

Wincanton, Pen Selwood, Charlton Musgrove, Cucklington and Stoke Trister with Bayford

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**Our new Benefice  
is seeking  
a new Priest.**



*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength...  
Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these”.*

# Our Story - Wincanton

Situated just off the main A303 London to Penzance trunk road, our newly forming benefice in beautiful southeast Somerset enjoys excellent links and is in an enviable position for exploring this attractive corner of rural England. For the active, the countryside is perfect for exploring on foot, bicycle or on horse-back. Within easy reach are numerous places of interest; The Newt in Somerset, Hauser and Wirth (with world class modern art gallery) Fleet Air Arm Museum and Longleat Wildlife Park. National Trust properties include Stourhead House and gardens and Montacute House. There is a loyal and welcoming worshipping community drawn from the town and local villages.

## WINCANTON

- is the hub of the benefice with the other parishes hugging our Eastern boundary. It is the largest community within the proposed new benefice and has quite a village feel to it.
- There has been a church on the present site since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The church was enlarged in 1735 and completely rebuilt between 1887-89. The only part of the earlier church remaining is some stonework in the tower.
- **St Peter & St Paul's** consists of chancel with high altar, nave north aisle and porch, south chancel forming the Lady Chapel and prayer corner. The south door provides disabled access. At the west end is the bell tower, which holds a ring of eight bells and are used regularly.
- Extensive repairs were carried out to the organ loft and tower roof in 2023 at a cost of £170,000. The churchyard is closed and maintained by the Town Council. The town War Memorial is situated inside the church at the Remembrance Window.
- Our church can boast an accomplished choir with an organist, an active bell tower, a Reader, Lay Worship assistants and a newly retired priest, with PTO, within the congregation.
- A popular monthly, well attended, coffee morning is held with book and cake sales, and is also the starting point for Wincanton Wheelers Cycling Club's regular Saturday outings. We have a strong connection with Wincanton Primary School which we are excited to develop further, as well as our links with other worshipping communities within the town. We also participate in regular Alpha courses.
- In the community, we hold a Bereavement Café, support local Food Banks, and maintain a good relationship with schools, and care and residential communities. New housing presents exciting opportunities within our new benefice to reach out and welcome new residents, families and worshippers. The Balsam Centre in the heart of the town offers wellbeing and healthy living guidance and participation opportunities for all local people.



# Our Story - Pen Selwood

## PEN SELWOOD

- The Village has a strong sense of community and friendliness; we are proud and supportive of our Church - even those who are not regular attendees, and it remains central to our Pen Selwood village life.
- Our services in **St Michael's** range across:
  - Eucharist services twice a month and Evensong once a month.
  - With a Safeguarding Officer now in place, we started a new 'Rise and Shine' service in January 2024 which is attracting more young families.
  - Harvest Festival concludes with a parish lunch and an 'auction of produce' in our Village Hall, and our service on Palm Sunday sees a donkey leading its associated procession.
  - Our Remembrance Day service starts at the village War Memorial before moving into the Church.
  - Our Christmas Nativity Carol service includes local children acting out Nativity stories.
- We have an excellent regular organist, and an active team of bell ringers for the 6 bells in our tower.
- We continually search for innovative ways to fundraise and to draw more villagers into our activities. In this we are aided by the Pen Selwood Village Community Association (PCA) who hold popular monthly 'pop-up' pub nights, and fortnightly coffee mornings. There are also craft, gardening, reading, and walking groups. The Church is heavily involved in the annual village fete which draws people from miles around and raises substantial sums.
- Together with the village, we also sponsor a community bus project around Wincanton, support the Balsam Centre (a 'health living' centre) in Wincanton, and the local Food Bank.



# Our Story - Cucklington and Stoke Trister with Bayford

## CUCKLINGTON and STOKE TRISTER with BAYFORD

- The community spirit is strong and several well-attended events happen monthly in the form of coffee mornings, lunch clubs, film nights, scrabble, pop-up pub, two book clubs and on a yearly basis there is the Flower Show, Churchyard BBQ, Harvest, Christmas Bazaar, Christmas Tree Festival, 100 Club and a candlelit Carol Service to name but a few. There are two excellent venues in Bayford and Cucklington.
- People take great pride in our villages, litter is picked on a regular basis and eager parties of volunteers clear and maintain footpaths. Overall we are kind, caring and look out for each other.
- **St Lawrence's** is an ancient Grade 2 listed building set in a tranquil position on the side of a hill in the quiet and peaceful village of Cucklington, overlooking the Blackmore Vale. Earliest records date back to 1291 with the first recorded Rector being Henry de Furneaux in 1317 and a Parish Register exists from 1558. The church is open daily and there is a key rota and an eager band of flower ladies. The churchyard is well maintained and the church cleaned regularly.
- **St Andrew's**, the original parish church, was built in the early 13<sup>th</sup> Century but was demolished because of its dilapidated condition and was replaced by the present building which serves Stoke Trister and Bayford. Although it now has only one Evensong service every other month it hosts most of the extraordinary services like the Royal occasions and other activities including a Churchyard BBQ and popular Christmas Tree Festival. The church is well supported and looked after by the community.



# Our Story - Charlton Musgrove

**CHARLTON MUSGROVE** is situated on an exceptionally beautiful and un-spoilt part of Somerset, the parish extends from the edge of the Stourhead estate in the west across to Wincanton Racecourse in the east.

- We are blessed with two churches in our very spread out country parish.
- Our Harvest Thanksgivings are normally held on various farms around our Benefice, where we also have our harvest meal.
- **St Stephen's**, our parish church, is Grade 2 listed and has recently been restored with a new roof, servery, toilet, redecorated and with new electrics.
- Built in the 13th century, a communion service is held monthly plus festivals. In the churchyard we have created a wild flower area with the children, with the help of our churchwarden and local enthusiast. We also host walking groups.
- **St John's** chapel of ease was gifted to us by a rector's widow in 1877 and is in the most populated part of the village.
- It hosts a Cafe Church service with breakfast once a month, contemporary Worship and Praise also once a month and weekly coffee, cake and chat hosted by a team which includes our young folk.
- Plus a range of other family services, lent courses etc.
- We are in the process of installing a servery and toilet to enable us to better serve our community for all ages.
- Our Pancake Parties are held at our local farm shop and kitchen. We have many community groups in our village including a walking group, to enjoy God's beautiful creation.



## Our Challenges as identified by the benefice communities and congregations

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- Bringing our town and rural parishes together
- Continuing to support our farming communities within our benefice, celebrating and protecting our rural landscapes
- Continue to encourage the young, old and everyone in between to join us in our churches and village halls, to enjoy the amazing range of events on offer in our town and villages
- Developing worship to offer a wider range of services around our benefice
- To encourage training of more Lay Pastoral Assistants.

*“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1*

## **Our Aspirations** as identified by the benefice communities and congregations

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*“That all the gifts you have given us will be recognised in each other.  
That your love will draw others in this growing community, to you.”*

- **To reach everyone with the Gospel, through loving and serving our communities**
- To be **relevant** for today’s generation
- To keep the church and its values at the centre of our benefice
- Support, respect and work with our Vicar
- **Grow** our churches, **together**
- Embrace new ideas
- Welcoming newcomers
- **To listen:** to the young, youth and old alike.

## What we can offer

Parish Administrator  
Part-time in the Parish Office

Team of retired Clergy helping  
willingly and often

Supportive PCCs  
meeting throughout the year

Chalice Assistants, Intercessors,  
Flower Teams, Cleaning Teams

Readers in the Benefice

Deputy  
Churchwardens

Safeguarding Officers  
in all parishes

A priest colleague  
(House for Duty)  
to be appointed with  
the involvement of  
the new incumbent

Hardworking Churchwardens,  
willing and fully supportive  
(one parish in vacancy)

Growing team of 5 Lay Worship  
Leaders ready to help

Organists, Church Choir  
and Bell Ringers

Fundraising Committees, Social  
Committees, Mothers' Union



### The Rectory Wincanton



Beautiful 4-bedroom  
home (2 ensuite, plus  
family bathroom) with  
study, prayer room and  
extensive gardens, just  
a short walk from the  
church, town centre  
and the local schools.

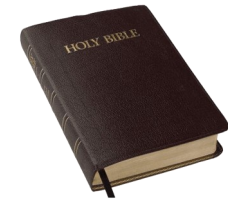




## Could this be YOU?

### We pray our next Vicar will...

- be passionate and pastoral, imaginative and resourceful
- be energetic and enthusiastic, creative in worship, creative in culture and creative in using our buildings
- develop and grow our new forms of worship for younger groups as well as respecting traditional services
- teach the bible with a loving heart and sensitive head
- **embrace our new benefice and take it forward, thinking outside the box**
- bring your own 'gifts' to join with our loving, caring church communities.



### Do you feel called to this challenge...?

We are waiting with open arms! Please come and help us meet this challenge, we are ready to become one benefice serving God together, supportively, patiently, wholeheartedly. In a quiet, beautiful area of rural Somerset we are ready... are you?

...and there will always be cake!

## Facts and Figures

Parish (2023 figures)	Charlton Musgrove	Cucklington & Stoke Trister with Bayford	Pen Selwood	Wincanton
Total Income	19,773	31,801	19,988	121,014
Total Expenditure	24,003	19,671	24,615	170,912
Parish Share	10,825	12,486	8,673	24,887
Parish Share (% paid)	100	100	100	100
Restricted Reserves	76,100	80,668	0	7,173
Unrestricted Reserves	19,700	38,658	43,593	72,367
Electoral Roll	28	75	23	70

### POPULATIONS

Cucklington: 173

Pen Selwood: 273

Stoke Trister: 318

Charlton Musgrove: 457

Wincanton: 6,740

### Websites:

[www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk)  
[www.wincantonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.wincantonprimaryschool.co.uk)  
[www.balsamcentre.org.uk](http://www.balsamcentre.org.uk)  
[www.wincantonwheelers.co.uk](http://www.wincantonwheelers.co.uk)  
[www.penselwood.ning](http://www.penselwood.ning)  
[www.charltonmusgrove.org](http://www.charltonmusgrove.org)  
[www.thenewtinsomerset.com](http://www.thenewtinsomerset.com)  
[www.hauserwirth.com](http://www.hauserwirth.com)  
[www.longleat.co.uk](http://www.longleat.co.uk)  
[www.nmrn.org.uk](http://www.nmrn.org.uk)

***“And we know that all things  
work together for good,  
to them that love God  
to them who are called  
according to his purpose”***

*Romans 8:28*

Parish Office: 38 High Street, Wincanton



## Facts and Figures (2023)

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### St Peter & St Paul's in Wincanton:

- Eucharist Service every Sunday morning 10:45am
- 7 Baptisms, 2 Weddings, 15 Funerals
- Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes evening service, Harvest Service and Lunch, Alpha Course, Bereavement Café
- Open daily. Weekly Parish Newsletter
- Army Air Corps Remembrance Day Service (400+ attendance) Christingle service, Primary School Nativity & Carol Services, Christmas Carol service.

### St Michael's in Pen Selwood:

- Rise & Shine Family service on 1st Sunday of the month 9am, Eucharist service 2nd & 3rd Sundays 9am, Evensong service 4th Sunday 4:30pm (winter) 6:30pm (summer)
- 1 Baptism, 1 Wedding, 3 Funerals
- Palm Sunday service with Donkey procession, Easter Garden blessing, Harvest service and Lunch, Nativity Carol Service
- Open daily. Weekly Parish Newsletter.



### St John's in Charlton Musgrove:

- Café Church with breakfast first Sunday of the month 10am
- Contemporary Morning Praise 3rd Sunday of the month 10am
- Lent Course (in Church or online)
- Alpha Course
- Pet Services
- Open daily.

## Facts and Figures (2023)

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### St Stephen's in Charlton Musgrove:

- Eucharist service 2nd Sunday of the month 9am
- 1 Funeral
- Pet services
- Harvest service on local farm with harvest meal
- Online prayer meetings weekly and WhatsApp prayer group
- Open daily.

### St Andrew's in Stoke Trister, with Bayford:

- One Evensong service, every other month
- Churchyard Barbecue
- Services on Royal occasions, annual Christmas Tree Festival.



### St Lawrence's in Cucklington:

- Eucharist service 1st Sunday of the month 10am
- Evensong service every other 3rd Sunday 6pm
- Eucharist service every 4th Sunday 9am
- 3 Baptisms, 4 Weddings, 1 Funeral
- Pet service, Harvest on local farms & harvest meal, D-Day Anniversary service, Candlelit Carol Service
- Open daily.



## Deanery Statement

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Bruton and Cary Deanery is a predominantly rural deanery in the south-east corner of the Diocese. It is made up of 41 parishes, mostly consisting of small villages and the surrounding farms, with larger centres of population at Evercreech, Bruton, Castle Cary, Wincanton, Milborne Port, Henstridge and Templecombe. Detailed information about the Deanery can be found on its website, <https://www.brutonandcarydeanery.net>

In July 2023, the Deanery Synod approved the Deanery Plan envisaging the reduction of stipendiary incumbents from 8.5 to 7. This appointment reflects part of the Deanery Plan where the benefice of Charlton Musgrove with Cucklington and Stoke Trister will join those of Wincanton and Pen Selwood with a House for Duty post at Cucklington replacing the former half-time post.

Deanery Synod meets three times per year to promote the whole mission of the Church in the Deanery and to consider matters of interest to the parishes within the Deanery. Shared initiatives take place such as holding Deanery Lay Worship Assistant training courses.

Clergy Chapter meets monthly for prayer, support, encouragement and discussion of matters of mutual interest and concern and the Chapter looks forward to welcoming a new colleague whose contribution to the Deanery will be highly valued.

# Diocesan Statement—our vision for growth and transformation

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## Introduction



We are delighted that you are considering whether this post of Priest in Charge of the Benefices of Wincanton, of Pen Selwood and of Charlton Musgrove with Cucklington and Stoke Trister 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.

## Diocesan Statement—our vision for growth and transformation

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To value and cherish the people and resources we already have	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.
To develop new Christian worshipping communities	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 tradi-
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 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
To deepen and grow faith	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.

# Diocesan Statement—our vision for growth and transformation

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## 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?



Bishop Michael



Archdeacon of Wells