



*Growing  
in the  
love of God*

# Benefice Profile

## Upper Wylde Valley Team



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## Team Rector

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## Further information and deadline

If you would like further information, would like to discuss any points relating to the position, or would like an informal chat, please do not hesitate to contact:

- Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum  
([adsarum@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:adsarum@salisbury.anglican.org) and Mobile: 07891 651211)
- Katherine Venning (LLM) on behalf of Upper Wylde Valley Team  
([katherine.venning@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.venning@gmail.com) and 01985 840283)

The closing date for applications is 24 October 2024. However, enquiries are welcomed at any time.



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Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the post of Rector for the Upper Wylde Valley Team, part of the See of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury. This is a super opportunity for imaginative rural ministry within one of the most attractive parts of Wiltshire.

The ancient see of Ramsbury, covering much of that county, is rich in spiritual heritage, from the cathedral city of Salisbury and the valleys of its five rivers, 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 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,*



## WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in the Upper Wylde Valley benefice and we hope that you will read on.

In vacancy since late 2022 and after two unsuccessful rounds of advertising, we appreciate that taking on a benefice of eight parishes and ten churches is a challenge that is not to be taken on lightly. However, we continue to seek prayerfully a Rector who has a call to rural ministry and can lead our benefice into the next stage of our ministry and mission.

The **mission** statement within our logo is '**Growing in the Love of God**'. That is our endeavour, and we would welcome the help and support that an enthusiastic Team Rector would bring.

Our parishes and churches are similar in many ways but each has their own characteristics whose **vision is to be open, welcoming, growing and inclusive, living within the love of God and sharing God's life and love with others.**



The prospect of being the Rector of ten churches might seem daunting and yet we believe this is an exciting opportunity for growth – growth in active worship and mission for the church community and for a new Rector moved by the Lord to deliver His will in this place. Preliminary Mission Planning work is ongoing, informed by the discussions taking place across the congregations and the PCCs about how we can play our part in growth, through providing substantial support of the Rector and to achieving mission ambitions - in all cases working as a team following our vision. Precise details need to be formulated under the leadership of the new Rector, but the principal points that have been identified are:-

- A willingness across the benefice for change where needed
- Support in achieving the Rector's desired balance between ministry, mission and management
- Recruiting and training more Lay Worship Leaders (LWLs) and Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)
- Employing a wider variety of services where the laity will play a major part
- More effective use of IT, social media and other forms of communication
- Consideration of new models for PCCs and how the PCCs could work together.

It is recognised that there is a considerable administrative load associated with managing the benefice and consequently this has already been eased substantially by the recruitment of an Administration Officer and the establishment of a dedicated Parish Office. In addition, and as part of



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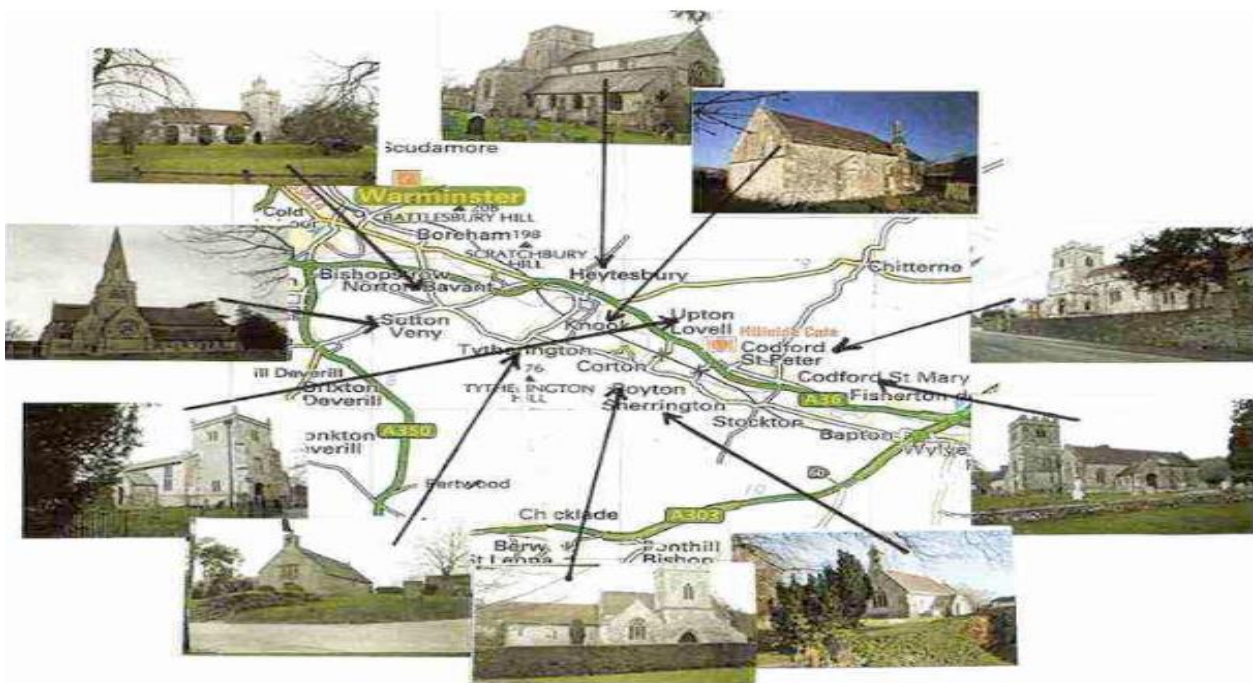
this continuing process of growth, a recent meeting of representatives from across the benefice took place at which it was concluded we need to imagine what 'good' would look like for the benefice at some point in the future, say 5 years from now. With such a view of 'good' it would then be possible to work out how to achieve it. The theme areas that were agreed as important were:

- Achieve good engagement with families and children. Addressing the problems that come with loneliness
- All our people know the Gospel and make it more a part of our lives
- Greater focus on growing an active Christian Faith across the benefice
- Encourage our people across the benefice to ensure there are enough of the right people leading, facilitating and being active in all aspects of the life of the church
- Using the church buildings better and ensuring that they are more accessible for all
- Providing wider pastoral support
- Be Mission Focused – Looking outwards, not just inwards; being part of the Global Church
- Be willing to change and adapt but don't 'dumb-down' our faith
- Trust In God

*Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.  
Isaiah 43. 18-19*

## OUR CHURCHES

The team area is relatively compact. Its spine is the A36 in the Wylde Valley in Wiltshire, lying between Warminster to the north and Salisbury to the south. The map below shows our 10 churches that lie within our 8 parishes: St John in Sutton Veny; All Saints in Norton Bavant; St Peter and St Paul in Heytesbury; St James in Tytherington; St Margaret in Knook; St Augustine in Upton Lovell; The Blessed Virgin Mary in Boyton; St Peter in Codford; St Cosmos and St Damian in Sherrington and St Mary in Codford.



and



St Leonard's Old Church, Sutton Veny

(in the care of the [Churches' Conservation Trust](#))

Pictures, a short history and a description of the character of all our churches and their associated villages, together with contact details for Churchwardens, can be found on the [upperwyldevalleyteam.com](http://upperwyldevalleyteam.com) website.

*I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord.'*  
*Psalm 122:1*

## OUR TEAM AND WHO WE ARE

Our Church community, based on electoral roll information, is about 360 and was led initially during the vacancy by our Team Vicar, Revd Clifford Stride, who was appointed in 2016 and lived in the Vicarage in Codford, which he occupied on a house-for-duty basis until his retirement at the end of February 2024. It is assumed that the recruitment of his successor would await the arrival in post of the new incumbent.

The Team Vicar was supported by our associate priest, Revd Jonathan Hiscox (who conducts services on three Sundays a month, due to full-time work commitments) and our Licensed Lay Minister, Katherine Venning, who leads non-Eucharistic services, takes funerals and runs the Team Choir. Katherine now provides the local leadership of and coordination within the benefice, supported by the Assistant Rural Dean, Revd Lorraine Dobbins. There are six enthusiastic Lay Worship Leaders (LWLs) and four Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs). One LWL has just completed her training for Licenced Lay Ministry and will be commissioned on September 28th. The whole team is supported by an efficient, part-time Team Administrator.



*Jonathan*



*Katherine*

We cannot overlook the unsettling effect of another vacancy so soon after the last in 2018, compounded by the COVID 19 pandemic and by the tragic sudden death of one of our most active retired priests. We wish every success to Revd Trudy Hobson, who served as Team Rector between July 2019 and November 2022, before moving on to her new role as Army chaplain. As a Team, we are encouraged that we continue to provide an ambitious number of services of all styles from BCP to Fresh Expressions (e.g. Café Church), led by both clergy and laity. We have volunteers for 'Open the Book' in our three thriving church primary schools. We remain actively engaged in Heytesbury Deanery, including maintaining our 50-year link with the church in South Sudan; a linkage that was fostered by the recent visit of three Sudanese bishops, together with their wives, following the 2022 Lambeth conference.

Encouraged by engaging with the Salisbury Diocese /CPAS 'THRIVE' initiative years, our clergy, LWLs and LPAs have actively considered and undertaken some experimentation with a few fresh approaches to rural ministry as well as helping to keep mission in the forefront of our decision making and a standing item on our PCC agendas.

Living in such a beautiful rural area lends itself to embrace the well-attended seasonal festivals and to make use of outdoor services that attract the wider community .

In addition to our timetable of services that are published on the website, throughout the year we have regular midweek activities, Bible Study groups and more informal house groups. The programme varies with the season so that we can include Advent discussions, Lent lunches, Holy Week and Maundy Thursday services and can make use of the light evenings and better weather of the summer for Pimms and Hymns, concerts and evening gatherings. Community cafés meet weekly in Codford and monthly in Sutton Veny and a knit and natter group meet in Ginny's Cafe in Boyton. During the autumn and winter months, there is a monthly Men's Fellowship Breakfast meeting in a local pub with visiting speakers and the Friends of the Churches hold occasional fundraising evenings with speakers on a wide variety of topics.

The choir meets weekly under the capable leadership of Katherine Venning and, while the distribution of experienced bell ringers is patchy across the parishes, encouragement can be drawn from the recent recruitment of eight enthusiastic learners who practise twice a week. Church members are often prominent within their village activities, giving the church good links within the community.

The Covid pandemic provided its challenges but also opportunities. The importance of churches as places of prayer and tranquillity was recognised and the buildings were kept open to the maximum extent that the regulations allowed. Online Zoom services were quickly established but were discontinued once it became apparent that the majority wished to worship in person rather than online.

Consistent with the aim to care for everyone in our villages, church members were actively involved in each village's response to community support during the Covid pandemic and as often happens, there is frequently a crossover between a broad range of community and church-based activities. The weekly community café in Codford and the monthly equivalent in Sutton Veny, are run by both churchgoers and non-churchgoers. Similarly, the hope is that our Table Talk sessions in Lent and Advent, which have taken place in local pubs, might have pricked more than curiosity in the other regulars present at the bar.

We recognise that some of our parishes are struggling to find enough volunteers to serve on their PCCs, most have only one churchwarden at present and two have no one formally in post but the responsibilities continue to be discharged by volunteers. All our churches have in the past paid their share in full<sup>1</sup> and, in several cases with the support of a Friends of the Church group, to maintain the

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<sup>1</sup> Two are struggling more than others and may not be able to pay in full in 2024.





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fabric of our ancient and historic buildings. The mix of parish-based and Team organised activities seems to work. Collaboration and the exchange of best practice between parishes is increasing and this helps to spread the load. The need to ensure that we help reduce the burden on the Team Rector is foremost in our minds and the number of PCCs should not be seen as a problem as we are used to laity officiating when the Rector is not available to attend.

*Blessed is the one..... whose delight is in the law of the LORD and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither - whatever they do prospers.*

*Psalms 1: 1-3*

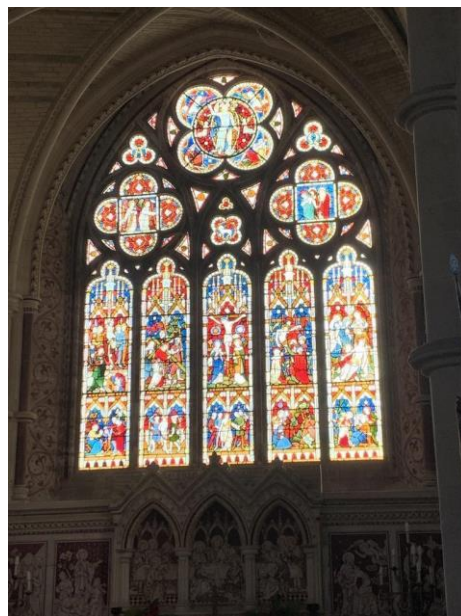
## **OUR STRENGTHS**

1. A supportive team of clergy, LWLs, LPAs and laity looking forward to working under the leadership of the Rector with full support from Heytesbury Deanery and Salisbury Diocese.
2. Friendly congregations looking forward to the leadership of their Rector but wanting to give him or her ample time and space to get to know us.
3. Mission to the young via the three church Primary Schools through Open the Book, collective worship and serving as foundation governors.
4. A willingness to form groups to address pan-benefice issues. This offers the potential for the Rector to retain flexibility over attendance at routine PCC meetings.
5. Devolved groups that meet as necessary, namely the Churchwardens/Church Representatives, Treasurers, LWLs and LPAs.
6. A Team Choir led by the Licensed Lay Minister and some excellent organists.
7. The support of an effective part-time Team Administrator.
8. Our generally sound finances with a past record of full share payments and, in several instances, supportive Friends groups resulting in well-maintained buildings and some exciting projects to improve church facilities for use by both church and community.
9. Our positivity, demonstrated during the vacancy and our resilience and adaptability shown during Covid.
10. A rural area of outstanding natural beauty, but within easy reach of cities including Salisbury and Bath with some good local schools at both primary and secondary level.



## OUR CHALLENGES

1. Only one associate priest to support the Rector.
2. Our faithful congregations are getting older and a bit smaller.
3. Becoming better at praying together and becoming better disciples and followers of Jesus.
4. Implementing at local level the Salisbury Diocese vision of 'Making Jesus known' by sharing the good news with those who have no knowledge of the gospel: meeting them where they are rather than expecting them to come into church and increasing the visibility of the church community within the parishes.
5. Encouraging those parishioners who love our buildings to become a part of the church community, sharing in faith and worship
6. Providing regular collective worship at three church schools and maintaining/developing Open the Book participation. Engaging with the young once they have moved up to secondary school and reaching out to a generation of parents who have not known faith.
7. Encouraging more LPAs to assist with pastoral care and to be the eyes and ears of the clergy.
8. Managing our limited time available and using our God-given gifts effectively.
9. Encouraging younger people to join our PCCs and, in time, to take on responsible roles.



*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

*1 Corinthians 12.4-7*

## OUR NEW RECTOR

### Job Description

In the light of our acknowledged strengths and challenges, we have identified five areas which we would like our new Rector to prioritise.

We are seeking someone who will;

1. Help us to grow spiritually both as individuals and communities, to develop our knowledge and application of Scripture and to develop our Christian life. To lead us in our witness to the love of God in Christ and our proclamation of the Good News of the Gospel.
2. Enable and encourage us to be the people of God in the Upper Wylle Valley and lead us to prayer and work together to find a clear vision and plan for the future ministry, mission and growth.  
Support and develop existing successful ministries and continue to foster a sense of unity between our parishes, encouraging us to work together across the Team on common successes and problems.
3. Lead our ordained ministers, LLM and our teams of Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Pastoral Assistants and enable them to work effectively both in our Church worship and activities and within our wider communities.  
Actively encourage all lay people to recognise and develop their own gifts and to use them in ministry and service to God and their neighbours.  
Empower and support churchwardens to be effective within their own parishes as well as facilitating the sharing of best practice and coordinating common activities across parishes.
4. Be willing to make a commitment to live alongside us in the Upper Wylle Valley, to get to know us and care for us. To be happy to participate in the wider social life of our villages and to help us all to be a visible presence of God's love to all who live and work in the Upper Wylle Valley.
5. To take an active role in sustaining and building on the existing good links between our three church primary schools and be happy to take regular collective worship.  
To be prepared to take on an active role as a Governor of at least one school.

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.*

*1 Peter 5.2-3*

## Person Specification

**We are hoping that the successful candidate will possess the following attributes:**

- An energetic and enthusiastic leader of God's Church in our villages, ideally with leadership experience in ministry.
- Will be a person who is confident in their Christian faith and whose ministry is grounded in prayer and worship.
- Have some understanding of the joys, challenges and demands of a multi-parish, rural benefice, be a confident facilitator and able to work with people of many backgrounds.
- Will be approachable with a warm, outgoing personality and be at ease in meeting and getting to know all members of our communities.
- Have clear communication skills and be an effective team builder - drawing on the gifts of all involved to meet the needs of the benefice.

**We would like our Rector to:**

- Enjoy leading worship and preaching the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Challenge us all to deepen our faith and discipleship
- Be comfortable with traditional liturgies but also keen to help us make worship attractive and accessible to those unfamiliar with formal services and music.
- Help us draw in those on the fringes of our churches, especially all those who only attend services at Christmas, Easter and rural celebrations, including younger families
- Be willing to carry out pastoral visiting in homes and to meet with people informally at their work or through social events.

In compiling this benefice profile, we have endeavoured to consult widely to elicit views on the qualities and skill sets that parishioners consider to be important in our next Rector. The Word Cloud below attempts to convey that there are some recurring themes.



## THE UPPER WYLYE VALLEY TEAM AREA

The Team area is just 6 miles long and 1½ miles wide, running down the Wylde valley with Salisbury Plain to the north and the chalk downs and forestry of Great Ridge to the south. The villages vary in size from Codford (with almost 1000 residents) to Sherrington (about 60). Most of the benefice lies within the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

According to the 2021 census, the total population in the Team area is about 2,800 adults and 475 aged 18 and under. There are three good Church primary schools (in Codford, Heytesbury and Sutton Veny) with a total of approximately 370 pupils. Most move on to the large and successful secondary, Kingdown School, in Warminster, or alternatively they can gain places in an excellent choice of schools in Salisbury.

Farming is an important activity, contributing to the local economy and caring for the environment. Some of our residents are employed by the Army around Salisbury Plain and others are engaged in heritage, the arts, education, craft industries or work in small industrial units.



Accommodation is mixed, ranging from social housing to large properties. House prices are high and, even with a significant quantity of social and private rented housing, there is still a shortage of housing for the young, who may have to move into Warminster or other local towns to find somewhere to live. More low-cost housing is needed in these villages and there are pockets of real rural poverty requiring social support. There is a fair proportion of retired people.

Codford and Heytesbury have local shopping facilities, including Post Offices. The other villages either make use of these or travel the relatively short distance to Warminster, the nearby, medium-sized town.

Further general information, extracted from a range of data sets, about Wiltshire and the Warminster Community area (including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) can be found via the link below:  
<https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/cajsna/warminster/>

## LIFE IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

### SERVICES

The current timetable of services is available on the website. It encompasses a wide variety of styles of worship, from the Book of Common Prayer through Common Worship to Fresh Expressions and we hope our new Team Rector will be happy to continue with this variety as well as encouraging us to experiment with other forms of worship that would strengthen the benefice. Regular services have generally small but committed congregations. At Christmas, Easter, Harvest and special occasions such as Jubilees our churches are well attended. Remembrance Sunday is an important day in our calendar, especially as our nearness to Salisbury Plain military training area means we have a high number of serving and retired military personnel. We have strong historical links with the Australian and New Zealand armed forces and mark ANZAC Day in our churches and schools. There are beautifully maintained ANZAC cemeteries in Sutton Veny and Codford which are the settings for a dawn service on ANZAC Day in Codford and Sutton Veny school's annual ANZAC service.



### *ANZAC Commemorations*

As rural parishes, we enjoy making the most of Plough Sunday and Rogation Sunday. Together with Messy and Muddy church experimentation, these are usually family focussed services, outside or in a barn, with plenty of visual aids in the form of tractors, animals and grain stores. They give us important contact with a wider group of parishioners than the more traditional services and link well with our periodic Café Church when people meet for breakfast and an informal service in Sutton Veny village hall. In all the above, our LLM, the team of six LWLs and the four LPAs provide enthusiastic support to the Team clergy and to individual parishes and there is an exciting opportunity to develop these roles further.

We recognise that for many people their only experience of church is for Occasional Offices and we are alert to the need to make sure that their experience at these events encourages them to return. The statistics for mission figures for 2023 are shown below.

Baptisms	9
Weddings	7
Wedding Blessings	1
Funeral service in Church	16
Memorial service in Church	8
Funeral Service in Crematorium	6
Committal of body in Church	14
Committal of ashes in Church	12
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>73</b>

## SCHOOLS

There are three church primary schools in the benefice, Sutton Veny (VC), Wylie Valley (VA) and Heytesbury (Acorn Trust). The link between parish and school is important to both sides. The schools welcome regular visits from the clergy for collective worship and from the dedicated Open the Book teams in each school. We hope our new Rector will foster these links and take an active part in school life. We are pleased to welcome the children into their village churches for routine services as well as occasional events such as Experience Easter and Experience Harvest.



## ADMINISTRATION

We are one team but currently our ten churches are overseen by eight PCCs. This arrangement is under review and consideration is being given to the benefits of a multi-church PCC (or PCCs) supported by individual, but less formal, Local Church Councils (LCCs).

Each church has its own character and traditions, which we respect and value within the unity of a team structure. The ministry team, consisting of the licensed clergy and the Licensed Lay Minister meet to plan worship and compile the monthly rota of services. Licensed Lay Worship Leaders meet to plan services and the LPAs meet as required to share best practice. The PCC treasurers also



have their own team meetings. The need for appropriately strong administrative support for the Team Rector is clearly recognised and the team treasurers, with support from the Diocese in the form of a £10,000 benefice share reduction, have agreed to provide funding for what is required. The details of the administrator's role and working arrangements can be reviewed by the new Team Rector.

## **COMMUNICATIONS – WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA & NEWSLETTERS**

The importance of good communications is fully appreciated. The UWVT website is maintained in-house by a volunteer. The Parish News is a monthly publication distributed free to every house in the benefice and is available on the Upper Wylde Valley Team [website](#). The monthly [Sutton Veny Village Newsletter](#) is also delivered free to every house in the village. Social media (Facebook, Twitter etc) are channels that offer potential but are not currently fully exploited.

## **BUILDINGS AND SURROUNDINGS.**

**Eco Church & Churchyard Care** – Since 2016 four of our churches have registered with Eco Church, the A Rocha UK charity's award scheme for churches in England and Wales that want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. Three have attained the Bronze standard and Codford St Mary has Silver. Several churches support the Wiltshire Living Churchyards & Cemeteries Project, which strives to encourage the sympathetic management of our churchyards and have received Bishop's Awards in recognition of their efforts.

**Projects** - Keeping our beautiful ancient churches comfortable, useful and welcoming without ruining the planet is a challenge, but Norton Bavant have recently completed a project to update their fabric and facilities and provide toilet and catering space. Having completed major repair and restoration work to its roofs and chancel, Heytesbury Open Place project seeks to introduce community-friendly facilities in the form of a meeting room, toilet, and servery. Sutton Veny and Codford St Peter's churches are also engaged in similar facility enhancement projects; currently at the design stage with implementation dependent upon successful fundraising.

## **BEYOND THE BENEFICE BOUNDARIES.**

Church members engage fully in Heytesbury Deanery matters and are also involved in wider



ventures such as prison ministry, Warminster Food Bank, Cornerstone Advice Centre and Alabaré, a local Christian charity supporting the homeless.

Through the Salisbury Diocese link with the Sudans we link with Maridi



Diocese in South Sudan. As well as financial support we have been pleased to host the

South Sudanese Bishops here on occasions and in the past a member of the ministry team spent a month visiting Maridi and the Chaima Christian Institute with which we have special links.

Enthusiastic local historians ensure that we have a steady stream of visitors from Australia and New Zealand to the ANZAC cemeteries, they bring a fresh perspective on our shared history and are welcome visitors to our churches.

**THE HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN** in Heytesbury High Street was founded as an almshouse in 1472. It is now home to 50 residents living independently in 30 units and is run by a board of trustees, one of whom is the Heytesbury Churchwarden . It has a part time chaplain, who is not part of the Upper Wylle Valley ministry team but meets with members of the Heytesbury Church community to share ideas.

*Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.*

*James 5. 13-14*

## LIFE IN OUR VILLAGES

Currently being redecorated with a view to being let on a commercial lease during the vacancy, the Rectory is a four-bedroomed modern house on a quiet back lane in Sutton Veny. As well as two reception rooms and kitchen, there is a separate study. To walk along the road to the very popular C of E primary school and St John's takes all of a minute. The Rectory's good size garden also has a rear gate leading to the playing fields (perfect for dogs), the village hall, the school and the church. The village hall is active in putting on events like barn dances and quizzes and is used as the venue for two of the Friends of Churches groups to run events such as talks and suppers.



The nearest shop is in the next village of Heytesbury. Otherwise, Warminster has Waitrose, Morrisons, Iceland and Lidl supermarkets and plenty of other smaller shops of every kind and a regular country market.

The Vicarage in Codford, behind St Peter's Church, was the base for the Team Vicar and is currently let and potentially the new Rector could have a choice of which property they live in. Codford has two churches and its amenities include the GP Surgery for our area (with excellent doctors and nurses), a veterinary practice, a theatre with regular amateur productions and films, a large village hall with social club, a playing field with tennis courts, a pre-school, the primary school, as well as the Budgens shop, post office and garage/filling station. The pub is currently operating as a tea shop, but the village hall has a bar.

The other villages in the Team have many other facilities including the primary school, a popular pre-school and pubs in Heytesbury and Upton Lovell, the Ginger Piggery (Ginny's Cafe and craft shops) in Boyton and the smaller village halls in Corton, Upton Lovell and Norton Bavant.

As stated above, there is an excellent GP surgery with a pharmacy in Codford and other surgeries in Warminster. The main hospitals are in Bath, Salisbury and Southampton with smaller hospitals in Warminster and Frome. There is a nursing home in Sutton Veny and several other care and residential homes nearby.

There are secondary schools in Warminster and Westbury, and a wide choice in Salisbury. There are also independent schools nearby.

Throughout the Team area there are numerous village events and several special interest clubs and societies. Many villages have their own websites, newsletters and fact sheets and some have active WhatsApp Groups. The Wyllye Valley sits within a vibrant artistic community which hosts a number of literary and musical festivals including the popular biennial Wyllye Valley Art Trail which highlights the extraordinary amount of talent locally.

There is a two-hourly bus service along the A36 to Salisbury and, in the other direction, to Warminster and Bath. Less frequent buses run on the 'back road' connecting with Warminster and Salisbury. The train service from Warminster, north to Westbury, Trowbridge and Bath, and south to Salisbury and Southampton is hourly, and there are regular trains to London and further afield from Salisbury (to Waterloo) and from Westbury and Bath (to Paddington). There is also a good and fast coach service to London that stops in Codford and Warminster.



*Upton Lovell church door during Covid*

## CONCLUSION

We conclude by encouraging you to come and visit us, informally at first and then through an interview. Ultimately, we place this great matter in God's hands:

### TEAM PRAYER OF THE UWVT 2023 AT A TIME OF VACANCY

Heavenly Father in this time of vacancy we pray for our Team in the Upper Wylde Valley and we ask that you will help us all to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers. Lord Jesus, guard and grow this Church as we serve you together in this period without a rector. Please guide those who are seeking the right minister for us, and those who are seeking the right Church for their ministry, that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow. **Amen.**

### THE DIOCESAN VISION

We aspire to live up to the five priorities of the new diocesan vision of Making Jesus known.

## Our Vision: Making Jesus Known



*Jesus said, 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'*

*Matthew 28: 19-20.*