



Onny Camlad

Benefice

Profile



“Come and You Will See”
John 1:39

The Onny Camlad Benefice – At a Glance

Our profile aims to highlight Onny Camlad as a benefice that:

- Benefits from supportive lay leadership and ministry teams that encourage our parishes to work together, deepening our shared faith in God and supporting one another's spiritual journeys.
- Fosters a welcoming, inclusive culture, reflecting Christ's love by offering comfort, care, and hospitality to our whole community and to visitors.
- Is actively engaged with the rural communities where we live, work, learn, and worship, developing faith-led outreach initiatives that serve our parishes.
- Is responsible in managing its financial affairs, committing to increasing its Parish Offers and maintaining our beautiful church buildings as enduring spaces for worship and community life.
- Provides practical support to its Minister, living out the Gospels by working with local schools, visiting the sick and lonely, and ensuring robust safeguarding.
- Benefits from a paid administrator to handle day-to-day organisation, freeing the Oversight Minister to focus on pastoral care, spiritual leadership, worship, and Christ-centred mission across our community.

Intrigued? Could you be the person God is calling to journey with us?



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Archdeacon's Welcome

CLUN FOREST Deanery is a deeply rural part of the world, with some communities tucked down very narrow, sometimes steep roads that lead to some very beautiful locations and much-loved churches, there is in fact 1 church for every 350 people living in the deanery. These many church communities enable a wide variety of theology and worship across the deanery and communities work hard to enable worship to happen regularly. The Oversight Minister of Onny Camlad (so named from the two rivers that run through it) will be based at Churchstoke, one of the larger villages. The property is close to the main road, thus providing easy access to the lanes leading to the other churches in the Benefice.

Across the benefice there is wonderful team of lay minsters, who are gifted and experienced in their many roles and very supportive of the Shared Local Ministry vision, looking forward to being the first benefice to move into this way of working.

The thriving Youth Hub based in Bishop's Castle, which enables youth ministry to happen within the deanery, is supporting the previous youth work in Churchstoke and the surrounding villages.

Whilst there may seem to be many church buildings, the churchwardens are all engaged and experienced, managing the buildings well, enabling the Oversight Minister to grow and develop lay leaders and mission across the parishes, whilst developing their own ministry area of gifting and interest.

I am very excited to be able to offer this post at this time, holding the benefice as an example of working together collaboratively, whilst maintaining the sense of each community having its own identity as they work to proclaim Christ and grow disciples.

If you would like to know more about this role and the benefice please don't hesitate to be in touch.

With prayers as you discern your next step in ministry



The Venerable Sam Hustwayte



Welcome to Our Benefice

We are a group of rural parishes in the beautiful countryside of the Shropshire and Powys Borderlands. Rooted in our local communities we seek to live out our Christian faith with hope, openness and a willingness to embrace the future.

Our churches are diverse in character, history and size, but we share a common desire to be places where people can encounter God, find friendship and discover the difference that faith can make in everyday life. We value our traditions and the rich heritage of our churches, whilst also recognising the need to explore new ways of being church in today's rural communities.

We are now looking for an Oversight Minister who can help us grow from where we are, encourage us in our faith and enable our churches and communities to flourish. We hope to welcome someone who will listen to us, walk alongside us, challenge and encourage us.

Our rural setting brings both opportunities and challenges. Our communities are often closely connected, and our churches have an important role in offering welcome, pastoral care, worship and practical support. We want to strengthen those relationships and look for new opportunities to engage with people of all ages, including those who may not currently see themselves as part of the Church.

We recognise that ministry in a rural benefice is a shared calling. We have lay people who are committed and willing to contribute their gifts, and we want to encourage and develop this lay leadership alongside ordained ministry. We are looking for an Oversight Minister who will enable others to flourish, work collaboratively and help us to become increasingly confident in sharing responsibility for our mission and ministry.

Above all, we are a group who love our churches and communities; who want to serve God faithfully; who are willing to learn and happy to try new things as we journey together.

We invite you to read our Benefice Profile, discover more about our churches and communities, and prayerfully consider whether this might be the next chapter of your ministry.



Benefice Mission and Ministry

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

Our Benefice Mission is to assist the Oversight Minister in spreading the Word of God and by so doing to grow the Kingdom of God across the Onny Camlad Benefice, to see an increase in church attendances and the sharing of a deeper faith.

Our churches offer places of faith, friendship, belonging and support, and we are committed to ensuring they remain relevant for generations to come.

Being relevant to our rural communities is essential to successfully achieve our mission, and a gentle way of bringing Jesus and the Church into our communities.

We have an eclectic but mutually co-operative mix of worship, all offering a warm welcome to every visitor to our churches. Our churches throughout the benefice offer varied forms of worship, so that all may feel comfortable in our services.

Our new Oversight Minister will have the support of our lay-led ministry team

The lay ministry team partake regularly in services throughout the benefice, particularly those held in the parishes of All Saints, Norbury, St. Margaret's, Ratlinghope and St. Nicholas' Churchstoke, with St. Nicholas having a particular emphasis on contemporary worship which has been especially appreciated by families, children and teenagers. St. Nicholas also has a Worship Band that plays for services regularly.



An example of our creativity in worship can be seen in the use of outdoors worship and our observation of Rogation Sunday, where a church service is offered at the beginning of the day, followed by a walk that is rooted in prayer, community and care for the land. The walk ends with a church service.

During Holy Week, services are offered daily: Following on from Palm Sunday, where often a drama is enacted involving young and old, we have the Stations of the Cross and Maundy Thursday services. On Good Friday, there is a service of reflection where, at the top of Ratchup Hill, three crosses are placed; remembering Christ on the Cross. Other Good Friday services take place throughout the benefice. An outdoor Easter Saturday service involves fireworks, with Easter Sunday being a glorious celebration of the Risen Lord.



Throughout the benefice we use the Common Worship Order of Service booklets, relevant to each period in the Church of England liturgical calendar, which has added a deeper understanding to our services. The continuation of this would be of benefit to us all.

We offer an increasingly united benefice

Over the past few years, we have been gently encouraged to attend each other's services across the benefice, when our own local church does not hold a Sunday service. We see our churches as one church community, and we would wish this encouragement to continue.

Outreach across the benefice has included Alpha courses and our Café Church is held monthly at Lydham village hall. The benefice has organised 'Grave Talk', where discussion is encouraged to talk about death, dying, and the planning of one's own funeral. In Sarn, where the building of Holy Trinity church was formally closed this year, occasional community seasonal services are held in the village hall, led recently by lay worship leaders from St Nicholas', Churchstoke.

We support one another in growing deeper in our faith through activities such as having weekly prayer meetings and would like this aspect to receive ongoing support and growth. The benefice offered a 'Prayer Day' to all, which was very well-attended. Our benefice also has regular Bible study groups.



We see school's ministry as essential to our benefice life where Lay church members from across the benefice have taken teaching about Jesus to our two primary schools. The 'Open the Book' scheme has been used for a monthly assembly at Norbury School. We hope to establish this at Churchstoke too. A Youth Hub is being established at St Nicholas' Churchstoke, with the help of Diocesan resources, to continue the strong youth work that has run for many years.

Our well-established Ministry Support team are a group the new Oversight Minister can look to for support, and we also have a newly formed Pastoral Visitors group to assist our new incumbent.

Each church has its own PCC and the Benefice Council meets three times a year to co-ordinate festival services, and organise joint community, social and fundraising activities, such as our bi-annual fete and an Italian evening.

We have a benefice whose goal is to act as a single unit, as we strive to fulfil our Benefice Mission.



The Job Description – Opportunities & Challenges

Thematic Overview

Prayerful

Opportunities	Challenges
The benefice enjoys a rich and expanding culture of prayer expressed through weekly and monthly prayer gatherings, worship and prayer evenings, men's prayer breakfasts, Compline, Celtic prayer, and rogation walking. Most churches remain open daily, offering quiet spaces for reflection, and prayer ministry is offered regularly. The Oversight Minister will be able to deepen this culture, broaden participation, and strengthen benefice-wide prayer initiatives.	Rural geography, dispersed congregations, and travel difficulties can make shared prayer challenging. Time pressures and the scale of the Benefice add further complexity. The Oversight Minister will need to offer clear spiritual leadership, encourage lay involvement, and foster unity across varied worshipping communities.

Christlike

Opportunities	Challenges
The benefice is eager to grow in Christlikeness through healing, pastoral care, discipleship, and Spirit-filled worship. Hospitality, shared meals, music, fellowship, and mission through Alpha, community events, and outreach are already embedded in church life. The Oversight Minister can inspire deeper discipleship, strengthen unity across traditions, and help people live out their faith with joy, generosity, and openness to the Holy Spirit.	Providing consistent teaching, discipleship, and pastoral care is demanding across dispersed congregations with varied traditions. Communication can be uneven, and some churches rely heavily on a small number of volunteers. Balancing a range of worship styles, from formal and traditional to informal and spirit led, and nurturing everyday faith requires patient, emotionally intelligent leadership rooted in Scripture and the Holy Spirit.

Engaged

Opportunities	Challenges
The benefice is outward-looking and well-connected across its rural communities. Strong relationships with schools, care homes, community groups, and village halls support ministries such as Kidz Klub, Ignite, Sunday Central, Café Church, Alpha, pastoral visiting, and Open the Book. Creative outreach-including hilltop crosses, concerts, social media, and alternative carol services-provides fertile ground for developing lay leaders and strengthening partnerships.	Volunteer shortages, administrative demands, and the upkeep of historic buildings place pressure on congregations. Financial constraints, venue costs, and maintaining a consistent social media presence add further strain. The Oversight Minister will need resilience, creativity, and collaborative leadership to sustain ministries, support volunteers, and grow outward engagement.



The Role

The benefice is seeking an Oversight Minister whose life and ministry are rooted deeply in prayer, Scripture, and a lived relationship with Jesus Christ. We seek someone who is reflective and Spirit-led, who expects to see God at work in their own life and in the lives of others, and who can help us grow in confidence as a prayerful community. This person will be comfortable drawing on a wide range of worship traditions—from quiet, contemplative prayer to vibrant, Spirit-filled worship—and will encourage us to continue developing a culture where prayer is natural, inclusive, and central to our shared life.

We hope for a leader who can inspire us to listen more attentively to God, deepen our discipleship, and grow in spiritual maturity across the Benefice.

We are looking for a minister who brings strong, emotionally intelligent leadership, able to facilitate, delegate, and nurture the gifts of others. The Benefice has a robust lay leadership base, and we seek someone who will mentor emerging leaders, support existing teams, and help us build sustainable patterns of shared ministry. Communication will be key:

We need an Oversight Minister who can adapt to different audiences, speak with clarity and warmth, and inspire confidence through preaching, teaching, and personal presence. This person will help us build on the structures already in place, shaping a stronger, more unified benefice while respecting the individuality of each parish.

As a pastor, we hope for someone who can build bridges into our communities, engaging naturally with people of all ages and backgrounds. Our villages are diverse, close-knit, and deeply rooted in rural life, and we need an Oversight Minister who understands the rhythms, challenges, and opportunities of rural ministry. This person will support lay initiatives, encourage outreach, and help us continue developing creative ways of connecting with families, young people, schools, care homes, and those who are not yet part of church life.

We seek someone who can foster the strengths of each parish while helping us grow together in unity, mission, and shared purpose.

Above all, we are looking for a prayerful, Spirit-led servant leader—someone whose first love is Jesus, who listens well, who brings compassion and resilience, and who can help us become increasingly **prayerful**, **Christlike**, and **engaged** in our worship, witness, and community life.

A sense of humour would be very welcome too; rural ministry is joyful, demanding, and full of surprises.

Our Churches

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Matthew 18:20

Across the nine rural churches of the Onny Camlad Benefice there is a shared pattern of life and ministry. Each parish is rooted in a scattered rural community, often without local facilities, yet sustained by deep history, strong identity, and a faithful core of worshippers. Congregations are mostly small but committed, typically ranging from 12–25 regular attendees, with around 40-50 attending St Nicholas', Churchstoke. Many churches are supported with lay-led services, festival worship, and creative outreach to maintain connection with their communities.

The communities value their historic buildings and churchyards, which have been cared for over centuries and most remain open daily to visitors. Several of our churches are part of the Caring for God's Acre initiative.

Mission and hospitality are recurring themes: from Open Churchyard services, prayer stations and confirmation preparation to Good Friday hilltop crosses, Valentine and Pet services, and community events that draw in local residents and tourists alike. St Nicholas', Churchstoke, has a vibrant congregation, regular worship, a commitment to fostering spiritual growth within the benefice and for many years has ensured services are attractive to teenagers and young families.

Each parish expresses a desire for spiritual and numerical growth, renewed mission, and deeper engagement with the wider benefice. Together, they demonstrate resilience, creativity, and a shared commitment to proclaiming Christ in rural settings.

Further details on each of our churches can be accessed by clicking on the individual photos.

All Saints, Norbury



Norbury congregation is stable and enthusiastic, but subject to the normal threats of age and mobility. Like most churches in the benefice our regular numbers are swelled by members from other parishes. We are looking to grow our own understanding of discipleship and our relationship with God and at the same time foster links within the benefice for mutual learning and outreach.

Holy Trinity, Lydham



Holy Trinity Lydham is a Festival Church, holding four or five well attended services a year. Remembrance Sunday is always marked, with a good turnout at the War Memorial followed by a service in the church. A monthly prayer meeting focussing on prayer for the village and local community is held in the church, whilst a vibrant Cafe Church is held monthly in the Village Hall, attracting people from across the Benefice and beyond.

St Etheldreda's, Hyssington



St Etheldreda welcomes people of faith and no faith to enjoy the peace of a 'thin' sanctuary within. A public footpath runs through the churchyard and walkers as well as those visiting are welcome to enjoy refreshments from the hospitality corner in the church. Indeed we are able to give a 'warmer welcome' with the new installation of a heating system. We celebrate our membership of 'Caring for God's Acre and Beautiful Burial Grounds'. We enjoy one of the best views down the Camlad valley and celebrate our Welsh and English heritage. We have a lot to sing about.

St John the Baptist, Myndtown



St John the Baptist Church dates back to the 12th century and is distinctive for being untouched by Victorian restoration, retaining a simple rural charm. Once serving a bustling medieval settlement, it now sits in the tiny hamlet of Myndtown, comprising only a farm, its buildings and the former rectory. At the foot of the Long Mynd, this is a place of solitude, the silence only broken by birdsong, the lowing of cattle and the bleating of sheep. It is a place of sanctuary for all, and the church remains open every day to welcome visitors.

St Margaret's, Ratlinghope



St Margaret's is a thriving little country church serving a scattered rural community. A friendly, welcoming church, we are open to all, with a growing congregation where we believe God's special presence is felt by all. Our regular services combine tradition with new ways of worship; this is particularly so for our monthly lay-led services. St. Margaret's is committed to caring for our community, our visitors and the beautiful environment around us.

St Mary the Virgin, Snead



Snead parish is one of the very smallest in the Hereford Diocese. Its historical and prayerful church lies on a quiet bank of the River Camlad, part of the former 13thC Augustinian Priory - accessible via a footpath. Thanks to long-term support from benefice members, it remains open all year for visitors and holds several services/events during the summer.

St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor



The Wentnor Church community is a deeply engaged congregation of regular worshippers who actively anchor themselves at the heart of village life. This close-knit rural parish fosters strong communal bonds by uniting locals and businesses through well-attended fundraising events, such as the Open Gardens & Scarecrow Trail and shared maintenance efforts in the churchyard.

St Nicholas, Churchstoke with Sarn



Visitors have commented on the warmth of our welcome and a strong sense of God's presence amongst us. We aspire to vibrant, Spirit led worship, Bible based teaching and prayer within multigenerational services. Due to our strong lay leadership team our engaging weekly services have continued throughout the vacancy with new people attending. We have completed a reordering project giving us excellent hospitality facilities, enhancing our welcome and enabling us to host a variety of groups and activities.

St Peter's, More



More is a small rural parish centred on its historic 12th century church building. The church hosts intimate monthly Holy Communion services alongside popular traditional BCP services. Its central location in the benefice also makes it the proud home of the Benefice Candlelit Carol Service, gathering over 100 worshippers to experience a traditional nine lessons and carols service accompanied by its splendid organ.

The Benefice Community

I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come?
Psalms 121

We have six parishes in England scattered over the hills of South Shropshire (a designated National Landscape area) and three Welsh parishes situated across the border in Powys. The Benefice serves a population of approximately 3500

Residents are both self-sufficient and caring about their neighbours as well as the environment. They are also supportive of community facilities such as the village halls, shops and pubs, and events including church events. Whilst each parish has its individual qualities, the common objective is to work together to ensure rural life, including church life, is sustained.

Eight churches have active PCCs and churchwardens whilst one church has a management committee. There is also a highly skilled, paid administrator managing the co-ordination of services and events and providing effective communication throughout the benefice. The church buildings are lovingly cared for and well maintained. The benefice's finances are in good order and all our parishes are committed to working together to increasing our Benefice Offer.

The benefice is home to two primary schools, one at Churchstoke (which is bi-lingual - English and Welsh) and the other at Norbury which also has a nursery school. Lay volunteers operate regular "Open the Book" activities at Norbury School whilst a Youth Hub is being established at Churchstoke with the help of diocesan resources.



The community enjoys the benefits of five well-utilized village halls across the benefice at Churchstoke, Hyssington, Lydham, Norbury, and Sarn, each serving as a vital hub for local life. Lydham hosts a regular Friday market alongside our monthly Café Church as well as weekly Scouts Meetings and Zumba, while Hyssington is known for its monthly coffee mornings and musical evenings. Norbury and Churchstoke both offer a diverse range of sports, arts, and social events, including a community choir at both. At Sarn, a popular weekly coffee morning provides a key social lifeline for elderly residents, and the hall regularly hosts local Young Farmers meetings and Pilates classes, Demonstrating a shared community spirit across the villages, the Women's Institute (WI) also holds vibrant monthly meetings at three of our venues: Churchstoke, Norbury, and Sarn.

Churchstoke has a large supermarket (which includes a petrol station, cafe and popular Sunday market). There is a convenience store at Wentnor, a health food shop in Lydham, and a number of public houses throughout the area.

There are two market towns near to Churchstoke – Montgomery which is 4.5 miles away and Bishop's Castle 6 miles in the other direction. Both are tourist destinations with GP surgeries, veterinary surgeries, primary schools, convenience stores, weekly markets, cafes, restaurants pubs and artisan shops. Bishops Castle also has a Community Hospital, a Community College (secondary school) as well as the SPARC Leisure Centre with a swimming pool and an outdoor all-weather games area. There are also sports clubs offering rugby, football, hockey and tennis facilities nearby.

Further afield, Shrewsbury is 15 miles north, with the nearest hospital, Ludlow (15 miles southeast), and Newtown or Welshpool (15 miles west). Church Stretton and Craven Arms have railway stations on the main Manchester to Cardiff line. Welshpool and Newtown railway stations are on the Cambrian Line, which runs between Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth / Pwllheli. Secondary Schools are also available in Church Stretton, Newtown and Welshpool with transport available. Further Education opportunities are located in Shrewsbury and Ludlow

The Rectory at Churchstoke

The Rectory is a comfortable, two storey, family home with wonderful views across the Camlad Valley.

It was built in 1983 and comprises...

Entrance porch

Entrance Hall

Downstairs cloakroom

Sitting Room

Dining room

Study

Kitchen

Utility

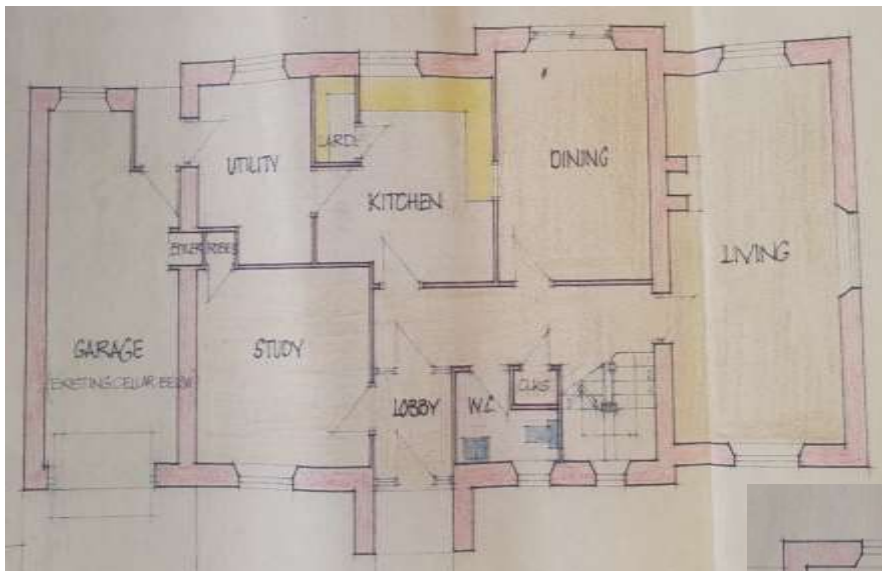
Upstairs WC

Family bathroom

4 bedrooms

Attached Garage with
Basement storage

Tarmac driveway with
generous parking



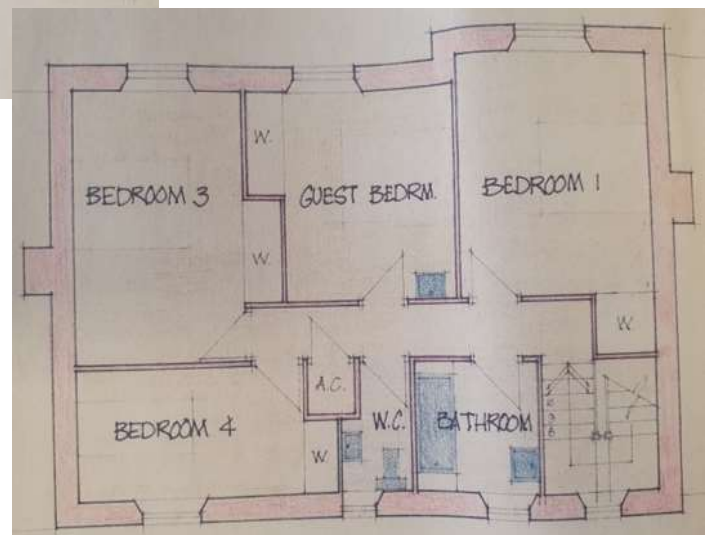
Built with stone faced cavity walls and a natural slate roof, the property has uPVC double glazed windows, installed in 2010.

The Rectory currently has oil fired central heating supplemented by a wood burning stove in the sitting room.

Flooring throughout the study, hallway, dining room and sitting room is wooden Parquet; upstairs is carpeted.

As part of Hereford Diocese's carbon reduction programme Churchstoke Rectory is being assessed for the installation of an air source heat pump, solar panels with battery storage and improvements to the insulation levels.

This would provide a high tech - low energy house.



A Message from Bishop Richard

Thank you for your interest in this opportunity for ministry in the Diocese of Hereford.

The Diocese of Hereford is a wonderful place to serve: Stretching across Herefordshire, South Shropshire and the borderlands, it is a place of remarkable beauty, strong communities and deep-rooted faith. We are the smallest diocese in the Church of England, and we place a very high value on relationships. Clergy and their families are well supported, encouraged in their vocation, and given the freedom to discern how best to serve the communities to which God has called them. Our common life is shaped by our commitment to be Christlike, Prayerful and Engaged.

We are currently re-configuring the emphasis in how our parochial clergy exercise their ministry at a significant moment in the life of the diocese. Through our developing vision of Shared Local Ministry, we are seeking to build on the strengths that already exist within our churches. For generations, faithful lay people have sustained the life, worship and witness of local congregations, often in ways that have been informal, generous and quite extraordinary. We believe that the future health of the Church lies not in replacing that commitment but in recognising it, supporting it and enabling it to flourish.

The oversight dimension of parochially focussed ministry is therefore particularly important. We are looking for someone rooted in their relationship with Jesus and genuinely sustained by a life of prayer, who combines pastoral sensitivity with strong leadership and excellent interpersonal skills. This is not simply a strategic role, nor simply a pastoral one. It requires someone who can encourage others, develop leaders, build trust, navigate change with wisdom and help people discover the gifts God has given them for ministry and mission.

As an Oversight Minister, you would work alongside your Area Dean, Beneficed colleagues, local leaders lay and ordained, and congregations, enabling ministry through others whilst providing support, accountability and encouragement across a benefice. You would help nurture a culture in which lay and ordained ministers work together for the flourishing of God's people and the growth of Christ's Church.

My senior colleagues and I are deeply committed to this work. We recognise that we are asking much of those who take on these responsibilities and are determined that people should be properly supported as they do so. The relationships between colleagues matter greatly to us, and I am committed to being available to those who exercise leadership within this developing pattern of ministry alongside providing proper training and support. As we seek to give greater shape and support to the gifts already present in our churches, we do so with humility, recognising that God has been at work long before any diocesan strategy was conceived! We believe this is a faithful outworking of our fundamental diaconal calling, enhancing our sacramental ministry rather than detracting from it.

At a time when many people are looking for deeper connection, belonging and purpose, the local church continues to have a vital place in the life of our communities. This new model of ministry is one way in which we are seeking to respond faithfully to those realities. It is a vision rooted not in organisational necessity but in a conviction that God calls the whole people of God to share in his mission.

Thank you again for considering this opportunity. If you sense a calling to prayerful leadership, collaborative oversight and helping others flourish in their vocation, I hope you will prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to serve here among us.

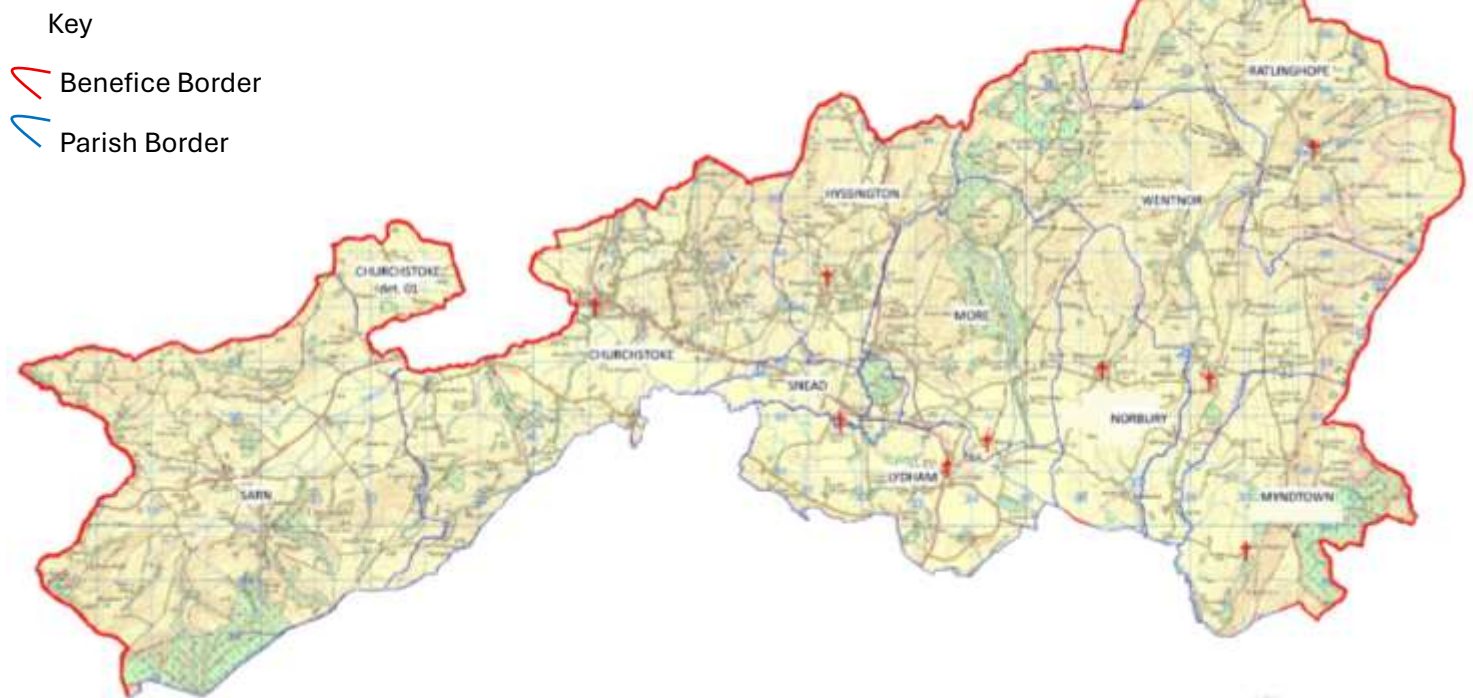


The Rt Revd Richard Jackson
Bishop of Hereford



Appendices

a) Map of our Benefice



b) Parish Offers – showing increase since 2024

DEANERY BENEFICE PARISH: CHURCH	2024 Parish Offer £	2025 Parish Offer £	2026 Parish Offer £	Chg 2026 vs 2025 £
Onny Camlad	32,900	42,880	45,115	2,235
618303 Churchstoke: St Nicholas	15,000	19,000	20,000	1,000
618313 Hyssington: St Etheldreda	2,700	3,000	3,115	115
618316 Lydham: Holy Trinity	600	800	1,000	200
618318 More: St Peter	1,250	1,500	1,600	100
618319 Myndtown: St John the Baptist	1,000	1,000	600	(400)
618321 Norbury: All Saints	2,000	3,000	4,000	1,000
618322 Ratlinghope: St Margaret	7,000	8,000	8,300	300
618324 Snead: St Mary the Virgin	350	800	500	(300)
618326 Wentnor: St Michael & All Angels	3,000	5,780	6,000	220

c) Service Rota - Regular

Onny Camlad Benefice



Our Regular Pattern of Monthly Church Services

Day	Time	Church	Service Type
First Sunday	10.30am	St Margaret, Ratlinghope	Morning Praise - Lay led
	11.15am	All Saints, Norbury	Holy Communion
	5.00pm	St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor	BCP Evening Prayer
Second Sunday	9.30am	St Margaret, Ratlinghope	Holy Communion
	11.15am	St Peter, More	Holy Communion
Third Sunday	9.30am	St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor	Holy Communion
	11.15am	St Etheldreda, Hyssington	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	All Saints, Norbury	Evening Prayer – Lay led
Fourth Friday	10.30am	St Peter, More	BCP Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday	9.30am	All Saints, Norbury	Holy Communion
	11.15am	St Margaret, Ratlinghope	Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday	On fifth Sundays we hold a joint Benefice service – please see notice board for details or visit our Church Near You pages on-line at https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/18-273BJ/		

Every Sunday at 10.30am there is a service at Churchstoke.
Please check website for details www.stnicholaschurchstoke.org.uk

c) Service Rota - Holy Week



Holy Week & Easter Services in our Benefice Churches

Date	Time	Service	Church
Palm Sunday 29 th March 	10.30am	Liturgy of the Palms - Start on the car park & process to church for The Liturgy of the Passion with Holy Communion in Church	Ratlinghope
	10.30am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion	Churchstoke
Monday 30 th March	12 noon	Stations of the Cross	Churchstoke
	7.00pm	Compline Night Prayer	Myndtown
Tuesday 31 st March	12 noon	Stations of the Cross	Churchstoke
	7.00pm	Compline Night Prayer	Lyddham
Wednesday 1 st April	12 noon	Stations of the Cross	Churchstoke
	7pm	Passover Meal & Holy Communion	Churchstoke
Maundy Thursday 2 nd April 	7.30pm	Holy Communion with foot washing & stripping of altar	Wentnor
	11.30 for 12 noon	Reflections at the Foot of the Cross	Ratchup Hill, Ratlinghope
Good Friday 3 rd April 	2pm	Meditation, Hymns & Reflection	Churchstoke
	5pm	Quiet Evening Prayer (BCP)	More
	7.00pm	Family Service of Light – In the churchyard with bonfire, fireworks and glowsticks	Hyssington
Easter Day Sunday 5th April 	10.30am	Benefice Easter Day Holy Communion	Norbury
	10.30am	Easter Day Holy Communion	Churchstoke
	6pm	Easter Day Family Service (includes activities for children)	Sarn Village Hall

d) Parish Population/Electoral Roll & Average Attendance

Parish	Population (2021 Census)	Electoral Roll	Average Attendance
Churchstoke with Sarn, Powys	1739 + 45 new houses	69	50
Hyssington, Powys	278	27	16
Lydham, Shropshire	221	6	19
More, Shropshire	150	23	10
Myndtown, Shropshire	60	6	8
Norbury, Shropshire	136	26	10
Ratlinghope, Shropshire	130	62	22
Snead, Powys	32	9	13
Wentnor, Shropshire	327	42	17

e) Some Comments from the children...

“We would like the new Vicar to still come into school and do 'Open The Book'.”



“To continue doing the child friendly and fun services like at Easter and Christmas.”

“We want to learn about Jesus without it being boring.”



“Let us help during church services like lighting candles or even read from the bible.”



“To sing songs and have fun with us kids.
Also to throw sweets out when we answer questions!”

f) Life as a Member of the Clergy in the Diocese of Hereford

As you will have read, the Diocese of Hereford is a place of contrasts. We're geographically large, but our population is small. We straddle six local authorities (Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Monmouthshire, Telford & Wrekin, and Powys) and two countries (England and Wales), but we are one Diocese with one Bishop. We are predominantly rural, with scattered communities, but we have a vibrant cathedral city, several historic market towns and post-industrial towns, and serve estate communities as well.

We are small enough (in terms of numbers) that clergy can get to know one another and the diocesan staff quite easily.

In the Diocese of Hereford, we want to appoint and work with clergy who are excited by the demanding and exciting common task of **"Proclaiming Christ and Growing Disciples"**. Our Diocesan Values encourage all our church members to become more **Prayerful**, more **Christ-like** and more **Engaged** with God's mission in the wider community.

This means that we seek church leaders committed to equipping and releasing the whole people of God, empowering them according to their unique gifts, inspired by the vision in Ephesians 4. These leaders will inspire and enable others to actively participate in God's mission locally, focusing on growing leaders and developing teams rather than doing everything themselves - a collaborative approach often called Oversight Ministry.

Recognising that this model can be challenging, we provide comprehensive training and support through Ministry Development opportunities and the Accompanying Programme - a mentoring scheme for all clergy new in post, whether this is their first role post-curacy or a new appointment.

The Accompanying Programme pairs each new incumbent with an experienced priest who serves not only as a mentor but also collaborates closely with the incumbent and their Parochial Church Councils (PCCs). Together, they discern how God is guiding them to fulfil the plans and hopes outlined in the parish profile.

Incumbents who have participated in the Accompanying Programme have praised it as "one of the strengths of the welcome offered by Hereford Diocese." They highlight how it creates a safe space where clergy can nurture one another, share knowledge, and build supportive relationships marked by good humour and growing trust. Participants also value the programme's focus on relevant topics that address the challenges of adapting to new responsibilities. Crucially, it offers space for reflection on God's vision for the benefice, helping incumbents deepen their understanding and commitment as they settle into their roles.

g) Hereford Diocese – the Facts and Figures

Our worshipping community is made up of people of all ages and backgrounds. We are responsible for 406 churches, 12 Deaneries, 86 Benefices, and 344 parishes, serving approximately 326,000 people - we are the Church of England in Herefordshire, south Shropshire, and parts of Monmouthshire, Powys, and Worcestershire. We were founded in 676 AD and cover roughly 1,650 square miles, with many of our church buildings of historical importance.

Nearly 12,000 children attend one of our 78 schools and academies, although 40% of these schools have fewer than 100 pupils; there are more pupils in our C of E schools than regular attendees at Sunday services. In 2022, we maintained over 110 properties across the diocese which are occupied mainly by our stipendiary clergy and curates. We have the fewest stipendiary ministers but the highest clergy level per person simply because we're a rural diocese.

