

A Benefice Profile for the Parishes of Batheaston and Bathford



Are you our “Wanted” person?

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Welcome from our Churchwardens

The Parishes of St John the Baptist with St Catherine, Batheaston and St Swithun's, Bathford extend you a very warm welcome.

We are looking to make the first appointment to lead our new united benefice**. Inevitably, we now face a period of change which will present us with opportunities and challenges, but both our parishes are committed to making this united benefice work. Are you the person to guide and support us through this interesting and exciting time? If so, read on!

Our parishes have many similarities. Both have longstanding attendees with an eclectic mix of worshippers ranging from the Traditional to the Charismatic. We may have differences but we strive to work together for the advancement of God's kingdom. Through building on what we have, we want to continue to grow in our own Christian lives, to encourage new members and to be more visible witnesses of our Lord Jesus in our villages and beyond.

The parishes are adjacent and the distance between our churches is less than a 10 minute drive. Our villages are located in the northeast corner of Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) Council area and the Bath and Wells Diocese. Both villages have Church of England 'Academy' schools and there are many good secondary schools close by. A detached 4 bedroomed, well appointed, family home is offered, close to St John's in Batheaston. Our parishes rest in wonderful countryside on the southern reaches of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the elegant, vibrant city of Bath is just 4 miles away. God's amazing gifts and generosity can be clearly seen in where we, and our Vicar, live.

God already has in mind someone to lead us in our next steps as disciples of Jesus. We hope this profile helps you discern whether that might be you.



Keith and Rob,
St John with St Catherine

Katherine and John,
St Swithun's

** Details will be sent out separately by the Archdeacon's office in the covering letter in response to requests for a copy of this Profile

Our Benefice Mission and Vision

Our **Mission** is to love God, centring our lives on Jesus Christ to help others encounter and know him

To fulfil that Mission, our **Vision** is to **Grow, Care, Serve and Share**. This Statement is also actively used in Bathford church school



Bathford Mums' group wreath making



Children's activities in Batheaston church



A Bathford Home Group in Covid times

GROW

Seeking to discover the Love of God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit so that we grow both as a church and in our own Christian lives

CARE

Living and demonstrating God's Word in our daily lives by caring for one another and our world

SERVE

Serving in our villages and the world provides us with opportunities to demonstrate God's love

SHARE

Sharing the Gospel and Jesus' teachings of loving God and our neighbour within our villages and beyond

We strive to enact our Vision by:

- **Worshipping God** - recognising the value of meaningful worship, sacrament, preaching, teaching and praying through a range of services and within small groups
- **Providing a Sanctuary** – places for prayer and quiet interaction with God
- **Remaining Open** to our villages literally, emotionally, and spiritually providing a warm and non-judgemental welcome to visitors and our neighbours
- **Working usefully** in our communities: as churches, we run and volunteer in many activities in our villages and beyond
- **Providing a listening ear and pastoral support** for those in our community as they experience the sorrow and joy of life's events
- **Revealing God's Love** in our communities, particularly in our local CofE Primary schools, with regular assemblies and seasonal festivals

Comments about our churches from members and villagers

We have recently asked our villages and congregations for views on our churches. We have had lots of comments, some conflicting! Here are some of them

Make church more culturally relevant to our villages and life

Church should be more visible in the village

We are all different with Christ at our head

Congregation is ageing and needs younger people

Local community connections are important

Good preaching and teaching are important

Bring back church choir

Vicar should be visible in community

Be more open to the Holy Spirit

Increase village activities held in church

Introduce more contemporary music and worship styles

Accept the united benefice - it will be beneficial

Maintain ecumenical outlook

Improve internet presence

Hold more social events open to all

Our young families work is a real strength

Keep services traditional with the Sacrament

Should try new things

Bring back youth clubs

Hold more organised prayer events

We are called to forgive as God forgives us

We need to listen to others

More services without Communion and traditional liturgy

Compassion is God's gift to us all

The Great Commandments underpin us – Love God and your neighbour

Encourage younger people to come to church

Reach out to those wanting a spiritual life but who are not religious

We are a village church not a gathered church

Church should care, support and welcome everyone

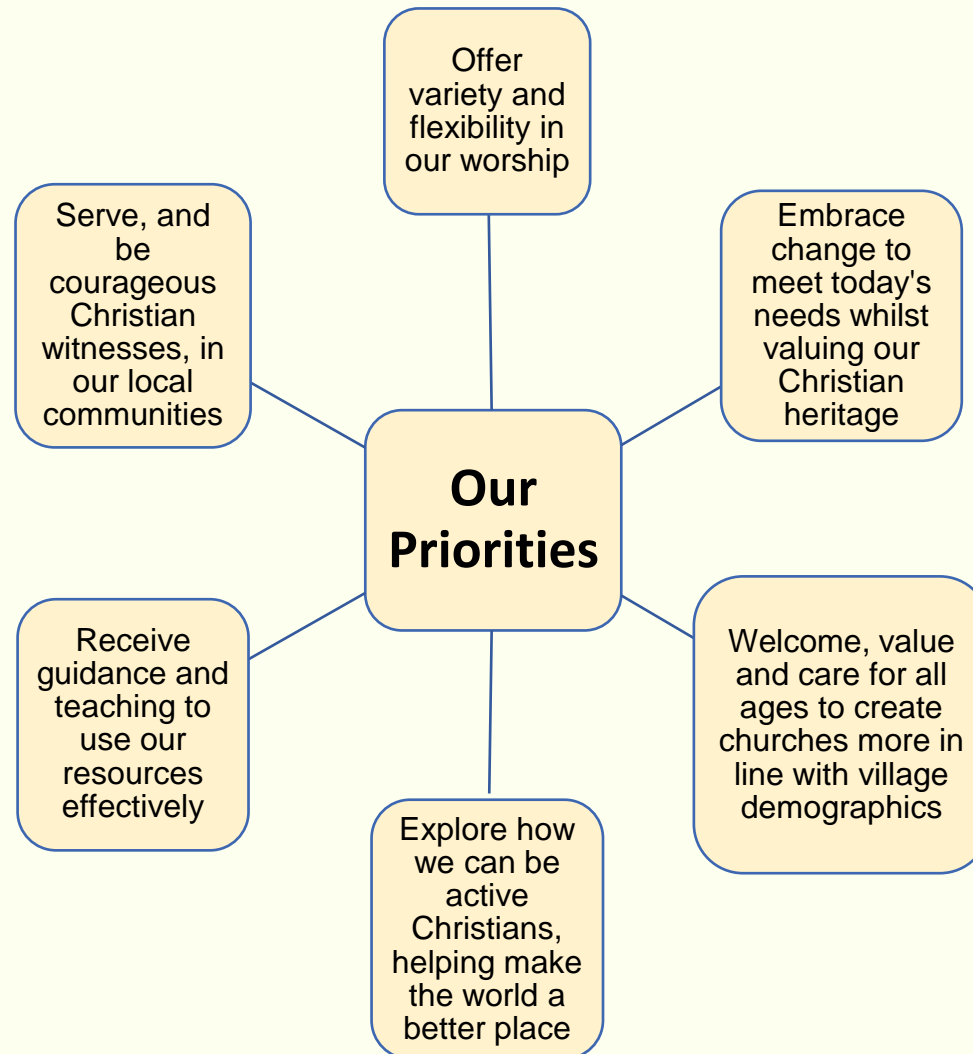
Remove Pews

Don't remove pews

Some services seem unwelcoming to children and young families

Our priorities

We have drawn on the views and comments set out in Section 3, and our own knowledge, to look to the future as our parishes come together in our new benefice. Much is demanded of our churches and we have identified the following initial priorities to help us move towards our Vision. We may not have the people, skills and ability to achieve all of these, but want to work with you so that we can do at least some of these things very well.



Skills, experience and qualities we are looking for in our new Vicar

We are looking for someone who will help us take our Vision (Grow, Care, Serve and Share) forward. As the “collar in the community” you will have a real interest and pastoral heart able to understand, relate, communicate and work with all, irrespective of age, background and opinions. You should not only be excited about reaching out to our village communities in practical ways, but also in leading our congregations towards a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

If this is of interest to you, you will be a priest of strong personal faith, attentive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, with a blend of skills and experience able to work within a range of church traditions.

In Worship We want you to

- inspire, teach and motivate us through Word and Sacrament to become courageous Christians as demonstrated in our daily lives
- show us how the Bible, Christian Theology and our individual faith journeys are needed in today's world

As Pastor We want you to be

- warm, caring and compassionate,
- a good communicator, listener and bridge builder
- concerned about reaching out and developing/deepening faith in everyone (those outside our churches, in our church families and in our schools)

As Leader We want you to be able to

- embrace and lead services of varied liturgical, musical and worship styles
- exercise wise oversight
- be an enabling team player holding people together and getting the best out of our callings, talents and resources
- honour the inheritance of our two parishes, acting with tact and patience, particularly in managing change
- understand that many 21st century lifestyles and cultures are different from the past and suggest the different approaches now needed to bring God's love to people
- confidently use IT and social networking systems to engage with people
- have excellent time management to work with those outside the church but still have time for your congregations (and for yourself!)

What we have learned from preparing this Profile

There has been much talk about creating a United Benefice over the last 10 or so years and this is now going to happen. Working on this Profile has been the first significant thing we have done together. It is therefore interesting to look back at what we have done to produce this Batheaston/Bathford Benefice Profile and what the experience has shown us.

We have more in common to build on than we thought

Over the years some mythology has developed about how different our churches are. “Batheaston is too catholic for my taste” and “Bathford is too evangelical for my taste”. The last few months have shown us that such statements don’t properly reflect reality. Batheaston is more traditional but is experimenting with new styles of worship (such as café church) and Bathford has a traditional 1st Sunday service as well as more informal services. So we have much more in common and in future we can build on that commonality rather than focusing on our differences.

We have worked well together and could do this in the future

We have discovered that we can listen to each other and work well together. Our joint Profile working group showed this as did the joint PCCs workshop we used to identify what we wanted in our new Vicar. We found we were united in our desire to see the Good News of Jesus extended to our communities. The knowledge that we have this in common gives us reassurance that, while we might not always see eye to eye, by listening to each other we will find mutually acceptable solutions to any issues and tensions we might face. There will certainly be practical consequences to face of running the United Benefice and recognising that our Vicar will now have responsibility for more than one parish. This might, for example, mean changes to scheduling and staffing of our Sunday services. We will need to work together with our new Vicar to find successful ways of handling such challenges.

We need to work hard, and imaginatively, to improve the church profile in our villages

Some of the research we have done to identify our place in each villages has also been enlightening, but a little sobering. Church members strongly believe that the church should be more of a feature in village life. However, answers to the questionnaires sent out asking for villagers’ views suggested that, while there a desire to see a church building in the villages (if only to go through the “hatched, matched and dispatched” rituals), there is no great clamour for much else from the church. Indeed several other organisations see themselves as being at the heart of the village.

It will be interesting to see how our determined steps to be more involved in the village will change perceptions and needs of what is wanted from the church. Future village questionnaires could find out what changes we have in fact made.

Worship at St John's



We are a Eucharistic church. Within the liturgy, word, symbol, gesture and silence - all speak to us. Many of us find beauty, both visual and musical, a pathway to God. St John's follows the lectionary using *Common Worship*. We are starting to explore additional forms of Worship, such as Café Church, and service times to better reach our village, beyond that of a Sunday church.

Elizabeth is our Associate Priest. Sarah and Jacque are our Readers. We look for preaching that will stretch our minds as well as warm our hearts. We have deep ecumenical roots founded in a previous L.E.P., introducing us to both Methodist and Catholic patterns of worship.

Serena, our Children's and Families' Worker, has a volunteer team helping her, both in church and in leading assemblies and worship at the Batheaston Church Primary School.

Congregational members act as welcomers, lead intercessions, read the lessons, provide a Traidcraft stall, serve coffee and much more.

We welcome requests for baptisms, weddings and funerals and the pastoral links these occasions provide. The village especially appreciates Harvest Festival, our All Souls', Remembrance and Carol Services, as also our Crib and Christingle services.

St John's has flexible seating, a piano, an organ and a drop-down screen which is used for service materials and presentations. The table below sets out our current worship pattern.

Our response to the Covid pandemic taught us new ways to reach the world with our services. We filmed services during the lock-downs, sometimes in our own gardens, sharing them on social media. We still offer midweek Zoom Compline. And we are now investigating the possibility of live/recorded broadcasting.

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd & 5 th Sunday	4 th Sunday
Service	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	All Age Service	Holy Communion
Type	Less Formal, may robe	Traditional, robed	Informal	Traditional, robed
Music	Hymns, songs	Hymns	Hymns, songs, children's choir	Hymns
Children Activities	Table activities or Children's Worker input	Table activities with volunteer input	Children's Worker input	Table activities with volunteer input
Typical attendance	30-40 adults 0-5 children	30-40 adults 0-5 children	30-40 adults 5-10 children	30-40 adults 0-5 children



Worship at St Catherine's

St Catherine's is our mediaeval treasure house, intimate and evocative. People come as pilgrims "to kneel where prayer has been valid".

St Catherine's services are conducted from the *Book of Common Prayer*, although there have been weddings and baptisms which have been more contemporary and based on *Common Worship*. The most popular service has traditionally been the annual Carol Service which results in some standing attendees. St Catherine's has also traditionally offered its own Harvest Service to celebrate its close connection to the agriculture practice and parishoners of this pristine valley.

Here we offer a monthly Eucharist and a monthly Evensong, both on Sunday at 3pm.

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd & 5 th Sunday	4 th Sunday
Service	Afternoon Evensong	No Service	Afternoon BCP Holy Communion	No Service
Type	Traditional, robed		Traditional, robed	
Music	Hymns, songs		Hymns	
Typical attendance	10-15 adults 0-5 children		4-8 adults 0 children	



Other Batheaston church activities

WE GIVE A WELCOME

Harvest and other lunches in church, concerts, charitable auctions, film nights and fairs. Our annual Village Fete is a great village clan gathering and our 2021 Village Art Trail is returning this autumn.

NETWORKING

Weekly Zoom worship and study have helped keep church members in touch with each other. Recently an actual meeting for Bible study has started.

COMMUNICATIONS

We have an internet page (in need of update), and also use Facebook. We offer Sharing Time with our Sunday service to give out information.

VILLAGE LINKS

We have close ties with our village Youth Club, and also with Penny's Pantry. This offered a lifeline for all age groups during Covid. Batheaston Rural Network has recently been formed, linking us with all the other village agencies. This gives much improved communication, and enhances mutual support

PASTORAL CARE

We seek to offer care and support to all members of our two congregations and to anyone from our village who makes contact with us. Pastoral care is shared between priest and people, with many phone calls and visits happening each week. Our members are also keen to be good neighbours.

ECUMENICAL CONTACTS

We stay in close touch with our village Ecumenical Partners and welcomed Methodist friends into our congregation when Batheaston Methodist Church closed in 2017. On the 2021 closure of The Good Shepherd Church we offered St John's to our Catholic friends, so that on occasion they could celebrate Mass there.

MISSION

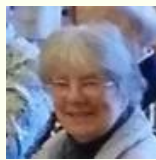
We support 12 local, national and international charities. We have particularly strong links with USPG, Christian Aid, Water Aid, Hope and Homes for Children, the Leprosy Mission and the Refugee Council.

TODDLER AND YOUTH LINKS

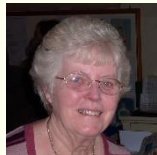
Our children's worker supported by volunteers and clergy offer many connections to village families:

- All Sorts – weekly toddler group
- School assemblies – weekly with Open the Book
- Cornerstone Kids Choir – weekly primary age singing
- monthly parties with St Swithun's Bathford
- annual Pancake Party
- annual Easter Family Craft
- annual Halloween Light Party with St Swithun's Bathford

Some of our people, places and activities in Batheaston



Elizabeth
Associate Priest

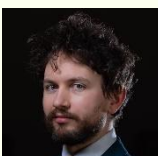


Sarah
Reader

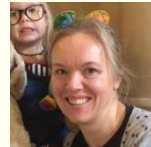
Jacque
Reader



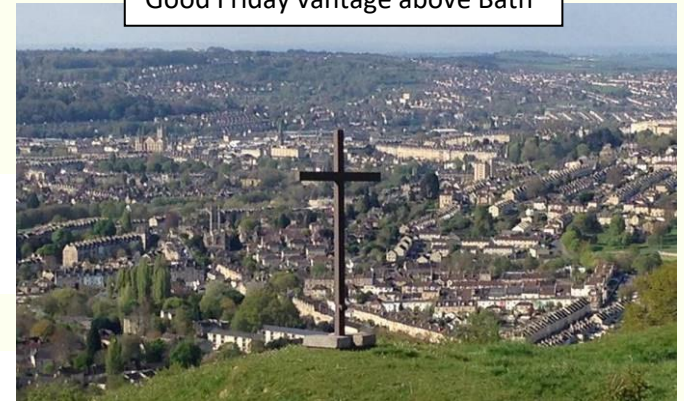
Batheaston
PCC
March 2022



Will
Music
Director



Serena
Children and
Families Worker



Good Friday vantage above Bath

-----Harvest celebrations -----



School assembly



Remembrance



-----Village fete in Glebe Field -----



Music



Worship at St Swithun's

Our worship benefits from a variety of styles and service content within the month. Members of our congregation play an active part by leading, (occasionally) preaching, reading and praying. Details are summarised below.

Traditional Holy Communion involves hymns, while our less formal services involve worship songs or a combination of the two. Our music is a combination of live worship (usually singer and keyboard) and recorded music. We follow a combination of sermon series (which our congregation enjoys) and the lectionary. Whether to robe is a matter for our Vicar – our last one didn't and in Vacancy some have and some haven't.

Service information (liturgy, prayers, responses and words of hymns/songs) is now projected on a screen. At the end of services, tea/coffee is served and prayer ministry offered. Covid of course inhibited the wonderful friendly atmosphere which lasts long after our services officially end. It is good that this is now returning.



	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd & 5 th Sunday	4 th Sunday
Service	Traditional	Informal	Less formal	Informal
Type	CW Holy Communion	Morning worship	CW Holy Communion	Family service
Music	Hymns	Worship songs and some hymns	Blend of hymns and worship songs	Worship songs
Children Activities	Activities led by volunteer	Churchyard trails or activities led by Serena (our children's worker) and volunteers	Activities led by volunteer	Service led by children's worker (Serena). Accessible to children but with an adult message
Typical attendance	40-50 adults 0-5 children	30-50 adults 5-15 children	40-50 adults 0-5 children	30-40 adults 10-15 children

We have recently started a monthly Sunday late afternoon/evening prayer book service. Tea and cakes are provided. About 15 people attend this service.

We also hold additional seasonal services (such as Christingle, Carol, and Crib services) as well as Harvest and services of remembrance focused on people in the village. The Remembrance Day service is very popular with local scouts and ex-servicemen (who use the village British Legion club) – a chapter of mainly ex-service bikers also attend. Services at these "Festival" times can see our congregations swell significantly.

Covid hit us all unexpectedly and we had to adapt rapidly. We look back with satisfaction that we quickly and successfully used Zoom, YouTube and Facebook to keep all our services and home and prayer groups going without a break. Our continuing Sunday evening Zoom prayer group is a good legacy to what we found worked well.



Other Bathford church activities

Small groups

We currently have 4 "Home Groups" meeting on different days and at different times in the week. There is also a "Mums' group" which meets weekly and has followed a number of discipleship courses. In all about 40-50 people attend these groups.

Young families (run by our children's worker, Serena, and volunteers)

We hold a weekly Toddlers, Tea and Toast session and popular monthly Friday evening parties open to all. We have started a 7-11yr group (Glow). Young families are welcomed in all our services and our 2nd and 4th Sunday services are most popular with them.

Covid

This probably showed us at our best. We rapidly created online church and our members were part of the village initiative to care for the isolated. For example, we delivered from the village shop and local pharmacy; contacted individuals via phone and doorstep chats and posted church cards to some; arranged "garden tea parties" when numbers were allowed; and organised outside activities/meetings for children and mums.

In addition to our regular worship, small groups provide a core part of our structure to grow in faith and for supporting one another through prayer and, when needed, practical help. These meet at a variety of times during the week to study the practical and personal application of the previous Sunday's teaching and broader issues raised in the Bible. There are also separate prayer and one-off study groups (e.g. Alpha).

We have a thriving young families' ministry although at present we are not reaching teenagers.

In the past we have enjoyed going away as a church family for a weekend of teaching and fellowship. This may be something we return to in the future.

We organise a monthly film club in the church and in future hope to increase the use of the church by community groups

Our church tithes its income and these funds are available to support a range of individuals and groups, both in the UK and internationally.

Schools work

Our children's worker supported by volunteers and clergy takes weekly school assemblies. Special events (in person and/or on-line) such as Christingle, Christmas, Easter and leavers' assemblies are also held.

Communications

We use the *Bathford Bulletin*, a monthly village publication, to communicate with our local community. We have a regular page for a message and Sunday service details. We also use Facebook and have an internet page. We send out notices every Thursday to church members online using Mailchimp (paper copies go to people without IT facilities). Our Sunday services also provide opportunities to give out information.

Mission

We support financially 16 overseas and local people and groups (the largest donations were to Tearfund, a missionary in Pakistan and Bath Foodbank). Our members personally support a wide range of causes and are heavily active in the village (particularly in supporting the Community shop and Link, a neighbourhood support scheme).

Prayer

We currently have two specific prayer groups. One meets every Sunday evening via Zoom for general prayer and another for pastoral prayer mid-week every fortnight. Prayer after services is also available. We also have periodic prayer events (such as Prayer walks). Pre-Covid we had monthly central prayer meetings but these have not yet resumed.

Some of our people, places and activities in Bathford



Bathford PCC March 2022



Serena Children & Young Families worker



Dennis Reader



Sandra Music & service IT Coordinator



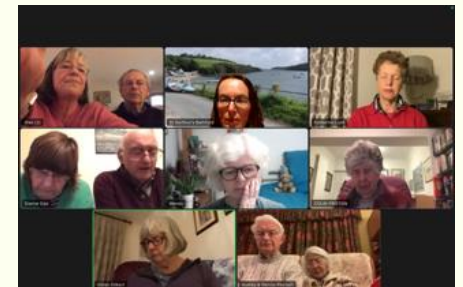
Zoe Office Administrator & PCC Secretary



Some of our church activities



Bathford village Views



Sunday evening Zoom prayers

The vicarage we offer

98 Northend, Batheaston, BA1 7HA

An attractive stone built detached family home with

Entrance porch | Hallway | Spacious drawing room | Dining room | Kitchen | Cloakroom | Timber conservatory | Master bedroom with en suite bathroom | 3 further bedrooms | Family bathroom

Front and rear gardens | Double garage | Driveway with off-street parking

The Diocese will be looking to put in a study for the new Vicar



What else we offer our new Vicar

We very much appreciate that there will be much to do in our church communities and across our new United Benefice. However, we are not expecting our new incumbent to do it all! Both Batheaston and Bathford parishes have people ready to help and the information below is designed to show you the structures, groups and individuals already in place to help in fulfilling our Vision.



Everyone works hard in our churches

Individuals	Batheaston	Bathford
Clergy	Elizabeth. 3 days a week Associate Priest on annual contract	None
Readers	Sarah – long-standing, takes funerals, tutor, pastoral care Jacquie - licensed 2 yrs	Dennis. Very experienced. Gives home communion and takes funerals.
Office administrator	None at present but many parishioners assist in various ways	Zoe. Undertakes all the admin for church life and services. Paid 15hrs a week. Works from an office in St Swithun's with good broadband, photocopier, etc.
Churchwardens	Rob and Keith both serving for last 3 yrs. Other previous CWs can assist	Katherine and John K in post for 1½ and 1yrs respectively. Robert is deputy Warden
Treasurer	Rob, 2 nd role in church leadership, has been Treasurer for a number of years	Michael. An experienced Treasurer working to keep our finances and reserves healthy Currently also PCC Chair
Children and young families worker	Serena - works (paid) 12 hrs a week in each parish. Enthusiastic with good creative, presentational and IT skills!	
Music and service IT Coordinator	Will – organist, choir director	Sandra. Also plays keyboard at some services as does Nick.
AV and sound system "expert"	Several parishioners join in	Mark. Oversaw recent upgrade of our systems.
IT support	Najeeb, volunteer from PCC	Val (and also leads Zoom prayers on a Sunday evening)
Local school Foundation Governors	Currently vacant	Charlotte. 1 yr in post One post vacant

Groups	Batheaston	Bathford
PCC	10 members, meeting 5-6 times a year	10 members. Well attended meetings 5-6 times a year
Standing Committee	Meet every other month	Meet as required
Fabric Committee	Rob as Property Manager for both churches, assisted by Chris at St Catherine's	Chaired by Mark. Pivotal in keeping our building and churchyard well maintained
Pastoral team	No formal structure, but much internal communication occurs to keep abreast of who might need support	Led by Ann. Meets, and prays, fortnightly. Particularly aims to keep in contact with the more vulnerable members of our church family.
Grass cutting team	Churchyard maintained by Local Council Authority	Led by Martin. They are always busy when the grass is growing!
Leadership/Service review and planning team	Meetings monthly of Priest, Churchwardens, Readers and Children's worker	Formed in vacancy. Led by John K with our Reader, Children's worker and key service personnel. Meets 3-4 times a year
Bellringing	Regular bell ringing team	A team of 6 led by Jane

There is also a supportive network of local clergy. And on an important point, we reimburse all expenses incurred on church, Deanery and Diocesan business.

Our church buildings

Our benefice has three churches. All have origins going back many centuries and provide wonderful buildings and churchyards for quiet repose, reflection and rest.



	St Swithun's	St John the Baptist	St Catherine's
Location	Village of Bathford	Northend in the village of Batheaston	About 2.5 miles north of Batheaston in private grounds of St Catherine Manor
Date of major part of building	Victorian	Dates from 12 th C, Victorian reordering.	15 th C, some Victorian embellishment
Comfortable seating capacity	120	200	Under 50
Nature of seating	A combination of pews and chairs	Chairs	Pews
Equipment and facilities	Recently upgraded office with good wifi and internet; recently upgraded AV, sound and projection systems; sound proof meeting/children's room; tea making facilities; WC	Wifi, copier, electronic organ, grand piano, AV and projection system, basic kitchen, Children's corner, accessible WC	Pipe organ
Current state of buildings	Regularly maintained and in good order. Boiler replaced 2020. No major issues identified in December 2021 quinquennial.	Building in good order structurally. Interior needs redecoration. Recent quinquennial. Interior redecoration planning now underway.	Refurbished and re-roofed between 2000-2008. Recent quinquennial.
Bells (all in regular use)	Peal of 6	Peal of 8	Peal of 4
Churchyard	Open. Mowed regularly by volunteers	Closed to burials, open to ashes interments in Memorial Garden. Council maintained	Open. Mowed by volunteers



What our villages offer

Location Both Batheaston and Bathford sit in the River Avon valley and are surrounded by lovely open countryside. They lie some 4 miles to the east of the world heritage city of Bath with regular bus services (taking about 15 minutes) to the city.

Schools Both villages have Church of England ‘academy’ primary schools which are rated “good”. There is a wide range of secondary school provision in Bath.

Medical facilities The doctors’ surgery in Batheaston looks after both villages and has recently been rated the best GP practice in Bath. There is also a Boots Pharmacy, dental practice and vets in Batheaston. There are two care homes in the area.

Shops There are two general stores in Batheaston and a community store in Bathford. All have a wide range of provisions.

Eating/drinking There are pubs and clubs in each village and, in Batheaston, a coffee shop, fish and chip and Indian restaurants and two hotels

Main activities In Bathford there is a rugby club, village cricket team, amateur theatricals, annual “open gardens”, village hall for exercise classes, art group, Brownies, children’s activity groups, and allotments. There is good village communication through social media and a monthly *Bathford Bulletin*.

In Batheaston, news, events and opportunities are shared via an area magazine and a village Facebook group. A new village hall has recently opened of which the church enjoys reserved use. Penny’s Pantry serves families in need. Sport: rugby, archery, and youth football; Youth Club, Scouts, Beavers and Brownies, a garden society and Grow Batheaston village cohesion initiative, and an Art Trail open studio weekend.

Some demographics:

See note 1	Batheaston	Church figures	Bathford	Church figures
		See note 2		See note 2
Population	3000	63	1800	112
Age distribution				
% 0-17 yrs	21%	8%	20%	18%
%age 18-44	29%	14%	22%	14%
%age45-64	29%	16%	32%	11%
%age over 65	21%	62%	26%	57%
%age of village self declared as White	96%		97%	
Housing				
Owner occupied	74%		80%	
Private rental	15%		13%	
Social housing	11%		7%	
%age of village on Census as Christian	55%		65%	
Deprivation index See note 3	10,771		12,179	

Note 1. Village data comes from Diocesan publication “Getting to know your parish” and “Parish Dashboard” (CofE documents). They use Census 2011 data which, while old, still gives a reasonable picture

Note 2 Represents Usual Worshipping Community. A few people come from outside the parishes

Note 3 Most deprived is 1 and least deprived is 12,425

What is the main message from these facts and statistics? Only a small percentage of people in our villages attend our Sunday services (approx 2.1% in Batheaston and 6.2% in Bathford - statistics suggest the national figure is about 5%). And our congregations are increasing in age. So there is plenty of scope for building up our congregations and indeed this might be seen as an imperative to our future existence.

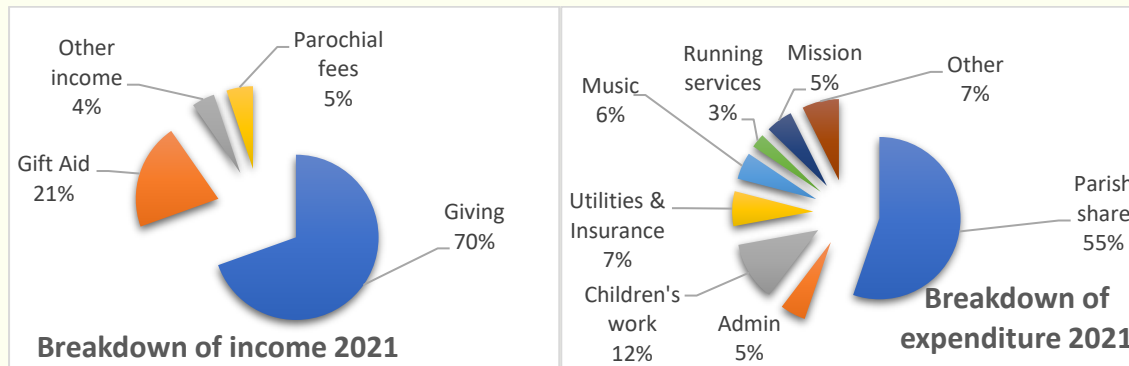
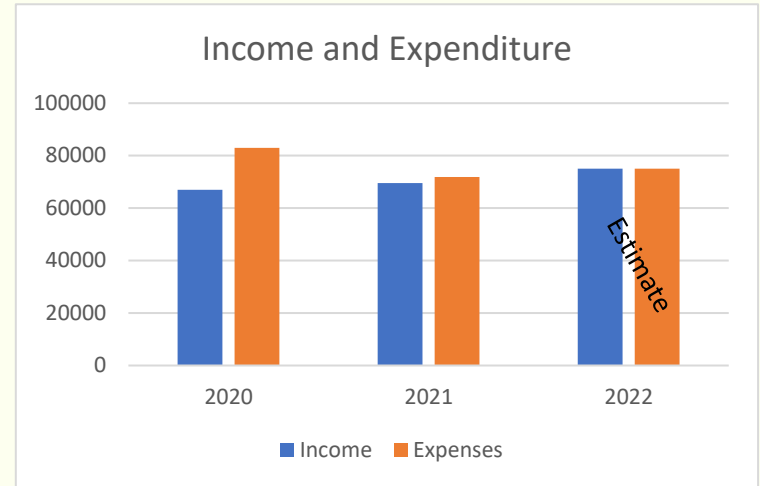
Batheaston facts and figures

We have been running a deficit of expenditure over income for some years and have had to rely on 2 recent substantial legacies to cover annual expenditure. Like all churches, Covid had a major impact on our income but a successful stewardship campaign in 2021 went some way to correct this. We plan to repeat this in 2022. One of our legacies has enabled us to employ Serena as our Children and Families Worker for the past 5 years but we need to establish a new income stream or continue to deplete our reserves if this is to continue. Those reserves currently stand at about £180,000.

St John's Church is in need of internal redecoration, improved lighting and a review of the heating system to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. We are also considering options for improving the flexibility of the building to host more events like the recent successful Art Trail, concerts etc. Recent developments include the installation of a digital projector and screen in St John's Church and a WiFi router.

The oil fired heating system at St Catherine's Church is becoming unviable for health & safety reasons and we are looking at electric heating alternatives.

A breakdown of our income and expenses, along with some non-financial figures of interest, are set out below



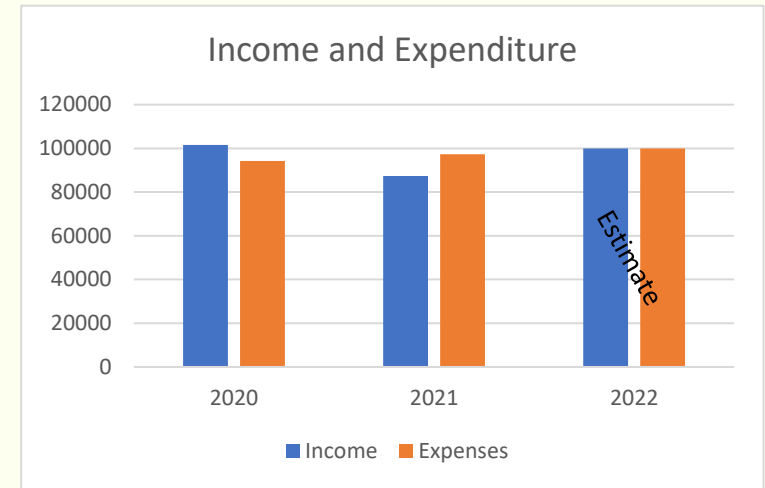
Non-financial figures of possible interest	
Weddings <small>see note 1</small>	1
Funerals <small>see note 1</small>	6(+interments)
Baptisms <small>see note 1</small>	3
2021 electoral roll numbers	82
Usual worshipping community	63
Note 1 figures for typical annual averages Also figures possibly skewed by vacancy in 2019 and Covid lockdowns in 2020, 2021	

Note: Other Income suffered from Covid as primary fundraisers could not be held

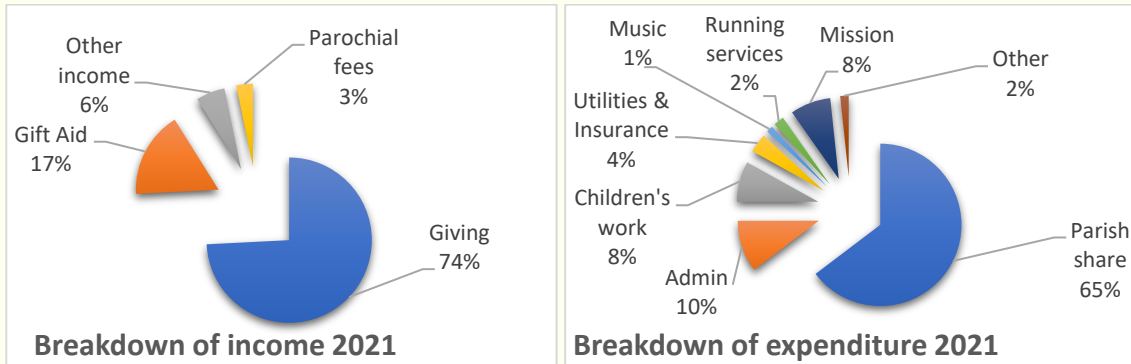
Bathford facts and figures

After some years when we have been fortunate in seeing our income slightly exceed our expenses, the impact of Covid and departure of some givers from our church in 2021 (leaving the area for job reasons) have changed that position. We experienced a small deficit in 2021 which needed to be addressed if it was not to continue through 2022. The PCC considered the position and put in place steps which they hope will bring income and expenditure into line in the future. Fortunately we have good reserves (about £110,000 in unrestricted funds) to help us through this situation but we obviously want to maintain healthy reserves so that we are able to handle any issues arising in future.

During 2020 and 2021 we undertook some significant improvements around the church. The office equipment (IT and photocopier) was upgraded, we installed a system to help improve church administration (Churchdesk) and put in a new projector. This cost, about £10,000, was met out of reserves. We also installed a new boiler for about £20,000 which was paid for by donations from the congregation. Church members usually respond well to requests to meet one off costs which directly affect them.



A breakdown of our income and expenses, along with some non-financial figures of interest, are set out below.



Non-financial figures of possible interest	
Weddings <small>see note 1</small>	2
Funerals and internments <small>see note 1</small>	6
Baptisms <small>see note 1</small>	2
2020 electoral roll numbers	131
Usual worshipping community	112
Note 1 figures for typical annual averages	

So finally

We hope you have enjoyed learning a little about our parishes, our churches and our new benefice.
The cover to this profile had a missing portrait.



Are you our “Wanted” person?

We know that God will send the right person to lead us and it may be you. We hope that the information given in this Profile will help you discern this and we pray that God will be with you as you make this decision. If there is anything else we can provide to help you make this decision, please get in touch with us through Keith Masdin (Churchwarden at Batheaston – keithmasdin@btinternet.com), the Bathford church office (administrator@stswithunsbathford.co.uk) or our Archdeacon Adrian Youings (adbath@bathwells.anglican.org). Some other contact information which may be of interest is set out in Appendix 3.

Deanery statement



Bath Deanery comprises the city of Bath and the surrounding villages. It is made up of 21 traditional parishes which comprise 39 church buildings. In addition, Grace Church is a Fresh Expression of church reaching out to families and those interested in sport and a Pioneer minister is working in the South of the city to imagine what expressions of church might be appropriate. Readers, retired clergy, self-supporting and stipendiary clergy contribute to the senior leadership of churches, working with Churchwardens and other lay ministers. Deanery Synod is a vehicle for mission and learning together and Chapter's focus is building prayerful partnerships and learning from one another. It has an active WhatsApp group for communication, prayer and building relationships. The emphasis for the Deanery is threefold:

Prayerfulness: valuing our different church traditions and the way these manifest themselves in the ways we pray. Seeking to understand, respect and value different ways of praying – from the liturgical to the charismatic. Encouraging ecumenical prayer and together discerning God's vision for mission around the Deanery.

Hospitality: understanding that we are one in Christ, our Christian hospitality means that nobody is in ministry alone, but we are all called to work together because (and not despite), of our differences. Partnership working over parish boundaries and between leadership and ministry teams is vital for enriching the life of the church, treasuring giftedness, and providing resilience through change. Ecumenical hospitality and through the CofE Living in Love and Faith conversations are priorities.

Innovation: the model of church most visible around the Deanery is the traditional one of church based around Sunday services, a building, and a Vicar. We are committed to innovating new ways of being the church. Apart from Grace Church and the Whiteway Pioneer mission, the Deanery supports chaplaincy in Bath College, at both Universities, at the Royal United Hospital and elsewhere. We work in partnership with other churches for youth ministry and many churches are operating a 'hybrid' model of on-site and on-line worship, connecting with broader audiences.

This is a demanding and exciting time to be part of Bath Deanery as we seek to follow God in His mission, to prayerfully work in partnership with him and with others.

Revd Stephen Girling – Area Dean

Mrs Pippa Page – Lay Dean

Diocesan statement



Our vision

**In response to God's immense love for us we seek to be God's people
living and telling the story of Jesus.**

Our vision speaks of the story of Jesus; his life, teaching and work, his death and resurrection; the story which is the context of our faith and the content of our message.

We seek **to live** this story as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world and **to tell** it, both in sharing the good news and by the way in which our lives speak about Him.

The diocesan strategy is built around three priorities:

1. To place mission and evangelism at the heart of all we do.
2. To re-align our resources towards mission.
3. To identify, develop and release the gifts of all our people.

The priorities provide a framework for decision-making and planning at parish, benefice, deanery, archdeaconry and diocesan levels

Other contact details and a map of the area

Diocese of Bath and Wells www.bathandwells.org.uk

Bath Deanery www.bathdeanery.org

St John the Baptist Batheaston
www.batheastonchurches.uk (design under review)

St Swithun's Bathford www.stswithunsbathford.co.uk

Batheaston Parish Council www.batheaston-pc.gov.uk

Bathford Parish Council www.bathford.net

Bath Tourist office www.visitbath.co.uk

Batheaston Church School
www.batheastonprimary.co.uk

Bathford Church School
www.bathfordchurchschool.co.uk

