

# The Parish of Kingsbury, Baxterley with Hurley and Wood End, and Merevale with Bentley — Parish Profile 2025

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SS. Peter & Paul, Kingsbury

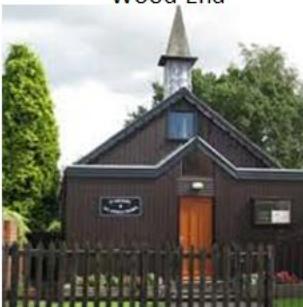


The Kingsbury & Baxterley Group of Churches, North Warwickshire



The Church of Our Lady, Merevale

St. Michael & All Angels, Wood End



The Church, Baxterley



The Church of the Resurrection, Hurley



“Serving our villages in faith, unity, and love.”

## Introducing the Parish

Welcome and thank you for considering our Parish.

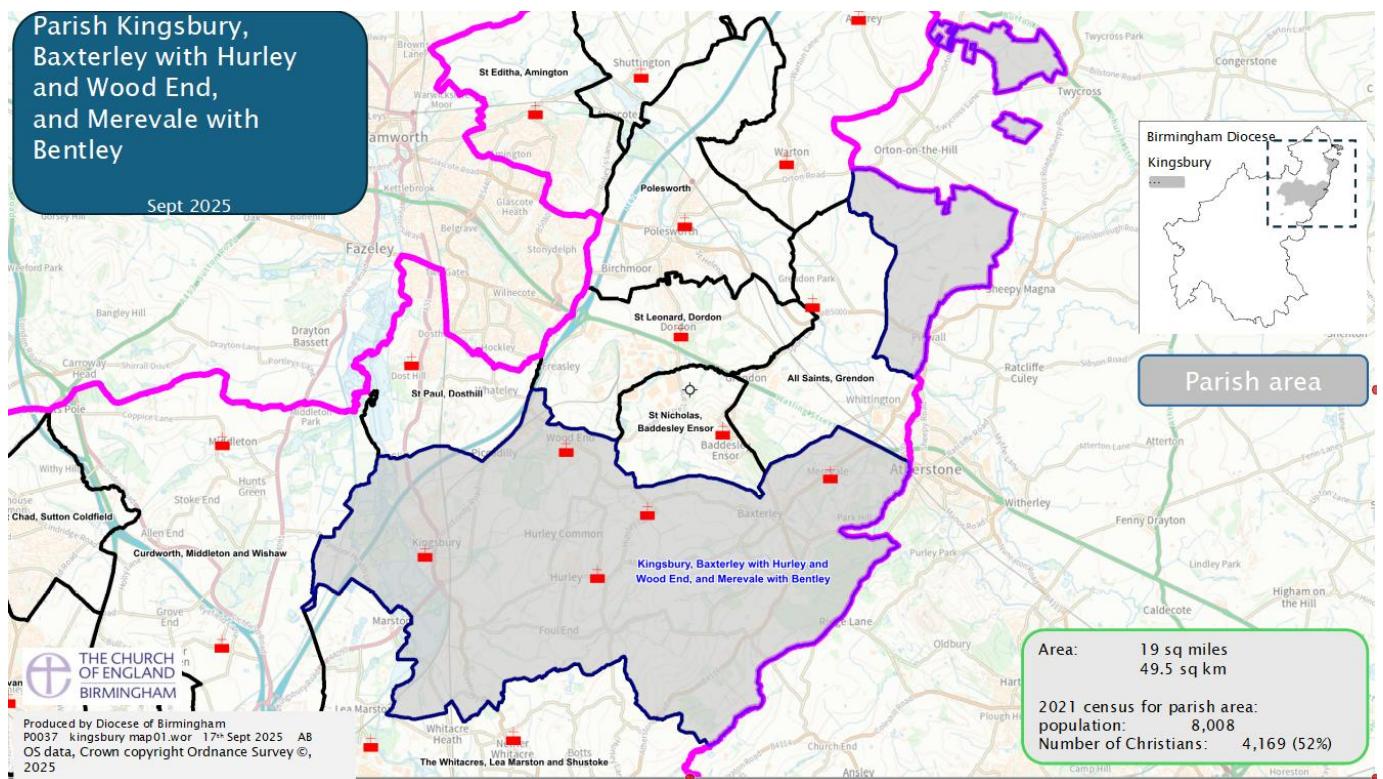
The Parish consists of five churches, Kingsbury, Baxterley, Hurley, Wood End and Merevale; Bentley Church having been demolished some years ago. The Parish is situated in North Warwickshire, near the borders with Staffordshire to the west and Leicestershire to the north and east.

The area is predominantly rural, with major centres of population being Atherstone and Coleshill. Tamworth, in Staffordshire, is approximately 5 miles from Kingsbury.

The total population of the parishes is approximately 8500, with about 3700 in Kingsbury.

“One parish, several churches — united in purpose and faith.”

## Map of the whole parish



## What we are looking for

Someone who will .....

- enjoy the challenges and opportunities of rural ministry.
- bring energy and enthusiasm for life and laughter in our communities.
- bring “Broad Church” - traditional Anglicanism - not too High, Low or Evangelical.
- be able to communicate well with those who come to church; and those who do not.
- have a vision for the future of ministry in our Parish, recognizing and celebrating our “unity in diversity,” and a need to be inclusive.
- treasure our “small” congregations.
- build upon the strong unity that has grown across our parish.
- resource us theologically and liturgically encouraging lay leadership and participation.
- work collaboratively and constructively with our local groups, schools and organizations.

## What we can offer you

We can offer you...

- a warm welcome.
- good support.
- a sense of humour.
- a four bedrooned spacious vicarage within **easy** walking distance of **the** **picturesque** Kingsbury Water Park.
- **good will in the community.**
- an excellent Parish Quiz.
- tea and homemade cake at any available opportunity!

We see one of our greatest challenges as maintaining the fabric of our listed church buildings with limited financial



and personnel resources.

On a practical point, any successful candidate needs to be a car owner and driver.

## The Vicarage

The vicarage was built in the 1980s at the top of Church Lane in Kingsbury. It is a modern replacement of the old vicarage which is adjacent to it. The house is a four bedroomed property having front and side lawned garden and a rear walled garden of a good size, mainly lawned with side borders. The house downstairs is roomy with a study, dining room, lounge, kitchen, large utility room, wide hallway with toilet off, and large under-stairs storage cupboard.



Upstairs via a wide staircase there are four good sized bedrooms, an airing cupboard, separate toilet and a separate bathroom with a shower over the bath. Attached to the house is a single garage and storeroom. The property has gas central heating, is double glazed throughout and is fitted with an alarm system with external lighting facilities.

## The Villages, Buildings and Heritage

Our five churches reflect the long story of faith in our villages:

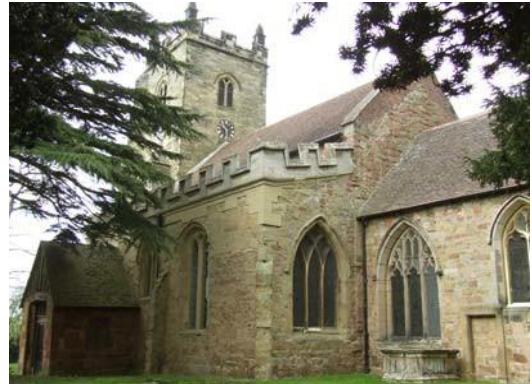
**BAXTERLEY** is a small village located about 1½ miles from the church, with scattered farms and cottages between the two. The Rose at Baxterley is a popular pub-restaurant. **Baxterley Church** dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is a Grade II listed building. Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Oxford preached a sermon at Baxterley Church on Christmas Day 1552. The churchyard has abundant natural British wild daffodils that look wonderful in the Spring. There is a recently refurbished School Room next to the church that is well used by the community.



**HURLEY**, formerly a mining and farming village, is now predominantly a commuter village, with two shops (one incorporating a post office), two pubs, a doctor's surgery with pharmacy, a village hall and a thriving primary school. There is an active Community Association, which produces a monthly newsletter. **Hurley Church (The**

**Church of the Resurrection**) is a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century building nearing the end of its life. Following an informal community consultation the PCC took the unanimous decision at their meeting in April 2025 to ask the Diocese to consider closing Hurley Church.

**KINGSBURY** is the main centre of population in the Parish. There are several shops (including a Co-op), two pubs, doctor's surgery with pharmacy, sports hall and community centre, garage and fish and chip shop. There are uniformed youth organizations and primary and secondary schools. Kingsbury Water Park borders the village. The Vicarage for the Parish is near the Church. **Kingsbury Church (St Peter and St Paul)** is a Grade II\* listed building. There is a fine peal of 8 bells with an active ringing group. A toilet and office facilities are available in the adjacent Old Stable Block.



**MEREVALE**, apart from a small housing estate on the edge of Atherstone, this is a scattered community, comprising mainly properties on the Merevale Estate, with no identifiable centre. The Horse and Jockey is a popular pub-restaurant on the Coleshill road. **Merevale Church (The Church of our Lady)** is a Grade I listed building and a former Cistercian Abbey gatehouse chapel. There are links to Henry VII and the Battle of Bosworth and some beautiful medieval

stained glass including a Jesse window. There is a strong musical tradition and church choir.

**WOOD END** has a particularly strong sense of community with a village hall, a Working Men's Club, a **Co-op shop** and a popular primary school. There are uniformed young people's groups. **Wood End Church (St Michael and All Angels)** is a 20<sup>th</sup> century church at the heart of the village and much used by the community.



There are in addition small communities at Hurley Common, linking Hurley and Wood End; and at Piccadilly, between Kingsbury and Wood End; and at Cliff on

the Tamworth Road between Kingsbury and Dosthill, (although Cliff itself is in Dosthill Parish).

There are four open churchyards, (Wood End and Hurley share a churchyard).

In 2002 the five churches came together as one group under the same incumbent. Then in 2024 the three parishes (Kingsbury, Baxterley with Hurley and Wood End and Merevale with Bentley), were combined to become a single parish.

### **Age Profile and Population Composition**

The general Age Profile of the area population is:

Aged 0 – 15 years	16%
Aged 16 – 64 years	62%
Aged 65 years & above	22%

The population comprises a broad cross-section of people, from low income families to senior professional and business people. The expansion of mining in the 1950s brought in a large number of families from Scotland and north-east England, including many of Central European origin. There are relatively few residents from minority groups.

### **Worship and Church Life**

Our worship reflects the breadth of Anglican tradition — Holy Communion (Common Worship) and Evening Prayer (BCP) are regularly used; occasional Sung Compline is valued usually on Marian occasions at Merevale. Group Services, **with a combined choir drawn from across the churches**, bring the whole Parish together to mark **Seasons and Festivals including Candlemas and every fifth Sunday**. Holy Week liturgies have included Tenebrae and the Blessing of Light on Holy Saturday. There is an annual Oversight Area service in the abbey ruins at Merevale. Harvest Festival involves a Parish Lunch. All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance draw the community together in poignant commemoration.



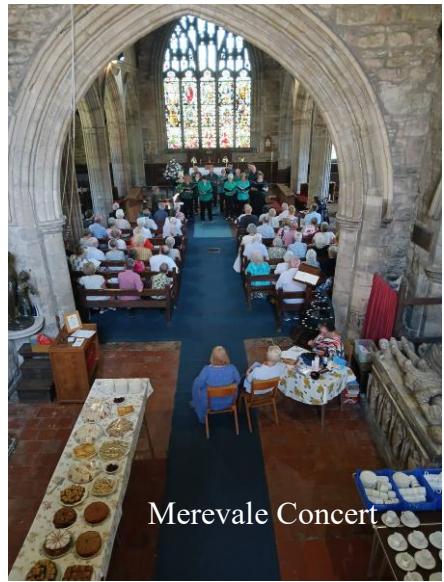
We are blessed by the ministry of one Assistant Curate and a Licensed Reader. Sadly, both are planning to retire shortly. We are delighted to say that our Assistant Curate is planning to apply for Permission to Officiate (PTO). There are also lay leaders and volunteers who help lead worship, pastoral care, (though we do not have a licensed Pastoral Care Team), and community engagement.

Home communions, online Compline, and seasonal services connect us with those who cannot attend in person.

## Mission and Community

Our churches play an active part in local life — through Farm Church for families, reflection groups during Advent and Lent, and community events such as the Parish Quiz, Harvest Festival, and concerts and talks at Baxterley and Merevale.

The refurbished School Room at Baxterley is open for tea and cakes in summer weekends, welcoming visitors and raising funds for mission and charity. The parish also runs a popular Jigsaw Library in Kingsbury, bringing people together in fellowship and conversation.



We work closely with local primary schools in Kingsbury, Hurley, and Wood End, offering assemblies, seasonal services, and invitations to church events.

Uniformed groups join in our Remembrance services, helping young people engage with faith and heritage.

The church community is valued and respected within the wider community. There is ample potential for developing links with families and local schools.



## Administration

Each church has its own wardens and Treasurer. Individual church accounts feed into the PCC accounts. The PCC meets every two months. There are a number of sub-committees, (such as Worship, Finance, Buildings) that meet and report back to the PCC. The PCC is a remarkably harmonious forum.

## The Wider Church

We are part of the Deanery of Coleshill and Polesworth within the Diocese of Birmingham, working collaboratively with neighbouring parishes, **The Whitacres, Lea Marston, Shustoke and Dosthill** in our Oversight Area. We share in a supportive network of clergy, readers, and lay ministers.



“We are stronger together — one church, many communities.”

## Other Denominations

There is a Methodist Church in Kingsbury, **with whom we have good links.**

## Thank You for Your Interest

We are grateful for your time and prayerful consideration of our parish.

Please visit our website and follow us online to learn more:

<http://www.kingbaxgroup.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563036555109>