

Holy Trinity Benefice

Do you seek an incumbency with an all-age, diverse membership already in place or might you consider one with plenty of potential, just needing someone's clear vision and prayerful navigation to nurture development and growth?



Contents Page

Page 2 – Contents

Page 3 – Diocesan Statement – Our Vision for Growth and Transformation

Page 5 – A message from our area Dean

Page 6 – The current Team

Page 7 – Our Priorities, Benefice Vision and Hope

Page 8 – Welcome to Holy Trinity

Page 12 – Holy Trinity Church and Hamp Nursery and Infant School

Page 14 – Mothers Union

Page 15 – Phoenix (Bridgwater) Scout Group

Page 17 – Job Specification

Page 17 – What we can offer our new incumbent

Page 19 – The Vicarage

Page 20 – St Hugh's Church, Durleigh



Welcome to the Diocese of Bath and Wells



Introduction

We are delighted that you are considering whether this post of Interim Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Bridgwater Holy Trinity with Durleigh in the Diocese of Bath and Wells might be right for you. To help your prayerful discernment we want to share with you our diocesan vision for growth and transformation, within which we hope your own ministry might flourish.

A vision for growth and transformation

In light of the challenges and opportunities we face, our aim across all our parishes is 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.

Our shared priorities

To help us pursue this aim, we invite churches across our diocese to focus on five particular areas of our ministry together. We ask all incumbents in our diocese to make these their priorities, understanding that what they look like in practice will vary in each place.

To value, cherish and develop the people and resources we already have

We love and affirm our churches and congregations, aiming to ensure each person is well supported and equipped as a follower of Jesus Christ and for any ministries they are called to undertake.

To develop new Christian worshipping communities

Whether through new forms of worship, church revitalisations or church plants, we seek to offer people in our communities opportunities to connect with the good news of Jesus

To share in ministry and leadership

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

We long to see children, young people and young adults, having more opportunities to discover, explore and grow in faith and for people of all ages to deepen and grow in faith

To transform communities

We seek to work in partnership with our communities to serve the common good and to pursue the transformation of society, by God's grace, to reflect the Kingdom.

Our challenge to you

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 our challenge to each benefice is to see what it would take to growth by one adult and one child net during the coming year?

Our support for you

We aim to be a diocese that offers high support to help you meet these challenges and opportunities. We have an outstanding diocesan team who are focussed on parish support, offering specialist advice in both practical and missional areas. Clergy wellbeing is a priority for us and our confidential Counselling and Wellbeing Service is available at no cost to you and your family. We model collegiate working in every area of the diocese, including deaneries, where working together is encouraged and supported. The Bishops and Archdeacons carry out a regular programme of benefice visits to learn about the life of local churches, and your MDR is conducted within the context of these visits.

Your ministry in this Diocese

In summary, we are looking and praying for clergy 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 offers high challenge and 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 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. Might this be you?

Bishop Michael

Bishop Fiona

Archdeacon of Taunton

A message from the Deanery

The people, parishes and chaplaincies of the Sedgemoor Deanery take seriously our diocesan vision to 'live and tell the story of Jesus'. Like the diocesan priorities we seek to value the people we have while intentionally focussing our resources on mission and outreach. The Deanery has 23 places of worship which are grouped into eight benefices.

Sedgemoor Deanery is committed to training and working with Lay Worship Assistants, Pastoral Assistants and Chaplains.

Deanery Synod meets three times a year. Each meeting is café style and is open to all in the deanery (who have an interest in the subject being discussed). We use this as an opportunity to learn from each other and share ideas and to feed into our discussions at DMPG.

DMPG is managing pastoral reorganisation in the Deanery. There is a commitment to enabling Holy Trinity with Durleigh to remain untouched, because of its Magnificat status.

Chapter meets up to ten times a year over lunch and is very supportive. We are often joined by our Lay Dean, whose wisdom we value. At this time of change in the world and the church we welcome new ideas. We invite you to share in the vision and work of this deanery as we seek to grow the Kingdom of God in this place.

Kirsty Wells

Area Dean

revkirsty@hotmail.com

Catherine Carlyon

Assistant Area Dean

vicar@stfrancissaxongreen.org

Ann Philcox

Lay Dean

ann.philcox@bathwells.anglican.org

The Team at Holy Trinity:

Rector - Vacant

Church Wardens – Jennie Parker and Graham Neilly

Benefice Administrator - Coral Tucker

Benefice Treasurer – Tina Swift

Benefice Deanery Synod Representatives - Jennie Parker and Coral Tucker

Benefice PSO - Karen Neilly

PCC Members:

Sue Brawley – Weekly duty coordinator

Lorna Dyson - Sacristan

Elaine Prowse – Gift Aid

Jeff Gardner – Electoral Roll Officer

Annie Jones - Sacristan

Charles Pipe-Wolvisten Organist



Our Priorities, Benefice Vision and Hope

Our Priorities:

- To deepen our commitment to corporate as well as private prayer and to grow our understanding of Christian discipleship, so that we may better identify God's Priorities in this time of change and challenge.
- To make progress in fulfilling our financial commitment to the diocese.

Our Benefice vision and Hope:

- That we might be able to find confidence in the future and a pathway to enable the growth in our church that we believe God offers to all his children.
- That with a growing and deepening faith, we may develop the skill and confidence to 'to live and tell the story of Jesus'; a viable, Christian message to our community.
- That our church membership might come to reflect the breadth of the community we serve while valuing and cherishing the people and resources we already have.
- That we might be able to continue to offer an effective Christian ministry to the schools in the benefice, supporting the staff, the children and their families.



Welcome to Holy Trinity Church

Established: 1961

Capacity: Up to 200 people for services

We are situated 10 minutes from junction 24 of the M5 – ‘gateway to the South West’. Bristol is 40 minutes north and Exeter 40 minutes south, each with their own airport. We are in an increasingly popular area in which to live and work and is a valued leisure destination.

Bridgwater as well as being the home of carnival has a host of valuable amenities schools, Community Hospital, Theatre and is currently going through a face lift (known as the Celebration Mile). We have the Quantock Hills AONB on our doorstep along with access to vast amounts of beautiful countryside.



Holy Trinity Church, a proud member of the Church of England, is a vibrant and loving community dedicated to worshipping and praising God whilst sharing the love of Christ with all. Our church is a welcoming and inclusive place, and our ministry extends beyond the church building aiming to demonstrate and share the love of Christ in the wider community. Holy Trinity is in an area of multiple deprivation, known in our diocese as a Magnificat parish. We are located in the heart of South Bridgwater, serving a diverse parish that includes three local schools and welcoming individuals from all walks of life. We feel it is fundamental to deepen and grow faith in all that we do.

The purpose of our church building and community is for the worship and praise of God and for celebrating the love of Christ in our community.

Our mission is to welcome all to share God's love by means of:

- Being available to each other and to our wider community
- Being open: open to God; open hearted; inclusive and welcoming to others; having an open church building (as far as reasonably possible).
- Being encouraging.
- Forming relationships

We value our fellowship and friendship by sharing testimony and time with God and each other. We value prayer and scripture by listening to God and sharing his love at the morning prayer meetings.

Growing together:

We are a growing church with a small number of children and we are always delighted to welcome visitors and newcomers of all ages and backgrounds. Currently the congregation is formed with an 8-month-old up to a very young 80+ year olds and we'd be delighted to welcome more to join our church family where you will find support, friendship and opportunities for spiritual growth.

Community Engagement:

At Holy Trinity, we believe that our ministry extends beyond the church walls. We actively support organizations such as the TEAR Fund, the Children's Society, and Christian Aid, embodying our commitment to serving those in need.

The church building makes an excellent venue for concerts, plays rehearsals, exhibition etc. We are excited to host events like our upcoming Christmas Special with the Rock Choir. We welcome its use by the wider community and it is available for hire for suitable users (at the discretion of the PCC).

We have a church hall which we hire out for various events on a one off and regular bookings e.g. Scouts, Cubs, Squirrels, an Art Club and Birthday parties. We host talking Newspaper group and we take the Open book into one of our neighbouring schools.

Fellowship and Activities:

The Church's social life can be lively, fun and enjoyable for all to share, events such as an annual barn dance, Summer and Christmas fairs along with an annual outing to a place of interest.

We cherish the fellowship and friendships that form within our congregation and offer regular activities, including a Monday morning Craft and Social Group, weekly prayer meetings and Holy Communion services every Sunday.

Looking toward the future:

At Holy Trinity Church, we recognise the vital role that a strong and passionate leader plays in guiding our community toward spiritual growth and outreach. As our church continues to evolve, we seek a vicar who possesses not only a deep faith but also the ability to inspire and motivate our congregation. A dedicated leader will help us navigate the challenges of modern ministry, ensuring that we remain relevant and responsive to the needs of our community. With a visionary approach, we hope to cultivate new ministries, enhance our outreach efforts, and strengthen our existing programs. We believe that a passionate leader can empower our congregation to actively live out our mission, fostering an environment where faith flourishes and love abounds. Together, we can build a vibrant future, deepening our relationships with God and one another while reaching out to those who have yet to experience the warmth of our church family. We hope to benefit from fresh insights and wise leadership of a new incumbent to build our strength and to thrive in the future.



Audio Visual Facilities

Having previously had a sound system which really needed updating the PCC took the decision in 2019/20 to seek advice on a completely new Audio Visual system.

Taking advantage of the Lockdown closure of the church we had the equipment installed in the Summer of 2020.

We now use this regularly to display the words of the Communion Service, illustrating the readings and sometimes the sermons (this was easier with an incumbent who would either choose their own pictures or give the AV volunteer bullet points of the sermon to select illustrations from. We also use it for special services such as Christingle or any other festival which benefits from the words being projected.

- As we only have an organist once a month we sometimes utilise the system for worship songs/hymns, too.
- The use of this equipment is often requested for funerals or weddings.
- We have also live streamed such things as the late Queen's jubilee and the Coronation of King Charles III.
- The Juniors made use of these facilities for their leavers' assembly.

Holy Trinity Social Team

Holy Trinity has a very active social team we try to have an event every month if possible.

We run a successful Social morning on Monday's people from all walks of life can join us, whether it is to craft, chat make friends or just sit quietly and enjoy a coffee and piece of cake. Age is no barrier either, anyone and everyone is welcome.

We have the usual yearly fund-raising events Summer fete and Christmas Fayre. Parish outings, Barn dances and concerts, plus we join together with the local community association a couple of times a year enabling us to encourage locals to visit the church and feel the warmth and friendship we have to offer.

After Palm Sunday we have a "bring and share" lunch this is always very popular.

Harvest Festival donations are for the local food bank, again we share lunch this time the proceeds go to the Tear Fund.

Plus in true Holy Trinity fashion whatever the occasion we have cake!!





Holy Trinity Church and Hamp Nursery and Infant school

In past years the incumbent and/or curate of Holy Trinity Church have made strong links with the three schools in the vicinity of the Church. These being The Robert Blake Science college (Secondary), Hamp Academy (Juniors) and Hamp Nursery and Infant school.

Recently access to both the Secondary and Junior schools has been denied following a change of leadership within the schools, but the link with Hamp Infants has remained strong.

Before leaving us for his own Parish our Curate, Rev Dean Whitaker asked two of us (Coral and Jennie) if we would think about continuing the weekly assemblies at the Infant School to maintain the link, as they had always been well received and is a great part of our mission and evangelism. In order to ease the transition, the two of us joined him for an assembly held in the church in January and helped with the action songs and narration of the story. Later in January just one of us (Jennie) went to join Dean for an assembly at the school. In the meantime Jennie had heard about the Open The Book materials (really designed for Junior school) and undertook the video training.

Jennie continued to lead a brief assembly (2.30 – 2.45pm) using this material, and in June was joined by Charlie (Charlotte) who absolutely threw herself into the activity providing props, visual aids and a second voice to the stories. Charlie is an amazing asset as she works locally, lives on the Estate and knows lots of the children and their parents. Charlie led an assembly on her own early in July and explained why she used fish shaped badges for the characters in the story. As she knew some of the children she was able to get some of them involved as characters in the story. All the children seemed to enjoy this and even the parents were interested to know what story the children had heard that afternoon.

The year 2 leavers held their leaving assembly in the church on 16th July and have requested a Harvest Festival in the church on 8th October.

Charlie plans to teach the children a song that she learned when she attended the same school. We are hoping that by keeping this assembly going we may eventually be able to encourage some young families to attend the church.

The Junior school also used the church for their Year 6 leavers assembly on 18th July, having requested 4 rehearsals prior to this. Coral organised everything to do with this and it was a resounding success.



What is Mother's Union?

We are a Christian organisation that has been supporting families worldwide for nearly 150 years. Started by our founder Mary Sumner in 1876 in her local parish, we have grown into an international charity with over 4 million members in 83 countries.

As a Christian membership charity, we demonstrate our faith in action. This happens as we work towards ending poverty, ending inequality ending injustice. Our members work at grass-roots level around the world. They bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.

As a registered charity, we campaign at local, national and international levels to bring about real change for gender equality and for the rights of women and girls.

We have a small Branch in Bridgwater working with branches and groups across the Bath and Wells Diocese where our main projects are running Contact Centres and providing 'Away From It All' holidays for families under duress.

We are a prayerful group, involved in Bible studies and supporting the work of Mothers' Union Worldwide.





Phoenix (Bridgwater)Scout Group

Holy Trinity Church

We're Scouts and everyone's welcome here. All genders, races and backgrounds. Every week we give young people the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills you need for life.

The Adventure

Our children are offered many opportunities that some may never get elsewhere.

- Rock climbing
- Archery
- Paddle boarding
- Camping

Learning new skills:

- Cooking
- Sewing
- Fire lighting
- First aid

If you can think of it, we will do our best to make it happen.

Fun, Friends and new Adventures

We meet at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Hamp Street TA6 6AN Term time only

- Squirrels age 4 -6 yrs Wednesdays 5:00pm – 6:00pm
- Team leader: Kate & Shannon
- Beavers age 6 - 8 yrs
- Tuesdays: 5:15pm- 6:15pm
- Team leaders: Jo & Emma
- Cubs age 8 - 10.5 yrs
- Fridays 6:30pm – 8:00pm
- Team leaders: Mark & Louise
- Scouts age 10. -14 yrs
- Thursday 6:15pm – 8:15pm
- Team leaders Sarah & Adrian

Volunteer in a way that is good for you

We are blessed to have our core of regular volunteers who assist of an evening giving up their time to support the group. However, we are all, mums, dads, aunties, friends, who also have other commitments and day jobs.

We're looking for people to make an impact behind the scenes. Tell us what you're interested in, and we'll help you find something that matches your skills (and the time you have available).

We'd love to give you the chance to try out different things, meet the team, and see what supports on offer before you decide whether to be involved.

Our volunteers work throughout the year fundraising. We believe that no child should be financially disadvantaged from taking part in adventurous activities and other fun experiences. This year our fundraising include: VE Day at Blake gardens 'have a go archery' at Armed Forces Day, running games at 'Holy Trinity' summer fete, Somerset 3 Peaks Challenge, car boot sales, Carnival (coin collecting) Beaver bingo, selling Christmas Crafts.



**Job specification: we are looking for a Minister with the
following gifts....**

Professional skills and experience:

- ✓ Someone with experience of and/love for a Magnificat Parish.
- ✓ Someone with an understanding of the economic challenges in a Magnificat Parish and able to build faith and finance to meet the vision.
- ✓ Someone who knows their own skills and gifts as well as their own limitations.
- ✓ Someone able to lead an effective Christian ministry the schools in the benefice, supporting the staff, the children and their families.
- ✓ Someone ready to become known in our community, a recognised ambassador.
- ✓ Spiritual Strengths and Personal Qualities:
- ✓ Someone with an infectious faith, ready to share it with us and our community.
- ✓ Someone with a maturity of faith, leading by example a life of discipleship and service.
- ✓ Someone able to access the resources needed to support and develop their own faith while carrying a public leadership role.

- ✓ Someone ready to keep their own learning up to date and to guide us into a deeper understanding of our faith.
- ✓ Someone ready to listen, to deal sensitively with those in need, or who fear change, enabling church members and non-members alike to share themselves with confidence.
- ✓ Someone ready to engage with our current, most traditional, services but to broaden our experience to encompass new and different ways to worship.
- ✓ A 'people person' with a sense of humour, who can relate to all ages and backgrounds.

We are confident we can offer:

- ✓ A generous, positive welcome.
- ✓ A beautiful part of God's earth in which to live. The Somerset Levels and the Quantock Hills AONB, rich in scenery, wildlife and places to relax and unwind.
- ✓ The benefits of nearby facilities in Bridgwater and Taunton.
- ✓ A knowledgeable Administrator/Safeguarding Officer who knows the benefice well.
- ✓ The expectation that our incumbent will access their full entitlement to days off, annual holiday, retreats, training opportunities and that legitimate expenses will be paid promptly.
- ✓ A good Diocesan/Parish relationship, which has been fruitful in the past.
- ✓ Church Officers who are happy to record that we too are people of faith, have a sense of humour and enjoy meeting together, especially if there's cake!

This has come from the congregation:

compassion + empathy
Openness
Outreach
Communication—young people
A person of the people
Enthusiasm

Gospel
Live music
Band

Considering that we are a Magnificat church

Fellowship
Patience
understanding

Someone who will keep some of our traditions but also move us forward and accept some modern changes as the family we are

SENSE OF
HUMOUR

FRIENDLY AND
WELCOMING

WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IN A NEW VICAR

APPROACHABLE

LOTS OF SINGING
AND HAPPINESS

Interested in attracting young families and children

Preaching the Gospel in traditional and in modern Settings with the dignity of Eucharist

Someone with a heart for the people of Hamp and beyond

VICAR

OUTREACH
APPROACH

Interest in working with young people and schools in the area

Sense of humour (jolly like Father Christmas)

TAKES AN INTEREST IN ALL THE GROUPS THAT USE THE CHURCH AND GET THEM TO INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER

Your new home:

The property is a four-bedroom detached house offering a kitchen/family room, dining area, utility, living room, study, WC and a family bathroom. The master bedroom has an ensuite. There is a double garage, parking and a good-sized garden.



ST HUGH'S CHURCH, DURLEIGH

Parish Profile

St Hugh's is the Parish Church for Durleigh, in the benefice of Bridgwater Holy Trinity and Durleigh St Hugh and is part of the Diocese of Bath & Wells.

The Church is a Grade II Listed Building, consisting of a two-bay Nave and a Chancel. According to Sir Nicholas Pevsner, it is of Norman origin, dating back to the 12th Century. The Chancel was rebuilt in the Thirteenth Century and in the early Fourteenth Century, the Nave windows were replaced and the distinctive saddleback tower was added. There is a 15th Century octagonal Font in the church and evidence of the existence of a Rood Gallery across the east end of the Nave, by way of the stone steps to the Rood loft, behind a small door on the north Nave wall.

Durlege or Durleigh means "the wood frequented by deer" and the original settlement was undoubtedly a Saxon clearing in the wood, to establish a farmstead. By the time of the Domesday Book, it was a well-rooted small community, held before the Norman Conquest by a Saxon Thane called Alfsi. It would seem that Durleigh church was originally a chapel, servicing a hunting lodge in the Royal Hunting Forest of North Petherton, on whose northern perimeter it stands. Known originally as the Chapel in the Woods, legend suggests that King John, who hunted in the Forest whilst staying at Bridgwater Castle, built the chapel for his huntsmen in the twelfth century.

The descriptive window of St Hubert in the North Chancel adds weight to the legend that there was an intention to dedicate the Chapel to St Hubert, the Patron Saint of Hunting, although there is no evidence to suggest such a dedication was ever made.

Much restoration has been carried out over the years, including during the Victorian era, and St Hugh's is well looked-after and in remarkably good condition.

In 1938, most of the village of Durleigh was flooded to create Durleigh Reservoir, by damming Durleigh Brook, a tributary of the River Parrett.

The reservoir covers around 80 acres. The church stands on a hill close to the reservoir.

On 30th November 2003, Durleigh Church was dedicated in honour of St Hugh of Lincoln and on 8th May 2006, the Parish was transferred from the Benefice of St Mary's Bridgwater, Holy Trinity Chilton Trinity and St Hugh's Durleigh to the new Benefice of Holy Trinity Bridgwater and St Hugh's Durleigh.

The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the Church but maintenance of the closed churchyard is the responsibility of the District Council.

Aims and Purposes

St Hugh's Church aims to promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The purpose of the church is for the worship and praise of God and to celebrate the love of Christ in our community.

Church Attendance:

At present there are four members on the Church Electoral Roll, only one of whom is resident within the parish. Last year, the average weekly attendance was five adults. While we are few in number, we are very conscious of the need to protect and keep open this beautiful, peaceful and historic church.

Worship and Prayer

St Hugh's is a very caring church community that welcomes everyone, whether or not they are regular attenders. We follow the Book of Common Prayer Evensong service on the second Sunday of the month and Common Worship Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday, both at 3.00 pm. Occasionally, Compline replaces Evensong. There are no services on the first, third and occasional fifth Sundays in the month. Members of St Hugh's are always warmly invited to attend events and services at Holy Trinity Church and members of Holy Trinity are warmly welcomed at any St Hugh's services, as are all visitors.

Weddings, blessings, baptisms and funerals continue to be held at St Hugh's and the church often plays host to visiting bell ringers but because of the age of the building, resulting in a lack of kitchen and proper toilet facilities, together with its rather isolated location and lack of parking, the church does not really lend itself to use for other purposes.

