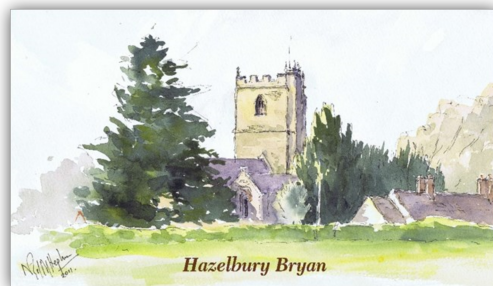
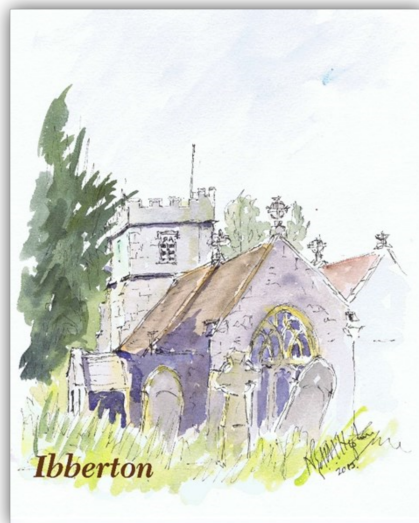


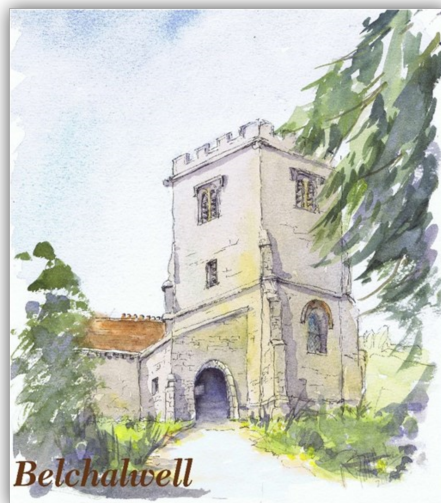
**The Church of England
Diocese of Salisbury**



**The Parish
Profile for
The Benefice of
Hazelbury Bryan
and the Hillside
Parishes**



**The appointment
of a House for
Duty Rector
designate**



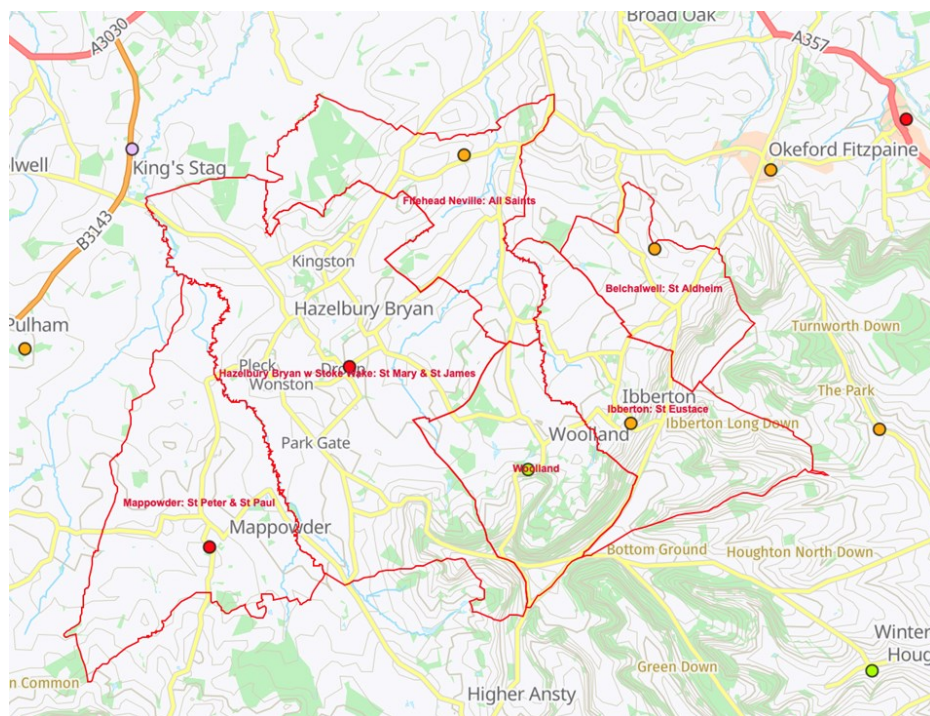
Contents

Map of the Parishes.....	3
Introduction by the Bishop of Sherborne.....	4
The Benefice of Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes	5
The Six Parishes	6
The Parish of St Aldhelm at Belchalwell.....	7
The Parish of All Saints at Fifehead Neville.....	7
The Parish of St Mary and St James at Hazelbury Bryan with Stoke Wake.....	9
The Parish of St Eustace at Ibberton.....	10
The Parish of St Peter and St Paul at Mappowder.....	11
The Parish of Woolland.....	12
The Role Description and Priest Profile	13
What the Benefice can offer	14
The Local Ministry Group	15
The Pilgrim Priests.....	16
The Blackmore Vale Deanery.....	17

Appendix

The Priest's Residence	19
Current Pattern of Sunday Services	20
Benefice Administration	21

Map of the Parishes



"Source: Church of England Research & Statistics unit, Church of England Church commissioners"

Introduction to the Vacancy by the Bishop of Sherborne

Thank you for your interest in this post. As House for Duty Rector designate you will have pastoral care of 6 churches in the beautiful Blackmore Vale part of Dorset. The living is currently suspended however we hope this to be lifted by the time a new Rector is in post. This is due to the newly formed Pilgrim Group Ministry, coming into operation, where local clergy are encouraged to work together, support one another and have a common mission around Sturminster Newton, Sturbridge and the surrounding rural communities.

Rural ministry in Dorset is a joy and a delight. In recent years significant changes have been made in the way clergy are supported and encouraged, leading to a greater sense of collegiality in our rural areas.

The Blackmore Vale Deanery, in which the benefice is situated, has been shaped to ensure there are clergy clusters, north and south for mutual support and fellowship. The southern cluster, comprising of clergy from the rural villages which include Child Okeford, Stallbridge, Shillingston, Hazelbury Bryan, and Sturminster Newton includes, a curate and experienced clergy committed to collaborative ministry. The benefices formed their own Covenant a few years ago as the Pilgrim Group of parishes, and have traditionally shared together in a week of pilgrimage each year. There will be a warm welcome amongst this clergy grouping for whoever comes to Hazelbury Bryan.

The benefice itself enjoys beautiful rural countryside yet is within easy reach of Blandford, Dorchester and Yeovil. Gillingham and Sherborne stations offer rail connections to Salisbury, Exeter and London Waterloo.

Dorset attracts a significant number of clergy who come to retire in a rural location and it has been gratifying to see how a local team of lay and ordained has developed across the benefice during the vacancy to sustain a pattern of worship and ministry. There is a desire for this to continue, however a House for Duty priest, offering Sunday plus 2 days, is vital now to serve as a point of contact for pastoral care and to develop mission and ministry further.

In the diocese there is also a commitment to encourage the development of Lay Ministry, and local programmes of training to develop Lay Pastoral Assis-

tants and Lay Worship Leaders are proving to be successful particularly in our rural benefices. These courses give individuals confidence in their calling as well as support benefices in their local response to the need for worship and pastoral care.

We are seeking therefore someone with a heart for small rural communities, for collaborative working and who wishes to build on all that is already going on. Someone who can make the most of colleagues, hold lightly to trying to do everything and who can offer a prayerful and priestly presence. This may be a final post, or it may be that you wish to combine ministry with other interests, or work.

Should you wish to know more about this vacancy please do not hesitate to pay a visit or contact the Archdeacon the Ven Penny Sayer (01305 269074) or myself. Here in Dorset we aim to offer great opportunities, wonderful countryside, supportive colleagues and some deeply spiritual places of worship and retreat.

Bishop Karen (01747 811960)

The Benefice of Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes

We are a group of six parishes and six churches, Belchalwell, Fifehead Neville, Hazelbury Bryan with Stoke Wake, Ibberton, Mappowder and Wooland.

The area is predominately rural. The population (1,710) has a diverse spread of ages with a good proportion of young people and families. Many now commute to their place of work, out of the villages, and there are a number of holiday homes in the area.

On fifth Sunday of each month there is a joint benefice service which is rotated around the parishes. This may be Holy Communion or a Service of the Word. An attempt is made to allow the parishes to share equally in the Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and other services during Holy Week. Special services are often held for major church festivals such as Plough Sunday, Candlemas, Holy Week, Harvest, Advent and Christmas. On Palm Sunday, the procession through one of the villages led by a donkey has become a regular feature.

Over the last seven years, a group has met fortnightly for Bible study, largely under the guidance of James Hepburn, licensed lay minister.

There is a friendly relationship with the Bulbarrow Christian Fellowship which meet at Ibberton village hall, and the licenced lay ministers have been known to take their services.

The six benefice churches all give regularly to mission and six parish Lent lunches are arranged every year with proceeds given to charity.

The six parochial church councils within the benefice work to maintain their churches and support the mission of the church. PCC meetings are generally chaired by the vice-chair (lay person). The churchwardens of the benefice meet with the local ministry group every three months.

There are four lay worship leaders and they, along with some church wardens, conduct non-Eucharistic services. All parishes have a team of readers organised locally. There are lay worship leaders who are trained to prepare and lead prayers of intercession and do so in the parishes generally.

There is a benefice choir, based at Hazelbury Bryan, but it also sings around the parishes. All churches possess a musical instrument (organ, harmonium or clavinova). Hazelbury Bryan also has a 'loop' sound system, a CD player and hymn backing tracks.

A parish magazine is edited voluntarily and produced in ten issues throughout the year at a small charge. It is distributed widely across the benefice by a team of volunteers. This encompasses both church and village news from around the six parishes. In addition, a bi-weekly pew sheet is produced and delivered to all churches in the benefice.

The Six Parishes

The Parish of St Aldhelm at Belchalwell

The village is one of the smallest in the group, with a population of about seventy-five, and twenty-seven names on the electoral roll. The very old church is in a good state of repair and the churchyard is immaculate. There is a flourishing Sanctuary Guild who make sure there are fresh flowers in the church each week. The average congregation is nine, but festivals are always well attended.

The Parish of All Saints at Fifehead Neville

The Parish of All Saints at Fifehead Neville and Fifehead St Quintin comprises sixty households scattered across the valley of the River Divelish with a mixed population of about one hundred and fifty. There are twenty-two on the church electoral roll.

The church dates partly from 15th century with 18th century modifications and is in a good state of repair. A detailed history of the church has been produced. The churchyard is closed to new burials, but there is a peaceful graveyard just up the lane. PCC members work hard to ensure the church remains central in the community and strive to ensure financial and structural stability for future generations. Most maintenance work is carried out by volunteers. There is a small hall which is church property, administered by a separate committee, providing a venue for local functions and church events.

We are passionate about our church and believe it to be of paramount importance to maintain regular Eucharistic worship in the parish. Over the years we have evolved with young and old, traditionalists and others, being open to change and developments in liturgy.

We currently have two services each month, usually these are Holy Communion and Morning Prayer, with one being taken from the Book of Common Prayer, the other following Common Worship. We are open to exploring fresh ideas on how this might evolve. At major festivals our small church is usually full with visiting and local families, we can comfortably seat around seventy people, and we are generally known as a welcoming church and there is good interchange with others in the benefice.

In our small villages, the village hall committee, churchwarden and PCC members are responsible for spearheading most community events, including the annual summer fete, Lent lunches and coffee mornings. Whilst helping to raise essential funds, these occasions provide a wonderful opportunity to involve all members of the wider community and the PCC sees this as an essential part of its Christian mission.

Ours is a caring neighbourhood, and whilst we have the resources to initiate community activities, we do need someone who can undertake pastoral visiting, and encourage and inspire us to develop our worship to the benefit of mission. We would hope that whoever is appointed as house for duty priest can be a visible presence within the parish and give us strong leadership and support.

The Parish of St Mary and St James at Hazelbury Bryan with Stoke Wake

The village is Thomas Hardy's 'Nettlebury.' It has a population of about 1,059 spreads between the seven hamlets. Some of these have grown into each other. This is the only village of the six where development has been encouraged by the County planners over recent years, probably because it has a shop, a pub and a school. However, the bus service is almost non-existent.

The County Primary School in the village has 102 pupils (this includes 20 nursery pupils) on roll drawn from the parishes in the group, except Belchalwell. The school's relationship with the church is good and school services are held in the church. Sturminster Newton High School (five miles away) takes children from eleven up to the age of eighteen.

Village facilities include a shop, a pub, a village hall, and a summer café/gallery. There are also two largeish employers, including Snooks Building Contractors, and part of the Hunt's Food Group.

There are a number of active societies in the village, including a lunch club at the village hall, a gardening club, an art group, an allotment society, book groups, playreaders and art groups, and the Royal British Legion. There is a recreation ground known as Alec's Field with a sports pavilion and children's playground. There are village cricket and football teams.

The earliest known record of a church on its present site dates back to 1246. Our church is situated in the settlement known as Droop which is thought to originally have been the centre of the village, but we understand it separated out into different settlements after the Black Death. The present church seats about one hundred and thirty people, and there are currently forty-three on the Church Electoral Roll. St Mary & St James is the largest church in the Benefice and has a car park with an office and a disabled WC (currently being built). The congregation varies from about twenty on some Sundays to twenty-five to thirty for the Family Communion service. There are four services each month, with a balance between Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship. With its space, the church often plays host to special services, such as the Gift and Christingle services, the Easter service, All Souls' Day, Trinity Sunday and Remembrance Sunday. At Christmas there is a midnight Holy Communion and a family service on Christmas Day.

There is a church choir which is composed of people from more than one parish. They attend two services at Hazelbury Bryan and one at Mappowder. A rota is prepared by a lay person for readers, and there are a good supply of people who volunteer as sides persons.

A bible study is held bi-weekly in the house of one of the LLMs. There is a set of six bells which are rung on special occasions by a team drawn from surrounding villages. There is a fine Henry Dyer organ in the church which has been moved and renovated in the last six years. There is also a back-up music system linked to a sound system in the church.

A team of dedicated flower ladies make sure there are always fresh flowers in the church, with special flowers for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Each year there is also usually a flower festival which usually coincides with the annual church and village fete which is held in the garden of the adjacent Manor Farm by kind permission of the owners. Their barn is also sometimes used for church activities.

The PCC has a dedicated mission fund and in the past donations have been made to a number of charities both local national and international.

The Parish of St Eustace at Ibberton

Ibberton is one of the Hillside Parishes which, together with Belchalwell and Woolland, joined the Benefice of Hazelbury Bryan toward the end of 1991. The village has a population of approximately 108 and there are 28 on the electoral roll.

St. Eustace Church is late 14th century and lately restored from a near derelict condition in the early years of 20th century. It is generally in a good state of repair and no major work is anticipated in the near future. The parish has always paid its share in full. The village is set at the foot of Ibberton Hill and the church is reached by a steep halterpath and two flights of steps.

The village houses a pub and a village hall, which is shared with Belchalwell and Woolland. Each month there are two main services in the Church, on the first Sunday at 11.00 am Holy Communion and on the third Sunday Evensong at 6.30 pm. The Sunday Club for families meets in the Village Hall at 10.30 am on the Third Sunday of the month, and at Easter, Christmas and Harvest the group move to the Church for a special Family Service.

The Parish of St Peter and St Paul at Mappowder

Mappowder is a village of some 70 houses, including outlying farms (population about 170). The centre of the village is listed as a conservation area. For most of the 20th century, the village economy was dependent on the dairy farming industry with a number of small farms. As farming has changed with farms becoming larger units, their number has decreased. The population is now a mix of those who have chosen to come and retire in the village and those who earn their livings elsewhere, with a few of the original village families still left. There are a very small number of children and teenagers who travel outside the village to schools.

There are 9 on the fairer share count. The church is dedicated to St Peter and St Paul. The congregation is drawn from the whole benefice and numbers attending services have been slowly reducing, the best attended service being monthly Morning Praise with usually between 12 and 16 people, including the benefice choir. The monthly communion service (alternate months Book of Common Prayer, and Common Worship) normally attracts between 6 and 8. The church is generally well attended for the Christmas Eve carol service and, reflecting its farming origins, the harvest festival. The local churchgoers are a lively group, actively involved in village matters, including events at the village hall and the production of a monthly village newsletter. The church itself is a mixture of medieval and Victorian. The church and its environs are well maintained on a routine basis thanks to the efforts of a small band of people, not all of whom are church goers.

A Quinquennial review was carried out in 2019 and recommendations are being acted upon and reviewed.

The bells were re-hung at the millennium, using an anonymous donation, and there is an enthusiastic team of bellringers drawn from the surrounding villages.

The Parish of Woolland

Woolland lies at the foot of Woolland Hill, deep in Hardy Country in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The village boasts few public amenities, but it does have a lovely 19th century church which affords very fine views across the Blackmore Vale. The present church was built as a chapel by Sir Gilbert Scott. The spire was rebuilt in 1987, some £20,000 having been raised to pay for the work. It has unusual, sepia coloured windows and other attractive features, and the churchyard is home to a famous yew tree, reputedly at least two thousand years old. It is some time since we had a Quinquennial Review but the church is in a reasonable state of repair.

Average attendance at the monthly Evensong service is approximately eight. Woolland, Ibberton and Belchalwell combine to hold an annual church fete. Woolland Church has always paid its Share in full. We have one churchwarden and the PCC comprises six other people. Our building is open every day during daylight hours. A parish magazine is delivered on ten months of the year. There are forty households in the village.

The Role Description and Priest Profile

The vacant post is for a non-stipendiary house for duty Rector, licensed to the benefice of Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside parishes. The benefice is in the Diocese of Salisbury, the Archdeaconry of Dorset, and the Deanery of the Blackmore Vale.

Depending on the skills and interests of the Rector and the needs of the parishes, details of his/her responsibilities can be developed in agreement with the archdeacon and the rural dean.

The new priest will be engaged to work for two full days and a Sunday each week, in return for a house in Hazelbury Bryan, provided by the diocese, and with the statutory holiday entitlement.

The priest can expect the mutual support of the other ministers within the nineteen Pilgrim Parishes.

We are hoping to find someone who:

Has the capacity to lead the benefice in building its vision for mission and in encouraging spiritual development;

Understands the needs of that part of the community which does not currently support the church and endeavour to reach out;

Can recognise the importance of time being put aside for reflection and quiet days and will encourage those around to do the same;

Wish to preach the faith in an engaging way and who can inhabit a variety of worship styles;

Can encourage and lead study groups whenever the need arises;

Understands and can be sensitive to the varied pastoral needs of the community;

Is willing and able to delegate and can use the voluntary administrative support which is currently available.

Ideally the person appointed will possess a strong wish to live and work in rural parishes. The benefice is rural and attractive but can be a challenge to get around in winter by car and on foot.

We are seeking an individual with strong communication and skills. He or she should have a progressive vision of the church, especially in work with children and families.

We would expect that our priest would conduct one Eucharistic and one other service on a Sunday within the benefice, working closely with lay ministers and volunteers, to maintain a reasonable balance between traditional and modern services. The current pattern of Sunday services is in the Appendix.

We would hope that the person appointed would be available to conduct occasional offices and make some pastoral visits calling on the help of other priests and lay ministers within the pilgrim parishes when necessary.

What the Benefice can offer

A delightful house with amazing views towards the Dorset Gap, in the parish of Hazelbury Bryan, in return for work on two days and Sunday each week

All expenses reimbursed throughout the benefice in line with Diocesan rates

An annual retreat, funded by the benefice

The full support of the other pilgrim priests

Respect for the priest's days off and full awareness of his/her working times and what duties he/she may be reasonably expected to do within the contracted period

Encouragement and funding for any in-service training

The services of three licensed lay ministers and help with administration

The production of a bi-weekly pew sheet by lay volunteers, delivered to all churches within the benefice and available electronically

Regular meetings with local ministry group and churchwardens to discuss challenges and opportunities. Some parishioners are happy to open their homes for meetings, and the school hall is available.

The churchwardens and PCCs are pledged to support the Rector in whatever way they can, including help with pastoral and administrative work, promoting outreach and mission initiatives, nurturing individual special skills, and having care for his/her personal spiritual and physical wellbeing.

The Local Ministry Group

In 2021, a local ministry group was re-commissioned by the Archdeacon of Sherborne to oversee the mission and ministry of the benefice. The local ministry group consists of Jestyn Coke (licensed lay minister), James Hepburn (licensed lay minister), Revd David Dunning (retired minister), Revd Chris Jervis (retired minister) and David Sinclair (lay permission to officiate). This group meets monthly (second Saturday at 9am currently) and every three months it is joined by the lay worship leaders.

The local ministry group has sought to maintain the day-to-day ministry of the church in the benefice, drawing on and training members of the laity in the rightful ministries.

The local ministry group has officiated at the occasional offices and will be willing to support the new house for duty Rector in this ministry including the taking of weddings and funerals. It is hoped that the new colleague will help us to identify opportunities for mission in the benefice and develop our outreach.

We recognise that the person appointed will need time to familiarise him/herself with the people and life of the benefice and his/her colleagues on the local pilgrim group.

Recently it has been agreed that the Pilgrim Parishes will be a Pilgrim Group Ministry which has been formalised and mandated to support each other. In essence, although each benefice will have an incumbent who is totally autonomous, she or he will be mandated to support the other priests in the group. Regarding the benefices themselves, at the end of any incumbency they will have a right to review the arrangement and consider whether they wish to continue as a benefice linked to the Pilgrim Group. It is also accepted that the relationship of the benefice to their patrons will be undisturbed by the grouping and they will have direct access to the patrons but will consult with the Pilgrim Group on matters that concern the patrons.

The Pilgrim Priests

Over the past decade, the deployable clergy servicing the southern parishes of the Blackmore Vales Deanery have worked collaboratively. They aim to work as close colleagues, planning together, sharing good practice and offering confidential mutual support. The recent practice has been to meet weekly for Morning Prayer, breakfast, fellowship and discussion.

At full strength, the pilgrim priests are the two stipendiary incumbents based at Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge, one half-time priest based in Shillingstone and two house for duty priests based at Marnhull and Hazelbury Bryan. They are ably assisted by the lay ministers and retired priests.

The new Rector will be a key member of this clergy group. The friendship and professional support that this pattern offers have been among the greatest benefits of the pilgrim group.

Individual priests also offer areas of expertise across the Pilgrim Vale. Such skills might be in teaching, work in schools, the ministry of healing, spiritual direction, etc. It is hoped that the new person appointed as house for duty at Hazelbury Bryan would want to be part of the pilgrim project and share in its development and service for God's kingdom across the nineteen parishes.

The Pilgrim Group (5 Benefices - 19 Parishes)

Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes: Hazelbury Bryan with Stoke Wake, Fifehead Neville, Mappowder, Ibberton, Belchalwell and Woolland

Marnhull

Spire Hill: Purse Caundle, Stalbridge, Stock Gaylard and Stourton Caundle

Sturminster Newton, Hinton St Mary and Lydlinch

The Okeford Benefice: Child Okeford, Manston, Hammoon, Okeford Fitzpaine and Shillingstone

BLACKMORE VALE DEANERY

The Blackmore Vale is an extensive lowland valley in the northernmost part of Dorset, a large expanse of green fields and hedgerows, a patchwork of lush, low-lying pasture on mostly poorly-draining clay and greensand soils. This is Thomas Hardy's "Vale of the little dairies" (*Tess of the D'Urbervilles*) and today it still supports mostly small dairy farms. It is the catchment area of the upper reaches of the River Stour, which has its source at Stourhead just over our northern boundary in Wiltshire. The river and its tributaries flow through every one of our eight benefices, linking them together like beads on a necklace. For 25 miles the Stour rolls southwards before finally leaving the Vale at Blandford Forum, a town nestled in a cleft between the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase. The Blackmore Vale is God-made; it is very green and rural; it is very beautiful.

The Blackmore Vale Deanery is the work of human hands. Its 34 parishes (eight benefices) cluster into two halves: the northern parishes (three benefices) congregate around the larger towns of Gillingham and Shaftesbury and have an informal arrangement of cross-border cooperation and mutual support. There are currently five full-time posts across these three benefices, including a pioneer vicar in Gillingham.

The southern parishes (five benefices, of which Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes is one) gather around the smaller population centres of Marnhull, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton and Shillingstone. The Group scheme, formally established under Pastoral Order, enables sharing of ministry and collaboration between clergy, who meet together regularly as a Group Chapter. The incumbents and priests-in-charge of each benefice have a duty to assist each other so as to make the best possible provision for the cure of souls across the whole area.

Notwithstanding the above, there is a sense of shared identity, purpose and mission across the whole Deanery. Deanery Chapter meets monthly for prayer, lunch and fellowship. Deanery Synod meets three times a year in January, May and September, and we have a fruitful and long-standing relationship with the Diocese of Lui in South Sudan.



Hillside parishes Fete



Mappowder — Muffled Bells

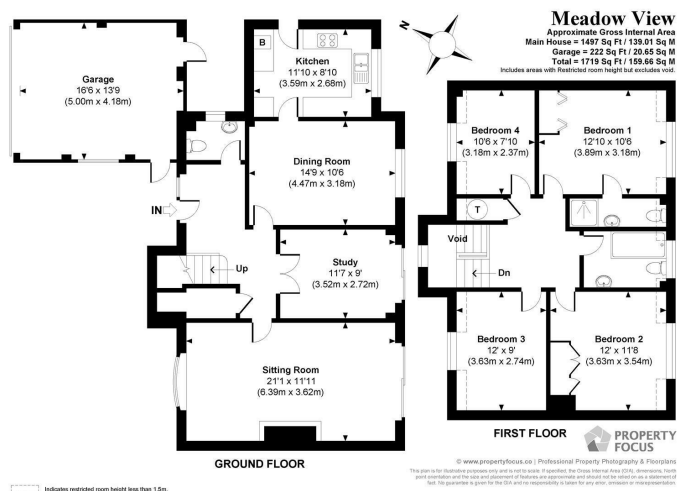


Sunday Club in Ibberton



Hazelbury Bryan — Book of Condolences

The Rector's Residence



Printed by kind permission of Middleton and Major, Salisbury

Current Pattern of Sunday Services (2022)

Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes		
Time	Church	Service
First Sunday of the month		
9.00am	Mappowder	Holy Communion
10.30am	Ibberton	Holy Communion
10.30am	Hazelbury Bryan	Morning Prayer
6.30pm	Belchalwell	Evening Prayer
Second Sunday of the Month		
9.00am	Woolland	Holy Communion
10.30am	Mappowder	Morning Praise
9.30	Fifehead Neville	Morning Prayer
6.30pm	Hazelbury Bryan	Evening Prayer
Third Sunday of the month		
10.30am	Belchalwell	Holy Communion
10.30am	Hazelbury Bryan	Family Worship
6.30pm	Ibberton	Evening Prayer
Fourth Sunday of the month		
9.30am	Fifehead Neville	Holy Communion
11.15am	Hazelbury Bryan	Parish Communion
6.30pm	Woolland	Evening Prayer
Fifth Sunday of the month		
10.30am	Churches in turn	Joint Benefice Service
4.00pm	5 th at 4	Contemporary Service

Benefice Administration

Currently the administration is undertaken by a number of people, and it is intended to appoint someone to help. The scope of the help will be discussed with any new incumbent.

Rotas: Preparing skeleton rotas, agreeing with ministry group and churchwardens.

Liturgy: Printing and distributing to relevant churches of any special service sheets, together with hymn words and music when required. Ensuring that all persons with a 'need to know' get advance copies of any such material. Obtaining palm crosses, advent candles etc. as required.

During interregnum, invoicing SDBF for fees paid to visiting clergy at Hazelbury Bryan.

Weddings: Taking initial details for wedding bookings and passing information to the churchwardens and church flower ladies. Arranging for choir, bells and organist if necessary. Preparing Banns and notifying churchwardens and clergy of dates of reading. Writing up the registers (the most convenient time for this would appear to be after a rehearsal). Attending weddings if necessary and returning appropriate documents to the Registrars. Confirming details to couples and collecting and administering fees.

Baptisms: Taking initial details of baptisms and passing information to churchwardens. Maintaining a benefice baptism record.

Funerals and Memorials: Notifying churchwardens and church flower ladies, arranging organist, collecting and accounting for fees and maintaining a benefice record of all funerals and memorial services held in the benefice. Sending out application forms and collecting fees for memorial stones and plaques and monitoring churchyard plans

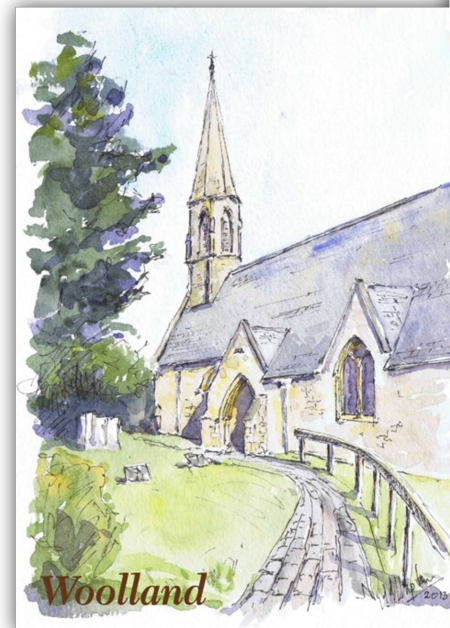
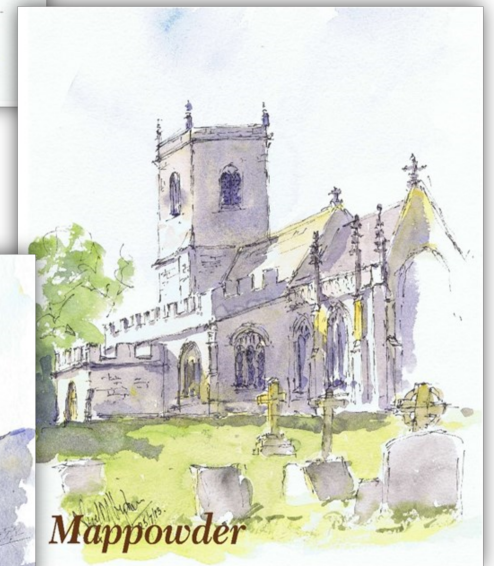
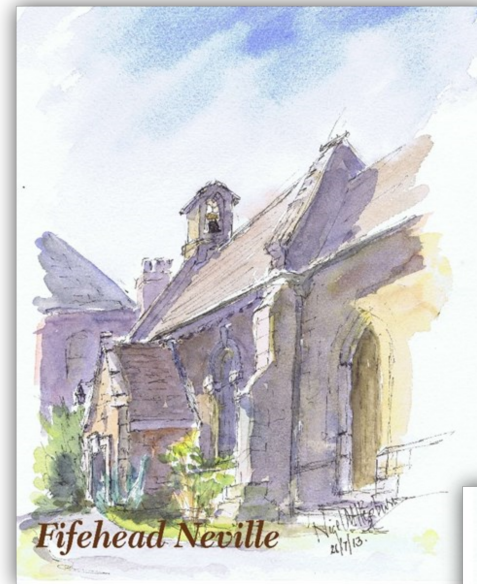
Assisting with meetings as required

School: Making sure church is available and heated for school's act of collective worship and other assemblies, attending these occasions, liaising with school over yearly prizes, and the availability of church car park.

Secretarial: Dealing with correspondence as necessary. Circulating up-dated information to churchwardens, PCC secretaries or treasurers as required. Sundry photocopying as required. Maintaining the benefice photocopier and making it available to those who wish to use it. Purchasing all necessary stationery.

Such other duties as maybe required and agreed by negotiation

Travelling expenses, stationery, and postal costs are claimed from benefice.



The paintings of the churches were done by the late Nigel Hepburn and reproduced by kind permission of his family