

Working together for Christ

Watchet + Williton

Benefice



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Welcome

Welcome to our Benefice. At this exciting time, we are seeking the person whom God wishes to join our faith community. We are praying for an inspiring and collaborative Vicar who will listen and respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Someone to be the "Collar-in-the-Community", visible and inclusive to all.

We are seeking the right person to refresh and renew us as we work towards praying harder, worshipping even deeper, serving more generously, loving more freely and caring more intensely, while continuing to build the church community here in Watchet and Williton.

We hope that this profile helps you to decide that you would like to know more about us. And whatever you decide to do, please pray for us as we continue our search to find the right person to walk on our journey with us in our Lord's footsteps.



"... from the old we travel to the new
Keep us travelling along with you!"

Our Vision

The Benefice of Watchet and Williton aims to be a beacon of light in our communities.

We want to bring the hope and love of Christ through unity and care for one another.

We long for all people to grow in their faith, to love and serve God through mission, to develop the gifts and skills that God has given us and to become the people God has called us to be.

May the Benefice shine; may it be a place where people feel they belong, where they are welcomed and where they are loved, valued and accepted.



“ Shine as a light in the world”

“ In his hands he gently bears us”



Who we are

The two parishes of Watchet and Williton became a single Benefice in 2008, with 1.5 full-time equivalent clergy. Both positions are currently vacant, and with the pressure there has been on clergy numbers across the diocese, heightened with the pandemic, it is not envisaged that the 0.5 post will be replaced. It is hoped that in any further re-organisation in the Deanery the commitment of a full-time stipendiary post to the Benefice will not be reduced, especially in the light of the Diocesan commitment to areas with high levels of deprivation – referred to in Bath and Wells as Magnificat Parishes.

The two parishes are still learning to consider themselves one Benefice, as the communities we serve are very independent and different. However, they are strong, vibrant communities where people look out for one another and support one another in times of need. We continue to pray for unity in our Benefice and creative ways to bring this about.

The Benefice is part of the Quantock Deanery in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The Benefice Electoral Roll is 121 and figures for 2020 show seven Baptisms, three Weddings and thirteen Funerals.



The Churchyard at St Decuman's is closed but burials take place in the adjacent cemetery. There is a Garden of Rest at St Peter's.

The parishes have separate PCCs, church wardens and Deanery Synod representatives. We share organists and hope soon to resume our shared choir for special services. St Decuman's has a small Music Group. There is a joint weekly news sheet sent out online and printed for those who prefer this.

Both churches are committed to becoming Dementia Friendly. Currently we fundraise individually; however, there is a single Benefice fees account.

In line with our vision to become an inclusive and outward looking Church family in our neighbourhood, we have identified an increasing need to connect more deeply with people in our parishes, thereby transforming ourselves to be more Christ-like.



Our Priorities as a Benefice



Be more outward looking

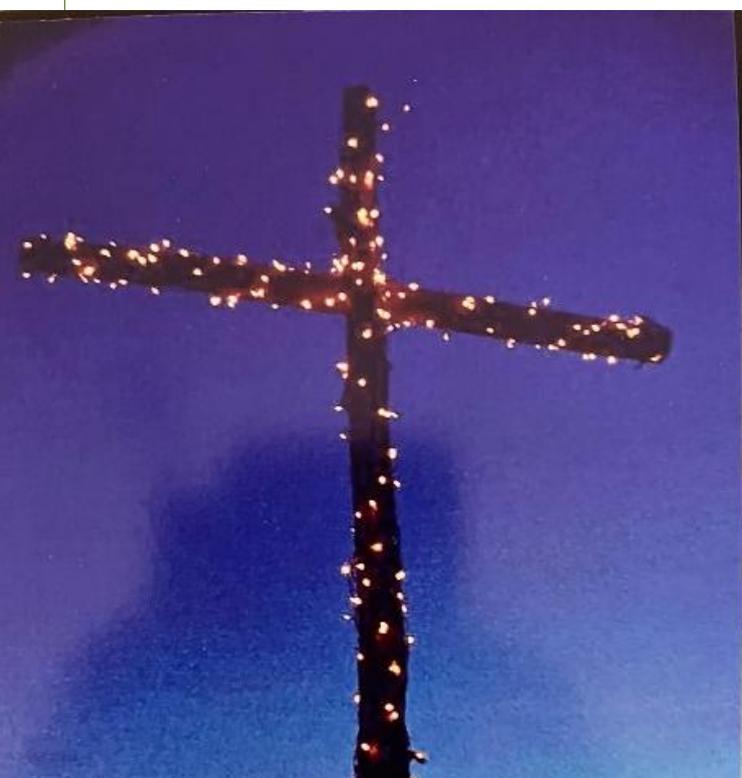
We feel that God is calling us to reach out to everyone in our communities; young and old, churched and unchurched, with the same unconditional love and acceptance that He shows us.

Walk with others



We trust that God will show us how to use our individual and spiritual gifts to help us as a Benefice to realise our vision by:

- Being a visible presence in the community
- Recognising and accepting different needs and expectations of Worship and Prayer
- Making our sacred spaces more accessible and welcoming
- Being inclusive and welcoming to all within our growing communities
- Working ecumenically with the other denominations in Watchet and Williton and addressing social deprivation in our area
- Growing in faith and spirit and using our individual gifts
- Building up and strengthening relationships between the two churches, bringing out the best in both as a united Benefice serving God in our community



The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.
- Pablo Picasso

Will you help us?

We are looking for someone with a big heart for people, who will work to develop and nurture confident Christians and who will take the Benefice vision forward.

Led by the Holy Spirit, we would like our Vicar to:

- Continue to maintain and grow your own spiritual life and faith journey and allow us to ensure you take good care of the spiritual, mental and physical well-being of yourself and those closest to you
- Pray for us, as we shall pray for you, and lead us into a fuller relationship with God and each other through a deeper and wider experience of prayer and worship
- Support us as we seek to find ways of sharing God's love and grace with our neighbours and of welcoming those who come as new residents into our expanding communities
- Mentor and support us as we try to live out our individual calling as disciples of Christ
- Communicate the love of God to everyone in our communities
- Light up the place and help us all to shine
- Continue the challenge of unifying our Benefice



“ Love is something when you give it away”

As you are not the Archangel Gabriel, we cannot expect you to be able to do all this alone. But if you have at least some of the skills and qualities we describe below, we hope and believe we can work together, here and now, in God's service.

Our vicar will be a person who has skills in:

- Listening to God and to us and acting upon the Holy Spirit's promptings
- Walking alongside those in need - through the joys and sorrows of life
- Encouraging us all to fulfil our calling and to connect with our community
- Presenting the world to us and us to the world - being an advocate for Watchet and Williton in the wider contexts within the church and beyond
- Guiding us to grow in love towards each other
- Being the 'Collar in the Community' - a visible and listening presence in all the different aspects of the community and church
- Dealing with and managing conflict; able to encourage us to forgive one another and heal our differences, reminding us of the transforming power of the cross



“ Bind us together in love”

Qualities we would like to see in our priest

Ideas from the youngsters

Gives exciting
Assemblies

Be kind, likes children
and believes in Jesus!

Looks after
the town/
village

Helpful, happy, kind, cheerful,
respectful, thoughtful, love
songs and must love Jesus

Joyful and
superkind...
not a robber!

Someone who knows
how to read stories

I hope he or
she is really
tall

And importantly...

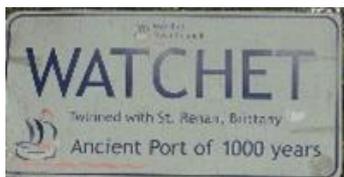
We would like our new vicar
to fly in an aeroplane.



Ideas from the adults

friendly gets stuck in prayerful
enthusiastic encouraging inspiring *fun*
good listener and communicator
caring young at heart
open approachable *collaborative*
considerate supportive family kind
nurturing pastoral *visionary*
vibrant gentle *compassionate*
organised sense of humour
sensitive *spiritual*

Our Local Area and Opportunities



Watchet is a small coastal town in a beautiful area between Exmoor and the Quantocks. It has a diverse population of approximately 3,500. This number is considerably boosted in the summer by visitors to the area staying at a number of camping, caravan and holiday let sites, with many day users using the West Somerset Railway as a means of getting to the town. The West Somerset Railway has stations at both Watchet and Williton.

The people of Watchet work hard to attract and entertain visitors throughout the year. There is a very strong sense of community with a vast array of smaller community events and other larger events that attract many people - Carnival Day, Watchet Festival, Watchet Summertime Week and the Forties weekend to mention just a few.

Whilst much activity in the summer months is focussed on visitors to the town, in the winter a large number of local clubs and activities re-emerge. Some of these link with other places in the area such as the skittle, quiz and darts leagues.

Watchet has many artisan shops alongside the traditional outlets you would expect of a small coastal town.



New outlets have opened following completion of the development on the East Quay.

Watchet is beset by all the typical coastal problems of seasonal and limited employment. Poverty and isolation are major concerns. The area also has one of the highest proportions of retired people in the country. Local planned developments to help improve employment and housing are viewed with varying amounts of positivity by local inhabitants but will provide a wonderful opportunity for mission, growth and discipleship.

Watchet Features

Watchet Bowling Club

**WATCHET
PHOENIX**

Watchet Conservation Society

SEA SCOUTS

Forget-me-not Cafe

community
choir

Carnival

YACHT MARINA

WATCHET
MUSIC FESTIVAL

CHORAL
SOCIETY

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

FOOTBALL
CLUB

WHEELS

GUIDES AND
BROWNIES

Watchet Art Society

Women's
Institute

Steam Railway

2 Brass Bands

Watchet Twinning
Society



Williton is a rural village approximately two miles inland from Watchet with a population of approximately 3,000. The village is situated on the main A39/A358 routes from Bridgwater and Taunton to Minehead and Exmoor beyond. The road is busy especially in the summer months and weekends with holidaymaker traffic.

On either side of the main road that divides the village are many facilities that serve the community and smaller villages of the nearby area. It has everything you need locally if not everything you want.

The local newspaper is produced in the village and distributed throughout the whole district.

There is a thriving industrial estate to the east of the village with light manufacturing businesses supplying local employment. Tourism and agriculture are the main sources of income, along with local retail and hospitality. The Hinkley C power station construction site has provided much employment to the area recently.

The village has a central memorial ground with children's play area and the new, already highly used, pavilion for sport and community use.

The local office of the District Council is based near the Doctor's Surgery and Library and also now houses the local Police Station. Registration services are based in the Library.



Williton is graced by having the coast to the North, the Quantock Hills to the East and the Brendon Hills to the West with ample space to explore, relax and reflect.

As with Watchet, extensive developments for new housing are planned.

Watchet and Williton together with neighbouring villages have formed a Dementia Friendly community.

Williton Features

**WILLITON
FEATURES**

WOMENS
INSTITUTE

Multi-purpose
Community Pavilion

AMATEUR PANTO
PEOPLE

Williton Cottage Hospital

TWO SUPERMARKETS

RESTAURANTS AND TAKE-AWAY
SHOPS

GOOD RANGE OF
LOCAL SHOPS &
POST OFFICE

RBL

SOCIAL CLUB

RE-CYCLE
SITE

POLICE AND
FIRE STATIONS

Gardening
Club

DOCTOR AND DENTIST
SURGERIES IN VILLAGE

CROFT HOUSE

GUIDED
WALKS

Community Cinema

Plans for the future

Large numbers of new houses are proposed on green field sites in both Watchet and Williton potentially increasing the population of the Benefice by between a third and a half. Inevitably there will be a significant impact on the local infrastructure, including doctors, schools and roads. A considerable increase in employment and tourism opportunities is also envisaged.

Due in part to the pandemic, house prices have risen recently and there are an increasing number of holiday homes and rentals. Both of these trends are increasing the difficulties for local young people and families wishing to remain in the area.

We hope that the development on the East Quay by the Onion Collective and reinvigoration of the Marina in Watchet, together with the planned housing and retail outlet expansion in Williton, will help with jobs and prospects for the future.



The Wider Area

Although we are in a sense 'at the end of the line', it is easy to reach us. The M5, reached via Bridgwater or Taunton, goes to the Southwest and to the Midlands and North, as well as to the M4 for Wales and London. From Taunton, we can also reach the A303 for London and further into the South West. There is a reasonable bus service to Taunton Station for mainline trains in all directions, while during the day there is a free bus service from Watchet to Minehead and Bridgwater, and in the summer an open top bus to Lynmouth. There are airports at Cardiff, Exeter and Bristol.

For your shopping needs we have small local shops in both Watchet and Williton, weekly street markets in Minehead and Taunton and, during summer months, in Watchet, too. For big supermarkets, Minehead, Wellington, Taunton and Bridgwater are the places to visit with regional centres in Exeter and Bristol.

We are surrounded by wonderful scenery and walking country. There are National Trust properties and gardens to visit and there are many picturesque country towns and villages within easy reach.

Spring Harvest is held at Easter, annually, at Butlins in Minehead, nine miles away. The local churches are invited to go and be a part of this.

The Survey

Reactions from our community

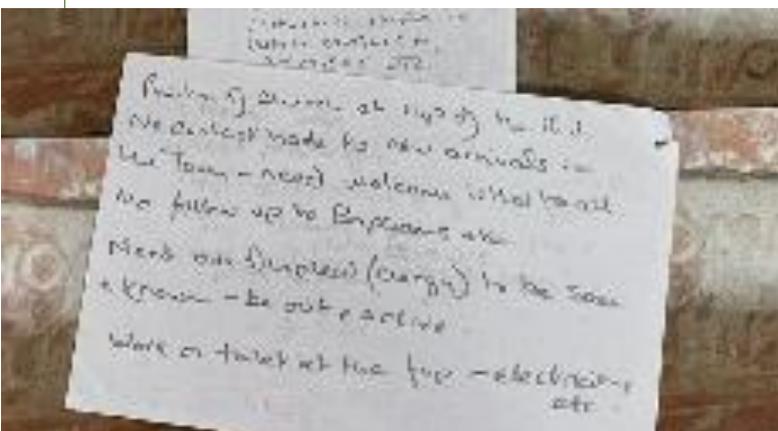
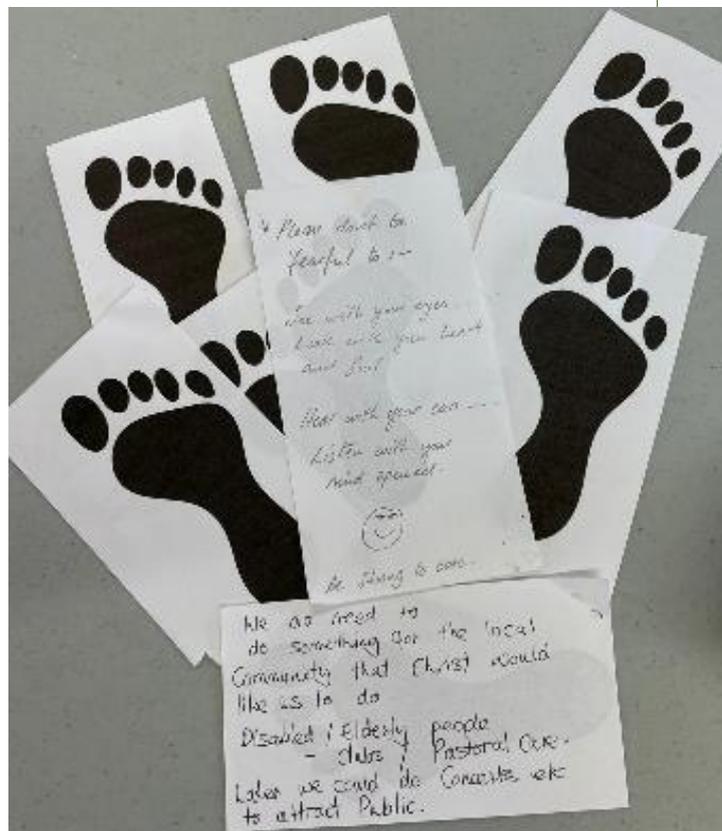
To reach out to everyone living in our Benefice and gain an understanding of how they view Church, we carried out a Survey.

Questionnaires in various formats were made available to all in the community, whether church goers or not. Paper copies were included in Williton Window and Watchet Connects magazines, which are delivered to all households. St Decuman's Parish Magazine also contained copies with extras available in the church porches.

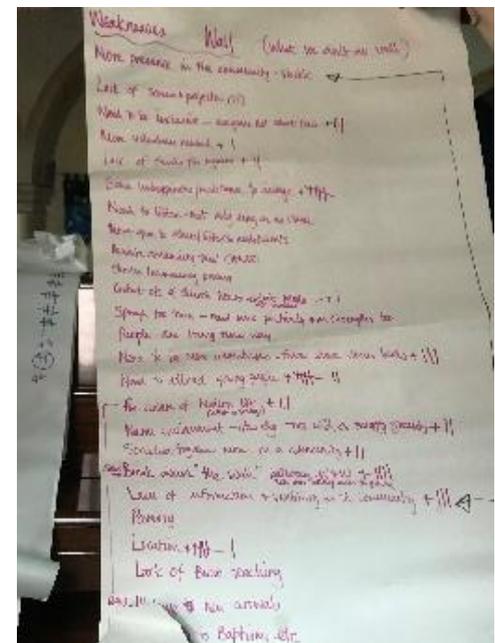
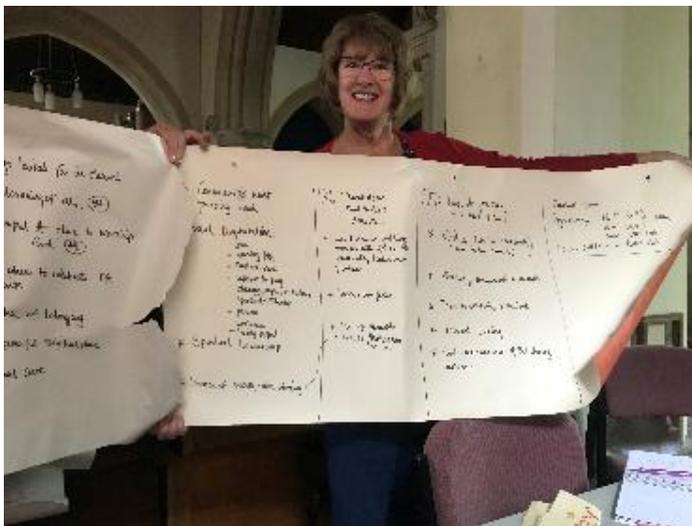
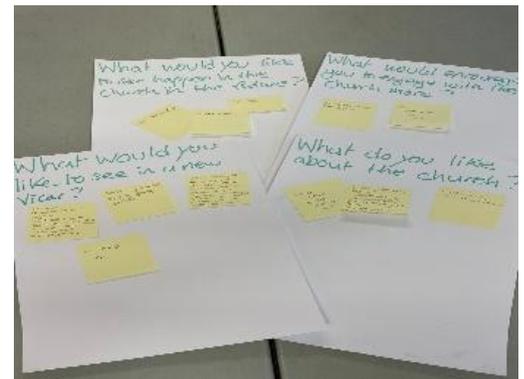
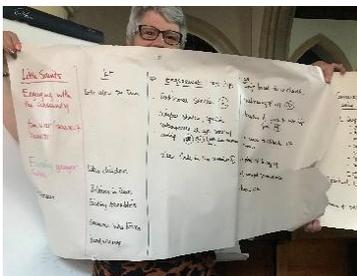
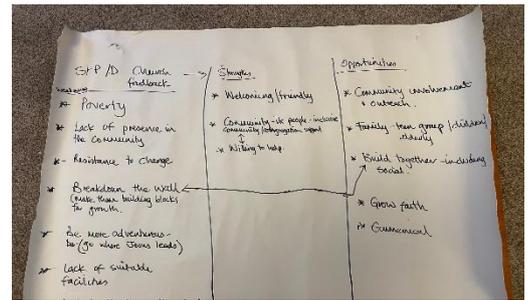
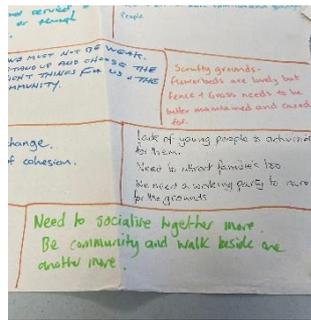
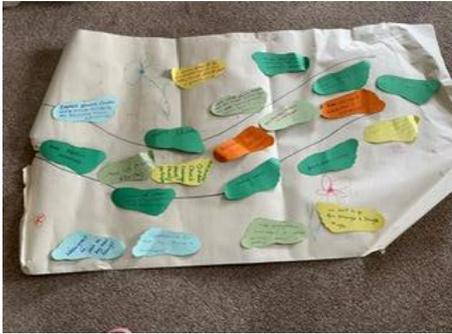
Paper returns were organised through all three local Co-op stores and Watchet Visitor Centre.

Arrangements were also made for online completion. A service relating to the survey was held in both churches.

The school children and Parent and Toddler Group (Little Saints) were also asked for their comments. The replies we shall always love and cherish. They constantly guided our thoughts as we prepared this profile and led to the development of our Vision and priorities for the Benefice.



The Vacancy Team at work – compiling and analysing the Survey returns.



“ See with your eyes, look with Your heart and soul, hear with your ears Listen with your mind opened ”

What we offer you!

Our Benefice

Above all we offer you our friendship, fellowship and prayer and a shared commitment to meeting the challenges identified. We will support the on-going development of your ministry and will encourage you to make the most of any opportunities for learning and development. We feel it is very important to give you adequate time for family life and recreation and to help you maintain a healthy work/life balance. We will respect your chosen day off and holiday breaks.



There are a number of retired Clergy and ministers within our Deanery and they, together with the Area Dean and Archdeacon, all take services from time to time in both churches. Additionally, we have three Readers, two of whom have recently completed the Pioneer Ministry course. One of these has recently become Chaplain to students who take the course.

Bev Machin



I am Staffordshire born and moved to Somerset 46 years ago. I was licensed as a Reader in 2000. I like activities that bring people together, so I do swimaerobics, local bingo and am in a local quiz team. I would like our Benefice to be more united and supportive of each other. I recently had my head shaved to support one of our young people's Gap Year doing charity work in France.

Donna Marsden



I call myself a Pioneer Reader. I was licensed as a Reader six years ago. Since then, my ministry has led me down the path towards Pioneering. I am one of two of our Readers who are Pioneer Champions for the Deanery. I have just accepted the role of Chaplain to the new cohort of Pioneer students. Passionate about people, especially our young families and community, I head up the Williton arm of our Little Saints Parent and Toddler Group and have introduced Decuman Bear into Watchet. My faith brings me great joy!

Julie Pelling



I moved to Somerset in September 2016 with my family. I have two children; Eliza who is 18 and Stuart who is 15. They keep me very busy! I love sailing, rowing and wild swimming! I was licensed as a Reader in Jan 2014 and spend a lot of my time working with families through Little Saints. My hope for the Benefice is for it to become a place where people feel they belong, an inclusive community that welcomes all and a place where Jesus can be found in us.

Andrew Tatham



I am a retired priest who enjoys living in Watchet. After retirement from full time ministry, I was Assistant Priest in the Quantock Coast Benefice and briefly Acting Archdeacon of Taunton. A lifetime geographer, I am very joyfully married to Margaret and we have two children, both teachers - one in Dorset and the other in North Cyprus (where I also have PTO) and four grandchildren. I am currently Watchet PCC Secretary.

'We are pilgrims on the journey'



We are blessed in having very active and practical Churchwardens in both churches



Sue Withycombe

I have lived in Williton and worshipped at St Peter's for 24 years (so almost a local!) and am in my fourth year as Churchwarden. I have two grown up daughters and have recently left my job as a Chartered Accountant. Not quite ready to say "retired" but, for the moment, I am enjoying spending time in my garden and playing a more active role in church life. I really hope that we are able to grow closer as a Benefice and discover new opportunities to share God's love in our communities.

George Fenech

When I was aged eleven, I came to live in the UK from Malta. I was in my thirties when I started attending a Church of England church and have been doing so now for nearly forty years. In this time, I have been involved in setting up and running Men's groups, House groups, fund raising for new halls, helping with Christmas Bazaars, been an Assistant Church Warden and Chalice Assistant. I have been Churchwarden at St Peter's Church for three years. Although my faith is strong, I believe in keeping it simple by following what Jesus commanded, to love God with all my heart and all my soul and with all my mind and to love my neighbour as myself.

Janet Bremner

I am Churchwarden at St. Decuman's Church and a follower of Christ. I enjoy family life, history, gardening and politics and voluntary work for the Home Library Service. I am sure God will send someone who will lead us into building stronger community links. We know that as a church, we need to be willing to play an active role in our community, and share the Gospel message with people who rarely enter a church. It will be so good to have a spiritual leader and pray that they will be very happy here in the Benefice.

Sarah Lander

I am in my third year as Churchwarden at St Decuman's Church. Balancing this with family life and teaching music has been a challenge, especially during the pandemic, but I am encouraged by how our church family has been adapting, welcoming newcomers, growing closer and working together across the Benefice. I feel there are many challenges ahead, both in our community and the wider world. My hope is that the right person will be led by God to join us and that we will continue to grow in our Christian witness and action.

We also offer you

Both PCCs have a full complement of members and officers. Both Parishes are represented at the Deanery Synod and one of the Synod members also serves on the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group and is Assistant Lay Dean.

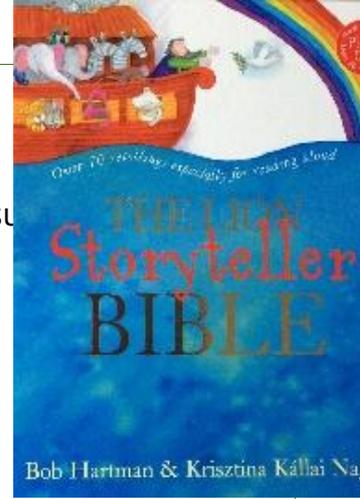
Open the Book, paused during the pandemic, is being resumed both at Knights Templar and St Peter's schools. At Knights Templar this is in partnership with the Methodist Church.

Several members of both churches have taken Diocesan courses for Lay Pastoral Assistants and Lay Worship Leaders. The teams of Chalice Assistants, Lesson Readers and Intercessors are being revived following the pandemic restrictions.

Our teams of Flower Arrangers and Cleaners keep our buildings looking pristine and welcoming.

The Guardians of the Well tend the peaceful garden surrounding the Holy Well near St Decuman's Church.

Musically, our worship is led variously by organists at both churches as well as pianists and a Music Group at St Decuman's. Singers from the two churches occasionally join together to provide a choir for special occasions.



The Deanery is exploring the possible appointment of a shared administrator working across the five Benefices of the area.

Our Community Ministry

Schools

Our Benefice boasts three schools, all church schools. Knights Templar Community and Church School and Nursery in Watchet is a joint foundation with the Methodist Church. St Peter's Church of England First School and Danesfield Church of England Middle School are part of the West Somerset Academies Trust on adjoining grounds in Williton.

Historically, there have been strong links between the churches and all the schools with Open the Book and regular planned Collective Worship. Special year group and whole school services to mark important festivals and occasions in the church year have occurred, both within the schools and in the community. It is our prayerful hope that, as the restrictions of the pandemic ease, opportunities to engage with the schools and for new ways of encouraging children in their faith can be nurtured.

The local Methodist Minister, with whom we have good links, also offers regular support at Knight's Templar School. Danesfield School has a School Chaplain. Representatives from the congregations of the Benefice support the Governing Bodies of all three schools.

Early Years 0-4 provision is available at on-site Nurseries at both the First Schools.

Little Saints

Little Saints Parent and Toddler Group for 0-5s runs ecumenically in Watchet and Williton. Williton meet on a Tuesday morning and Watchet on Wednesdays. During the pandemic, both groups met outside at the local Memorial Grounds to enjoy playtime together in the park, craft activities, snack time and singing. Two of our Readers, Donna and Julie, lead the groups with others from the local churches. The Williton group meet in the Meeting Room which is attached to the Vicarage and the Watchet group meet at the Salvation Army. The groups are there to provide a safe place for parents and children to come together, to build friendships, to talk about the ups and downs of life and to share ideas and resources. During the summer we had two beach days; one crabbing at West Street beach and the other building sandcastles at Blue Anchor beach. In the next few months, we are going to be starting Campfire Church which has evolved from these groups.



Housegroups

Both churches have hosted Housegroups over the years; Watchet would meet in Holy Cross on Thursday evenings for a Bible Study and Williton had a homegroup that either met at The Vicarage or in people's homes. Both were an opportunity for people to deepen their



faith through a variety of study materials and to build friendships. The Williton group has restarted since the pandemic and now meets in the Meeting Room.

Watchet Music Festival

Every August Bank Holiday, Watchet hosts a Music Festival which attracts around 5000 people. Christians Together in Watchet and Williton (CTiWW) have a Prayer Tent at the festival which is led by a variety of people from the different churches and usually set around a theme such as climate change or care of our oceans. The Prayer Tent offers a quiet space to chat and an opportunity to reflect, recharge and pray during the festival. On the Sunday morning the local young people lead the Worship at the service. Both Donna and Julie have been part of the team.



Quantock Foodbank

The Quantock Foodbank is supported by many volunteers across the Benefice and beyond.



Youth Activities

Watchet and Williton have very active Youth Activities that members of our churches have been involved with over the years; Beavers, Cubs, Sea Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. The groups come to St Decuman's for special services throughout the year. Watchet has an active Youth Club and various sports teams that meet at the Memorial Ground.

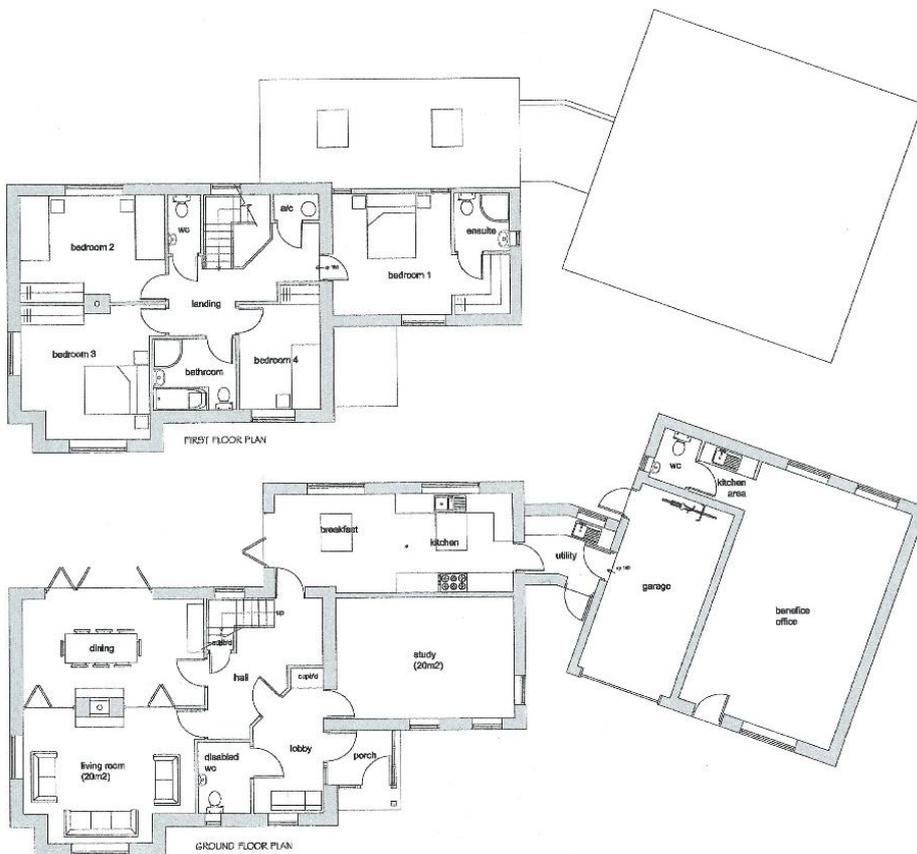


Vicarage

The Vicarage for the Benefice is situated in Williton, just outside the village centre, on the A39 Minehead road. An almost newly built (2017) four bedroomed, spacious property, the Vicarage also includes a utility room and adjoining garage.

Within the house there is a good-sized study which is separated from the living quarters.

There is a garden to the front and a small patio area to the rear with lovely rural views. A Meeting room and Benefice office, with kitchen facilities, abuts the garage.



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Do not scale for construction purposes - use figured
dimensions only.
Check dimensions on site before work proceeds.
Report discrepancies to the Architect.

Rev	Description	Date	By

SCALE 1:100



LAND & PLANNING DIVISION
1 HIGH STREET
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TA20 1QF
TEL: 01460 238380
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PROJECT TITLE
Site of Church Hall & ATC Hut
Priest Street
Williton

DRAWING TITLE
Proposed rectory & benefice office

Floor Plans

STATUS: **planning**

SCALE: 1/100

DATE: January 2015 DRAWN: **lshrm**

DWG NO. 2136-PL-04 REVISION

9(V)

St Decuman's Church, Watchet

St Decuman's Church lies on the hill south of the town and is named for the Welsh saint who came across the Bristol Channel to give the message of Christianity to the heathen Saxons.

The saint's Patronal Festival is celebrated in August each year. The church's foundations are thought to be as early as Celtic origin.

The congregation has increased since the post-pandemic re-opening and the usual Sunday attendance is around 25 with an electoral role of 67. We are once again enjoying singing led by our organist or pianist and the church band.

Services are traditional with weekly Sunday communion. On fifth Sundays we hold a Benefice service which alternates between St Decuman's and St Peter's. A monthly accessible communion is held at The Sanctuary, the Baptist Church's community space in the centre of the town.

We have 42 members who regularly give through the Stewardship scheme with our year running from November to October.



We also have "Friends of St Decuman", members of our community who are not regular churchgoers but who support us with yearly donations. Letters of appreciation are sent each year for this and for our Stewardship members. A "Tower Lighting" scheme is also operational. People pay to have the tower lit for special occasions and to remember loved ones.

We need to fundraise each year to cover our outgoings. The Restoration Fund is restricted for repairs to our church building and following a Quinquennial we have a long list of costly repairs to address.

Major work will be required on the roof, the floor, heating and lighting systems and some external walls. Additionally, construction projects under review relate to developing hospitality services in the church (servery and toilet facilities).

As recorded for the past thirteen years, the Parish Share has been met in full. Attendance has fallen during the Pandemic and this has impacted on weekly giving which may result in a shortfall in the Parish Share this year.



Festivals

Each year, St Decuman's holds a Well Blessing on the Patronal Festival, a Harvest Festival and a weekend long Christmas Tree Festival at the beginning of December. A theme is chosen and we invite local groups and organisations to decorate a tree accordingly. On the Saturday we hold a Christmas Fayre to raise funds for the church.

The weekend concludes with a Christingle service on the Sunday.



St Peter's Church, Williton

St Peter's Church lies on the western periphery of the village. It was built as a Chapel of Ease by the Fitzurse family in the 12th Century following their involvement in the murder of Thomas Beckett.

The congregation has increased slightly since the pandemic with weekly attendance between 20-25 and an electoral role standing at 56.

We have three Communion Services a month that follow a traditional format. On the first Sunday of the month there is an All-Age Service. This is an opportunity to do things a little differently. It is more informal and more interactive.

We sometimes use the Lectionary and sometimes use a theme and include games, crafts, interactive prayers, music and poetry.

There is a dedicated team who prepare these services each month.

A Stewardship scheme is in operation with 42 members regularly giving this way.

Work has already been undertaken to address the issue of dry rot in the church. However, this continues to be a main building project focus. Fundraising to meet the finances needed to address this and other projects is essential.



Fundraising events are ongoing throughout the year in various ways, at local events, such as the summer Village fete, and also through church initiatives including meals out at the village Indian Restaurant, Sunday afternoon Cream Teas during August and a winter Pantomime!

Prior to 2020 St Peter's paid their Parish Share in full each year. However, since then due to a large fall in congregation numbers and the impact of the pandemic, even with assistance from the Diocese there has been a shortfall.



Advent Crafts

Prior to the pandemic St Peter's hosted a Benefice community event at Advent. We invited local families to come and make a variety of crafts, suitable for all ages, to enjoy some mulled wine and a mince pie and hear the Christmas Story. We hope to run it again this Christmas and also look forward to organising something similar at Easter.



Holy Cross Chapel

In addition to our two churches, we are blessed with Holy Cross Chapel on the edge of the harbour, in Watchet. Above the museum in the former market hall, this early 19th century building is reached by a steep staircase which makes access difficult. However, the views of the harbour through the windows behind the altar bring real life to our worship.

Until recently, though long used as a Christmas and Easter children's craft place, many people passed by this place without even seeing it. However, before lockdown it had started to be an important social hub, particularly for summer Sunday teas, as well as our Holy place for Morning prayer on Mondays, a

midweek communion and for meetings, such as bible study and deanery chapter. We hope it will resume its place as a centre of parish work in the town.



Keeping In Touch

St Decuman's has long had a dedicated parish magazine. St Peter's uses the monthly 'Williton Window' which is distributed to the whole village for the dissemination of news and events and which is free of charge. 'Watchet Connects', which performs a similar function in Watchet, is a recent addition to the town and includes news from St Decuman's as well as our sister churches.



Our Worship Pattern

Benefice of Watchet & Williton: Service Pattern – Autumn 2021

Notes:

Entries in Bold type : **Clergy – led;**

Entries in normal type : Lay – led;

Entries in Italic type : Presently in abeyance – NB The Zoom services provided in lockdown have gradually ceased as congregations became more confident about live services. Formerly, Communion was also taken to Danesborough View, although not to the other sheltered housing in the benefice and clergy also regularly led corporate worship in the two first schools.

	Holy Cross	Croft House	Meeting Rm	St Decuman's	St Peter's	Salvation Army	The Sanctuary	Lockdown Zoom
1 st Sunday				10.30 Communion	10.00 All-age Service			10.00 <i>Agape</i>
1 st Monday	09.45 Morning Prayer							09.45 <i>Morning Prayer</i>
1 st Tuesday			09.30 Little Saints		10.00 Morning Prayer <i>followed by Communion</i>			
1 st Wed'sday		11.00 Communion				10.00 Little Saints	09.45 Midweek Communion	19.00 <i>Compline</i>
2 nd Sunday				10.30 Communion	09.15 Communion			10.00 <i>Agape</i>
2 nd Monday	09.45 Morning Prayer							09.45 <i>Morning Prayer</i>
2 nd Tuesday			09.30 Little Saints		10.00 Morning Prayer <i>followed by Communion</i>			
2 nd Wed'sday	09.45 <i>Midweek Communion</i>					10.00 Little Saints		19.00 <i>Compline</i>
3 rd Sunday				10.30 Communion	09.15 Communion			10.00 <i>Agape</i>
3 rd Monday	09.45 Morning Prayer							09.45 <i>Morning Prayer</i>
3 rd Tuesday			09.30 Little Saints		10.00 Morning Prayer <i>followed by Communion</i>			
3 rd Wed'sday	09.45 <i>Midweek Communion</i>					10.00 Little Saints		19.00 <i>Compline</i>
4 th Sunday				10.30 Communion	09.15 Communion			10.00 <i>Agape</i>
4 th Monday	09.45 Morning Prayer							09.45 <i>Morning Prayer</i>
4 th Tuesday			09.30 Little Saints		10.00 Morning Prayer <i>followed by Communion</i>			
4 th Wed'sday	09.45 <i>Midweek Communion</i>					10.00 Little Saints		19.00 <i>Compline</i>
5 th Sunday				10.00 Benefice Communion – alternating between the two parish churches				10.00 <i>Agape</i>
5 th Monday	09.45 Morning Prayer							09.45 <i>Morning Prayer</i>
5 th Tuesday			09.30 Little Saints					
5 th Wed'sday	09.45 <i>Midweek Communion</i>				10.00 Morning Prayer <i>followed by Communion</i>	10.00 Little Saints		19.00 <i>Compline</i>

The Quantock Deanery

Quantock Deanery is relatively small, comprising only 24 parishes, but this means we enjoy a close working relationship between the five benefices and clergy. Our Chapter is a valuable source of mutual support and fellowship and Deanery Synod is engaged and keen to work together for the Kingdom.

Each year we have a Deanery appeal, raising funds for a cause, locally or abroad, proposed by Synod members. We hold Deanery services three times a year and support youth and children's work through small grants.

We also publish a bi-monthly newsletter – Quantock Good News – sharing news, events and activities.

Our Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (DMPG) are currently engaged in forming proposals for pastoral reorganisation in the light of Diocesan plans for clergy deployment, as well as planning for the effective development of greater lay ministries. In the light of the pandemic, this can be a difficult process but one in which we receive much support at a Diocesan and Archdeaconry level.

We very much look forward to welcoming the new Incumbent at Watchet and Williton.

Revd Alison Waters, Area Dean



The Diocesan Vision

Our Diocesan Vision is:

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

The vision speaks of the story of Jesus; his life, teaching, 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.

As a diocese in the months ahead we will be having to ask many questions and seeking God's way as to how we can support one another in living this out in the light of the ongoing impact of coronavirus, which has caused the Diocese to rely significantly on reserves with a deficit of about £2 million in 2020 and 2021. We will seek to appoint clergy who are able to take forward what has been learned during this time, are flexible in their approach and able to help develop the gift of people in the parishes in the spirit of Setting God's People Free.

Simon Hill
Archdeacon



And Finally...

Well dear reader, if you have got this far maybe you are considering joining us as we walk forward in Jesus' footsteps towards an exciting future. We certainly need your help to do this!

To demolish the walls and climb the hill between our two communities to make them one, to take God's word to all the new people expected to join us and to spread the joy of the Holy Spirit through this part of Somerset.

Bless you in whatever your decision may be and in the steps you take to further your ministry.



Are you the missing piece?



Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Julie Pelling, Reader, at julie@nickandju.plus.com or 07973961083