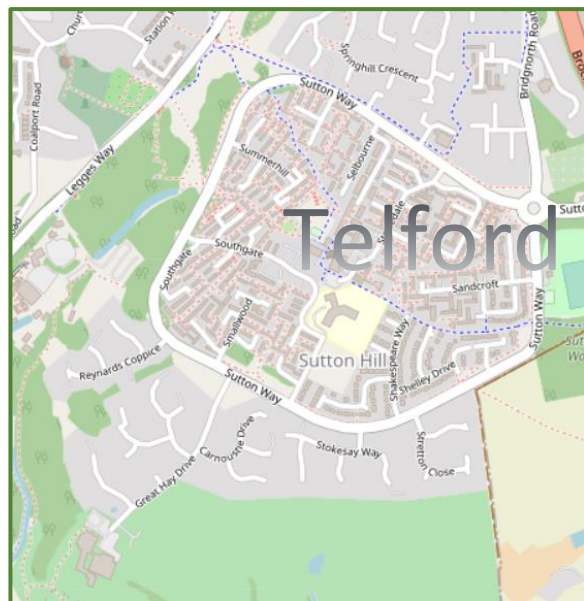




**SUTTON HILL & WOODSIDE CHURCHES**  
*at the heart of our communities*

# 2 parishes 10 good reasons

why your curacy would be unique if you join us here in the parishes of Sutton Hill & Woodside in the Diocese of Hereford



You will find information in the more standard order on pages 5-10. But here are some more personal points written as an Incumbent who has been Vicar since January 2021 but lived here a lifetime. This enables the distinctive opportunities available here and the unique training and ministry opportunities to be described, as well as the experiences I can offer as a Training Incumbent

<https://www.suttonhillwoodsidechurches.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Church-at-Sutton-Hill-and-Woodside-108467606637477>

1

**We are active congregation** which is both established and evolving. Our parishes are on 2 urban priority areas on the edge of Telford. There is one established church but also new things happening on both the housing estates we take our names from. There are many challenges facing our estates but also great hope and anticipation in what God is doing.

2

**Starting in the summer of 2023** I will have been here 2½ years and our mission action plan will still be growing and evolving. Together with our Intergenerational Missioner, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with us, to shape and take an active role in seeking, discovering and building up disciples of Jesus Christ. I believe God is calling across boundaries to unite and show the Good News in our everyday lives.

3

**Telford is a great place to live** surrounded by the beautiful Shropshire countryside, Sutton Hill and Woodside are on the edge of the World Heritage site of the Ironbridge Gorge. Telford has an excellent shopping centre with 2 multiplex cinemas' next to popular restaurants and the beautiful park. With a good travel network, Birmingham on the train in 25 minutes, and the M54 running through Telford means keeping connected is easy.



4

**A new congregation** at Woodside is the prayer of our new benefice. Until recently Sutton Hill & Woodside were run separately but still part of the Parish of Madeley. Now an independent benefice we aim to have a congregation on both estates. Sutton Hill has a church building but new ways of doing church at Woodside is our aim.

## 5

**Sutton Hill Church** is a 60's style building with an established congregation. With a flexible space, worship is a mixture of liturgical and informal, with a focus on the ministry of the word and effective engagement with the good news of Jesus Christ for our community. The service is available for all to see on two screens, and music is via a computer. Our congregation has a mix of young families and older people. Some members of the church participate in readings and intercessions. We have a range of ages and experiences in our congregation, and we are always open to trying something new. New grants are in progress to update and refurbish this versatile space.



## 6

**Raising up disciples** is something I believe in passionately. That discipleship is important no matter what part of your Christian journey you are on. To allow Christians to be who God is calling them to be right where they are, whether this is at the school gate, at work or in their retirement group. As a curate in training here there would be an expectation to help and encourage the gifts and growth in each person, as we discern what God is calling them to. This passion is rooted in a Trinitarian theology and influenced by Celtic spirituality.

Ongoing discipleship should have good foundations based on prayer, bible, worship and fellowship. We live in a world which is every changing and society is asking fundamental questions of itself. As church we cannot ignore the wider world and need to discuss these questions together, be challenged together, in a safe place to enable each to answer them for themselves.

## 7

**Intergenerational Mission** is well established in our parishes. The benefice population area that we cover is around 15000, with young families dominating. Previously Messy Church was present on both estates and were to be part of the Messy Discipleship trial. Restrictions stop this and then came the opportunity to do Muddy Church. After a successful summer



programme Muddy Church last year, listening to the rhythm of our community, Muddy Church is developing into a festival and holiday congregation. Messy Church's much requested

and anticipated relaunch in the autumn of 2022

We now have an established Youth Church 7YC made up of young people from across the Severn Link Group. The group has done Youth Alpha which incorporated a day at Cloverly Hall, where we hope to take the 7YC in the Summer of 2023 with other Youth Groups from across Telford. 7YC have run some of Sutton Hill Café Church services and been invited to do the same for other churches in the group

Alongside our work in our 3 primary schools there is a passion for reaching and providing for our young families through Muddy & Messy church while bringing the generations together.

We have a dedicated Open the Book team that is welcomed in our schools. We have also just held our first, and highly successful, Year 6 Leavers Event, with 290 pupils and their staff joining together to meet and explore 'Moving On'

8

**Working with our communities** is an important part of our ministry. We have close ties with our local community centres the Hub on Sutton Hill and the Park Lane Centre on Woodside. I actively participate in community meetings and liaise with a variety of agencies to help to solve the issues faced by an urban priority area. The challenges are there but so is a community who wants to see change for the good. As curate you will have the opportunity in helping that change happen.

9

**Collaborative ministry is the style** we practice in both our parishes and the wider group. Supporting each other is an important part of the pastoral care of both our ordained and lay ministers. Weekly and monthly meeting together is part of the structure to support but also plan and collaborate on events and mission. The expectation for any curate joining us is that you would see this as an excellent support network and be committed to be part of the team.

10

**Being part of the Severn Link Group** gives you the opportunity to try a variety of styles and ministries. Funerals and weddings are shared across the group with around 60 funerals, 10 weddings and 40 baptisms a year. This give plenty of opportunities for occasional services and other wider experiences including PCC, administration, finance challenges, grant applications and funding. Our group is also active in working ecumenically and we have a close working relation between Madeley Baptist Church who have a passion for working with us at Woodside.

## General Information

Parishes	Sutton Hill & Woodside
Diocese	Hereford
Incumbent	Rev Dawn Taffinder Parish Office, 104 Southgate, Sutton Hill, Telford, TF7 4HG <a href="mailto:dawn.taffinder@gmail.com">dawn.taffinder@gmail.com</a> 07393 295727
Ordained	2016
Present post	January 2021

### Other responsibilities

- Current group chair
- Trustee of Hub on the Hill
- Trustee of Families in Telford
- Trustee of The Living Room
- Deanery Synod Representative
- Diocesan Synod Representative

### Previous posts and experience of incumbent:

- 2019 NSM Associate Minister St Michael's Madeley
- 2016-2019 NSM Curate St Michael's Madeley (this was alongside employment as the Technical Director of Evolution Foods)
- School governor 2002-2006

As a curate I co-led CPAS Growing Leaders, was responsible for all baptismal and confirmation preparations, experience leading alpha, chaplain for local ROC Café from which emerged a new congregation.

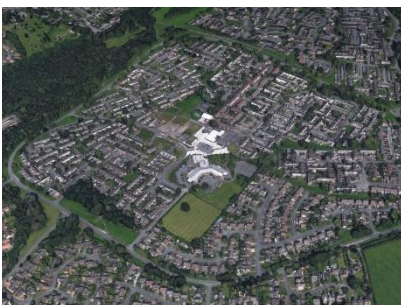
## Nature of Post

Training post for a deacon who expects to be ordained priest.

## Context of setting

**A-Sutton Hill Parish** – approximately 7000 at the southernmost tip of Telford and one of the most northerly parishes on the central Hereford Diocese border.

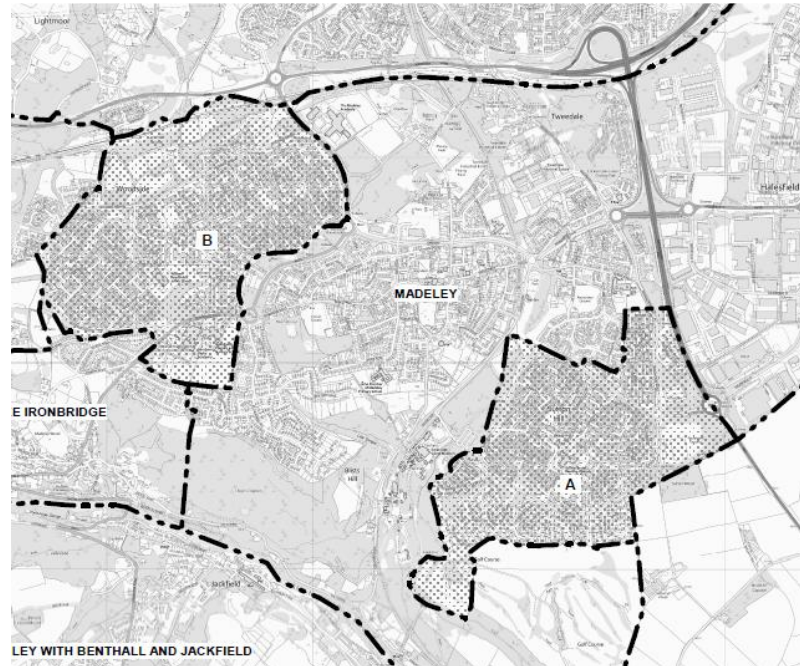
Sutton Hill Church is situated in the middle of a lively estate alongside Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School and Nursery (Ofsted – Outstanding) and the Hub on the Hill (Community Centre). The Hub hosts various organisations including 7 Academy Dance, Cliff Edge Barbers and Food Bank, Tai Chi, Singing, Dance Dynamics and Families In Telford (parent and toddler group). It also has a coffee bar serving affordable meals. Previously during school holidays, the Hub and the Church jointly provide a variety of activities. The centre also has a small supermarket including a Post Office, and a Fish and Chip shop. There is a Medical practice and Pharmacy on the perimeter road of Sutton Hill.



The estate has suffered from poor quality housing and a high proportion of absentee landlords, contributing to a level of social deprivation. A £6 million programme of redevelopment for housing and improvement of infrastructure has been completed which has brought long term social benefits. Currently there are a number of grants that have been awarded to help tackle a number of social issues.

Part of Sutton Hill has been awarded “Village Green” status. Bluebell Wood, sports field and play area are also situated on the perimeter road.

On the outskirts of Sutton Hill is the Telford Golf and Spa Hotel with swimming pool and gym. Sutton Hill is within walking distance of the famous Ironbridge (UNESCO World Heritage Centre) and Blists Hill Victorian Town, leading into the beautiful Shropshire countryside.



**B-Woodside Parish** is slightly large, similarly lively area on the other side of Madeley. Most of the housing was built in the 1960's and 1970's, with new affordable housing added recently. The Park Lane centre is at the heart of this community, hosting a variety of groups including a Nursery, a Youth Drop-in, Toddler group, Craft group, Tea & Dance, a mental health group (Challenging Perceptions), an addictions group (A Better Tomorrow) and Age UK. The Centre and the Church work closely together. There is a Dentist, Medical Centre and Pharmacy, a small Tesco and hairdresser. Nearby there is an Assisted Living residence and 2 primary schools.

Currently there is not a congregation meeting on Woodside, there is no PCC or Church Wardens and the only church building is the curate's house. Over the years various church planting and outreach initiatives have taken place on Woodside, and there are a number of resident active Christians who worship at other local churches. For several years until 2019 a number of groups including Messy Church, a drop in for carers and toddlers, and a youth group met in a suite in the Park Lane Centre. Autumn of 2022 will see Messy Church restart and Way to Wellness: Body, Mind & Spirit session launched. There is a desire to re-establish ministry on Woodside, using similar patterns to those already in place on Sutton Hill, with the support of other churches.



## The Benefice

Sutton Hill Church has an electoral role of 38. The church meets on a Sunday morning at 10.30am

First Sunday	Holy Communion
Second Sunday	Morning Worship
Third Sunday	Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday	Café Church
Fifth Sunday	This varies dependant on the time of year

There are currently no formal services on Woodside

### Occasional Offices

Due to our context many occasional services happen at the other churches in the group overall there is approximately 60 funerals, 10 weddings and 40 baptisms a year

### Daily Offices

Tuesday Group Ministry prayer and meeting with first Tuesday being Chapter meeting

### Staff

Benefice staff - Intergenerational Missioner

Additional across Group – 2 incumbents, 1 PTO, 2 readers.

### Lay involvement

Plenty. In addition to general rotas there is a strong lay led informal pastoral ministry and prayer ministry. With prayer walking our estates a continuing project for the autumn. Study groups tend to be across the group.





**Areas of particular mission and ministry** The biggest needs in the area are around young families and there is little provision for those with dementia. We work with the Hub on Sutton Hill and Park Lane Centre on Woodside to create collaborative structures to cover the needs of particular groups. We are currently also exploring dementia café and church. We are also seeking to develop a CAP group.

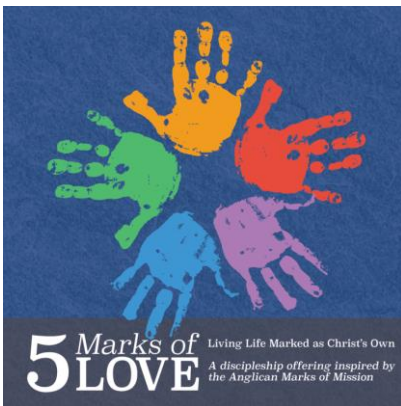
**Opportunities to develop fresh expressions of church** is our biggest area of our mission action plan. Development of the craft and creativity groups, sew 4 the Soul, muddy church, messy church re-launch, Way to Wellness seeks to support mind, body and spirit as people journey towards healthy lifestyles.

**Congregations** are mainly communal

**Cooperation with other churches** as well as the other churches in the Severn Link group there is an active relationship with Madeley Baptist Church, Telford Minister and the Telford Christians Together

**Have any resolutions under the Priest (ordination of Women) Measure have been passed?** No

**Vision and Priorities** we are seeking to be church across the benefice with Sutton Hill & Woodside families and members moving freely between both estates. Currently we are trying to establish a single PCC and the Mission Action Plan is live and regularly reviewed, based around the 5 marks of mission. This establishes our vision not only for what is happening today but for the future. We wish to develop our online presence but not necessarily streaming Sunday morning. Our experience is that time and resources can be a limiting factor for mission and therefore the option is not what we can do but what is God calling us to do first. We are community churches in the centres of our communities. We want to be unlimited by our building stretching our tent pegs as far as they will go.



**How does the incumbent understand the role of training?** Curacy is the next stage on a journey that began with a particular call from God to ordained ministry. As training incumbent, it is my role to seek to support a curate to grow and discern the direction and ministry that God is calling them into so they can be ready and quietly confident when they move on to the next stage of their ordained ministry.

Curacy needs to be a safe place with mutual respect. This involves spending time praying, listening, building trust and giving constructive and helpful feedback. To provide opportunities to learn the core skills of ordained ministry whilst giving opportunities to discover a particular area of ministry which they feel drawn to and wish to explore in a supported way.

**Contact in first instance: the incumbent – details given above**

*'I am happy to talk through any of the information given here. Please do get in touch.'*

### **What is the likely role of the curate in future plans?**

The first 12 months is a time to build confidence and develop the core skills. In the early months the curate will be expected to take a full share of leading services and preaching. Occasional offices will be introduced in such a way to build skills and confidence. Other particular areas of ministry responsibilities will largely be down to the curate's particular skill set and interests. There is no shortage of opportunities to discern and try different things, by mutual agreement, over the first 12 months.

### **Accommodation**

Situated on the Woodside estate, the curate's house was built in 1996 and is a well-appointed and spacious detached home, standing in its own gardens and grounds, fully enclosed. Downstairs has a lounge with an open fire, dining room, kitchen and utility room, cloak room and a study with a separate entrance. Upstairs has four good-sized bedrooms and two bathrooms with showers. The attic space is boarded providing ample storage space. It has gas central heating throughout. The study looks out onto the front garden and drive.

