



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

2

Starting in the summer of 2024 I will have been here 3½ years and our mission action plan is still 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

Sutton Hill Church is a 60's style building with an established and diverse 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. 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.

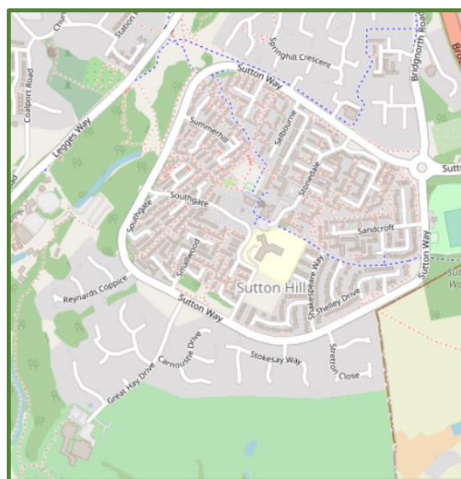
Sutton Hill has a Messy Church which runs in addition to our Sunday services, attended by young and old alike.

The building is in the process of being updated and refurbishing. New grants have been awarded and work continues so we can use this versatile space to the full. Community groups already use the church, and we hope to expand this in the future.

Christmas fun



Our first wedding where we turned the church around and dressed it up a bit



5

Our main church on Woodside is Messy Church. Over the last few years Sutton Hill Church has worked to reach out and continue Messy Church on Woodside. We are now seeing a core of regular members start to grow in their faith and commitment. This year Woodside Church has started to regain its identity and we hope to restart the PCC soon.



This year there have been deanery prayer events and Woodside took their turn.

As we look to the future, we want to expand the time we spend on Woodside. We have built a relationship with the care home on Woodside holding monthly meetings and we also work closely with the Park Lane Centre.

A key part role as curate will be to continue and develop outreach and discipleship on Woodside.



The main place we meet is the Park Lane Centre

Woodside has undergone major refurbishment and housing continues to expand.



6

MUDDY CHURCH grew up in response to when we could only meet outside. This has now developed into a festival and holiday congregation. This is a joint venture between Madeley, Sutton Hill, Woodside churches and Madeley Baptist Church and is held outside between our 2 estates in Madeley Community Orchard. Many members also attend one of the Messy Church's but there is a great opportunity to develop the church with a focus on the environment and helping serve and support the Community Orchard



This year's summer Muddy was Garden Catastrophes! From tie dying to scavenger hunts.



Muddy Harvest with Hilly & Woody getting up to mischief.



7

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, 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, prayer, scripture 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 ever 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.

8

Intergenerational Mission is well established in our parishes. The benefice population area that we cover is around 15000, with young families dominating. Sutton Hill & Woodside were part of the original IM Project set up in Hereford Diocese. Initially a 5-year project we were delighted to secure funding for another 3 years. Beckie Dotson is our intergenerational missionary and is an integral part of the local ministry team. The project is specifically aimed at developing our congregation, recognising the value and benefits of young and old worship, praying, serving and having fun together.

One achievement of the project is that we have now established 7YC a Youth Church made up of young people from across the Severn Link Group. This summer, in collaboration with another Youth Churches from Telford we took our young people to Cloverly Hall for 'ONE NIGHT ONLY'. Members of the 7YC take an active part in Sunday services or Messy church in their own parishes as well as coming together on a Sunday evening. They recently asked for the Bishop's High Places Communion time to be moved so they could join with other members of the Deanery to climb The Wrekin.

9

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 am a Trustee for the Hub on the Hill, Families in Telford and Madeley United Charities. 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.

We also work with our 3 primary schools. As well as curriculum visits, we offer Experience Harvest and Experience Easter.



We also hold our highly successful, Year 6 Leavers Event in collaboration with other local churches, which brings approximately 290 pupils and their staff joining together to meet and explore 'Moving On'.

10

Collaborative ministry is the style. We are part of the Severn Link Group of churches and collaboration is how we work both in our parishes and the wider group. Supporting each other is an important part of the pastoral care of both our ordained and lay ministers. Bi-weekly meeting together help us to support, 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.

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.

General Information

Parishes	Sutton Hill & Woodside
Diocese	Hereford
Incumbent	Rev Dawn Taffinder Parish Office, 104 Southgate, Sutton Hill, Telford, TF7 4HG dawn.taffinder@gmail.com 07393 295727
Ordained	2016
Present post	January 2021

Other responsibilities

- Rural Dean of Telford & Severn Gorge Deanery
- Diocesan Synod Representative
- Trustee of Hub on the Hill
- Trustee of Families in Telford
- Trustee of Madeley United Charities

Previous posts and experience of incumbent:

- 2019-2021 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 a food manufacturing company)
- School governor 2002-2006

I have co-led CPAS Growing Leaders and a number of Alpha courses. Represented the diocese on the Estate Evangelism group. Chaplain for local ROC Café.

I am passionate about creative styles of ministry whilst honouring the traditions of the Anglican church.

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.

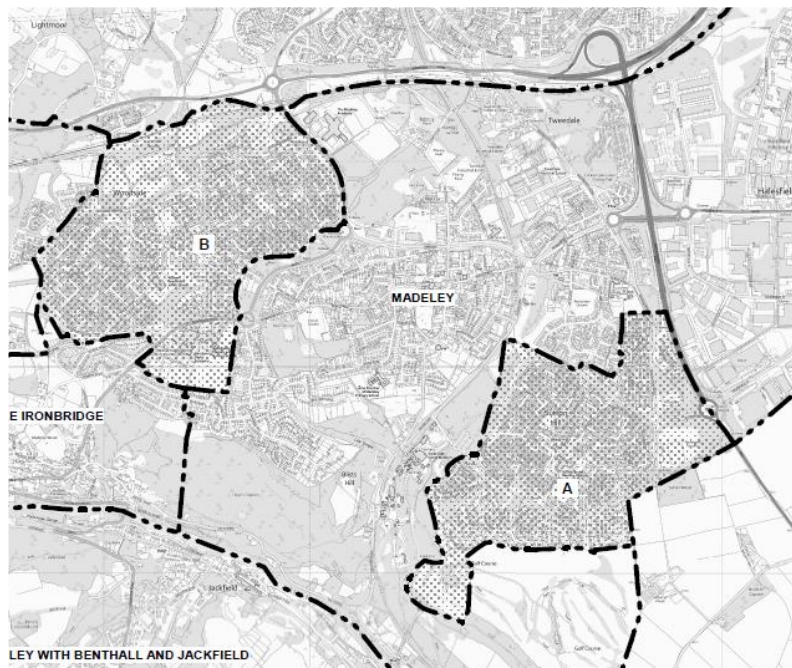
Sutton Hill Church is situated in the middle of a lively estate alongside Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School and Nursery (Ofsted – Outstanding) and the Hub on the Hill (Community Centre). The Hub hosts various organisations including 7 Academy Dance, Cliff Edge Barbers and Food Bank, Tai Chi, Singing, Dance Dynamics and Families In Telford (parent and toddler group). It also has a coffee bar serving affordable meals. 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.

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. There is a desire to expand ministry on Woodside, using similar patterns to those already in place on Sutton Hill



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 Sunday 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. Study groups usually follow the church seasons and are offered 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.

Opportunities to develop fresh expressions of church is our biggest area of our mission action plan. Development of craft and creativity groups, muddy church, messy church, youth church and social action activities.

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 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 PCC on Woodside with the intention of moving towards a single PCC. The current 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 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 you as a curate to grow and discern the direction and ministry that God is calling you into. To ensure that you can be ready with confidence when you move on to the next stage of your ordained ministry.

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.'

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 support and opportunities to learn the core skills of ordained ministry whilst giving space to discover a particular area of ministry which you may feel drawn.

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 Sutton Hill estate, the curate's house was built in 1970's and is a well-appointed and spacious detached home, standing in its own gardens. It has an entrance hall, leading to a lounge, dining room, kitchen & utility. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms and a bathroom with shower. It has a separate entrance leading to a study and guest cloakroom. The house has gas central heating and is well maintained and decorated. There is a front and back enclosed garden, garage, and parking.