



Marden Vale Benefice Profile

Calne and Blackland, Derry Hill, Bremhill, Foxham
2023

Statement from Bishop Andrew

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the post of Rector for the Marden Vale Team, part of the See of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury. As a full-time post, this is a super opportunity for rural ministry within one of the most attractive parts of Wiltshire.

The ancient See of Ramsbury, covering much of that county, is rich in spiritual heritage, from the cathedral city of Salisbury and the valleys of its five rivers, across Salisbury Plain up to the Marlborough Downs. God is in this place – even though many know it not – and it offers an enriching context for ministry and mission today.

I am looking for devoted and visionary clergy, who can inspire and guide our communities towards Christ's Kingdom. While this can appear a timeless landscape, our parishes are constantly changing and face all the challenges and opportunities of life in the 2020's. Because of this, the church must also change in order to grow, renewing its traditions for the contemporary situation.

These are, then, times of transition for the market town and village churches of Wiltshire, which I sometimes liken to the great oaks in the nearby Savernake Forest. Those trees gradually join their root systems to survive individually - and churches must likewise learn how to be joined 'beneath the soil' in order to flourish above ground in their own particular setting.

In the Diocese of Salisbury, we place a high value on the encouragement and pastoral support of our parish clergy and, should God guide you to serve here, you will become part of a committed and collaborative team.

Please contact the Ramsbury office if you need any assistance with your enquiry and be assured of my prayers as you seek the Lord's will for your future.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Andrew Rumsey', written in dark ink.

The Rt Reverend Dr Andrew Rumsey



Our New Rector

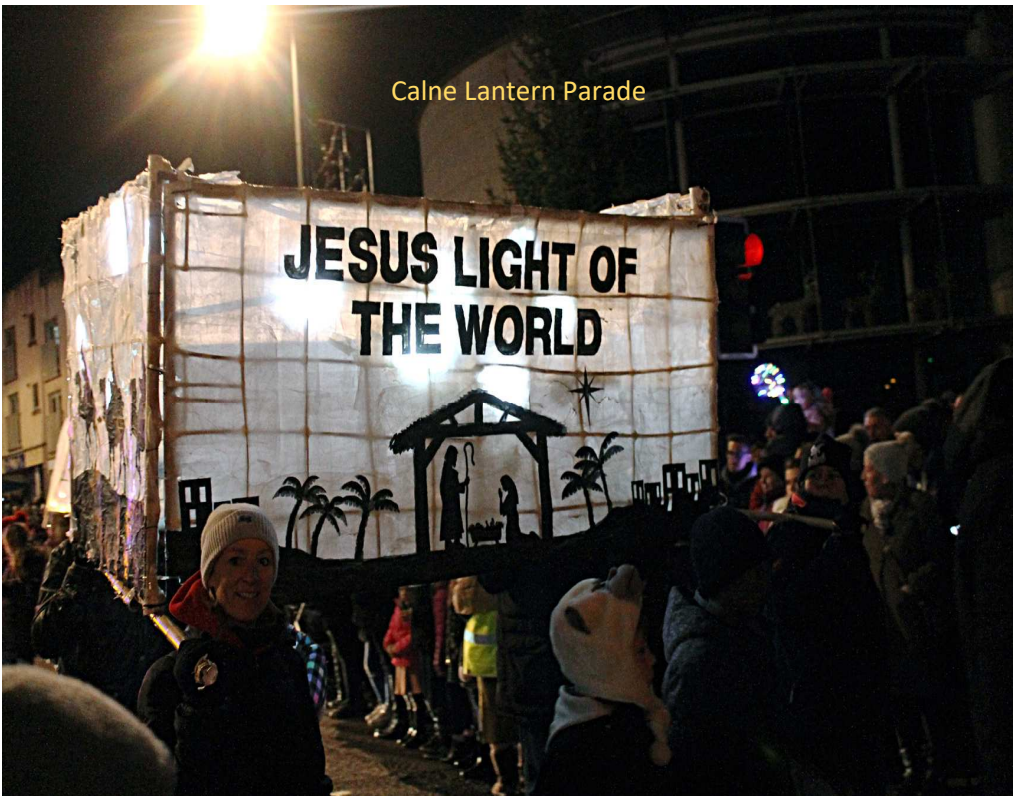
We are looking for someone passionate about rural ministry, who is willing and able to work collaboratively in areas of:

Leadership : Working across the whole Benefice, leading and supporting both clergy and lay teams

Community: Inspiring people to develop the church to support local populations in their faith and in outreach to the community.

Vision: Managing the different aspirations of each parish; seeing what unites us whilst encouraging respect for our differences.

Prayer and Worship: Promoting the place of the Christian faith, worship and prayer in each of our communities.



What we Offer

Friendly and welcoming communities: in a pleasant rural area, with easy access to London, Bristol, and Bath .

Working as part of a team: covering 6 churches, across 4 parishes, whose clergy and lay teams work together in mutual support and share expertise where possible.

A Vicarage : An attractive 4 bedroom house with garage and garden, situated in a quiet part of Calne, within easy walking distance of St Mary's Church.

The chance to work with our talented teams: to extend the welcome of our churches to all within our communities, including both established residents and new arrivals.

The opportunity to develop new skills: for yourself and within the teams

The joy of making a difference: to people, to our communities, to our churches and to our buildings.

You will be assisted by a part-time administrator.



The Vicarage

The Marden Vale Benefice

(www.mardenvale.org.uk)

The Marden Vale Benefice is located at the north of the Salisbury Diocese in North Wiltshire; some of the neighbouring parishes are part of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocese.

The Benefice was formed in 2010 and we are still developing the links between the different parishes. In general, the Benefice is relatively affluent, although some small areas in Calne are classified as 'deprived'.

As this is a time of change for our communities and our churches we are all looking at our buildings and our activities to see what we need to do to meet the needs of more people. For some of us that is the installation of a toilet, and for others that is a wider re-ordering of the church building. The Administration office at Church House in Calne supports the whole Benefice.

This is a rural area comprising the market town of Calne, the villages of Derry Hill, Bremhill and Foxham, as well as a number of small hamlets and farms. Calne is on the north western side of the North Wessex Downs; a range of hills designated an area of outstanding natural beauty. The Benefice is named for the river Marden, which flows through the area and is a haven for all sorts of wildlife, including brown trout, kingfishers, roe deer and the elusive otters.

The A4 is the main route through the Benefice; Calne is a seven-minute drive from Derry Hill along the A4, there are frequent bus services running from Chippenham to Swindon, Chippenham to Devizes and Marlborough to Bath. Trains to London, Bath and Bristol can be taken from Chippenham. There is easy access to the M4.

The whole area has a rich history and is surrounded by evidence of prehistoric settlements. The site of a Cistercian abbey is found at Stanley, St Edmund was vicar of Calne in 13th century and Bowood House and Gardens, a significant tourism attraction with a golf course and hotel, are located in Derry Hill.

For more information go to :

<https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/community-area/calne/>

https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/calne-2020-v2_45950681-2.pdf

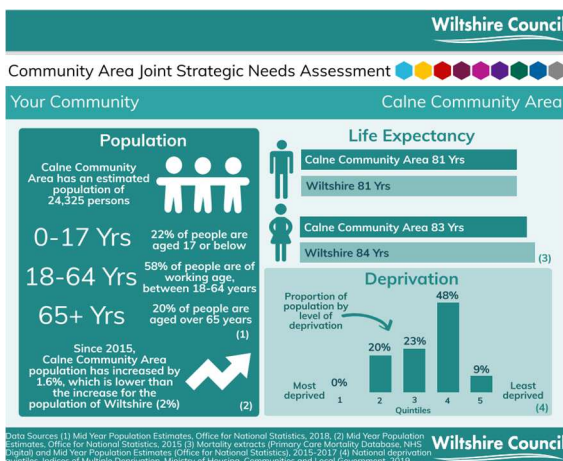
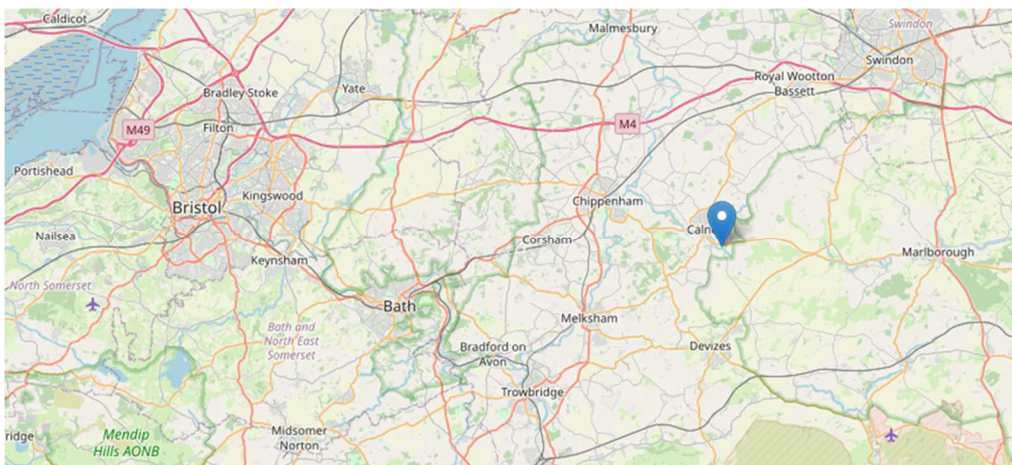
Calne Area Demographic

Approximately 60% of the Benefice population identify as 'Christian' with about 25%, stating that they have no faith. There are very small numbers belonging to other faiths.

Across the Benefice over 90% of residents say that they were born in the UK. It is a largely white European community.

22% of the population is in the age range 0-17, 58% of people are of working age (18-64) and 20% are over 65. 6% of the working age population receive out of work benefits.

Calne's Geographic Location



Pattern of Services

Location	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
Christ Church Derry Hill	11:00 am PE	11:00am PE		11:00am PE
St Martin, Bremhill	6:00 pm Evensong		10:00am All Age Communion	
St John the Baptist, Foxham	9:30 am PE		6:00 pm Evensong (BCP)	
St Mary, Calne	8:00 am HC 10:00 am PE	8:00 am HC 10:00 am PE	8:00 am HC 10:00 am PE	8:00 am HC 10:00 am PE
	Wed 10:00 HC	Wed 10:00 HC	Wed 10:00 HC	Wed 10:00 HC
Holy Trinity, Quemerford	10:00 am FS		10:00 am FS (5 th Sunday 3.00pm)	10:45 am HC
St Peter, Blackland				9:30am HC (BCP)
Zoom Service		6:00 pm Evening Prayer		6:00 pm Evening Prayer

KEY: HC - Holy Communion PE - Parish Eucharist FS - Family Service

Average Service Attendance by Parish

Parishes	Population	Fairer Share Membership Numbers	Average Service Attendance	Seating Capacity
Christ Church, Derry Hill	1028	52	25	250
St Martin, Bremhill	620	26	25	200
St John the Baptist, Foxham	250	20	11	100
St Mary, Holy Trinity and St Peter, Calne	19,074	151	84 Average for <u>all</u> services on Sundays not including Wednesday services	500 100 50

The Benefice Team

Rev Linda Carter – Team Vicar

Rev Teresa Michaux – House for Duty Team Vicar

Sister Jenny Colby – Church Army

Stephen Colby – Licensed Lay Minister

Enid Powell – Licensed Lay Minister

Rev Annie Church – retired priest with permission to officiate

Our Parishes and Communities

Calne and Blackland

The town has a rich history to explore and is a pleasant place to live. Calne is a small market town with some light industry, also providing accommodation for people who work in areas such as Swindon, Bath and Bristol. With a population of 19,074 (2021 census) Calne is still small enough to retain a friendly atmosphere for visitors and newcomers. In recent years the town has extended a warm welcome to refugees, notably those from Syria and Ukraine.



St Mary's Church, Calne

As the town has grown, Calne has made great strides in developing resources, providing many amenities, including the newly refurbished leisure centre and pool, a large library and a Tesco superstore. There are also several independent retailers. The town has a strong sense of community, and events such as the Christmas Festival, Summer Carnival and Calne Bike Meet draw thousands of people from a wide area.

To find out more about the Calne, an e version of the town guide is available at:
<https://online.fliphtml5.com/yikfn/uznq/#p=22>

There are 9 schools in Calne. Four of these have Church foundations: Holy Trinity C of E Academy, Marden Vale Academy, St Margaret's Preparatory School and St Mary's Independent Girl's Secondary School. There are 2 other Secondary schools, Kingsbury Green Academy and Springfield Academy and three primary schools: Priestley, Fynamore and St Edmund's which is associated with the Roman Catholic Church.

The Parish of Blackland was joined to the Parish of Calne in 1962.

Derry Hill Parish and village

The villages of Derry Hill and Studley are between Chippenham and Calne, and originally were built for the Bowood Estate workers. Considerable development has taken place since early 1970 providing the village with both private and rented homes. Most people commute from Derry Hill for work. There is some social housing. The population includes people of all ages. Residents tend to stay and any houses that become vacant for rent or for sale are quickly taken up.



The village is adjacent to Bowood House, the seat of the Marquis of Lansdowne. The house and grounds are extensive and include a golf course and hotel. All these facilities attract a large number of visitors, particularly in summer. A number of local residents still work on the estate. There is a thriving Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, with over 200 pupils, situated next to the Church. The catchment area includes Derry Hill, Bremhill, East Tytherton and Foxham. The school has strong links with services in the school and church.

Kingston House is a Care/Nursing Home run by the Greensleeves organisation. Clergy visit from time to time. Many local people spend their final years there.

A modern village hall, a popular pub and the church are all in the village and used by numerous local activities and organisations. The well-stocked village shop has a post office. Both the shop and the pub are open seven days a week.

Bremhill Parish and village

Bremhill Parish includes the villages of Bremhill, Charlcutt, Spirthill, Bremhill Wick and East Tytherton serving a population of approximately 620. It is a rural parish surrounded by fields and farmland. Bremhill, Charlcutt and Spirthill lie along an elevated ridge looking both north west over East Tytherton towards the Cotswolds and south east towards Calne.

Bremhill Wick and East Tytherton are beneath the ridge to the north west. There are no major roads passing through the Parish and no bus services are currently available within the Parish.

There is an extensive network of public footpaths that connect the villages that are well used by both residents and visitors. The ridge has a monument commemorating Maud Heath, a 14th Century philanthropist. She funded a path and causeway to allow Parish farmers to get to Chippenham market, particularly when the River Avon was flooded.

The Parish had numerous farms 50 years ago but has only 2 major farms currently. The villages have gradually become home to more professional residents. The age range of residents is mixed although there are fewer young families than there were. There is some social housing in Bremhill village. The majority of residents of the Parish work outside the village and commute by road. Almost all the houses are occupied as main homes.

St Martin's Church stands in a prominent place within Bremhill village. There is a Moravian Church in East Tytherton. There are no schools in the Parish. Children go to Derry Hill Primary School and secondary schools in Calne or Chippenham.



Jubilee Lunch, Bremhill

The Dumb Post Inn is a popular pub situated half a mile outside Bremhill village. The active village hall in Bremhill was once the school. There is a village hall planned for East Tytherton. Many activities and fundraising events, for the church and other organisations, occur in the village hall. The Bremhill Newsletter covers the civic Parish of Bremhill, including Foxham, and provides information about local businesses, church services and other activities.

The Friends of St. Martin is a long-established vehicle for raising funds for local causes, hiring out a marquee for events and holding an annual Auction of Promises. The parish also takes pride in its history, recently producing an award-winning book about the families, houses and farms here, funded by the Heritage Fund and the Wiltshire Museum, with a dedicated group of parish researchers.

Foxham Parish and village

The Foxham community is scattered thinly along the lanes and surrounded by open farmland; it is a quiet rural area, and the locals would like to keep it as such. It is a small community of farmers, commuters and those who increasingly work from home, with many retired folk. Those who move into the village do so for the lifestyle choice and tend to stay for the long haul. Many quickly become involved in village life.



Foxham does not experience the regular churn of families and, with the additional premium that seems to be added to the price of rural properties, it's unlikely to change radically. Indeed, the overall costs and impacts of living in an isolated area, with no school and very limited public transport links, may deter young families from moving here, but it does attract the older more affluent folk who are looking for peace and quiet.

On the upside, we have benefited from the installation of fibre broadband by Gigaclear during 2021. There has been an increase in the number of small business entities being established within converted farm buildings and an active and internationally recognised professional eventing (stable) yard. The village pub has a strong, steady trade and offers excellent meals.

We have a village hall – the Reading Room – fully equipped with catering facilities and the focal point for parish activities. Indeed, a pop-up Post Office service operates once a week which is another opportunity for the villagers to come together. The parish has plentiful paths and bridleways which are used by locals and visitors throughout the year, with the canal path being one of the most popular routes for walkers.

Our Churches

St Mary's Calne (SN11 0HU)

St Mary's church is in the heart of Calne and is the only Grade 1 listed building in the town; sometimes described as the cathedral of the North of the Diocese. Parts of the building date from the 12th Century, it is adorned with many features of historical and spiritual interest. The churchyard was closed in the 1850s.

St Mary's is used for civic services and has been a focal point at times of great national and local rejoicing and sorrow. There is wide acceptance that the Church would benefit from re-ordering to allow worshipers more comfort and provide improved facilities to encourage increased community use. At the moment St Mary's can be considered 'middle of the road' in churchmanship, but there is a desire to broaden the styles of worship. The 10am Sunday service is routinely live streamed to Facebook and available via YouTube.



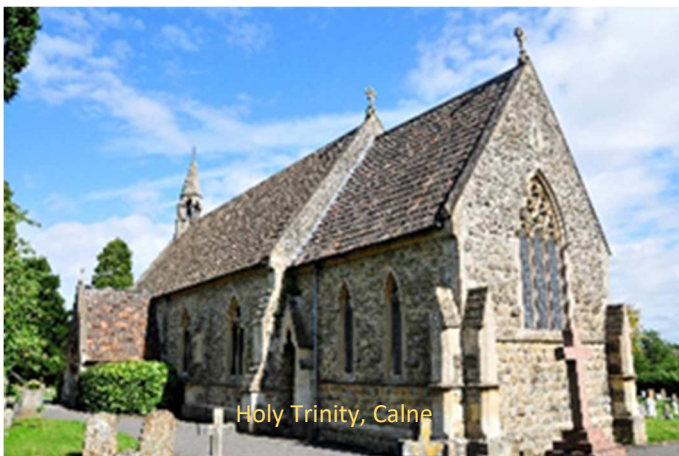
In recent years the heating system has been completely renewed and at the time of writing St Mary's tower is being re-ordered, the bells rehung and augmented and the clock converted to electrical winding. All this is financed by grants, donations and fund-raising initiatives.

Plans are being developed for a wider re-ordering of St Mary's, the first stage of which will be changes to the main entrance, incorporating glass doors to provide a warm welcome to all.

Holy Trinity Calne (SN11 0AR)

Holy Trinity church was originally built as a chapel of ease in 1852/3. It is a grade 2 listed building, set in a 4 acre churchyard with views of the Cherhill Downs white horse. The churchyard, which includes 18 World War 1 and 2 war graves, is now closed for new burials and the area is managed for wildlife by Calne Town Council and church volunteers.

Holy Trinity is in the process of becoming an Eco Church and has in recent years won the highest award in the 'RHS South-West in Bloom' annual competition. There are toilet facilities.



The Victorian church holds approximately 100 worshippers.

Regular family services are a feature of worship here, in addition to monthly Holy Communion services.

We aspire to make changes to this building to facilitate increased community use.

Adjacent to the church is Holy Trinity C of E primary school and termly Eucharists are held in the church.

St Peter, Blackland, Calne (SN11 8UQ)

St Peter's Blackland is a Grade 2* listed church dating back to the 12th Century, which holds approximately 50 people and became part of the Parish of Calne in 1995. It is the country church of Calne, set in beautiful, secluded parkland on the edge of an AONB (Area of Natural Beauty) and is held in great affection by the congregation and local residents.



All services at St Peter's are BCP (Book of common Prayer), of which the church is a corporate member; and we also have an annual Animal Blessing, where we welcome everything from teddy bears to donkeys.

Recently we replaced all the kneelers by inviting people to purchase and dedicate a kneeler to loved ones, and when the roof had to be replaced, we ran a very successful 'Sponsor A Tile' scheme to raise funds.

While St Peter's doesn't have a natural catchment area to grow the congregation our numbers are increasing slowly and steadily and we are confident that this will continue, by offering activities such as Quiet Days and Art Clubs.

Church House Calne (SN11 0HU)

Church House is a historic Grade 2 listed building situated close to St Mary's Church which houses the Benefice administration office and has rooms that are used for meetings and other activities.

For more information about the Parish of Calne and Blackland go to: www.parihofcalneandblackland.org.uk



Church Activities

Special Services in 2022

Baptisms – 21 at St Mary's and 3 at Holy Trinity

Weddings – 6 (historically there have been approximately 10-12)

Funerals – 26 plus 7 interments of ashes.

Some of the activities which are held in Church House:

Cameo (monthly social event- Come And Meet Each Other)

Wednesday Club for primary school children.

SMUFS (St Mary's Under Fives) for young children and their carers

Mothers' Union

Church House is also used by community groups.

Other Activities include:

Bible Study, Home Communion, Choir, Bellsingers at St Mary's and Zoom prayers for the benefice each week.



Each of the churches has a 'Friends' group which organises regular activities to help fund maintenance of the buildings and promote community out-reach.

There have been a number of buildings projects in all three churches over the years, that have been funded by grant applications, events and donations.

Calne Partnership of Churches

There are 5 other established Christian churches in Calne and 4 of these work with the Anglican churches in the Calne Partnership of Churches. The Calne Food Bank and Open the Book are both Partnership of Churches initiatives, which are strongly supported by the Parish of Calne and Blackland.



Parish Finances

Pre-pandemic we paid our share to the Diocese with some difficulty, however we are now struggling to pay the full amount and we pay what we are able.

We also have responsibility for the maintenance of 3 historic churches and one historic house; these costs are a draw on our finances.



Christ Church, Derry Hill (SN11 9NN)

Christ Church, Derry Hill was originally built as a Chapel of Ease for residents of Derry Hill and Studley, most of whom worked on the Bowood Estate and lived some distance from their nearest church.

The foundation stone was laid in July 1839 and the church dedicated the following year. Derry Hill Parish originally included Derry Hill, the Bowood Estate, Pewsham and Sandy Lane .

Christ Church is a Grade II listed building with three magnificent stained-glassed windows. It is a light and airy Victorian church and has a large flexible space at the east end of the nave which is well used for family services and for alternative

community uses, such as concerts, craft sessions and handbell ringers. The church is in good condition, a quinquennial inspection is due later this year. We have submitted a faculty request to remove two unsafe front side benches; this would further enhance the 'open space' at the front of the church.

The Church stands in the heart of the village close to the primary school and the village hall. The Church has strong links with Lord and Lady Lansdowne and the Bowood Estate.

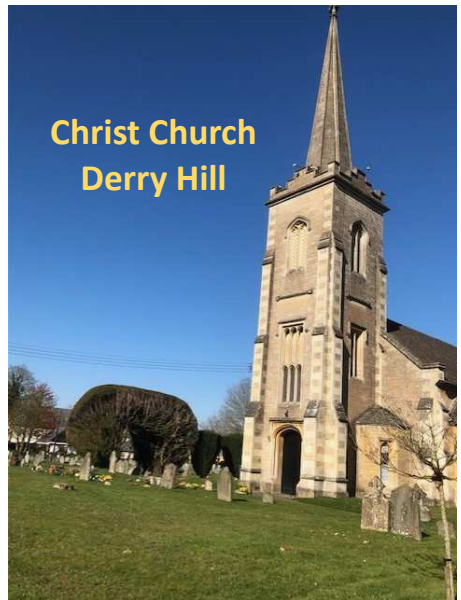
The church is open every day and the handsome spire is often lit at night through sponsorship and can be seen for many miles away. The church has a toilet and a small kitchen. The church is used every week for community events and refreshments are provided at church services.

There is a small choir and regular organist, providing music at services. Attendance has not fully recovered post-pandemic. Coffee and chat mornings are held on Thursday mornings. This recent innovation is proving to be a good opportunity for people of the village to meet and chat in a warm space.

The churchyard is well maintained by dedicated members of the community. The trees, including those that are listed, are regularly maintained by trees surgeons. There are areas set aside for wild flowers and piles of branches are set aside for bug hotels and wildlife areas. Family services maximize use of the churchyard .

Finances

We have struggled to pay our Share in recent years. This is a situation that we would like to address.



St Martin's Church, Bremhill (SN15 2QB)

The Parish Church of St. Martin is a Grade 1 Listed church, founded in the 12th Century by the Abbey at Malmesbury. It sits within a large churchyard in a prominent position in Bremhill village. Its church tower houses six bells, the oldest from the 17th century, rung by a dedicated group of experienced ringers on Sundays, at weddings and funerals.

It was last renovated in the 19th century when stained-glass windows were included, and pews were placed in the aisles and chancel. There is a large glass screen between the main aisle and the bell tower. The font is dated from the early 12th century, the pulpit was carved in the 14th century and the porch roof is 15th century. There are a number of memorial stones either on the floor or on the walls of the church, some dating back to the 18th century.



The churchyard itself is well maintained, respecting it as a site of burial but allowing nature and appropriate recreation to have a place. Many graves date back to the 18th century and before.

Current worship at St Martin's Church includes one Evensong and one Family Communion a month. Some services have been held successfully in the Bremhill village square, such as celebrating the Platinum Jubilee, Harvest Festival, Carol Services and Remembrance (around the Memorial Cross). The village hall is used as a place for refreshments and has toilets. In recent years, our congregations have increased to an average of about 25 a service. Festivals and outside services are much better attended. Weddings and funerals are well attended too.

We have enjoyed traditional forms of worship, both BCP and Common Worship, but the congregation have shown themselves increasingly open minded. The church has held a number of concerts taking advantage of the excellent acoustics.

Future Plans

Drainage of north, east and south walls with extension of water shutes.

Repointing to the south, east and west walls.

Water standpipe for the churchyard and ultimately getting water into the church with modest kitchen facilities.

Re-order the interior by the removal of some pews, improved lighting and heating and creating a small kitchen area.

Services in 2022:

29 Family, Communion and Evensong Services were held

Baptisms: 6, Marriages: 4, Funerals: 6, Burials: 5, Interment of Ashes: 2

Finances

We have been able to pay our annual Share to the Diocese for many years and it is hoped that this will continue for the foreseeable future. However, the cost of maintaining and improving the fabric of this Grade I listed building is considerable and continual fundraising is required. With an aging congregation, we will need to reach out to the younger residents in the future.



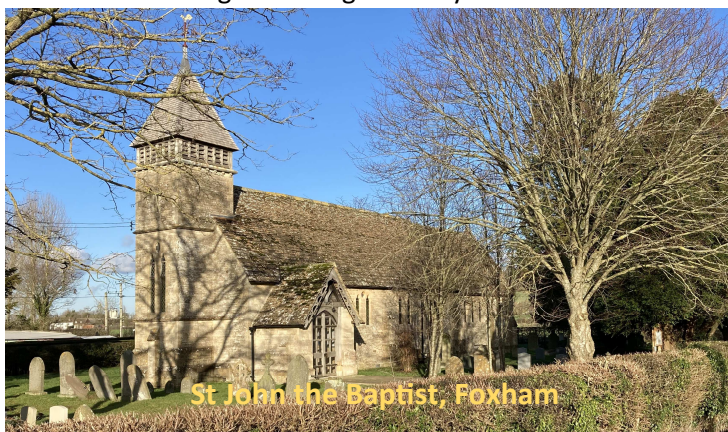
Fundraising supper in the Village Hall

St John the Baptist Foxham (SN15 4NQ)

St John the Baptist church, designed by architect William Butterfield, was built in 1878-91 on the site of the previous church that had stood for 280 years.

There is a loyal core of parishioners who attend services or look after the church and mow the grounds. Post Covid, we have re-established a regular routine of services, although not every Sunday; however, there is an aspiration to return to a weekly schedule. Our Parish Eucharist (common worship) held at the start of the month at 09:30 hours is popular and well attended, less so is our 6:00pm Evensong (BCP).

We are, however, able to pull in the crowds for the major celebrations of Easter and Christmas. As we have a strong agricultural connection, we do love to celebrate Lambing and Plough Sundays and of course Harvest Festival. We have



no choir but have a well-maintained organ and benefit from the most wonderful acoustics, so we can fill the church with lots of beautiful noise with a smaller congregation. Of course, there are the occasional

services of Baptism, Marriage and Funerals which have occasionally spilled over into the churchyard. There were 29 services held in 2022 (one was cancelled due to heavy fall of snow), plus 2 funerals and one marriage.

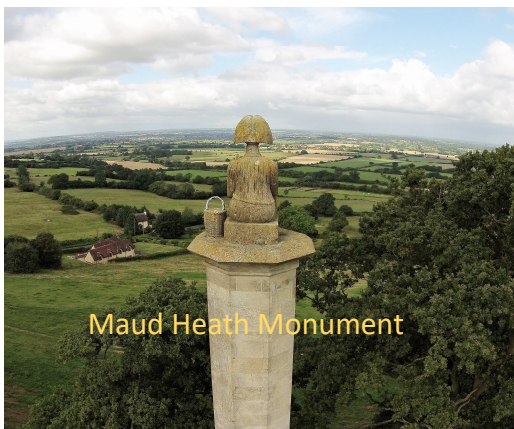
The fabric of the building is generally in good condition, the roof is watertight and the oak shingles on the tower were replaced in 2021. Upcoming projects in the next year or so are likely to be internal paint refresh of the Chancel and installation of a toilet in the Sexton's room.

The villagers will rally around events to raise funds for the church (over £1200 in 2022). We have a good uptake of the 'Parish Giving Scheme' which helps to cover our annual 'Fairer Share' quota and the running costs. We benefit from having some restricted and unrestricted reserves.

Thank you for taking time to read about our parishes.

**If, after prayer, you feel, that God is calling you to join us
in the Marden Vale Benefice, we look forward to meeting
you soon.**

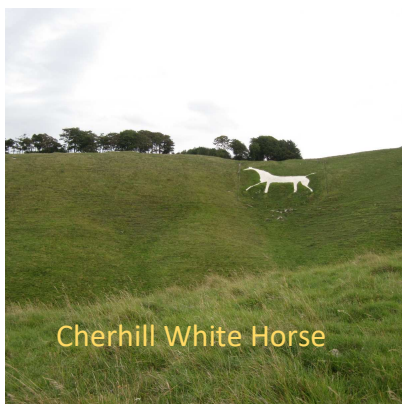
**For further information and an application form, you can
Contact the Archdeacon of Wilts on : 01722 438662
ramsbury.office@salisbury.anglican.org**



Maud Heath Monument



Calne Bike Meet



Cherhill White Horse



Bowood House