

A black and white photograph of a church interior. On the left, a tall, narrow stained glass window with intricate designs is visible. In the foreground, an altar is partially covered with a white cloth, and several tall, thin candles in ornate holders stand on it. To the right, a large, multi-paned window allows bright light to stream in, creating a hazy atmosphere. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling on the right side. The overall scene is quiet and solemn.

PARISH PROFILE

St. Michael
& All Angels
Yeovil



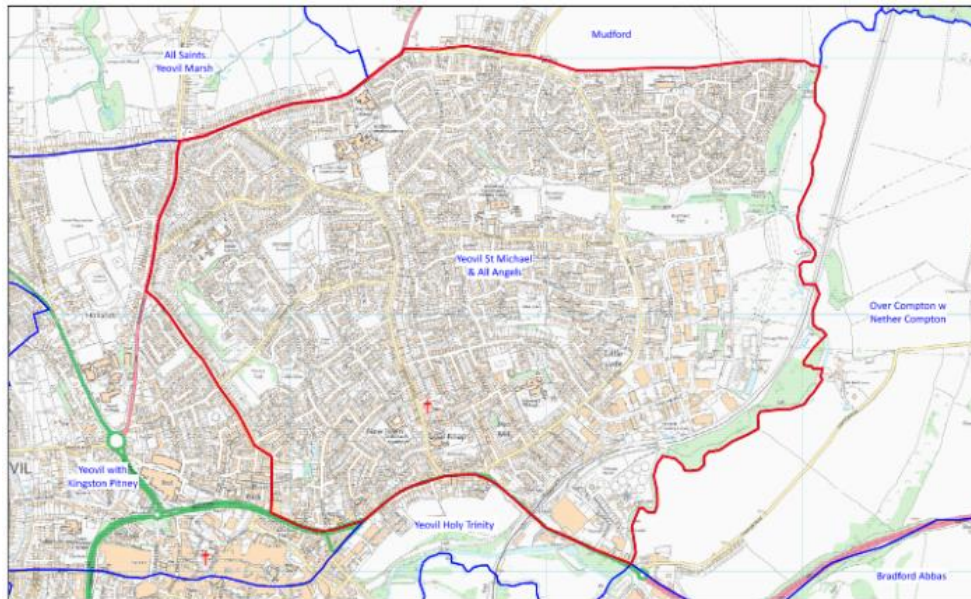
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OUR PARISH

The parish of St Michael and All Angels, offers a huge opportunity to grow a church which enjoys worshipping in the modern inclusive, Anglo-Catholic tradition.

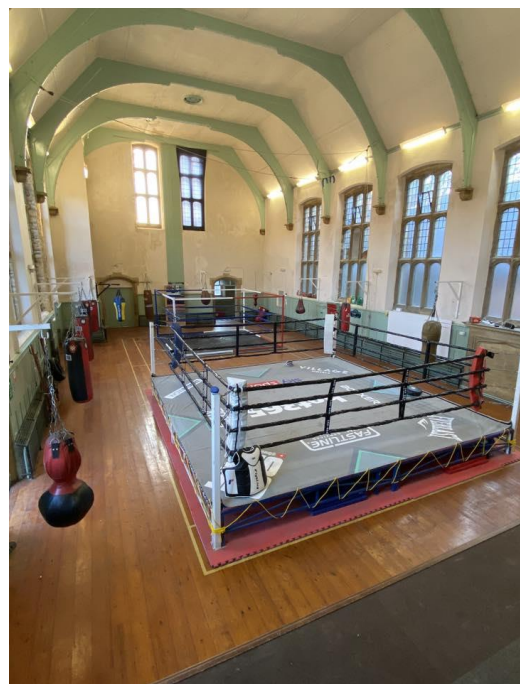
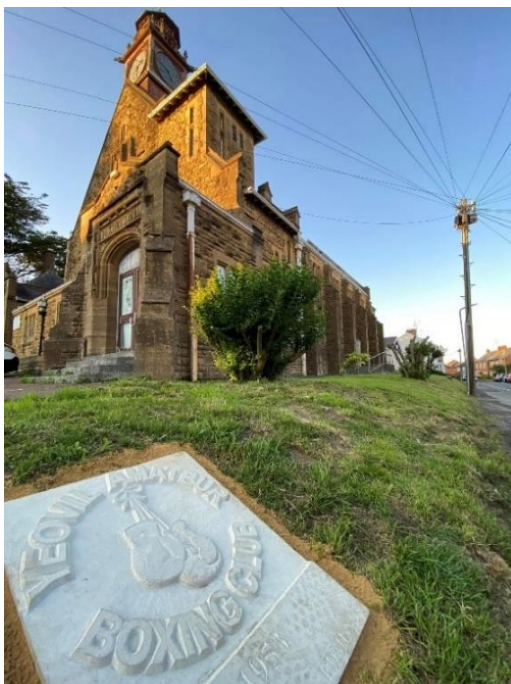


The parish is among the 20% most deprived parishes in the country. It is the largest parish in the Yeovil deanery and one of the largest in the diocese of Bath and Wells. Comprising of over 20,000 inhabitants and growing, with much of the housing being new estates, in both social and private ownership, built in the last 50 years, plus 2 industrial estates. Situated at the east of Yeovil, a town with a population of over 50,000, at the southern boundary of Somerset, 130 miles from London, 40 miles south of Bristol and 30 miles from the county town of Taunton.

Other churches in the parish include St. Marks Methodist, Elim Pentecostal and Salvation Army.

The parish has a Church Hall which is currently leased to a local Boxing Club.

The incumbent and PCC will remain trustees.





STRENGTHS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

We asked our parishioners what they perceived our strengths, challenges and opportunities were and they responded as follows:

STRENGTHS

- The modern Anglo Catholic inclusive tradition holds a very important and valuable place within the spirituality of our church, the congregation would like to see this continue.
- St. Michael's boasts a loyal, friendly, inclusive and welcoming congregation who would be supportive of any initiatives to increase the numbers of regular worshippers, our average Sunday attendance is 28 worshippers.
- There has been a tradition of work with young people in church and within the community and there is enthusiasm for this to be renewed.
- We see an opportunity to bring parents/guardians and children into the church to find a place of Christian friendship (two schools are within yards of the church). We have started building good relationships with some of the schools in the parish and would love to see this continue and thrive.
- There is an expectation that the worship will be the best that can be offered.
- Music, especially choral worship has always been hugely valued and taken pride of place in our worship. Our music is currently in a state of flux, due to financial challenges and we would value a priest who can bring leadership in this area
- Although the building is a little over 100 years old there is a sense of generations of worship and prayer contained within its walls.
- In 2023 we had 26 baptisms, 3 weddings and 14 funerals.
- There are 11 of us on the PCC. We gel well as a team, are energetic and efficient and are all committed to growth. Whilst in vacancy a few of us are seeking to further our contribution to our community by undertaking training to become lay worship assistants.
- We enjoy social activities and would love to build on the social aspect of our church encouraging involvement with the local community.





A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PIONEER PROJECT

Pioneer ministry started in Birchfield Community on 1st November 2020, in the middle of COVID-19 lockdowns. Since then, it has been through different stages all of which involved adjusting to circumstances and resources available in the community. They were, creating a community garden (pictures shown are representative of when this part of the project was active), forest church, Stay and Play Café (ongoing), coffee morning for the elderly and retired residents, link between the community and the Lord's Larder (ongoing), running art groups for children in the community in collaboration with Yeovil Art Space, and working with the Birchfield Community Primary School.



At present the Stay and Play Café is the only part of the project still active, as our pioneer minister has begun a curacy with another local parish.

The Stay and Play Café serves as a welcoming space for the local community, including families with young children. By providing a safe and friendly environment, we establish connections with families who may not typically attend religious services. Which makes it easier for individuals who may be

hesitant to enter a traditional church setting to explore Christian spirituality.

The work of the pioneer minister on Birchfield estate over the last four years has shown that there is both need and an openness to engage with events and activities in this area of the parish. There is both a challenge and an opportunity to build further on this work when the fixed-term role of the pioneer minister concludes in the summer of 2025. But this can only be done if we have volunteers prepared to continue this work.

We would need guidance on how to build on the incredible work already being done. But would love to see this project continue in whatever way possible.



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITES

- There is a pressing need for family worship on a regular basis not necessarily always Eucharistic. We want to develop real connections with children and young families. In the past some of our congregation have felt disheartened that we have had initiatives that have not always grown fruit.
- We recognise that the congregation is small in relation to the size of the parish, with an average Sunday attendance of 28. Some members are feeling rather weary and despondent at present. The right form of leadership will, hopefully, help us to make our church more accessible to the community.



- We meet for a sung Eucharist service every Sunday at 10am. Attended by an average of 28 parishioners, (we would love to see this grow) this number is fairly steady due to new parishioners arriving and others departing. Previously we have also offered a said Eucharist at 8am on Sundays and a mid week said Eucharist on a Wednesdays.
- There needs to be more flexibility with worship, making use of the vast liturgical and music resources available to this 21st century church.
- There is a need for more teaching and study opportunities, at times that make them accessible to all parishioners, to help us grow in our discipleship.
- To obtain a vision for the future there needs to be more encouragement and empowerment given to the laity. To enable this to take place gifts need to be realised through involvement in such areas as baptism, bereavement, and sick visiting. Previously, the incumbent was visiting three care homes for fortnightly communion. However, two of these have since closed.
- There is limited opportunity for social occasions for all ages; this is seen as a necessity for a congregation who are naturally friendly and welcoming.
- The parish is very large, and we have some problems in communication. Follow up to families can be hit and miss. When we do find a need we try and help and generally are successful but need someone to help growth in this area.
- There is some resistance to reordering the church, but others believe that an amount of reordering is essential for growth. This could entail removal of pews at the back to create a more usable space.

OUR FINANCES

Income

Total receipts for 2023 were **£24,048**, planned-giving in 2023 totalled £11,139.

General collections, donations and other giving totalled £5295.

Fund raising efforts raised £1816.

Expenditure

Total payments for 2023 were **£53,438**.

This expenditure was largely due to the need to install under pew heaters following the breakdown of the obsolete gas boiler together with the upgrading of the sound system.

The general church running expenses were £11,762.

Parish Share

Our Parish Share for 2023 was £16320 of which £13,320 was paid. The PCC are committed to paying over and above this figure if this proves to be financially viable. However, the PCC, upon reviewing the 2023 year-end position, reluctantly decided that we were unable to meet the outstanding balance of £3000.

Reserves

As of August 2024, our restricted reserves sat at £6,244.38 with unrestricted at £9,751.06.



WHAT WE OFFER

- A single church parish
- The support of local PTO and NSM clergy.
- An enthusiastic and hardworking PCC
- A dedicated team of servers
- A street pastor on the PCC
- A congregation who could be ready for change
- An amazing opportunity to make connections with the schools.
- A wonderful opportunity to make a real difference to the community.
- Our Pioneer project running in the Birchfield area.
- We want our incumbent to feel supported and loved. It is important to us that time off is honoured, as are any holidays or retreats, to enable the incumbent necessary time for recuperation and restoration.

THE VICARAGE

The vicarage is located 200 meters from the Church, on St. Michael's Avenue. In 2014, the Diocese undertook the installation of a new boiler and upgrade to the heating system, the electrics have been upgraded, bathrooms renovated, flooring replaced, completely decorated internally not to mention works to the exterior as well.

GROUND FLOOR

ENTRANCE HALL

LOUNGE - 17'5" x 12'

SECOND RECEPTION - 14'10" x 11'

WC GARDEN CLOAKROOM

KITCHEN/DINING ROOM – 28'3" x 11'4"

UPPER FLOOR

LANDING

BEDROOM ONE - 15'2" x 14'5"

BEDROOM TWO - 12'8" x 10'5"

BEDROOM THREE - 11'10" x 8'7"

BEDROOM FOUR - 12' x 8'5"

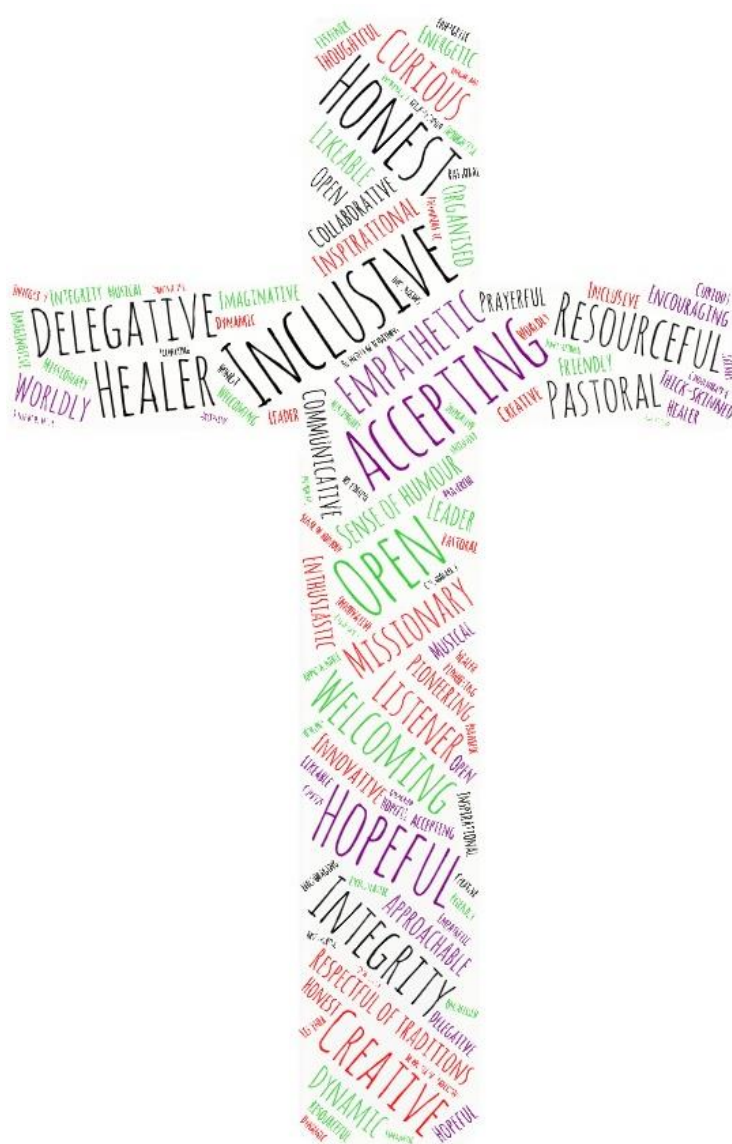
BATHROOM





WHO WE ARE SEEKING TO HELP OUR MINISTRY FLOURISH

- A prayerful person, with a deep spiritual faith, who will keep the sacraments central to their worship and who will maintain the modern Anglo-Catholic worshipping tradition of this large and challenging parish. We use modern language services. We would welcome clergy of any gender.
- We need someone who welcomes inclusivity. It is very important to us, that whoever is called to come into our church is made welcome, regardless of where they have come from, or their current status.
- Someone who can pioneer within our parish, to not only bring people into our beautiful building, but who can bring 'church' to people wherever they are in our community.
- Someone who can set priorities for growth, because we can't do everything at once.
- We need someone who is imaginative while understanding.
- Someone who can help us to create a vision for St. Michael's. Who will be a catalyst for change.
- An incumbent with life experience, who has the resilience and experience necessary to flourish in ministry.



- A person who is committed to the belief that all ages have their spiritual needs and will try new ways of outreach to families and young people. Who has a pastoral heart and will support, encourage and enable all age groups to fully share in their ministry.
- To be involved in building links with the schools and uniformed organisations in the parish.
- A leader, but also a team member, who recognises that St. Michael's has a role to play within the Christian witness in the town of Yeovil. There are four Anglican Benefices in the town that are committed to supporting each other and part of the Yeovil Deanery.
- We are looking for a priest who is enthusiastic, who is approachable, who is not afraid to delegate, who is willing to take risks for the Gospel, and must have a sense of humour.
- We would welcome and

encourage you to visit the parish, if this is not possible, we are open to an informal conversation, as part of your discernment.

THE LOCAL AREA

The major employers within the Yeovil area are RNAS Yeovilton (HMS Heron), Leonardo, at the Westland site, (the only manufacturer of helicopters in the UK). And Screwfix (owned by the Kingfisher Group). The level of unemployment is amongst the lowest in the UK.

Yeovil and the areas around have superb sporting facilities for all-weather football, hockey and athletics.



Local place of interest include,



[Fleet Air Arm Museum](#)



[Montacute House](#)



[Sherborne Castle and Gardens](#)

Other local attractions include;

[Dawe's Twineworks](#)

[Haynes Motor Museum](#)

[Lytes Cary Manor](#)

[Ninesprings, Yeovil Country Park](#)

[Tintinhull Garden](#)

[Town Tree Nature Garden](#)

[Yeovil Railway Centre](#)



OUR DEANERY

Yeovil Deanery comprises four urban parishes, surrounded by 3 multi-parish rural benefices containing 17 churches between them. We have 7.5 stipendiary priests across the Deanery. The current Deanery Mission Plan (revised 2023) focuses on:

Local mission; particularly in new housing areas: establishing new forms of church and sharing resources across the Deanery to help each other with outreach.

Shared local ministry; identifying and developing the gifts of lay people, particularly in the areas of worship, pastoral care and schools' engagement, and working across the Deanery to promote and enable this.

Oversight ministry; seeing stipendiary clergy as oversight ministers, supporting and enabling local church leadership across the Deanery and across all parishes.

We want to work more closely together as a Deanery, sharing resources and training, and providing more mutual support. There is a small but supportive Deanery chapter, which puts a high priority on the pastoral care of local clergy.



Diocesan statement – our vision for growth and transformation



Introduction

We are delighted that you are considering whether this post of Vicar of the Benefice of Yeovil St Michael and All Angels 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.



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 traditional offerings struggle 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 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.

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.

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