



# Benefice Profile

## Christ Church Nailsea with St Quiricus & St Julietta Tickenham



To know Christ and to make Him known

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Christ Church



St Quiricus & St Julietta

Benefice Website  
[www.christchurchnailsea.org.uk](http://www.christchurchnailsea.org.uk)

## A message from Bishop Michael

I am delighted that you are reading this profile of Christ Church Nailsea with St Quiricus & St Julietta Tickenham as the Benefice seeks to appoint a new priest to help lead their mission, ministry and worship.

The parishes' new priest will arrive at a time of change and development. Here in Bath & Wells we are currently bringing to a conclusion a programme of deanery led pastoral reorganisation that has touched almost all parts of our diocese.

I have seen the opportunities and challenges in the benefice echoed right across our diocese since I arrived last year to be Bath and Wells' 80th bishop. This is seeing us think afresh about how we can best live out our diocesan vision to live and tell the story of Jesus. Building on what has gone before we have identified four priorities that will be central to all that we do. They are:

- Valuing and cherishing the people and resources we already have
- Developing new Christian worshipping communities
- Sharing in ministry and leadership
- Deepening and growing faith

Our task as the people of God is going to be to work out what it means to turn these priorities into action in the very different contexts that exist across Somerset. When I read this profile, I was so glad that echoes of these priorities are to be found throughout it.

I hope that you'll be excited at the possibility of joining in with the vision, under God, that these churches have. If that's the case I do hope that you'll send us an application for this post so that we can all discern whether God is calling you to this beautiful part of North Somerset. It's going to be an exciting time for a new priest to join them, ready to work with the parishes' communities to identify all that God has in store and then to bring that vision into being.

Yours with every good wish,

+Michael

## Welcome

to Christ Church Nailsea with St. Quiricus & St. Julietta Tickenham, a benefice which unites a town centre parish with a village nearby.

We are two churches on a journey of faith together in a beautiful part of North Somerset. Each of our churches is unique and offers something different that enhances our benefice and the communities in which we serve.

We find ourselves in a vacancy sooner than we had anticipated but, guided by prayer and with God's grace, we are now excited to invite a new rector to lead us forward on our Christian journey together.



**Our Benefice Mission Statement is:**

### **To Know Christ and to make Him known**

**We bring this about by:**

- **Worshipping God** – recognising the value of meaningful worship, sacrament, preaching, teaching and praying through a range of Services, within small groups, and by providing places for prayer and quiet interaction with God
- **Being open to our communities** – by giving a warm and non-judgemental welcome to all
- **Working in our communities** – as churches we arrange and volunteer in many activities in our village and town
- **Revealing God's love** - within our communities, local schools, care / nursing homes and retirement complexes

## We offer:

- an opportunity to join us in this beautiful part of God's world
- friendly, welcoming and caring congregations
- Christians at all stages of our faith journeys
- excellent relationships with our church primary schools
- churches engaged and active within our communities
- thriving children and families' activities at Christ Church (led by a paid Children and Families' Worker) and a developing family engagement at Tickenham
- an active pastoral care team
- two active and supportive PCCs and Churchwardens



*Walking between our Parishes*

## We are praying for a rector called by God who is:

- spiritual, with a faith founded on biblical teaching and who is able to work enthusiastically, encouraging the gifts of others and with a ministry that is accessible to all
- excited to work with two distinct parishes
- eager for growth in all areas of ministry
- friendly, approachable and a good listener
- able to lead a variety of forms of worship, from traditional to innovative, that will answer to the varied preferences within our present and future congregations

And who shares our passion for the pastoral care of all in our communities.



*Richard Wheller LLM, our Reader*



*Annabel Cowley, our Administrator*

## **We are seeking a Rector who will lead and work with us to:**

- develop a ministry that both supports existing Christians and encourages new people to Christian faith
- make full use of opportunities for outreach and service to the community, particularly with our schools
- share ministry and work collaboratively with others, so that individuals' gifts and talents are identified and used effectively
- plan, organise and conduct a programme of worship and teaching which supports the benefice communities, developing their faith and responding to the needs of different ages and levels of faith or knowledge
- give support to those in need of pastoral care in collaboration with the Benefice Pastoral Care Co-ordinator and Pastoral Team
- ensure that structures, processes, policies and resources are appropriate, and meet diocesan and legal requirements

And who will manage an appropriate pattern of work that enables them to have a full spiritual and personal life, as well as meeting the demands of ministry.

## **Our resources include:**

- a Victorian town centre church and a medieval semi-rural village church
- an experienced LLM (Reader), a Lay Worship Assistant and a team of Lay Pastoral Assistants
- a part time administrator (20 hours a week) and a fully-equipped benefice office
- modern audio-visual systems in both churches
- a churchwarden in each parish, supported by deputy wardens
- good relationships with Christians Together in Nailsea & District
- a modern four bedroomed single storey rectory with a large study, garage, generous garden and parking area adjacent to Christ Church and the Town Centre



## Links with schools

Both our churches have strong links with our Church Schools including the provision of Foundation Governors. We also have links with other Nailsea schools, with both churches giving financial support to the employment of the Connect Lay Chaplain at **Nailsea School**.

**Kingshill Church School, Nailsea**, is part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust. The new headteacher (September 2023) is looking forward to working in partnership with us. We run a popular lunchtime chat and chill-out club, listen to children read, serve coffee at parent coffee mornings, take part in Open The Book assemblies and welcome the school to church for special services. Previous rectors have regularly led Collective Worship and during this vacancy the Baptist Pastor is occasionally doing this.

Since the pandemic we have had much more limited contact with **Ravenswood School** (Special Needs), however we are working to maintain our link.

**Tickenham Church of England Primary School** is a small school (part of the Futura Multi Academy Trust) which offers excellent teaching and promotes Christian values to around 100 children. Foundation Governors are usually members of the PCC. The rector has been a school governor and will be invited to become the school chaplain, attending school regularly. The last rector started a prayer group at school which has continued.

## Children and families

Though few in number on Sundays, our children and families are really important to us and we seek to maintain and develop our engagement with them.

We regret that neither church has youth work but see this as an area for development.

Tots @ Christ Church



## Children at Christ Church

We employ a part time Children & Families' Worker to lead our Children's Church service on the first Sunday of every month, to work with our two Tots Groups for parents/carers and toddlers and our Sunday Club. Children's Church is a short informal service and attracts up to a dozen families as well as regular church attendees of all ages. During our vacancy, a recently authorised young Lay Worship Assistant and a congregation member are assisting. In Advent we hold a popular Messy Church type afternoon preparing for a short Christingle service. We also have a craft session on Good Friday morning. Each Tots Group has their singing and a bible story in church at the end of every half term. Sunday Club is attended by a small group of children and teenagers twice a month, but a sprinkling of families are just beginning to come for craft activities on a Bible theme on third Sundays. We rejoice in this work and see huge potential to nurture these adults and children to faith.



## Children at Tickenham

We enjoy having young families at our church for monthly services, aided by our new audio-visual system and, with the help of our new rector, we are aiming to grow this area of our mission.

A relatively new initiative is a parent and toddler drop in / drop off group started by our previous rector. It offers the opportunity for young parents and toddlers to come into the village hall (after dropping off older children at school) for a social time one day a week during term time. This continues in the vacancy. It is envisaged that this will become a new parent and toddler group, something that was lost to the village due to Covid.

## Community engagement

As churches we see ourselves as integral parts of our local communities. We reach out with news and information through our church/village magazines (paper and online), our websites and Facebook (Christ Church). However, we recognise that communication is an area for development.

**At Christ Church** we serve our community by running a Lunch Club (initially a 'Warm Space'), Saturday Coffee, Game On! (Tea, cake and board games, a place to chat, knit etc) and Piecemakers Quilters. We host a monthly Film Club with a neighbouring Church. In addition, we have a ladies' gathering at Wetherspoons. Our summer and Christmas fairs attract the wider community as have a variety of concerts. Three of our worshippers are members of the Christians Together Town Centre Chaplaincy Team.



Each month we pray for and deliver Parish Prayer Cards to all the homes and work places in particular roads. These invitations to join us for worship, seek prayer or come for a free coffee on a Saturday are occasionally taken up.

Our hall is hired to the WI, Nailsea Choral Society, a Scottish Dance Group, other groups providing activities for children and adults and also for private parties. Church members engage with our community as members of these groups and through other activities across the town. We ensure our



churchyard and hall notice boards are kept interesting and informative and know that visitors read them.

Throughout the year we welcome pupils from across the town's schools, also Cubs and U3A groups to visit the church, as well as the Scout Group for their carol service.

**At Tickenham Church** we see our pastoral and social outreach towards the village and locality as part of our duty and Christian mission. We are keen to encourage new members particularly the occupants of the new homes. They have all received a 'welcome pack' from the church.

In recent years we have looked at ways of drawing people into our church for reasons other than for worship such as for music and quiet contemplation. This includes 'Friday Night Light' an informal, monthly musical event, held in the church on the last Friday of most months. People enter the candle-lit church, a varied programme of recorded music is playing, and they can come and go as they wish.

Throughout the summer, the church is left open to the public at weekends, sometimes with cream teas and in December for the village festival. People from as far as New Zealand visit and leave positive and delightful comments in the visitor's book. The December opening is particularly popular as it includes various displays created by our village groups on a different yearly theme, e.g. The Twelve Days of Christmas



In 2018 over 4,000 poppies were knitted by friends. They were displayed outside the church and could be seen across the moor from Nailsea. Many people travelled to see them and we continue to display the poppy net during remembrance week.

The Fundraising Group organise many events in the village to raise money for the church. We organise an annual harvest supper, and the Patronal Festival fayre in June and stalls at other village events.

## Worship

Our worship style in both churches is mainly “traditional”, with a solid biblical foundation, and a desire to hear and act on what God is saying to us day by day. Both churches use the same bespoke service booklets. Our robed choirs lead our singing, except for family services, and sing together for joint services, funerals and weddings.



Our current worship pattern is:

	<u>Christ Church</u>	<u>Tickenham</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	8.30. Said Holy Communion 10.00. Children’s Church (informal)	11.00. Holy Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	8.30. Said Holy Communion 10.00.- Holy Communion	11.00. Family Service
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	8.30. Said Holy Communion 10.00. Service of the Word	11.00. Holy Communion
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	8.30. Said Holy Communion 10.00. Holy Communion	11.00. Service of the Word
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	8.30. Said Holy Communion 10.00. United Benefice Service	<i>or</i> 11.00. United Benefice Service

Also at Christ Church:

10.00. Every Saturday - Morning Prayer  
10.00. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday - Holy Communion followed by Home Communion

During vacancy we have been able to offer Holy Communion at 8.30 am most Sundays, but with an occasional service of Morning Prayer (Lay led) which has been well received.



## Facts and figures

Our Electoral Rolls currently stand at 140 at Christ Church and 111 at Tickenham with our Worshipping Community numbers being 112 and 64. Total weekly attendance is around 70 and 25. There are up to 15 children at Christ Church and 6 at Tickenham.

## Our Parishes

### Christ Church Nailsea

Christ Church is adjacent to Nailsea Town Centre shopping precinct, an interesting yet challenging location. Our parish covers the northern part of the town whilst Holy Trinity parish is to the south.

Other neighbours are a large car park, retirement living complexes, one of two care/nursing homes (dementia speciality), one of two health centres and the local authority Garden of Rest. Nailsea School (11-18 comprehensive), Baptist, Methodist and URC churches, and a wide selection of private and housing association homes are nearby. Ten minutes' walk from the church are Kingshill Church School, Ravenswood School (Special Needs), Greenslade Pre-School, the Fire, Ambulance and Police stations. Also within the parish are a Scout HQ, Army and Air Cadet HQ, trading estates, two sports and social centres, parks and nature reserves. It's a good place to live.

**Church Life** We have three House Groups meeting for fellowship and bible study and we widened this and drew in others during Lent 2023. Previous incumbents have run a variety of study courses that have been well attended by both our own church members and those from other churches. Mothers' Union, After 8s (evening ladies' group), Book Club and Boys Night Out at the White Lion pub are mainly made up of church members but always advertised and open to all.



**Church Finances** We meet all our financial obligations and have built up a modest fabric fund to meet future maintenance expenditure. Although we have run a deficit on our operational income/expenditure in the last couple of years, we have been fortunate to have received a few legacies that have enabled us to meet our expenses. We run a well-supported planned giving scheme and use every opportunity to claim Gift Aid. Christ Church has three employees - a Director of Music, a cleaner, and a Children and Families' Worker. Christ Church manage the Benefice Administrator with costs being shared across the Benefice. We aim to donate 10% of our donor income to local, national and international charities and are an all year-round main weekly contributor of food to the Nailsea foodbank.

**Our Buildings** A typical Victorian style building, our Grade 2\* church was opened in 1843 to serve the coal miners and glass workers at this end of a then sprawling village. (Still referred to as ‘the village’ by long-time residents) The Chancel was re-ordered in 2001 when the choir stalls were replaced with chairs to make this a flexible space.



A Faculty has been granted to re-order the Nave. The pews will be removed, and the floor levelled to provide an inclusive space with improved wheelchair access that can be used by church and community. However, post pandemic, grant funding is less available for this type of project. We have many pledges in place from our congregation and are currently seeking the additional funds we need to cover the material works.

Our adjoining Vestry Hall was built in the 1970s and now includes the Benefice Administrator’s office, a small kitchen and toilet facilities. We await the report from our Quinquennial Inspection in July 2023. Verbally we were congratulated on our high level of routine maintenance. There is repair work to be done before too long, though our architect believes this should attract grant funding.

Our Churchyard has been ‘closed’ for over 30 years but we have a small plot for the burial of ashes without stones.

## Our challenges



- To nurture the mustard seeds of faith in all, especially the children and families who come to us
- To improve our financial situation so that we can better continue to engage in mission
- To bring our re-ordering plans to fruition so that we can reach out more widely in our community

## St Quiricus & St Julietta Tickenham

**Our church and village** Our 'church on the moor' is one of only three in the country with the double dedication to St Quiricus and St Julietta, a mother and son who were martyrs during the Diocletian persecution. It is a Grade 1 listed building with features from the 11th century onwards. It has a fine peal of bells going back to 1600. The Bave Chapel, in the south choir aisle, is ideal for private and group prayer and meditation and we are looking to our new rector to expand its use in this respect.



The church stands on a raised area of land above the moor, once under sea level, and stands next to Tickenham Court which has medieval origins. We are proud that our church has stood as a witness to Christ for almost a thousand years and all visitors remark on its beauty, tranquillity and spirituality.

Tickenham lies along the B3130 between Nailsea and the Victorian seaside resort of Clevedon. Over many years, ribbon development between scattered farms has created a long village with a population of just over 1000, recently enlarged by 50 new houses in 2 new housing estates. While some farms remain, it is now a commuter village into Bristol and beyond.



**The church in the village** The church lies some 300 metres away from the B3130. This means that access from most homes is not easy, with little parking at the church. Despite its commuter nature the village has many active groups and organisations. Life centres on the village hall, the school and the church. Many members of the PCC are active in these groups.

**Current projects** We have just submitted a Faculty application to remove the surround to the font, which has posed a health and safety risk. We are working on making changes to the bell tower to improve the bell ringing experience and to create storage. We have also been considering further re-ordering options and look forward to our new rector's input into these deliberations. All this has been made possible by a generous compensation payment from National Grid.

**Church Finances** As a small village with a small congregation, collection income is low and we depend on regular giving and fund raising to pay our way. However, we always pay our Parish Share in full. The 'Friends of Tickenham Church,' mostly non or occasional churchgoers, support the maintenance of our beautiful building with contributions specifically restricted to expenditure on the fabric of the building. In addition, we raised £17,000 a few years ago to



pay for the badly needed repairs to our west window. This appeal was very well supported by the village. We have been able to address the items outstanding from our last Quinquennial. We donate regularly to our local foodbank, including harvest goods and Christmas gifts. We also have collections for the Childrens Society in December. Church collections are periodically donated to specific charities during the year. At our fundraising events, we hold a raffle for a chosen charity.

### Our challenges

- Our ageing congregation
- We would like to build on our developing relationship with the children and youth of the school and village
- We would like to pursue our re-ordering process to make the church a more useful resource for the congregation and the village

## Christians Together in Nailsea & District (CTINAD)



Both our churches are members of CTINAD engaging in activities “where we work better together”.

Church leaders meet monthly, church representatives meet twice a year. All the churches join in worship six monthly and lead public worship and witness in Nailsea Town Centre on Armistice Day and Good Friday.

Current CTINAD activities are “Open the Book”, housing and supporting refugees, chaplaincy to the town centre shops, services in care homes and a retirement complex, children’s and youth work, Skatefest and monthly prayer meetings for our town and villages.

## Portishead Deanery

Christ Church Nailsea with St Quiricus and St Julietta, Tickenham are in the Deanery of Portishead. We are a friendly deanery. People get on well together and the clergy chapter is a place of mutual support.

We are committed to working together and ask all new clergy in the deanery to consider themselves a resource to the wider deanery. Most parish clergy have particular interests and specialisms. We encourage co-operation and working across parish boundaries.

We have just undertaken a difficult process of agreeing a new deployment plan which loses two Stipendiary Clergy over the next 5 years but that is now behind us. With a newly elected Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group and a newly adopted Deanery Plan (both in September 2023) we are now engaged in moving forward across the whole Deanery.

The 23 parishes (plus a conventional district) of the Deanery of Portishead have set ourselves a challenging deanery plan to:

- inspire us to respond to God's call where we are
- equip people to share in ministry and leadership
- better share and publicise events or initiatives that are taking place in our own local context

We look forward to meeting and working with the new Rector of Christ Church, Nailsea with St. Quiricus & St. Julietta Tickenham.

Astrid Tiesema-Samsom Co-Area Dean  
Rob Eastwood Dewing Co Area Dean  
Rob Norman Lay Dean

## **FINALLY – From the Benefice:**

Thank you for reading about us. Please get in touch if we can further help you to explore and discern whether God is calling you to join us on our journey to know Christ and to make Him known.

**God our father,  
help us to put our trust in you  
to send your chosen person  
to lead us on to where you would have us be.  
Amen**