

Parish Profile
for role of
Priest-in-Charge: Belbroughton with Fairfield,
Associate Priest: Chaddesley Corbett in the Kidderminster East Team



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Our Vision

We are called to minister with love, compassion, and faith as a united rural community of churches. Our vision is to be a beacon of Christ's light in our communities—serving, nurturing, and growing together in faith.

We are committed to:

- **Engaging Our Communities and making new disciples** : Building relationships and meeting the spiritual and practical needs of those around us.
- **Ministering to Young People and Families**: Creating welcoming spaces for children, young people and families to encounter Christ and grow in faith.
- **Strengthening Our Worship and Discipleship**: Deepening our relationship with God through meaningful worship, prayer, and study.
- **Serving with Love and Action**: Reflecting Christ's love through acts of kindness, outreach, and social care.
- **Becoming Healthy and Sustainable churches**.

Together, we seek to be a church that brings hope, fosters belonging, and shares the transformative love of Christ in our rural communities.

Who are we?

In January 2024 a new grouping of rural churches began to work together. Holy Trinity, Belbroughton; St Cassian's, Chaddesley Corbett and St Mark's, Fairfield are 3 rural churches with similar vision and values. The grouping was made possible by a reorganisation in the Deanery of Kidderminster and Stourport. Throughout the Deanery new church groupings are working in an "As if" model. In practical terms we are working to form relationships with our new partners; the legal requirements are still to be completed but they are well underway! This is an exciting opportunity and allows for us to work in a new, rural centred, way.

Each church is unique but there are similarities. All three churches are at the heart of a small village and serve their own rural communities. The villages of Fairfield, Belbroughton and Chaddesley Corbett are located in the heart of Worcestershire with excellent links to nearby urban areas, motorways and rail networks. The churches within each village are well maintained and have dedicated congregations. We all work within our communities to spread the good news and to show God's love through our words and actions.

We have begun consultation for pastoral reorganisation to form a new united Benefice, to incorporate Belbroughton with Fairfield, and Chaddesley Corbett.

"I hope our new vicar will help us to reach young families and young people. I can't wait for the new opportunities ahead"
(Member of Belbroughton Church)

Where are we?

The grouping is located in North Worcestershire. There are excellent transport links via motorways and railways. The Cities of Worcester, Birmingham and Wolverhampton together with the Black Country towns are easily commutable and the large towns of Stourbridge, Kidderminster and Bromsgrove are easily accessed. Within each village there is a First/Primary school :

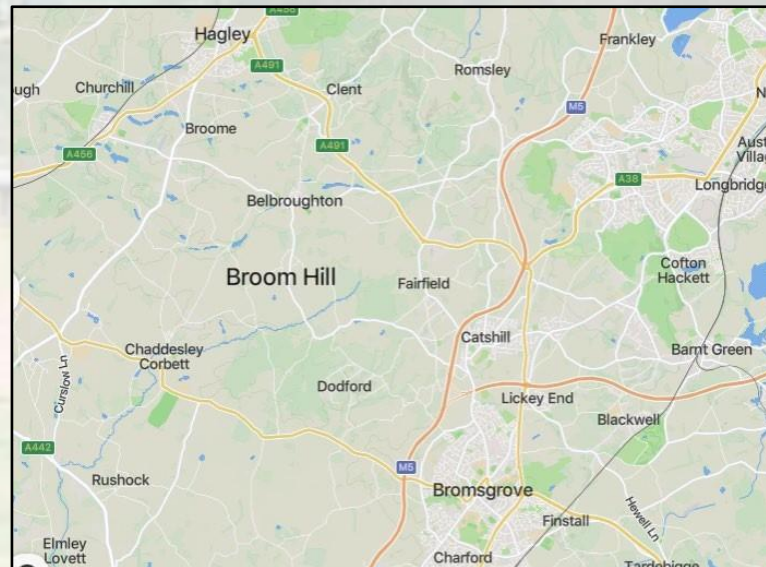
<https://www.belbroughtonprimary.co.uk/>

<https://www.fairfield.worcs.sch.uk/>

<https://www.ccschool.co.uk/>

There are several High/Middle schools within the area including [King Charles High](#), [Haybridge](#) and Bromsgrove North and South High schools and a number of independent schools including [Winterfold](#) and [Bromsgrove School](#). The surrounding countryside is perfect for walking and leisure activities. There are many wonderful walks including the Clent Hills, Chaddesley Woods and the Wyre Forest. Other places of interest include the Severn Valley Railway, Harvington Hall and West Midlands Safari Park.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/>



Accommodation

The Rectory is located in Belbroughton and is close to both the church and the church office. It is currently undergoing considerable refurbishment to meet the needs of modern living.

Rectory, Bradford Lane, Belbroughton, DY9 9TF



Administration and Governance

The church office is located in within a very short walk of the Rectory in a modern building adjacent to the church hall. The office is partly funded by the Bournheath Trust which exists to support the work of the parish clergy. The office has 2 part time members of staff working across the week. The office handles day to day administrative tasks including weddings, funerals and baptisms and the production of the magazine. The staff do many of the tasks which are often a challenge for clergy and take them away from the job they really want to do. The new Rector will become the line manager of the office staff and will be supported by a committee made up of 6 members drawn from the congregations of each church.

There will be two PCCs in the new grouping. We are going to explore models of joint governance. Each church is blessed with volunteers who do many jobs both in the church and churchyards as well as within the community.

Who are we seeking?

As a new rural grouping we are seeking someone to come alongside us and lead and guide us in sharing the gospel with our communities. Each church is centred within a community with some having a school, shops and pubs. The villagers are made up of a mixture of people ranging from commuters to farmers. Our new Rector will help us to grow the Kingdom within these communities. They will be passionate about working with communities, respect the traditional style of worship within our churches, be flexible and engage with all ages.

“We need someone with joy and enthusiasm for rural ministry; able to express and explain faith on a variety of levels; intelligent, educated preaching, able to reach out to the congregation and other people in the parish; theologically broad church/liberal; respect for the diversity of people’s faith journeys; able to engage in mission and evangelism.”
(Member of St Cassian’s Church)

We share a vision for a church which enables its people to be:

- Renewed and transformed by regular worship
- Enable lay ministers and value their ministry within our communities
- Equipped to witness to the gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom
- Dedicated to helping children, young people and young adults to belong and be nurtured in faith
- Ready to engage with and serve our community
- Resourced and released to minister to others
- Deeply rooted in the sacraments, prayer and study of the scriptures
- Committed to making our buildings fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource.

Holy Trinity, Belbroughton

Holy Trinity has a small but dedicated congregation which meets every Sunday at 10.30am. On the third Sunday we hold a vibrant Worship for All service where we welcome grand-parents, parents and children. The Church provides funds for a teacher to train a children's choir for this service. This strengthens the link between the village school and the Church. A music group has been formed to accompany the singing at the Worship for All services and other special occasions. These initiatives are being encouraged to bring more people into the church community.



Christmas is a highlight of the Church's year. We hold a Nativity Service which is very well-supported with standing room only (about 270 to 300 people). Parents and children are involved with the production as we proclaim The Christmas story. We also hold an outdoor Carols on The Green Service. About 70 people usually attend and we enjoy mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. The Church has a ring of six bells which are rung by a local team to call the people to worship and for weddings and special occasions.

The Church is a Grade II listed building. There has been a church on the site since Norman times. The land originally belonged to Lady Godiva (yes, that one!). The present structure is part 16th Century and part Victorian. Recently the choir vestry and Rector's vestry have been enlarged and a small kitchen area has been built together with toilets. Chairs have replaced the pews giving a large flexible space for worship and other activities. At the moment the gas-fired heating is being replaced by electrical storage heaters. It is hoped, in the future, to reduce carbon emissions by fitting solar panels to the roof. A new sound/loop/monitor system is being researched. There are healthy restricted funds available for the upkeep of the building. Associated with the Church is a large graveyard which has a small amount of burial space available. The upkeep is helped by a small grant from the village council.

Belbroughton Church of England Primary School (graded "Good" by Ofsted and "Outstanding" by SIAMS) works closely with the Church and the PCC which appoints three Foundation Governors. When asked about the Church, the Headteacher said "Holy Trinity Church is a wonderful part of our school life; a place where we can come together for collective worship, to celebrate school achievements and special days and to hold RE lessons in a place of worship. We are very proud to sit together at the centre of the community and look forward to flourishing together."

The village of Belbroughton is mentioned in the Domesday Book and is a former scythe making centre. It is a thriving and popular village, boasting a lively offering of eateries, pubs and shops along with a post office. It is also popular with people living outside the village. It enjoys a thriving cricket club, annual beer festival, and a substantial recreation centre with playing fields and tennis courts. It is also a centre for many footpath walks and cycle rides.

The biannual Belbroughton Scarecrow Festival was started 25 years ago to raise funds for the repair of the church steeple. We claim it as the biggest scarecrow event in the world. It is attended by up to 40,000 people over the weekend and the money it raises is distributed to the Church, school, societies, clubs and various charities.

Opposite the church is the Church Hall which is a 17th Century former tythe barn. It is a well-used village facility for wedding receptions, anniversaries, birthdays and by local clubs and societies. Every month a fundraising church coffee morning is held and run by church members and village volunteers. There is a management committee (a sub-committee of the PCC) which looks after the running and upkeep of the hall. At the moment a renovation project both inside and out is under way whilst keeping the hall open for use.

You can see more of who we are and what we do on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitybelbroughton>



St Mark's, Fairfield



The church is of simple design, built of sandstone, in 1853 and consecrated in April 1862 as a Chapel of Ease to Belbroughton. It is surrounded by a small burial ground enclosed by a stone wall. The church stands in a prominent position in the centre of the village, with the Village Hall next door and the Village First School immediately behind. On the opposite side of the road the Village Store & Post Office and a small coffee shop have recently closed.

The Village Hall is now the social hub of the village. It is available for hire and hosts a pre-school group, community cinema, monthly W.I. Foodie Market, weekly social afternoons, exercise classes and a community shop. It is managed by an enthusiastic committee including several members of our congregation. The village has a well-supported football team with their own facilities on the Parish Council owned Recreation Ground.

We have a small, dedicated team at St Mark's. We are used to two Sunday morning services a month (one Holy Communion and one Worship for All led by our ALM). We have 25 on the electoral roll and a congregation of about 18. Although small in number we still manage to run rotas for lesson readers, sides-persons, flowers, refreshments and pastoral care. However, we are an aging congregation and there is a real need to draw in new and younger faces.



St Mark's Open the Book team regularly visits Fairfield First School to bring bible stories to life for the children. There is a good relationship with the school who use the church for their Christmas, Easter and Harvest services.

We have not had a 'full time' incumbent for many years as we have been regularly 're-grouped' with other bigger churches. We are so looking forward to warmly welcoming our new vicar and to having a visible 'dog collar' again. There is so much to do in the church and in the community.

“Our new minister will be warmly welcomed; our church is simple and our worshippers love it. We want it to be a beacon of light and love in our village. With God's help and the support of a new minister we will succeed!”

(Member of the Fairfield congregation)



St Cassian's, Chaddesley Corbett

If you are asking, who was St Cassian, you are certainly not the first! He lived on in a monastery on a tiny island off the coast of Marseille in the fifth century and from this unlikely place he acted as a key theological mediator between the Eastern and Western churches. For Western Europe, his legacy is the role he played in inspiring the Benedictine rule.

The Civil Parish has over 600 houses and 1,500 residents. There are three pubs, a butcher, a hair salon, a florist, privately owned petrol station (cheapest in the county!) and a farm shop with a post office, all within walking distance of the church. The village primary school was rebuilt on a new site on the edge of the village

in 2012. There are four point-to-point meetings a year and a classic car show. The sports ground hosts football, rugby and cricket teams. There are allotments and a community orchard with a children's play area. The village has many active societies including Local History, WI and a Community Choir (which performs at St Cassian's).

St Cassian's church is a beautiful, well-maintained, Grade I listed, 12th century church (with later additions) in the heart of the village. We encourage the use of the church by community groups; we host concerts and coffee mornings and other one-off events. Alongside the clergy we are supported by both an LLM and ALM. The church has a very good original Elliot pipe organ dating from 1817 which has recently been restored by Nicholson's of Malvern at a cost of £120,000 raised by the church and wider community. We have a 12th century font decorated by the Hereford School of Architecture and some stunning examples of stained glass windows. The bells are rung regularly by a dedicated team of ringers.



We are a silver Eco church, the first in the diocese, and as part of this have replaced all of the lights with LED's! We are exploring replacing our gas boilers with a zero-carbon alternative. We have twinned our toilet and tap with villages in Africa, and we use Eco friendly products where we can. We regularly hold services outdoors and celebrate the glory of the natural environment. Last year we held a service outdoors based on the humble apple...so simple but impactful.

We regularly put on performances of an adult Nativity Play (<https://www.cassianplayers.co.uk>) and have also hosted performances including Jesus Christ Superstar, Godspell and Noyes Fludde, which was a joint venture with Chaddesley Corbett Primary school. The church gives to a number of charities and embraces its role supporting the local farming community. We are outward looking and welcome everyone; we look forward to being able to offer the Prayers of Love and Faith. We go out into the community doing random acts of kindness, litter picks and have held an outdoor cribservice for the past 3 years. We have a home communion group and minister to a local care home where residents take Communion once a month.

St Cassian's offers a mixture of worship styles to suit all ages and tastes ranging from Holy Communion, Morning Worship, and Worship for All which are currently at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. Twice a month we have a BCP Evensong/Communion at 6:30pm. There are also festival services throughout the year including Holy Week, Harvest, Remembrance, Rogation, aswell as special services of blessing and thanks. The village school holds Christmas services at St Cassian's and visits the church to learn about its architecture. Our Open the Book team go to school once a month and members of the church serve as school governors and trustees. We host a Care and Share coffee morning once a month and support the local Care Café.



We enjoy opportunities for joint services with our Roman Catholic neighbours at St Mary's, Harvington. Once a month we share breakfast prior to the Worship for All service and refreshments are available at the end of each morning service. The style of music is as diverse as the services with more traditional hymns and sung liturgy during Holy Communion, sung responsorial psalms in Morning Worship and a more contemporary style during Worship for All. We have a growing four- part choir and a three manual pipe organ. Our organists play for the services and take a fortnightly choir practice.

We are blessed to be supported by **The Friends of St Cassian's**, who are a separate charity (No 500330) which exists to raise funds for the upkeep of the fabric of the church.

There are 75 on the electoral roll. All church council and officer posts are filled. We have an LLM and a ALM (worship) who enjoy leading services. Our current churchwardens have senior leadership roles in the diocese and deanery. There are five ex- churchwardens in the congregation. Safeguarding training and DBS checks are up to date. There are numerous volunteer rotas including flowers, cleaning and mowing and there are over 100 local people on these.



Safeguarding

The Benefice is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. We follow the House of Bishops' guidance and policies and have our own Benefice Safeguarding Officer.

Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms

We welcome enquiries for weddings and hold approximately 10 per year. We look forward to hearing from baptism families and welcoming them into our church family.

Funeral ministry is a huge part of what we do. We support families through this difficult time and hold a Longest Night service at Christmas to further support families.



Please check out our Facebook page to see more of what we do.



The Diocese of Worcester

The Diocese of Worcester covers an area of 671 square miles and includes parishes in Worcestershire, the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, and a few parishes in northern Gloucestershire, south-east Wolverhampton and Sandwell. It has around 170 parishes and 280 church buildings, together with 100 church schools. The diocese is divided into two archdeaconries, with six deaneries.



Our diocesan vision is to grow as kingdom people, sharing the good news of Jesus' love in Worcestershire and Dudley. As the body of Christ, we join together to worship God creatively, make disciples, share hope, and transform communities as we live out values of love, compassion, justice and freedom to bring about the kingdom of God on earth.

Priorities 2023 – 2030

Over the next few years, we aim to:

- **Double** the number of children and young people worshipping in our churches.
- Create **100 new worshipping communities** offering a range of ways for people to come to faith and worship God (eg Forest Church / Café Church / Walking Church).
- **Invest in the renewal** of around a dozen churches to ensure that each major area of population has at least one church with 150 people attending weekly, enabling them to support other local churches.
- Underpin these by investing in our clergy and lay leaders, providing **training and development** opportunities to enable them to grow and feel supported and equipped for mission.

[Download a pdf summary](#) of our priorities along with the different ways your parish can get involved.

[Download a pdf](#) of our full diocesan transformation strategy

One size doesn't fit all - we want to strengthen local churches and encourage and resource them to explore what it might mean to grow in health and sustainability in their context as they worship God, make disciples, share hope, and transform communities.

We share a vision for a church which enables its people to be:

- Deeply rooted in prayer and study of the scriptures
- Renewed and transformed by regular worship
- Equipped to witness to the gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom
- Dedicated to helping children, young people and young adults to belong and be nurtured in faith
- Devoted to growing deeply in discipleship, offering our time and talents and money to God
- Resourced and released to minister to others
- Ready to engage with and serve our community
- Committed to making our buildings fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource.



The Deanery

The Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery includes a mix of both rural and urban parishes, from churches on the border of Herefordshire on the West to the edge of Bromsgrove towards the East. The Deanery is relatively new and is undergoing some pastoral reorganisation. We are a supportive Deanery, looking to see how we can work smarter together. Chapter meets every other month, and we have an annual meal with spouses in January. We are hoping to resurrect the awayday (an overnight stay) and other things which may be beneficial to our ministry and wellbeing.

Our immediate challenge is to implement as much of our plan as possible to look at our work with children and young people and work on something for the future. You will be a valued member of both Chapter and Deanery Synod.

