



Savernake Team Rector Profile

Serving the Parishes:

All Saints' Burbage, St James' Buttermere, St Michael & All Angels Shalbourne, All Saints' Ham, St Nicolas' Chute, St Andrew's Collingbourne Ducis, St Mary's Collingbourne Kingston, St Michael's Tidcombe, St Nicholas' East Grafton, St Katharine's Savernake Forest, St Mary's Great Bedwyn and St Michael's Little Bedwyn.

Table of Contents

Bishop's Introduction	4
Our Location	6
Welcome to the Savernake Team	8
Challenges	9
As Our New Team Rector	10
The Team Churches	12
Meet the Team	27
Safeguarding	28
Schools	29
The Rectory	30
Team Statistics	31
Finances	32
Team Service Rota 2024	34
Pewsey Deanery	36
And Finally..	37



Bishop's Introduction

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the post of Rector for the Savernake Team Ministry: 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 beguiling and ancient landscapes in 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, 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.

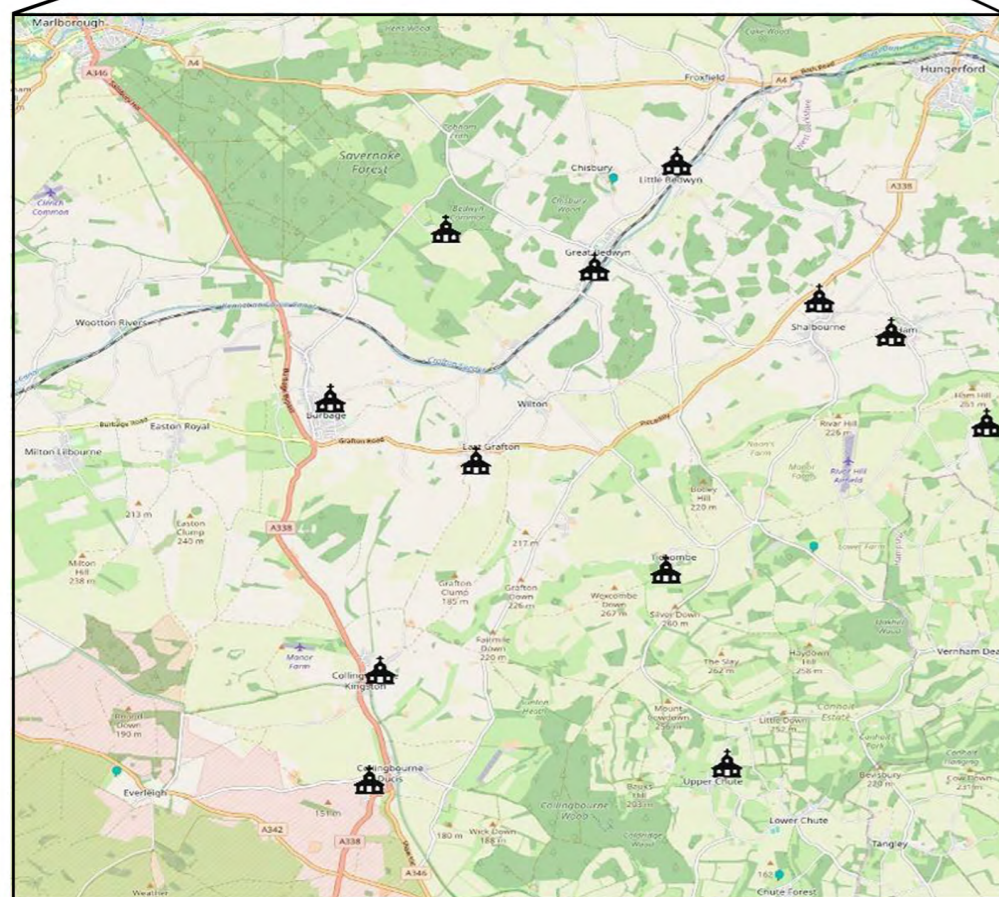
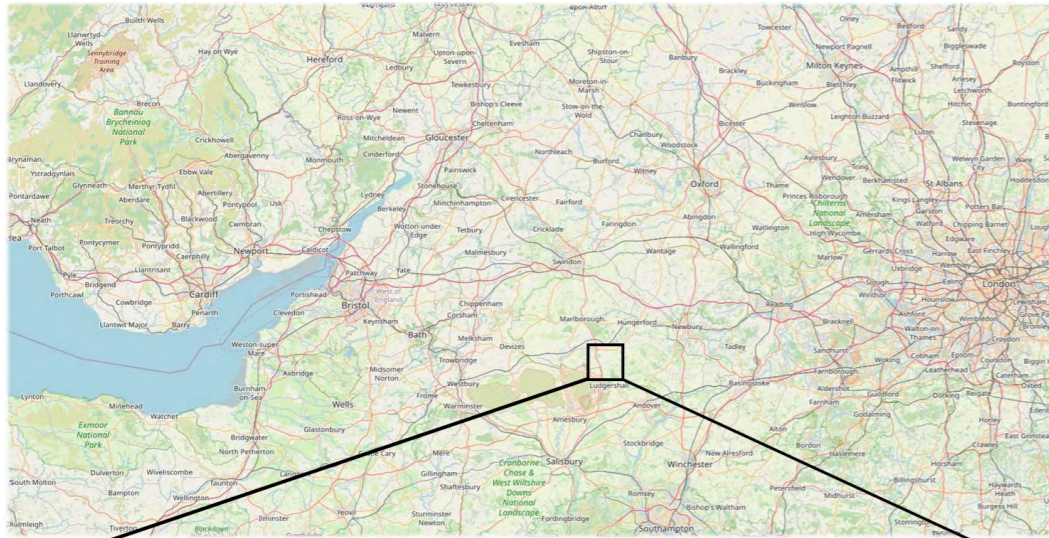
Please contact the Ramsbury office if you need any assistance with your enquiry and be assured of my prayers as you seek the Lord's will for your future.

Sincerely in Christ,



Our Location

The Savernake Team is centred on an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, within the [North Wessex Downs National Landscape](#).



Welcome to the Savernake Team

“It is the light falling continually from heaven which alone gives a tree the energy to send powerful roots deep into the earth. The tree is really rooted in the sky.” - Simone Weil

Come and be part of our roots.

Here in the Savernake Team, we are surrounded by trees: the ancient forest itself, the copses and spinneys and orchards that enrich this beautiful corner of the countryside. Our roots are powerfully in this place, but they draw – always – on the light of heaven.

These roots are deep, and feed richly into our shared Christian witness: our varied and vigorous patterns of worship, in the vital roles our churches play in the communities we serve: numerous community enterprises, soup lunches, House Groups, Café Church, the Christmas Tree Festival. And these roots stretch into our schools, into our Lent outreach programmes, into our care homes, and beyond: with the Deanery, we contribute to an email of weekly prayers and reflections which are now read all over the world.

So much of this work and witness is made possible by our super-efficient administrator, Sammy! But we also have our challenges and we need your help...

Challenges

‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.’
John 11.11

Some parts of our root system are currently dormant, and need feeding. There is plenty of goodwill and an enthusiasm to participate in Christian life, especially around the main festivals, but a ministry of reawakening is needed.

If together we can get this right then it will help with the further challenges of:

- Share payment and finances for some of our parishes. We have all recently had the estimated projections for the next four years and, as across the diocese, this is a serious challenge.
- Welcoming younger people into our church communities. This is a very real aspiration. The age profile of our congregations is getting older. But with army families, more people working from home and easy commuting to London and other centres, our demographic in the villages is getting younger. We want to reach these people more effectively.

Following a recent consultation, this is reflected in the aspirations of our congregation.

As Our New Team Rector

Our Parishes would love you to:

- Share your love of God with members of the church and schools and the wider community, whatever their age and beliefs.
- Bring dynamism, energy, inspiration and a spirit of inclusiveness to the churches within the Savernake Team, modelling Christ's love for all.
- Connect the parishes, bringing their congregations closer together.
- Engage with the community, not just by being a 'people person', but also through other means – social media, WhatsApp and using good communications skills to reach out and include both regulars and newcomers to the church.
- Be proactive in the forming of home groups, prayer groups, weekday activities, etc.
- Bring people together through compassionate leadership, humour, enthusiasm, commitment and patience.

Our previous Team Rector lived in Great Bedwyn. That parsonage, however, has been deemed unsuitable and there will be discussions between the Team and the Diocese about its future. Instead, you will be living in the Burbage Vicarage, a very well appointed house next to the church which has been rented out for the last few years.

Burbage is a crucial component in the Team's 'battery', an energy source, a well-resourced and prayerful parish which will be of great support to you in your wider ministry. And the village of Burbage will appreciate a vicar living again in their community.

While you will be Team Rector of 12 churches, pastoral oversight is shared or clustered. Though the boundaries are not hard, the current plan is for you to have primary responsibility for 4 parishes, as follows:

New Team Rector: Burbage, St Katharine's, East Grafton, Little Bedwyn

Jo Reid: Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston, Chute, Tidcombe

Colin Heber-Percy: Great Bedwyn, Shalbourne, Ham and Buttermere.

Our clergy and the wider ministry team value meeting together regularly for prayer and planning. These meetings are characterized by openness, prayerfulness and humour. We are looking for a leader who is collaborative and can foster that culture.

So, in our new Team Rector we are looking for someone who will be a:

- **Pilgrim** – rooted in the love of God and eager to share that love, looking to continue their own journey of discipleship.
- **Pastor** – who is an active listener, and happy to be a visible and caring presence in the villages, energised by the joys and challenges of rural ministry.
- **Preacher** – who takes sermon preparation seriously and is excited by the idea of inspiring and stimulating these faithful communities into renewed growth.
- **Communicator** – who can reach out with the gospel in all contexts and prepared to lead worship in a wide variety of styles and contexts.
- **Missioner** – outward-looking and willing to innovate, able to delegate effectively and creatively, alert to missional opportunities and pastoral need.
- **Convenor** – who will gather around them a team of fellow pilgrims with prayerfulness and humour, helping us make Jesus known in our communities and contexts.



The Team Churches: All Saint's Burbage

All Saints' Burbage is a beacon: of transformative Christian witness, of warmth and light, and of hope. Our worship reflects our 'beacon' nature: outgoing, friendly, loving and serving the community.

Parishioners describe All Saints' as "encouraging and supporting people in their faith and showing Christ's love in practical ways." We long for people to see how special God is and to set out on their own journey of faith, growing in love and knowledge of Him. Sometimes we feel the beacon is flickering a little: we'd love to be welcoming more families and younger people.

All Saints' hosts several initiatives in the village, a weekly free lunch, canal breaks for young people with disabilities, a monthly charity coffee morning, a Holiday Club and a preschool group.

The annual spectacular Christmas Market and Tree Sale is run and supported by congregation and community. Over the years this has grown into large event with worship in the form of an outdoor Christingle service, Bible-focused activities for the children, carol singing and prayer – and the sale of Christmas trees.

At our services music is led either from the organ or by our wonderful worship group. We regularly hold Café Churches in the Village Hall where attendance is good, and growing. Our average attendance on Sunday is around 40-50 people (Café Church – around 80). We have Home Groups each week with a once a month Bible study and discussion. We have our own village-based administrator.

All Saints' has a devoted team of lay worship leaders and many are involved in leading intercessions, stewarding and welcoming, providing refreshments after a service or for special events, church flowers, brass cleaning. We also love our fantastic team of bell ringers.

Opposite All Saints' is the Church Centre, a popular venue for events, meetings, children's parties, quizzes, community meals, and used by church and community groups from across the Team.

We have a good and collaborative relationship with our County Primary School. And All Saints' is regularly used by the school for festival services. The village is blessed with a well-run and collaborative village hall and a Royal British Legion Club.



St Nicolas Chute with Chute Forest

Chute is a vibrant and engaging rural community that moves with the times. New arrivals are welcomed for their energy, and longer-term residents provide consistency and stability. The village event of the year is the fete, and the community holds regular social events throughout the year, and there is an active WhatsApp group.

The Village Hall (once the school) hosts monthly lunches and coffee mornings, plus Yoga, Parish Council meetings, Gardening Club, parties, receptions and lectures. Chute Club is a modern and well-equipped membership venue. The local pub holds monthly musical events.

Although set in an area of beautiful scenery and North Wessex Downs AONB there are good connections to larger towns nearby, and rail connections to London and the South West. Good internet connection allows many to work from home, though we are still a farming community.

St Nicolas' Church in Upper Chute is an intimate Victorian rebuild of a 13th century structure. It is well-maintained and equipped, though without mains water and toilets. There is a good organ, piano, a modest sound system and a good broadband connection. We have six well maintained bells. There is one service each Sunday, often with a focussed discussion or with socialising over refreshments.

We host a community choir, a talented group of flower arrangers, a Bible study home group and the community emergency fund. The usual seasonal services will fill the church, as will weddings and funerals. The occasional Pets' Service is popular with families. Another church, St Mary's in Chute Forest, "our church in the fields", is protected by the Churches Conservation Trust and hosts candle-lit family and community events.



Collingbourne Ducis and Everleigh

Our parish of St. Andrew's is in the south-western corner of the Team, and covers a large area of farmland, woodland and MOD land, being on the edge of Salisbury Plain Training Area. The two villages are close by with a wide-ranging demographic.

Located at the heart of the village, but on the busy A338, St Andrew's is a church with ancient origins, even before the Domesday Book. A large church with a surrounding graveyard, it has excellent facilities, a kitchen, toilet and sound system. There is a Sunday service each week and two Church Wardens with others support it. Congregation attendance varies between eight to twelve.

The recently restored bells are rung fortnightly by the Collingbourne & Everleigh Society of Bell Ringers. Supportive village activities are held throughout the year such as a summer Fete and Tri-Village Tournament, Starters and Puddings Festival, Lent Lunches and Harvest Supper. A much-loved Christingle and Come to Bethlehem service is held every Christmas and is incredibly well attended. The Church is very much part of the landscape.

The CofE Primary School in Ducis is a fairly large school, with catchment from surrounding villages and a preschool playgroup at the Village Hall. We are blessed with two public houses and a large and popular Indian restaurant at Everleigh. We have our own post office shop.

The village Hall hosts sports and recreation, a community café and a monthly film club, with a Beerfest each summer.

St. Peter's Church in Everleigh is in the care of the Churches Conservation trust and services are held there three or four times a year at the major festivals.



Great Bedwyn

Situated between Savernake Forest and the Kennet & Avon Canal, we are a thriving, socially mixed rural community with ancient roots. We enjoy many facilities. Bedwyn train station offers easy access to Reading, London or the West Country. We are on a bus route and a cycle path. Blessed with both a post office shop and local supermarket, an excellent doctor's surgery, a pub, recreation ground and a community café, football field and tennis courts, and cricket club, we consider ourselves rich.

The village hall, recently extended and well used, shares its site with the Cricket Club. Nearby is the Bruce Trust boats, who run holidays for disabled people in their specially made boats. Crofton Beam engines are not far away. We have many clubs and societies run by volunteers. There is much to say about Bedwyn!

The large Primary school lies at the far end of the village, with many links to the church congregation with Open the Book and assistance with reading.

The St Mary's building is mostly 12th Century with Saxon foundations and is the largest building in the Team, being capable of seating 450 people. We have a kitchen, toilet and sound system and good disabled access.

The congregations vary from 10 to 40 but at Christmas the Christingle can bring in as many as 250. Our numbers are growing. Recent major repair work, to roof, bells and Grade II organ have needed much financial support from the local community via our 'Friends of St Mary's'. We have a lot of Royal history here and visitors come to view the Wolfhall and Seymour connection.

We hold a service most Sundays and a weekly lunchtime communion. A weekly Friendship Club provides lunch for free and through the summer, walkers and visitors join villagers at the Saturday afternoon Teas. These both are very much appreciated and give us a chance to meet people and give back. We also hold events, including art exhibitions and concerts.



Ham and Buttermere



Ham Parish is unique within the Savernake Team in that we have two churches with separate but overlapping congregations: All Saints' in Ham and St James the Great in Buttermere.

All Saints' is a prayerful place, a cherished heart for the life and witness of the village. It's a particular favourite of Bishop Andrew's who records his albums here, relishing the wonderful acoustic. St James' Buttermere is a hidden treasure. Standing higher above sea level than the other churches in the Diocese, it has no electricity supply and worship takes place in candlelight.

Loving and committed members of the community play a hugely supportive role in the life of the church here. We hold regular Sunday services where attendance is always good. Some services are shared with Shalbourne.

A very well supported Walk of Witness on Good Friday, a candlelit Crib Service at St James', and a packed Christmas morning service at All Saints' with a young people's band are particular features. Our Christian life doesn't end at the church gate! We befriend and support all our neighbours regardless of belief. Both Ham and Buttermere are small communities with big hearts witnessed daily in quiet acts of kindness and love.

Little Bedwyn



We are a small rural parish close to Great Bedwyn with a very strong community spirit, the focal point being the beautiful church. Our activities include the hamlet of Chisbury. The Kennet and Avon Canal and the Paddington main railway line follow the River Dun through the village.

The village owns a meadow and wooded area beside the church, which is well used as an amenity area. The Street Market, our equivalent of a village fete, is held here and on the lane leading to the Church.

The congregation is small but faithful and care deeply for their local community. The church family is friendly and welcoming. The average age is rising; always keen to attract young families.

We value the support and encouragement of the community to explore ideas and initiatives to achieve this. We aim to foster community spirit, ensuring that all parts of the community are included and cared for.

St Michael's has been the venue for the Benefice's reflective Still Waters services during Advent and Lent, and also a start-finish point for monthly Creation Church walks.

East Grafton



Grafton parish, which lies to the south of the Bedwyns, consists of two villages - East Grafton and Wilton - and three hamlets - Wexcombe, West Grafton and Marten. Wilton has a very popular pub, The Swan, and an open working windmill which is occasionally the site of fetes and fairs.

East Grafton, where our church, St. Nicholas', is located has a large modern village hall which is used almost every day for a wide variety of activities and a nursery school, Sunflowers. East Grafton's large village green is where larger parish events are held. For our Coronation and D-Day celebrations, which attracted a very large turnout, we had stalls and exciting rounders matches.

Winter lunches are produced in the Coronation Hall for anyone to partake. Two farming families, the Hosiers and the Lemons, continue to be loyal supporters of our church and we celebrate the end of the harvest every year with a supper and quiz in the Coronation Hall.

The building of St. Nicholas' Church was completed in 1844. During the last ten years some serious repairs have been done to the roof and internal work to make it more welcoming. Our next project is to continue the restoration of our tubular chimes.

We hold one Holy Communion Service on the first Sunday of every month where about a dozen attend, but at Church Festivals, we have more like one hundred. Although we have a small congregation, there is a lot of support locally both financially and in action. Like everyone else in the Team, we are keen to find ways to grow our church and attract the younger generation.

Shalbourne



Shalbourne is a beautiful village set in steep, rolling downland. But it's much more than that. Over and over again the word that crops up when local people talk about Shalbourne is 'Community'. This is a vibrant and friendly place. The village hall and pavilion on the sports field host a wide variety of community groups and clubs. There is always something going on, from the sports teams, second-hand book sales, the Gardening Club, carols on the green at Christmas, our annual Classic Car Show, and the Shalbourne Growers, our community garden. Dramsdon is the much loved and well supported care home here. There's also a wonderful village shop and pub.

St Michael and all Angels' is a vital and flourishing focus for a great deal of this activity.

We have a wide circle of volunteers – readers, worship leaders, bell ringers, flower angels, cleaners, coffee providers – keeping the church energetic and growing. Most Sundays we have a service where regular attendance is good and growing.

We host a couple of fundraising concerts each year and also raise funds at the annual fete. We have a very healthy number of committed members on our PCC. We are blessed with a truly first-class organist and our Evensong services are beautifully enhanced by the playing of psalms, canticles and anthems on our excellent new sound system.

Collingbourne Kingston



The combined communities of Collingbourne Kingston, Aughton and Brunton make up a small and friendly farming community.

St Mary's holds a service each Sunday, and although a small congregation, the PCC continually looks for other ways to include the local community.

Originally a Saxon building, restoration was carried out during the 1800's. It possesses a fine organ and six bells, which are regularly rung by the local bellringers society. Local villagers run a wide range of activities, and many from the village hall opposite.

There is also a pub and a small garage. Children attend the local Primary at Ducis.

St Katharine's



St Katharine's hamlet in Savernake Forest comprises five houses and a primary school, yet weekly congregations average 23, excluding festivals. Special days attract sizable congregations: Carol Service 250. Large attendances for Remembrance Sunday reflect the many former forces people living nearby.

Around 125 people live across this rural church parish in scattered settlements. We offer two priest-led Communion services monthly, plus two more services, with staunch support from six lay-leaders and a regular organist. Our Electoral Roll is increasing.

St Katharine's School holds six services in church annually. Recently, a school class attended a baptism service. The PCC values this relationship highly. Many congregants have been governors. The most recent SIAMS report stated: The inspirational headteacher, together with staff, have created a vibrant learning community. This generates a culture of exceptional care and support which lives out its Christian vision. Through this, pupils are enabled to grow in love for learning, each other and the world around them.

The 'world around' is exceptionally beautiful. Fields are farmed using environmentally-friendly methods. The churchyard is well maintained, with the inclusion of natural areas that promote diverse flora, fauna and fungi. It is a peaceful refuge for visitors punctuated by children's voices, including those from the local day nursery.

Our Victorian church is very well maintained. Current plans involve renovating the kitchen to help provide an 'events' area. Community occasions include regular Soup Lunches, while Tidy-up Days help upkeep the large parking area – although negotiating potholes and a tolerance of mud are required!

Tidcome and Fosbury



Tucked into the Marlborough Downs and right at the centre of the Savernake Team lies the parish of St Michael's Tidcombe & Fosbury.

A small parish, set in a farming community, St Michael's is served by a flexible, faithful and forward-looking PCC. With regular Holy Communion and Evening Prayer Services, Tidcombe draws its congregation from across the whole Savernake Team. St Michael's sees the 'gathered' nature of its loyal congregation as a real strength and as a testament to the love felt towards this prayerful place by the Savernake community.

St Michael's is known as the "Vigil church" because it is where the Team congregates on Easter Eve to reflect on the Passion. It is seen as a place of quiet communion with God: a sanctuary in a beautiful, ancient setting (the font at St Michael's is Saxon, dating from 850).

At the beginning of Advent, St Michael's hosts a candlelit Christingle Service which is loved and lively and always full of young families.

The Tidcombe Concert Series has proved to be an extraordinary success story. Musicians love the church's wonderful acoustics and the warmth of the audience. In recent years we have welcomed many acclaimed folk musicians and singer songwriters who have performed to sell-out audiences. St Michael's Tidcombe exerts a subtle spiritual influence throughout the surrounding parishes, and far beyond.

Fosbury church is privately owned.

Meet the Team



Revd Jo Reid
Team Vicar



Samantha Cave
Team Administrator



Revd Clifford Poole
Retired Minister



Revd Dr Colin Heber-Percy
Part time Team Vicar



Revd Howard Jameson
Retired Minister

Safeguarding

The Savernake team is fully committed to the safeguarding of all children and vulnerable people in our parishes, recognising that the welfare of the child and that of vulnerable adults is paramount.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, so we encourage as many of the congregation as possible to take part in the Diocesan Safeguarding training. Anyone volunteering with either children's work or in leading worship must up to date DBS certificates.

Each of the churches within the team hold a current Safeguarding Policy and many of the churches have their own individual Safeguarding Officer.

Eileem Devenish

Savernake Team Safeguarding Officer

[Safeguarding \(SDBE\) - The Diocese of Salisbury: salisbury.anglican.org](https://www.salisbury.anglican.org)



Schools

As part of our mission to young families, the Savernake Team aims to develop and strengthen their connection with the four primary schools in the parishes. Of these schools, three are voluntarily C of E controlled. The fourth explores Christianity as part of its RE curriculum alongside other faiths. There are three local state secondary schools and several independent schools in the area.

Each primary school offers a warm and caring atmosphere. Headteachers and staff enthusiastically work with the clergy to ensure a Christian ethos is at the heart of school life.

'Open the Book' regularly visits Great Bedwyn school and is one of the many links across the team that helps to strengthen the relationship between the schools and the church.

We hope that these links continue to be mutually supportive.

Bedwyn Primary School is Ofsted-rated outstanding and encourages a caring attitude to the world around us. This is reflected in their weekly rota where pupils serve lunch to villagers in the Church Friendship Club. Many pupils continue their secondary education at St John's Academy, Marlborough, also rated outstanding by Ofsted.

The Rectory

The Vicarage is situated in the centre of Burbage, a very short distance from the church.

The Vicarage is a well maintained, comfortable family house, set well back from the road. A summary of the accommodation is as follows – two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room with access to a double garage, four bedrooms, a shower and bathroom. The study is by the front door with a cloakroom nearby to aid family privacy. The property is double glazed with solar panels and has a well-established garden, mainly laid to lawn with a number of flower and shrub beds, as well as a good sized parking area.

The village of Burbage is well provided with facilities: a general store, Post Office, service station, hardware shop and builders' merchants and a pub. We have a doctor's surgery in the village, a popular primary school and pre-school, active sports clubs, a village hall and recreation field and British Legion, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, and Brownies, as well as Woman's Own and Good Companions for more senior residents.

There are regular and convenient train services from Bedwyn, Pewsey and Andover to London, Reading, Bristol and the West Country. There is also easy access to the M4, M3 and A303.

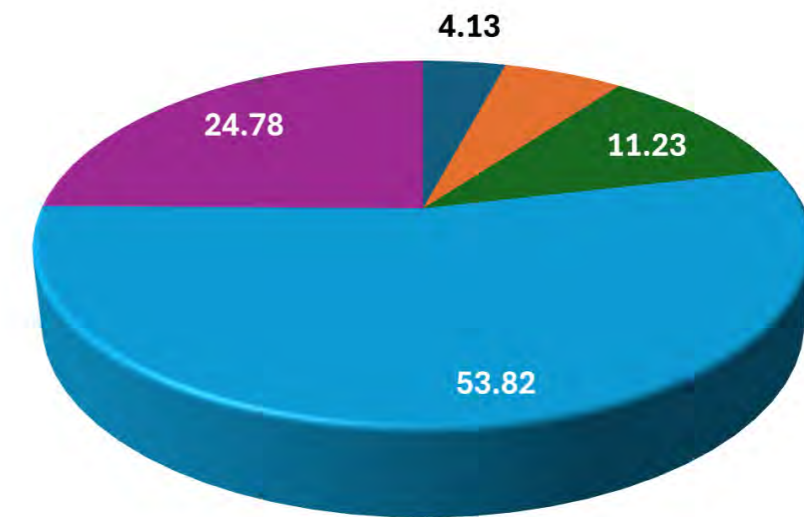
The primary schools within the Team feed into excellent local secondary schools: Pewsey Vale; and St John's Academy in Marlborough has an 'outstanding' OFSTED rating. Marlborough College has generous bursaries for children of clergy and there is a bus which goes daily to Dauntsey's School.



Team Statistics

This shows the size of each age group in the entire Savernake Team.

Population Average



■ 0-4 years
 ■ 5-9 years
 ■ 10-19 years
 ■ 20-64 years
 ■ 65+ years

Finances

Savernake Team Total

Total Income £352k | Total Expenditure £323k | Balance £29k

Parish by Parish	INCOME 2023 (£K)	EXPENDITURE 2023 (£K)	Plus Investments?	2024 Expectation
All Saints' Burbage	112	112	Y	Worse
St James' Buttermere	6	4	Y	Worse
St Michael & All Angels Shalbourne	36	12	Y	Worse
All Saints' Ham	16	12	Y	Worse
St Nicolas' Chute	31	30	Y	Similar
St Andrew's Collingbourne Ducis	16	17	Y	Worse
St Mary's Collingbourne Kingston	26	15	Y	Similar
St Michael's Tidcombe	10	7	Y	Same
St Nicholas' East Grafton	14	23	Y	Worse
St Katharine's Savernake Forest	45	42	Y	Same
St Mary's Great Bedwyn	45	53	Y	Worse
St Michael's Little Bedwyn	11	13	Y	Worse

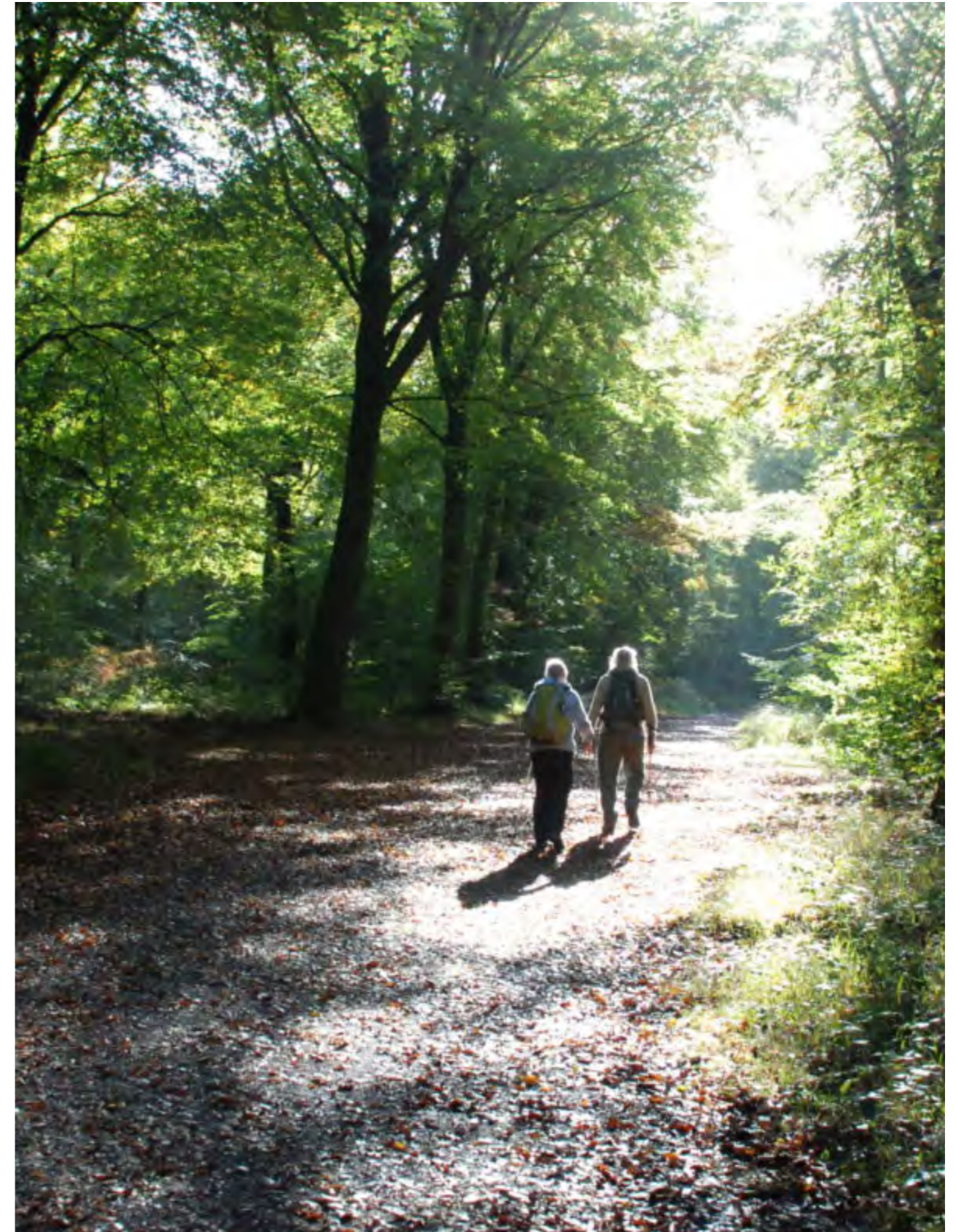


Image credit: Ann Shepley

Team Service Rota 2024

2024	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
All Saints' Burbage	6pm Evening Communion	11am Morning Worship	11am Morning Worship	11am Family Communion
St James' Buttermere				9.30am Matins
St Michael & All Angels Shalbourne		9am Holy Communion	11am Morning Worship	5pm Evensong
All Saints' Ham	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong		
St Nicolas' Chute	11am Family Service	6pm Evensong	10am Morning Worship	9am Holy Communion
St Andrew's Collingbourne Ducis	6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Family Service	11am Holy Communion
St Mary's Collingbourne Kingston		11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong
St Michael's Tidcombe	9.30am Holy Communion			
St Nicholas' East Grafton	11am Holy Communion			
St Katharine's Savernake Forest	6pm Evening Prayer	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
St Mary's Great Bedwyn	11am Morning Prayer		11am Holy Communion	10am Family Service
St Michael's Little Bedwyn	9.30am Holy Communion		6pm Evening Prayer	9am Holy Communion

On Fifth Sundays we have a team service which moves around the benefice. Mid-week Communion takes place each Wednesday 12pm, at St Mary's, Great Bedwyn. Life events in 2023: 12 Marriages/Blessings, 24 Baptisms, 53 Funerals/Ashes Interments, and 8 Confirmands.



Pewsey Deanery

We very much look forward to welcoming a new colleague to the Pewsey Deanery. Described by Bishop Andrew as having “the gift of smallness”, Pewsey Deanery consists of only two teams. We work closely together in mutual support and encouragement, and all clergy and LLMs are invited to Chapter where we share news and pray for each other. Other highlights include:

- **Deanery Outreach Group** – was formed twelve years ago to spearhead outreach where we have the critical mass to do things as a Deanery rather than as team or parish. Recently we have organised Lenten talks on ‘Give up stress for Lent’ and ‘Listening to God’. We have organised on three occasions the Life Exhibition, a powerful outreach on the life of Jesus for years 5 and 6 much appreciated by teachers as part of the National Curriculum and seen by up to 600 primary school children. This autumn we have Jonathan Veira coming. We very much hope you will want to participate fully in the group.
- **Pewsey Deanery Prayers** – is a weekly email which goes out on a Wednesday and much appreciated by over a thousand people across the deanery, the country and indeed, the world as many readers are in America and other countries. Coming out of lockdown emails (now published as Tales of a Country Parish by Colin Heber-Percy), the weekly email featuring a picture, reflection, prayer and piece of music is edited by him and written by a regular team of four.



- **Deanery Support Officer** – We have recently secured diocesan funding for this role and hope to have someone in post in the first quarter of next year. The main task is in direct support of parish officeholders and PCC members, encouraging mutual support across parishes, being a liaison between national church, diocese and parish. The idea is to help relieve some of the burdens of office and hopefully by doing this to actively be of assistance to the clergy.

Philip Smith, a member of the Savernake Team, is an excellent and energetic Lay Chair.

And Finally...

“For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease.” - Job 14.7

We’re not perfect. None of us are. But are you ready for an adventure as part of this imperfect but faithful Team? And with your help, we can flourish together.

If you’re interested in finding out more then please don’t hesitate to contact us for an informal chat.

Canon Gerald Osborne (Rural Dean) – 07747 603795

Revd Jo Reid (Team Vicar) – jo.reid@savernaketeam.com

Revd Dr Colin Heber-Percy (Team Vicar) – colinheberpercy@gmail.com

David Homer (Lay Chair Team Council) – 07767 667679



The Savernake Team Prayer

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
you have set the Tree of Life in your heavenly city
to yield its fruits throughout the year;
prosper your servants of the Savernake Team
that they may continually bear the fruits of the Spirit
as they work together for the glory of your name,
through him who hung for all upon a tree,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen