

Parish Profile

**Local Minister of Christ Church, Redhill &
Associate Priest of Wrington with Redhill & Langford, Burrington &
Butcombe**



**House for Duty
Sunday plus two days**

Introduction from incumbent

Thank you for taking the time to look at this role. Being the 'Vicar' of Redhill is a wonderful opportunity for someone who wants a part-time rural ministry leading just one church but with the occasional opportunity to support the rest of the benefice.

Redhill itself is a lovely, lively community just a few minutes away from Bristol Airport, with the Village Club and neighbouring church its centre and where the "Vicar" is well-known within the community (the Rector of Wrington being merely a distant figure!). The small church congregation are wonderfully friendly and hard-working – and are so looking forward to the appointment of their new 'Vicar'.



Redhill has a strong distinct sense of identity – even though they are part of the same civil and ecclesiastical parish of Wrington. This is reflected in church life too - with the 'Vicar' of Redhill working with a high degree of autonomy. However, it's great for the two of us to be able to share the joys and sorrows of ministry.

As you'll have seen, this appointment is on a 'House for Duty' basis: in exchange for living in the modern 4-bedroom house two minutes' drive from Christ Church, you would offer ministry on Sundays plus two days (we can be pretty flexible about which days). Alternatively, if it suits your circumstances better, we would be equally happy for you to live in your own accommodation and we would pay you an accommodation allowance.

This part of North Somerset is a delightful place to live – with the Mendips, the coast and the cities of Bath and Bristol all within striking distance. We've been here for eight years now – and show no sign of moving! However, you will need a car, even just to get a pint of milk!

I do hope that the profile will whet your appetite. Please do give me a call on 01934 862348 or 07773 537626 if you'd like to chat about the post – I'd love to show you around the benefice.

Every blessing,

David Gent
Rector

Parish profile: Christ Church, Redhill



Christ Church Redhill and its present day-to-day life is the result of a 19th-century phenomenon whereby rich families, industrialists, institutions and businesses established arrangements, often in the form of trusts, to build and maintain churches and chapels of ease, which they considered to be of great moral and practical value to people (and might even help with their own salvation!)

In the case of Redhill, the Wills family of Bristol tobacco merchants, established a trust to set up and maintain Christ Church in Redhill, together with a priest to look after the church and its parishioners, and a house to accommodate the priest in perpetuity. Time has shifted the boundaries of the arrangement and Redhill now forms part of a larger Benefice comprising All Saints

Church Wrington, Christ Church Redhill, Holy Trinity Church Burrington, St Michael and All Angels Church Butcombe and St. Mary's Church Lower Langford.

In practical terms, this means that the priest appointed to Redhill has, for some years now, shared some of the workload across the Benefice, with the agreement and oversight of the Trustees and the Redhill Chapel Committee.

The expansion of the benefice means that there are only two priests to serve five churches. In practice, this means that two or three times per month, the successful candidate will officiate at the 8am or 9.30am before travelling on to the 11am service at Christ Church, Redhill. The blessing is, however, that worshipping there weekly, Christ Church will become very much your spiritual home. Two services per month are Communion when we appreciate the 'Vicar' wearing a cassock-alb and stole. Because of particular health issues within the congregation, we currently use simultaneous administration for the wine (the priest dipping the wafer). The two other Sundays are Praise and Prayer (a service of the Word based on Common Worship) and a very informal gathering for families which is incredibly creative! We get up to all kind of things – using lego, making bird boxes, and on one occasion having a beach in the nave!

Redhill comprises a kernel settlement of approximately 55 houses (approx. 130 residents) plus a further 40/50 outlying farms and smaller settlements such as Lye Cross and Lye Hole (say a further 150 or so residents.). In broad terms, the population is spread over the east and west of the A38 trunk road between Bristol International Airport in the north and Langford to the south. The main 'settlement' is concentrated in the areas nearest the church. Next to the church is situated Redhill Village Hall (also constituted under another Wills Family Trust) and within the Hall is operated the Redhill Village Club, a licensed facility rented from the Village Hall Trustees and a firmly established local social and meeting facility. The Wednesday coffee morning is a key gathering for many villagers!

Between the Church and the Village Hall there exists an excellent relationship with members of the Church congregation being permitted to use the parking facilities of the Hall when required. Mutual co-operation between the two is always friendly, sincere and generous. The Church has also been supportive and generous in developing and maintaining a monthly 'Coffee and Company' get-together which is well patronised and utilised by local residents and is important in building pastoral and



social bridges between the Church and the community, which is clearly much valued, as the levels of attendance will testify. Although many attendees do not regularly go to Church services, the active participation of the Church in operating this community outreach project serves to involve the Church in wider social events within the community and provides an entrée for pastoral care. One of the attendees has volunteered on numerous occasions to undertake smaller DIY tasks for the church.

The Church itself was built in 1844 and the following description is taken from the Quinquennial Report of 2016:

"A modest country Church built in 1844 and consisting of a relatively tall west tower, wide nave, south porch, chancel and north vestry. Welsh slate roofs with a lead roof over the vestry. Built throughout from blue lias walling with Bath stone architectural features.

As a church, we are committed to giving 10% of our income to charity.

Housing



Thanks to the trust, we are able to offer you an oil-heated 4 bedroom house in Ashford Road just off the A38 – a two-minute drive from the church. It comprises two reception rooms, a garden room, a cloakroom, utility room, bathroom and shower room. It also has a garage and small garden at the front and long garden at the back. Unusually, it is in the ownership of a separate trust, the trustees being the incumbent of Wrington and the chapelwardens of Christ Church, Redhill. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance of

the property, as well as payment of council tax and water rates. You will also be able to claim for a portion of your phone bill and broadband through your expenses (alongside your normal expenses of office).

Alternatively, we would be happy to pay an accommodation allowance in you preferred to stay in your own home.

Role purpose

- to be Redhill's 'Vicar' with day-to-day responsibility to provide pastoral care and worship for the community there.
- to work with the young families in the village of Redhill, enabling them to explore their faith.
- to be a pastoral presence across the village.
- to share in appropriate teaching opportunities e.g. the fortnightly housegroup shared between Christ Church, Redhill and St Michael's, Butcombe
- to work closely with the Chapel Wardens and Chapel Committee.
- to assist with other services across the benefice (normally one service in Christchurch and one other elsewhere in the benefice each Sunday)
- to be involved in other cross-benefice initiatives as time allows
- to provide limited cover for the Rector of Wrington as appropriate

Person specification

- friendly and sincere
- able to communicate with all age groups
- a good listener – sociable and caring
- able to be creative and innovative
- good at delegation – permission-giving
- able to work collaboratively
- has a good sense of humour!

Profile for wider benefice

We are a multi-parish benefice north of the Mendip Hills to the south-west of Bristol. Despite the proximity of Bristol just 10 miles away, we are undoubtedly a rural benefice: from deeply rural Butcombe to the much larger village of Wrington with Langford, Burrington and Redhill somewhere in between. Bristol International Airport falls within the benefice (the boundary goes up to the runway). There is easy access to the M5 at Clevedon and there is access by train to London / Bristol / Taunton / South Wales from Yatton train station (four miles away).

All five villages are vibrant, friendly and great places to live for a wide social mix of commuters, farmers, local business people, families and retired folk. Community life is particularly strong with many people involved in a wide range of caring, social and sports organisations so that young and old can be happy and fulfilled. There are three primary schools, six village halls, five pubs, two breweries, two vineyards, a cider house, Bristol University's Veterinary School, three cafés, and a variety of shops.



There are 5 churches and 3 parishes:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Electoral roll</i>	<i>Average Sunday attendance</i>	<i>Village Population</i>
Wrington	All Saints	87	10 + 40	c. 2500
	St Mary's Langford	27	20	c. 1500
	Christ Church, Redhill	22	18	c. 400
Butcombe	St Michael's & All Angels	30	8	c. 225
Burrington	Holy Trinity	36	12	c. 500

The church tradition of most of the benefice is middle-of-the-road Anglican with Common Worship Holy Communion the central service. The benefice comes together for a United Communion service on fifth Sundays. Albs and chasubles are worn for communion services, cassock and surplice for BCP Matins (fortnightly at Holy Trinity) and Evensong (monthly throughout the year at All Saints). St Mary's is rather more informal and no robes are worn. Services there include Café Worship, Holy Communion, Morning Praise and Morning Prayer. At Christ Church, Redhill, in addition to the fortnightly Communion, they are putting great efforts into the monthly Family services and the new Celebration Service.

	All Saints' Wrington	St Michael's Butcombe	Holy Trinity Burrington	St Mary's Langford	Christ Church Redhill
First Sundays	8.00am MP 9.30am Communion	11.15am HC	8.00am BCP HC	9.30am Café	11.00am Praise & Prayer
Second Sundays	8.00am HC (BCP) 9.30am Café Worship	/	11.00am BCP Matins	9.30am HC	11.00am Communion
Third Sundays	8.00am MP 9.30am Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong	/	9.30am FC	8.00am HC (BCP) 9.30am Praise	11.00am Family Service
Fourth Sundays	8.00am HC 9.30am Communion	/	11.00am BCP Matins	9.30am Morning Prayer	11.00am Communion
Fifth Sundays	8.00am HC at All Saints Mid-morning Benefice Service shared across the churches				

There is a midweek communion on Tuesday and Friday in All Saints, said morning prayer on Wednesdays. Across the benefice in 2025, there were 10 baptisms, 6 weddings and 36 funerals / burials of ashes.

In addition to David, our Rector, the ministry team comprises David Kemp, a lay reader based at All Saints, Angela Smythe, a lay reader based in Butcombe; Francis Montagu based in Burrington; and Brian Whitehead who is currently based in Redhill to assist with the transition there. In total, the team has over a century in licensed ministry in one kind or another. They are supported by Sarah (Benefice Administrator) who staffs the benefice office three mornings per week (Tuesday – Thursday).



Lay ministry is increasingly encouraged with lay pastoral assistants, lay worship assistants and laypeople leading intercessions and 'preaching' occasionally. Across the benefice, the weekly Jumblies (0-5s), monthly Wriggly monkeys (0-5s), Messy Church (4-11s) and Café worship (in All Saints and St Mary's) are all lay-led, as are the quarterly pastoral teas.

We are also blessed by an army of volunteers for such duties as epistle reading, sidesmen, brass cleaning, flower arranging, coffee, churchyard maintenance, church cleaning, Health & Safety, safeguarding, catering at social events and so on.

There are three primary schools in the benefice with whom we have strong links e.g. leading worship, Open the Book teams, regular Church days, annual Christingle services within the schools and Christmas tree decorating.

There are currently three house groups within the benefice, and we hold an annual pre-Advent Benefice Awayday when we look at our life together in Christ. The congregations are mainly parish-based rather than gathered. Relationships with the United Reformed Chapel (in Wrington) are good with a Good Friday procession as well as a bi-annual re-enactment of the Nativity and community family fun day. St Mary's has a strong relationship with Churchill Methodists e.g. annual Harvest Festival.

Women's ministry is warmly affirmed across the benefice, in large part to the two women who have served here previously. No resolutions have been passed under the Priest (Ordination of Women) Measure. The PCCs have agreed in principle to using the new liturgical provision for same-sex couples (David having signalled his willingness to use such liturgies) though these services have not yet been used.

Vision and Priorities

The benefice has three PCCs: Wrington PCC (incorporating All Saints', Wrington, St Mary's, Langford and Christ Church, Redhill), Burrington PCC and Butcombe PCC. Each PCC sets its own vision and priorities (supported by Church councils for each church in the case of Wrington PCC).

Wrington PCC recently set its mission aims for the coming five years (2025 – 2029):-

Conscious of the generosity of God, we want to respond to his love by:-

- valuing and cherishing the people and resources which are part of the Church today
- enabling children and young families to deepen their curiosity about God
- encouraging the missing generation of those in their 20s – 50s and enable them to take their place as part of the people of God
- sharing our ministry and leadership
- seek to ensure the financial resources necessary to support the above Mission Aims



Burrington delights in offering a very traditional approach, with BCP Matins held twice per month. It benefits particularly from having the school next door who use the church for their worship three times per week. It is also the home of the Rock of Ages, the rock which inspired the hymn and holds an annual Songs of Praise beside the Rock.

In Spring 2025, St Michael's Butcombe became a "Festival plus church," continuing to offer one Sunday Eucharist per month but concentrating particularly on offering a Festival service seven-eight times per year e.g. Christingle, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Teddy Bear's Picnic, . This is beginning to attract particularly a number of new families who have moved into the village post-pandemic.



Conclusion

You would be joining us at an exciting time in the life of the benefice. We fully recognise that we need to offer much more than simply a diet of worship. Rather we need to be at the heart of our communities (and beyond) and encouraging our members of the church in their day-to-day ministry.