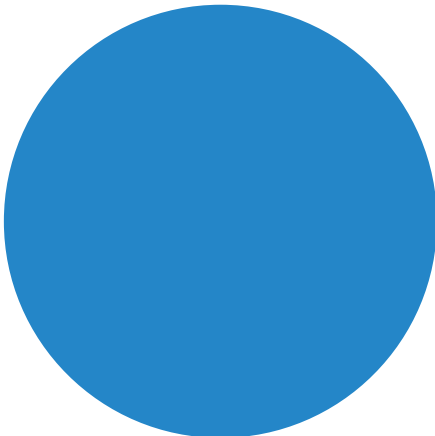
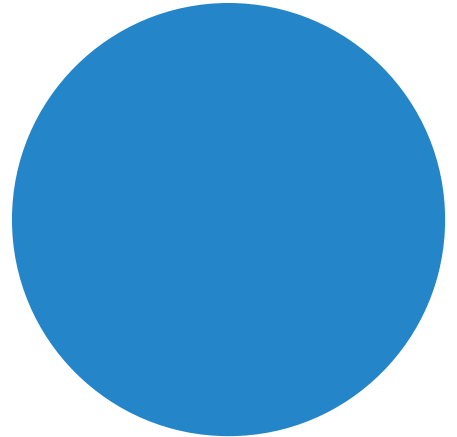
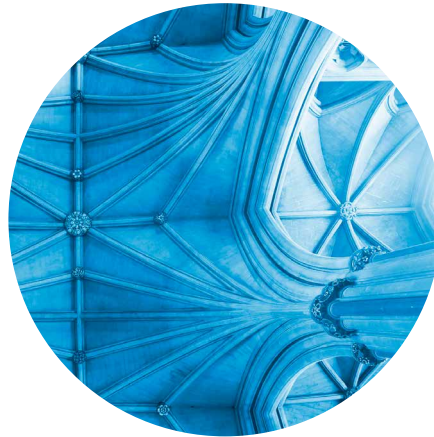
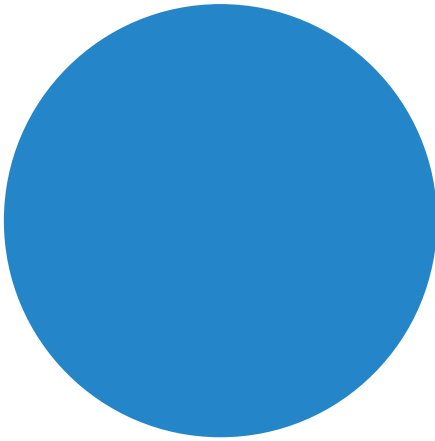




JOIN US AT THE
DIOCESE OF BRISTOL

APPLICATION PACK

Priest in Charge, the Lidbrook Benefice
consisting of St Thomas à Becket Box with Hazelbury,
including Chapel Plaister, St Christopher's Ditteridge
and St John the Baptist, Colerne



CONTENTS

From the Bishop	Page 4
Welcome from the Area Dean	Page 5
Archdeacon's Introduction	Page 6
Welcome	Page 7
Lidbrook Benefice - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats	Page 9
Our Next Incumbent	Page 12
Where We Are	Page 13
Our Parishes	Page 14
The Rectory	Page 18
Some Stats	Page 20
Our Services and Corporate Worship	Page 21
How We Worship	Page 22
Children and Young People	Page 25
Ecumenical Links	Page 27
Social Events	Page 28
Our Finances	Page 29
Person Specification	Page 33
Role Description	Page 35
The Diocese of Bristol	Page 40

FROM THE BISHOP

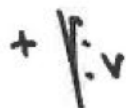
On my second Sunday as diocesan Bishop I visited what was emerging as Lidbrook Benefice to do what bishops do: to bless the new loos at St Thomas Becket Box! I found a church community determined to ensure that their church building was fit for use by the whole community and doing that out of deep prayerful generosity. I know that a deeply prayerful generous spirit typifies the churches of these parishes as they grow together in faith and hope.

The communities of Lidbrook Benefice (named after the Avon tributary which it straddles) are deeply rooted in their localities, with each having a strong sense of identity and as places where Christ has been known and made known. But Lidbrook Benefice is newly forged and has grown in its vision for collaboration across the Benefice with relationships which have grown through the testing times of Covid, and through the vacancy. The parish profile bears witness to recent hard and honest thinking about what the benefice can offer, and its hopes in Christ.

Whilst Lidbrook has been reflecting on its future, the Diocese of Bristol has been working on its strategy, gathering all the parishes, chaplaincies and new forms of church in mutual support. The diocese was created in the 16th century as a time of profound change in church and nation and it continues to respond creatively to change. A microcosm of the Church of England, rural Wiltshire sits alongside the M4/GWR corridor with its housing and industrial developments, the town of Swindon (one of the fastest growing communities in the UK) and the city of Bristol with its vivacity and edginess and its port which was at the heart of the Atlantic slave based economy. The diocese has been home to George Whitfield and the Wesleys whose joy in evangelism and Christian formation, and their work amongst the poorest and against slavery, has continued to have wide influence on the witness of churches across the diocese. Innovation in the diocese of Bristol is the norm, set within the context of a deep commitment to local parish ministry. In all our diversity, the diocese is small enough for lay people and clergy to get to know each other and support each other.

I look forward to discovering who is being sent by God to this new Benefice, and to hearing how they contribute to the new possibilities for the Christian witness of the communities of Lidbrook.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Faul', with a small cross symbol to the left.

Rt Revd Vivienne Faul

Bishop of Bristol.

WELCOME FROM THE AREA DEAN

A Big Welcome from Chippenham Deanery!

Thank you for taking the time to consider the role of Priest-in-Charge in the Lidbrook Benefice. We hope you will feel enthused by all that is already happening here and the exciting potential in these parishes in response to the Diocesan 'Transforming Church Together' vision of being brave, generous, open and courageous in ministry.

Chippenham Deanery has seven incumbents responsible for the seven Benefices, alongside our SSM and Lay Minster colleagues. Together we oversee a mix of village and town churches, all set in beautiful countryside on the edge of the Cotswolds. Chippenham is broadly in the centre of the Diocese with easy access to the M4 linking us to both the Bristol and Swindon ends. The Deanery has two historic market towns: Chippenham and Corsham, both of which are growing, and 22 village communities which are popular for walking and for visitors to the Cotswolds. The proximity of Bath is a further draw! The M4 and the railway in nearby Chippenham (and Bath) mean there are excellent transport and communication routes and so the area is popular with many who work in Bath, Bristol, Swindon, and London, but there is also plenty of local employment through industry and rural based businesses and services.

In the Deanery there are seven church schools and two of these are in Lidbrook Benefice having a strategic impact on young lives in the villages they serve. The Corsham Secondary school and the three Chippenham Secondary schools are all highly regarded and provide good quality secondary education across our Deanery, with Wiltshire College in Chippenham offering Further Education opportunities.

We look forward to welcoming the new Lidbrook incumbent to Chippenham Deanery and especially to the monthly lunchtime chapter meetings where clergy share together in mutual support and prayer while enjoying lunch.

We hope that you will be inspired by the opportunities in the Lidbrook Benefice, our Deanery and Diocese, and pray for you as you consider this post and discern God's calling for your next place of ministry.

Yours in Christ

Revd Canon Sally Wheeler,

Area Dean of Chippenham

marshfield.benefice@gmail.com

ARCHDEACON'S INTRODUCTION

The Lidbrook benefice is a rewarding place to minister where people have a genuine care for their Incumbent. They need a community-minded priest with vision and skills which enable the church to change wisely and share God's love across all ages.

Box is an attractive village close to Bath with lots of opportunities for community ministry. The beautiful church has been intelligently reordered to provide modern facilities. The tiny chapel of Chapel Plaister is also included in Box parish. The schools have good links with the church, both in Box and at Colerne.

On top of the hill, Colerne has a traditional village centre and an extensive surrounding area which includes the largest area of military housing in the Diocese. The ancient church building is well maintained and, significantly, the regular pattern of worship includes provision for all ages.

Out of all the Diocese's churches in tiny villages, Ditteridge is one of the strongest. There are robust finances, some facilities in the building, committed lay leaders, a retired priest exercising a focal ministry, and excellent support from the village.

The churches wish to grow their work with children and young people, develop lay ministry, and strengthen finances post-Covid. They are not starting from scratch: they have an ongoing track record of offering good children's ministry and there is an excellent lay team, including full resourcing of evening worship.

The Lidbrook Benefice was legally constituted in early 2022, bringing formal recognition to relationship which goes back to 2011. Co-operation during Covid, including a joint Zoom service, brought the parishes closer together. The vacancy has continued to foster a sense of benefice identity and conversations have begun around the service pattern. The PCCs are clear that there are major benefits in working more closely together, and are seeking a priest who will help them resource mission and ministry across the benefice.

The outskirts of Box parish include parts of Rudloe and Hawthorn. 'Heart for Rudloe' is a Fresh Expression which serves people on these estates. With the agreement of the Rector of Corsham, the Priest in Charge of Lidbrook will be pastorally responsible for the Rudloe and Hawthorn areas, including those parts which lie within Corsham parish. This work, and developing other cross-boundary collaboration in mission with the Corsham Team, should occupy about 20% of the Lidbrook Incumbent's time.

Lidbrook is a great opportunity within an Archdeaconry which has several multi-parish rural benefices. I would welcome a conversation with anyone interesting in exploring this post – please do email me at christopher.bryan@bristoldiocese.org and give me a contact number where I can reach you.

With prayers for you in your discernment

Christopher Bryan

Archdeacon of Malmesbury

WELCOME



We are now in Vacancy and have prepared this Profile to introduce you to our Benefice, and to show you our vision and hopes for the future. Thank you for reading it and we hope to meet you soon.

OUR VISION

“The three parishes of Box, Colerne and Ditteridge are standing at what could be a pivotal point in their story. A new benefice has been defined. Anomalies in boundaries have been rationalised. After two very different years, a new normal now offers opportunities which we wish to embrace as we learn more about each other.

We want to be ONE in Christ, sharing a broad range of Anglican church tradition as we worship and honour God as people of all ages and backgrounds. We want to be a confident people, daily seeking and following the teachings of Christ Jesus and inspired by his Holy Spirit. We want to build each other up in faith, to live boldly for our Lord, that his light may be unmissable. We want to love better and be of service to the communities within our very special villages, sharing the story of his salvation. We want to pass on to new generations a Godly thriving Church. We are on a journey and have not yet arrived, but we continue to be a ‘ Church on the way’.

As we have prepared this profile certain shared ideas have crystallised.

1. We are really thankful for our distinct church families, each planted in a unique community. We believe in the local church, in being Church where we live. Attendance may have dropped, but the goodwill of our communities is strong and it is a privilege to be here for our neighbours when they need us. But fewer older people doing this is a struggle to sustain.
2. Therefore as parishes, we need to collaborate more and share skills, strengths and gifts across the benefice; we want to work smarter, not harder. There is no wisdom in duplicating effort and replicating our offering across churches just a few miles apart. This will enable our next incumbent to thrive.

3. We need to think creatively about how we meet the needs of coming generations, provide for young families and children, those who don't attend church and feel excluded or that they would not be welcomed or comfortable, for whatever reason.
4. Community connections are the key to this – getting out of our buildings and into the life of our community, representing Jesus where people live, thrive and struggle.
5. In a nutshell we are three loyal communities, supporting and very much part of each other's special identity but as with so many country parishes, we face many challenges as we seek to grow and expand our worshipping congregations.





LIDBROOK BENEFICE STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

As a Benefice we have identified our areas for growth, the risks we see and the cornerstone strengths we can build on. Naturally, there are points personal to each church, but it is our desire to show our shared concerns and joys.

STRENGTHS

Our greatest strength across all 3 churches are our faithful, loyal and supportive congregations, as well as the work and links we have in the communities. Members of all congregations are involved in a wide array of village clubs and regular social events.

Much strength in the smaller parishes lies in knowing each other and being known, in pastoral care and concern for each other, and in sharing ready opportunities to be meaningfully involved in many practical ways. Everyone is needed, and a diversity of views is accepted within a strong sense of belonging together.

There is a Christian and Benefice presence throughout the villages' social organisations as so many of our worshipers are heavily involved in the clubs.

We are a very welcoming bunch both in our church community and our villages.

St Christopher and St John the Baptist are both in a sound financial position, with buildings in a good state of repair.

Both Colerne and Box have Church of England schools, which have strong links with the churches.

We are very grateful for the support we have from associate and lay ministers and self-supporting clergy.

There is an ability across the group to provide a range of services even without a minister.

WEAKNESSES

General weaknesses voiced across the group always return to the small pool of people we have to look after our churches on a practical and physical level and also with the work we do by running events and organisations in our communities.

The churches themselves can be viewed both positively and negatively - St Thomas à Becket struggles with the Grade 1 listed buildings, lack of adequate heating and accessibility issues and Colerne can struggle with minimal public transport links.

Whilst our churches nestle in beautiful countryside our location so close to Bath and, for St Thomas à Becket in particular, on the A4, can see potential members heading into Bath for more varied options.

OPPORTUNITIES

We are a community with a heart who appreciate the church and church activities and a shared ownership of challenges with a willingness to get involved and help.

Our new minister! We see this as a wonderful opportunity to work towards our vision above and make positive changes to bring our Benefice closer together. The process of creating the parish profile has highlighted that we would like to become closer and see opportunities in sharing services, as well as through community work and groups.

The link with both Church of England schools give us the privilege of working with the village children. Those relationships and outreach opportunities are then cemented through the church groups we run for the children and the annual holiday clubs in Box and Colerne. Whilst very positive, there is much room for growth here.

We have beautiful and varied church buildings with a good mix of facilities, also open outside of services, allowing space to be with God and providing us with opportunities to serve the local community with weddings, baptisms and funerals.

There are ecumenical opportunities in the village and we have services which span the churches and denominations such as The Filling Station and Remembrance services. In addition, we run groups and clubs in the Methodist church in Box village. Colerne has "Colerne Christians Together".

THREATS

As a church community we face falling attendance numbers and an aging congregation, which has practical implications on running events and groups, maintaining the church buildings and we fear burn out.

That decline and loss in attendees manifests itself as a financial threat for St Thomas à Becket in particular.

We are open to change, but it would be remiss not to mention that there are pockets of resistance to this within our congregations.



OUR NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE

We are looking for a leader who loves God and loves people. Someone who catches the vision we feel the Lord has given to us, to share Jesus in this special place, and feels called to take that on, with passion and joy. Our next leader needs to have a heart for our rural communities, our young families and children of all ages, our faithful elderly church members and everyone in between!, someone who can focus on the pastoral care of the people. We are looking for an encourager, a preacher who can inspire, a prayerful person, who can manage the administrative role with efficiency.

An understanding will be needed of the Church's year and what it means to a rural community, and an appreciation and respect for Anglican liturgy and Common Worship.

It will be important to form and meet as a ministry team, sharing with colleagues.

Speaking to our wider village communities, they are looking for a friendly presence, someone who will get to know them, who will listen and make them feel valued even if they do not attend church regularly.

We look forward to welcoming our new Priest in Charge and possible family and to face the future together, building on all that we have established so far, excited about change, new possibilities and ways of doing things, and that we might ALL know that we are in the right place at the right time in harmony with God's will for our lives.

THIS IS US

Welcome to our cluster of: 3 church buildings, a pilgrim chapel, a Filling Station and a pop-up para/family-church in an old shop. We are a collection of communities and custodians of 4 fine historic buildings. The recent formalising of our "group" into a Benefice has ignited in us a yearning to, build stronger connections, better share skills and resources, and to encourage each other across our parish boundaries.

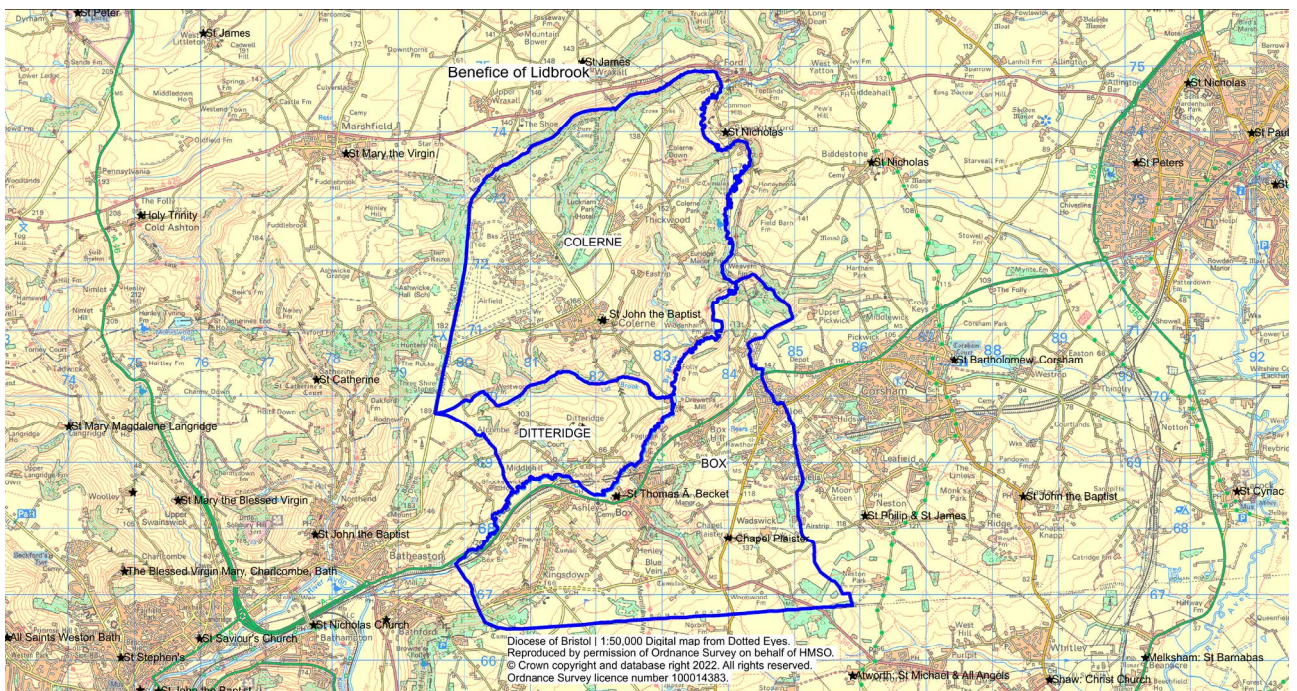
WHERE WE ARE



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty, just 7 miles from the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath, <https://visitbath.co.uk>, with all its facilities for culture and leisure; and having Chippenham, Corsham and Bristol close by, we really are uniquely placed to enjoy the best of all worlds. From Colerne the distance to the church of St Thomas a Becket, Box is 4.6 miles and to the church of St Christopher, Ditteridge is 3.5 miles.

The Benefice is served by excellent road and rail links: (M4, 15 minutes, with links to M5 to South West and north to Midlands and M6) (By train, Chippenham to London 1 hour) and there is an international airport at Bristol (20 miles).



OUR PARISHES

THE VILLAGE OF COLERNE (CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST)

There is evidence of human settlement in Colerne the “Village on the Hill” since the Iron Age and Colerne is mentioned in the Domesday book in 1086. At the southern tip of the Cotswold Hills, it has a history built on agriculture, stone and water mills. The current population numbers around 3000 souls. Some trace family back through generations and others settled after a life in the military, or came to look at a house and fell in love with the place. The Parish includes a military base, one time airfield, RAF Colerne until 1976 and now Azimghur Barracks, the home of 21 Signals Regiment (due to depart in 2028). Other settlements are the hamlets of Euridge and Thickwood and the Parish includes wedding venues, Euridge Manor and Luckham Park Hotel and Spa.

Despite its proximity to Bath Colerne is “off the beaten track” which has provided protection from over-development and helped it keep a genuine community. The village is built along a limestone ridge 545 feet above sea level, overlooking the picturesque Box Valley. At one end and visible from miles around, is the Parish church of St John the Baptist. A walk from the church gate, through the Market Place and down the High Street and you’ll find two well-stocked shops, one of which includes a Post Office, two popular pubs, two clubs, a florist, a hairdresser and two medical practices. Turn right and you’ll find the Church of England Primary School, Ofsted rated Good in all areas and home to 260 pupils. The end of the village is bounded at the far end by a large sports field and much loved allotments. It is surrounded by spectacular countryside with a choice of over 40 walks from its centre.

There’s something special about the people of Colerne; a self sufficient, rounded community that is criss-crossed with deep, mutually supportive connections. A quick glance at the back page of the Parish Magazine reveals 39 different clubs, groups or organisations, all locally led, managed and supported. So the chances are, you will be able to pursue your interests right here in the village.

Many find it easy to work from home here, or commute to larger centres. Colerne is home for a real cross section of professions and trades and has a high concentration of artists.



The military community is dynamic and enriching and supported by a strong branch of the British Legion. Both are well represented on Act of Remembrance, which includes a parade prior to the act of Remembrance and a Service in church.

Our retired community also thrives here, enjoying the beauty of the place, pursuing different interests and having the opportunity to volunteer and enjoy a sense of purpose. There's the musical theatre group, regular live bands, the quilting group, local history group and the recently formed "Wild Colerne" eco group, WI and Gardening Club, to name just some. There is a popular café and a well run Luncheon Club for over 60s. Or you can just walk the dog with friends.

Colerne is a place where all ages can thrive, be their best selves, dream dreams and enjoy good company at one of the many clubs or pubs.



THE VILLAGE OF BOX WITH CHAPEL PLAISTER (CHURCH OF ST THOMAS A BECKET, CHAPEL PLAISTER)

Box village lies along the main A4, the main route from Bristol to London before the M4 was built. It has a population of around 3,500 and has easy access and public transport to Bath and Chippenham, both a 15-minute car drive away, where major shops, theatres, cinemas and restaurants offer a wide choice for all needs. Box itself has two main food shops, one attached to the petrol station, three pubs, two coffee shops, an Indian restaurant, a retail plant nursery, a butchers, pharmacy and post office. Our own Doctors surgery serves us well. Central to the village is the local C of E primary school and the Selwyn Hall adjacent to a large car park and the recreation ground. The hall houses a library and has additional meeting rooms as well as the main hall with a stage.

There are many sporting facilities, a large central recreation ground with play areas, tennis courts, hard basketball court, a bowls club, boules at the local public house, a cricket pitch and even a rifle club. Less than two miles away is an excellent golf course.

The village has so many thriving clubs and societies catering for all tastes, gardening, history, photography, a gentleman's group, two WI's, art, scouts, youth groups and a very thriving pantomime group and community choir to name a few.

Box is well known in the area for its annual 'Revels' event, taking place in June on the Rec in which the whole village comes together. It has a different theme each year with many stalls, children's funfair and competitions. Other places of interest include the famous Brunel's Box Tunnel, which inspired the Reverend Awdry, who lived opposite, to write the Thomas the Tank Engine stories. Peter Gabriel's New World recording studios also mean that the occasional celebrity can be seen wandering through the lanes. Being alongside the Bybrook, the area offers some outstanding walks & views from its hills towards Bath, Colerne & Ditteridge. The hamlets of Box Common, Chapel Plaister, Ashley & Kingsdown offer even more areas to explore. The parish also includes Rudloe a mile or so up the hill towards Corsham, with some army housing and therefore transient families.



THE VILLAGE OF DITTERIDGE (ST CHRISTOPHER)

The parish is bounded by the Lidbrook, the Bybrook, and to the West by the diocesan boundary, covering just over two miles West to East and one mile South to North, where it touches the Fosse Way at a point near the ancient Shire Stones. The whole area is within the civil parish of Box, and is comprised largely of open farmland and scattered dwellings. The Parish Church of St Christopher stands in the centre in the small hamlet of Ditteridge, which is largely a Conservation Area.

Of the three ecclesiastical parishes of the Benefice Ditteridge is the smallest. Within the area there are no housing estates or new housing developments. There is very little affordable housing, and planning permission for a new build is very rarely granted, making it difficult for new couples to establish a home.

The number of electors on the civic roll is 125 and there are about 25 children of all ages. Employment within the parish is in the main connected with the agricultural industry or in the service sector, others commuting for work to Bath or local towns; a high proportion are retired, semi-retired, or work from home.



Simon Morley
Church Warden



David Rowlands
Church Warden



THE RECTORY

COLERNE RECTORY

The house is about 200 years old, with 4 bedrooms. The master bedroom has an ensuite. It has an orchard garden at the back with high stone walls, it is approximately 150 metres from the church.

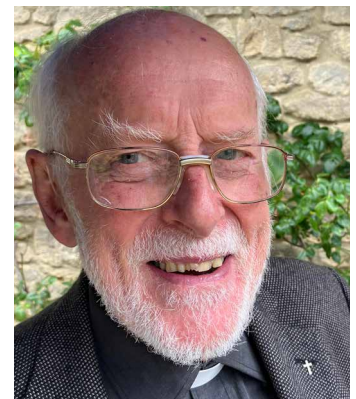


OUR PEOPLE, LEADERS AND STAFF

The church of St Christopher

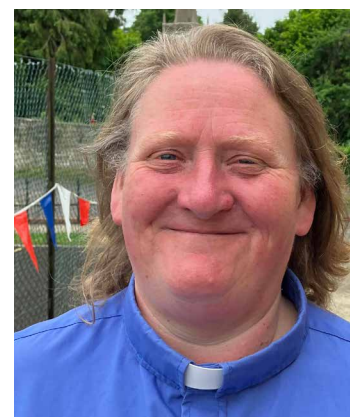
As a small parish Ditteridge was long served by retired or house-for-duty priests as rector, and then by a self-supporting minister who was living in the parish and licenced to the Rural Dean. When the parish became part of a joint benefice with Box, the rectory was sold and Box vicarage became the benefice house. The SSM retired from secular employment (as a headmaster) and was delegated with primary pastoral responsibility for Ditteridge. This continued as a working agreement when the incumbent post became part time.

The Reverend Canon John Ayers, self supporting, has been officiating at St Christopher's for many years, semi retired.



The Church of St Thomas a Becket and Chapel Plaister

Revd Clair Southgate is our associate minister, is self supporting and she is a full time teaching assistant at Box Primary School. She generally does not lead services during the school holidays.



Currently there are six members of the congregation who arrange and lead the informal services on the first Sunday of the month.



[Lee Towler](#) & [Denise Brighten](#) are our two churchwardens and have both been in their role for two years.



St Thomas à Becket has a part time paid administrator, [Angela Dew](#), who very occasionally will assist with administration across the wider Benefice.

The Church of St John the Baptist



[Margaret Edmonds](#)
(LLM)



[Rob Featherstone](#)
Church Warden



[Michael Brzezicki](#)
Church Warden

SOME STATS

Place	Population	Electoral Roll	Regular Worshippers	Average Main Service Attendance	No of Services Monthly	Homegroup Membership
Box	3,500	63	30	20	11	12
Colerne	3,000	44	53	23	14	22
Ditteridge	145	55	50	15	4/5	n/a
Chapel Plaister	Included with Box	Included with Box	10	6	2	n/a

	Baptisms		Weddings		Funerals	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Colerne	4	7	8	6	10	8
Ditteridge	5	4	1	0	8	8
Box	6	4	4	3	1	12

OUR SERVICES AND CORPORATE WORSHIP

Date	St Thomas à Becket Box	Chapel Plaister	St Christopher Ditteridge	St John the Baptist Colerne
1st Sunday	10.30 am Morning Worship Lay led 6 pm Zoom Compline (lay led)	6pm Compline (Lay led)	10.30 am Family service Holy Communion	9.30 am Service of the Word
2nd Sunday	10.30 am Holy Communion		6pm Evensong (sometimes lay led)	9.30 am Holy Communion 6 pm Evensong (Lay Led)
3rd Sunday	10.30 am Zoom Service	6pm Evensong (often lay led)	10.30am Holy Communion	9.30 am Family Service (Lay Led) 6 pm Rejoice & Praise (Lay Led)
4th Sunday	10.30 am Holy Communion		6pm Evensong (sometimes lay led)	9.30 am Holy Communion 6 pm Taize (Lay Led)
5th Sunday	10.30 am Reflective Holy Communion		Morning Prayer (sometimes lay led)	9.30 am Holy Communion 6 pm Evensong (Lay Led)

Usually the priest-in-charge takes the morning service either at Box or Colerne, and there is a high level of lay involvement. We recognise that the current service pattern needs to be reviewed with our next priest-in-charge.

HOW WE WORSHIP

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, COLERNE

Our pattern is two Services on Sunday and one mid-week, which is followed by Open House (tea/coffee and cake). All evening Services are lay led and varied. Sundays are launched by our award-winning all-age bellringers and supported by readers and intercessors. We have an excellent organist and love traditional and modern hymns. We have a small but committed Sunday choir and an occasional choir that gathers for Christmas and Easter and some weddings and funerals. The recent addition of state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, opens a space for more contemporary styles of music and worship and we are beginning to introduce these in our Family Service. And we have just won a silver award for our parish magazine.

<http://www.boxlink.org.uk/index.php/parish-magazine>

Charity

“The Friends of Colerne Church” is an independent charity but is assisted by the church family and organises the May Fair and the Village Bonfire Night.

We lead the fundraising for Christian Aid. We support the local joint-church foodbank and provide a “Little Larder” for locals in short-term food need. We support mission partners in Burundi and give to different local and overseas charities over the year. We support the Historic Churches Trust through the “Ride and Stride” annually, and an Anglican Convent in St Paul’s Bristol with our Harvest Festival gifts. We are also a registered Eco-Church which strives to encourage care for creation within the churchyard and in partnership with the “Wild Colerne” group.



ST CHRISTOPHER'S

St Christopher's has long followed and valued a central broad church tradition. With copies of Common Worship available for all, the congregation comfortably uses the rich liturgical provision of the book to the full, finding place for both formality and informality as occasion demands. There is a small robed choir, augmented for festivals and special services. There is a team of sidesmen, a rota of lay members to read the lessons and lead the intercessions, and children are involved in family services. A lay team, who have followed an in-house course of training, regularly lead non-eucharistic worship once or twice a month using homilies published by the Redemptorist Press.

Much of the church's activity revolves around the liturgical year. In normal times Advent and Christmas include a community drama, carol service, a crib service, Mass and Family Service.

Other than Ash Wednesday and Good Friday there are no regular mid-week services. Provision for mid week services is made at the other churches in the benefice.

The Patronal Festival in July and the Harvest Festival on the first Sunday of October spill out into a community ploughman's picnic and a very popular harvest supper.

We now have one service each Sunday, alternating morning and evening worship as follows.

Family Service (HC) – Evensong – Holy Communion – Evensong.
Fifth Sunday, Morning Prayer on Sundays.

The average attendance on a 'normal' Sunday in 2018 was 32 and in 2021 was 22.

Mission and evangelism

The twin object of St Christopher's is to be a place of worship and prayer, and a community of Christian witness and service.

As a unit of the visible church, St. Christopher's seeks to be a congregation of faithful people in which prayer is made, the word of God is heard and the sacraments are ministered. It seeks to be a broad fellowship which seeks to encourage and support one another in obedience to Christ's command to love our neighbours as ourselves, sharing the good news of the kingdom of God. It seeks to be a servant and focus for the whole community, a form of church to which all can belong.

The strategy for evangelism has always been the 'springboard' model of

contact > nurture > commitment > growth > contact



In more formal terms of mission at home and overseas, St Christopher's has a planned commitment as a percentage of fundraising to support The Church Mission Society and The Leprosy Mission, and supports Christian Aid via carol singing at Christmas. The annual contribution to the common purse of the diocese is also in part regarded as mission support to areas where support is most needed.

ST THOMAS A BECKET & CHAPEL PLAISTER

The communion services at St Thomas à Becket are usually led by the Priest in Charge, who is robed. Other members of the congregation participate in some parts of the service, reading, intercessions etc.

The lay led services are much more informal, where new worship songs are often introduced with words and visual effects projected onto the screen, the lay leader giving the talk. Gifts and strengths from others are encouraged and included. There is opportunity for prayer after the services, as well as the customary coffee & chat.

We have one weekly homegroup within the church community and an additional ecumenical online homegroup. A prayer group currently meet each Monday morning at 8am in the church.

Music

Music is provided by the keyboard. We have one main pianist and two more supporting, all three being members of the congregation. The existing organ is unplayable and the cost of repair is prohibitive for the time being.

For Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Christingle family & lay led services we are often accompanied by instruments such as drums, guitars and flutes, played by a small band of young musicians.

Our services contain a wide range of music, ranging from traditional hymns, to more modern hymns and worship songs. A choir is not in attendance every Sunday, but does preside for some of the church festivals and other special occasions.

Communion services tend to be more formal than other services, but there is a generally relaxed atmosphere at all services.

Services at Chapel Plaister

The service of Compline at Chapel Plaister is led by a member of the congregation. We have three people involved with this on a rota basis. The Evensong service is led by the priest in charge and occasionally by one of the lay team when the priest is unable to attend. At present two musicians are paid to play at the evening Chapel Plaister services.



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The first thing to say is that this is a great place to have children and to be a child.

In Ditteridge the main provision for children and young people is through active involvement in the monthly Family Service and seasonal events.....

Both Box and Colerne have very good primary schools and pre-school and play group provision

The older children have the choice of 3 excellent secondary schools in Chippenham and Corsham.

<https://www.sheldonschool.co.uk/our-community/videos-and-virtual-tours/>

<https://www.hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk/our-school/heads-welcome/>

https://www.corsham.wilts.sch.uk/_site/data/files/school%20prospectus/F4BCAC5177EB521EB10A192462C247B5.pdf

There are also schools in Bath as well as a number of good private schools, with a declared Christian ethos.

In Colerne there is also Calder House School, an independent privately owned co-educational day school for pupils aged between 7 and 13 and offers small classes for children with special educational needs (Dyslexia and other specific learning/language difficulties). Pupils are encouraged to enjoy school while developing the skills they need to successfully return to mainstream education.

The links between churches and primary schools are strong and supportive, with regular visits from the priest to lead Collective Worship and termly trips by school to the church buildings for Christmas, Easter, Harvest, musical events and end of year celebrations. It's standing room only for parents who are very much part of these important village milestones. Colerne welcomes small groups of year 6 children monthly, to its mid-week Holy Communion Services as part of the school RE curriculum.



At Box we have [Grace](#), an ecumenical after school church club, which takes place in the Methodist Church on the second Wednesday for 0-11yrs.

In Colerne we have [Sparkles](#) Baby and Toddler Group on the 3rd Thursday of the month and the [Shine](#) children's Group (0-11yrs) on the 3rd Friday of the month, both followed on Sunday by a Family Service in which children are front and centre. For older children we have [Toast](#), which is held in Box to provide that informal space young teens to ask questions, study scripture and yes – eat toast.

There is a [Halloween drop-in](#) for trick-or-treaters using the Methodist Church as a venue in Box, which attracts well over 200 children, parents and a few dogs. The free bacon sandwiches are a big draw, as well as crafts and a prayer table, and In Colerne there is a lively [Light Party](#) which features party games, crafts sparkly lights and balloons.

At Christmas we have [The Box Nativity Trail in Box](#) and in [Colerne a Crib Service](#).



[Heart for Rudloe](#)

This is an informal service introduced several years ago by our previous priest in charge as an outreach to Rudloe, an area within the parish some 1.5 miles from the main village. It currently now meets on the second Sunday afternoon of the month in the MOD Community Centre at Rudloe which is now registered for baptisms, for local children and their parents, some of whom are forces families. Various activities along with some light food refreshments are provided by a small team of dedicated members of the congregation in the form of worship, story, music & prayer. There is a real emphasis for special occasions within the church calendar, ie. Christmas and Easter. Average attendance is 15 children & 15 adults.

Regular planning sessions with a group of parents ensure the smooth running of this ministry. This is vital outreach to this community within our care.

In August we jointly run a [Holiday Club](#) for the whole benefice. This is a real success story in terms of sharing skills and resources. A benefice team prepares the same content and local volunteers adapt this to meet the needs of the two communities where they are.

Both communities have play parks, skate parks and all the usual uniformed groups and sports clubs, many of which have been faithfully led by the same people for decades. Our villages are safe and friendly communities in which families can raise happy, confident and secure children.



ECUMENICAL LINKS

BOX AND DITTERIDGE

Throughout the year there are many services where we come together, sometimes at one of the churches. For example:

- The Methodist Anniversary Service
- Patronal Festivals for St Christopher and St Thomas à Becket
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- The World Day of Prayer
- The Act of Remembrance at the joint Box and Ditteridge War Memorial in Box is well supported by the churches of the two parishes, by the civic authorities and by the uniformed organisations.

THE FILLING STATION

On the second Tuesday of every month, The Filling Station opens its doors in the Methodist Hall. This is a lively, ecumenical, café style service, with a worship band, guest speakers, fresh coffee and muffins. The service attracts worshippers from a wide area surrounding Box. Local clergy have been involved in the TFS organizing team, and often spoke at the meetings.

The Filling Station has now spread throughout the country and is mainly aimed at rural communities.

www.thefillingstation.org/box

COLERNE CONNECTIONS

Colerne is also home to an Evangelical Chapel, and a House Church. Christians also worship in a number of other churches in the surrounding area. A cross-denominational group within the village has evolved and has adopted the identity of Colerne Christians Together. CCT supports the Colerne On-line Alpha Course, a number of homegroups, the Men's and Women's Breakfasts, Prayer Walks. It has also formed a large choir, which loves to worship together for festivals, weddings and funerals, famously around the village singing Carols at Christmas. Colerne Christians Together provides ways of discipling and evangelizing in our village context, reflecting a strong call to share the love of Jesus in both traditional and fresh and creative ways, in this special part of the UK.

SOCIAL EVENTS

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, COLERNE

Most of what we do outside the Church Services form part of our charitable activities. We also take birthday cakes to Church family over 80. We have organised Skittles evenings and pot-luck suppers for volunteers. As numbers grew these morphed into Harvest lunches in the Village Hall. Whilst the occasional social event for Church Family is good, we all heartily support different clubs, groups and organisations in the village and are often the church point of contact within them.

ST THOMAS À BECKET BOX

Many of our 'regular' social events have not yet kicked in after the pandemic, but Tea & Cakes at the Revels, described earlier was our latest social & fund raising event which took place in June. Other events have been Burns Night, Open Gardens and a Halloween 'Drop in' for the whole village. The Open Gardens event is often accompanied by a flower festival in church.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S DITTERIDGE

Opportunities for contact come through personal friendship, neighbourliness, outgoing community events ,for example the very successful film evenings, carol singing around the parish, an annual Ploughman's Picnic for the whole community , and a very popular Harvest Supper

Many of those who attend at Ditteridge for worship are also active in a range of organisations in Box and the wider benefice.

One of the farms in the Parish, while being run as a working and thriving farm, also houses 'Jamie's Farm', a charity which offers groups of often troubled young people from urban settings the experience of living on a farm in the countryside for a while. Jamie's Farm has a good relationship with the church.

Also in the parish is Bybrook House, formerly an establishment run by the Church of England Children's Society and now a private residential nursing home. There have been close ties with the church.

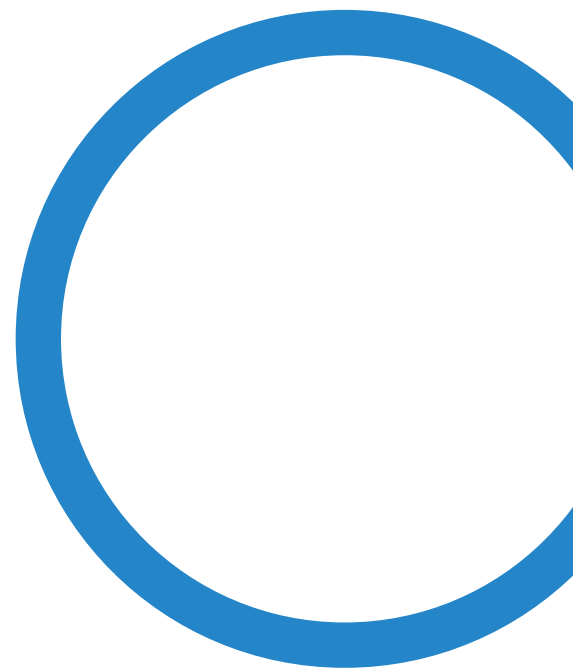


OUR FINANCES

COLERNE PCC

Colerne has always met its recommended Parish Share and is supported by regular givers and legacies.

Balance Sheet – at 31 December 2021		
Assets	December 2021	2020
Cash in Hand	£557	£211
Bank Accounts		
Lloyds General Fund	£2,408	£2,243
Lloyds Burundi fund	£211	£0
Lloyds Savings account	£2,578	£0
COIF deposits	£97,118	£95,060
TOTAL	£102,872	£97,514



Represented by:		
Restricted funds		
COIF Fabric fund	£77,411	£74,110
Church Building Fabric	£72,738	£70,108
Churchyard/GoR Fabric	£4,673	£4,002
COIF Organ fund	£10,100	£5,083
COIF Floodlighting fund	£5,232	£4,453
Mower fund	£1,296	£1,296
Bell fund	£2,690	£3,238
Choir fund	£1,255	£1,582
Clock fund	£962	£962
Facilities fund	£0	£1,990
Burundi Mission fund	£211	£0
TOTAL	£99,157	£92,714
Unrestricted fund		
General fund	£3,715	£4,800
TOTAL	£102,872	£97,514

ST THOMAS À BECKET, BOX

Audited Annual Accounts

St Thomas à Becket has a General Fund and a Fabric Fund while Chapel Plaister has a separate Fabric Fund.

Our Parish Share

Our Parish Share for 2021 was £25,544, the amount pledged for the year. A large percentage of the congregation have signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme, which has buffered our income during the last difficult year when live church services were very restricted.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021				
General Fund		2021		2020
Balance 1 Jan 2021		£3879		£1902
Receipts				
Voluntary Receipts	£39,068		£33,439	
Other Ordinary Receipts	£5,808		£5,458	
Other Activities	£18,230		£11,256	
Total Receipts	£63,106		£50,153	
Payments				
Ministry	£28,949		£27,528	
Church and Services	£11,177		£12,145	
Other Ordinary Parish	£718		£620	
Expenditure				
Other Activities	£7470		£7,883	
Charities	£1,000		£0	
Total Payments	£49,314		£48,176	
Surplus for the Year		£13,792		£1,977
Balance at 31 Dec 2021		£17,671		£3,879



The following is a summary of expenditure under various heads

General Account	2021	2020
Receipts		
Incoming receipts from donors	£15,466	£15,206
Other voluntary resources	£3,475	£3,454
Income from operating activities (fees)	£4,146	£2,302
Total Receipts	£24,954	£24,962

Expenditure		
Transfer to investment account		£500
Activities related to the church's ministry	£13,536	£13,834*
Church running expenses	£1,578	£2,086
Church maintenance	£2,141	£2,097
Reclaimed from Fabric Fund	£5,002	£2,382
Church management and administration	£2,047	£979
Total Expenditure	£24,304	£21,886

FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT	
Opening balance	£176
Income	£1,863
Expenditure	£1,367
Carried over	£673

** Most of this sum represents our contribution to Parish Share, 78% of which goes to support the provision of parochial clergy.*

The majority of donors exercise stewardship through an envelope scheme or by direct bankers order, enabling the recovery of tax through gift aid.

The church has an adequate fabric fund to call upon for regular maintenance.

Lacking any historic resources the decision was made about 20 years ago to establish an endowment fund, the income from which to serve as 'pump priming' to the general fund, which otherwise depends on direct giving for ongoing costs.

The fundraising account normally is ringfenced for mission.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

QUALIFICATIONS / TRAINING

Essential

- Ordained priest within the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, or a Church whose orders it recognises
- Have satisfactorily completed Initial Ministerial Education
- Willingness to engage in further training that enhances the skills of community leadership

Desirable

- Having completed a recognised course of study on Fresh Expressions/Mixed Economy Church

EXPERIENCE

Essential

- Leading a church in discerning, setting, holding and implementing its vision under God
- Sharing ministry as appropriate and working collaboratively with others, (including clergy colleagues, church wardens, PCC, Staff and volunteers) so that individuals gifts and talents are identified and used effectively in any given situation or task.

Desirable

- Incumbent-level ministry in a parochial setting
- Ministry within a multi-parish benefice
- Ministry within a rural setting

KNOWLEDGE / SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Essential

- Sustain effective working relationships with schools and enable a benefice to offer quality Children's and Young People's Ministry.
- Leading mature and thoughtful Common Worship for all ages
- Offering quality pastoral care through the occasional offices, so that they can become a bridge to faith in Jesus

Desirable

- Ability to connect with Forces families

GENERAL ATTRIBUTES

Essential

- A team player and leader who can build on shared strengths to draw together a diverse team
- The ability to prioritise their own, and benefice, activities according to a missional strategy

Desirable

- An accessible, friendly presence who values all, whether or not they attend the church (yet!)

OTHER

Essential

- A passion for learning and personal development.
- Willingness to work to parish, diocesan and national safeguarding policies and lead the parishes in adopting exemplary practice
- Ability to travel around the benefice in a timely and efficient fashion

ROLE DESCRIPTION

RECTOR OF THE LIDBROOK BENEFICE

SECTION ONE: DETAILS OF POST	
Type of Role:	Full time stipendiary
Name of benefice:	Lidbrook
Deanery:	Chippenham
Archdeaconry:	Malmesbury
Conditions of Service:	Please refer to Statements of Particulars document which will be issued in conjunction with this role description
Key contact for Clergy Terms of Service:	Archdeacon of Malmesbury. This role falls within the Clergy Terms of Service formally known as Common Tenure. The HR Manager is the designated person by the Bishop of Bristol to issue the Statement of Particulars for the post holder.
Accountability	Priests share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church. Whilst, as an office holder, the individual is expected to lead and prioritise work in line with the purpose of the role, they are encouraged to inform the incumbent (in case of assistant priests) and Archdeacon and Church Warden/s (in case of incumbents) about any issues exceptional or otherwise that have the potential to affect ongoing delivery of ministry
Additional Responsibility	The outskirts of Box parish include parts of Rudloe and Hawthorn. 'Heart for Rudloe' is a Fresh Expression which serves people on these estates. With the agreement of the Rector of Corsham, the Vicar of Lidbrook will be pastorally responsible for the Rudloe and Hawthorn areas, including those parts which lie within Corsham parish. This work, leading 'Heart for Rudloe' or equivalent, and developing other cross-boundary collaboration in mission with the Corsham Team, should occupy about 20% of the Lidbrook Vicar's time
Anticipated time Allocation	Around 20%

SECTION TWO: CONTEXT

Wider Context

Our vision as a Diocese is Transforming Church Together.

Our four main Strategic Outcomes are:

- a form of church in every community, and a church in which all can participate, thrive, and belong
- people who worship God in every aspect of their lives, and throughout their whole lives
- a diocese recognised as a powerful force for gospel change
- a sustainable diocese

These priorities are supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops and much more. We are inviting benefices and their priests to share a vision and to work with colleagues across boundaries to grow the Kingdom of God.

We encourage a priest, in conversation with their Area Dean and Archdeacon, to have a ministerial interest beyond the benefice which is a personal specialism and which is available to the wider church. Above all, we want all our priests to flourish in ministry and to deepen their enjoyment of God

Local Context

The Lidbrook Benefice was legally constituted in early 2022, bringing formal recognition to relationship which goes back to 2011. Co-operation during Covid, including a joint Zoom service, brought the parishes closer together. The vacancy has continued to foster a sense of benefice identity and conversations have begun around the service pattern. The PCCs are clear that there are major benefits in working more closely together, and are seeking a priest who will help them resource mission and ministry across the benefice.

Box is an attractive village close to Bath with lots of opportunities for community ministry. The beautiful church has been intelligently reordered to provide modern facilities. The tiny chapel of Chapel Plaister is also included in Box parish. The schools have good links with the church, both in Box and at Colerne.

On top of the hill, Colerne has a traditional village centre and an extensive surrounding area which includes the largest area of military housing in the Diocese. The ancient church building is well maintained and, significantly, the regular pattern of worship includes provision for all ages.

Out of all the Diocese's churches in tiny villages, Ditteridge is one of the strongest. There are robust finances, some facilities in the building, committed lay leaders, a retired priest exercising a focal ministry, and excellent support from the village.

The churches wish to grow their work with children and young people, develop lay ministry, and strengthen finances post-Covid. They are not starting from scratch: they have an ongoing track record of offering good children's ministry and there is an excellent lay team, including full resourcing of evening worship.

SECTION THREE: ROLE PURPOSE AND KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

General:

A. To exercise the cure of souls shared with the bishop in this benefice in collaboration with colleagues including the praying of the Daily Office, the administration of the sacraments and preaching

B. To have regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy (as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Guidelines for Professional Conduct for the Clergy) and other relevant legislation including

- bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making him known to those in your care.
- instructing the parishioners in the Christian faith
- preparing candidates for confirmation
- diligently visiting the parishioners of the benefice, particularly those who are sick and infirm
- providing spiritual counsel and advice.
- consulting with the parochial church councils on matters of general concern and importance to the benefice.
- bringing the needs of the world before God in intercession
- calling your hearers to repentance and declaring in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins
- blessing people in God's name
- preparing people for their death
- discerning and fostering the gifts of all God's people
- being faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us

C. Care and development of themselves and their personal relationship, including adequate time for family life, friendship, recreation, renewal and personal health, through taking a weekly day off and their full holiday entitlement

D. To share in the wider work of the deanery and diocese as appropriate, for the building up of the whole Body of Christ

Key responsibilities specific to the local situation:

- Leading the church in discerning, setting, holding and implementing its vision
- Discern and develop links with the wider community and nurture partnerships in service, including with other churches and with other Church of England ministers
- Sharing ministry as appropriate and working collaboratively with others, so that individuals' gifts and talents are identified, encouraged, developed and used effectively
- Sustain effective working relationships with schools and enable the benefice to offer quality Children's and Young People's Ministry.
- Work with PCCs to increase collaboration across the benefice and organize parish life according to a missional strategy
- Pastoral and evangelistic ministry to people of all ages
- Oversee, manage and work with employees and volunteers across a range of roles inc. Administrator
- Worship and preaching which relates to all ages and transforms lives
- Implement and maintain good governance
- Implement and work to, Safeguarding and other key policies
- Oversee the care, maintenance, development and usage of the buildings.

The key responsibilities listed above may be supported by long and short term objectives to be agreed between the post holder and the incumbent (in the case of an assistant priest) or the Archdeacon and Church Wardens (in the case of incumbents)

Other responsibilities

- Participate in the Bishop's Ministerial Development Review scheme and engage in Continuing Ministerial Development
- Meet regularly with a Work Coach; work collegially across boundaries especially with the Rector and Ministry Team in the Corsham Team; participate in Chapter and Synod
- Carry out any other duties and responsibilities as required in line with the benefice needs.
- Take care of their wellbeing including health and safety and building a good repertoire of spiritual and psychological strategies for self care.

SECTION FOUR: BENEFICE SUMMARY

The Benefice of

Benefice: Lidbrook Benefice

Patron(s): The Bishop of Bristol; New College Oxford

Ministers: Rev'd John Ayres; Rev'd Clair Southgate, Margaret Edmonds (LLM)

Benefice paid staff: Administrator.

Buildings: Box, Colerne, Ditteridge and Chapel Plaister church buildings

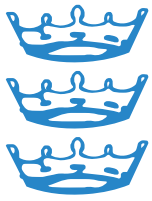
Churchyard(s): Box (closed), Colerne and Ditteridge

Church Tradition: Central

Pastoral Reorganisation proposals: None

School with whom there is an ongoing relationship: Box and Colerne

[For more detailed information, please refer to the Parish Profile.](#)



THE DIOCESE OF BRISTOL



The Diocese of Bristol is the Church of England across Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Wiltshire and Swindon. There are 30,000 people worshipping regularly in more than 200 churches, led by hundreds of clergy who we train and provide. Around 15,000 children and young people attend our 69 church schools, while chaplains serve in institutions across our region.

The Diocese of Bristol is presided over by the Bishop of Bristol, Rt Revd Vivienne Faull. The Bishop of Bristol is supported by Rt Revd Dr Lee Rayfield, the Suffragan Bishop of Swindon, Venerable Christopher Bryan, the Archdeacon of Malmesbury and Venerable Neil Warwick, Archdeacon of Bristol.

Our emerging diocesan strategy is titled *Transforming Church. Together*; its vision: *Humanity Reconciled, Creation Restored*. It embraces the values of creativity, openness, bravery and generosity. It emphasises that across the diocese we are **HERE WITH YOU**, with our neighbours who Christ has called us to serve.

The Diocesan Support Services exist to support our identity, vision and priorities. Based at the Diocesan Office to the north of Bristol and made up of 50 employees and volunteers, we serve ministers, parishes and schools by expressing vision, strengthening relationships, empowering people, maximizing resources and developing structures. We offer training, consultancy, advice in a range of areas, highlight and share best practice across the Diocese and manage different aspects of the life of the Diocese.

Come and join a strong and committed team.