



United in Christ in South West Herefordshire

***Abbeydore Deanery is
seeking a new Pioneer Priest
for an important and challenging
Benefice in the Golden Valley***

**Parish Profile and Role Description
Spring 2025**

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United in Christ in South West Herefordshire

**“We are the Church of people and place,
not just congregations and parish church.”
(Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell)**

Abbeydore Deanery is a Christian grouping of 35 churches in 33 parishes from Hay-on-Wye and Hereford in the North, along the Wye Valley, through the Golden Valley and west towards the Black Mountains.

Our Deanery operates as a Group Ministry and is led in mission by a Deanery Joint Council. We follow the principles of collaboration between clusters of parishes supported by a team of leaders, both lay and ordained. Our vicars have been commissioned as Rural Pioneer Priests, sharing their time between ministry and mission.

Our purpose as followers of Jesus in this place is to:

Listen - to God, to each other and to our communities.

Prayerfully Discern – what is God up to here and how might we join in?

Encourage and Grow everyone’s God-given gifts.

Enable our communities to encounter God through worship and the ways in which we serve and care for one another.

THE PASTORAL PLAN

In 2021 we developed a pastoral plan which aimed to creatively reimagine what rural ministry could look like, by establishing a group ministry that promoted the collaboration of lay and ordained leaders, supported by a Deanery Mission Co-ordinator (and admin team). Using an **oversight ministry** model of leadership and encouraging parishes to group together in **Clusters** (groups of churches within benefices collaborating towards mission and ministry), we are committed to **growing leaders and developing teams** to support mission and ministry in each cluster.

In 2023, a legal entity was created for the deanery, the Joint Council, which may be the first in the country.

In 2024 we began a review of the pastoral plan and started the legal process to re-organise the deanery. After an initial consultation, the Deanery Joint Council approved a plan to form the following four benefices within the Deanery:

- **Wye Dore** –five parishes forming one cluster
 - Madley with Tyberton, Peterchurch, Turnastone and Vowchurch.

- **Borderlink** – eight parishes forming two clusters
 - Cusop, Clifford, and Hardwicke
 - Dorstone, Bredwardine, Moccas, Blakemere, and Preston on Wye
- **Cagebrook+** (to be renamed) – eight parishes forming two clusters
 - Allensmore, Clehonger, Eaton Bishop, Kingstone and Thruxton
 - St Devereux, Kilpeck, and Wormbridge
- **Black Mountains** – twelve parishes forming four clusters
 - Kentchurch, Rowlestone, and Walterstone
 - Ewyas Harold, Abbeydore, and Bacton
 - Newton, St Margaret's, and Michaelchurch Escley
 - Clodock, Llanveynoe and Craswall

Although the legal process of reorganisation may not be finalised until 2026, the parishes and leadership teams have already started to work across these new groupings.

THE DEANERY TEAM

As a Deanery we are committed to working as a team of equals, sharing responsibilities and resources according to each other's strengths. Although each Rural Pioneer Priest (RPP) has independence and authority in the oversight of their clusters and mission stream, they are not isolated and work closely with the whole team to support and enable each other's flourishing.

The RPP Team is supported by an excellent admin team comprised of the Deanery Co-ordinator, Finance and Admin Assistant, and Communications Assistant. This team manages a significant proportion of the day-to-day admin usually completed by the priest, e.g.: occasional office bookings, invoicing, processing of memorial applications, etc.

The **Deanery Leadership Team** meets monthly and is comprised of:

- Anne Lloyd (Deanery Mission Co-ordinator)
- Jane Rogers (Rural Dean, Self-Supporting Minister)
- Bill Giles (Lay Chair)
- Nigel Sellar (Deanery Treasurer)
- Simon Lockett, Luci Morriss, and Cate Thomson (Rural Pioneer Priests)
- From Summer 2025, Geoff Holder (Self-supporting Deanery Curate)
- Members of the Joint Council are also invited to attend these meetings.

Additionally, the clergy team meet most weeks as a **Chapter** for prayer, mutual support, and team business.

To enable this close working, the team aims to meet weekly in the following pattern:

First Tuesday	9.30am Chapter meeting (in person – Ewyas Harold) <i>Followed by cluster oversight meeting / rota scheduling</i>
Second Tuesday	9.30am Chapter Meeting (online)
Third Wednesday	2pm or 7pm Deanery Leadership Team meeting (in person)
Fourth Tuesday	9.30am Chapter Meeting (in person – Peterchurch)
Fifth Tuesday	<i>Retreat / Quiet Day</i>

RURAL PIONEERS

Rural Pioneer Priests (RPPs) work as a Group Ministry to oversee the mission and ministry of all the clusters, with each RPP assuming direct oversight of the clusters to enable and develop local leadership teams. In this context, the ‘pioneer’ aspect of this role is to join with us in reimagining what rural ministry looks like, and to develop a mission stream which benefits the whole deanery.

From July 2025 a self-supporting Deanery Curate will be joining our team (Geoff Holder). With the support of his deanery colleagues, Geoff is discerning the shape of his curacy as he balances: gaining good and broad parish experience; a strong call to the area in which he lives (Craswall); and working full time. Luci Morriss has supported Geoff through his training and will act as his training incumbent, but this can be reviewed depending on the experience and gifts of our new RPP colleague in the Black Mountain Benefice.

As a Group Ministry, all clergy in the Deanery are licensed to every parish and collaborate with licensed lay leaders and retired clergy colleagues to deliver services across the Deanery. While assuming primary responsibility to oversee worship in their clusters, Rural Pioneer Priests also support services across the whole Deanery as we endeavour to ensure that every cluster’s needs are met.

Each Rural Pioneer Priest oversees a **Mission Stream** within the deanery: discerning an area of need and developing the teams, initiatives and resources to support this need across the deanery. Team clergy are invited to consider where their skills and interests are best served, combined with the opportunities naturally emerging from their usual ministry, to enrich the mission and ministry of the whole deanery.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the mission streams, which are likely to be:

- **The Golden Valley Pilgrim Way, The Hub at St Peter’s and Hedgerow Communion**s (Simon Lockett)
- **Growing Leaders and Enabling Worship** (Jane Rogers)
- **Pastoral Care and Combating Rural Loneliness and Reflective Rambles** (Luci Morriss)
- **Children and Young People (and Messy Church)** (Cate Thomson)

We also have other mission projects which are lay-led including Food for Families and the Golden Valley Repair Café.

This is an exciting opportunity for our new Rural Pioneer Priest to explore and develop their own gifts and interests, nurture emerging and existing teams of leaders, and creatively approach new ways of being ‘rural church’.

Abbeystead Deanery is looking for a collaborative, creative priest to join our team as we explore new ways of being ‘rural church’. The new Rural Pioneer Priest will be supported by an established team of lay and ordained colleagues as they discern opportunities for mission and support their clusters in forming a new benefice.

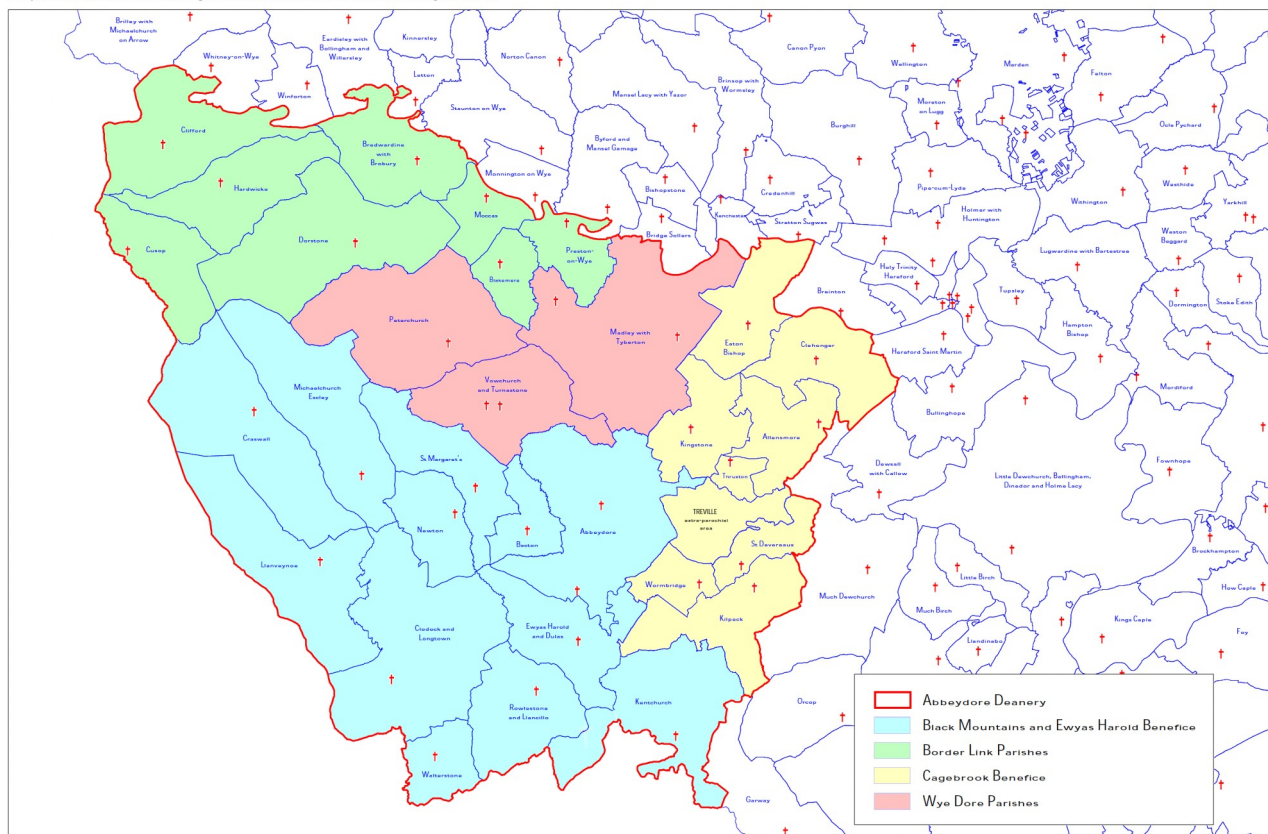
Introduction and Overview

Abbeydore Deanery is seeking a dynamic, pastoral, and collaborative **Rural Pioneer Priest** to serve a group of 12 parishes in the Black Mountains and Ewyas Harold area within the Abbeydore Deanery Group Ministry, in collaboration with the other Rural Pioneer Priests as part of a team.

Joining an innovative approach to rural ministry within the Deanery Groups Ministry, your time will be spent in parish work in the newly formed **Black Mountains Benefice** as well as reaching out to the wider community in the Abbeydore Deanery, joining in with revealing God's kingdom here on earth. You will be supported by the deanery administrative team comprising of a Deanery Mission Co-ordinator, their assistant and a social media and online presence assistant.

Map of the new Benefices within Abbeydore Deanery

Proposed New Benefices of Cagebrook and Black Mountains with Ewyas Harold



This map was compiled for the Diocese of Hereford by Alistair Sutherland in November 2024 with digital data from Field Dynamics. It contains parish data supplied by the Commissioners of the Church of England, church location data from A Church Near You, and Ordnance Survey data reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey licences nos 100040148 and 100019918. Please note that some legal parish names may be abbreviated for clarity.

Why Take Up This Opportunity?

1. **A Place to Flourish Spiritually and Personally**

This is a role where both your ministry and personal life can thrive. With a welcoming community, stunning natural surroundings, and abundant cultural experiences, you'll find every opportunity to grow and make a meaningful impact.

2. **Breathtaking Scenery and Outdoor Adventure**

Nestled in the heart of the Black Mountains, this role allows you to live and work amidst Britain's most beautiful countryside. Opportunities for hiking, cycling, and outdoor exploration abound, making it a dream setting for nature and adventure lovers.

3. **Vibrant Rural Towns and Cultural Connections**

You'll serve a community within reach of:

- *Abergavenny*: Renowned for food festivals and lively markets.
- *Hay-on-Wye*: Famous for its literary festival and bookshops.
- *Hereford*: A historic city with an awe-inspiring cathedral, Mappa Mundi, chained library and cultural richness, including the Three Choirs Festival.

4. **Excellent Schools**

The area boasts schools with outstanding and good Ofsted ratings, offering an ideal location to connect with families and young people.

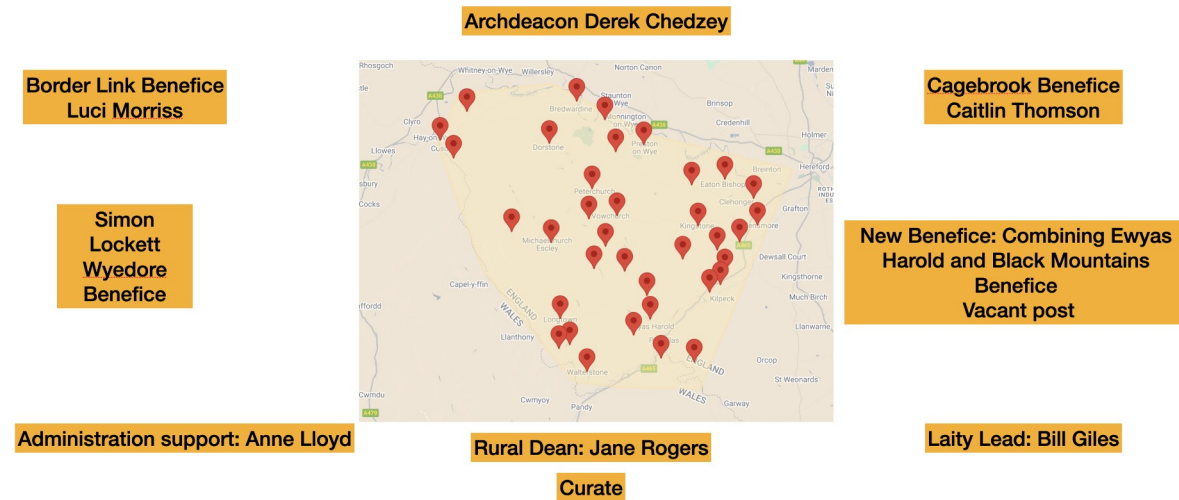
5. **Rich Cultural Life**

Participate in globally recognised events like the Hay Festival and enjoy high-quality musical performances hosted in intimate local venues which includes our historic churches. This community is steeped in creativity and the arts, offering ongoing opportunities to engage in diverse cultural activities, hosting elements of H.Art and Borderlines Film Festival

Our Benefice, comprising 12 parishes, is supported by small yet dedicated teams committed to fostering unity and collaboration. Together, we aim to build a strong benefice, by combining the Black Mountains Group Benefice and part of Ewyas Harold Benefice, recognising the common ground we share and overcoming any differences as **"The Black Mountains Benefice."**

The new **Rural Pioneer Priest** will be tasked with harnessing the collective strengths of the benefice, working closely with the PCCs to ensure long-term sustainability within the Abbeydore Deanery, in partnership with the Diocese of Hereford. You will be part of a larger team within the Abbeydore Deanery, the nature of the support available within the Deanery is outlined below:

Abbeydore Deanery is a christian grouping of 35 churches in 33 parishes. The ministers work together as a group ministry as depicted below:



From Hay-on-Wye and Hereford in the North, towards the Black Mountains of Wales and Brecon Beacons National Park. Four priests with lay and ordained volunteers, administer to a community of around 12,000 souls. Part of Hereford Diocese, the Church of England, and the international community of Anglicans.

Small congregations present a challenge, yet it is clear that many are willing to travel to attend services, reflecting a deep commitment to worship. This dynamic offers exciting opportunities to explore diverse and creative forms of worship that resonate with the community. In addition to worship in our unique buildings, there is great potential from intimate Hedgerow Communion to contemplative Reflective Rambles, and the awe-inspiring Dawn Easter Service on the Cat's Back [Black Hill], to engage people in meaningful and spiritually enriching experiences that celebrate both faith and the beauty of the surrounding landscape. As the whole area is very popular year round there is also potential to attract regular and occasional visitors and tourists, (some of whom will be following popular trails such as The Golden Valley Pilgrim Way, which involves several of our churches in providing night sanctuary), to events, worship and other activities

The table overleaf depicts the **Churches in the new Black Mountains Benefice** outlining current pattern of worship, facilities and statistics.

To help you understand the benefice the parishes have outlined elements of their church that may interest you, this also demonstrates the huge commitment of the laity in supporting the parishioners and their communities.

The new Black Mountains Benefice unites a diverse collection of parishes, each offering unique contributions to the community, worship, and heritage. From ancient sites of worship to vibrant modern gatherings, both in and outside their buildings these churches reflect the heart and soul of their communities. These insights can be found in *appendix 1*.

Parish and Church	Worship	Facilities and Voluntary Groups	Statistics (2021 Census/Parishes)
ABBEYDORE (Holy Trinity and St. Mary's Dore Abbey) with Cockyard Mission Hall	2 nd Sunday 6.30 pm Evening service; 4 th Sunday 1030 HC; Taize and special services Currently no services in January/February	Village Hall, Abbey Tots playgroup, Ladies Guild, Friends of Dore Abbey, Abbey Singers, bi-annual village fete and many concerts and exhibitions, Quiet Garden, compost toilet, Pauper's Grave project. Team of bellringers. Part of Golden Valley Pilgrim Way.	Population – 349 (50 yrs and above – 180)
BACTON (St. Faith's)	3 rd Sunday each month - alternates between Morning Prayer (BCP) and HC	Village Hall	No census data
CLODOCK with Longtown (St. Clydawg)	2 nd Sunday each month; 4 th Sunday every other month; special services e.g. Harvest	Church has kitchenette/toilet; adjacent to a pub. On Golden Valley Pilgrim Way providing night sanctuary. Church linked to Longtown which has Village Hall, Pub, Shop, Outdoor Activity Centre, Primary and Pre-school, and various groups. Team of bellringers.	Population – 656 (50 yrs and above – 352)
CRASWALL (St. Mary's)	3 rd Sunday each month at 9.30 am	Restaurant; Church provides night sanctuary for Golden Valley Pilgrim Way. Young Farmer's Club	Population – 248 (50 yrs and above – 140)
EWYAS HAROLD with DULAS (St. Michael's and All Angels)	1 st and 3 rd Sunday each month; Weekly Wednesday Service at 10.30 am; Cafe Church and other special services	Church Hall with shower/kitchen; Night Sanctuary for Golden Valley Pilgrim Way; Church Hall used by various groups. Team of bellringers. Memorial Hall, Craft Centre, Primary and Pre-school, Village shop and Post Office, Vets, 2 Butchers, 2 Pubs/Restaurant, Builder's Merchants, Garage, Fire Station, Sports and Recreation ground, Doctor's Surgery. Beavers and Cubs, Probus Club.	Population – 887 (50 yrs and above – 460)
KENTCHURCH with LLANGUA (St. Mary's)	2 nd Sunday each month at 10.30 am – alternates between HC and Morning Prayer. Special services during the year.	Future plans for re-decoration and kitchen/toilet facility. Peal of six bells and team of bellringers. Near to Pontrilas (on A465) village shop, post office, community hub and gym.	Population – 271 (50 yrs and above – 133)
LLANVEYNOE (St. Peter and St. Beuno)	1 st Sunday alternate months led by priest. Other months lay-led. Occasional special services.	Part of Golden Valley Pilgrim Way	Population – circa 98 (not from 2021 census)
MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY (St. Michael's)	3 rd Sunday each month	Village Hall, Pub/Restaurant, Cricket pitch, Primary school, Night sanctuary for Golden Valley Pilgrim Way. Team of bellringers.	Population – 184 (50 yrs and above – 97)
NEWTON ST. MARGARETS (St. John's)	3 rd Sunday – more often on 'as and when' basis	Hall on site; Women's Guild	Population – 140 (50 yrs and above – 74)
ROWLESTONE (St. Peter's)	1 st Sunday each month from February to December. Works closely with Walterstone.	Village Hall; Rowlestone Ice Cream production and cafe; campsite. Cider maker, Printer.	Population – 192 (50 yrs and above – 111)
ST. MARGARET'S	1 st Sunday each month at 3 pm using BCP; Family carol Service	Herefordshire Trail; Traditional cider making	Population – 173 (50 yrs and above – 107)
WALTERSTONE (St. Mary's)	Festival timetable, 6 services per year every 2/3 months from March to December	Village Hall, Pub and restaurant	Population – circa 90 (not from 2021 census)

Your home will be in Ewyas Harold. The rectory is a spacious four-bedroom detached house with oil heating, double glazing, garden, attached garage and additional parking, a minutes walk from the church, church hall and primary school, in quiet corner close to the edge of the village with easy access to Ewyas Harold Common, an extensive area of woodland and heathland and just one mile from the A465 and 1 hour's drive to the Severn Bridge (See *appendix 2* for additional details.) Alternatively you may choose to find your own accommodation as has been the case for other rural pioneer priests.

Role Description and Responsibilities:

The Rural Pioneer Priest will play a vital role in inspiring generations, proclaiming Christ, and growing discipleship in a rural context. Key responsibilities include:

Leadership in Mission

- Encouraging parishes to engage with their communities, building partnerships with schools, local organisations, and ecumenical groups.

- Leading efforts to involve younger and working generations in worship and discipleship activities.
- Setting and implementing a vision for mission aligned with diocesan priorities.
- As an innovative leader you will work with a curate to combine Ewyas Harold Benefice and Black Mountains Group Benefice to join in unity as one Benefice.

Worship Leadership

- Conducting Sunday services at a minimum of three churches weekly as part of a sustainable worship schedule.
- Promoting creative and inclusive worship practices that inspire spiritual growth and strengthen community bonds.
- Facilitating seasonal, all-age, and ecumenical worship opportunities.
- Support laity in developing and delivering lay worship.
- Leading Christian assemblies in primary schools.

Ministry Development and Collaboration

- Leading and collaborating with lay leaders, and ministry teams, as part of the Abbeydore Deanery Team.
- Collaboration with the Rural Dean to enhance links between the Rural Pioneer Priests in Abbeydore Deanery and the Hereford Diocese and Bishop.
- Nurturing vocations and encouraging laity to take active roles in ministry and mission.
- Supporting and mentoring a curate in their development.

Pastoral Care

- Offering pastoral support to individuals and families, including those experiencing bereavement or major life changes.
- Maintaining a visible presence in the community and reaching out to individuals who may find it difficult to attend formal services. Visible presence could include attending local events such as: Longtown Show, Bi-annual Christmas Tree Festival at Dore Abbey, Attending Carols around the Christmas Tree or at the Castle, hedging and ploughing matches, societies (Local history, gardening, etc).

- Having a visible presence will help to make the church more ‘present’ across the area and enable non church goers to put a face to a name and have informal contact and get to know you, which could be an entry point for more life events and or regular worship.
- Reinforcing a viable presence in the community through the use of social media to advertise and celebrate ministry.
- Developing consistent pastoral care across all parishes.
- Working to provide pastoral care to those involved with caring for others e.g. at Dulas Court Care Home, forming links with the Anna Chaplaincy and with St Michael's Hospice to support people at the end of their lives.
- Reaching out to young people, people of working age, and visitors. Open the Book and consider options for older children, who were previously engaged with Grow Strong.

Parish Organisation and Administration

- Collaborating with PCCs and Churchwardens to ensure efficient management of resources and compliance with safeguarding requirements.
- Continuing an ethos of collaboration and coproduction to encourage parishes to work together in building sustainable discipleship and mission delivery. This may include enhancing Cluster development or fostering other cross-parish relationships
- Managing schedules and coordinating with the Deanery team including admin staff.

Ministering in a Wider Context

- Participating in Deanery and Diocesan activities, including Synod and Chapter meetings.
- Building on relationships with nursery, preschools, schools and community groups eg Tea Set, WI, Repair Cafe to strengthen the Church’s presence.
- Enhancing links to the church through developing networks for specific groups in our community: the farming community through collaboration with We are Farming Minds, Young Farmers Club...etc.
- Continuing to promote links with the Ukraine Project, Hereford Food Bank, Food for Families and other organisations.

Self-Development and Spiritual Renewal

- Maintaining a disciplined spiritual life with regular prayer, study, and retreats.

- Engaging in Ministerial Development Reviews (MDRs) and continuing education.
- Prioritising personal well-being and creating space for reflection and renewal.

Supporting and Preserving Historical Buildings and Treasures

- Supporting the Churchwardens and PCCs to engage with heritage and conservation bodies such as Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust, National Churches Trust, English Heritage.... to secure funding and awareness for ongoing preservation efforts.
- Assisting them to serve as stewards for the benefice's historic churches and their significant cultural heritage.
- Leading efforts to preserve and maintain unique sites, in conjunction with PCCs, including an Abbey converted into a parish church, and a site of Christian worship since 5th century.
- Promote the heritage value of treasures eg the altar cloth and Blanche Parry's monument, which holds the earliest portrayal of Elizabeth I as Gloriana.
- Care for historic architectural features, including the rood screen with rare medieval oak carvings dating back to 1520, ensuring they remain integral to worship and community life.

Person Specification

- **Qualifications:** Ordained Priest within the Church of England (or a Church in communion with it) with completed Initial Ministerial Education.
- **Experience:** Proven leadership in rural or multi-parish contexts; development and support of ministry teams.
- **Skills:** Strong leadership, communication, and organisational skills; ability to work collaboratively as part of a team, proficiency in IT and digital tools for ministry, including use of social media to support and grow ministry.
- **Attributes:** Experience fostering discipleship in multi-generational contexts. Ability to balance strategic oversight with practical, hands-on ministry.
- **Qualities:** Enjoys meeting people and able to communicate with a diverse population. Whilst the Benefice is in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, it can mask underlying deprivation and people can find it hard to seek support whether this is spiritual or more practical in nature.
- **Driving:** Able to travel around country lanes, which can mean developing a close relationship with reverse gear!

Our support for you as a Rural Pioneer Priest

We have signed up to the Clergy Covenant and commit to support all members of our ministry team, to treat them with respect and share the load.

We have a Deanery team - between them they cover a number of responsibilities across the parishes. We also have active PCCs.

Our congregations comprise of people who have a passion for the work of our churches and who are there to lend a hand. You will not be alone.

We will:

- Welcome you (and your family) with a friendly welcome.
- Help you to create the best possible home for yourself (and your family).
- Encourage you to develop a realistic and healthy work life balance.
- Encourage and support you in your own professional development.
- Urge you to leave time for your family and then respect that time.
- Not expect you to be present for everything we do.
- Support and pray for you as you discern the best way forward for us.

Pictures to reflect the Church as the fellowship of Christ within the Black Mountains Benefice can be found in Appendix 3.

A Final Note

This is more than a job; it's a chance to embrace a life of ministry and mission in a truly inspiring setting. If you feel called to this role, we invite you to apply and join a vibrant, creative, and caring community.

Further links can be found in the appendix 4 to help you appreciate the opportunities available locally.

Appendix 1

The Black Mountain Benefice Parish insights.

The New Black Mountains Benefice unites a diverse collection of parishes, each offering unique contributions to the community, worship, and heritage. From ancient sites of worship to gatherings, both in and outside their buildings, these churches reflect the heart and soul of their communities.

Bacton, St Faiths.

Historic Significance: Renowned for the Bacton Altar Cloth and Blanche Parry's monument depicting Elizabeth I as Gloriana.

Unique Features: Showcases 1500s choir stall fronts and WWI military ribbon decorations in low-relief sculpture.

Visitor Appeal: A treasured asset, drawing many to the benefice and Diocese of Hereford.

Clodock with Longtown, St Clydawg.

Historic Hub: Site of worship since 5th century, hosting musical recitals, including use of West Gallery for traditional carols.

Pilgrim Support: Offers a night sanctuary for those walking the Golden Valley Pilgrim Way fostering peace and reflection.

Community and Growth: Connected to the benefice's second-largest village, supported by the Cornwall Arms, and home to a growing congregation.

Craswall, St Mary.

Community Hub: Craswall hosts diverse activities like coffee mornings, BBQs, concerts, and fundraising events.

Pilgrim Support: Offers a peaceful night sanctuary along the Golden Valley Pilgrim Way.

Relaxed Worship: Relaxed child-friendly services, both lay and clergy-led, often held outdoors in our spacious (no burials) churchyard which is managed for nature conservation.

Dore Abbey, Holy Trinity and St Marys Church.

Spiritual Quiet: Offers diverse worship opportunities, including Taizé, outdoor services, and Quiet Garden mornings.

Visitor Appeal: Welcomes global visitors drawn to its history, a former 12th century Cistercian Abbey, its beauty, and living mission, concerts and events.

Community Support: Loved and cared for by local worshippers, the village and "Friends of Dore Abbey," ensuring care of this historic building.

Ewyas Harold with Dulas, St Michael's and All Angels.

Central and Inclusive: St. Michael's serves as the welcoming heart of the benefice's largest village. Friends of St Michaels encourage non-worshippers to be involved in maintaining and improving the church and graveyard for the benefit of the village.

Diverse Worship: Offers varied services, including Café Church and "Come Gather Round" at Dulas Court through the Anna Chaplaincy.

Collaborative Ministry: Partners with the ecumenical community through "Christians Together in Ewyas Harold and District" A number of lay people taking services which has enhanced teamwork.

Kentchurch with Llangua, St Mary.

Friendly and Community-Focused: A warm and welcoming group committed to fostering strong community ties.

Farming Connections: Worship enriched by the active participation of the farming community.

Dedicated Leadership: A committed team upholds high-quality services, music, and churchyard care during the interregnum.

Llanveynoe, St Peter and St Beuno.

Exquisite Location: Nestled in the unspoilt Olchon valley near the National Park, offering a serene and picturesque setting.

Widely Appreciated: Beloved by local, regional, and international visitors for its charm and significance.

Community Hub: Hosts diverse services, social gatherings, and community events throughout the year.

Michaelchurch Escley, St Michael.

Welcoming Worship: St. Michael's hosts regular services, lay-led Sunday events, and a school carol service, fostering a vibrant and friendly community.

Cultural Connection: A popular concert venue supported by a keen and growing band of bell ringers.

Pilgrim Support: Situated by the Escley Brook and Bridge Inn, the church offers accommodation for pilgrims.

Newton, St John.

Historic Roots: Newton, the youngest church, celebrates 180 years, gifted by a local farmer whose descendants maintain a special bond.

Community Connection: Shares Palm Sunday procession with St Margaret's; parish room enables gatherings and events.

Flexible Worship: offers unique services on an “as and when basis” eg Fathers Day Breakfast

Rowlestone, St Peter.

Strong Community Links: Maintains close ties with the farming community and the village hall.

Well-Attended Celebrations: Over 60 people join for both harvest and Christmas services.

Regular Worship: Holds monthly services led by local leaders and the minister.

St Margaret's.

Community Spirit: St. Margaret's fosters cohesion and cooperation among friends and worshippers in its scattered rural community.

Rich Heritage: The intricately carved rood screen dating back to 1520, provides an inspiring backdrop for all types of services.

Festive Tradition: The Annual Flower Festival attracts visitors for its vibrant music, poetry, and celebration service.

Walterstone, St Mary.

Warm and Welcoming: Blends tradition with informality, creating a friendly and inviting atmosphere.

Inclusive Community: A church that embraces everyone, fostering a sense of belonging.

Caring Spirit: Encourages mutual support, building a family-like connection within the congregation.

Appendix 2.

Rectory Details

Ground floor:

Study: located between the garage and main house with separate entrance

Entrance Hall: 2.26m x 1.96m, radiator

Inner Hallway: 4.6mx 2.77m, radiator

Cloakroom: with WC and wash basin

Living Room: 4.01m x 6.07m (max)with fireplace, radiator

Dining room: 3.4m x 4.93m radiator, uPVC doors to patio

Kitchen: 3.25m x 3.45m ample power point, electric cooker point, fitted base cupboard and draw units with working surface over. Radiator, plumbing for dishwasher. Walk in pantry with shelving.

Utility Room: 3.43m x2.44m (max) Sink, plumbing for washing machine, radiator and boiler. Door to rear garden.

First Floor:Landing: with radiator

Bedroom 1: 3.43m x 3.78m

Bedroom 2: 3.43m x 4.67m

Bedroom 3: 3.99m x 2.77m

Bedroom 4: 2.46m x 2.84m

Bathroom

Separate WC

Outside:

Garden with storage

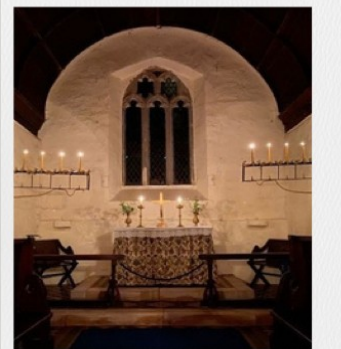
Sheds

Garage

Ample Parking



Appendix 3.





Appendix 4.

Useful Links:

- <https://www.abbeydoredeanery.org>
- <https://www.ruralministries.org.uk/post/abbeydore-deanery>
- BBC program: A Vicar's Life <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09m8kbf>
- <https://hdgb.org/?tower=michaelchurch-escley>
- Drone footage Music in the Black Mountains by The Gesualdo Six



- <https://www.doreabbey.org.uk/>
- Concerts for Craswall <https://concertsforcraswall.org/>
- <https://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/whats-on/the-lost-dress-of-elizabeth-i/#gs.ka3gz2>
- Schools Ofsted outstanding providers <https://www.fairfield.hereford.sch.uk/> Good <https://www.longtown.hereford.sch.uk/> Good: <https://www.kingstonehighschool.co.uk/our-school/ofsted>. <https://www.michaelchurchprimary.com> Also: <https://ewyasharoldprimaryschool.co.uk>
- In recent years Youth engagement in Christian themed adventure through Grow strong publicity <https://www.abbeydoredeanery.org/grow-strong/>. https://www.facebook.com/groups/1735359570068023/posts/3761006064170020/?_rdr
- Come and try us out by staying in our church on a pilgrimage <https://www.britishpilgrimage.org/portfolio/golden-valley-pilgrim-way> <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2024/apr/18/modern-pilgrimage-golden-valley-herefordshire>

- <https://www.visitherefordshire.co.uk/see-do/routes-road-trips/golden-valley-pilgrim-way>
- Why live in Herefordshire <https://spiritofherefordshire.com/community-wellbeing/why-herefordshire/>
- <https://www.visitherefordshire.co.uk/see-do/routes-road-trips/herefordshire-trail>
- National Park on your doorstep <https://www.breconbeacons.org/>
- Wye Valley AONB <https://www.wyevalley-nl.org.uk>
- <https://www.h-art.org.uk>
- <https://borderlinesfilmfestival.co.uk/>
- <https://3choirs.org/hereford-2025>