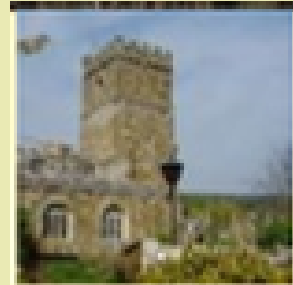


The Bride Valley and Chesil Benefice



St Catherine's Chapel, Abbotsbury.



Abbotsbury



Burton
Bradstock



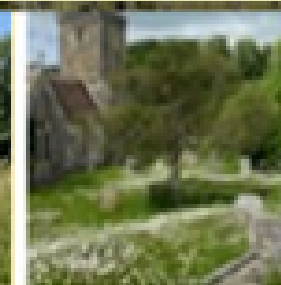
Langton
Herring



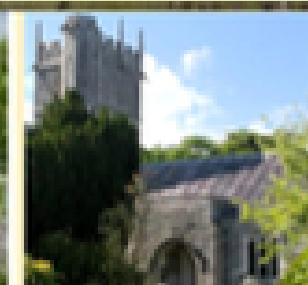
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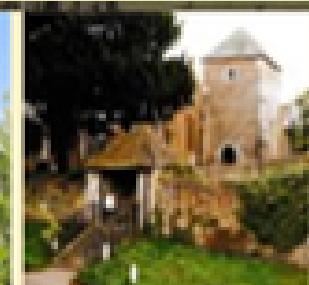
Litton
Cheney



Long Bredy



Portesham



Puncknowle



Shipton
Gorge



Swyre



Introduction to Vacancy by the Bishop of Sherborne

Thank you for your interest in this post. As House for Duty Associate Priest you will be working with the Rector, and other lay ministers, to support the ministry of worship and witness across the Bride Valley and its coastal villages. We are looking for someone with a love of rural ministry, and the time and gifts to share particularly with young people and families across the benefice.

There are huge opportunities here, and much happening so your ministry will include joining in with all that God is doing and to see where Christ leads. There are some excellent schools in the Bride Valley, with great leadership and good relationships with the local church. The community of Portesham, where the House for Duty post will be based, is a caring and close knit one, which welcomes visitors and newcomers alike. Many of the villages are popular for holiday makers, either staying or visiting for the day, with the delights of Abbotsbury Swannery, Burton Bradstock beach and many walks taking in Long and Little Bredy, and Langton Herring.

Rural ministry in Dorset is a joy and a delight. In recent years significant changes have been made in the way clergy are supported and encouraged, leading to a greater sense of collegiality in our rural areas. The Lyme Bay deanery, in which the benefice is situated, is great for mutual support and fellowship, with long serving colleagues alongside those who have made their home in West Dorset more recently. All the clergy are committed to the coast and countryside, and seeing how they can make Jesus known in creative ways, and through traditional means. Our church buildings in Dorset act as pilgrimage places as well as regular places of worship, with opportunities for prayer and outreach.

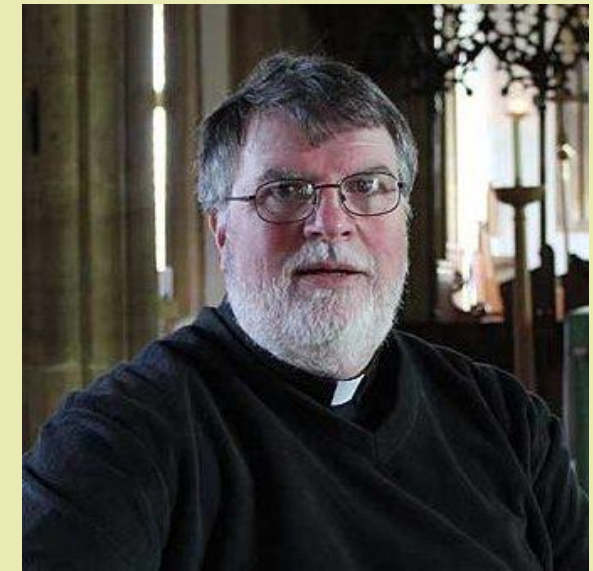
Rural ministry is always challenging, however sharing good practice is encouraged within deaneries and across the diocese. The diocese itself is committed to its rural benefices seeing how ministry can be supported and lay involvement developed. Local programmes of training to develop Lay Pastoral Assistants and Lay Worship Leaders have proved to be successful.

This role would suit someone with other interests, or who wishes to step back from fulltime ministry to a part-time one. We are looking for a flexible commitment of Sunday plus two days, and someone who will enjoy living amongst beautiful countryside within easy reach of Bridport, Lyme Regis and Dorchester with experience to offer. Here in Dorset we offer some great opportunities, wonderful countryside, supportive colleagues and some deeply spiritual places of worship and retreat.

Bishop Karen

Should you wish to know more about this post please contact either Archdeacon of Sherborne, The Ven Penny Sayer on adsherborne@salisbury.anglican.org or 01305 269074, or the Rector, Andrew Rawding on 07771851838.

Introduction to the Lyme Bay Deanery from Rural Dean, Reverend Canon David Baldwin



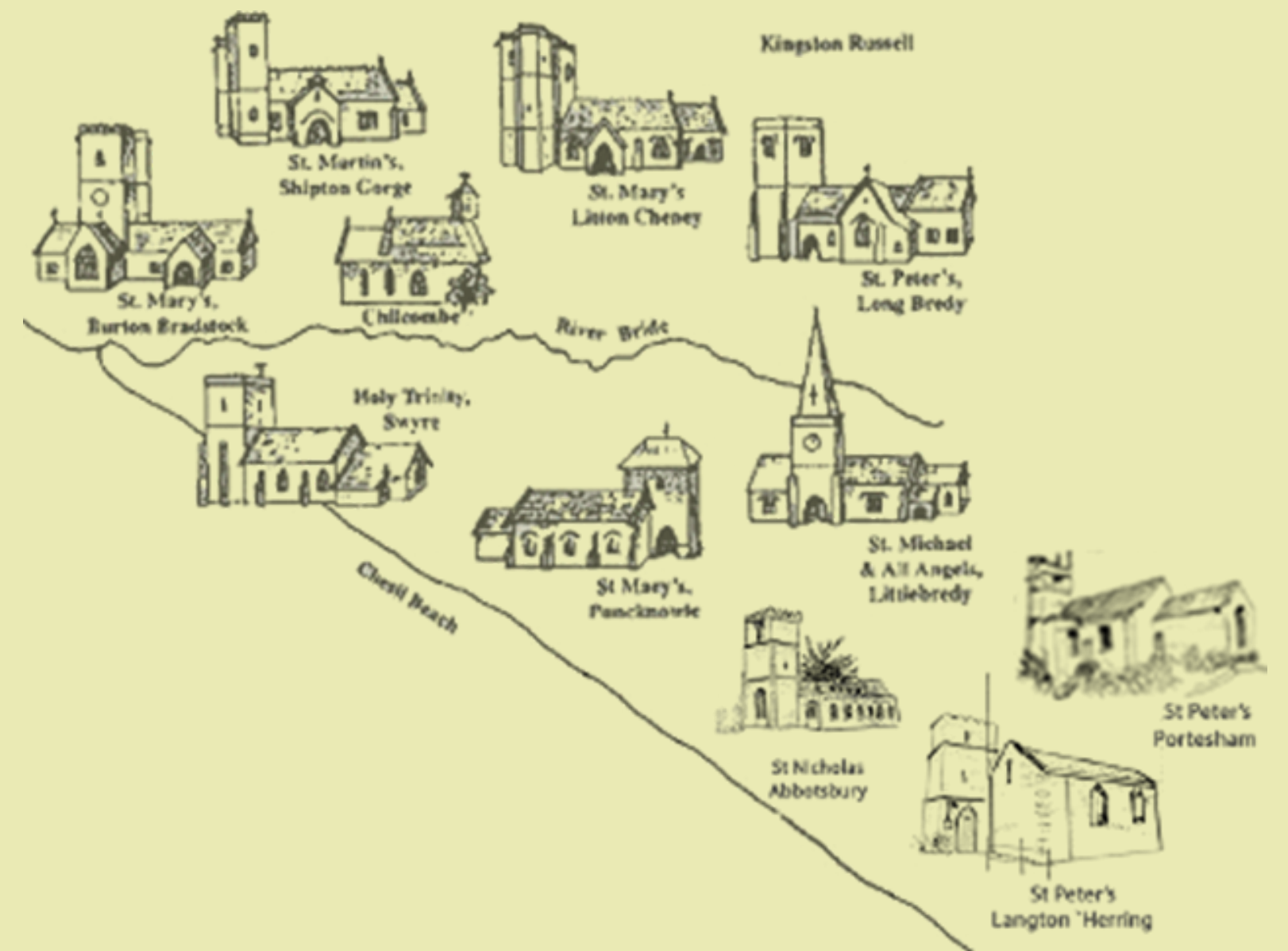
The Lyme Bay Deanery is made up of five multi-parish teams. These are The Beamister Area Team, The BrideValley and Chesil Benefice, The Eggardon and Colmers Benefice. The Golden Cap Team and The Bridport Team. These parishes are staffed by 6 wte, 2 ,0.5 stipended staff, 2 HfD and 2 Associate Self Supporting clergy and a small group of Licensed Lay Ministers. We are also supported by a wonderful team of clergy with PtO and a growing number of Lay Pastoral Assistants and Lay Worship Leaders.

We also are blessed by two communities based in the deanery. The Pilsdon Community based in the village of Pilsdon in the beautiful Marshwood Vale and The Othona Community based on the Coast Road in The Bride Valley.

Our Deanery Chapter are a happy bunch who support each with great fortitude. We meet 10 times a year at venues across the deanery. Our meetings are a mix of business, worship and support for each other. If you have a good sense of fun and humor then you will fit in well.

Rev Canon David Baldwin
Team Rector
The Beaminster Area Team
Rural Dean of Lyme Bay Deanery

The Bride Valley and Chesil Benefice, part of the Lyme Bay Deanery, is set within a designated National Landscape (formerly known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), inland from the Jurassic Coast. The Benefice comprises ten rural parishes and twelve churches, located within the valley of the River Bride and along Chesil Beach. The county town of Dorchester lies to the east and the bustling active market town of Bridport to the west. Weymouth and Portland are easily accessible, and the towns of Sherborne and Yeovil are 25 miles to the north east. This is a beautiful and peaceful place in which to live and work.



What we are seeking help with...

Supporting children and families

We would like you to build supportive relationships with families and children across our communities and connected to our three Church of England schools, taking an inclusive, empathetic and non judgemental approach. This includes support for families with children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Leading worship

We would like you to lead services across our Benefice in all of our churches including at least two morning services, with a possibility of an evening service too.

Developing and growing vision

We would like to hear from you and learn from you as we continually discern our role in God's mission of love to the unique context in which we serve.

We need you to...

Be a supportive team member

We would like you to be a supportive and encouraging member of our ministry team, able to minister effectively with all our amazing volunteers.

Have a flexible approach to liturgy

We would like you to be able to lead diverse services including Holy Communion (Order One and Two), Morning Worship, Evening Prayer, Evensong, Breakfast Church and Cafe Church.

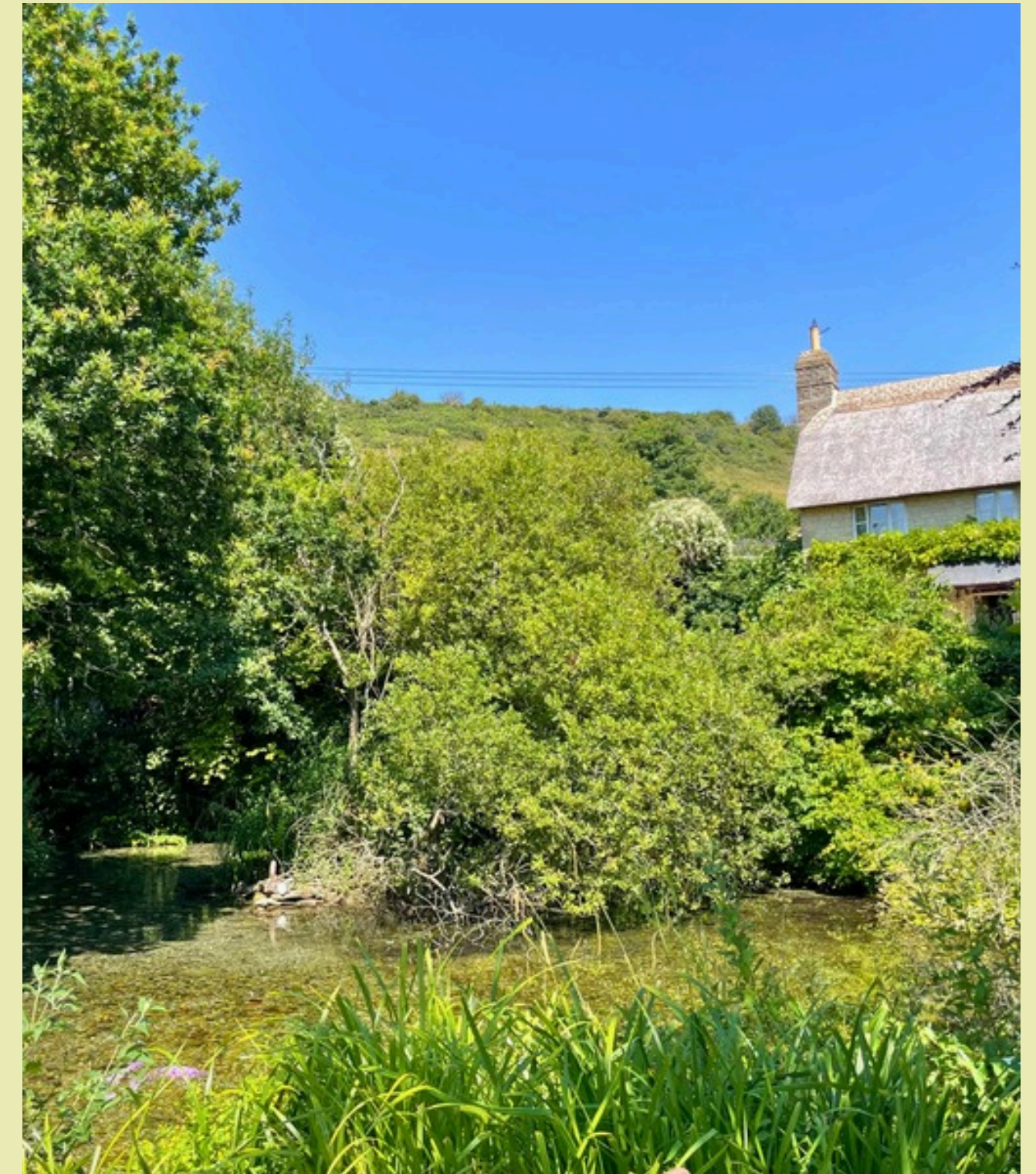


The South-West Coast Path towards Golden Cap and Lyme Regis from the cliffs at Burton Bradstock

What we are praying for:

An Associate Priest to work two days a week plus Sundays,
and more specifically:

- An inclusive priest with a heart of unconditional kindness for children and their families, as well as all the people of our parishes, of all backgrounds and all ages.
- A priest experienced in or enthusiastic about schools ministry, who will be passionate about all the children in our three Church of England primary schools flourishing and growing in faith, hope and love.
- A priest that tries to practise trauma-informed person-centred pastoral care.
- A priest that is committed to working collaboratively with our Rector, our Ministry Team and all our incredible volunteers, to make the loving kindness of Jesus known to children, families and all people of all ages in our ten parishes.



The spring-fed village duck pond at Portesham

What we are excited about:

- Adding value to our village communities through our prayer and our unconditional welcome and generosity

- Helping Our Planet

- Dedicated volunteers who support our churches, worshippers and the wider community

- Opportunities for Pilgrimage

- Preserving our twelve historic sacred church buildings so that they can be used to serve the community in which they are located.



Adding Value to Our Village Communities



Community Choir at Langton Herring

As well as being available for life events, we endeavour to make our churches an important and relevant part of the villages and want our churches to be at the centre of village life.

For many years the Litton Cheney Church Choir has blessed the people of our Benefice, not just with anthems at St Mary's Church, but by singing at weddings, funerals, the Burton Bradstock Music Festival and at Sherborne Abbey.



As we are a largely rural community, we hold a Plough Sunday service in the grain store at Puncknowle Manor Farm each January.

We believe that our churches should be available for the community, offering a welcome space for events that add cultural and social value. As well as Coffee Mornings, lunches and fetes, churches have recently hosted events such as Community Choir concerts, Arts week exhibitions, the Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art, the Tree of Strings Festival at Abbotsbury, Chesil Rocks at Langton Herring, and Opera nights. In the autumn we will be opening an indoor play area with soft play for preschoolers at St Mary's, Burton Bradstock.

We want to give people of all ages opportunities to connect and play our part in overcoming loneliness and isolation.



Opera Night at Shipton Gorge



Helping Our Planet

Some of our churches are bronze level Eco Churches. In addition to many of our churchyards being managed for wildlife and some being part of the Dorset Living Churchyards scheme, the Bride Valley and Chesil 'Help Our Planet' (HOP) Group meets regularly to discuss local ways in which we can support the environment and raise awareness. As part of this, HOP recently held a 'River Day' for two of our church schools, involving pupils from Key Stage 2 visiting the River Bride, appreciating the rare chalk stream and its beauty and value in our landscape.

Volunteers

Across the Benefice, there are many dedicated volunteers. As well as those involved in worship, including the churchwardens and those who prepare the churches for worship, there are cleaners, musicians, bellringers, flower arrangers and many more who care for our buildings and churchyards. These include people who do not regularly worship in the church buildings, but appreciate their place in the community. Our volunteers ensure that the churches are open every day. We are so appreciative of all they do, with many involved in fundraising initiatives like fetes, coffee mornings and cake sales.



One of Swyre's 'Garden Angels' at this year's churchyard day.

Preserving our twelve historic sacred buildings



St Bartholomew's Chapel at Corton

Our Benefice comprises ten parishes and twelve churches (as there are chapels at Chilcombe and Corton). Corton Chapel of Ease is dedicated to St Bartholomew and is part of Portesham Parish. Chilcombe Chapel of Ease is undedicated. It is located in the hamlet of Chilcombe and is part of the parish of Burton Bradstock. Both of these chapels are set in spectacular scenery and are on pilgrimage routes coming from outside our Benefice.

All twelve churches are attractive and contain features of interest, ranging from fine architecture to the simplicity of small but intimate churches. We are looking at many ways to preserve them.

Our Rector is the chair of all the PCCs and takes overall responsibility for the buildings in cooperation with the Diocese.

We would be so pleased to hear your ideas about how best these very special church buildings can serve their communities.



Chilcombe Chapel of Ease

Opportunities for Pilgrimage

We have started a Pilgrimage Project in our area. In our Benefice, we regularly hold Pilgrimages of Peace which are attended by a variety of people, frequently including those from beyond the regular worshipping community.. We enjoy walking together, appreciating our surroundings, sharing life's journey, with pauses for reflection and thinking about faith while we are outdoors. Some routes are more gentle and others stretch our legs a bit further, but all have plenty of opportunities for pauses to take in the stunning scenery we have around us!



Furthermore, we are building a longer Pilgrimage route, including all our churches. We hope to encourage visitors to share our wonderful area and churches and eventually to lead guided pilgrimages sharing our history, the sacred sites, music and nature.

Recently, Reverend Andrew led a pilgrimage for pupils at Thorner's School, from Litton Cheney to Puncknowle Church. Each child has a Pilgrim Passport and collected their first Pilgrimage stamp at the church. We are looking to develop pilgrimage opportunities with all three of our schools.

Our Ministry Team

Rector - Reverend Andrew Rawding

Andrew was ordained in 2002 in the Diocese of London, after ten years' service in the British Army. After his curacy he worked in peace and reconciliation work in Northern Ireland before joining the Royal Navy as a Chaplain. After service in Afghanistan with the Royal Marines, he resigned his commission in 2011 to become a Rector of three parishes in the Church of Ireland for ten years. Andrew then left the church to complete a degree in social work at Queen's University Belfast. He was installed as our Rector in July 2024. He is married to Loveday who often accompanies him to church with their nine-year old twin children Arthur & Rosie.



Lay Worship Leaders

Vicky Thomas

Vicky has a background in Education and recently retired after 11 years as Foundation Governor at Burton Bradstock school but she continues as Chair of the Chaplaincy Committee and being involved with Open the Book at the school. Vicky enjoys leading worship in the different churches including breakfast and café churches. She is also a member of Shipton Gorge PCC.



Paul Cheater

Paul was a teacher for 40 years before morphing into an educational consultant. After he retired from full-time teaching he was the lay chaplain at Milton Abbey School from 2012 to 2015. In addition to his rôle as an LWL, Paul is the organist and choirmaster at St Mary's church in Litton Cheney and often plays the organ at other Bride Valley churches and beyond.



Diana Ludlow

Diana has lived in Langton Herring and Portesham for 50 years and has been widowed for 18 years. She was commissioned as a Lay Worship Leader by Bishop Karen in November 2022. As well as being Churchwarden at Portesham, Di supports ministry across the Benefice, frequently leading Morning Worship services. She regularly takes communion to those house bound in her parish. She is an ardent fundraiser and trustee of the Home of Devenish.



Administrator - Helen Fry

Helen has worked as Admin for the team since 2021 and enjoys the variety the role offers. She's also a mum of two children, farmer's wife (and worker!), a member of Shipton Gorge PCC and enjoys bell ringing, as well as singing with the Community Choir. Having been a Primary School teacher, Helen is interested in discussing and developing initiatives within the Benefice that support children and families. She has helped to organise a Benefice fun day for families and Breakfast Church activities at Shipton Gorge.

Lay Pastoral Assistants - Jenny Malyon and Liz Orza

Liz and Jenny visit people mainly in Burton Bradstock but are available for anyone throughout our community and can respond to any need, great or small, for pastoral care.

The LPAs meet the Rector quarterly and are in contact regularly.

Safeguarding Officer (SGO) - Les Keatley

The united Benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil's Safeguarding Officer is Les Keatley, who is experienced in all fields of safeguarding and attends all Diocesan training opportunities. Les offers direct support to each parish PCC and attends PCC meetings as required. He is an ex-officio member of the Burton Bradstock PCC. Les oversees all the safeguarding, DBS and training requirements of all the parishes of the Benefice.



Children and Families

There's already lots going on:

- Tots' Time is an afternoon playgroup on a Friday, held at St Mary's, Burton Bradstock, and open to all.
- Soft play is being installed at Burton Bradstock this autumn. This is for pre-schoolers and those with SEND.
- Breakfast Church for families is established at Shipton Gorge and Burton Bradstock.

We would love to see more happening as we really value all our children and families.



Indoor Play Area

for Pre-School Children
IN BURTON BRADSTOCK

A UNIQUE PROJECT IN A GRADE 1 LISTED VILLAGE CHURCH

We want our church building to serve the needs of our local community and so we are raising funds to help install a professionally constructed **soft play climbing frame** with a **slide, and interactive play features**, in the south aisle of St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock — believed to be one of the first projects of its kind in a Grade 1 Listed village church.

There is currently **no indoor play provision** for young pre-school children in Burton Bradstock, and with the church located next to the primary school it will help parents and carers dropping off and picking up older children at the school.

We particularly want to provide opportunities for children with **special educational needs** to play, and to foster opportunities for parents to create mutual support.

Our aim is to create a **safe, fun, and inclusive** indoor space for pre-school children and families within the village and local community.

This is an ambitious and innovative project, and we need your help to make it happen.
Every donation, big or small, will help us move closer to creating something truly special for Burton Bradstock and beyond.

Help Make This Vision a Reality
Scan the QR Code to Donate Today
Every donation, no matter the size, brings us one step closer to creating a safe, fun, and inclusive indoor play area for the children of Burton Bradstock.

Thank you!

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BURTON BRADSTOCK
Working together for our community

Our Three Church of England Primary Schools

We are so blessed to have three Church of England primary schools with good connections to each of their local parish churches. The Rector is a Governor in two of the schools and regularly supports worship in all three as well as leading services held by the schools in their local parish church.

Burton Bradstock School



As a church school, their outlook and attitudes centre around their core Christian values of Hope, Respect, Friendship, Love, Courage and Happiness. Their school vision is 'Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8)'.

Find out more about the school on their website: www.burtonbradstock.dorset.sch.uk



Thorner's School, Litton Cheney.



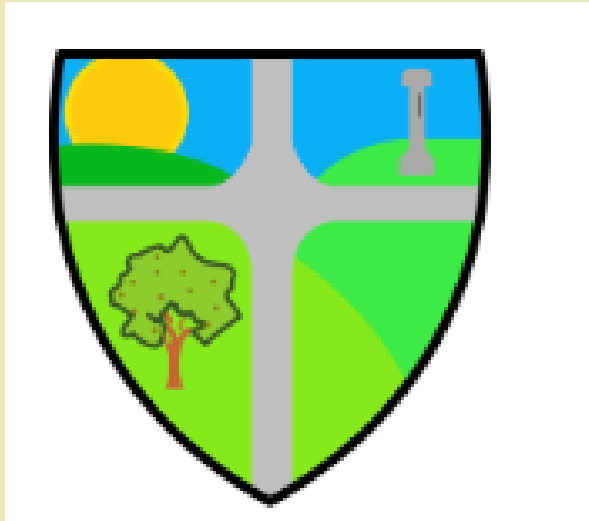
Bishop Karen at Thorner's 2026 Year 6 Leavers' Service



The school's vision is based on Psalm 23:
"The Lord is my Shepherd...he guides me along the right paths"

The school's values are:
Forgiveness, Love, Endurance, Truth and Hope

The School's website gives more information: <https://thorners.school>



Portesham School

The school's vision is based on John 10:10
Jesus said 'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness'

The school explains this further: 'Jesus calls us to a full life in mind, body, heart and spirit. Therefore, at Portesham, we steadfastly believe that the purpose of our school community is to nurture and enable every member to thrive and to be the person that they aspire to be.'

The school's values are Hope, Service and Compassion.

Find out more about Portesham on their website: <https://www.portesham.dorset.sch.uk>



Children serving coffee at St Peter's Portesham, wearing their Easter Bonnets. Coffee mornings with school take place twice a term.

What we can offer you:

You will live in the beautiful village of Portesham in a four bedroomed purpose-built Rectory, with good sized study, dining room, sitting room, downstairs cloakroom and kitchen.



Portesham is a friendly and welcoming village, found behind the famous Chesil Beach on the Jurassic Coast. As in many rural communities, villagers look after each other in an amazing way.

In the village is a medical centre with pharmacy (prescription), that serves many villages, the Kings Arms Pub, Farm Shop with Coffee Shop and Village Hall. The Village Hall is home to a variety of local groups and activities, among them a badminton club, Women's' Institute (WI), Pilates and Zumba, short mat bowls and Artsreach Entertainment. A popular addition to the social calendar is the Village Café which is run by many of the village groups.

The Chesil area for is popular for walking, sailing and fishing.

Find out more about Portesham on the village website: <https://www.portesham.org.uk/>

The Rectory, Portesham



**We invite you to bring your gifts and passions to help us
all flourish and grow together.**

Please explore our Facebook page,
which has many photos of what we have been doing:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555614056730>

