon

Click points on the map

Perimeter  
22.94 mi

Area  
18.82 mi<sup>2</sup>

Save to project

Map labels include: Enmore, Durleigh, WESTONZOYLAND, RSPB Greylake, Nythe, Butleigh Wootton, Rhode, Woolsmerdon, North Petherton, Middlezoy, Greylake, Dundon, Kings Cliff, Northmoor Green, Othery, Millennium Wood, North Newton, Bere Aller, High Ham, Thurloxtan, East Lyng, National Trust - Burrow Mump, Low Ham, Pitney, Somerton, Durston, Curload, Oath, Langport, Upton, National Trust - Lytes Cary Manor, Sainsbury's, Ruishton, North Curry, Curry Rivel, Long Sutton, Travelodge Yeovil Podimore, Taunton, Henlade, Fivehead, Muchelney Ham, Long Sutton Golf Club, Long Load, Ilchester, Duddlestone, Thurlbear, Wrantage, Curry Mallet, Isle Abbotts, Hambridge, Kingsbury Episcopi, Witcombe, Hatch Beauchamp, National Trust - Barrington Court, Stembridge, Martock, Tintinhull, Bickenhall, Stewley, Puckington, West Lambrook, The Hollies Hotel, Chilthorne Domer, Curland, Ilton, Shepton Beauchamp, South Petherton, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Ham Hill, and THC roofing construction.