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# **The Benefice of Berrow and Brean and the Benefice of Three Saints**



**As Three Somerset Parishes become One New Benefice,  
we are seeking a new Priest to lead and shape this exciting partnership.**

# Our Story

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We are three Somerset parishes, in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, joyfully joining together to form a new Benefice. This is an exciting step in our shared journey of faith, as we unite to serve God and our communities more closely. The formation of this united benefice is part of a wider pastoral reorganisation and will take place once the pastoral scheme is approved. Our new priest will begin their ministry as Priest in Charge, helping us to grow together in faith, love and service. Our parishes of St Mary Berrow, St Bridget Brean and The Parish of Three Saints (TPoTS) are all part of the Axbridge Deanery and together embrace five vibrant villages along the stunning north west coast of the beautiful Somerset Levels. Blessed with peaceful countryside and wide sandy beaches, our home offers a warm welcome to all, with space for walking, riding and enjoying God's creation.

Following the recent Deanery reorganisation, we are eager to build deeper connections across our parishes, strengthening relationships and embracing the many opportunities this new chapter holds for us all.

Each parish is a visible and loving presence in its community, seeking to share God's love and speak His message where He has placed us. We serve our communities in various ways, including fundraising concerts, village hub cafes, flower and christmas tree festivals, craft fairs, fetes, summer cream teas and a wide variety of fellowship groups.

St Mary's Church Berrow is often known as "The Church on the Dunes" as the building nestles beautifully on the edge of the surrounding beach and golf course. The church was reordered in 2018/2019 to make it accessible for all and to give space for concerts. The Children's Ministry Team run a Baby/Toddler group, a Little Fishers after school club and regularly take assemblies using "Open the Book".

St Bridget's Church lies in the centre of the holiday village of Brean. We have a covenant with Brean Methodist Church, formed in 1988, working together to promote Christian worship in the village and enjoying church services and social events together.

The Parish of Three Saints, comprising the villages of Lymsham, East Brent and Brent Knoll, is united as one church family with one PCC. We have a pastoral team of LPAs, who reach out to people in need in our parish.

In essence, we are all disciples who seek to live out God's kingdom and share Jesus' good news in our lovely corner of Somerset. Will you join us?



# Our Challenges



- ◆ The road ahead brings the exciting challenge of uniting our church communities in fellowship and shared purpose. We know that some among us have faced many seasons of change, and we want to walk this journey side by side, supporting one another through prayer, encouragement and friendship. We are already sharing times of prayer, worship and fellowship and look forward to celebrating together at our Festivals.
- ◆ While the joys of rural life are many, we also recognise that it can sometimes bring loneliness and isolation. That is why we are committed to reaching out, offering a heartfelt welcome and sharing the love and comfort of God with all. We will hold one another in prayer, continually seeking new ways to connect, care and grow in faith together.
- ◆ We want to reach out and connect with younger families in our villages and wider communities, especially to those who may not yet know the joy of worship and the peace of God.



Harvest



Christian Aid



Flower Festival

**"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13)**



# Our Aspirations

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**As the body of Christ in this part of Somerset, we are a living witness to God's love by serving our communities**

## Our Local Schools



We believe that partnering with our local schools is a wonderful way to share the gospel across all generations, nurturing faith in the hearts of children, families and our wider community. We want to continue to strengthen the good relationships we enjoy with our schools.

## Our New Partnership



We want to nurture and grow our new partnership and have started to share fellowship at social events as well as worship on the 5th Sunday of the month. We have plans to set up a brand new website to serve the whole benefice.

## Our Local Communities



We will continue to use our church buildings for more than Sunday services, hosting events that benefit and enhance our communities, such as quizzes, art shows, feasts and flower festivals. We want to welcome as diverse a range of people as possible and we are eager to share the good news of Jesus in everyday life.

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**“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.” (Psalm 127:1)**

# What We Offer



Berrow PCC



TPoTS PCC



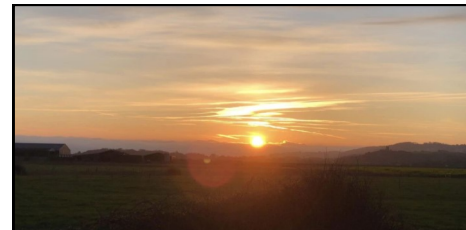
Brean PCC



The Vicarage



Brent Knoll



Sunrise at Berrow



Lympsham Fete

- An enthusiastic team including: three active PCCs; six church wardens; one self supporting Associate Priest; two experienced readers; a part-time administrator; a Safeguarding Officer; three Treasurers: experienced teams of lay pastoral assistants and lay worship leaders; two organists and a large team of hard-working and committed disciples.
- Five beautiful church buildings filled with centuries of worship and prayer, including one with fully flexible seating and one with a long-established local ecumenical partnership with Brean Methodists. St Mary's, Berrow was reordered in 2018/2019.
- Good relationships with our four church primary schools.
- Two regularly used church halls with car parks adjacent to the churches at Berrow and Brean.
- Spacious living accommodation in the vicarage in East Brent.
- Dedicated office space close to the vicarage.
- A beautiful rural location with open countryside, wide sandy beaches and quiet country villages.
- Above all, we offer you our friendship, fellowship and prayer along with a shared commitment to supporting you in your calling. We will walk alongside you in both the joys and challenges of your ministry, giving you the time, encouragement and space needed for family life, rest and recreation, so that together we can flourish in God's work.



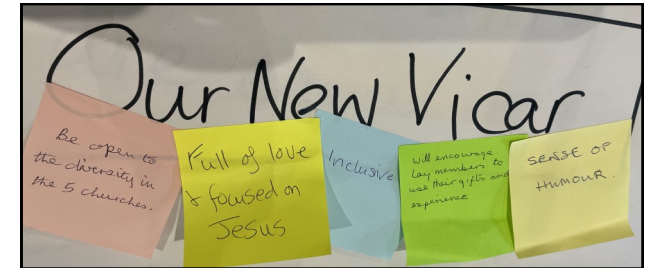
# Is This You?

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**We are praying for a new priest who will walk with us in faith and guide our Benefice into a joyful and fruitful future.**

**We hope you will bring:**

- \* A prayerful, Spirit-filled heart.
- \* The vision and leadership skills to help us grow together as one family in Christ.
- \* A love for working with people of all ages, building on our strong relationship with local schools.
- \* Empathy and compassion to listen deeply, communicate clearly and show wisdom that inspires and unites.
- \* The ability to encourage and equip our enthusiastic church members to use their gifts in God's service.
- \* A passion for reaching out to the wider community, including those who may not yet know the joy of worship
- \* And, because we believe God delights in joy, the gift of a great sense of humour.



Feedback from our Open Meeting



Christingle



Berrow Sunrise Service on Easter Morning



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**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)**

# Facts and Figures

## Worship Grid

	St Mary's Berrow 10.30am	St Bridget's Brean 10.30am	The Parish of Three Saints (TPoTS)		
			St Michael's Brent Knoll	St Christopher's Lympsham	St Mary's East Brent
1st Sunday	Praise	Holy Communion	10.00am Parish Eucharist rotates weekly around our three church buildings in a continuous loop.  On the 3rd Sunday of each month there is an 8.00am BCP service in the same building as the 10.00am service.		
2nd Sunday	Holy Communion	Praise			
3rd Sunday	Praise	Holy Communion			
4th Sunday	Holy Communion	Praise			
5th Sunday	Joint Holy Communion service for all 3 parishes rotates monthly round Berrow, Brean and TPoTS				

## Quinquennial Reports

### Berrow

QI 2021. Most priority 1 and 2 items complete plus some stone conservation and window repairs. Various items of routine maintenance and repair required within the Quinquennial period in cost bands 1 and 2 plus masonry work to vice turret in cost band 4.

### Brean

QI 2023. Various items of routine maintenance and repair required within the next 2 months all in cost band 1.

### TPoTS

Quinquennial inspections have been undertaken as scheduled on all three church buildings and extensive works have been carried out on all roofs and ceilings where funding has permitted.  
St Christopher's is currently at the beginning of an internal re-ordering project.

## 2024 Figures

	Berrow	Brean	TPoTS
Electoral Roll	92	11	105
Baptisms	3	–	6
Weddings	2	–	3
Funerals	7	1	33

# Facts and Figures

## Finances (FY24)

Parish	Berrow	Brean	TPoTS
Income from Grants	–	–	10,510
Total Income (including grants)	52,219	19,840	96,308
Total Expenditure	52,638	3,934	111,165
Parish Share	38,884	5,000	25,508
Parish Share ( % paid)	100	100	100
Restricted Reserves	800	–	120,000
Unrestricted Reserves	29,873	17,875	–

## School Websites

East Brent <https://www.eastbrentcofeacademy.co.uk/>  
 Lympsham <https://lympshamcofeacademy.co.uk/>  
 Brent Knoll <https://brentknoll.somerset.sch.uk/>  
 Berrow <https://www.berrowprimaryschool.co.uk/>

Brent Knoll <https://www.brentknollvillage.co.uk/>  
 Lympsham <https://www.lympshamvillage.co.uk/>  
 East Brent <https://www.eastbrentparishcouncil.co.uk/>  
 Berrow + Brean <https://www.burnham-on-sea.com/>  
 Berrow + Brean Good Neighbours  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/827150141241854/>

## The Church Office



The Church Office is located in Church Road, East Brent, approx. 200m from St Mary's.

It is a well equipped working office with a photocopier, a meeting space with table and chairs, a small kitchen area, a toilet and parking.

This is currently the hub of TPoTS parish organisation, where you will always receive a friendly welcome from Mrs Carole Carter, our Parish Administrator, who works here three mornings a week.

Going forward we hope to share this great facility with Berrow and Brean, as part of our new partnership.

## Village Websites





# Deanery Statement

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Axbridge Deanery is situated from the west coast at Bream as far as Easton at the other end towards Wells. We are mainly made up of rural villages, with the larger centres of population being mostly near the coast and with our main tourist areas around Bream and Burnham attracting over 50 000 people in peak tourist season. Axbridge Deanery is also home to the famous Cheddar caves, another area of significant tourism. The area around Highbridge and Burnham has recently seen significant housing development and population growth.

We have great respect for each other in all of our different contexts – chapter meetings are very supportive as we share our joys and our concerns over lunch and help each other through the often complex demands of parish or chaplaincy life. Deanery Synod gathers around four times a year and we encourage active participation through discussion in groups and in plenary to ensure that each meeting is a good learning environment.

Along with all other deaneries in the diocese (and most other dioceses) Axbridge Deanery is in the middle of significant changes when it comes to how we organise ourselves and ensure that together we can resource effective ministry for effective mission. The new vicar of this newly formed benefice will be working with other ministers to shape a new group ministry encompassing the parishes in the western half of the deanery (a similar group is to be formed in the eastern half). The intention is that this will strengthen the mutual support of both lay and ordained ministers that already exists and will offer a means of ministry that honours the link between a person and a place while opening up possibilities of wider ministry.

Axbridge Deanery is also committed to a Mission Plan that is based around the five Anglican Marks of Mission and so explores ways in which we can resource each other in specific areas around each mark.

The Area Dean Revd Prebendary Richard Neill (01934 713566) or Lay Dean Mr Gary Orriss will be happy to expand on who we are as a deanery or how we work together.

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# Diocesan Statement



We are delighted that you are considering whether this post of Priest in Charge of The Benefice of Berrow + Brean and The Benefice of Three Saints in the Diocese of Bath and Wells might be right for you. In order to help your prayerful discernment, we want to share a bit about our diocesan vision, within which we hope your own ministry might flourish.

Appointing a priest incumbent is amongst the most significant decisions that any benefice makes. When appointments work out well, they contribute significantly to parishes flourishing and growing in a host of different ways – in spiritual depth, in impact within local communities and in the numbers of people becoming part of the local church. Such flourishing is not, of course, all down to the person appointed as priest. It depends first and foremost upon God. It also depends upon everyone in a benefice being willing and able to contribute their unique gifts, skills, resources and abilities: working alongside their priest and sharing in the ministry of the benefice.

The flourishing and growth of churches always needs attention, but especially now as we come out of the shock created by the COVID pandemic. The impact of the pandemic created a sharp acceleration in the pattern of decline in church attendance that has been seen in our diocese over many years. Thankfully there are some signs that we are recovering from the COVID decline. For example, data showed that average adult weekly church attendance in our diocese rose between 2021 and 2022. Statistics only ever tell a partial story. It is even more encouraging to see churches around our diocese developing approaches that respond to the opportunities and challenges in their local context and enable growth to happen.

## A vision for growth and transformation

Our diocesan context, described above, has convinced us that for our next season at least, our aim across all our parishes needs to be growing our churches, within and beyond our church buildings, in both numbers and depth of faith, so that we can better work for the transforming of our communities and the life of God's Kingdom amongst us.

## Shared priorities

To help us pursue this aim, and following consultation across the diocese in 2023, we are inviting all parishes to focus on four particular areas of our ministry together. It is important for clergy considering working in our diocese to know what these priorities are, even though what they look like in practice will vary in each place.

<b>To value and cherish the people and resources we already have</b>	We aim to ensure each person is well supported and equipped as a follower of Jesus Christ and for any ministries they may feel called to undertake, within the local church and wider community. We are committed to supporting the well-being of all our leaders and church officers, both lay and ordained. We have a fully funded clergy well-being service, the offer of peer support groups, and an excellent team of Diocesan support staff fully focused on supporting our parishes, chaplaincies and schools.
<b>To develop new Christian worshipping communities</b>	Whether it be new forms of worship in a wide variety of settings and times, church revitalisations or church plants, we long to see the good news of Jesus connect with the people in our communities that our traditional offerings struggle to reach.
<b>To share in ministry and leadership</b>	We are committed to the New Testament vision of the church as a vibrant body of people all using their God-given gifts. We are committed to a model of shared local ministry: raising up and equipping lay and ordained leaders able to share together in leading the church and serving God's world.
<b>To deepen and grow faith</b>	This is foundational to all we do. We long to see people of all ages and backgrounds, but perhaps especially children, young people and young adults, having more opportunities to discover, explore and grow in faith.

# Diocesan Statement

## The outcome we are looking for

When he talks about his own ministry in 1 Corinthians, Paul captures the dynamic we are seeking to achieve. “I planted,” he says, “Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Cor 3: 6). We know that our churches will only flourish and grow as a result of God’s action among us – it is God who gives the growth.

But Paul is also clear that we have a part to play too – in watering and planting, in doing the things that enable the conditions for God’s growth to be supported. So, covered by prayer, our confident hope is that if we are intentional in seeking God’s guidance in planning and supporting growth, then God will honour that to see his people flourish and thrive - in spiritual depth, in impact within local communities, in the numbers of people becoming part of the local church and in transforming communities locally and beyond.

## Local shaping and diocesan support

There can’t be any ‘one size fits’ all approach to turning the priorities outlined above into action. They always need to be adapted to local circumstances, opportunities and needs. The task of our diocesan support services is to get behind all that local benefices are doing and apart from their general support, there is specific support for exploring how to grow new Christian communities, how to discern and equip a growing range of ministries in your context and how to work well with children and young people. All these areas of support are grounded in exploring what it means to live out our faith.

## What implications does this have for the appointment of clergy?

It is important for us all to appoint clergy to benefices who are ready, willing and able to pray for and share in the vision we have for the flourishing and growth of churches and Christian life in our diocese. We want to create an environment that could be described as high challenge, high support. This means appointing clergy who will not only value all that already exists but will be eager to work with others to build on and develop it. It means appointing clergy who are committed to learning, being creative, and to starting with the gifts God has given to them, their benefice and the wider community. We are therefore looking to appoint candidates who will

- be committed to praying and intentionally seeking the growth and flourishing of the benefices in their care
- relish and expect to work in an environment that is high challenge, high support
- work joyfully and collaboratively with those who share with them locally in ministry and leadership, with their congregations and with others in their locality, to identify ways to grow and develop their churches with the grain of local priorities, resources, skills and passions
- enjoy working in partnership with deanery and diocesan colleagues.

We hope this might be you! We hope that you’d like to join us on the adventure and course we’ve set for our next ten years. We’re praying that God will send us the right labourers for the harvest that God has set before us. Could this be you?



Bishop Michael



Archdeacon of Wells



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## 5 Villages



**St Bridget's, Brean**



**St Mary's, East Brent**



**St Michael's, Brent Knoll**



**St Christopher's, Lympham**



**St Mary's, Berrow**

**(The Parish of Three Saints)**

## 3 Parishes

# All Brothers and Sisters in Christ

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