



Chew Valley East Benefice Profile



January 2021

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Dear Lord

You have granted us time to reflect on our vision for the growth of the churches in our benefice with the support of a new priest. We pray that person will walk beside us and nurture our faith. We are here to help and to share responsibility for growing our churches, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others and welcome newcomers of all ages.

Amen

Chew Valley East Benefice Chew Magna Dundry Norton Malreward Stanton Drew

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**Warm welcome Friendship New ideas fresh
approaches Benefice Administrator Financial
stability Comfortable modern home in
beautiful village Proximity to Bristol and Bath
links with our village schools Embracing both
A variety of worship styles Reader Lay led
worship Recent re-ordering Able fundraisers
Willing Volunteers Flower arrangers Bell
Ringers Traditional and Community choirs
Social events Concerts Prayerful Embracing
new technology Community Support
Supportive PCCs and Churchwardens
Creativity Organist Work with Children**

Chew Valley East Benefice Chew Magna Dundry Norton Malreward Stanton Drew

Introduction – Chew Valley East Benefice

We are four parishes that have recently been reconfigured as a new benefice. We are all geographically within easy reach of each other and we are looking forward to giving a warm welcome to a new priest. As four churches we are all situated in a beautiful part of the country but have quite different identities. We are united in the hope of growing our churches. We have been on a long journey to come to the point of presenting our profiles as we have encountered the changes brought on by pastoral reorganization and Covid. It has not been easy over the last two years. We worry about the size and age profile of our congregations. Prior to the vacancy, we have had the same rector for some time and had found ways of working together that felt open and affirming.

We cherish our churches and communities who have showed such support for others during these difficult times. We have seen the nature of God in action. We love our buildings, and our tradition. We are proud of our music across the benefice. In the vacancy we have used the time to ask our communities, through Parish surveys, how they saw us and what they felt we needed. You will see more of this later in the profile.

We recognize that one of our greatest hopes is to find ways of being church in our community, finding out more about not only how we can work alongside people in partnership and love, but also respond to requests to make our churches meet people wherever they are. We want to invite people in and we want that invitation to be to everyone.

We are not afraid of hard work and our congregations, lay leaders and our SSM priest would be there to support you. We hope that you will bring us inspiration in doing good mission which we believe is at the heart of our faith and will lead us on to relevant, contextually appropriate and God centred growth.

We prayerfully hope that with God's help you will be inspired to come and meet us and help guide and support us in our challenge to grow our churches.

Vision

Growing in faith : We want to continue to nurture our faith and deepen our understanding of the Good News of Jesus Christ through all the stages of life and Christian understanding. We know from our surveys that we need to go beyond the doors of the churches and fixed worship patterns. We want to explore different opportunities for worship that offer different ways in for our communities

Reaching Out to Our Communities

We want to be visible in our communities. To be welcoming to people of all ages that we meet in our daily lives – living and telling the story of our hope in God to all who will listen.

We are open to new ideas and new parishioners! In this profile you will see examples and photographs of some events past and present, that take place in our churches. These are well supported by our communities and bring them together with our congregations. Parishioners are regularly very generous with donations of items and gifts to local Food banks , the Salvation Army , Julian Trust and other charities . Parishioners value the care, love and companionship our churches offer at soup lunches and community cafes. Some parishes are using their churchyards and other outdoor spaces for fundraising events and have been successful in becoming more visible to their community . However, as church we acknowledge that in order to grow we need to pray and search ways to develop and explore how we can best share the news of Jesus Christ through these events.

Worship

Although we already try to balance new approaches to worship with the traditional, people told us in our survey that they wanted church to be relevant to them.

We need to prioritize the aim of finding out what it means to be an affirming relevant church. To put it at the core of our future benefice plan to develop worship and between us work out the objectives to achieve this.

Sustaining the fabric of our Churches

People told us in our survey how they love and value their churches and how they find spiritual peace within them. We want to continue to maintain these special places so they are accessible and comfortable with the types of amenities found in any community building.

Who are we looking for?

- Someone who understands the varied spiritual needs of people from a wide range of church backgrounds and experience of faith who will walk with us encourage us in mission.
- Who will help us work out how we can better engage with our parishioners.
- Who will help us to stimulate church membership by bringing understanding and experience of making church relevant to all.
- Someone who notices where God is at work in our communities; helping us to build the links that develop trust with people, so that we can start telling them our story.
- Someone who is comfortable with using technology to conduct the virtual services which have become a normal and valued part of our worship offering during the pandemic.

Key Things We offer

- An openness and willingness to be people of God now. We are at the beginning of a new chapter as churches in a newly formed benefice
- Strong ties to the wider community in some parishes including links to schools and to additional support providers such as Village agents. We share good links with the Baptist, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches.
- During the vacancy we have been blessed with our very experienced associate priest, Sandra, and reader, Margaret, who have supported us practically and spiritually through this difficult time and we pray that they can continue their roles in the future when we are joined by our new priest.
- Dedicated lay members of the church who regularly lead our congregations in worship.
- Two churchwardens from each parish in the benefice there to support our new Priest together with PCC members who are open to new ideas and approaches to worship.
- A strong musical tradition within the benefice with both traditional and community adult choirs enhancing worship. Child choristers are trained at Dundry.
- An excellent part time benefice administrator based in Chew Magna.
- Financially sound churches who, prior to the impact of COVID 19, all had paid their parish share.
- A modern well-proportioned house with an integral office in the beautiful and friendly village of Chew Magna, which has excellent facilities. These include access to good primary and secondary schools and is within easy reach of Bath and Bristol
- Some members of our congregations have enthusiastically embraced the use of technology making interactive and traditional worship available to all ages in our congregations and communities. This new way of worshipping has sustained us during the pandemic, especially those members of our congregations of any age who are shielding or self isolating.
- Our church buildings are mainly in good structural repair and some have recently received generous grants to help with re-ordering. However, on -going work will always be required and enthusiastic fundraisers are present in all parishes.
- An environment where worship comes naturally in church buildings steeped in centuries of prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

The findings from our recent Benefice Surveys.

What people value most about their church

- Part of our cultural heritage
- A peaceful, spiritual place.
- A potential focus for community events.
- Music and performance
- A place to worship God
- Beautiful historic churches in which to celebrate life's events

Things that concern you most about your church

- Perception that churches only operate on a Sundays.
- Small congregations which are ageing
- Mainly old -fashioned style of worship, need a more relaxed approach although efforts are made by some to modernize
- Few people doing most of the work
- Churches not used enough as a community facility

What needs to be done

- As Christians we need to find new ways to reach out to the community to people of all ages and to become more visible and approachable in our parishes. It is clear that we need to build on our existing relationships to show that we are listening to what people are telling us about their attitudes towards our churches.
- We need to begin to make changes in the way we use our buildings and become more open and inclusive .
- Churches should work together to learn and share practical information from our successes in the benefice e.g some churches have obtained grants for re ordering to improve facilities for our congregations and to make them more attractive for general community use.
- We should explore and develop new inclusive worship opportunities celebrating both modern and traditional worship styles

Important conclusions from the Survey

- We conclude that from the responses to our survey we need to ask ourselves the following questions in order to grow our churches :
- How can we involve people of all ages from our parishes in our churches and develop connections with them?
- How can we best manage resources in our parishes so they support us fruitfully in the future ?
- How can we as church become more effective and inclusive?
- How can we become more approachable and visible in our communities ?
- How can we become more confident in talking about sharing our experience of the love of God to others?

Where are we – Geography

The benefice is located in the beautiful Chew valley, a predominantly agricultural green belt. Approximately 8 miles from central Bristol, 10 miles west of Bath and 14 miles to the south over the Mendip hills, lies Wells. Three quarters of the benefice boundary is dairy and arable farmland, offering wonderful walks. In contrast the north boundary borders South Bristol housing estates.



Chew Valley Lake



View of Bristol from the tower at Dundry

Our benefice sits within an area of outstanding natural beauty and is delightful walking and cycling country. Dundry, whilst not in the valley, enjoys panoramic views across Bristol to the River Severn and Welsh Hills.



Stanton Drew Stone Circle

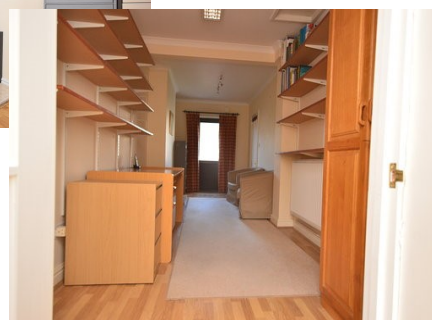
Your Home



The Rectory is situated in the quiet location of Tunbridge Close, Chew Magna. BS40 8SU. The detached family home, has 4 bedrooms, a family bathroom and one en-suite. A kitchen diner, utility room, downstairs WC and sitting room. The study/office has a WC and kitchenette area. Entry to the study is via the sitting room or from its own front door.



Rectory garden



Rector's Study

Our Benefice

Our benefice consists of four parishes, three set within the local authority of Bath and North East Somerset. Dundry is within the boundary of North Somerset.

Chew Magna – St Andrews

Dundry – St Michael the Archangel

Norton Malreward – Holy Trinity

Stanton Drew- St Mary the Virgin

The population in all the villages in the benefice are engaged in a range of occupations including agriculture, the professions, a range of businesses and self-employment. Our villages are also a popular area to which to retire. Many of those who are employed commute to Bath or Bristol although several people are still working from home since the onset of Covid 19.

There is relatively low unemployment in the benefice (approximately 10% lower than the National average)

The approximate population of the Parishes is as follows:

Chew Magna- 1,500

Dundry – 1,000

Stanton Drew -765

Norton Malreward – 250

In all the parishes the houses are mainly owner occupied, many of them older residential, and in some cases historic, properties although in Chew Magna (the largest Parish) there are three more modern private estates and some infill housing. There is a similar mix of housing in the three other parishes.

We offer a warm welcome in all the parishes in the Benefice and in recent years have held regular group services in each parish every month, also worshipping together on other occasions such as Patronal Festivals.



**Archbishop Albert from Kwacha
visiting Chew Magna**



**Archbishop Albert at Chew Magna
Primary School**

We have a common link with Kwacha a parish in the Zambian copper belt and support them financially in various projects, most recently in the building of a priest's house.

We have strong links with the Baptist churches in our benefice, and the Roman Catholic Church in Chew Magna.

The Benefice has three Primary Schools. These are situated in Chew Magna, Dundry (a C of E school) and Stanton Drew. Chew Valley School (11-18 Comprehensive) serves the whole area. There are pre-schools and/or nursery education available in most of the parishes.

The primary school at Dundry also admits children from families in South Bristol.

Young families are attracted to the area and we are excited to have seen some growth in their attendance at church services and events in the benefice. We hope to build on this pattern in the future.



Presentation of benches to Stanton Drew Primary School from the Community café



Harvest Donations Covid Style

There is a large medical practice just outside Chew Magna which serves the benefice but Dundry residents often visit practices in South Bristol. Hospital in and outpatients are sent to the large teaching hospitals in Bristol or to Bath RUH.

There are bus services from the villages into Bristol and Bath.

We are within easy access of the M4/M5 and Bristol Airport is only 15 minutes away from most of our parishes. Links to the National Rail network are to be found in Bristol and Bath.

Although the Chew Valley is a mainly prosperous area, some parishes in the benefice are much closer to areas of socio economic deprivation. Dundry borders two large South Bristol council estates and residents from these areas are often married at Dundry church.

House prices in the benefice are high and there is a general lack of affordable homes particularly for young people and their families wishing to stay in the area.

Our benefice is part of the Chew Magna Deanery. PCCs send representatives to the Deanery Synod which meets three times a year.



Primary School children preparing posies for the Mothering Sunday Service



Remembrance during Covid

Current worship

This Service Rota extract is from when we were in a group of 6 churches and had an Incumbent, 2 Associate Priests, 2 Readers & Pre Covid

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday
Chew Magna	8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am 1 st Sunday Special	10.30am Parish Communion	10.30am Morning Worship Laity	10.30am Parish Communion
Dundry	10.30am Café Church or Family Service		10.30am Parish Communion	11.00am Morning Worship (Ang/Bapt) at Baptist Chapel
Norton Malreward		10.30am Morning Worship	10.30am Parish Communion	10.30am Morning Worship
Stanton Drew	10.30am Parish Communion	8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Morning Worship	

5th Sunday of the month, is a group service, held in rotation

Patronal Festival Group Service	Stanton Drew	March
	Norton Malreward	June
	Dundry	September
	Chew Magna	November

As well as the celebration of all the major festivals, also held are:
Crib Services at Chew Magna & Dundry
Christmas Eve Carol Service at Norton Malreward
Midnight Mass at Chew Magna

Staff Team

Associate Priest, Revd. Sandra Lovern Thursday – Sunday

I am a self-supporting priest, working in the original Lakeside Group since 2007. My primary focus is St Michael's, Dundry, but I happily work across all the parishes. I am also a spiritual director, chaplain to the Royal British Legion, Dundry and examining chaplain for potential ordinands. I look forward to welcoming our new incumbent.



Reader, Margaret Marshall, I was licensed as Reader in 2001 and have taken services in all parishes of the wider benefice. I continue to be resident in the parish of Holy Trinity, Norton Malreward, and whilst having preached at other churches, I have found that my main anchorage has been in my home parish. My ministry has been mainly Services of the Word and Lent Group leadership. I have recently conducted a regular 'Sunday-Half-Hour' in church with A/V and music with all words of hymns onscreen. I am happy as a Reader, grateful for the way in which the AV system in church can be fully used in current circumstance of social distancing.

Administrator, Alison Hill

I presently work 3 mornings a week at the Lakeside group office in Chew Magna. My role includes general admin support for the staff team and the parishes, all wedding paperwork, updating the group website and the parish pages of A Church Near You. I was recently elected warden at Dundry



Lay support for the work of the churches

The day to day running of each church is monitored by two churchwardens and each parish also has a full PCC, Treasurer and Safeguarding Officer

Each church has volunteer rotas for the following duties

Sidespeople /Welcomers

Readers

Cleaning

Bell ringing

Flower arranging

Each church has its own parish magazine which is distributed to all households in the parishes

Each Parish has 2 Church Wardens:

Chew Magna



Richard
Westropp



Charles
Thursby-Pelham

Dundry



Kathy
Woodward



Alison
Hill

Norton Malreward



Geoff
Thomas



Paul
Britten

Stanton Drew



Gladys
Arthur



John
Swift

Finances 2019

	Income	Expenditure	Reserves R restricted U unrestricted
St Andrew's Chew Magna	66,829	75,751	R 14,217 U 121,090 Total 135,307
St Michael's Dundry	17,930	14,660	R 26,100 U 14,840 Total 40,940
Holy Trinity Norton Malreward	12,327	11,829	U 1745
St Mary the Virgin Stanton Drew	20,068	18,686	R 4190 U 46,553 Total 50,743

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

The parishes face the same financial challenges as most rural parishes, small but loyal congregations, annual increases in routine costs, especially the Parish Share and the ongoing upkeep of listed historic buildings.

Current Major Projects are:

£50,000 for bells and the clock at Chew Magna (December 2020, £37,100 raised)

£50,000 for the tower at Stanton Drew

FINANCIAL STRENGTHS

- The parishes hold regular fundraising events with support from the wider community.
- Each parish has their fundraising groups
- Fundraising and grant receipts have enabled every parish to have a toilet and kitchen area installed.
- Income from Community Cafes at Stanton Drew and Dundry.
- Fee income from weddings.

15 weddings are booked to take place in the benefice in 2021.



Weddings from the 70's, 80's & 90's - The fundraising team at St Michael's Dundry
Can you match the wedding to the decade?

Grants Received

2015-2018, St Michael's, Dundry

Heritage Lottery Fund	£ 244,000
Listed Places of Worship Roof Fund	£ 99,700
Leader (development for West of England)	£ 84,025
National Churches Trust	£ 10,000
Fund for Church Growth	£ 10,000
Garfield Weston	£ 10,000
All Churches Trust	£ 5750
Somerset Churches Trust	£ 3000

2015 Holy Trinity Norton Malreward, were the winners of the Somerset Churches Trust, Playfair Prize for re-ordering receiving £5000

2015 St Mary the Virgin, Stanton Drew, £10,000, from the National Lottery

Children and Young People

Before the pandemic our churches has some positive links with local primary schools in the benefice. We regularly hosted the local schools' Easter, Christmas and Harvest Services and for a time there was a successful Tea Time mix after school club in on primary school, led by our associate priest and assisted by church members.

Families with young children are always welcome with some churches providing a comfortable area with cushions, toys, books, baby changing and other accessible facilities.

However, communication and relationships with our schools through the years has been inconsistent, often due to staffing changes. We need to develop strategies to work with our schools in a more coordinated way as a benefice. To effect this, we need enthusiastic and appropriately experienced church members to take the lead on work with schools and families in the future.

Angela Fraser, Deanery Schools Chaplain

We are very fortunate that Angela in her role is very supportive of our schools and provides resources for any church in the benefice to take forward new activities for children and young people .

In 2019 ,with Angela's help we were excited to host a successful Light Party (as a Christian alternative to Halloween) at Dundry for children and adults of all ages.



Angela Fraser with her Light Party at Dundry

Worship

Worship and how we live and tell the story is at the heart of all our lives.

Before Covid there were some different styles of worship across the benefice both traditional and modern . Each church held a service on at least three Sundays each month.

As part of Fresh Expressions a non denominational church meeting was held monthly in the barn of The Pelican pub in Chew Magna. This exciting, modern way of worship was instigated by Reverend Sandra Lovern and administered by St Andrew's church. It was based on Prayer, contemplation, singing and healing with a visiting speaker each month.

Café church was on the first Sunday at Dundry. On the fourth Sunday of the month, when there was no service at St Michaels the congregation regularly and joyfully joined in worship with Dundry Baptist Chapel. There was also collaboration between the congregations to arrange and present the annual World Day of Prayer.

At Chew Magna there is a Prayer Chain and Annual Lent Study groups are held at Chew Magna & Norton Malreward.

We look forward to working with our new priest to identify how we can grow and develop different styles of worship to meet the needs of our existing congregations and attract new parishioners of all ages, who seek to know more of the love of Jesus Christ.



How has the benefice responded to the challenges of Covid 19

The majority of our church members are aged 65 and older so many in our benefice have been the recipients of a wonderful community spirit demonstrated during Covid by younger people in our parishes who have no connection with our churches .

They have shopped, delivered prescriptions and kept in touch with their elderly neighbours. We know that God's love is clearly working within them as they help the vulnerable and isolated.

Our response is mainly through private prayer giving thanks for all those who have helped us through the crisis .We pray for those who are bereaved, who are ill or suffering loneliness at this time .

Our regular benefice Zoom (via the Meditation Chapel.org) service on Sunday mornings is led by our associate priest Sandra from her home. This has been popular across the benefice and is of great benefit to us all, particularly those parishioners who are very elderly or shielding because of health issues. It's Service of the Word but interactive with all joining in the prayers ,reading and commenting on the Bible texts. It has produced a wonderful spirit of fellowship and the silences give time for personal reflection. We are grateful too for the social aspect covered by virtual coffee and cake after the service and have been joined by regular worshippers from the USA and Turkey which adds a global perspective to our worship.

As an alternative for those who do not use Zoom , PCC members from St Andrew's produce a traditional written service each week which is distributed by email and can be read through and reflected on at any time.

On the re-opening of churches, Holy Trinity, Norton Malreward presented audio-visual displays of hymns and anthems on the screen to replace singing of hymns.

Looking to the Future

- We pray that our churches can become more open and used in today's society and we are mindful of the core purpose of outreach – to love and serve others as Christ taught us.
- We know that in order to grow our church we first must engage with our parishioners to show love and serve them in our daily lives as neighbours, friends or workmates. We need to build relationships and trust. We want to respond to people where they are: knowing who lives alone, who is recently bereaved, or chatting to a new Mum who may be feeling isolated.
- We sincerely want to work harder at finding new ways to tell our story to our communities. When Covid restrictions are lifted we want to make greater use of the church buildings for community events, as our parishioners have told us in the survey.
- We know that many competing events distract people of all ages from attending regular services, many do not feel comfortable coming into church and are put off by liturgy therefore we need to provide informal opportunities for being with people and to start a conversation.
- We, as church must be creative and try to dispel the perception from the survey that worshipping God only happens on a Sunday and only in church.
- We need to be imaginative and visible as church out in our communities whether it is collecting for a food bank or having a church meeting in the local pub. We want people to experience the human face of our churches and this in turn can give us the opportunity to grow our own faith as well as to draw people to it.
- In order to achieve our aims for the future as a newly formed benefice our PCCs and congregations need to get to know each other and learn to work together: To share our many skills and resources; to develop work with specific groups in the community such as families, young people or the elderly; or to share information on successfully obtaining grants to improve our facilities.

We hope that if you have read our profile this far, you may be the priest who will walk beside us in our quest to achieve these aims.

We sincerely look forward to meeting you.

Our Buildings

St Andrew's Chew Magna

- The first Vicar appointed in 1191.
- Grade I listed
- Mixture of Norman, early English & Victorian architecture
- Medieval rood screen restored in the 19th century.
- Nave altar installed in 1999, servery and toilet installed, 2005.



St Michael's, Dundry

- Grade I listed
- Original foundations 11th Century
- Tower built 1482 as a guide for ships in the Bristol channel
- 1861 Victorian renovations
- 2018 new heating, roof renovation, kitchen area, accessible toilet, some pews removed to make church space adaptable.

Holy Trinity, Norton Malreward

- Grade II listed
- Original foundations from Norman times
- 1861 rebuilt in its present form
- Spectacular original carved Norman chancel arch
- 2012 re-ordering to make better use of space



St Mary the Virgin, Stanton Drew



- Grade II listed
- Built in the 13th century, close to the historic stone circles of Stanton Drew.
- Norman font
- 1847 work on the building to how it is now
- 2015 Installation of toilet and servery

Our Parishes

Chew Magna

Chew Magna is an attractive village of about 1,500 inhabitants situated in the Chew Valley 8 miles south of central Bristol and 14 miles west of Bath. 14 miles to the south and over the Mendip Hills lies Wells. It is the largest village in the Chew Valley and has a Post Office, large Co-op and other shops, solicitors, veterinary practice, optician, dentists, 3 friendly inns and a small amount of light industry on the periphery of the village.



It is surrounded by dairy and arable farmland which offers wonderful walking country. There are about 500 owner occupied dwellings most of which are older residential properties. There are three more modern private estates and some infill housing.

Whilst there are many in the village who are retired, most of those who work commute to Bristol or Bath or even London although the number of people working from home is increasing. The proximity to Bristol airport, about 5 miles away, means that some people choose to base themselves here because of the easy access to international travel. More locally, farming continues to be a source of employment although some former farm buildings have been converted to office, retail or light industrial use.

Within the village there is a popular and successful (though not Church) Primary School. Chew Valley Secondary School lies mid-way between Chew Magna and Chew Stoke and has an excellent reputation. Chew Medical Practice is close to the Secondary School and offers all the usual medical services.

Chew Magna is home to numerous cultural, social, and sporting groups catering for the youngest to the oldest in our Chew Valley community. The list is long but may be explored on the Chew Magna village website: <https://www.chewmagna.org.uk>



Trumpeter at the top of the tower to commemorate VE Day 75th anniversary



Preparations for the Village Carol Service

Dundry

Dundry is the second largest village in the benefice located on the northern edge of the Mendip hills, around 660 ft above sea level with fine views across Bristol to South Wales.

We are an agricultural area but many residents work in the city of Bristol. Several small businesses are based in the village.

We have two thriving pubs run by the same local owner and a Royal British Legion club with a restaurant. There is a village shop at the Dundry Inn opposite the church.

The Village Hall houses the Womens' Institute and the Dundry Pre-school. The Hall is also hired out for other community use.

The St Michael's community regularly shared worship with the Dundry Baptist Congregation until the pandemic and we hope this can continue in the future.

Our church, dating from the 11th Century is of much interest to people in the area because of our distinctive tower, visible for miles around. The tower also hosts our enthusiastic bell ringers. We have a children's corner in church with books, cushions and toys and have started to attract some young families to our services.

We embrace both modern and traditional worship styles and new technology. Through our period of closure we have grown to value worship through regular Zoom video services.

We communicate church information with the village through our website and social media platforms in addition to a paper-based magazine that is available by email if requested.

In 2018 after an extensive fundraising programme the church now benefits from a new heating system, roof renovations, a kitchen area and accessible toilet. There has been some relocation and removal of pews to make the space more flexible.



Posy making for Mothering Sunday



Removing some of the pews has enabled greater use of the building.



The Tower Tour team with a well earned cuppa

We have a small congregation but a high level of local support and we wish to build on these strong community and social foundations to take our mission out of the church building into everyday lives, to share the love of Christ with all.

Norton Malreward

Norton Malreward is the smallest village in the benefice. It is set within the green belt and surrounded by rolling countryside of mainly agricultural usage along the south-eastern end of the Wansdyke-Dundry range of hills. Maes Knoll Sepulchral Barrow is the dominant feature of the landscape and the hamlet was mentioned in the Domesday Book. The present village comprises about 70 dwellings including farmhouses, cottages and several more modern houses most of which are owner occupied. The church of Holy Trinity lies near the centre of the village on the site of a Norman building. There is a village hall for social events and a pillar box but no shop, school or public house.

A free monthly parish magazine is circulated and a mobile library visits fortnightly serving the population of approximately 250 of whom about a quarter are retired. There are very few children under the age of 15. Agriculture offers the main source of employment locally, but most working people commute to Bristol or Bath or work from home using modern technology.

The village has not expanded significantly over recent years and still retains a quiet, friendly and welcoming rural atmosphere, the church being offered as a cornerstone of village life.

A series of five group discussion meetings during lent is held at the Old School House and is open to all.

Social events, both indoors and outdoor organised by the PCC and parishioners include soup lunch, cream tea and musical concerts. Although the frequency of

these events is somewhat limited, they have with other initiatives encouraged people to engage with the church. The annual harvest lunch is always well supported by worshipping and non -worshipping parishioners. A talent fundraising scheme open to all parishioners is always ongoing throughout the year.



Surrounding countryside



Audio Visual System & Norman Arch

Old & New together

Stanton Drew

The landscape of the parish is predominantly rural agricultural, set in the green belt with ancient artefacts. The parish was listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Stanstone' meaning, 'The Stone enclosure with an oak tree' is most famous as the setting for the third largest collection of prehistoric standing stones in England. (The stone groups are listed as Scheduled Ancient Monuments of national importance). The stones are clearly visible from the gently undulating hills around and contribute to the distinctiveness of the Parish and to the unique sense of the place. The landscape features themselves may have had special significance to these prehistoric human groups.

Within the parish is the historic church of St Mary the Virgin, there has been a church on this site since the 13th century. The Victorians carried out extensive restorations at the end of the 1800's. The stone font bowl dates back to the Norman period. Rectory Farm close by was probably built for the Archdeacon of Bath in the mid 15th century, opposite stands a medieval Manor House, now used as a nursing home. Within a short walk from this area stands the Parish Hall which is now the hub of village life, serving young and old alike. The small Victorian school is still open and educating village children of today.

Today, St Marys is the venue for the Community café in the village. As support and attendance has grown for the Community café, this has led to the formation of a Community choir, who rehearse in the church. It has also strengthened and expanded the church bell ringing members



Cake sale at the Community Café

The industrial heritage of the parish goes back to Norman times, the Domesday survey of 1086, records a mill on the site of the current mill house. The Bishop of Bath & Wells, owned the mill from 1292 to the mid 19th century.

A second mill was situated further down the river Chew producing iron plate and later copper, followed by paper production. Bristol Waterworks Co, bought many of the mills along the river Chew, closing them down so that they could take more water for the growing population of Bristol.

There is a long history of coal mining in the parish and many small pits are still visible in newly ploughed fields. Bromley pit was the largest, operating from 1860 until 1957. From the late 17th century to 1818, glass production was carried out at Stanton Wick, then 15 families were transferred to the parent company at Nailsea.



Stanton Drew Community Choir

The Diocese of Bath and Wells is one of 41 Church of England dioceses in the country. The diocese stretches from Portishead in the north to Crewkerne in the south, Minehead in the west to Frome in the east

Our vision, and the diocesan strategy that is emerging from it, speaks of the story of Jesus; his life, teaching and work, his death and resurrection; the story which is the context of our faith and the content of our message.

We seek **to live** this story as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world and **to tell** it, both in sharing the good news and by the way in which our lives speak about Him.

Bishop Peter's work on a new vision and strategy for the diocese began during his first year as Bishop of Bath and Wells, which he spent visiting parishes and listening.

The diocesan strategy is built around three priorities:

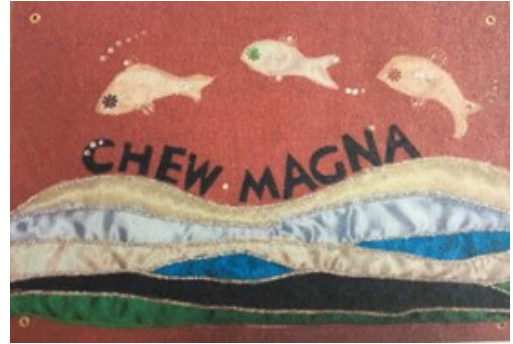
- To place mission and evangelism at the heart of all we do.
- To re-align our resources towards mission.
- To identify, develop and release the gifts of all our people.

This has been developed in a number of areas:

Deaneries. Each deanery now has a Deanery Mission Plan (DMP) to identify and address priorities for mission in the local area. This has encouraged a lot of collaboration across deaneries in mission and discipleship development. DMPs will continue to be important in the coming years as decisions about resource allocation will be made in the light of what the plans say.

Pioneering and fresh expressions. Our Pioneer Project (part-funded by the national church) seeks to encourage pioneering across the Diocese to reach those communities where we currently have little impact. Deaneries and parishes are being resourced to develop pioneering within their areas and to encourage the vocation of those who are called to work with people outside the inherited church.

Lay ministry and vocation. Our priority is to develop the ministry of all God's people, lay and ordained working in partnership. We increasingly emphasise lay leadership and ministry in our diocesan programme, and we are developing new pathways for lay vocations in order to allow this to develop.



Chew Magna Deanery

Chew Magna Deanery is one of nineteen deaneries in the Diocese of Bath & Wells, and one of five in the northern Archdeaconry of Bath. The Deanery is made up of nine benefices and staffed by thirteen clergy licensed to a variety of posts – stipendiary and non-stipendiary. Whilst a significant proportion of the population of the Deanery live in and around the town of Keynsham, the Deanery is predominantly rural.

The Archdeacon of Bath is the member of the Bishops' staff with whom the clergy and benefices have most immediate contact having a quasi-episcopal role.

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year and along with all the other deaneries in the Diocese produced a Deanery Plan for Mission in the autumn of 2017; this being under the umbrella of the diocesan vision of *'Being God's people who live and tell the story of Jesus, in response to God's immense love for us.'* The initial phase of the Chew Magna Deanery Plan included a) seminars across the Deanery to equip and encourage all to tell their faith story and b) a process of matching strengths within one benefice with needs within another. The plan has been updated each year since then, removing aspects of the plan as they are achieved e.g. the beginnings of a Deanery website www.chewmagnadeanery.org, and adding new aspects as they are required. During 2020, some of the plan has had to be put on hold, but we have continued meeting as Synod by Zoom.

In pre-Covid19 times, the Deanery Chapter met every other month for Holy Communion followed by a discussion or Bible Study. In the months between chapter meetings the clergy met for a pub lunch at a central location, and in the summer there was a barbecue for clergy and spouses. There is also usually an annual quiet day led by an outside speaker.

During 2020 the chapter has been meeting by Zoom as frequently as fortnightly. We have all found the chapter to be a really helpful arena for mutual problem solving, and to have been even more friendly and supportive than ever.

Should you take up this post please be assured of a very warm welcome from the people and clergy of the Deanery.

Stephen M'Caw (Area Dean)
email: samcaw@talk21.com tel: 0117-9864437

Your Next Step

Thank you for reading our Profile. If you would like to discover more about us and lead us on our Christian journey, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Contacts for further details

Denise Blake denise.blake@bathwells.anglican.org 01749 685278
PA to The Venerable Dr Adrian Youings
Archdeacon of Bath

Useful websites

Diocese of Bath and Wells	https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/
Lakeside Group	https://lakesidegroup.org.uk/
A Church Near You Chew Magna	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11103/
Dundry	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11110/
Norton Malreward	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11121/
Stanton Drew	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11124/
Chew Magna Primary School	https://www.chewmagna.bathnes.sch.uk/
Dundry Primary School	http://www.dundry.com/web
Stanton Drew Primary School	https://www.bishopsuttonstantondrew.co.uk/
Chew Valley Secondary School	https://www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk/
Chew Medical Practice	https://www.chewmedicalpractice.co.uk/

Chew Valley East Photograph Album



Foodbank collection



Choir children



Tess - Community Theatre production



Cheque from Community Café



Harvey Hext Scarecrow Trail



Community Cafes



Willing volunteers



Harvest Donations