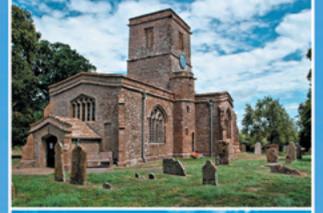




St Bartholomew's Crewkerne

stbartscrewkerne.org

The Parish Church
of St Bartholomew
Crewkerne, within
the Wulfric Benefice



The Heart of God at the Heart of the Community

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Welcome to St Bartholomew's



Thank you for being interested in the post of **Rector** of this Benefice. We believe that this document presents an honest review of our Church and its people. The **St Bartholomew's Church** family are ordinary folk but our vision and our desire is to be **The Heart of God at the Heart of the Community.**

Overview

St Bartholomew's is the Parish Church of Crewkerne, and has been at the heart of the community for over 1000 years. It is a Grade 1 listed building, a beautiful church built mainly in the 15th Century situated in the ancient market town of Crewkerne, Somerset. See '1000 Best Churches in England' by Simon Jenkins.

However, it is not a museum and we have plans for re-ordering to make the building more accessible and welcoming, particularly toilets and a kitchen area.

St Bartholomew's is the largest of five parishes and six churches within the Wulfric Benefice and is growing, having a population of approximately 8,000 people but planning permission has been given for 500 or more new homes to the east of the town. The Benefice name celebrates the medieval Saint Wulfric who lived in Haselbury Plucknett. He encouraged everyone with God's love and prophetic wisdom, from King Stephen to the local villagers.

We have a range of formal and informal services and our vision is to grow in faith and reach out with God's love, bringing the Hope of Christ to every home in the town, to our schools and beyond.

Our church family is welcoming and friendly and it is a joy to have fellowship through social gathering, whether it be after church with real coffee and biscuits or other social and fundraising events and prayer groups.

We are committed to extending our mission and outreach and want to help others find the love of God in our Lord Jesus Christ and the joy and peace of walking with Him. We believe corporate prayer should be at the centre of everything we do and long to make this a reality rather than an aspiration.

Pastoral care is a key priority and our Team visit the sick and housebound regularly, including giving home Communion in normal times, as well as coming alongside anyone who may be struggling.



Who we are

St Bartholomew's is a Bible believing church whose vision and purpose is to reach out to all, to families, to young and old alike with the love of God and the glorious Good News of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We believe the Gospel is the unchanging Word of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit it is potentially life changing, bringing new life and health to those willing to receive it.

We are looking forward, prayerfully, in hope and in expectation to working with our new Rector to increase our mission to families and young children, to the schools and to all the people of Crewkerne.

The Wulfric Benefice is made up of six churches:

- 1. St Bartholomew's Church**, a Grade 1 listed building, a beautiful church built mainly in the 15th Century situated in the ancient market town of Crewkerne, Somerset. See '1000 Best Churches in England' by Simon Jenkins.
- 2. The daughter church is The Good Shepherd in Hewish.**
- 3. St Michael's Church, Wayford.** This is a small 13th Century church with the most wonderful views of the surrounding countryside from its churchyard.
- 4. St Michael's and all Angels, Haselbury Plucknett.**
- 5. St Leonard's Church, Misterton.**
- 6. St Martin's Church, North Perrott.**

Ministry – Services

The Pattern of Services at St Bartholomew's

The pattern of services is essentially Eucharistic with a weekly Communion Service at 10.00am. We have also had a non-eucharistic Family Service at 10.00am on the 3rd Sunday of every month with lively worship, sermon and prayers involving children as much as possible.

Sunday **8.30 Said Prayer Book Communion**
 10.00 Eucharist

Wednesday **10.30 Said Prayer Book Communion**



During the 10.00 Communion a Sunday School called Holy Space is organised by volunteers in the vestry. The object being to encourage the children to know and love the Lord with a Bible story and activities while their parents can relax and enjoy the Service themselves.

Praise and Healing Services with the Baptist Church once a month. These take place alternately in St Bartholomew's and the Baptist Church, North Street.

All Souls. The Visiting Team organise a Bereavement and All Souls Service for the recently bereaved. This is a well-supported and appreciated service.

St Bartholomew's Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday

This is a large civic service with the Mayor attending, following on from the laying of town wreaths and the two minutes' silence at the war memorial in the churchyard. Usually members of the armed forces from the Yeovilton Air Base attend as well.



Ministry – Services

The Pattern of Services at St Bartholomew's



St Bartholomew's Carol Service

Carol Service.

Large and well supported.

Christingle Service.

This is a joyful service when the church is packed with families and children.



St Bartholomew's Christingle Service



St Bartholomew's Christingle Service

Midnight Mass.

St Bartholomew's Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Family Communion with carols.



Music

Music is celebrated and enjoyed by everyone. **Steve Curtis**, our very able Director of Music and organist, leads an enthusiastic choir who together lift our worship every week. We aim to have a mixture of traditional and modern hymns and worship songs and sometimes these are accompanied by piano, clarinet, guitar or even a bongo drum! Recently they have produced a CD of Christmas Carols which featured on Radio Somerset.



St Bartholomew's Choir

St Bartholomew's School Choir



Technology

The AV system and screens are a wonderful addition to our services and are especially useful on special occasions. This has been particularly true during this time of Covid-19 when neither the choir nor the congregation is permitted to sing.

We have kept the church open and held services as permitted by the regulations and, as well as this, more recently, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have begun recording services online every week and over Christmas as well.

The **Very Rev Robert Key** has discovered a gift for putting these together aided by **Rev David Newman**, the churchwardens and other willing members of the congregation. These have been very successful and have a large reach online now that we have our own YouTube channel.

The Church and its People - What is important to us



Desire to see Jesus loved, the church grow and have a caring concern for the town and the villages.

Fellowship

We have a lively fellowship after the 10.00am services with real coffee and biscuits. This is an important ending to the morning service and enjoyed by all.



St Bartholomew's
Crewkerne
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The Church and its People - What is important to us

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral team aim to continue working with the Rector in the care homes and visiting within the community wherever there is need.

We offer fellowship, time to share and talk as well as prayer for their needs and prayer for healing for those who are sick. In fact, prayers for healing and any other needs are offered after all our main services as we trust the Holy Spirit to bring the blessing and wholeness that people need.

Although we are not a young congregation, people are always willing to help with anything that needs to be done and are active in maintaining the church physically and spiritually.



St Bartholomew's Benefice Visiting Team

The Church and its People - Activities prior to the pandemic



Messy Church

Crewkerne Churches Together share with us in organising and running **Messy Church** once a month in St Bartholomew's Church Hall. It is for all children 0- 11 years old, accompanied by an adult, and is free of charge, providing fun, creative activities based around a Bible story. There is a free light lunch with tea/coffee and squash provided to drink.



Messy Church

Little Sunbeams is a baby and toddler group which takes place in the Church Hall and is staffed by volunteers. The cost is £1.50 including coffee, tea and cake. It is well-attended and popular.

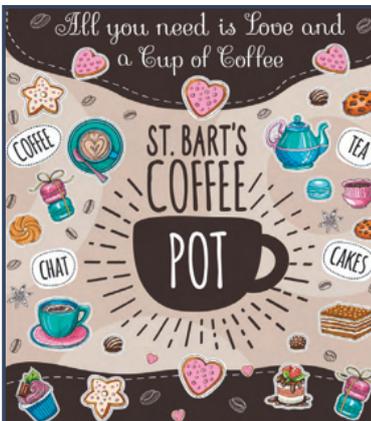
We organise a picnic for the families in the summer and a party at Christmas. On **Holy Saturday** we organise the making of Easter Gardens for **Messy Church** and for anyone in the schools and wider community who would like to join us.



Our **Mothers' Union** group was active before the pandemic and we hope it will resume its activities afterwards. We have a varied programme and have organised events for the Church and friends such as a skittles evening at a nearby pub which ended with a wonderful meal at Oscar's Wine Bar all for £8!

The Mothers' Union had planned an indoor Kurling evening this Autumn and a Christmas tea with carol singing for members of the Church and friends, but this had to be postponed.

The Church and its People - Activities prior to the pandemic



Coffee Pot

A regular and popular coffee morning with homemade cakes was started last year and began to attract some people from the town.

Bells

St Bartholomew's has a ring of 8 bells which are mainly rung by our regular team and by visiting ringers for services, weddings and special occasions and for fun. There is a thriving bell ringers community in the UK and lots of information can be found online.



St Bartholomew's Bellringers



St Bartholomew's Handbells

Handbells

We have an enthusiastic handbell ringing group.

Our Christmas Tree Festival has been very successful in previous years and is much enjoyed by the whole community. The trees make a special background for our Christmas services. (We did manage to hold a curtailed form of the Christmas Tree Festival this year, despite the pandemic, being very careful to ensure all the necessary precautions were taken.)

St Bartholomew's Christmas Tree Festival



Engaging with the Community

We have good Ecumenical links through **Churches Together** in Crewkerne with the other churches in the town – the **Roman Catholic Church** and the **Methodist Church**, who share a building, the **Baptist Church**, and the **Community Church** – and would wish for that to continue.

Churches Together in Crewkerne participate together in Lent study groups which are usually held in **St Bartholomew's Church Hall**, and a **Good Friday Walk of Witness**.

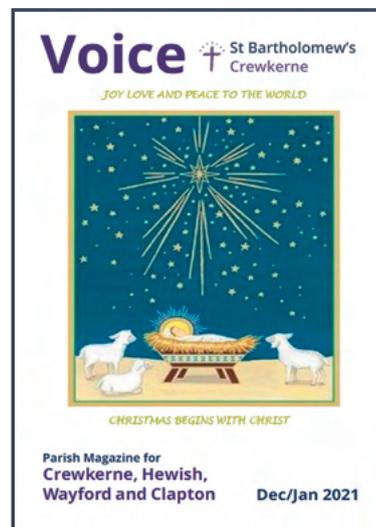
Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is an initiative started by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and now taking place across the whole Anglican Communion to pray for the Kingdom of God to come. **The Very Rev Robert Key** is the Anglican Communion Lead in this endeavour. Christians are asked to pray regularly for 5 people, friends, relatives, or neighbours to come into the Kingdom and know the love and saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Voice

Edited and published in Crewkerne the **Voice** magazine covers life in Crewkerne, Hewish and Wayford and advertises events in the other villages of the Benefice when asked.

The latest edition can be viewed on our website www.stbartscrewkerne.org



Engaging with the Community

Friends of St Bartholomew's

The Friends are a community group in the town who love the church building and its history. They organise a wide-ranging programme of events each year. Concerts promoting classical music, folk music, jazz, poetry, choral singing, Gilbert & Sullivan are designed to attract as many different people as possible, from near and far. Money raised has been given for repairing the church building, most notably £50,000 for the repair of the West Window.

Wedding Fair

St Bartholomew's is popular for weddings and the annual **Wedding Fair** has helped encourage couples to have a church wedding in this beautiful setting.



Charities

St Bartholomew's has contributed towards a chaplain at **Wadham School**.

Robert Bird's Cottage Homes Charity

This provides low-cost housing for elderly people. The Rector and Churchwardens are Trustees.

St Bartholomew's recently linked up with the charity **Safe Families for Children** but unfortunately the pandemic put a stop to our plans. We would hope to continue with that project in the future.

Bible Society

One of the Wardens is our local group representative, and this is a cause we hope to support more in future.

Living and Working in Crewkerne

Nestling in the folds of the hills, Crewkerne is in an attractive market town, with many of the older buildings built from the local hamstone.



Most amenities are within walking distance and one soon gets to know people in the town. As well as two supermarkets, Waitrose and Lidl, the town boasts a butcher; two bakers, one an artisan baker; a small greengrocer; chemist; opticians; hardware shop; hairdressers; gift shops; M & Co; shoe repairs; florists; cafes; pubs; hotels as well as several charity shops. There is a doctors' surgery and three dentists' surgeries.

We have a Museum and a small but well-supported Library.

There is also an Aqua Centre and Fitness Centre and a Community space at the Henhayes Centre where different groups meet and activities take place for the elderly and disabled.

Henhayes recreation ground hosts the football, rugby and cricket clubs for their matches and there is a good playpark.

The George Reynolds Centre is nearby where there are changing rooms and facilities for these sports. There is also a playgroup/nursery, and a youth group, and a bar and meeting space where functions can be held.

Living and Working in Crewkerne

Schools

There are three church schools in Crewkerne; all of them are welcoming and open to us. The Rector visits and takes assemblies regularly and, before Covid-19 struck, Steve Curtis had begun to establish musical links with the local primary schools.

At present there are:

Two first schools, **Ashlands Church of England First School** and **St Bartholomew's Church of England First School**.

Wadham Church of England School takes children 13 – 18 years old.

The Middle School at Maiden Beech is an academy.

However, the organisation of these schools is under review with the possibility that there will be three primary schools and **Wadham School** will be a Comprehensive School.

The church schools and the independent **Perrott Hill School** hold their Carol Services at St Bartholomew's.

Pre-schools

Jigsaw pre-school/nursery meets at the George Reynolds Centre.

Busy Bees pre-school/nursery is run by the Methodist Church.

The Lawns Children's Nursery is in Middle Path.

Hospitals

Yeovil, Taunton and, further afield, Bristol. Crewkerne has a small hospital caring for elderly and convalescent patients for the most part.

Living and Working in Crewkerne



St Bartholomew's Bazaar



Easter Garden



Messy Church

Exploring this beautiful part of Somerset and getting around

Towns

Yeovil is the nearest town and the local hospital is there.

Taunton, the County Town, is 20 miles away and has a greater variety of shops and facilities.

West Bay, Bridport



Bridport has plenty of interest with a Literary Festival, arts and music.

Lower Bincombe

Dorchester is just over the border in Dorset and is interesting to visit with its many links with **Thomas Hardy**, and is the County Town of Dorset.

Local beauty spots, coast and walking

We are surrounded by beautiful countryside.



Nearby there is **Ham Hill**, an **Iron Age Hill Fort** with wonderful views of the Levels and just over the border in Dorset, are **Pilsdon Pen** and **Lamberts Castle**.

Ham Hill, Iron Age Hill Fort

Exploring this beautiful part of Somerset and getting around



The **Jurassic Coast** is about 30 – 40 minutes' drive away and Lyme Regis, Charmouth with its Jurassic Coast Fossil Centre, West Bay, and Weymouth are all easily accessible.

Places of interest include Forde Abbey, Montacute, Barrington and a little further, Stourhead and Longleat Safari Park.

Transport Links

Rail: Being on the direct line to London Waterloo in one direction and Exeter in the other is a great boon.

Road: Berry's Coaches run from Taunton and Ilminster to Hammersmith, London, there and back twice daily.

The route to London is via the A303 and the M3; the M5 from Taunton connects to Bristol and the North.

Air: Bristol Airport and Exeter Airport are about an hour away.

The Rectory



The Rectory was purpose built in 2015/2016 following a gift of land to the Church.

It is situated in North Street and is set back from the road in a large garden set mainly to grass. A drive leads to it and a separate double garage. The entrance to the house leads to an area separated from the family living space and comprising a toilet facility for the disabled and an office.

A door leading from this gives access to the kitchen/dining room which is light and airy looking onto a patio and back garden. There are two inter-connecting rooms leading from the dining area and with doors leading onto a hallway.

Stairs lead from there to 4 bedrooms and family bathroom. The master bedroom is ensuite.

The lounge has patio doors leading to the paved patio area which is South facing and having views over the nearby fields. A small stream runs at the bottom of the garden. The house and garden are relatively secluded.

The Rectory



Kitchen

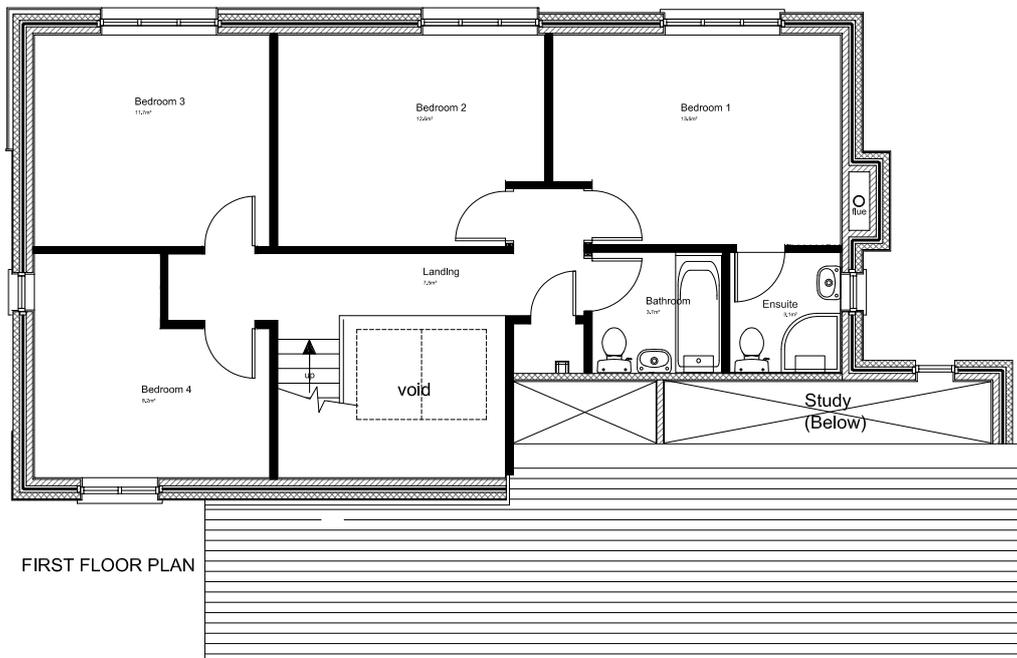
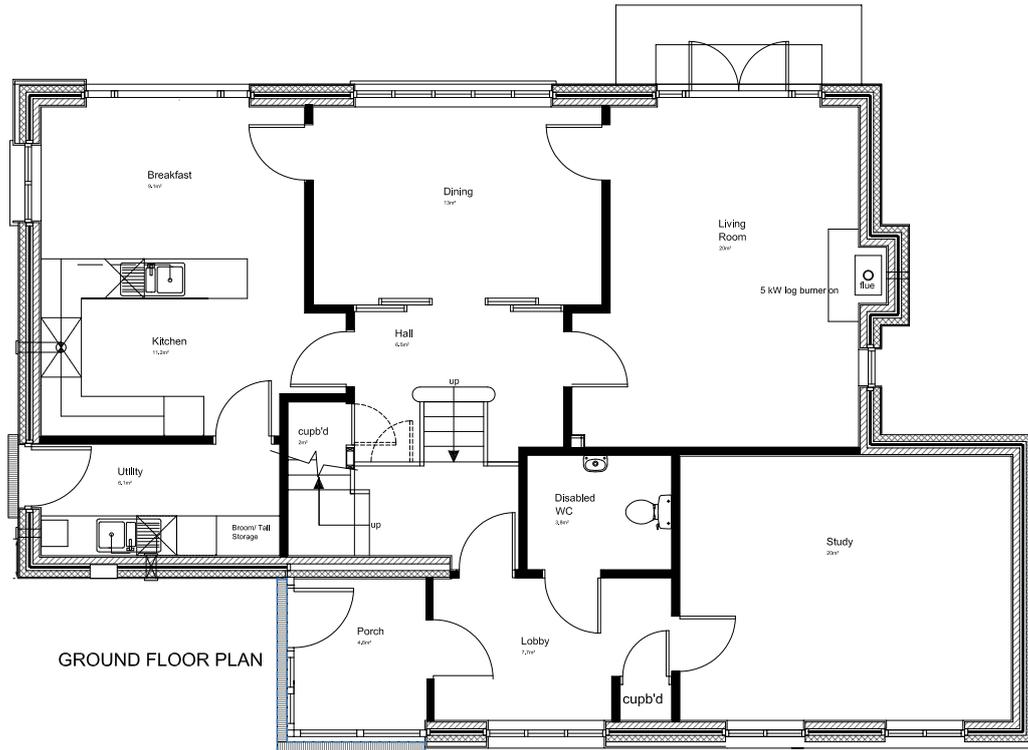


Hallway & Stairs

Living Room



The Rectory



Financial Report

We have funds invested, the interest from which has helped us to continue to pay our **Parish Share** and to pay for the upkeep of the church even through this pandemic. We encourage regular, direct giving, gift aided whenever appropriate. We intend to run a stewardship campaign when that becomes possible to help to explain to all members of the church the principles of Christian giving in response to God's love and generosity to us.



St Bartholomew's Christingle Service



Palm Sunday

Our Next Rector

Our next Rector

We really believe there is great potential for the growth of ministry and outreach of the Church here at St Bartholomew's, especially amongst families and young people and are praying for the right pastoral and spiritual leadership based in the truth of God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us forward into the future.

We are praying for a Rector who:

Loves the Lord, is growing in his or her own faith, is committed to Bible study and prayer and open to the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Loves **people** and wants to introduce them to Christ and help them to develop spiritually.

Loves **the Scriptures** and will expound them faithfully and apply them relevantly.

Loves **working collegially** with clergy and laity, maximising ministry by working as a mutually encouraging and effective team across the Benefice.

Loves **making the most of opportunities that the Holy Spirit opens up, whether with schools, community groups or ventures yet to be discovered.**

We can offer:

Our prayers, fellowship and support, a willingness to face the future into which God leads us with faith, courage and a willingness to strengthen what we already have and develop new ideas and ministries in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are praying for God's choice of leader here and that it might, perhaps, be you who are reading this now.

Our Church Team

Clergy

The Rev Jonathan Morris is the Associate Vicar working across the Benefice with the Rector conducting services, pre-wedding interviews, Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals and organising Lent and Advent study groups. Although based in North Perrott and mainly working in the villages he has made a very valuable contribution to the life of the whole Benefice. His presence will be greatly missed when he comes to retirement.

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The Revd David Newman

Honorary Assistant Priest

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The Very Revd Robert Key

Honorary Assistant Priest

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Wardens

Christine Newman

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Telephone: 01460 271496

Pippa Smith

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Telephone: 01460 77342

Treasurer: Hilary Royle

Administrative tasks: Regular information updates for the Benefice provided by **Ann Cossins** as leader of the Communications team of the PCC. Events including weddings, funerals and baptisms, and other administrative tasks are looked after by Clergy, Churchwardens and volunteers on the PCC.

PCC: **Christine Newman** and **Pippa Smith**, Churchwardens, **Diana Brown**, Deanery Synod Representative, **Hilary Royle**, Treasurer, **Rev David Newman**, Secretary, **The Very Rev Bob Key** and six other members all of whom are actively involved in running and maintaining church life.

Verger: Richard Agar

There is a rota for welcomers, intercessors, readers, refreshments, Servers, cleaning, brass cleaning and church flowers.

Church Office

Abbey Street, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7HY

Telephone: 01460 72407

Website www.stbartscrewkerne.org



Appendix: Our daughter church, The Church of the Good Shepherd, Hewish

The Church of the Good Shepherd is very special as it is a small Chapel of Ease in the tiny hamlet of Hewish, 2 miles south west of Crewkerne.

The Chapel was built in 1868 and was originally used as both a School and a Church.

We have Holy Communion Services twice a month with lay led Morning Prayers being said on the other Sundays and special services at Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas. Carols by Candlelight attract attendance of some 40 people.



We are a close-knit rural community who need someone with a willingness to work within a rural area and is keen to keep these little churches open.

We see our greatest challenge as attracting younger people into the Church as our village consists of mainly older retired people and there needs to be fresh growth amongst younger people in order to plan for the future of our church in Hewish.

Our current congregation, though small in numbers are dedicated to keeping the Church alive in Hewish for the generations that are yet to come. Some members of our congregation have worshipped in the Church for over 60 years, were baptised and married there as were their children and grandchildren too. They give generously of their time and talents as well as their financial giving in order to maintain the Church





Aerial Shot of St Bartholomew's Alastair Purcell



St Bartholomew's Crewkerne

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