

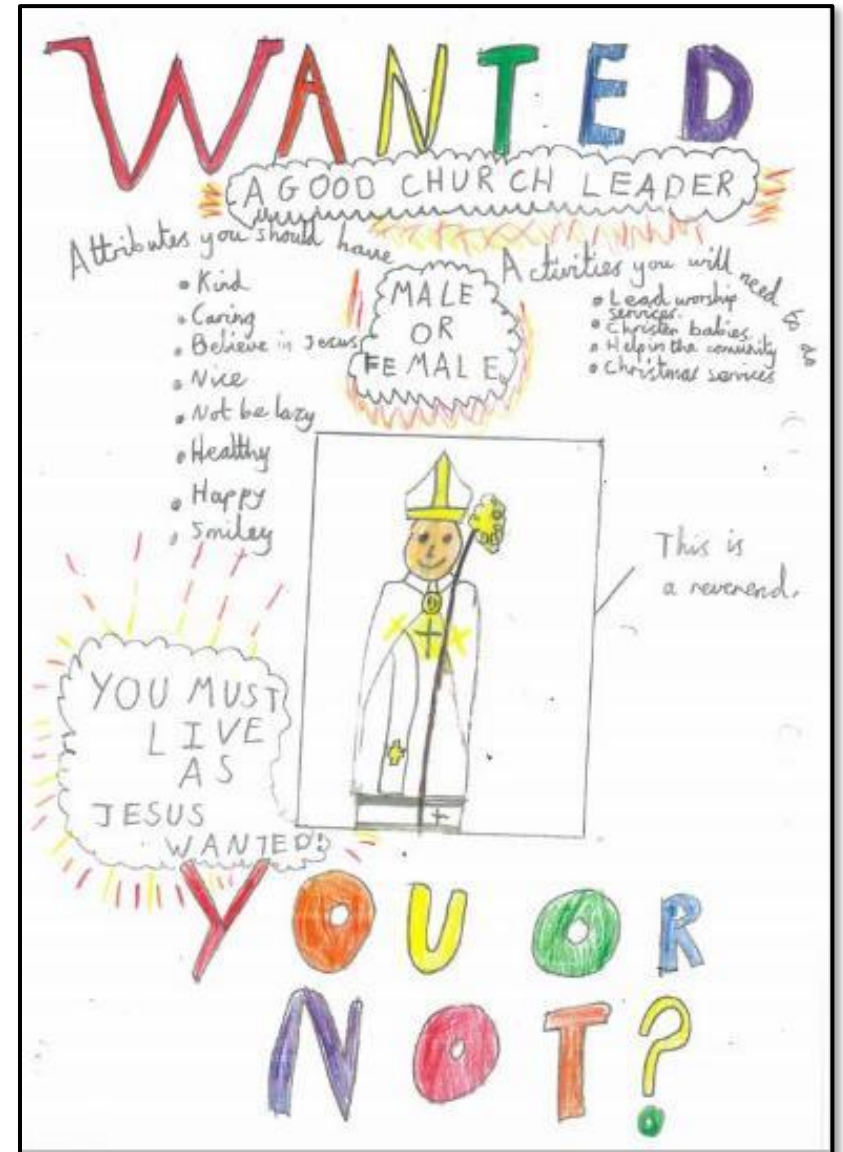
# Long Itchington and Marton Benefice Profile



Holy Trinity, Long Itchington



St. Esprit, Marton



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## Bishop's Introduction

Jesus said: 'I have come that you might have life in all its fullness'. I hope these words of Jesus might resonate with you as you read this profile. There is much love and life at the heart of Holy Trinity and St Esprit.

Emerging from the pandemic the church family are in good heart with a deeper sense of unity. They are eager to build a hybrid pattern for worship and wider engagement, using their growing familiarity with digital church. The evidently warm relationship with the Church of England school, recent new housing development, and a creative, hospitable and willing church family who desire to use their gifts for mission, set the compass firmly in the right direction to see the Good News of Jesus reach more lives across these communities.

These parishes are part of a small friendly deanery which has an inspiring track record in doing mission together (see the Area Dean's comments). They are situated in a wonderful part of the heart of England in which both to live and minister.

I warmly commend this post to your prayerful consideration.

With my prayers

+ John

Bishop of Warwick



## Deanery Summary – Rev Martin Green (Area Dean)

The Southam Deanery is the smallest Deanery in the Coventry diocese, currently made up of 15 parishes within a six-mile radius of the market town of Southam. Recent structural discussions for our Deanery Plan have resulted in the creation of the new Offchurch Group which combines four of our small rural parishes into one single entity – apparently quite a pioneering model. As a Deanery we have a strong focus on mission together. We have a Deanery mission team, supported by Long Itchington and Marton, that organizes evangelistic events under the national Hope banner, providing high-quality occasions and low-ticket prices, so that people can be confident of bringing non-Christian friends to. We have a monthly Deanery informal service held at St Esprit Marton, lay-led to help feed the clergy and incorporating what was a separate prayer meeting. Annually we run two combined massive Messy church mornings where the various parish teams work together in one bigger event. Sadly, with the Coronavirus pandemic we could not meet for Messy church, but the informal service has continued via Zoom.

In 2020 we were running a Deanery Lent+ course either side of Easter, and engaging with the Hope 2020 prayer initiative, opening a different church each month for people to gather to pray for the work of God in our parishes and Deanery, as well as an opportunity to offer prayer ministry. Again, both initiatives were impacted by the pandemic. There are also several Deanery Christian exploration and nurture courses that continue to be run, which have included Just Looking, Alpha, Discipleship Explored, Lost for Words, and Table Talk. We also run a Marriage Preparation day based around the HTB course. We have streamed lectures from the School of Theology based at St Mellitus college in London, which have been both well-received and stretching! In the last couple of years, we have invited specialist speakers to come and lead evenings of training and encouragement based on the Diocesan vision statement “Worshipping God, making new disciples, and transforming communities.” We use one of our local pubs for many of these courses.

With only a small number of clergy in the Deanery, we try to work together, especially with mission (including to our schools) and training, and clergy appointments to the Deanery are encouraged to add their gifts to this creative mix. As a clergy team, we would not be able to function without strong lay teams around us, and we are always looking for ways to develop and strengthen these teams both within individual parishes and Deanery-wide. We are currently beginning to explore a new Deanery plan.

Plans for HS2 will have a significant effect on the Deanery as a whole, as we lie directly in the path of the planned route. We are also experiencing huge changes with new housing developments in a number of villages and Southam town itself, so working together and supporting each other, as well as developing new leaders and exciting new ideas for growth will become even more important. As a Deanery, we have often come up with forward-thinking plans, it's a creative and stimulating Deanery to be a part of.

On behalf of myself and Barry Parker, the Deanery lay-chair, we look forward to sharing in this exciting ministry with the new appointment at Long Itchington and Marton. There is a Deanery video snapshot on the Coventry Diocese website or at this link: [Southam Deanery on Vimeo](#)

## Our Benefice

Our Benefice comprises 2 adjoining parishes – Long Itchington and Marton – with a church in each parish. We work well together, we hold joint courses e.g., for Lent, we share each other's social events, combine certain key roles such as Safeguarding, have joint services on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and share a joint vision for our future.

The pandemic restrictions have resulted in us working even closer together as we have developed new forms of worship which we believe have brought new experiences and benefits that we can further build upon together.

We are fortunate that there are good employment opportunities both locally and within a reasonable commute which cover a wide range of industries and skill sets enabling us to live in what might be described as 'well balanced' communities. However, whilst both our parishes are primarily of a rural nature and appear affluent, under the surface there are issues that offer plenty of challenges to our outreach and our new incumbent.

We also have strong connections beyond the immediate boundaries of our two parishes - we are active in the Deanery Mission Team and support and host Southam Deanery events. Our benefice is also blessed with local clergy who have stepped up to support us through our last incumbent's illness and through the pandemic, enabling us to continue and even grow our community in these difficult times.

We continue to be Spirit led with a belief that God has and will provide.





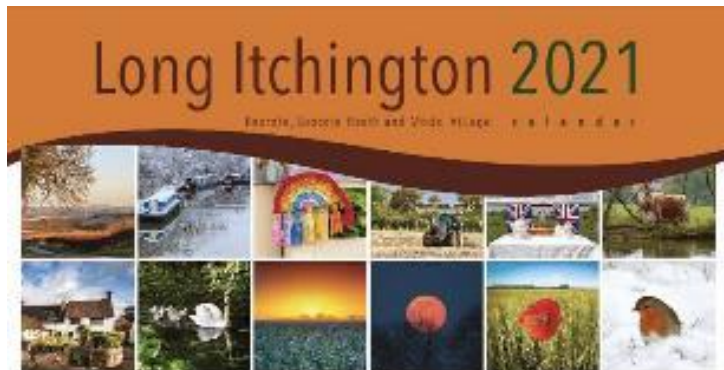
## About our Parishes - Long Itchington

Long Itchington is a very attractive rural village in which to live. The name means 'farmstead by the River Itchen' after the small river which flows through our parish before joining the River Avon near Leamington Spa. We are in the Stratford on Avon District of South Warwickshire with the historic towns of Warwick, Leamington Spa and Stratford on Avon nearby. There are good connections to the city of Coventry with also main road and rail links to Birmingham and London.

Our Parish covers around 5,000 acres which includes the four main settlements of Long Itchington, the Model Village, and the hamlets of Bascote and Bascote Heath: plus, individual farms and a residential boat community living on the Grand Union Canal.

Our village has been an important settlement for many centuries. The Domesday Book records 99 households, the third largest in Warwickshire. Over the last 5 years, 3 new areas of housing have increased our population by about a third to approximately 2,500 residents across around 1,220 dwellings. In typical fashion, all new residents have been welcomed on their arrival and encouraged to feel a part of their new community wherever possible.

We are fortunate to have excellent local schools. Our village C of E Academy Primary School is a vibrant school with a rich and varied curriculum. Our local Secondary School is the Ofsted graded 'Outstanding' Southam College.



There is a recently expanded Co-op food store, a hairdressing salon, a diner, a care home and six different pubs with some offering food. Further shops and other services are well provided in the market town of Southam which adjoins our Parish 3 miles to the south.

Our lively village has at least 26 voluntary groups including the Women's Institute, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and Young Farmers, with good sports facilities for Cricket, Football and Fitness clubs as well as a thriving community centre that hosts many events and regular classes throughout the year. <https://www.longitchington.org.uk/>

## About our Parishes - Marton



Marton is a small Warwickshire village situated near the confluence of the rivers Itchen and Leam, 7 miles equidistant from Rugby, Coventry and Leamington Spa. It sits astride the A423, which is an old coaching route between Coventry and Banbury. There are around 200 homes in the village, with around 300 people living here. Marton is a real mix in terms of demographic – young and old, better off and less well off. The community spirit within Marton is excellent and creates a very positive village atmosphere, particularly at events! The facilities in the village are limited to the village pub (a Bangladeshi restaurant as well as pub), the

playing field and playground (including the cricket club), the local garage, the museum and the village hall (which hosts films, shows, village events etc). Where we do not have a village group, Martonians attend Long Itchington groups and activities. The nearest shops are in Long Itchington, Southam or Princethorpe – with major shopping centres in Rugby, Coventry and Leamington Spa.

The main Primary schools attended by children in the village are in Stretton and Long Itchington. For secondary schooling children typically travel to Southam, Leamington, Warwick, Rugby or Coventry.

On the outskirts of the village there is a small industrial park with small businesses focussed on the motor trade. Within the village there is an increasing number of self-employed or home working people based in the village.



More information can be found at <http://martonvillage.com>

# The Priest in Charge our Benefice needs

We are seeking someone who will grow our ministry and engage with our communities, families and schools.

We see the recent expansion of new housing in Long Itchington and the movement of people in both villages as exciting opportunities to build the church within our communities. We would like our incumbent to lead us in growing the mission and influence of the church.

Holy Trinity and St Esprit are inclusive churches who welcome all denominations. We also have good links with neighbouring churches across our deanery. We would like our incumbent to continue the inclusive ethos and work with the Deanery clergy and mission team to develop an impact in the Deanery.

Given the recent success of our online services during the pandemic, changing the way we interact with our communities, we recognise the potential of social media and technology in connecting with our communities in different ways. We



would like our candidate to be proficient in using modern technology and able to further develop our online presence and church ministry.

To summarise, we are looking for someone who:

- Is able to share their faith with people of all ages – is passionate to the point of being infectious
- Will further strengthen and broaden the culture of our churches and Deanery
- Is a leader with a vision to grow the Kingdom, a team worker and an excellent communicator
- Wishes to be fully involved in our communities
- Is committed to our CofE Academy, developing its vision and its relationships with our churches and villages
- Will develop outreach and new ways of communicating the Christian word
- Has good organisational and IT skills
- Has a great sense of humour and embraces difference



## About our Churches - Holy Trinity Long Itchington

For over 900 years villagers and their families have gathered to worship in Holy Trinity church. The present church building is grade 2\* listed. It has been added to and extended at various times and is well cared for and valued by our community.



Long Itchington can trace its residential and farming history back to the Domesday Book. It is now a village that combines ancient with modern, with a blend of old and new housing.

Our village is the birthplace of St. Wulfstan who became Bishop of Worcester in 1062. He was the only Saxon Bishop able to build strong and peaceful relations between the Church and the conquering Normans.

Holy Trinity Church is situated in the centre of our village and plays a key role in the life of our community. The church itself is our only building (i.e., there isn't a church hall). When we are not limited by

Covid restrictions, we hold a range of community events throughout the year, all of which are well attended. We recently replaced our old pews with new cushioned chairs that enable the layout of our services and our events to be far more flexible.

Our building is generally in good repair although due to its age there is always a need for ongoing maintenance. We are currently installing a completely new lighting and power system that will enable varying effects to be created to suit the different services and events that we have as well as enhancing the lovely features of our building.

We openly welcome the use of our church for community events such as concerts, teas and fund raising and are keen to expand our programme to make further use of our church building for all in our parish.



## About our Churches - St Esprit Marton

The earliest known reference to the parish church of Saint Esprit goes back to between 1155 and 1160. It is, however, likely that a church, probably built of wood, had existed on the site much earlier, and that it was a “hundredal” church; an early mission centre from which itinerant priests served a wide district. The dedication of the church to Saint Esprit, the French title for the Holy Spirit, is believed to be unique in England.



The ancient church, said to be one of the oldest in Warwickshire, survived and continued until 1870. In 1868 it was reported to be in a bad state of repair, and was substantially demolished in 1870. A restoration appeal was launched in 1871, with remarkable results.

The church today is a grade 2\* listed building in the heart of the village backing on to farmland. The church has a kitchenette and toilet and has recently been rewired with LED lighting installed. The churchyard is maintained with some areas being regularly mown with other areas left to a more natural state. The church contains regionally significant zinc wall plaques with painted inscriptions that have recently been restored and conserved.





## Our Vicarage



The spacious detached 4-bedroom Vicarage is situated in the centre of Long Itchington some 400 yards from the church and adjacent to the attractive village green.

On the ground floor there is a large lounge with an open fireplace and French doors leading to the rear garden, a dining room, kitchen, study, utility room and toilet.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a bathroom and a separate toilet.

The Vicarage is double glazed and has gas central heating. There is a separate garage and off-road parking for several vehicles.

Private gardens and lawns to both the front and rear of the property.



## Services

Over the last few years, we have had the opportunity to try different forms of worship in both churches, including the introduction of new all age services and a café church. These services have been welcomed by our existing congregations and have also attracted new worshippers.



There are currently 65 people on the Holy Trinity Electoral Roll and 15 for St Esprit. We have loyal congregations across all ages including groups of young families. Children are very much welcomed and valued by both congregations with various activities provided. We welcome our local uniformed organisations for services in Holy Trinity.

Our regular services include Holy Communion and All Age Services, plus special services within the Christian calendar, as well as additional celebrations such as at the start of new school years. Both churches have lay teams willing and able to lead services, active Worship Groups and teams of volunteers to help with the various duties within our services as well as organising and running our social events.

St Esprit hosts a Deanery informal, lay-led service, "In the Spirit", on the first Sunday of the month, designed to support the clergy and the lay teams with contemporary worship, hospitality and challenging speakers from across the Deanery.

Since recently being allowed to open our buildings for socially distanced services, Holy Trinity has been holding weekly communion services. To date we are very pleased to have welcomed many new attendees as well as achieving the maximum numbers that we are able to safely host.





## Church Life

This is a strength for our churches. We organise and host social events across the year to welcome all in our community – these include Safari and Harvest Suppers, Barbecues, the Christmas Tree Festival and Market, weekly coffee mornings and Thursday Teas, Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, Marton Arts Festival and occasional concerts as well as supporting village events such as Open Gardens, Long Itchington Carnival and Marton Village Festival.



We recognise that further work needs to be done to attract more regular and new visitors, especially the younger generation where different provisions need to be made. Messy Church has provided a very positive activity with attendances of between 38 and 49 children with a similar number of adults .

Our congregations provide a lot of informal pastoral support across our parishes, showing loving care and concern, both visibly and quietly behind the scenes including supporting the residents and staff of Greenways, the care home in Long Itchington. Eco-church is increasingly more high profile in an area with a declared climate emergency and an important part of the life of St Esprit.

Our experience is that our villages support our church very well in their community. Many like it to be available when they want to use it - for baptisms, weddings and funerals mostly. This, however, can often be the limit of their involvement, other than attending special festivals like Remembrance, Easter and Christmas. We therefore need to find new ways to help our community in their exploration of faith and discipleship.



## Response to the Pandemic

Although the church buildings were largely closed, our churches have been and continue to be active throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. When permitted to do so, Holy Trinity was open for supervised private prayer. Weddings, funerals and burials all continued within the required restrictions.

We have held joint on-line services in different formats either live via Zoom or recorded, on Sundays and a monthly mid-week service. Weekly Services from the Long Itchington worship committee were sent out to over 60 households by email and were also hand delivered. The move by both churches to provide digital resources have strengthened the benefice and our outreach, with our services reaching new and old



friends. The on-line services have a regular viewing of up to 50 devices but, for example, increased to 350 for Revd Jane's leaving service.

The churches have also been central to mission and outreach into our communities with huge support for the local foodbanks and hostels from the villages, via community networks.

Festivals have needed to be different. The churches have been decorated for Easter and Christmas and we shared Christingle (with kits going out to families), the Advent journey of Mary and Joseph (knitted) around the parishes and Nativity services on line with more than 100 devices connecting and former parishioners from Australia taking part.

Small groups including the tea/coffee groups and some cell groups have continued on line as has the Deanery "In the Spirit" service and a local New Wine Break Out event during the summer.

Whilst we are unsure of the impact as yet on church life, we would like to maintain and grow digital church as there appears to be a need for worship and teaching that can be accessed at different times. It also enables equality, diversity and inclusion by allowing everyone to be in church whatever their circumstances.



# Communications + Safeguarding

Communication is key to the development and running of our churches. Whilst the benefice is currently operating largely as separate churches, we welcome this opportunity to make changes and impact more people including using technology to increase the worship experience for all.

Our weekly service information is included in village newssheets and we also contribute routinely to the monthly Parish Newsletters and display service and event information on our noticeboards.



Both Marton and Long Itchington have village email networks for their parishes with 233 Marton residents and over 400 in Long Itchington participating. We use these email groups to inform of events, services, mission appeals and churchyard/church working parties.

We use Facebook - St Esprit ([www.facebook.com/StEspritMarton](http://www.facebook.com/StEspritMarton)) – Holy Trinity ([www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityLongItchington](http://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityLongItchington)) and YouTube (<https://bit.ly/3ezyo27>) pages to share information and recordings of our services.

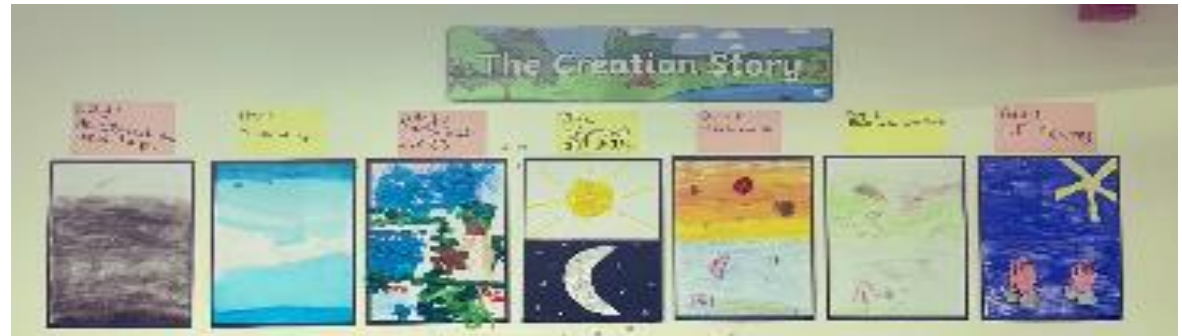
Safeguarding is critical to both of our churches; we have a single safeguarding representative across both parishes and endeavour to maintain the highest training standards and operate with safeguarding in mind at all times.

We have an open culture, challenging any issues that may have safeguarding implications and the Safeguarding Officer is available for discussions or to provide support on safeguarding actions.



## The Church Schools.

There is one school in the Benefice, Long Itchington CofE Academy [www.longitchington.covmat.org](http://www.longitchington.covmat.org), a primary school, and a link to Knightlow CofE Primary School [knightlowprimary.co.uk](http://knightlowprimary.co.uk). Both schools are part of the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust <https://www.covmat.org/>.



The vision for Long Itchington CofE Academy is that “we are all unique and valued members of the Long Itchington family sharing learning, love and laughter as we follow the teachings of Jesus”.

### **Long Itchington CofE Academy Children's Aims Statement**

We live, we laugh, we learn together...

*Living in God's love  
Laughing in the joy of Christ's risen life  
Learning as we walk together in faith*

Long Itchington PCC appoints 3 Foundation Governors for Long Itchington CofE Academy, currently one is from Holy Trinity and one from St Esprit (also a member of DMAT governance group) with a vacancy. Members of the church also support the Open the Book scheme and Understanding Christianity. The new incumbent is encouraged to be part of daily life at the school and delivering the Christian distinctiveness of the school, previous incumbents have chosen to be a governor, chair of governors or not be a governor.

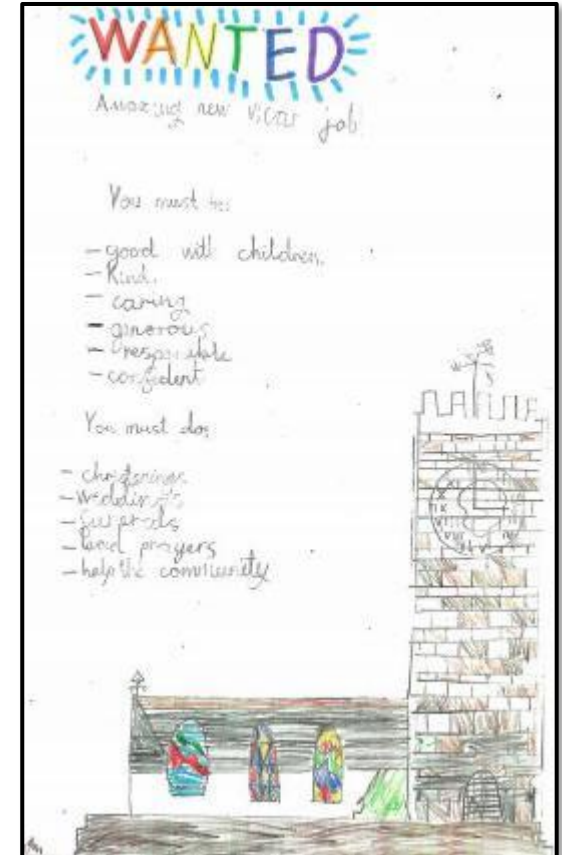
St Esprit PCC appoints a Foundation governor at Knightlow CofE Primary School. The school's aim is “to provide a happy, stimulating, safe and secure environment which develops caring and confident children with enquiring minds. At the heart of our school lies an education of depth and quality in a Christian environment, where children will develop a lifelong love of learning”.



The children and staff were asked what they would like a new incumbent to be and do, their responses are below with photos of the school enjoying the secure and happy environment, based on Christian values.



The children at school have made a list  
We hope it's clear, you get the gist.  
In every story, you'll need to do voices  
To help us learn to make good choices.  
You'll tell the stories with lots of zest  
With energy to be the best.  
Messy church, weddings and baptism of  
bear,  
Your work with us will show you care.  
We love to sing and love to laugh  
We need concern for children and staff  
To someone kind, we'll tip the nod,  
Someone following Jesus and loving God.



The staff are seeking to appoint someone who can engage the children in joyous worship, someone who offers themselves generously to school to support us in our quest to enable everyone in school to flourish.

## Finances

**Long Itchington** - Our income has been reduced significantly by the pandemic restrictions through us being unable to hold normal services and our regular social and fundraising events.

In more normal times, we organise a wide range of events throughout the year as well as also being involved in village events such as the annual Carnival, Open Gardens and the Arts Festival all of which provide sources of income.

We know very well that our wider communities strongly value our Churches in their parish. One example of this was when Holy Trinity needed to raise over £100,000 to make safe and repair the tower. Volunteers readily stepped up and formed FROLIC (Friends of Long Itchington Church). The Chair and most other members of FROLIC were not church members or even regular worshippers but freely admitted that they very much wanted the church to always be a part of their village. Over 2 years, the FROLIC team organised a wide range of events that brought many new folks into contact with our church and, as a result of their enthusiasm and hard work the necessary funding was raised.

**Marton** - Regular expenses for the church building, churchyard, mission and ministry are typically about £12k a year, regular giving is about £8.5k which covers ministry, mission and the churchyard maintenance together with some of the regular expenses. Mission is an important part in the life of St Esprit – there is a commitment of at least 10% of income being given in mission to local, national and international causes and we have also received an amazing response for the local foodbanks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have undertaken projects to maintain the building (e.g. replacing the lighting and rainwater goods) and enhance the worship experience. The community has contributed funds that have enabled this significant work to be undertaken. The St Esprit Parish Share is our major outgoing and has been paid in full. The gift aid for the last 2 years has only recently been recovered so does not show in the finance tables. The St Esprit Quinquennial review is to take place later this year, this will define the focus of capital funds.

The 2020 and 2019 accounts for both Churches can be found in the appendix below

## How to Apply

### FURTHER DETAILS

For further details and expressions of interest please contact:

Archdeacon Missioner

Ven. Barry Dugmore, 07487 578311 (E: [Barry.Dugmore@Coventry.Anglican.org](mailto:Barry.Dugmore@Coventry.Anglican.org))

or

Area Dean

Rev'd Martin Green, 01926 613466 (E: [martin@revmco.co.uk](mailto:martin@revmco.co.uk))

For an application form, please contact:

Matt Robinson, Admin Assistant to the Archdeacon Missioner

02476 521342 [Matt.Robinson@Coventry.Anglican.org](mailto:Matt.Robinson@Coventry.Anglican.org)

Closing date for applications: Noon, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Interviews: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November

An application form can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website:

<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/about/vacancies/current-vacancies.php>

Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post.

## APPENDICES

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# Holy Trinity Finances

General Fund Receipts Account				
	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>				
Planned giving (Standing Orders & Envelopes)	13,133		15,024	
Collections and other giving	335		2,367	
HMRC Charities Gift Aid tax recovered	4,689		5,068	
Donations	764		2,341	
		18,921		24,800
<b>Events, fundraising, grants</b>	569		7,412	
		569		7,412
<b>Investment income</b>	166		217	
		166		217
<b>Fees &amp; administration</b>				
Weddings	437		660	
Funerals and memorials	2,333		5,759	
		2,770		6,419
		22,426		38,848

General Fund Payments Account				
	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Church running costs</b>	6,854		12,423	
		6,854		12,423
<b>Diocese payments</b>				
Coventry DBF Parish Share	25,413		25,309	
Fees and projects	439		1,866	
		25,852		27,175
<b>Church Activities</b>	377		1,957	
		377		1,957
<b>Administration, fees and events</b>	228		286	
		228		286
<b>Donations</b>	700		806	
		700		806
		<b>34,011</b>		<b>42,647</b>
<b>General Fund Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>		<b>-11,585</b>		<b>-3,799</b>

Cash & Investments	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
Current account as at 31st Dec	7,843		12,826	
CCLA CBF Deposit Fund - Current Acct	557	29,215	29,772	
Restoration fund HSBC		4,515		4,142
CCLA CBF Deposit Fund - Restoration Fund		73,228		73,228
	8,400	106,957	42,598	77,370
Note - committed to new essential electrical works		(60,000)		(60,000)
Rebuild retaining wall		(30,825)		
	<b>8,400</b>	<b>16,132</b>	<b>42,598</b>	<b>17,370</b>

In line with our recent quinquennial inspection, further costs for repairs are ring-fenced in our restricted funds

# St Esprit Finances

General Fund Receipts Account	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>				
Planned giving (Standing Orders & Envelopes)	8,625		8,043	
Collections and other giving	1,386		1,415	
HMRC Charities Gift Aid tax and VAT recovered			4,950	
Restricted donations	1,433		8,389	
		11,444		22,797
<b>Events, fundraising, grants</b>		838		2,249
<b>Investment income</b>		42		73
<b>Fees &amp; administration</b>				
Fees	3		1,258	
Other income	306		308	
		309		1,566
		12,633		26,685

General Fund Payments Account	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Church running costs</b>	3,392		3,251	
		3,392		3,251
<b>Diocese payments</b>				
Coventry DBF Parish Share	5,729		5,706	
Fees and projects	500		14,253	
		6,229		19,959
<b>Administration, fees and events</b>		17		304
<b>Donations</b>		3,342		2,716
		<b>12,980</b>		<b>26,230</b>

Cash & Investments	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
Current account as at 31st Dec	5,778		6,111	
Unpresented cheques	-55		-550	
CCLA CBF Deposit Fund	£9,847		9,806	
Lloyds Deposit Acc		201		201
	15,570	201	15,367	201
	<b>15,570</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>15,367</b>	<b>201</b>