

The Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity,
Westwood and Wingfield

Letter of introduction from the Bishop

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the post of Rector for Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield: part of the See of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury. This is a super opportunity for creative ministry in churches blessed with wonderful buildings and willing teams, 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, 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 in Making Jesus Known. 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 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. I sometimes liken these to the oak trees of the Savernake Forest near my home, which gradually join their root systems to survive individually. Churches must likewise learn how to collaborate '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 black ink, reading "Andrew Ramsbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon, St Mary the Virgin, Westwood and St Mary, Wingfield

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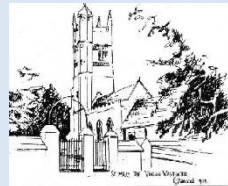
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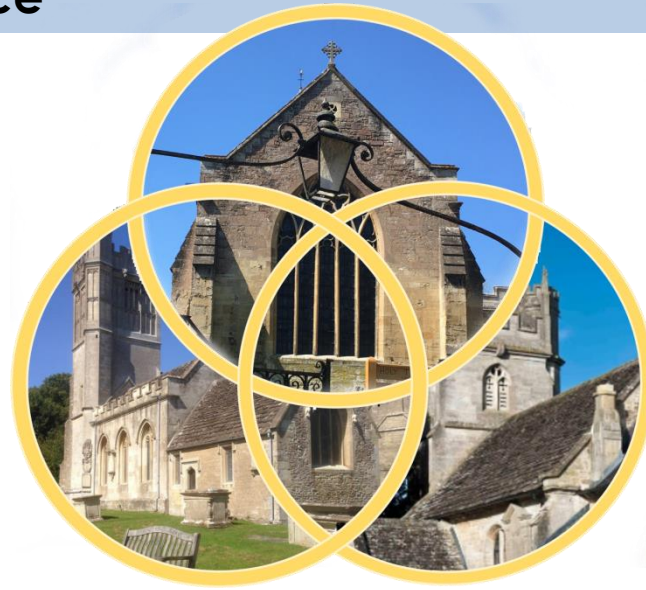
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Welcome to our Benefice



The Benefice

The benefice of Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon Westwood and Wingfield is in rural West Wiltshire, close to the border with Somerset. Worship styles across the benefice provide a range of experiences, from formal choral Eucharist at Holy Trinity, to Chuppa Sunday at Wingfield, which supports the needs of the spiritually curious rather than religiously committed. Each of our three churches has its own distinctive character and community. We are united by our commitment to connect with our community, spreading the love of God and enthusiastic about the opportunity the current vacancy affords to plan to work more collaboratively.

The Rector

We are an active, warm and loving community looking for an enthusiastic and energetic Priest to lead us into the next chapter as a benefice. We seek a Rector who wants to share and celebrate the diversity of our parishes, engaging with our communities and bringing joy through the word of Jesus.

What we offer

What we offer and what we seek

- The opportunity to work in different and flexible ways. The three communities have a single vision to grow our church community and our new Rector will be able to consider where this could take us.
- We are keen to include everyone in our worship, schools and other community groups; our regular worshippers and those we have yet to meet. We look forward to engaging and empathetic preaching.
- We have teams of people who work hard to keep our churches open and welcoming. Our new Rector will be able to celebrate all these gifts by harnessing them, motivating and delegating to this wonderful resource.
- Music is crucial to our worship. We have a fantastic choir and organs in our churches. The successful applicant will be encouraged to expand the use of music and involve more of the community.
- Our new Rector will share our view of the importance of developing further our digital presence so that we can communicate more effectively with the local and wider community.
- As our church grows across the benefice, we would hope to be a training parish once again, contributing to the future of the wider Church.

Challenges

- Engaging younger people and the wider community: we have links with local schools and have been exploring different service formats to engage younger people and families. Although there are many that enjoy a traditional service, we are open to exploring and providing different service styles and want support from our Rector to do this. We want to build on the links we have and find a format that gives spiritual guidance to all groups.
- We are blessed with three beautiful churches which hold centuries of history, humanity and love in their walls. We are aware of the financial challenges that face us. We would like our Rector's support with these ongoing challenges.

Opportunities

- If successful, you will be warmly welcomed in this benefice; your strengths will be celebrated and allowed to flourish while challenges will be faced together.
- We are eager to hear God's word afresh and to grow spiritually and personally.
- There is a longing to deepen our faith through learning, study, discussion and exploration of the scriptures.
- Our services are open to all: we welcome visitors, locals and those exploring faith. The successful applicant will be ready to help us to extend this welcome so that our congregations fully reflect our communities.

Support

To help you to help us, we offer the following resources:

- Our associate priest: the Reverend Sarah Jackson is licensed to the Benefice. She provides a wealth of knowledge, experience and support.
- Three retired priests in the parish have PTO and are willing to assist.
- The PCCs are friendly and supportive, waiting to welcome and encourage opportunities for friendship and reflection as well as to focus on Parish business.
- A benefice administrator works twenty hours a week.
- A book-keeper is employed by Holy Trinity for 3 hours a week.
- The churches are cleaned regularly by volunteers at Westwood and Wingfield and by a paid cleaner for 4 hours a week at Holy Trinity.
- Our Director of Music at Holy Trinity is passionate about bringing the word of God alive through music.
- Full expenses are paid.
- A modern (1970s) spacious four-bedroom detached vicarage, in Bradford on Avon, in a quiet location some twelve minutes' walk from Holy Trinity.
- We look forward to welcoming our new Rector to their new home and community and to our three church congregations. We want to offer practical and pastoral support. We have adopted the Covenant of Clergy Care and Wellbeing and expect our clergy to take time out for reflection and renewal



Holy Trinity – Bradford on Avon



The Place

Bradford on Avon is a wonderful place to live. It is a small confident market town with a strong sense of community, straddling the River Avon and the Kennet and Avon canal. It rose to prosperity in the 17th and 18th centuries when the wool trade was at its height. In the mid-nineteenth century the then redundant woollen mills became the foundation of Bradford on Avon's rubber industry which flourished well into the twentieth century. Our main industry in recent years has been tourism. This beautiful and sought-after area has much to offer. Visitors stroll along the canal and the river or seek out the Saxon Church of St Laurence, the pilgrim chapel of St Mary Tory, Holy Trinity Church and the Tithe Barn. Residents benefit from excellent schools, shops and services and an active Town Council. Facilities include a Library, Health Centre, Museum and a wide range of clubs and societies. The Wiltshire Music Centre supports music in the community as well as attracting audiences from further afield. There are good road and rail links to Bath and Bristol. Attractive housing developments have brought younger families to the town. While property prices demand a mainly middle-class population, there are pockets of deprivation. The number of volunteers working with local groups to support those in need suggests that we are a town with a social conscience.

The People

Our worshipping community:

- In 2023 we numbered 140 on the electoral roll. About half of those regularly attend Sunday worship.
- Our main service is at 9.30am and our pattern of worship is
 - First, third and fourth Sundays: parish Eucharist, and sung evensong on the first Sunday
 - Fifth Sunday: benefice Eucharist in one of the three churches
 - Second Sunday: less formal: a service of the word
 - 8am monthly said Eucharist (suspended during vacancy)



Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon, St Mary the Virgin, Westwood and St Mary, Wingfield

Holy Trinity – worship and music

Our worship style is middle of the road - modern catholic. This is supported by a musical tradition which is greatly valued. Several of the congregation, when consulted, named our music as one of the reasons they choose to worship at Holy Trinity. A four-part robed choir of 22 members supports the worship regularly on the first and third Sunday of the month and at major festivals, when an anthem is sung in addition to the regular communion motet. Services are accompanied on the Willis organ by our expert Director of Music, who also trains the choir and is an enthusiastic fundraiser for charity.

The service of the word (known as 'In the Round') is accompanied by a classical music group of strings, woodwind and brass instruments. Hymns are painstakingly arranged monthly for the music group. We want to extend our church community to include families and younger people. The service is well supported by the regular congregation; we have embryonic plans concerning how to connect more regularly with younger people and we will welcome an applicant who shares our ambitions.

The daily office is said on Wednesdays at 8.30am. Monthly opportunities for worship include a contemplative hour at St Mary Tory, our ancient pilgrim church, and special services are held occasionally in the [Saxon Church](#). These two ancient places of worship are managed by their own Trustees, one of whom has traditionally been the Rector of Holy Trinity.



Holy Trinity - events

Two annual church events embrace the whole community:

- **The Street Market** - the church and churchyard are filled with every conceivable type of stall, whilst our hospitality team have a field day.
- **The Christmas Tree Festival** - the church is filled with Christmas trees provided and decorated by local organisations of all kinds; very large numbers of local residents and well-wishers of all ages, keep the hospitality team fully occupied and local choirs and music groups provide Christmas music at intervals throughout the day.

We host monthly meetings of the Bradford on Avon with Christ Church **Mothers Union**, one of the larger branches in the diocese with an average attendance of about twenty. The **Forget-me-not café**, aimed at those suffering from dementia and their carers, meets monthly alternately at the Dog and Fox pub and Holy Trinity. The **Saxon Club** (for older citizens) meets weekly as does **Mainly Music** (for children from birth to school age). These groups are flourishing. At present connections with the under 5s are largely lost after they leave Mainly Music, which is something we wish to change. We look forward to working with our new incumbent to agree the best way forward for this initiative.

The church building has fully realised the stated vision of the 2016 re-ordering, that it should be a resource for the whole community. Its fine acoustics and flexible seating are highly valued by community users of all kinds, from musical groups to fairs supporting charitable causes. These events bring large audiences to the church and make it a focal point for the town and surrounding areas.





[St Laurence School](#) (Ofsted good, SIAMS outstanding in 2022) holds its annual carol service at Holy Trinity. The Rector is *ex officio* a Trustee, and our previous incumbent lead collective worship for each year group six times a year. Students' wishes suggest this is a fertile and potentially exciting area for growth. The school has recently appointed a lay school chaplain and we hope that the new incumbent will support us in growing stronger links with the school.

Ex-officio trusteeships held by the Rector also include two Almshouses in the town: St Katherines, for women, and Halls, four houses for men. Abbeyfield House in the parish provides sheltered accommodation in 11 units. Until recently Holy Communion has been celebrated there monthly; due to limited resources this has not been possible during the period of vacancy.

There are opportunities for the three benefice churches to connect with other Anglican churches and to access lay training via the regular **North Bradford Deanery Synod** meetings. The Deanery is linked with the Kadugli diocese in Southern Sudan, providing prayerful and financial support. There is an opportunity here to extend our charitable giving. We are part of **Bradford on Avon Churches Together**, with whom we join for the annual Advent carol service in Holy Trinity and the Good Friday Walk of Witness. We have good relations with Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, whose parish adjoins that of Holy Trinity to the north

Holy Trinity was amongst the founder members of **The Hub@BA15**. The Hub serves the more disadvantaged members of our community. It houses a food bank and provides support with job applications, benefits claims, and debt advice, amongst other services. As a church we support the Hub financially and through voluntary work by individual members of the congregation.

Students at St Laurence would like the new church leader to:

- *understand my mental health issues*
- *smile and know how to have fun*
- *start a youth group*
- *be supportive, kind and talkative*
- *have a focus on sung worship*



Resources – people and buildings

People

We are a relatively new PCC, with a newly-elected lay chair. We see this time of change as a great opportunity. The congregation has identified some of their priorities and we are eager to address those which will help to realise our vision. Although we are among the 25% of Anglican churches operating without churchwardens, in preparation for the vacancy, we agreed a plan to spread the usual churchwarden duties amongst us. A standing committee is available to be consulted on urgent matters. This works well.

We are a busy church with many **volunteers** who ensure the smooth running of the many activities. In addition to the PCC, there are teams who contribute to worship: bellringers, welcomers, lesson readers, those who lay up for services, leaders of intercessions, choristers, administrators of the chalice at the Eucharist and flower arrangers, the hospitality team, those who unlock and lock the church, and those who greet and support outside organisations who have hired the church. Our lay pastoral team is depleted. We want to grow and revitalise this team.

Physical resources

We are truly fortunate to be the custodians of a wonderful church building. Visitors frequently pause on the threshold and catch their breath in awe at the warm, light and generous space that greets them. From the comments they leave, we know that they are uplifted by their experience here. We value the building as a community resource. Perhaps more importantly, it is a place of comfort, healing and refreshment for those who, in the quiet, feel uplifted by the legacy of a thousand prayers, from ancient times and continuing now.

We are in receipt of a silver eco award. Our churchyard celebrates the wonder of God's creation with two wildflower areas, swift boxes in the tower and visiting kestrels.



Resources – finance

For some years the **General Fund** has shown a deficit. This has been met by one-off receipts and from reserves. 'Diocesan Fairer Share' (£73k) and utilities (£14k) that have risen annually. Other expenditure has been tightly controlled. A new (highly-qualified) treasurer elected to the PCC in 2023 has identified that congregational income has been flat or declining. Plans are in train to address this and balance the account.

The latest **Quinquennial Report** identifies minor work required over the next 12-18 months, amounting to £25,200. Work required between 2-5 years amounts to £14,300. Larger scale repairs, to be carried out over 5/7 years to the north slope of the nave roof and the roof of the south transept, will require £106,000. This presents a challenge that requires careful thought and planning. We are confident that we have the expertise and energy to achieve the desired outcome.

We can provide here only a taste of what you will find at Holy Trinity. We hope you will want to explore further. There is much to do. With the right leadership we are confident that we will be able to engage in a programme of change which will lead to engaging others and spreading further the love of God in our community.



St Mary the Virgin Westwood

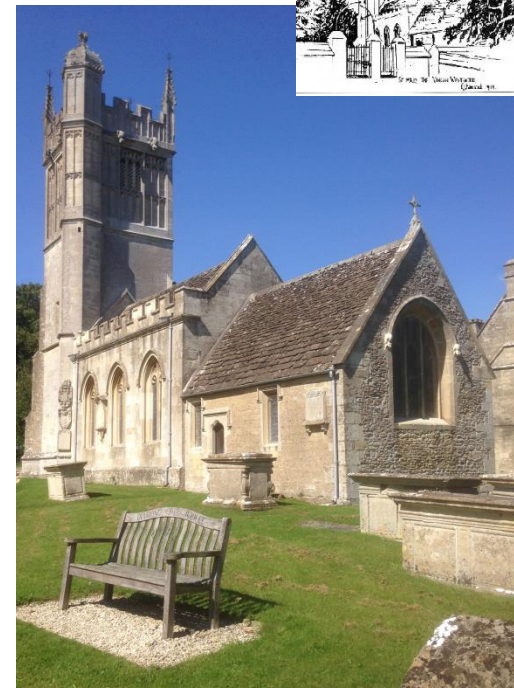


St Mary the Virgin Westwood – Church and Community



St Mary the Virgin, Westwood is a beautiful parish church with a rare Somerset tower and an elegant and light interior. It is much loved and well cared for by the small but loyal band of regular churchgoers and well supported by the PCC. We have enjoyed the company of our friends and neighbours for the regular Sunday service over the years and the opportunity to worship together following a traditional liturgical service has given us comfort and pleasure. There is something very special about worshipping with people whom you know so well. This loyalty to the church is shown in the willingness to help with the successful annual Flower Show and Village Fete in and around the church and the Manor at the end of August which is always very well attended. Our medieval church has a magnificent Lily Crucifixion window and is open every day for everyone, and particularly during the summer months it has many visitors who appreciate its peace and beauty.

We have a new and very well-appointed Parish Room next door which is used for weddings, village lunches, coffee mornings, art groups, Pilates classes, Yoga and any other activities that are called for. Teas are offered by the WI for some of the days that Westwood Manor (National Trust and just next to the church) is open to the public and these have proved to be very popular. There is an excellent kitchen which has been designed to cater for reasonably large numbers and a terrace with a beautiful view of the White Horse. The village of Westwood also has a thriving pub, school, club and local shop incorporating a café and Post Office.



St Mary the Virgin Westwood - Finance

The finances of St Mary's Westwood are stable and positive, and the share is consistently paid. The majority of income comes from regular contributions with additional income from the Westwood village Summer Show and from income from tea sales to Westwood Manor National Trust visitors using the adjoining Parish Rooms. The village raised a substantial amount in the last few years to refurbish the Parish Rooms and to improve the east entrance of the church with the addition of a Narthex.



St Mary the Virgin Westwood – The future



We are eager to develop and we are looking forward to working towards new and exciting ways to worship together. We may be a traditional group of people and diversity is not our strong point, but we are more than willing to address this aspect of our church. We are hoping to expand our horizons, both in our worship and in the community and are looking for a new Rector who would enjoy the chance to help us to welcome new people to the congregation. We are acutely aware that we need to attract young families and a more diverse group of regulars. We used to have a thriving and popular Sunday School in the next-door Parish Room and it would be excellent to reinvigorate that side of our church life by establishing better links with the village school (which is in walking distance). Similarly, we all agree that we would like to have more to offer newcomers to the village, both in the type of services on offer and the chance to join social groups of a wider nature. We are excited to expand our horizons under the guidance of our new Rector and we are open to new ideas and new ways of worship. We would support and work with the Rector to establish these successfully.

What we hope for in the new Rector is a lively and open candidate who is happy to join our community and work with us to inject new energy and enthusiasm into our church and our Christian lives. We are looking for a visible and welcoming presence in the village to make contact with newcomers and those who have not had an interest in the church for some time. Someone who is open and friendly, willing to listen and to ask us to help with new initiatives, someone who appreciates all the good things that a small rural village has to offer; someone who can inject enthusiasm and joy into our services and help us to take a step towards a deeper understanding and love of God would be our ideal. We are excited to meet and work with our new incumbent.

St Mary Wingfield

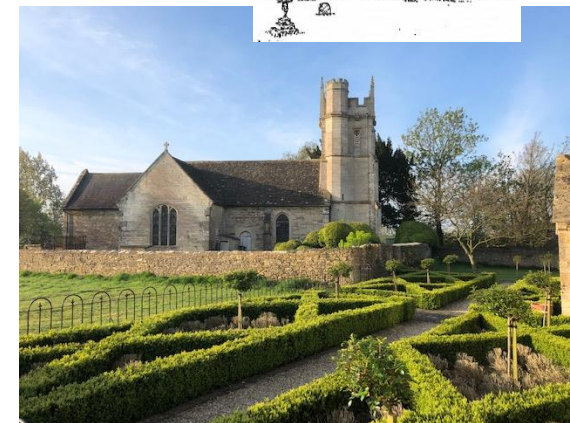


We are by far the smallest parish of the Benefice, but we make up for this with our warm, welcoming and active community.

St Mary Wingfield – Church and Community



The village of Wingfield lies just 2 miles to the south of Bradford-on-Avon and Holy Trinity and comprises 136 dwellings with some 330 residents. Those dwellings are spread through some 6 lanes off the two main roads that intersect it. It boasted some 17 farms in the early 20th century, with five working farms now surrounding the village. Whilst a rural setting in the West Wiltshire Green Belt, the majority of working residents commute to nearby towns, whether Bradford-on-Avon, Trowbridge, Frome or beyond including Bath and Bristol. Following the retirement of Reverend Ron Lowrie in 2013, Wingfield, with Westwood, was brought into the Benefice of Holy Trinity under the care of Reverend Canon Joanna Abecassis.



St Mary's is the classic grade II listed rural church, dating from the 15th Century, with a capacity for some 130. Apart from a service at 9.30 most Sunday mornings (see below) all community events in the village are in or connected to the church. In addition to the parish church of St Mary, the village has the Poplars village pub and the [Mead Community Primary School](#), formerly a Church of England primary school, with capacity for up to ninety pupils.



Despite its diminutive size, Wingfield is an active village. Our annual church fete, typically, attracts over 800 people. Our Christmas Carol Concert was a sell out with over 100 villagers attending. We have close links with the school, they performed at the carol concert, perform their annual nativity in the church, join with us for the fete and have their leavers assembly in the church. This year we extended our community engagement further with an advent window display throughout the village and a Halloween trail. We have musical talent in the village including, a saxophonist, trombonist, organist and a soprano who all contribute to our services and we are blessed with a wonderful organ, only recently restored.



The use of the church as a music venue is being encouraged.

St Mary Wingfield – Church and Community

Communications

Whilst we contribute to Holy Trinity's *Parish News*, we recognise the importance of community engagement and have built up a village email group, as well as Facebook groups for Wingfield Village, Wingfield School, and a new initiative this year to help our green credentials, *Wingfield–reduce-reuse-recycle. The Wingfield Whisper*, our bi-monthly newsletter gives news on village events, including church services, and is distributed by a community email system, website and Facebook. The villagers have fed back how much they enjoy the sense of community and belonging these initiatives give them

The PCC

Currently with 6 elected members, it meets quarterly through the year, the meetings taking place at Church Farm.

In addition to the PCC, we are blessed with an army of active supporters who organise the daily opening of the church, flower arranging, cleaning and the maintenance of our beautiful churchyard. Our Parish Council supports our efforts to keep the churchyard tidily mown.



St Mary Wingfield – Church Services

Church Services

Liaison with the Benefice Office in Bradford has been vital and has enabled the monthly pattern of services:

1st Sunday 9.30 Morning Prayer

2nd Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion

3rd Sunday 9.30 Chuppa Service*

4th Sunday 9.30 Morning Prayer

5th Sundays are either at St Mary Wingfield, St Mary Westwood or Holy Trinity Bradford with Songs of Praise or Benefice Eucharist.

*The Chuppa (*CHURch cuPPA*) service is an initiative started in 2022 to promote engagement with those villagers who would not usually attend services. This gathering together as a community in our wonderful church is now greatly valued, attracting some 25 adults and between 5 and 10 children, almost all from the village and few regular churchgoers. It offers coffee and cake and includes three hymns played on instruments other than the organ, a reading, a topical talk, prayers and a blessing and is usually led by our Church Warden. Although the format felt unusual at first, we believe 'For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.'

It is not unusual for lay members to lead, and refresh, the Morning Prayer services from time to time.



St Mary Wingfield – The future

St Marys remains a beacon for village life and a recent influx of young families has helped us believe that there is fertile ground for renewal. We are a forward looking and responsive church who wants to be relevant and important to our community.

The PCC has recently decided to pursue the extension of the church building to incorporate a small toilet and our architect has prepared a draft plan for further consideration. An approach to the DAC for the necessary faculty will be made this year.

We are confident of being able to raise the necessary **funding** for this project. St Marys has always fully paid its Parish Share, currently for 2024 being £16,590. It is clear that, with the demise of older inhabitants, giving to the church directly or through the Parish Giving Scheme has reduced in recent years and needs to be revitalised. The Annual fete is the biggest single contributor to the church finances with over £5,000 being raised in a single afternoon!

The church and churchyard are a much-appreciated aspect of village life. A look at the visitor's book is evidence of the warmth with which the church is regarded. There is always financial support for the upkeep of the building and any works done; the renovation of the organ took place in 2020 and the £11,000 needed was raised within just a few weeks.

An engaging, warm and accessible Rector will find that they are most welcome in this small community and be fully supported in mission. There is a challenge to reignite worship – our recent experience with Chuppa services shows that there is a latent spiritual need and a willingness to come together to express it. Whilst maintaining the traditional form of some services remains very important, there is a desire, expressed by many and supported by the PCC, for a more modern, joyful approach to worship and prayer with the aim, particularly amongst younger generations, of rekindling awareness of God's purpose.



[The Vicarage](#)

[Pattern of services across the Benefice](#)

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The Vicarage

This is a modern (1970s) spacious four-bedroom detached house, in Woolley Street, a quiet location some twelve minutes' walk from Holy Trinity. The house is double glazed throughout. A gas boiler provides heating and hot water.

Downstairs: Entrance porch, entrance Hall with stairs to first floor, cloakroom, kitchen/ breakfast room, utility room, good sized study, den, dining room and spacious lounge.

Upstairs: Two spacious double bedrooms, one standard double bedroom and one good sized single bedroom There is a good bathroom, and separate shower room (both with WC); an airing cupboard.

Outside: There are pleasant gardens at the front with a large single garage, and ample parking space. A side access leads to the enclosed south-facing rear garden with lawns and shrubs.

In the front garden is an office / studio.

The house is conveniently placed for our excellent local schools St Laurence Secondary School, Christ Church Primary School and Fitzmaurice Primary School, and it is within walking distance of the town centre, Holy Trinity Church and the railway station. A regular bus service passes the end of the road, connecting to the town centre and onward to Trowbridge and Warminster to the south and to Bath in the opposite direction.



Pattern of Services across the Benefice

	Holy Trinity Bradford on Avon	St Mary the Virgin Westwood	St Mary Wingfield
First Sunday	9.30 Sung Eucharist* 6pm Choral Evensong*	Benefice service at Holy Trinity	9.30 Morning Prayer
Second Sunday	9.30 In the Round	11.15 Holy Communion	9.30 Holy Communion
Third Sunday	9.30 Sung Eucharist*	11.15 Matins BCP	9.30 Chuppa Family Service
Fourth Sunday	9.30 Sung Eucharist (8.00 Holy Communion – said - suspended during vacancy)	11.15 Morning Prayer	9.30 Morning Prayer
Fifth Sunday	United Benefice at one of the churches in the Benefice		
	* with choir		

Benefice occasional offices and electoral roll numbers (2023)

	Holy Trinity Bradford on Avon	St Mary the Virgin Westwood	St Mary Wingfield
Baptisms	11	4	3
Weddings	7	2	2
Funerals	12	3	2
Interment of Ashes	7	0	2
Electoral Roll	140	40	45