

The Benefice of St James the Great Colwall with Upper Colwall, Colwall Green and All Saints' Coddington

Diocese of Hereford



**Why Consider a Curacy
in Colwall and Coddington?**

1. Meet the Team

In both Colwall and Coddington our focus is always on the people - we love our buildings but they are not the church. We have a lively team in both places with diverse skills and interests. We work together, lay and ordained, regular members of the congregation and the wider community.

Colwall Church Warden



Coddington Church Wardens



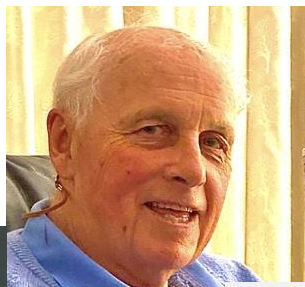
Parish Administrator



Some of the Coddington Team



Some of the Colwall Team



2. Meet the Rector Melanie Horton



I have been serving the Benefice of Colwall with Upper Colwall and Coddington now for 14 years. I was ordained priest in 1996 and served my title in Lichfield. Following completion of my curacy I worked as a school Chaplain for 9 years before arriving in Hereford Diocese as Incumbent of this Benefice in 2008. During my time in the Diocese I have also worked on production of training courses and have been a curate mentor

Theologically and liturgically I would describe myself as Liberal Catholic but I believe passionately that as the Rector of a country parish it is my job to provide a mixed diet of worship that enables the whole community to be part of their parish church if they wish. I am committed to the ministry of the church to the whole community and believe that the church must engage with the major social and political issues of the day, in particular issues around poverty and climate change.

I believe that the period of curate training should be a time when you are free and supported to explore your passions and interests. At the same time being mentored as you develop the habits and practises that will inform the whole of the rest of your ministry.

3. The Style of our Churches

Both St James and All Saints are welcoming and inclusive, committed to welcoming everyone irrespective of race, colour, gender or sexuality. At its APCM 6 years ago St James the Great voted to become a visible congregation under the auspices of One Body, One Faith.

Both churches are committed to being at the heart of their communities offering space for matters temporal as well as matters spiritual.

4. Worship

St James (Electoral Roll 130)

Weekly: 10am Parish Communion (replaced by occasional informal non eucharistic worship – approx. every other month but being reviewed)

4th Sunday: 8.30am BCP communion

10am worship at St James is broadly Common Worship but is supported by the use of a fully integrated screen and data projector allowing us freedom to be creative with style and content.

All Saints (Electoral Roll 28)

1st Sunday: 8.30am BCP communion

3rd Sunday: 11.30am Sung Matins

Family services for festivals and special occasions

5. Occasional Offices

Baptisms – Between 8-10 per year

Weddings – Approx 10 per year

Funerals – Between 25-30 per year

The majority of the occasional offices take place at St James, Colwall but those in Coddington tend to be significant community events

6. The villages – their setting and facilities



The benefice of Colwall and Coddington is in the Ledbury Deanery in the Diocese of Hereford. The two villages are situated close to the Western slopes of the Malvern Hills, officially designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Nearby towns include Malvern (3 miles) and Ledbury (4 miles), while Hereford and Worcester are respectively 20 and 12 miles distant. Colwall

enjoys direct rail access to all the above places, as well as to London, Birmingham and onward to the rest of the country. The M5 and M50 motorways are relatively close by. There is also a regular bus service



Colwall has a population of a little over 2500, in some 1500 houses, making it one of the largest rural villages in the county, while Coddington is a hamlet of 1076 acres with a population of just under 100 people.

Colwall has several shops, including a general store, butchers, fruit and vegetables, pharmacy, and a Post Office and florist, and there are several other businesses based in the village. There is a pub, an hotel and a Thai restaurant. Colwall also has a well-used branch library. Bus services connect Colwall to Malvern and Ledbury, where there are shops of every kind. Colwall Surgery provides medical services in the centre of the village; there are Community Hospitals at Malvern and Ledbury, and major hospitals

in Hereford and Worcester.

Many of Colwall's children attend either the excellent Church of England primary school located in a new purpose built building or either of two private preparatory schools, The Downs School or The Elms School. State secondary education is provided by The John Masefield School, Ledbury and also The Chase in Malvern.

A key characteristic of Colwall is its varied and thriving community life, with a very wide range of societies, clubs and interest groups. The village has attracted many people with a range of creative as well as organisational talents, and these are reflected in its social and cultural life. There are thriving football and cricket clubs, Rotary, Probus, British Legion, a Solo Club, WI, Ladies Club, Mothers Union, Playgroup, Orchard Group, Car Club, the Colwall Players Drama group & Village History Society. The church edits and produces as community magazine 'The Colwall Clock and Coddington Recorder' which many of these organisations use to communicate with members and publicise their activities



Coddington is set in beautiful countryside with views of the Malvern Hills and the Black Mountains in Wales. It has six large farms, a vineyard, and a Buddhist Retreat and Community at Coddington Court. As the community only has the Church as a community space Coddington PCC has been developing a strategy of offering the church for

community events. The back part of the church has been re-ordered to provide basic kitchen facilities and the church and its grounds have been used recently for a village party for the Jubilee, a celebration of the easing of COVID restrictions and a craft fair. There is strong community support for the church.



The Benefice has a longstanding link with the inner city parish, St James Aston in Birmingham. This is a church that has struggled with financial and social issues over many years. They are surrounded by a largely Muslim community and the ways that they are responding to the challenges of this are truly inspiring. We try to share worship at least twice a year and at this end hold an annual village quiz to

raise funds to support the congregation in Aston with their community and pastoral projects..

7. Our vision and Priorities

In both Colwall and Coddington our PCC and congregation are in a process of revisiting and reassessing post COVID vision and priorities and setting a strategy to achieve those priorities. There are however some fundamental givens based on our core beliefs about what church is for, which centre on our congregation, community, building and stewardship. These can be summed up in the following statements. We will

- ✓ value, nurture and care for the existing congregation.
- ✓ nurture and develop lay ministry which has grown in diverse areas of the churches life using the new opportunities for training and licensing of different lay ministries to encourage growth in this area;
- ✓ continue to value our strong Eucharistic tradition whilst at the same time seeking new ways of being church to sit alongside that and develop fresh expressions of church to speak to a new generation;
- ✓ build on our spiritual and pastoral relationships across the wider community, including with schools, care homes, through our café for people living with dementia and their carers and via our new social prescriber
- ✓ be agents for change in our wider world, especially in the context of global issues such as poverty and climate change;
- ✓ care for our beautiful historic buildings. In Colwall a potential re-ordering project is currently being explored in order to facilitate greater community use.



8. Our Curate

Whoever you are we are here to support you in this vital stage of your ministerial formation. We look forward to sharing with you, learning with you and from you as you grow. What we ask in return is that you are open minded, inclusive and willing to muck in!

Once we know who you are and your circumstances then we will set about finding you the right accommodation so that your practical needs are met releasing you to focus on your training and development.

Most of all we want you to have fun – living your faith and developing your ministry!



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(our website is a pending project as it needs updating!)