

The Somerset South Deanery

Somerset South is a relatively new deanery, which was formed in November 2021 when Ilminster and Crewkerne deaneries merged. We are geographically large – stretching from Haselbury Plucknett in the east to Churchinford in the west, Tatworth in the south to Stoke St Mary in the north. We have great transport links with the M5 and the A303, and mainline train-stations nearby in Taunton and at Crewkerne. South Somerset is a beautiful part of the world, with fantastic countryside walks and close enough to the south coast to nip out for an evening swim. People still tend to have lived in one place for generations, but whilst our communities are tight knit, they are also welcoming of newcomers. The church remains an important part of the lives of many of our towns and villages.

We're a diverse deanery made of 55 churches, with many small rural communities but also sizeable and growing towns like Ilminster, Crewkerne and Chard. As churches and as a Chapter we represent a breadth of church traditions, but we work together with generosity and warmth. As a deanery we hope to be a learning community, where ideas are shared and where we encourage experimentation and imagination, as together we seek to make Christ known to this generation.

Shared local ministry is something we are wholeheartedly committed to. We're the first deanery in the diocese to have in place a formally recognised local ministry team, and equipping and enabling all God's people to grow in their discipleship is at the heart of what we're about. We aim to model this at all levels in the deanery.

If you've got any questions about this exciting role, please do get in touch. It has huge potential, and we know that you will be working with people on the ground who are equally excited about this new adventure. You'll also be working with deanery colleagues who will support you and pray for you. We look forward to exploring this post with you further and pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you in your discernment.

Rev'd Philip Albrow and Alison Cruickshank

Area and Lay Dean