

Statement from Bishop Andrew

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the post of Team Vicar for Mission in the Marden Vale Team, part of the See of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury. As a part-time post, this is a super opportunity for a diverse 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 to Make Jesus Known, which is our new diocesan vision. 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,



Role description: Team Vicar for Mission

A team vicar is sought to join the Marden Vale Team Ministry, based in the village of Derry Hill outside Calne, but working across the whole benefice. The time to be worked is three days plus Sundays, and there is flexibility about how this time might be worked across the days of the week. In return a half stipend is offered, together with the vicarage at Derry Hill.

The team vicar will work closely with the team rector, Revd Caspar Bush, the house for duty priest Revd Teresa Michaux, and other members of the ministry team, helping to grow and care for the existing six churches of the benefice. This will include leading mainly traditional-style Sunday worship, and taking a share in wedding, baptism and funeral ministries. There is much scope to develop the links that these occasional offices create and to draw fringe people into the full life of the churches, and living faith in God.

Through this more traditional side of the role it is expected that opportunities for helping to train and equip existing members of the churches will become apparent to expand the ways in which our churches connect with their wider communities, and help us to be more effective in sharing our faith; *Making Jesus Known* is our new diocesan vision statement.

The intention is that roughly half of the time available in this role will be set aside particularly for engaging creatively with children, families and young people, both through the schools within the benefice, and in other ways. The Church of England primary school at Derry Hill is the obvious place to begin this engagement.

The team vicar will be free of responsibilities for chairing PCCs etc, and will not be encumbered with the typical administrative burden of an incumbent. They will naturally work closely with the team ministers, lay and ordained. The ministry team includes a house for duty priest, two licensed lay ministers, a church army sister, active retired priests and a number of local worship leaders, plus a part time administrator.

Person specification

We are looking for someone who:

- is passionate about growing the Church in every sense
- is confident in what they believe, but open to God showing them new things
- is confident and comfortable in a range of worship settings; happy to lead traditional worship, but keen to lead other forms of worship too.
- is enthusiastic about, and has significant experience of, working with children, families and young people in school and church settings
- has the capacity to think and work creatively
- relates easily to others
- is resilient
- is a team builder / enabler / encourager / collaborator
- is comfortable with IT in all typical settings
- has a full driving licence, and the use of a vehicle

Helping us to discern a fresh vision in our Benefice

This is a new era for the Marden Vale Team. The team rector, Revd Caspar Bush, was licensed in September 2023. The period of vacancy prior to his appointment began to produce some new and very fruitful ways of working across the Benefice which we are keen to develop.

The new team vicar for mission will be a key person in helping to discern a new vision for our Benefice as a whole.



Calne Christmas Lantern Parade

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

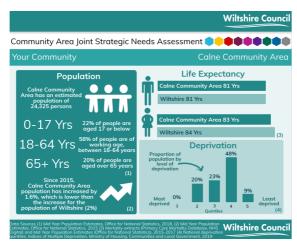
Approximately 60% of the Benefice population identify as 'Christian' with about 25%, stating that they have no faith. There are very small numbers belonging to other faiths.

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





Present Pattern of Services

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

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 St Mary's tower has recently been 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.parishofcalneandblackland.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, Bellringers 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

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

donations.

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.

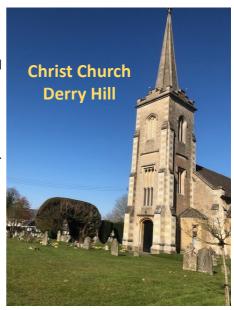


Christ Church, Derry Hill (SN11 9NN)

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 been 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 .

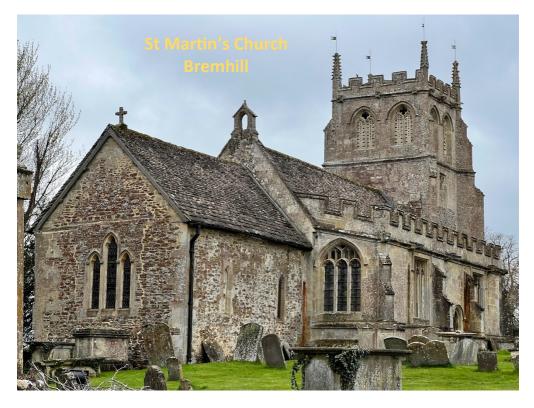
Finances

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.



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 09:30hours 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 you feel that God maybe calling you to join us in the Marden Vale Benefice, we'd love to have a conversation with you about that.

For an informal conversation with the team rector contact Revd Caspar Bush on 01249 914364 caspar.bush@mardenvale.org.uk

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









Photos of the Vicarage at Derry Hill.

All photographs and floorplan from Myddleton & Major Estate Agents.



Back garden, looking over to Christ Church, Derry Hill



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Sitting room, through to dining room



Kitchen (there is also a utility room, not shown here)



Study



Main bedroom



Bathroom inc shower over bath. Separate toilet



Ground Floor



First Floor





Total area: approx. 188.9 sq. metres (2033.2 sq. feet)