



**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE  
OF THE UPPER NADDER  
(TEAM RECTOR DESIGNATE)**

**BENEFICE PROFILE  
March 2025**

## **Welcome!**

Thank you for your interest in the post of priest-in-charge (rector designate) of the soon-to-be-created benefice of the Upper Nadder. This is a super opportunity to serve and shape our future ministry in one of the most beautiful parts of Wiltshire.

Based in Tisbury, an appealing large village, connected by rail to London, this group of small communities is being formed out of the former Nadder Valley Team, and retains close working relationships with its neighbouring churches along the valley, one of the five rivers flowing out of Salisbury.

I am looking for devoted and visionary clergy, who can inspire and lead our churches in Making Jesus known – 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 2020s. Because of this, the church must renew its mission and traditions for the contemporary situation.

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,

Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury.



## ***Welcome to the Upper Nadder Benefice.***

In these pages you will find that our villages though very different in size, are alike in being places where there is a strong, rich, and caring community spirit, and where the parish churches have a long tradition of warm and natural interaction with their communities.

### **We are looking for a Priest who will:**

- 
- Show us how to deepen our faith and become a more Christ-like Church
- Support us as we work with our existing congregations to promote discipleship.
- Lead us in mission and ministry-
- Recognise, encourage and support gifts of ministry and vocation in others
- Support and encourage existing links with our schools and the local communities.
- Build ecological aims, sharing enthusiasm for the life of our countryside, which will be seen through a passion for leading worship, preaching and spirituality
- Participate in all aspects of parish life.



### **What we would like to see in the future**

We accept that some changes may be needed as we discern the ways in which we can have the most impact as we move forward, recognising the need to do things differently and to be more relevant in our communities.

Continuing all the good work which is being done to develop further outreach opportunities.

Encouraging more regular 'mixing' of the different services to widen the demographic and encourage people to try different worship experiences.



### **The new Priest will find:**

Church members who value good balanced teaching.  
Many residents, whether obvious believers or not, who are supportive of the Church.  
You can be assured of a warm environment and supportive colleagues with a desire to move forward to make this new Benefice a place of real harmony and growth

We are close to Shaftesbury, with Salisbury also close by, where Sarum College offers excellent theological training and other teaching.  
Good rail links to the West Country and, through Salisbury, to London  
Three Church of England Primary Schools and a range of near by Secondary schools, where you would find opportunity for school governance and/or chaplaincy

A spacious 4-bedroom Rectory in the centre of Tisbury with a large Garden



### **Our people** seek a Priest who is

Strategic in outlook, visionary, approachable, having a collaborative leadership style with a positive, warm enthusiasm and sense of humour

- Inspiring, engaging and confident with a clear vision of what we as church are called to be.
- Rooted in Jesus, prayerful and eager to work in partnership with congregations, parishioners and other organisations.
- Able to relate to people in all settings on many levels.
- Supportive and encouraging the current congregations whilst simultaneously reaching out more widely and in new ways
- Resourceful in handling the challenges that a Multi-Parish Benefice can present
- A good listener who will draw out the strengths of the congregations and values worship in varied styles and settings.
- Who can promote discipleship including through financial giving.

The Benefice of the Upper Nadder is a group of 7 rural parishes in Wiltshire located in the Northern extremity of the beautiful Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, lying effectively between the major roads running westwards from Salisbury: A30 on the southern edge and A36/A303 to the north.

Our parishes vary in size, but all are rural in character. The Benefice is served by an Associate Priest, who currently has parish priest responsibility for one of the parishes, and two Licensed Lay Ministers, along with two Lay Pastoral Assistants. Two retired Priests with Permission to Officiate live in the benefice.

The congregations value the variety of services within the benefice, including Common Worship and Book of Common Prayer, Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic, and less formal All-Age services. They are particularly supportive of the services which mark the Agricultural year. There are two choirs which support worship around the Benefice

Individual church buildings range in date from 12/13th century to 19th century, an architectural heritage of which the parishes are justly proud. The churches actively support the annual Ride and Stride, raising funds for Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.



As our newly appointed Rector you will benefit from a substantial Rectory in the largest village, Tisbury, which is in the geographical centre of the Benefice.

All the individual villages have a strong sense of community and the churches receive significant support from their wider communities in terms of social events and (e.g.) churchyard maintenance, demonstrating their strong sense of ownership of their buildings. There are Open The Book teams in all three C of E primary schools, who all have excellent relationships with the churches in the Benefice.

The parishes are willing to work together, for example, in terms of sharing expertise on building matters and are considering how we may hold the APCM jointly, in one venue. There is also a possibility of some future joint PCCs

We are all looking to encourage more younger people into our congregations and to continue to promote the sense that the church is the centre of its village community. They look forward to working with a new incumbent to promote locally the diocesan vision 'Making Jesus known.'



**The Chalke Deanery**, of which we are a part, comprises six Benefices, one of which, Chalke Valley, is a Team Benefice and one, Wilton, is a single parish with three churches, others having between 4 and 7 parishes each. Information about Salisbury Diocese can be found at [www.salisbury.anglican.org/whos-who/diocese](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whos-who/diocese)



## ANSTY

St James, Ansty, is the small, historic 13th century church built by the Knights Hospitallers beside their Commandery, a hospice tending pilgrims visiting Shaftesbury Abbey and travelling from the coast to Santiago de Compostela. It has been maintained with much personal care, & is currently undergoing major internal restoration, completion due this summer, to fit it for the next decade and the younger generation. There are 2 regular services each month: It is a central village asset as we have no communal hall.

We hope the new incumbent will minister not only to the diminishing number of older, traditional residents, but the many young, new families recently arrived – two of whose babies were baptised last year - hence the need to devise slightly more unorthodox services drawing them in. These, such as a Remembrance service in the churchyard and last December's Carol Service in the Commandery have been well attended, while others, such as a pet service, for instance, would be welcome. We have a friendly relationship with our neighbouring Swallowcliffe parishioners, often sharing services  
The Ansty website: [www.anstywiltspc.org.uk](http://www.anstywiltspc.org.uk) provides more history and detail.

St James, Ansty: a welcoming presence for young and old today as it has been for the past 800 years.



## CHILMARK

The parish of Chilmark, with the hamlet of Ridge, has a population of 500, lying astride the B3089. Formerly Chilmark quarry provided stone for Salisbury and Chichester cathedrals, as well as many local buildings.

The beautiful church of St Margaret of Antioch, originating from the twelfth century has a 7-strong PCC, supported by a team of some 10 Sacristans. Services are held on every Sunday in the month and are usually either All Age Communion or All Age Service. Once a month there is a regular lay-led service which is either BCP Mattins or Morning Praise. The congregation averages about twelve, but for services such as Christmas and Remembrance Sunday it is not unusual to have up to 70 or 80 attend. A recent lay-led Breakfast Church Service attracted a congregation of 30. The Hindon and Chilmark choir supports major services.

Chilmark has an active Reading Room, a well-modernised C of E Aided primary school (Ofsted “Good”), a village-owned orchard and community space, and a pub, The Black Dog. The popular “Village Voice” newsletter is published ten times a year. Tisbury, with a range of shops and a main-line station, is only three miles away. Chilmark is equidistant from Salisbury, Shaftesbury, and Warminster. There is little employment opportunity locally - many people work away from home or in London during the week.

The village and its population actively support the many activities which go on each year and which are typical of Wiltshire village life. -The church and the school hold an annual fête. There is a thriving cricket club with its own ground and clubhouse, and functions held in the Reading Room include regular events such as exercise classes, art classes, “Social Stitchers” and coffee mornings. There are also regular quiz and other entertainment evenings.







The church building and churchyards are in fair structural condition and maintenance is overseen by a 5-strong Fabric Group. Many village residents, even if not churchgoers, actively support the church, for instance as treasurer, by working to maintain the churchyard, providing flower arrangements, and cleaning the church.

### **FONTHILL BISHOP with BERWICK ST LEONARD**

Fonthill Bishop lies one mile off the A303, within the Fonthill Estate. Berwick St. Leonard which forms part of the parish lies nearby with a small Church cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust.

The population is 115 residents of varying ages.

The former village post office, the River Barn, is now a successful licensed bistro and B&B - a delightful meeting place where they make a delicious cappuccino! The Estate-owned Reading Room cum Village Hall is in regular use and boasts a new distillery next door.

Fonthill Bishop has a fine 12th Century Church restored by Thomas Henry Wyatt in 1879. There are 20 on the electoral roll, including several from neighbouring parishes. The PCC has six members and meets regularly.



We use the King James Bible and Prayer Book, which attract churchgoers from other parishes. There are three services a month, Evensong, Holy Communion and Mattins, attended by a small regular congregation who enjoy the benefit of an efficient heating system! Special services take place for Mothering Sunday, Easter day, Harvest and Patronal Festival and a Christmas Carol Service supported by a local community choir.

The village holds a mixture of events over the year, some supporting the Church, including the popular Village Fete.

The extension to the graveyard, has been donated by the Fonthill Estate, who continue to support the Church generously as well as mowing the churchyard and providing heat from their woodchip boiler .

Our Vision is to continue to support the local community and the use and celebration of the Book of Common Prayer. Also see [www.achurchnearyou.com/fonthill-bishop](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/fonthill-bishop)

## **FONTHILL GIFFORD**

This is a very small parish, more of a hamlet than a village, with a population of 80 adults and 8 children, adjacent to Tisbury and on the road between there and Hindon.

There is a public house in the style of a gastropub, next to the church. Both are on the edge of the parish.

Many residents are retired professional people and there are some weekenders. Most are concentrated in Stop Street, about a mile from the church. Housing is mostly owner-occupied but some estate houses are tenanted.

Holy Trinity Church is a mid-Victorian building in good condition. The pattern of Sunday services is an early Holy Communion alternating with a mid- morning Morning Prayer (Mattins); all are Book of Common Prayer. The average attendance is 12.



Festivals are very well attended. The congregation is mostly middle-aged or elderly. The Church Electoral Roll stands at 23; many worshippers (and members of the Electoral Roll) come from outside the parish, drawn by the use of the traditional liturgy. The PCC has 5 elected members and meets three times a year. The major Finances remain sound for the immediate future.





We seek to ensure that the Word of God continues to be preached in the parish; the elderly, the sick, the infirm and those in need are befriended and cherished: the parish church is kept in good repair and continues to be the centre of our worship and that the resting-place of our parishioners is well maintained; and the beauty and grace of the Book of Common Prayer and the Authorised Version of the Holy Bible continue to illuminate the worship of the parish.

## **HINDON WITH CHICKLADE AND PERTWOOD**

The villages of Chicklade, Hindon and Pertwood sit within the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Hindon has about 500 residents, Chicklade around 70 and Pertwood less than 20. There is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School with around 60 pupils in Hindon. Within the Parish there are a doctors' surgery, community stores and post office, two pubs, a fellowship club and a village hall. The churches sit within the heart of their communities and have good links with village organisations.

There are currently 45 people on the electoral roll. Of these around 20 regularly attend services and are counted towards the assessment for diocesan Fairer Share.

On special occasions e.g. Remembrance and Carol Services as many as 100 people attend.





The Parish of Hindon with Chicklade and Pertwood has since 2016 been the pastoral responsibility of one of the Associate Priests. The monthly pattern of services is Parish or All Age Communion on three Sundays and BCP Evensong on one.

Chicklade is a festival church and as such holds a minimum of 6 services a year. An outdoor service is held on Rogation Sunday for all the parish.

St Peter's Church in Pertwood is in private ownership but 2 services a year are held by invitation of the owners.



### Hopes for the future:

- To make greater use of St John the Baptist, Hindon for village events as well as for worship.
- To grow the congregation for both churches so we can be a strong witness and continue to contribute to the worship of God and the work of the church in this parish and the wider Benefice.

## SWALLOWCLIFFE

The Parish of Swallowcliffe (pop. 180) is a small, picturesque village with a thriving village hall with many activities and clubs, the Royal Oak pub and two alms houses. The population can be described as diverse, active, friendly and supportive. A majority of the inhabitants are retired although we are benefiting from some new younger families. Most people work away from home. A bus service from Salisbury runs through the village

The church (built 1843), designed by Gilbert Scott, is in good order structurally. Services are held on all four Sundays of the month: Parish Communion (CW). Evensong and 8 am Holy Communion (both BCP). A popular Lay Led service of Mattins. Although we enjoy the more traditional form of worship, we also enjoy special services such as Plough Sunday, pet service, Hymns and Pimms in summer, Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch and candle-lit Christmas carols. The Remembrance Sunday service alternates with neighbouring Ansty. There is a fully restored peal of three bells. The church is open every day and has a well supported PCC. The average Sunday congregation is 13 with >60 at special services with 36 on the Electoral Roll.



Annual fundraising initiatives include the village fete, open gardens, quiz and curry nights. We support the Parish Giving Scheme. The fabric of the church benefits from the donations from the Friends of Swallowcliffe Parish Church, an independent charity, which is well supported by the Village.

Our vision is to maintain St Peter's Church in the heart of our Village community through our worship, maintaining the level and style of our services, developing our congregation, especially amongst the young, and maintaining our lovely church as a peaceful and prayerful setting open to all.

To this end, we seek an incumbent who can enthusiastically lead us to meet this vision and fully engage with the people of Swallowcliffe.

Village Links: [swallowcliffe.com](http://swallowcliffe.com) [achurchnearyou/Swallowcliffe](http://achurchnearyou/Swallowcliffe) : Saint Peter. [swallowcliffe.parishcouncil.org.uk](http://swallowcliffe.parishcouncil.org.uk)



## TISBURY

Tisbury is the largest village in the benefice (pop. about 3,000). The residents are widely varied in age, social background and employment status. The village retains a strong rural character, while also being home to commuters and retired professionals; there are some pockets of deprivation within the village.

We have a strong connection with the C of E voluntary controlled primary school (Ofsted 2025: good), with a number of church members on the governing body, helping with school activities or presenting 'Open the Book' regularly. School services are held in church each term. As well as library, gym, sports hall and other facilities, the Community Centre houses a flourishing pre-school (Ofsted: outstanding).

The thriving High Street has a post office, small supermarket, coffee shops, pubs, a petrol station and garage, and many independent shops and services including GP surgery, osteopath and dentist. The railway station has hourly services to Salisbury, London and Exeter.



The community is very active, and there is considerable goodwill and involvement, support and help for the church and its mission. A new Memorial East Window by Tom Denny has recently been dedicated after a successful appeal to the local community and further afield.

St John the Baptist is a Grade 1 listed church, dating mainly from the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, which is in good repair. Large for a village, it can accommodate over 250. Next door, the church hall (originally the village school) houses the parish office and is a well-used space for both church and community functions.

There are 125 on the electoral roll, and its members provide a backbone of support to the village community, filling a range of voluntary positions.



Our principal service is an informal All-Age Service on the first Sunday of each month and a Parish Communion (CW) on the other three. Our normal practice is to join together for a benefice service on a fifth Sunday. There is also a monthly 8am Holy Communion service (BCP) and a monthly Choral Evensong (BCP). Holy Communion is also celebrated on Wednesday and Friday mornings, and there is a monthly Healing service. There is a well-established choir, run by the Director of Music, and a Father Willis organ; the All-Age Service is accompanied by the church Band. The six bells are rung by a team of ringers who practise each week.

Tisbury also has both Roman Catholic and Methodist churches with whom we join for services and events such as the Palm Sunday procession, the Remembrance Sunday service, the Village Carol service, and Lent lunches. These are co-ordinated by Tisbury Christian Council, which comprises clergy and lay representatives from the three churches.

The monthly community magazine 'Focus,' produced under the auspices of the church, contains details of all church services and other events. Ministers from all three denominations take turns to write the monthly 'Focus Point,' and each church has an allocated page for other material.

For more information see [www.tisburyparishchurch.org](http://www.tisburyparishchurch.org)



Tisbury provides a wealth of challenges and opportunities for spiritual growth. The congregation has shown itself ready to take on change and is looking to the future, reaching out joyfully to newcomers and to the young. It will undoubtedly strive to play a full part in the developing life of the new Benefice.

## APPENDIX: CURRENT SERVICE PROGRAMME

Date	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday		3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday		
ANSTY	–	–	1115 PC	–	–	1115 PC	–	
CHICKLADE	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
HINDON	0930 PC		0930 AAC		1800 E <sub>BCP</sub>	0930 PC		
CHILMARK	1115 AAC		0930 AAS		1115 AAC	1115 MPr		
FONTHILL BISHOP	1700 E <sub>BCP</sub>		0800 HC <sub>BCP</sub>		0930 M <sub>BCP</sub>	–	–	
FONTHILL GIFFORD	0800 HC <sub>BCP</sub> CbE		1115 M <sub>BCP</sub>		–	1115 M <sub>BCP</sub>		
SWALLOW-CLIFFE	1115 PC <sub>T</sub>		1800 E <sub>BCP</sub>		0800 HC <sub>BCP</sub>	1115 M <sub>BCP</sub>		
TISBURY	0930 AAS		0930 To Hindon 1500 E		0930 PC	0800 HC <sub>BCP</sub> 0930 PC		

BCP – Book of Common Prayer    CW – Common Worship    HC – Holy Communion (said)  
 PC – Order 1 Communion (with hymns)    PC<sub>T</sub> – Order 1 Communion, traditional language (with hymns)  
 PC<sub>O2T / C</sub> – Order 2 Communion traditional / contemporary    AAC – All-Age Communion  
 AAS – All-Age Service    CbE communion by extension    M – Mattins or Morning Prayer  
 MPr – Morning Praise    E – Evensong or Evening Prayer