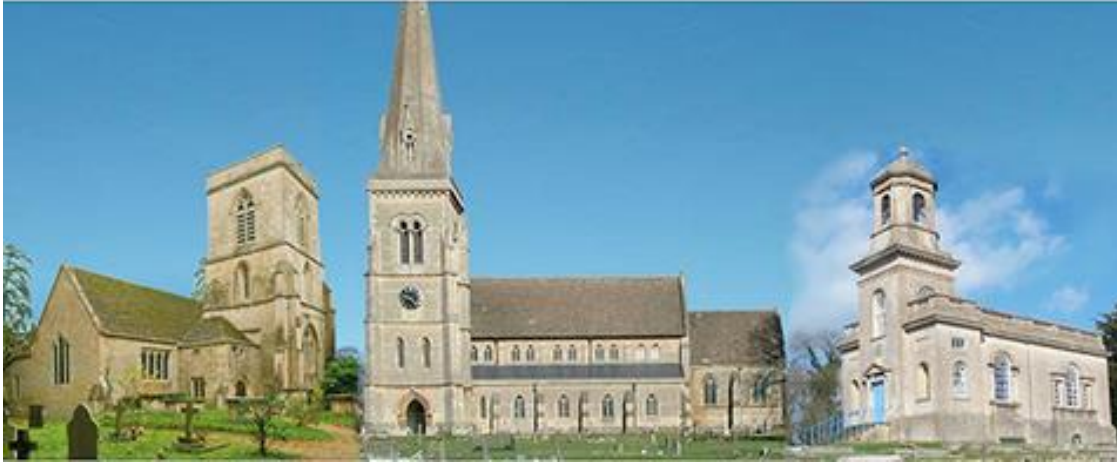




Diocese of Bristol

Greenways Benefice Profile for 2023 Curacy Opportunity



St Peter's Langley Burrell

St Paul's Chippenham

St Nicholas Hardenhuish

An exciting opportunity awaits the right person to serve their curacy in the Greenways Benefice, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

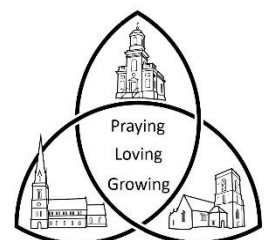
Greenways Benefice consists of three churches:
St Paul Chippenham, St Peter's Langley Burrell and St Nicholas Hardenhuish.

We offer you a supportive benefice and leadership team in which to explore, develop and grow. Opportunities abound to lead and develop current or new ministries. We are three varied church worshipping communities offering a variety in worship and have strong links to the wider community as we live out our faith.

Please see the benefice profile for more detailed information.

If you are interested in finding out more. Feel free to ring Rev Si Dunn on 01249 324944 for a chat or email greenwaysvicar@stpaulsweb.org.uk

If you feel guided to explore this post, please contact the Bristol Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Sue Gent, on sue.gent@bristoldiocese.org

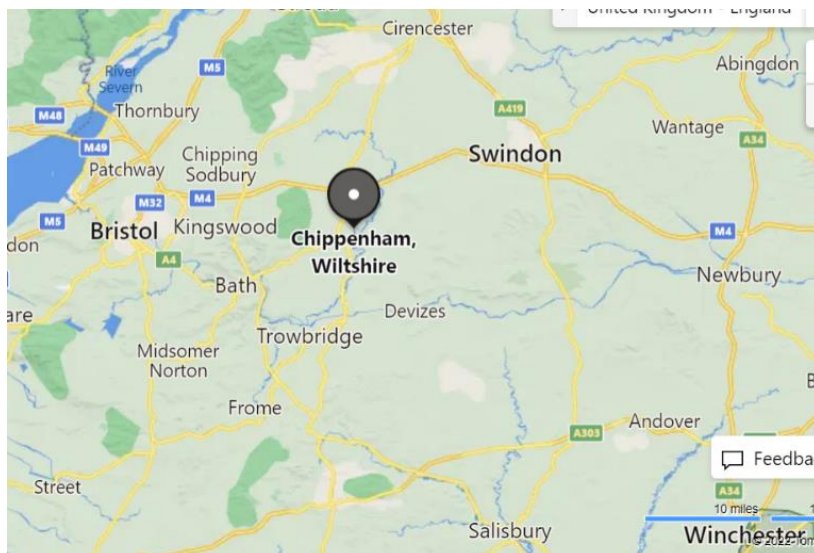


Loving as Jesus loves, Praying as he prays, and Growing in Christ to make him known

The Wider Context

Greenways Benefice is on the northern side of the growing market town of Chippenham, Wiltshire.

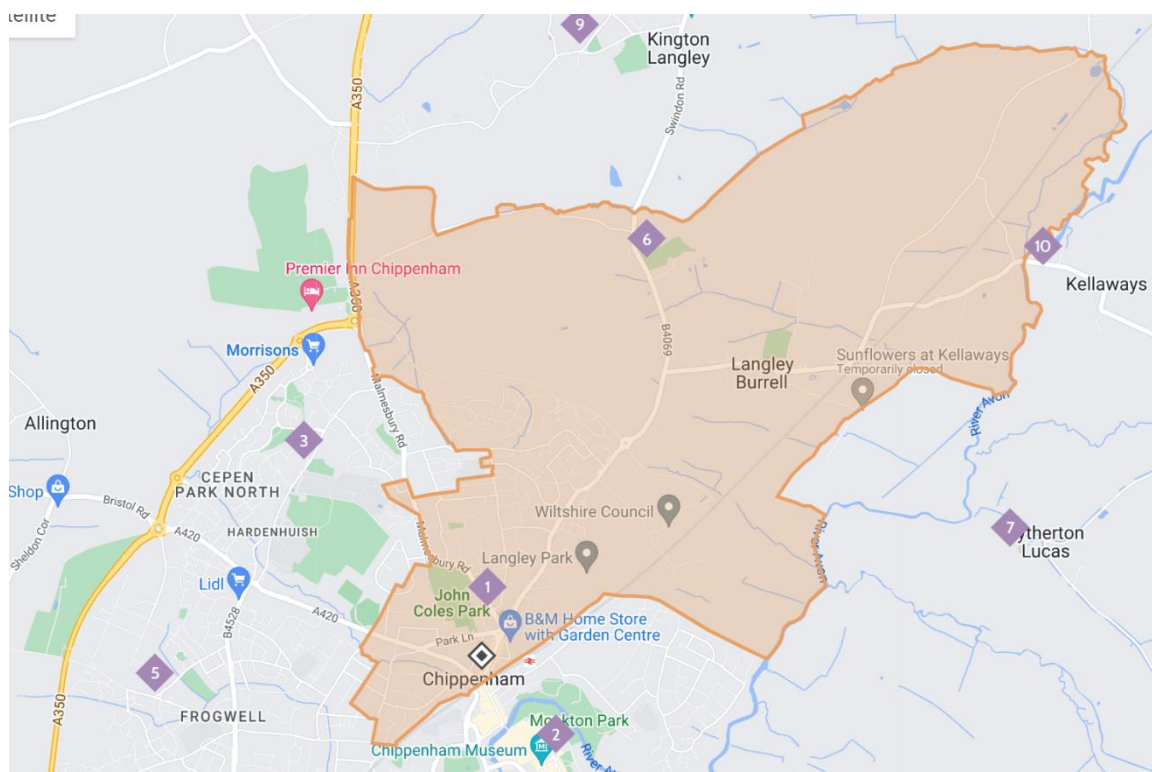
The market town of Chippenham sits towards the geographic “centre” of our Diocese, roughly halfway between Bristol and Swindon. It is linked by dual carriageway to the M4 junction 17 some 3.5 miles to the north and the main trainline through to London. The town’s population was 45,620 in 2018 and continues to expand today. The Benefice population is currently in the region of 12,500 with housing being built all the time. Chippenham might best be described as a market town with



several small industrial estates around the town which are home to many small businesses as well as some bigger names such as Siemens and the head offices of Wincanton Plc. There are also a growing number of housing estates surrounding the town as the excellent motorway and rail links mean that many residents commute to Bath, Bristol, Swindon, London and further afield for work. With Syrian and Ukrainian refugees welcomed and housed, Chippenham continues to develop in diversity.

The Benefice comprises 2 parishes with 3 church congregations (The parish of St Paul Chippenham with Langley Burrell with the 2 churches of St Paul’s Chippenham and St Peter’s Langley Burrell; and the parish of Hardenhuish with the parish church of St Nicholas).

St Paul Chippenham with Langley Burrell





St Nicholas Hardenhuish

As well as the Greenways Benefice, the town is also served by the CofE parish churches of St Andrew's (town centre and east/southeast of the town), and St Peter's Frogwell, on the west side. Each church draws its congregation from the whole of Chippenham and its surrounding villages. There are also Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Evangelical and Free church congregations in town with whom we have healthy links. We are a part of the Chippenham Deanery of 28 churches.

Within the Greenways Benefice there is a wide mix of housing from new estates catering for relatively affluent commuters (but with very few local community amenities) to older developments where there is substantial economic and social deprivation. St Paul's is proud of its links to the *RISE* Trust which began as a church initiative in 2004 and is now a major provider of children's and youth services in the town and across North Wiltshire, as well as working with needy families and the elderly. St Nicholas' is situated next to two of the town's three well-regarded and large secondary schools with whom useful links have been developed. We also have strong links with local primary schools, particularly St Paul's Primary School and Silverwood School, a co-educational special school for children and young people aged 4 to 19 years. St Peter's Langley Burrell is out-of-town, close to the village of the same name, but finds itself in a strategically important geographical position as the town's housing developments spread in its direction.

The benefice also has strong links with a variety of places of supported and assisted living as well as residential care homes. There could also be chaplaincy opportunities within the town's Community Hospital and the Chippenham and Wiltshire Council or Police offices.

Benefice Context

We are broadly Evangelical with both St Peter's and St Nicholas worship "*relaxed-traditional*" in style utilising booklets of liturgy, while St Paul's style is more "*informal and open to the Spirit*" with digital screen/s and worship band led music, and with the Sunday service being streamed live on Facebook and YouTube. Weekly homegroups, small groups, youth groups and activities are offered. We also offer term-time weekly Sunday evening worship for secondary aged years.

St Pauls Chippenham (<https://www.stpaulsweb.org.uk/welcome.htm>)

- St Paul's electoral roll is 184 for 2022. Weekly Sunday 10am worship services currently see in the region of 95 in attendance from all ages with a full complement of children and YP activities taking place as well as services being streamed live online. The RISE Trust ([The Rise Trust - Children's Centres in Chippenham and North Wiltshire](#)) grew from a church mission week and we retain strong connections with them (current incumbent is a Trustee for example).

St Nicholas Hardenhuish (<https://harnish.org.uk/>)

- St Nicholas electoral roll for 2022 is 44. Weekly services take place at 4pm each Sunday (3pm in the winter months), with some services taking place outside as weather permits. The open graveyard is also well used locally and a source of numerous pastoral connections. The church works well with the St Paul's Messy Church and Youth Team in offering light trails, seasonal outdoor church, light parties (All Souls) and the church is currently a hub for collections towards the Ukraine refugee effort.

St Peter's Langley Burrell (<http://www.stpeterslangleyburrell.co.uk/>)

- St Peter's electoral roll for 2022 is 18 and currently meet to worship on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 10.30am with an average of 11 in attendance. We are in the process of building longer term partnerships with the parish council of Langley Burrell and the new building estates to the northeast of Chippenham

Occasional Offices have varied greatly over recent years. Funerals have been more commonplace due to covid, but ordinarily we would play a part in 3 a month, and for 2022 we have 8 weddings and 11 Baptisms booked. With our effective working in the deanery there are always opportunities to gain experience assisting other parishes too!

The Benefice benefits from a Fulltime Youth Worker, fully funded by St Paul's congregation for the last 6 years. Together with the team, Becky oversees and operates a full complement of midweek, Sunday morning and a term time weekly youth service on Sunday evenings.

We foster an environment that allows and encourages anyone to step into active collaborative ministry. The licensed team currently comprises a rector, 2 licensed lay ministers, 3 lay ministers with PTO, and 3 soon to be licensed lay ministers in training (completion date of Oct 2022). The active leadership team includes our youth minister and we have developed a healthy inclusion of church council and younger generation members too.

One of our core discipleship and community building focusses is on encouraging home/house/cell groups which has seen dramatic increase in the last 6 years.

As we have emerged from Covid, missional initiatives such as SPARKS (St Paul's Ark – a weekly free toddler group) and Coffee Club (for older generations) have taken preference in returning, whilst other activities such as mid-week communion service have yet to return. Seasonal engagements with local primary and secondary schools see many young people and their families come into the worship spaces, as do our regular activity trails around the benefice. We also facilitate school tutor groups in the summer as they explore religion and faith matters.

St Paul's has just completed another stage of extensive reordering. The Nave is now flat, accessible and versatile with underfloor heating. So we now have, with the renovated in 2018 church halls, two versatile buildings available for the communities of worship and Chippenham to use, and we are working hard on connections and partnerships as we do.

Daily Offices are read in the Vicarage. The youth minister, part-time benefice administrator and rector regularly meet together for prayer.

Prayer is central for us, and we continue to discover creative and formal patterns of prayer to encourage each other in.

We have trimmed down the number of council meetings for 2022 and beyond, making use of email and digital media where helpful, and are in the process of setting up effective delegated working parties for a variety of parish functions and missional activities.

It is envisaged that an incoming curate would play a full part in our leadership teams, working alongside and with the incumbent, and involving themselves in ministries outside of the church building as much as within. We encourage an all-member ministry where everyone gets to play a part if they choose to. We have a long history of encouraging and sending out leaders, especially from within our young people. Although we also have a long history of local missional engagement, we seek to use our developed buildings more, joining together as a wider benefice more than we have done in the past, and furthering our encouragement of discipleship matters through an increasing network of home, small, fellowship and serving groups. The parish supports ministry from both women and men.

If this excites you.

We'd love you to prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve your curacy with us.



Training Incumbent

After a time in retail, security, and unemployment, prior to Ordination I worked as a Managing Dispensing Optician for 13 years. I managed up to 14 staff members and students at any one time. My management style was to “*do myself out of a job*”, with an emphasis on encouraging, equipping, and releasing others to join in and to develop. I feel I have brought that into ministerial leadership. I endeavour to encourage the people of God in this place to “*find their place, take their place, and play their part*”. I am not personally afraid of getting things “wrong” or making mistakes, in fact for me “failure” is a learning step on the road to something better. I try to encourage others in the same mindset.

Prayer is at the heart of who I am, and I depend on God to be who I am. Without this relationship I can do nothing. I have much still to discover about myself and ensure I am routinely opening myself up to further education, training and stretching opportunities. This shown by my completing an MA in Missional Leadership through Springdale College (now *Formission* and underwritten by St John’s Nottingham) as well as offering myself as a training incumbent and exploring Christianity tutor whilst being here.

I have always played hard as well as worked hard. And I learned much from 3 months away with stress in 2018. I hold to a sabbath pattern; take regular weekly days off; do not work more than 2/3’s of any one day; and book my holidays as soon as one is complete 😊. I have recently overseen a stipendiary curate, who moved into 1st incumbency earlier this year; an ordinand who moves into curacy this summer; and an ordinand who entered curacy 2 years ago, as well as the 3 ladies currently in their formation year of licenced ministry training.

I view the role of a training incumbent not just as a role model, but as a brother/sister in Christ who offers themselves to stand alongside an individual developing as a minister themselves. I can offer the odd piece of wisdom and advice from experience and am available for critical reflection as well as picking up any pieces that are dropped and encouraging personal development. I work as a team, in a team, and generally support growth in practice with effective delegation and support, whilst assuming responsibility personally and professionally.

I am enthused when I see someone take a risky or bold step for the Lord and delight in the growth that often follows. I work collaboratively in everything I do and try not to be too precious about much at all. I do not have all the answers, but, in fellowship with others, seek God’s wisdom, direction and equipping, and together join in God’s work in action.

Above all I submit to the Lord Jesus, try my best to follow his teaching and his ways, and yearn for others to catch the flow of God’s Spirit for themselves.

Rev Tom Hunton served his curacy with us, leaving for his 1st incumbency earlier in 2022 to minister in Australia. His email address is tomhunton1@gmail.com. Recent Ordinands within the Benefice were Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam (currently serving her curacy in Bybrook Benefice within the Deanery), anjalmiriam1@gmail.com and Christine Alexander (who moved on June 22 to be Ordained and to service her curacy in Shropshire), chris.livingwaterscounselling@hotmail.co.uk.

Curacy Housing

Housing would be available in Chippenham at 33 Fallow Field Close.

This is within the North Cepen Park estate on the north side of Chippenham and is within the parish boundary and walking distance of St Nicholas Church Hardenhuish (less than 8 minutes) and St Paul's church (around 25 minutes)

The house is a detached property with four bedrooms, ensuite to master bedroom, lounge, dining room, conservatory, decent size kitchen, utility room, small study and toilet to front of ground floor, attached double garage and a driveway. Rear garden is medium sized.

It sits within catchments areas of several primary and two secondary schools (both of which are within easy walking distance). Chippenham is well served and blessed with excellent schooling.



Curacy Opportunity (how we see it working)

We offer a curate the opportunity to grow, stretch and develop in a safe and exciting environment, with a willing team around them to encourage, support and challenge.

I offer a listening and empathetic ear, but also a challenging and courageous spirit and have no problem addressing constructive criticism (2 way!).

The benefice offers a loving and caring environment for any curate and their family (if applicable) that encompasses commitment to prayer and supporting spiritually, emotionally, and financially.

The opening of a freshly reordered St Paul's church space (called the HOPE Centre) together with the community engagement that is flowing from our developing partnerships presents several fresh opportunities for mission. This, coupled with our continued working together as "3 worship centres in 1 benefice" means that any curate should feel able to offer experience and skill sets they have already accumulated as well as be encouraged to step into and experience new things. It would be expected that the curate assumed some delegated responsibility for an area/s of ministry and mission, but the exact area/s would be led partly by who they are, what experience they bring, and what learning and development needs there may be.

I endeavour to communicate effectively and would expect the same in return.

It is felt that any incoming curate would:

- Have a heart for joining in with Gods building of his Kingdom here on earth, and not just making church function better.
- Be willing to work creatively, responsibly, and effectively.
- Understand that none of us are the complete article and have a heart for learning and development.
- Be a team player and be comfortable working collaboratively as well as on their own initiative.
- Take responsibility for their own discipleship and learning environment and local involvement.
- Show initiative and creativity in engaging the wider community with the Gospel.
- Be an effective communicator, or willing to learn and grow.
- Be someone who also walks the walk, rather than simply talks the talk.

Si

Rev'd Si Dunn,

Rector.

The Greenways Benefice

22nd August 2022