



Burghill & Tillington



Moreton-on-Lugg

# The Benefice of Burghill Herefordshire Statement of Needs



Pipe cum Lyde



Stretton Sugwas

# Introduction

The Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Revd Richard Frith, wishes to appoint a new incumbent for the Burghill Benefice.

In the Hereford Diocese and Deanery there is a major focus on numerical and spiritual growth. Our group of parishes offers an opportunity for a dynamic spiritual leader, with imagination and enthusiasm, to grow discipleship and play an important part in the emerging and exciting deanery mission.

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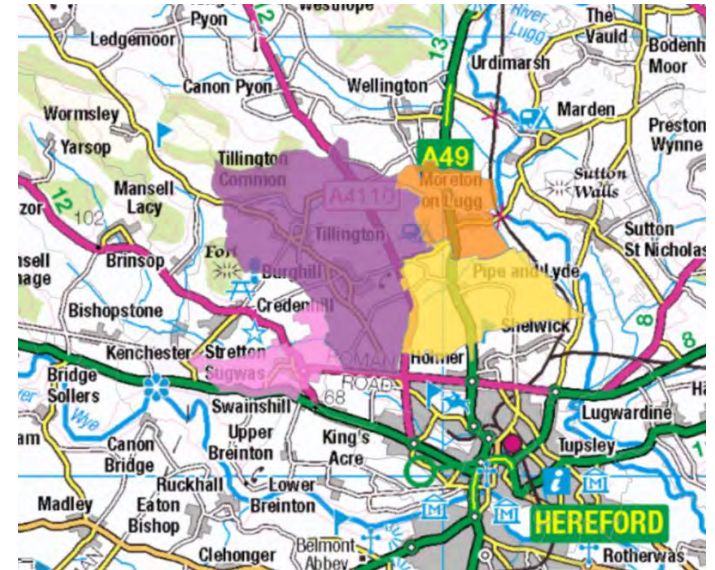
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# The Benefice

The established Benefice of Burghill, north-west of the City of Hereford, comprises four parishes: Burghill & Tillington, Stretton Sugwas, Moreton-on-Lugg and Pipe-cum-Lyde.

These peaceful, rural parishes lie almost in the middle of the beautiful county of Herefordshire, yet are all within 5 miles of the Cathedral City of Hereford.



Between them the villages have two primary schools, a pub, an hotel, a village shop, a fish and chip shop, a nursing home and three village halls, which are frequently used for church events.



In recent years the parishes have developed good working links, holding an annual joint meeting of the PCCs and a monthly Group Sunday service which rotates around the parishes. Services of the Word and family services are frequently laity-led with parishioners from one parish willingly leading services in another. Benefice Confirmation services have been held annually for many years, welcoming new communicants of all ages to our four churches.

We have a principal organist and two assistant organists who play in all the churches, and an active group of tower bell ringers who regularly ring in the three churches with ringable bells.

The Benefice welcomes a higher than average number of couples wishing to marry in church. This is partly due to an open attitude towards pastoral offices and partly due to close links with three local wedding reception venues, Lyde Arundel, Lyde Court and Brinsop Court.

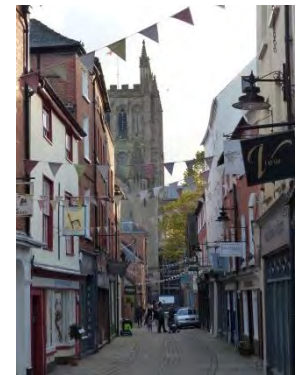
For information and data about the Benefice see: *Appendix 1: At a glance*

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## Hereford and Herefordshire

**Hereford** is a cathedral city with an historic heart as well as a new shopping centre, multiscreen cinema, leisure centre, swimming pool, the County Hospital and the Courtyard Theatre. St Michael's Hospice is just outside the city.

Hereford is the county town and, with a population of around 56,000, it is by far the largest settlement and most densely populated area in the county, making it the county's primary administrative, employment and retail centre.



**Herefordshire** is one of the most rural and sparsely populated counties in England, mostly agricultural and well known for its fruit and cider production, and for Hereford cattle. A few years ago the livestock market was moved to the outskirts of the city and is now a thriving modern market.



The Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Malvern Hills AONB and the Brecon Beacons National Park are all within easy reach. The Three Choirs Festival is held in Hereford every three years and Herefordshire holds an annual festival of arts and crafts (*h-art*) across the County each September. Hay-on-Wye, with its literary festival, is only 30 minutes away, just over the Welsh border.

### **Transport & Communications**

The four parishes have regular bus services into the city.

Hereford has a mainline railway station with regular direct services to London and Birmingham and a bus station with regular National Express services. There is easy access to the motorway network via the M50 at Ross-on-Wye, 15 miles south of the City.

### **Education**

Within the Benefice there are two primary schools: Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy (<http://www.strettonsugwas.com>) and Burghill Community Academy (<http://www.burghill.hereford.sch.uk>), both graded Good by Ofsted.

Hereford City offers a number of secondary schools, including Whitecross High School & Specialist Sports College, The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School and the Cathedral School (fee-paying). Weobley High School is a few miles to the north of the benefice.

The Folly Lane campus in Hereford is home to Hereford Sixth Form College, Herefordshire & Ludlow College and Hereford College of Arts. A new university of technology and engineering, NMiTE, is set to open in the city in September 2019.

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# Hereford Deanery and Diocese

Burghill Benefice is part of the Hereford Deanery which covers the city and the rural benefices surrounding it.

We currently have lay representatives on the Deanery Synod, the Deanery Pastoral Committee and the Diocesan Synod.

The Deanery has recently adopted a new Mission Action Plan. The Deanery MAP will inform future Benefice Mission Action Plans.  
See: *Appendix 2: Deanery MAP*

All the churches in the benefice have an excellent record of paying their Parish Offer on time and in full.

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## The Vicarage



The Vicarage is in Burghill parish, on the edge of the village, adjacent to the church. It is a four bedroom bungalow set in a private position with established garden, ample parking and views across neighbouring fields. It comprises a hallway, kitchen, utility room, dining room, living room, bathroom and 4 bedrooms. A study and cloakroom can be accessed directly from the front door, without entering the rest of the house. There is also a garage.

For further details see: *Appendix 3: Vicarage brochure*

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# St Mary The Virgin Burghill

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The church in Burghill offers...



- All the advantages of a busy growing rural village community with an established church at its centre, in close proximity to the Cathedral city of Hereford.
- An active church with a variety of forms of worship, a thriving Messy Church and lay members prepared to help with or take services across the Benefice.
- Close involvement with local Primary School (Ofsted 'Good'); variety of good Secondary schools within easy reach
- A modern vicarage within walking distance of the church

## Burghill & Tillington

The parish of Burghill and Tillington, with the hamlets of Portway and Elton's Marsh, is situated in rich agricultural countryside, 4 miles NW of Hereford, and has a population of 1600. Burghill is a village with a large number of privately owned houses and two small housing estates of mixed housing association and private homes. There are several farms including a large fruit farm behind the church. There is a new development of 24 houses currently under construction and the probability of further developments on the edge of the parish.



Tillington lies 1 mile beyond Burghill and again has a mixture of old and new architecture and several farms. The villages offer a pub, village shop, a busy village hall with resident caretaker, primary school, golf club (with restaurant and bar open to the public), pick-your-own fruit and vegetable farm, mountain boarding centre, a garage, a successful cricket team, a village recreation centre used by children and football teams. There is a Retirement Club, Bridge Club, WI, walking groups, knitting group, book groups, Guides, Brownies, a Good Neighbour Scheme and a Community Access IT drop in point. There is a nursing home (at which monthly services are held) and the villages are surrounded by orchards and farmland.

[www.burghill-web.co.uk](http://www.burghill-web.co.uk)





## Our Church

### Worship

We have a core congregation of between 30 and 50 people attending the main Sunday morning services and an average of 10 at the Thursday morning Celtic Service.

We are fortunate to have a large group of laity who undertake the roles of crucifer, servers, readers, intercessors, sidesmen and coffee providers, on a rota basis.

Currently, there is a traditional Holy Communion service at 7.45am on a Sunday, with a BCP service once a month. At 11am there is a Parish Eucharist followed by coffee and once a month this is replaced by a Family Service.



A Joint Group Eucharist is hosted monthly by each church in the Benefice in rotation, enjoyed by all and well attended.



The robed Church choir, led by our Choir Master, has a regular core of 10 enthusiastic singers and is boosted by more people from the congregation when required. The choir practise weekly and lead the singing at services and at weddings.

An informal Celtic Communion service is held every Thursday morning at 9.30am with lay led Celtic Morning Prayer, when the minister is not available.

This is followed by a regular weekly Coffee Morning open to everyone until noon.



Messy Church is held monthly (second Friday) at 3.30pm at the Simpson Hall, attracting between 15 and 25 children each time, plus their families. 10-12 volunteers organise and lead this, with the minister leading worship alongside volunteers.





Special services through the year include: Palm Sunday with a donkey; Harvest; Remembrance; Light up a Life (in association with St Michael's Hospice); Christmas Carol Service and School Christingle Service. We always welcome the opportunity for special services to attract members of the wider community.



Two years ago, Burghill Church, in partnership with Methodists, Catholics and Baptists signed a Declaration of Ecumenical Welcome and regularly include people of other denominations in our weekly services. This is a commitment we would like to continue and develop. Since the closure several years ago of Tillington Methodist Chapel, a Methodist Minister takes a monthly Methodist service in church, to which all are welcome.



We have an open policy towards weddings, baptisms and funerals as we consider this to be an important part of our role of reaching out to the wider community.

## Weddings

In recent years we have held many weddings, welcoming couples who want to marry in our beautiful church. Couples can choose to include flowers, bells, choir and organist in their special day – this draws in volunteers with specific skills.



## Confirmations

Preparation for Confirmation is held annually culminating in a Service conducted by one of the Bishops, in our church.



## Funerals

Many parishioners and their families choose to hold their funerals in the church. To support the families, a volunteer group is always willing to provide a funeral tea at a modest cost.

## Baptisms

Many couples return to the church for their children to be baptised.

As a church, we want to be as inclusive as possible whilst remaining sensitive to our core congregation. The retired age group contribute hugely to the running of the church and need to be supported in their efforts. At the same time we want to make the church more welcoming to people of all ages, by offering more varied ways of worship and growing our faith together.



We are very aware of the number of new faces that come into the church, with their families and friends through the pastoral offices. We realise that this is an opportunity for us to grow the church, spiritually and numerically.



## The People

Our church has an abundance of goodwill, providing volunteers to enable the smooth running of the church. Many of our church members are also actively involved in community activities and organisations. The PCC has 14 members and meets regularly approximately every 2-3 months or more frequently if required. There is one church warden and another in training, a Secretary and Treasurer.

There is a strong band of tower bell ringers who normally ring for Sunday services and other special events. Our bells are considered some of the best in the Diocese and recently we have rung a number of peals and quarter peals, some to honour those young men from the village who gave their lives in the First World War.



There is a village handbell group, Burghill and Tillington Handbell Ringers, which is closely associated with the church and regularly play for Church events. This has included playing for weddings while our tower bells are unable to be rung until repairs are completed.



The church has a Food Bank collection point which receives generous contributions and our church is part of the Burghill and Tillington Good Neighbour Scheme and has a representative of the PCC on the GNS committee.

There is a very talented group of people who arrange flowers for church services and weddings.



Although the local Primary school is not a Church school, we have close links with the school whereby the Minister visits the school and the church hosts school services and educational visits. We would like to develop this further, involving the wider church community where possible.

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## The Building

St Mary the Virgin, Burghill is a beautiful church dating back to Norman times, with more modern structural changes and additions over the course of the centuries. It has pews, which will seat approx. 200 people, a Vicar's vestry and a choir vestry. A toilet and kitchenette are situated below the ringing chamber of the tower and 8 ringable bells in the tower.

The church is heated by radiators run from an oil-fired boiler. There are two organs and a clavichord all used regularly for various services. There is a PA system that is regularly used and two hearing loop systems for those who are hard of hearing.



There is an open area at the back of the church used for coffee after services, occasional teas and meetings. There is a small but pleasant children's corner, also at the rear of the church.

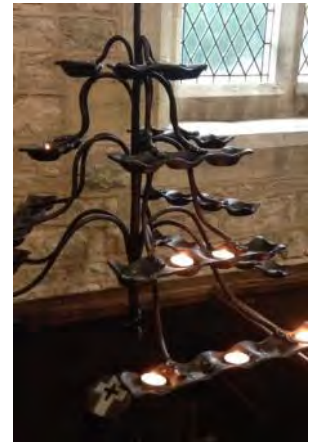
The churchyard is well kept with neatly tended graves, a colourful garden of remembrance and a wild flower garden, by a band of dedicated volunteers. The church regularly wins awards as part of Burghill in Bloom.





The Quinquennial inspection was undertaken in January 2017. The inspection by the Church architects showed that not only was a lot of repair and restoration work needed on the tower roof and upper stone walls, but also on the church porch. A Repair and Restoration Committee has been commissioned by the PCC to deal with applications for grants and fundraising for repairs to the Tower and church porch.

There is no church hall but there is an excellent village hall, the Simpson Hall, approximately half a mile away situated on the road through the village where church events (including Messy Church) are often held. Our church is open to anyone all day for private prayer, meditation, peace and shelter. We would like to see the church building used as much as possible by the wider community.





## Our Future

- ❖ People look to the church in times of significant need and for life events and we would like help to further develop that relationship which would overcome our perceived degree of disconnection between the church and some parts of the village community. We are very open to exploring services and activities that might attract younger generations and families.
- ❖ We would like to continue to develop our links with the other parishes in the Benefice – social, lay ministry and administration.
- ❖ The PCC are planning to set up a Parish Reserves Policy.
- ❖ We would like support and encouragement to grow and strengthen existing lay ministry including the need to share tasks amongst a wide range of people and develop training opportunities for lay-led worship, to support our new incumbent.



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# St Andrew's Church

## Moreton-on-Lugg

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## Moreton-on-Lugg

The village of Moreton-on-Lugg lies four miles North of the city of Hereford, just East of the A49.

For the first half of the 20th century the population fluctuated round the one hundred mark (94 in the census of 1961) but a series of developments over a thirty year period (mid-1960s to mid-1990s) saw the population increase tenfold (920 in the 2011 census) and it is now believed to stand at about one thousand. Several planning applications have been submitted which, if approved, would increase the population of Moreton by over 25%.

Facilities include a shop / post office, an award-winning fish & chip shop and a recently refurbished village hall, next to the church. There is also a thriving W.I. in the village.

An hourly bus service along the A49 connects Moreton with Hereford to the South and Leominster to the North.



## Our Church

The census of 2011 shows that 70% of villagers (648 out of 920) identified themselves as Christians (yet the current electoral roll only numbers 32).

The average attendance on a normal Sunday is 13 adults and 1 child (Jan.-Dec. 2016), which compares with figures of 19 adults and 3 children as reported in the Statement of needs dated 2012. The parish is known for its welcome and coffee is served after all services.



We have held weddings here for couples who appreciate the small but beautiful church, as well as for worshipping parishioners.

Most of the regular worshippers fall into the 65+ age group yet can always be relied upon to support social activities and fundraising so that St Andrew's PCC has a good record when it comes to meeting its parish share. Fundraising includes regular quizzes, concerts and an annual plant sale. The parish also collects food for the local Food Bank.





## Our Building

The village has had a church since the 12th century but the only part of the original building left is the Norman window in the South wall of the chancel.

By the middle of the 19th century the church was in rather a dilapidated state and it was only through the generosity of a local landowner, Thomas Evans, that the building was saved. The refurbishment work commenced in the 1860s and was carried out to a high standard and included mosaics on the walls of the chancel by Salviati.



A program of repairs was carried out between 1998 and 2000, which included the re-roofing of the church and the addition of both kitchen and toilet. Pews were removed from the west end of the church and the area was carpeted to provide a meeting area.

The church boasts a hanging of bells that is amongst the most unusual in the country. There is a hearing loop system in the church.

## Our Future

The primary concern of the PCC, which will surely be shared by the new incumbent, is to boost attendance in order to maintain the viability of the weekly service. Many of Moreton's parishioners attend once a fortnight, once a month or once a quarter and if they could be persuaded to worship on a more regular basis then a critical mass would be established which might then encourage other Christians in the village to give St Andrew's church a try.



The Family Service attracts people of different generations, and the parish is known for its welcoming and informal atmosphere. It is hoped that the new incumbent will be sympathetic to the needs of young families in the parish and be successful in drawing them back into the Christian fold.

DIOCESE OF HEREFORD

# St Peter's Church

## Pipe cum Lyde

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## Pipe cum Lyde

The Parish of Pipe-cum-Lyde with a population of about 320, is unique in the Diocese of Hereford because it is geographically in the centre of Herefordshire. It sits astride the main A49 trunk road which runs north to south, with the church in the middle, adjacent to the A49, and thought to be built on a Bronze Age burial site. The city of Hereford is within easy reach and on a regular bus route.

The Parish is mainly agricultural, consisting of the villages of Pipe cum Lyde, Upper Lyde and Lower Lyde. The name Pipe is thought to derive from an ancient Saxon Saint, St. Pipa and is a corruption of Pipa's Lyde.

Close by are horse riding stables, a Golf Driving Range and numerous public footpaths which provide varied opportunities for walking.

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## Our Church

The Ecclesiology of the church of St Peter is very traditional at present, with Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer held every Sunday morning at 8.30am. As a result the small congregation, predominantly the elderly who prefer the BCP, is drawn from a wide area. However in the past year, one service a month has replaced the 8.30am service with an \*evening\* Family All age Service to try to attract a younger and alternative range of parishioners and there are signs that this is beginning to appeal to more people. Lyde takes its turn in hosting a combined Group service which brings together members of the other three churches in our Benefice. Special non-Eucharist services such as Harvest, a Christmas Carol Service and our Patronal Service also attract much larger congregations.

\* \* now Sunday 11.00am







From time to time the church is also used for events which involve the wider community and in the past have included concerts, the annual Historic Churches sponsored cycle ride and a wonderful week of celebration for St Peter, the Church's patron Saint, with a "fish" theme consisting of many exhibits, games, refreshments and live fish in church. It is not surprising that Kenchester Water Gardens, a large centre for aquarium and pond life and with a pleasant tea room is found opposite the church.



The Benefice has strong links with two wedding venues, Lyde Arundel and Lyde Court both of which are located in the Parish. <https://www.lydearundel.com/> <https://lydecourt.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/LydeChurch/>

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## Our Building

The Norman church was built about 1100AD and the tower, constructed about 1250 AD, has an unusual oak shingled spire on top. The tower houses 6 bells, the oldest being cast in 1420. The bells are rung regularly and maintained by the band of tower bell ringers based at Burghill.



The nave and chancel are compact and full of light with a picturesque east window. The organ has recently undergone some minor repairs. There are plans to build on to the church through an old north door to provide modern facilities including a toilet and kitchenette. The intention is to create a valuable and much needed meeting place and social centre for the community so encouraging far greater use of the church, as at present there is no village hall in Lyde. This would also help generate income towards the upkeep of St Peter's Church and its Parish share. Fundraising for this project has been led by a group called 'The Friends of Lyde', formed in 2008, and to date they have been successful in applying for grants though they still have a substantial target to reach.

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## Our Future

Our mission is to attract more people into the church by introducing some modernisation both in our services and the structure of the church whilst preserving its historic and beautiful architecture.



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# St Mary Magdalene

## Stretton Sugwas

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## Stretton Sugwas

Stretton Sugwas with the hamlet of Swainshill is a small rural parish 4 miles from the City of Hereford.

The Parish is situated on three main 'A' roads. Swainshill is situated on the A438 Hereford to Brecon Road, Stretton Sugwas is situated between the A438 and the A480 Hereford to Lyonshall road and the A4103 Roman Road runs through the village linking up with the other two roads.

There are 370 on the Parliamentary electoral roll and there are a small number of children.

Most of the land in the parish is owned by a local farmer and the Duchy of Cornwall. There is an Oak framed building business, a small haulage company and several small businesses. There is a Hotel which is next to the site of the old church.

<http://www.hotelpriory.co.uk/>

The majority of the people in the parish are retired and the rest commute to the city for their work.

Stretton Sugwas C of E Academy has 130 pupils on roll, rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

The Primary School has always had close links with the church and hold their end of term services there when possible as well as any special occasions.

It has always been the practice of the local clergy to take assembly in school as often as possible and hold the office of one of the Trustees of the school.



<http://www.strettonsugwas.com>



The Parish Hall which has just been refurbished is situated opposite the church and is used for meetings and social occasions and the car park is used for people to park when they come to church. The hall is always available for use of toilet facilities and parking by the church. There is a monthly Lunch Club run by volunteers and monthly coffee mornings run by the Hall committee both of which are held in the parish hall. The 1<sup>st</sup> Stretton Sugwas Brownies meet every Monday in the Parish Hall .

[www.strettonsugwasparishcouncil.co.uk/village-hall](http://www.strettonsugwasparishcouncil.co.uk/village-hall)

Stretton Sugwas Nursing Home lies on the boundary of Stretton Sugwas and Burghill and on the parliamentary electoral roll of Stretton Sugwas and in the past the clergy have visited them on a regular basis and taken communion to them.

<http://www.strettonnursinghome.co.uk/>



There is a Parish Magazine which goes out free to all residents every month. It is sponsored by the Parish Council and the Church. <https://www.strettonsugwasparishcouncil.co.uk/parish-magazine>

There are 2 golf courses within 3 miles of the parish and a driving range. The parish is served well with buses which run along the A438 and the A480 which go through our parish into the city at convenient times for work, school and college.

Planning permission has been granted for 25 houses in various areas in the parish and hopefully when they are built will bring some more young people into the parish,

## Our Church

### Worship

The average congregation for the Eucharist is 12 with the average age being 65. Family Service sees the congregation at approximately 25 + with more children in attendance. The family service is taken by a Lay person and the children are encouraged to take part with readings.



Easter Sunday sees an Easter Egg hunt around the church at the end of the service which is enjoyed by the adults as well as the children. An annual Christmas Eve Crib and Carol Service is held and sees the church full to overflowing.



Harvest Lunch is put on following the harvest service in church, which is a good occasion for people to get together and chat to one another while they enjoy good food.



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## The Building

If you head out of Hereford on the A438 towards Hay-on-Wye and Brecon as you pass through Swainshill glance over to you right and you will catch sight of one of the most picturesque churches in Herefordshire. The black and white tower of St Mary Magdalene rises above the East Gable surrounded by the lush greenery of churchyard and fields.



The timbers of the tower are ancient, Norman in fact and yet the original parish church of Stretton Sugwas didn't have a black and white tower, and, although the church is full of Norman stonework and carving the original church stood on a completely different site. So what is the mystery of St Mary Magdalene Church?

The first church of Stretton Sugwas built in 1150 stood next door to the present Priory hotel and you can still make out the old floor plan if you look just to the right of the hotel.

There are tombstones around the boundary of the site of the old church. It is a very tranquil spot and well worth a visit.

When the church fell into disrepair in 1877 it was decided to build a new church rather than repair the old one. The new site was chosen because it was the centre point between Stetton and Sugwas and would be able to be seen by travellers along the highway.

The cost was estimated at being £2,275 and before work was commenced £2,250 had been promised.

The old church was pulled down and re-useable material brought along the lanes to the new site and building began in 1878 by a Mr Cheiake who later emigrated to Canada.

Photographs of both the old church and the present church are hung at the back of the nave under the West window.

Examples of the re-use of materials are to be found in the Romanesque or Norman arches leading into the tower, from the tower into the church and on the inside of the South doorway and some of the timbers in the tower, which was heightened from the old church. The superb tympanum over the door way is of a bearded Samson astride a lion forcing its jaws open.



The incised memorial stone of Richard Greenaway and his wife built into the South wall was laid over their grave at the old church. We are led to believe the font itself is Norman.

There are four bells in the bell tower. Bell number 1 is dated 1671, Number 2 1813, Number 3 1930 and bell number 4 1706. The old number 3 bell stands at the back of the North aisle, it is badly cracked.

The chancel screen out of the old church was erected to the entrance of the Vestry at the North East end of the church. The screen consists of two fixed panel and double doors. There are also some heraldic tiles on the floor of the vestry.

The church is open daily for visitors to enjoy the tranquillity and beauty of the building and spend time in private prayer and we do have quite a number of visitors.



The churchyard is taken care of by the PCC who takes great pride in keeping the churchyard in good order. There is still quite a lot of space for burials.

The PCC like to hold a Gift Day every year on the Saturday nearest our Patronal Festival of the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, when we take turns in manning the church for people to come and bring their gifts or just have a chat.

An annual Strawberry Tea is held in July and a Christmas bazaar is held in November to raise funds as well as various other events which take place during the year.

Parking for the church is either across the road at the Parish Hall or when dry the bottom of the churchyard is available.

## Our Parish

The people of the parish are committed Christians in the faith and ways of the Church of England and would like this to continue in the future.

At present Eucharist is taken into Stretton Sugwas Nursing Home on a regular basis and we would like to see this continue together with visits not just to the very sick but general visiting as well, which maybe done by some of the lay people in the parish with encouragement and training.



The school is well looked after with regular assemblies and church services at present and we would like to see this continue and perhaps bring the school into the community more by including them in more church activities.

The sick and bereaved in the parish are cared for at present but we would like to see the care increased with the support and involvement from church members, who would need some training.

The people of the church would like to take their faith out in to the parish more and are looking for training and support to do this.

At present we are engaging with and sharing the life of all the parishes in the benefice and we would like this to continue.

Our PCC meetings are chaired at present by the incumbent and we would like to see this continue if not for all them but certainly for some as this helps us to keep in close contact with the other parishes.

Our monthly magazine benefits from having a letter from the incumbent on a regular basis and we would very much like to continue with this as it goes out all parishioners free of charge and keeps them in touch with the church whether they come to services or not.

We feel that the Burghill Benefice is a lovely place to live and would wish that anyone who came to take over the group would feel just at home and as happy as we do living here amongst beautiful countryside but close to all amenities.



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## Our Mission

We have begun to reflect on our mission. We want to continue this process. We are continuing to identify the needs of a rural community with its values and its diverse religious traditions and preferences. We consider that the PCC has an important role in setting the direction for the development of ministry and mission, under the leadership of the parish priest.

- ❖ ***Pastoral care in the community:*** We already take the Eucharist regularly into Stretton Sugwas Nursing Home. We would like to see this continue with visits not just to the very sick, but with general visiting as well. We wish to build on existing pastoral and bereavement care, and build a team of trained lay visitors to share this work. We want to develop relationships within and outside the church



- ❖ **Outreach:** The people of the church would like to take their faith out into the parish more effectively. We require training to do this. We value existing points of contact with the community. These contacts include the free monthly parish magazine, which goes out to all parishioners. (It includes a letter from the parish priest.) The school is well looked after, with regular assemblies and church services. We would like to bring the school into the church more, by including them in more church activities. We want, by these means, to grow the number of worshippers especially among younger people.
- ❖ **Uniting the benefice:** We wish to develop our partnership with the other parishes in the benefice. This will involve shared social occasions, as well as shared worship. We see a need for more Bible teaching, targeted preaching, and prayer. We would like to establish a ministry team, trained and led by the parish priest.



## Appendix 1: At a glance

Church	Regular worship	Av. attendance Nov 2016-Oct 2017	Pastoral Offices 5 years 2013-2017	Church facilities	Village amenities	Offer 2017	No on Electoral roll 2017	Population Sept 2017
St Mary the Virgin Burghill  Grade II* listed	Sunday: 7:45am. BCP Sunday: 11:00am. Parish eucharist 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: 11:00 am. Family service Thursday: 9:30am. Celtic worship 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday: 15:30pm. Messy Church Monthly: 5:00pm. Methodist service	6 46 (min. 24, max.100) 52 (includes 2 baptisms) 10 20	Baptisms: 66 Weddings: 77 Funerals: 100	Car park Toilet Kitchen	Primary academy Village hall Scout & Guide Hut Shop Recreation area Golf Club Cricket Club Mountain Board Centre PYO farm & shop	£32,610	161	1,631
St Andrew Moreton-on-Lugg  Grade II listed	Sunday: 9:30am. Parish eucharist 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: Family service	15 19	Baptisms: 10 Weddings: 9 Funerals: 17	Toilet Kitchen	Village hall Village shop/Post Office Fish & Chip shop Children's play area	£10,150	32	920
St Peter Pipe cum Lyde  Grade II* listed	Sunday: 8:30am. Parish eucharist. BCP Monthly 11.00am Family Eucharist	8	Baptisms: 2 Weddings: 1 Funerals: 9	Access to a large car park	Golf driving range Kenchester Water Gardens 2 wedding venues	£7,120	32	343
St Mary Magdelene Stretton Sugwas  Grade II listed	Sunday: 9:30am. Parish eucharist 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: 10:30am. Family service Christmas crib service	12 (min. 8, max. 15) 27 (min. 22, max. 32) Min. 150, max. 200	Baptisms: 31 Weddings: 22 Funerals: 34	Car park & toilets in hall Parking in churchyard. Tea & Coffee facilities in belfry	C of E primary academy Refurbished village hall Nursing home Hotel	£11,708	52	370
Benefice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday: 10:00am. Group service. Rotates around the 4 parishes.	52	Total: Baptisms: 109 Weddings: 109 Funerals: 160			Total: £61,612	277	Total: 3,234

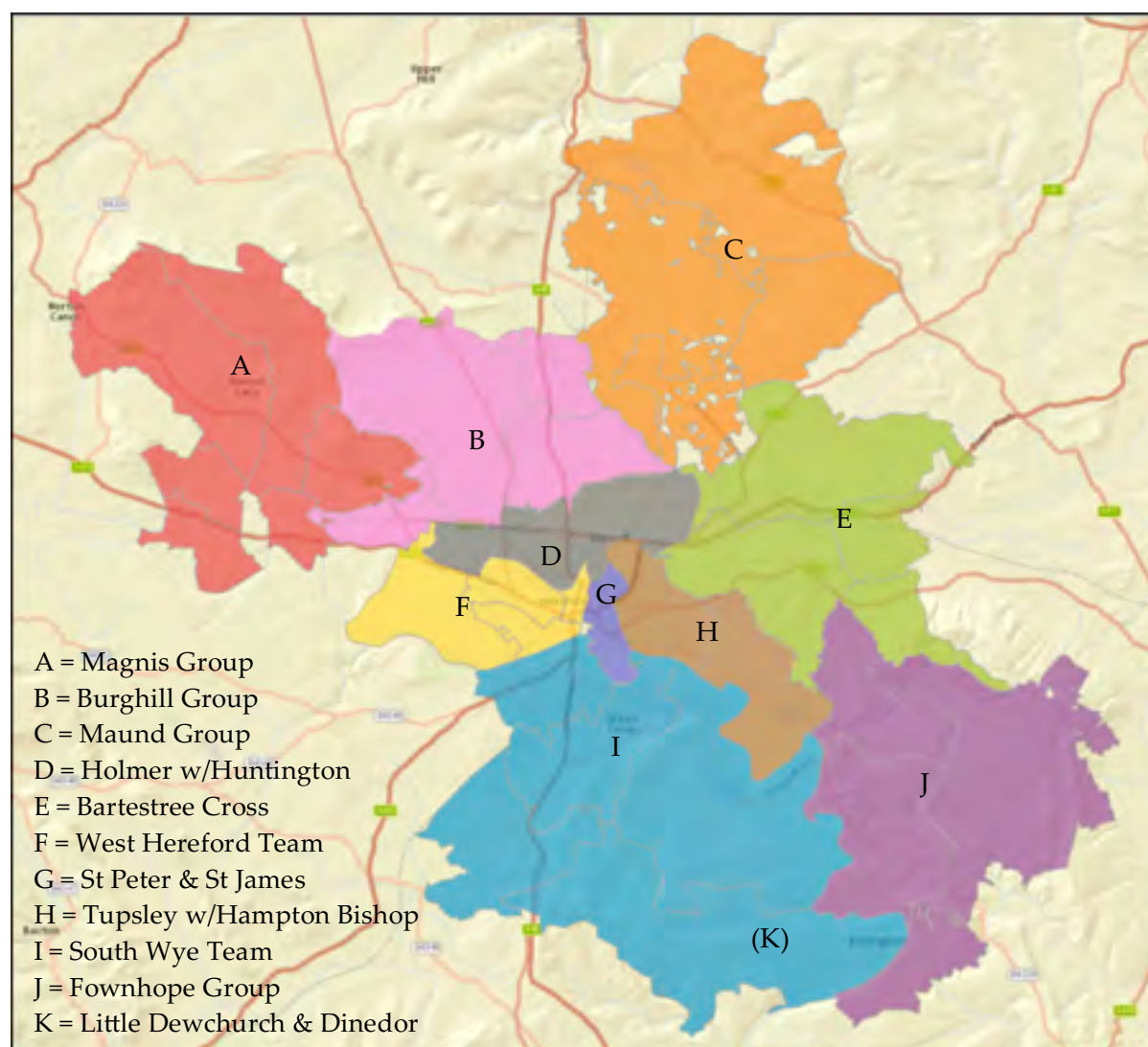
**Other services:** Remembrance services, School Christingles, Carol & crib services, Christmas Midnight Mass, Light up a Life Hospice service, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Harvest, Confirmation, Patronal weekend.

HEREFORD DEANERY

MISSION ACTION  
PLAN

*March 2017*

## 1 MISSION CONTEXT



*Hereford Deanery Benefices*

### 1.1 Current Situation

Hereford is by far the largest deanery in the diocese in terms of both population (80,000 – a quarter of the diocesan population) and stipendiary clergy. The deanery is a mixture of urban and rural parishes, with populations ranging from the second smallest parish in the diocese (25 people) to the largest (over 20,000).

The deanery contains some of the most deprived areas of the diocese, the highest density of housing and a younger demographic than elsewhere in diocese. For example, twenty per-cent of the county's working population resides within the South Wye Team, where there are also significant clusters of troubled families. There is a vibrant night-time economy in the city, which attracts many sixteen to twenty-four year olds, and the Street Pastors initiative has resulted in a warmth towards the church.

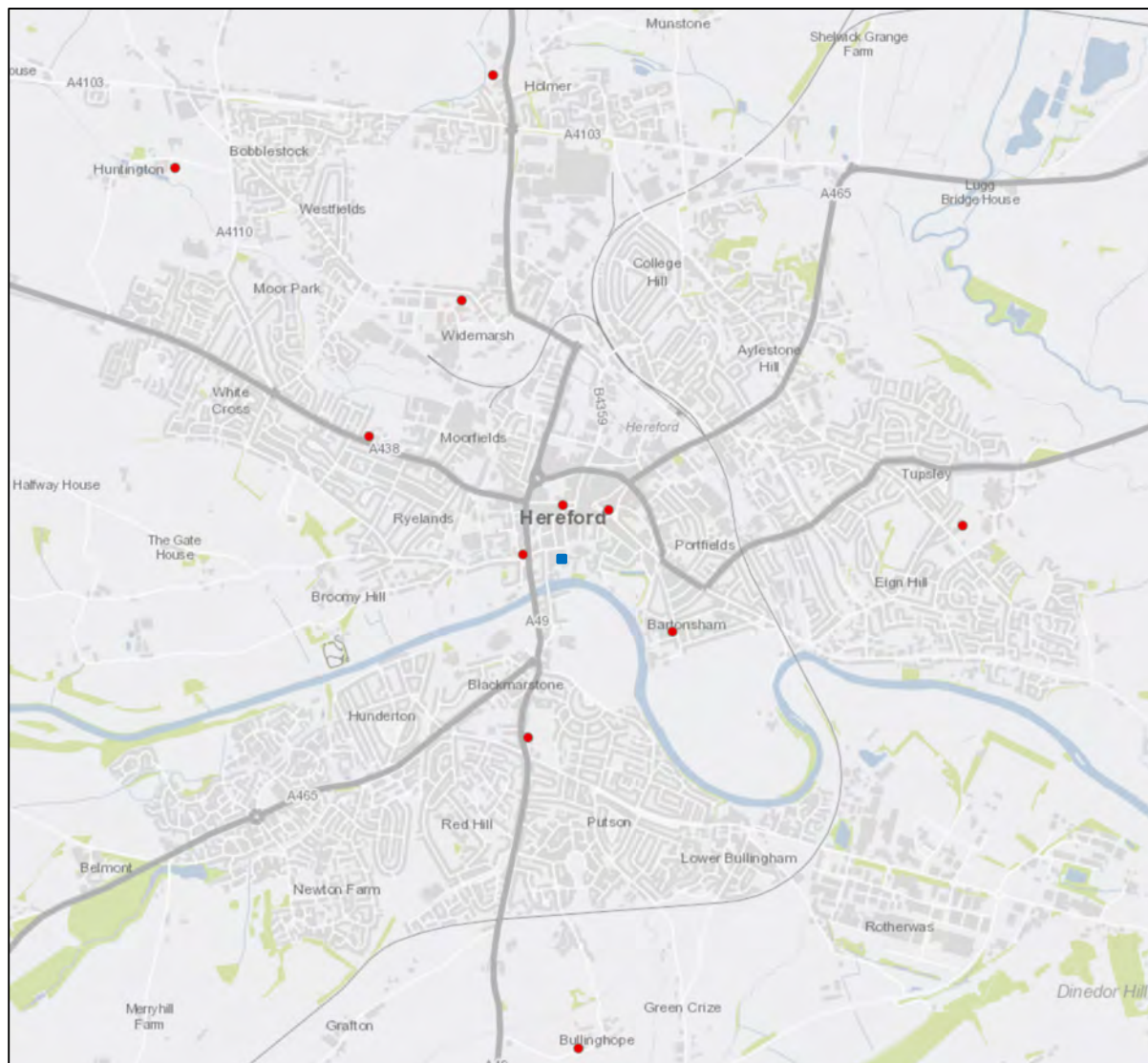
Moreover, there is a strong military connection in the deanery, with plans to increase the SAS base at Credenhill by around 1,000. There are many military families linked to parishes, as



well as ex-servicemen who may experience particular pastoral issues. The city is a centre for Further and Higher Education, with students from around the county attending the colleges, which are centred on Folly Lane.

Over the past few years it has become increasingly evident that the Local Authority lacks both the financial and personnel resources to effectively meet the needs of the community, and there is an increasing opportunity for churches to minister into this gap.

## 1.2 Upcoming Developments



*City Anglican Churches*

Over the next few years there are several large housing developments planned in Three Elms, West Holmer and Bullinghope/Rotherwas. There are no plans to build churches as part of these schemes and this will exacerbate the structural problem we have with the city churches not being in the main centres of population. As can be seen from the map, even allowing for other denominations, large areas of the city are devoid of worshipping communities.

In all, the Local Authority's Core Strategy is to build 6,500 new homes in the city. In addition to this there are plans to build in most rural areas, for example three new estates in the Maund Benefice of 90, 60 and 50 homes and also estates in Withington.

There is a university planned in the city, with a goal to admit first cohort of 300 undergraduates in autumn 2019, growing to 5,000 students over the next 10 to 15 years.

### **1.3 Where we see signs of God at work locally**

There are a number of *Messy Churches* and other forms of families work within the deanery, which have been successful and provide an easier introduction to the life of the church than existing services. However, some work remains to be done in incorporating these groups into the life of the wider church and deanery. That said, baptisms have been requested by families from Messy Churches which is a hopeful sign. Moreover, the level of confirmations in some benefices is rising with thirty in the past five years in the Bartestree Cross benefice and twenty-nine in the Fownhope benefice. The Bartestree Cross benefice has built on this to for a pizza club.

*Open the Book* has proved to be a successful initiative in both rural and urban contexts, and is welcomed by schools. Many congregation members are involved in the life of their local school, both CoE schools and others. Holmer Church has appointed a Children and Families worker, and St Peter and St James have funds to do so once their new incumbent arrives.

A number of the city churches have evangelistic programmes: Holmer, Tupsley and St Peter & St James are using the 'Frontline' material from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity; and Holmer are running Alpha. People respond well to direct invitations.

In terms of the Common Good, Vennture has proved to be a strong asset to the city in coordinating work. This organisation grew out of the old Hereford City Mission, and provides support to troubled families and those injured or impaired in Hereford's night time economy.

The winter night shelter next to St Peter is well used (sixty to seventy people over the winter) and also seeks to meet spiritual needs. Hope Scott House on the Roman Road also extends similar accommodation. The Cathedral offers a Saturday breakfast to the homeless and lonely, and is a sanctuary to the many who visit either as tourists, pilgrims, people in need or simply to seek the warmth of the heaters.

## 2 SWOT ANALYSIS, MINISTRY & FUTURE

	Spiritual Growth	Numerical Growth
Strengths	<p>There is a range of gifts and expertise within the deanery (both lay and ordained).</p> <p>There is a desire for co-operation within the deanery leadership, which could lead to a sharing of skills and discipleship.</p> <p>The Cathedral is a great resource in its library and education programme. Given numbers, it should be possible to have a teaching centre of some sort within the deanery.</p>	<p>People still turn to the church in times of need, and there are a high level of baptisms, weddings and funerals which take place in churches. Rural clergy still retain strong links with their parishioners.</p>
Weaknesses	<p>Overall, the level of discipleship and Christian education in the deanery is low, which means that people are not confident in their faith. The main discipleship focus over the past year has been limited to stewardship/giving.</p> <p>There is a lack of younger people within the congregations who can take over the key roles. The energy levels of congregation members is often understandably low due to the age profile. Busyness cuts out prayerfulness.</p> <p>Too much energy is expended on managing decline and fund raising.</p>	<p>Mission can often be understood as keeping the building open rather than sharing the message of Jesus. Buildings are ancient and listed, which is a large burden, especially in the small rural parishes.</p> <p>Many of the existing church buildings are not in places of population density.</p> <p>There are weak finances, and lack of reserves in many parishes.</p> <p>There would appear to be no co-ordinated and strategic response to the large developments planned to take place.</p>
Opportunities	<p>There is a younger demographic within the deanery than elsewhere in the diocese.</p> <p>The retreat house Apples of Silver has great potential for wider use for both teaching and spirituality/retreat/reflection.</p>	<p>The significant growth in population over the next few years gives the opportunity for outreach, mission and church planting, and also a student ministry at new university and the existing Further Education colleges.</p> <p>People are still 'church-friendly', and whereas the concept of 'Christendom' has passed in the wider society, it persists to some degree locally.</p> <p>There remains is a strong community feel in the population, and the villages have a strong strength of connection with their parish church.</p> <p>Build on existing networks we already have though our engagement in the public sphere and engage them with worship.</p>
Threats	<p>The secular standards of the world which surround us.</p> <p>Pressures on time.</p>	<p>All the activities for family members that take place on a Sunday.</p>

	Common Good	New Patterns of Ministry
Strengths	<p>The church is comfortable and confident in participating in the public space, and there is an enthusiasm within congregations for engaging with their communities.</p> <p>There is a wide network of contacts which have been forged through serving the common good.</p> <p>We have links to Tanzania and Nuremberg.</p> <p>Church buildings are often used by their local communities.</p>	<p>The deanery leadership groups and committees have a sense of unity which leads to a willingness to tackle issues together.</p> <p>There is also a good and increasing sense of unity within the chapter (this also applies to an ecumenical Church Leaders Together that some members of the chapter attend monthly in the city)</p> <p>There are a good number of clergy and readers within the deanery, and urban and rural parishes are beginning to share resources.</p>
Weaknesses	<p>The needs are great, but the number of people within the churches are few.</p>	<p>Whilst good progress has been made, there is still work to be done in fully integrating the vision and mission of the rural parishes, urban parishes and Cathedral given their widely differing contexts.</p> <p>It is hard to provide the number of Communion services expected by parishes in a multi-parish context. There is a reluctance to explore new patterns of services.</p> <p>There is a high burden of administration at a parish level, and initiatives can take time and energy away from parish work.</p> <p>'Mission' and 'Ministry' are commonly viewed as clergy tasks.</p> <p>There is a perception of the Diocese as 'other' which results in poor communication between parishes and the diocesan support officers (in both directions).</p> <p>Services tend to be very similar with an emphasis on Common Worship communions.</p>
Opportunities	<p>The setting up of Vennture has been of immense benefit to the area, and offers a very great opportunity for a co-ordinated contribution to the common good.</p> <p>Greater engagement with the 2gether NHS trust and Hospice.</p>	<p>There is an appetite to engage with new patterns of lay leadership of services, with some churches already having teams of people taking services.</p>
Threats		<p>The diocese does not have adequate funds to pay stipends of the present number of clergy.</p>

## 3 ACTION ON SHARED PRIORITIES

### 3.1 Spiritual Growth

- a. Issue a Call to Prayer and set aside a period of time for this to take place.
- b. Share planning and provision of discipleship groups, courses and days across the deanery.
- c. To work with the Cathedral (and the School of Ministry) in the provision of adult education across the deanery focused upon a teaching centre.
- d. Set up deanery groups to oversee, encourage and help in activities such as Open the Book or Quiet Days to enable interested people in smaller benefices to participate.
- e. Set up a youthwork network to enable groups to share events, at to encourage participation in Christian Festivals (e.g. Soul Survivor).

### 3.2 Numerical Growth

- a. Ensure church involvement in the planning stage of the new housing developments to ensure there is consecrated space available for churches to use for mission.
- b. Actively work with the Diocesan structure to ensure that churches (or congregations) meet where populations actually live, rather than rely on historic parishes.
- c. Encourage those who take occasional offices within the deanery to engage with the national training in making the most of those opportunities
- d. Share experience of 'process evangelism' (e.g. Alpha at Holmer, Christianity Explored at Whitecross, START at St Peter & St James, Discipleship Explored also at St Peter & St James) and encourage benefices to start an enquirers course.
- e. Greater engagement with the free churches to engender a sense of shared mission, to build on the existing Ministers' meeting in the city.
- f. Build on the success of the House for Duty post at Little Dewchurch by retaining the post when the current priest retires

### 3.3 Common Good

- a. Identify what the deanery is already providing in the city (e.g. night shelter, work with the homeless, street pastors, family pastors, work with business and shops) and see how we might more effectively support the work.
- b. Form a strategic partnership with Vennture to co-ordinate the serving of the Common Good.
- c. Work with the Cathedral in their Social Action.
- d. Work with Brian Chave to see what can be done with regards to chaplaincy



### **3.4 Ministry**

- a. Encourage and build on lay leadership at a deanery level.
- b. Encourage a greater diversity of worship styles across the deanery.
- c. Investigate the wider use of extended communion as a way of encouraging lay leadership of worship, the testing of vocation and reaching isolated people.
- d. Encourage people to consider training for Reader ministry.
- e. Hold regular 'greater Chapters' to include the Readers.
- f. Share information on new forms of worship within the deanery (e.g. Worship Nights at Fownhope, Tea time church, café church, services of reflection etc).
- g. Encourage and work with the diocese to progress plans for a missionary.
- h. Use the existing deanery reserves to help fund new mission initiative.
- i. To proactively seek opportunities to strengthen bonds with the Cathedral (e.g. Deanery Evensongs, social events).
- j. Where younger people are in the churches they could be encouraged to explore leadership

### **3.5 Focussing Resources**

- a. Creation of two benefices from the former South Wye Team district to reflect the different demographic profiles:
  - i. St Martin's with Lower Bullingham; and
  - ii. Little Dewchurch with Ballingham, Aconbury, Dinedor and Holme Lacy.
- b. Secure a house in the new Little Dewchurch group, possibly funded by the sale of the newly vacated parsonage in Belmont.
- c. Consider what might be done with the smaller, less viable parishes (mergers, etc.).
- d. Undertake to focus resources on centres of population.



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### **The Vicarage, Burghill, Hereford, HR4 7SG**

*A detached 4 bedroom bungalow set in a private position with spectacular views across adjacent fields in the sought after village of Burghill. With gas central heating, double glazing, gardens and garage.*

*A 6 month tenancy available Early June.*

**£700 - Monthly**

Residential Sales and Lettings

# The Vicarage, Burghill, Hereford, HR4 7SG

## LOCATION

Burghill is located approx 4.5 miles from Hereford City Centre. The village offers a variety of services and facilities including a school, church, golf club.

## ACCOMMODATION

The Vicarage is set in a private position over looking adjacent fields. The accommodation in more detail comprises:

### ON THE GROUND FLOOR:

Entrance canopy gives access to:

#### Entrance Hall

1.96m (6'5) x 2.16m (7'1)

With radiator, carpet and doors to:

#### Cloakroom

With a double glazed window with obscured glass, wash basin and low level WC.

#### Study

3.38m (11'1) x 3.96m (13')

With two double glazed windows, ample power points, shelving, radiator and carpet. Isolation switch for exterior lights.

#### Inner Hallway

With carpet, radiator and doors to AIRING CUPBOARD with slatted shelves, CLOAKS CUPBOARD with coat hooks and shelf and to the STORAGE CUPBOARD with shelving.

#### Kitchen

3.35m (11'0) x 4.04m (13'3) max

With a range of wood fronted base cupboard and drawer units with working surfaces over, tiled surrounds and matching eye level cabinets. Single drainer stainless steel sink unit with mixer tap, recess for cooker and extractor over, recess and plumbing for dishwasher. Radiator, ample power points, vinyl flooring, double glazed window and pantry with shelving. Door to:

#### Utility Room

2.67m (8'9) x 2.77m (9'1)

With a white Belfast sink, plumbing for washing machine, radiator, tiled floor and door to the rear garden area.

#### Dining Room

3.18m (10'5) x 4.19m (13'9)

With double glazed patio doors leading to the garden area. Fitted carpet, ample power points, radiator, serving hatch from the kitchen and wooden sliding doors to:

#### Living Room

2.41m (7'11) x 3.58m (11'9) max

With 3 double glazed windows and brick fireplace with wooden mantle, tiled hearth. Fitted carpet, radiator, ample power points, television aerial point and telephone point. Door to:

#### Hallway

With picture window, fitted carpet, radiator and doors to:

#### Bathroom

1.78m (5'10) x 2.64m (8'8) max

White suite comprising bath with electric shower over, low level wc and basin. Radiator. Wood effect vinyl flooring and UPVC double glazed window with obscured glass.

#### Bedroom 1

2.95m (9'8) x 4.06m (13'4)

With a double glazed window, wash basin, fitted carpet, radiator, ample power points, telephone point, television aerial point and wardrobe with hanging rail and shelving over.

#### Bedroom 2

4.47m (14'8) x 4.06m (13'4)

With two double glazed windows, wash basin, fitted carpet, radiator, ample power points, telephone point, television aerial point and wardrobe with hanging rail and shelving over.

#### Bedroom 3

2.59m (8'6) x 3.89m (12'9)

With two double glazed window, wash basin, fitted carpet, radiator, ample power points, television aerial point and wardrobe with hanging rail and shelving over.

#### Bedroom 4

2.87m (9'5) x 2.67m (8'9)

With a double glazed window, wash basin, fitted carpet, radiator, ample power points, telephone point, television aerial point and wardrobe with hanging rail and shelving over.

## OUTSIDE:

#### Garage

With up and over door to the front.

#### Garden

The property has the benefit of a large garden which is mainly laid to lawn with established trees and borders. Storage shed with lighting and also a wood store area.

## DIRECTIONAL NOTE

From central Hereford proceed west for the length of Whitecross Road and at the roundabout take the third exit into Three Elms Road. Continue along Three Elms Road to the traffic lights and turn left into Roman Road. Take the right hand turn signposted Burghill and Tillington and at the junction bear right into Burghill. On entering Burghill pass the parish church on left hand side, take the next turning on left. Take the first driveway on left hand side, over a cattle grid and the bungalow is straight ahead.

## TERMS OF THE TENANCY

### Rent

Rent is payable monthly in advance on the first day of each calendar month.

### Services

The Tenant(s) will be responsible for payment of water, drainage, gas, electricity and council tax as applicable.

### Deposit

The tenants will pay a deposit equal to one month's rent

### Insurance

The Tenant(s) are required to take out a Public Liability Insurance Policy to cover Occupier's Liability & Tenant's Liability Insurance.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

1. VIEWINGS will only be considered on receipt of a completed registration form for each tenant. We do not charge an application fee.

2. MEETING If you wish to pursue your application after viewing you will be required to attend a meeting at the offices of Watkins Thomas and thereafter your application will be discussed with the Landlord.

3. COSTS On verbally agreeing the tenancy to you, (subject to signing an Agreement and satisfactory references) you will pay an administration fee of £170 for a single applicant or £200 for a couple, and the tenancy deposit in cash or bankers draft.

The administration fee covers the cost of preparing the tenancy agreement (except in certain circumstances when there may be an extra charge), the inventory/schedule of condition and obtaining references.

The deposit is refundable if the tenancy does not go ahead. The administration fee is non-refundable in the event that the references prove unsatisfactory or the tenant(s) withdraw(s) before completion.

The first rent payment is payable on the day the Agreement is signed.

4. REFERENCES After a verbal agreement and before setting up the tenancy, references will be taken via a professional referencing company.

Please also note that in certain circumstances it may be necessary to provide a Guarantor who will be referenced in the same way and will be required to sign the tenancy agreement.



# The Vicarage, Burghill, Hereford, HR4 7SG

## ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

An Energy Performance Certificate has been prepared in respect of this property and the results are shown in the adjacent charts. More information is available on request

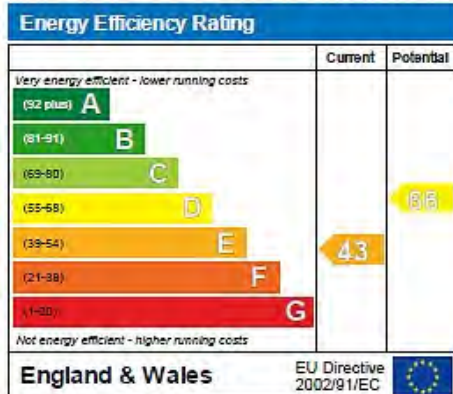
### Energy Performance Certificate



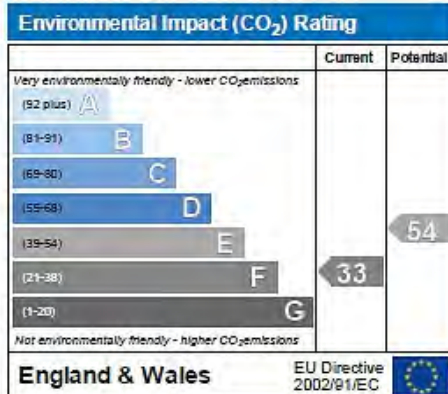
The Vicarage  
Burghill  
HEREFORD  
HR4 7SG

Dwelling type: Detached bungalow  
Date of assessment: 21 February 2012  
Date of certificate: 21 February 2012  
Reference number: 8407-1799-5529-8026-8223  
Type of assessment: RdSAP, existing dwelling  
Total floor area: 156 m<sup>2</sup>

This home's performance is rated in terms of the energy use per square metre of floor area, energy efficiency based on fuel costs and environmental impact based on carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions.



The energy efficiency rating is a measure of the overall efficiency of a home. The higher the rating the more energy efficient the home is and the lower the fuel bills are likely to be.



The environmental impact rating is a measure of a home's impact on the environment in terms of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. The higher the rating the less impact it has on the environment.

### Estimated energy use, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and fuel costs of this home

	Current	Potential
Energy use	294 kWh/m <sup>2</sup> per year	176 kWh/m <sup>2</sup> per year
Carbon dioxide emissions	12 tonnes per year	6.9 tonnes per year
Lighting	£84 per year	£84 per year
Heating	£1662 per year	£915 per year
Hot water	£254 per year	£199 per year

You could save up to £801 per year

The figures in the table above have been provided to enable prospective buyers and tenants to compare the fuel costs and carbon emissions of one home with another. To enable this comparison the figures have been calculated using standardised running conditions (heating periods, room temperatures, etc.) that are the same for all homes, consequently they are unlikely to match an occupier's actual fuel bills and carbon emissions in practice. The figures do not include the impacts of the fuels used for cooking or running appliances, such as TV, fridge etc.; nor do they reflect the costs associated with service, maintenance or safety inspections. Always check the certificate date because fuel prices can change over time and energy saving recommendations will evolve.



Remember to look for the Energy Saving Trust Recommended logo when buying energy-efficient products. It's a quick and easy way to identify the most energy-efficient products on the market.

This EPC and recommendations report may be given to the Energy Saving Trust to provide you with information on improving your dwelling's energy performance.

ID / Date  
ID13571

# Summary of parish/benefice planning against the Shared Priorities

Year: 2017/18

Parish/ Benefice:

Burghill

Agreed on:

28<sup>th</sup> March 2017

at:

PCC at St Mary the Virgin,  
Burghill

Contact name and details:

Revd Penny Littlewood  
[Penny.cobwebs@virgin.net](mailto:Penny.cobwebs@virgin.net)  
Tel: 01432 760835



**Our mission context:** the area, people, places we serve    **Now?**    **Changes anticipated over the next five years?**

**Now:** The Church of St Mary the Virgin, in Burghill, is the primary church in the Burghill Benefice and significantly supports the other three smaller churches, both financially and physically. Burghill as a parish is a thriving community with many active social facilities. It has a good school, it has a shop, a pub, a Golf Club with a bar and restaurant, a Village Hall, a cricket pitch and The Copse football and recreation ground. The parish lies just north of Hereford City centre, giving convenient access to link roads to the north and the south, easy access to rural life, alongside the benefits of a city. There are substantial numbers of detached houses, making purchase prices fairly high, but also a few areas of low cost housing in the mix - all set within surrounding productive farming and orchard growing areas.

**Changes:** These have been occurring with former elderly parishioners of long standing now either dying or being obliged to move into care driven accommodation. Therefore the very recent past has seen a considerable number of newly retired, mainly couples move into the parish. Few seem to be churchgoers at the moment. There are also areas of lower cost new build coming on line shortly, which should attract more families. There are also plans being put forward for a new city on the southern edge of the parish, possibly in the not too distant future.

**Where we see signs of God at work locally**

**Where we see growth / encouragements**

**What we can learn / build on /develop**

In this parish at the present time, the church is used significantly for the Pastoral Offices, with good numbers preferring the church for funerals. Also baptisms take place in good numbers, both for churchgoers' and non-regular church-goers' children. Weddings are particularly popular in this church with good relationships having been built with local Wedding Reception venues, to mutual advantage. One positive aspect of this has been the growing number of couples who have become familiar and comfortable with the church and its people, through the obligation of attendance in order to qualify to be married in the church. Whilst some do come back from time to time, and some do return for a subsequent child's baptism, they obviously cannot become regular church attenders here, but the hope is that we are nevertheless building the kingdom and they will become regular worshippers elsewhere, through becoming comfortable with church attendance and responding to the message of the gospel.

When numbers of children attending Sunday morning Sunday Club became unsustainable, it was decided to discontinue it. This was initially seen as very sad, but concentrating our energy and resources on building Messy Church has proved to be hugely successful, with numbers growing month on month. It is popular with local families and lately for some from farther afield. The lesson has been that we cannot expect the people of today to fit in with the patterns of what was familiar to previous generations, but instead must try and become a church for all by adapting times and styles to suit different needs. This is not to dilute or dismiss what works for the more traditionally minded, or to make a completely pick and mix package; but to look carefully at crucial time and style structures of the society around us and adapt accordingly. Messy is a great start.



# Summary of parish/benefice planning against the Shared Priorities

Year: 2017/18

Parish/ Benefice:

Agreed on:

at:

Contact name and details:

Our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as we see them as a parish/benefice:			
<b>Strengths:</b> Great community spirit within the parish itself, and the church largely viewed with a positive attitude.	<b>Weaknesses:</b> Sunday worshipping community largely fairly elderly and slowly diminishing. In the main the parish of Burghill is viewed from the outside world as wealthy, yet that is not necessarily the case with the long-time residents and churchgoers. Unable to continue Pathfinder youth group	<b>Opportunities:</b> Building on Messy Church by finding ways to grow mature faith from these good beginnings and bring them to adulthood as active Christians. Building on the contacts/relationships through the Pastoral offices.	<b>Challenges:</b> Finding ways to engage with the many living on St Mary's Park, who tend to look towards the city, and/or be full time middle management workers, not familiar or perhaps comfortable with church. Growing the Messy Church children into mature committed worshippers.
<b>People and Resources: Now? Anticipated?</b> <i>Think about clergy and lay ministers, parish officers, new ministries, vocations, opportunities/needs for deployment etc</i> By the end of September/October this group will be in Interregnum with all the usual problems and opportunities that brings about. Currently no other clergy, retired or otherwise in the benefice, nor licenced lay ministers. A small handful of laity are happy to, and capable of, leading Services of the Word, but unlikely, due to age and other obligations, to consider a vocation in ministry. Also the laity currently very active in youth work, fund-raising and social events are getting increasingly elderly, with few younger people seemingly with time or inclination to take these sorts of role on.			
<b>Our discernment of our way forward together as a parish/benefice</b> <b>Our current vision for this parish/benefice in 5 years time</b> In its current structure the benefice has three other quite dissimilar parishes who have relied heavily on the financial support of Burghill for many years. They have to form part of any discussions and plans for the immediate future. Their current congregations are small and in the main elderly. All the churches are at least Grade 2* listed and therefore require constant attention (and funds) to keep going. The move to a closer relationship by instigating a monthly Joint service has proved a positive move, giving encouragement to the small churches. However, whilst they have proved popular with a large number of people, there are still too many who view a service in their 'own' church every week, as the only option and make little or no effort to travel a few miles to join others for worship. An issue that requires addressing perhaps by gentle realisation that the smaller churches may HAVE to forego a weekly service by an ordained or licenced minister; creating and conducting their own services of the word, or joining worship elsewhere. The Deanery chapter is planning strategies for supporting and encouraging lay worship leadership, in an effort to give confidence to church members to actively share their faith.  It will be challenging for the smaller churches such as Moreton and Stretton, and especially Lyde if it remains open, but it seems likely that Burghill would, and even should become the major place of worship in our benefice, making it the hub for greater efforts at growth, encompassing all age groups and a variety of styles. With few miles between the small churches, it perhaps could become the major centre of growth without spreading the ministerial resources too thinly around four churches. A concentration of effort in one place, could reap big rewards, whilst at the same time, modestly and more appropriately supporting the other churches as they work towards more lay involvement.			

# Summary of parish/benefice planning against the Shared Priorities

Year: 2017/18

Parish/ Benefice:

Agreed on:

at:

Contact name and details:

<i>Looking back - What we achieved in 2016</i>	<b>Action planned for 2017/18 (2019?)</b>	<b>Our goals and “measures of success”</b>
<b>Shared Priority 1: Growing disciples of all ages and backgrounds – spiritually and numerically</b>		
<p>Closer relationship with sister parishes in Moreton, Stretton and Lyde, mainly as a result of commencing a monthly Joint service, rotating around the benefice. This resulted in the normally small congregation churches enjoying the benefit of full churches, great singing and worship and finding friendship and fellowship with a wider Christian community. Huge growth in Messy Church</p>	<p>Encourage more lay participation in taking services of the word.</p> <p>Look closely at the skills and gifts available in all parishes</p> <p>Consider ways to ensure Messy youth grow into mature church adults</p>	<p>Smaller parishes comfortable with standing on their own occasionally. Being confident that THEY are church and can do it themselves.</p> <p>Older Messy children and mothers become Messy leaders.</p> <p>Re-establish a youth group</p>
<b>Shared Priority 2: Serving the common good – transforming lives and communities</b>		
<p>Recognition in the parish of the value of the church community at times of local tragedies.</p> <p>Growing closer links with the school.</p> <p>Support through pastoral offices.</p>	<p>As Pastoral offices have increased, assess the need for lay involvement as family support team following bereavement. Special celebration services planned for families of baptised over the past five years. Possibly similar for weddings. Involvement of laity in this process.</p>	<p>Deep involvement in the Good Neighbour Scheme. Strategic liaison between community and church to facilitate this.</p>
<b>Shared Priority 3: Sharing, developing and reimagining ministry for mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century</b>		
<p>Growth of Celtic Worship on Thursday mornings.</p> <p>Growth of Messy Church</p>	<p>Recognition and therefore appropriate development of diversity of worship styles to address the wide range of social, economic and cultural needs of the current century. Sundays are ‘just another day’ to many. Need to make church visible as being for everyone.</p>	<p>Envisage Burghill as the centre for a variety of styles of worship. A menu in some form of the way we can all reach and touch God which works in the 21<sup>st</sup> c. Retain and value the traditional diet of worship, but complimented by more contemporary forms, days, times, even venues to reach wider groups of people.</p>

## Summary of parish/benefice planning against the Shared Priorities

Year: 2017/18

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at:

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Shared Commitment: to focusing our resources – money, buildings, time, people etc - where there is greatest mission need and opportunity		
<p>Currently the majority of income in Burghill and the other parishes is used to pay the Common Fund, followed by paying the running expenses of the church. Nothing is allocated specifically for mission work. Burghill has issues with serious repairs required on the tower and the porch which will involve money, time and effort.</p> <p>Burghill church and its churchyard nevertheless remain a vital asset for sharing facilities and working with community based projects.</p>	<p>Looking at use of the building for wider activities within a Christian context, but specifically appealing to younger demographics and possibly those who, normally are not regular churchgoers. The challenge is resourcing such activities, particularly with people. Growing links with the school and its parents an obvious option</p>	<p>The church becoming a greater centre of support and encouragement to the whole community.</p>