



The Mells Group Of Churches Are Seeking

- ⊕ A Priest in Charge for a 'House for Duty' post
- ⊕ Someone Prayerful, Committed & Hospitable
- ⊕ Someone Generous who believes God is calling
- ⊕ Someone to minister in partnership with the Parishes
- ⊕ Please seize this opportunity.

INDEX



3	†	OUR VALUES & OUR VISION
4	†	WHO WE ARE
5	†	WHO WE ARE SEEKING
5	†	FUTURE THINGS TO CONSIDER
6	†	OUR BENEFICE
7	†	PARISHES - MELLS, CHANTRY
8	†	PARISHES - GREAT ELM, WHATLEY
9	†	YOUR HOME
10	†	LOCAL AREA
11	†	DEANERY AND CHAPTER
12	†	DIOCESE
15	†	AND FINALLY





OUR VALUES

- ✝ To share our haven of love, joy, worship and peace
- ✝ To share our faith and encourage others to follow Christ
- ✝ To provide a church and community to welcome all comers
- ✝ To be involved with our local community
- ✝ To offer practical help and guidance
- ✝ To provide a space for communal as well as spiritual growth



OUR VISION

- ✝ Increasing numbers experiencing the joy of meeting as Christians at the heart of our communities and being enabled to grow in faith
- ✝ Villagers, school children, local businesses and visitors experiencing practical, pastoral and spiritual support from those who worship at local churches and others who live and breathe our heritage
- ✝ St Andrew's, Mells once again becoming host to a vibrant Christian community
- ✝ The villagers of Whatley grasping opportunities provided by the re-ordering of St George's





WHO WE ARE

*All Singing
from the
same song
sheet*

OUR WELCOMING COMMUNITY

- ♪ We are deeply rooted in our communities and love being part of them
- ♪ We believe our churches are there for all

OUR LIVELY COMMUNITY

- ♪ We support each other in the community to strengthen rural village life
- ♪ We organise events to celebrate national and local occasions

OUR CARING COMMUNITY

- ♪ We are watchful for the vulnerable and lonely
- ♪ We are welcoming to newcomers and all generations

OUR SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

- ♪ We have maintained our missional focus with lay-led services
- ♪ Services include informal worship, prayer and reflection
- ♪ We're grateful to local retired priests for leading communion services
- ♪ We will support you to lead us in growing what we have already
- ♪ We share an administrator



WHO WE ARE SEEKING



Who We Are Looking For

- 📍 Someone to provide leadership, spiritual guidance and support the church in each parish
- 📍 Someone to live in the Rectory in Mells
- 📍 Someone sociable & approachable to help us develop local links within the community
- 📍 We are not seeking someone to guide us through amalgamating to a single PCC

Future Things To Consider

- ✝ Taking steps to strengthen the existing congregations
- ✝ Developing pastoral ministry to meet the needs of those suffering difficulties
- ✝ Establishing home groups to promote greater understanding of Christian faith
- ✝ Fostering links with Mells School, Whatley Quarry, Jackdaws and Vobster Quay



OUR BENEFICE



Services - Some churches use Common Worship and some use Common Prayer



Congregations are faithful, constant & enthusiastic. Traditional services Easter | Harvest | Mothers' Day | Carol Services | Midnight Communion are all popular



Attendance - 1 service per week + Group service
No requirement for attendance at every service



Admin through shared Church Administrator 6hrs per week. Churchwardens' meet quarterly



Parish Magazine - local news financed by adverts, given boost by Heidelberg Materials' Quarry grant. Locally distributed by volunteers



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH MELLS

- † Services 6 per month Communion on 2nd Sunday
- † Morning prayer every Wednesday + 4th Sunday
- † Busy with Weddings + Funerals
- † Church Contact Diana Silvester
- † Grade 1 listed C15th | Norman Font | Marble Altar
- † 1446 Tower with Ring of 8 bells | 1880 Pipe Organ
- † Ronald Knox + Siegfried Sassoon buried in churchyard
- † Munnings' bronze of Edward Horner on Lutyens base



HOLY TRINITY CHANTRY

- † Services weekly apart from Group Service
- † Holy Communion 2nd + 4th + 5th Sunday or morning prayer
- † Churchwarden Hazel Tovey & David Rawlins
- † Grade 1 listed dates 1846 designed by Sir Gilbert Scott
- † Gray and Davidson organ listed as historic
- † A set of 'Stations of the Cross'
- † Misericords and a special Lily window



ST MARY MAGDALENE GREAT ELM

- † Services 2 per month Communion on 3rd Sunday
- † Churchwarden Sally Rosa
- † Grade 1 listed C12th + minstrel gallery + tower
- † Jacobean boxed pews. No serious structural issues
- † Village Hall leased from Church by Village Charity
- † Small church seats 80. Hosts concerts



ST GEORGE'S WHATLEY

- † Services 2 per month Communion 4th Sunday
- † Churchwarden Katie Gay
- † Grade II* listed Dates from 1311
- † Belfry houses 6 bells 1550 mainly rung by visiting bands
- † The Lady Chapel, known as the Chantry Chapel
- † Plans to rededicate north transept to community hub



YOUR HOME

THE RECTORY | GAY STREET | MELLS | BA11 3PT

Mells "Chocolate-box-charming, tucked in tantalising Mendips countryside"
The Telegraph 2023



The Rectory is situated in a quiet street in the heart of Mells, within a 5 min walk from the Church. A bungalow with medium size garden behind a stone wall with a drive providing off street parking.



The accommodation consists of four bedrooms (two double), bathroom, two toilets, kitchen, dining room, sitting room and an office.



The village also has a defibrillator now situated outside the shop.



The community-owned village shop and post office is run by volunteers with a thriving café attached which is used by walkers and bikers as well as locals.



Next to this is the Walled Garden with Café and woodfired pizzas in the summer. Plants are also offered for sale.



The village has well supported cricket and football clubs with sports pavilion, court & playpark.



Mells CofE school holds a service each term in the church and engages with the Bible Society's 'Open the Book' programme.



The Tithe barn is leased by the village from the Diocese used for village events and gatherings. e.g. Scouts, Beavers & Cubs Groups



Within walking distance is the Talbot Inn which does excellent food and has beautiful rooms.





LOCAL AREA



The part of the East Mendip way runs along the river valley between Mells and Great Elm passing the remains of Fussell's Iron Works and continues to Whatley and Chantry. The Mendip Hills offer more walking opportunities.



The area is largely agricultural with an emphasis on dairy. A large local employer Heidelberg Materials' Whatley Quarry is located between Mells and Whatley/Chantry.



Heidelberg Materials donates grants to fund community projects within the local area, most recently the refurbishment of the playground and picnic area in Whatley. The Quarry hosts a liaison group quarterly including Parish Councilors and village residents.



Outside the benefice to the east, you'll find the thriving market town of Frome, numerous independent shops, art galleries, coffee houses and restaurants and its renowned monthly independent food market.



Cycle Route 24 Salisbury to Bath also connects Frome to Radstock locally using the disused quarry railway line providing a safe paved popular cycle route



Further afield are Bruton, with its Hauser and Wirth Gallery and The Newt also the beautiful cities of Bath and Wells. Main line Station in Frome with regular 1½ hrs train service to London from Westbury.



Cultural venues include Jackdaws Music Education Trust, Great Elm. Frome's music venues Cheese & Grain and Cooper Hall, two theatres and a cinema.



DEANERY



& CHAPTER



A warm welcome to Frome Deanery from our Area Dean, Caroline Walker, Rector of St Philip and St James, Norton St Philip.

Working together across the Deanery, we seek to be a transforming Christian presence in every community where more and more people catch God's love and choose to be Jesus' disciples. We seek to give God the glory and draw people to Christ, with clergy and non-clergy sharing in building God's kingdom in ways that are affirming and energising for all involved.

We see ourselves as a pioneering deanery returning to the values of the early church as described in Acts 2:42-47 – fellowship based on love and prayer. This is all underpinned by four strands:



PLANNING - which is fundamental to making our vision succeed



RESOURCING - enabling initiatives across the deanery to include both the rural and the town churches working together



COMMUNICATING - Sharing our successes and struggles, supporting each other and using social media to communicate well with the wider community



SUPPORTING - we appreciate that our vision is challenging, but we are confident that that we can succeed if we have the right mind set and support each other



DIOCESE - (see next page)



DIOCESAN STATEMENT

OUR VISION FOR GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

Introduction

We are delighted that you are considering whether this post of Priest in Charge (House for Duty) of the Parishes of Mells with Vobster, Elm, Whatley and Chantry in the Diocese of Bath and Wells might be right for you. In order to help your prayerful discernment, we want to share a bit about our diocesan vision, within which we hope your own ministry might flourish.

Appointing a priest incumbent is amongst the most significant decisions that any benefice makes. When appointments work out well, they contribute significantly to parishes flourishing and growing in a host of different ways – in spiritual depth, in impact within local communities and in the numbers of people becoming part of the local church. Such flourishing is not, of course, all down to the person appointed as priest. It depends first and foremost upon God. It also depends upon everyone in a benefice being willing and able to contribute their unique gifts, skills, resources and abilities: working alongside their priest and sharing in the ministry of the benefice.

The flourishing and growth of churches always needs attention, but especially now as we come out of the shock created by the COVID pandemic. The impact of the pandemic created a sharp acceleration in the pattern of decline in church attendance that has been seen in our diocese over many years. Thankfully there

are some signs that we are recovering from the COVID decline. For example, data showed that average adult weekly church attendance in our diocese rose between 2021 and 2022. Statistics only ever tell a partial story. It is even more encouraging to see churches around our diocese developing approaches that respond to the opportunities and challenges in their local context and enable growth to happen.

A vision for growth and transformation

Our diocesan context, described above, has convinced us that for our next season at least, our aim across all our parishes needs to be growing our churches, within and beyond our church buildings, in both numbers and depth of faith, so that we can better work for the transforming of our communities and the life of God's Kingdom amongst us.

Shared priorities

To help us pursue this aim, and following consultation across the diocese in 2023, we are inviting all parishes to focus on four particular areas of our ministry together. It is important for clergy considering working in our diocese to know what these priorities are, even though what they look like in practice will vary in each place.



DIOCESAN STATEMENT OUR VISION FOR GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

To value and cherish the people and resources we already have	We aim to ensure each person is well supported and equipped as a follower of Jesus Christ and for any ministries they may feel called to undertake, within the local church and wider community. We are committed to supporting the well-being of all our leaders and church officers, both lay and ordained. We have a fully funded clergy well-being service, the offer of peer support groups, and an excellent team of Diocesan support staff fully focused on supporting our parishes, chaplaincies and schools.
To develop new Christian worshipping communities	Whether it be new forms of worship in a wide variety of settings and times, church revitalisations or church plants, we long to see the good news of Jesus connect with the people in our communities that our traditional offerings struggle to reach.
To share in ministry and leadership	We are committed to the New Testament vision of the church as a vibrant body of people all using their God-given gifts. We are committed to a model of shared local ministry: raising up and equipping lay and ordained leaders able to share together in leading the church and serving God's world.
To deepen and grow faith	This is foundational to all we do. We long to see people of all ages and backgrounds, but perhaps especially children, young people and young adults, having more opportunities to discover, explore and grow in faith.

The outcome we are looking for

When he talks about his own ministry in 1 Corinthians, Paul captures the dynamic we are seeking to achieve. "I planted," he says, "Apollos watered, but God gave the growth"(1 Cor 3: 6). We know that our churches will only flourish and grow as a result of God's action among us – it is God who gives the growth.

But Paul is also clear that we have a part to play too – in watering and planting, in doing the things that enable the conditions for God's growth to be supported. So, covered by prayer, our confident hope is that if we are intentional in seeking God's guidance in planning and supporting growth, then God will honour that to see his people flourish and thrive - in spiritual depth, in impact within local communities, in the numbers of people becoming part of the local church and in transforming communities locally and beyond.



DIOCESAN STATEMENT

OUR VISION FOR GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

Local shaping and diocesan support

There can't be any '*one size fits all*' approach to turning the priorities outlined above into action. They always need to be adapted to local circumstances, opportunities and needs. The task of our diocesan support services is to get behind all that local benefices are doing and apart from their general support, there is specific support for exploring how to grow new Christian communities, how to discern and equip a growing range of ministries in your context and how to work well with children and young people. All these areas of support are grounded in exploring what it means to live out our faith.

What implications does this have for the appointment of clergy?

It is important for us all to appoint clergy to benefices who are ready, willing and able to pray for and share in the vision we have for the flourishing and growth of churches and Christian life in our diocese. We want to create an environment that could be described as high challenge, high support. This means appointing clergy who will not only value all that already exists but will be eager to work with others to build on and develop it. It means appointing clergy who are committed

to learning, being creative, and to starting with the gifts God has given to them, their benefice and the wider community.

We are therefore looking to appoint candidates who will

- ✚ be committed to praying and intentionally seeking the growth and flourishing of the benefices in their care
- ✚ relish and expect to work in an environment that is high challenge, high support
- ✚ work joyfully and collaboratively with those who share with them locally in ministry and leadership, with their congregations and with others in their locality, to identify ways to grow and develop their churches with the grain of local priorities, resources, skills and passions
- ✚ enjoy working in partnership with deanery and diocesan colleagues.

We hope this might be you! We hope that you'd like to join us on the adventure and course we've set for our next ten years. We're praying that God will send us the right labourers for the harvest that God has set before us. Could this be you?

+ Michael.

Bishop Michael

Charles Skeer

Acting Archdeacon Charlie



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Are you the missing piece of our puzzle?

If you're Prayerful, Committed, Hospitable, a Generous person who believes
God is calling you to ministry in partnership with the people of
Mells, Chantry, Great Elm and Whatley.

Please seize this opportunity.

We'd love to hear from you.



DIOCESE OF
Bath&Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

