

THE PARISH OF **BROMSGROVE**

Parish Profile for Team Rector with Special Responsibility for All Saints', Bromsgrove, St Godwald's, Finstall and the Wychebrook Group



Thank you

For prayerfully considering whether God is calling you to serve as Team Rector for the Parish of Bromsgrove with special responsibility for the churches of All Saints', St Godwald's and the Wychebrook Group of churches. We hope that the profile will help you in your discernment.

Welcome to Bromsgrove Parish

Bromsgrove Parish Team began its formation in 2010. It has gone from strength to strength as each of the churches has embraced the team ethos and supported the clergy team and one another. The diversity within the team is a strength, and there is a good relationship based on mutual support, openness and good humour. We all gather together for a team service on the 5th Sunday of the month.

As a parish we have initiated a *Listening Service* in the schools and recently had a successful detached youth work project, targeting disengaged young people in the town. We have an excellent working relationship with the providers of youth work in the town.

In 2021 the parish was enlarged to include the rural churches of Upton Warren, Wychbold and Stoke Prior, called the Wychebrook Group. These churches are part of one district and there are three Sunday services at Stoke Prior.

In total there are 10 church buildings, 9 congregations and 6 District Church Councils, supported by a team of clergy, retired clergy, NSMs and Lay Ministers. We are part of the Bromsgrove and Redditch Deanery and Churches Together in Bromsgrove.

We have together worked to ensure that all matters of compliance are covered and monitored by the PCC.

There is a wonderful team of associate priests, retired ministers and lay ministers, as well as a team of churchwardens.

The number of occasional offices during 2023 (with prior year in brackets) was: baptisms 43 (54); weddings/ blessings 16 (16) and funerals 68 (154).

Our vision is to continue to allow the team to evolve and meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of the community of Bromsgrove. We are keen to establish and support *New Worshipping Communities*. Where possible we share activities, services and support.

Introduction to Bromsgrove

Bromsgrove, and the communities surrounding it, are great places to live and work, combining the best of both rural and urban life. They are within striking distance of the world class amenities of Birmingham and the West Midlands, but rooted firmly in the peaceful and beautiful rural county of Worcestershire. Bromsgrove lies some 15 miles NE of Worcester and 12 miles SW of Birmingham.

Bromsgrove is an easy place to get to by road and train. It is close to the M42 and M5, with excellent links to other regions of the country, and is on the main rail line between Birmingham and the South West. Birmingham International Airport is just 30 minutes away and provides easy connections to anywhere in the world.

Bromsgrove is perceived as a relatively prosperous community in the West Midlands, although this masks a considerable range of income and relative deprivation.

This area of Worcestershire has a three-tier education system and, in the area covered by the new parish, there are 9 first schools, 4 middle schools, 2 high schools and 2 special schools, as well as the independent *Bromsgrove School*. All schools are rated as good to outstanding. The *Heart of Worcestershire College* has a campus in the town (its other site is in the larger town of Redditch to the east).

There is a vibrant cultural life in Bromsgrove, with the *Artrix Arts Complex*, and an annual *Arts Festival* in Bromsgrove, which includes some of the churches and museums, including the *Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings*.

The town is undergoing significant change, with around 1000 new homes being built, mainly in the north of the town.

The *Princess of Wales Community Hospital* is a minor injuries unit and provides a wide range of health services, and there are numerous local surgeries.

Bromsgrove has a busy and distinctive High Street with a weekly street market, cafes, bars and restaurants. There is also a wide range of retail businesses, including larger supermarkets in and around the Town.

Our Shared Vision

- To grow in our faith, service and lay solid foundations for the future.
- We seek to be spaces where young people can feel safe, grow and participate as people and to explore and grow in faith.
- We strive to grow closely as team of clergy, lay ministers and churches, building on established foundations
- To enable us to move to a place where housekeeping does not dominate our agenda
- To continue to be a parish of life and joy

We would like to welcome a Team Rector who is

1. A team player with good collaborative skills.
2. Well organised and a good communicator.
3. Forward thinking.
4. An experienced priest, who is familiar with the issues of compliance that we as a parish need to follow.
5. Encouraging us to grow in discipleship and lay ministry.
6. A person with a broad and deep perspective on life and theology, and supportive of us being part of the Inclusive Church Network.
7. Willing to help us reach out to the communities we serve.
8. A Team Rector who will enjoy nurturing the different gifts and talents within All Saints', St Godwald's and the Wychebrook Group.
9. A priest who will feel comfortable and rejoice in the diversity of traditions of our parish and joining us in the joy of worship and communal life.



What we offer you

Bromsgrove parish is a positive, supportive and loving place to minister. There are supportive networks of ministers from across all denominations, as well as a weekly team meeting with parish clergy. We are a varied and diverse group of churches that fit mainly into the broad end of the church spectrum and are part of the *Inclusive Church Network*.

We are a parish who are seeking to be focused on young people's work. We have a *Listening Service* in local schools and recently a detached youth work project. We have excellent relationships with a local hub of youth work, as well as local schools and youth organisations. We have funding in place for a youth minister.

We have established some *New Worshipping Communities* and are engaged in a wide range of community activities. Most of our members participate in a wide range of activities in our communities.

In the past we have had joint Advent and Lent Courses, where we have grown together in our faith and we share in common missional activities.

As well as a good team of ordained and lay ministers, we also have a paid book keeper and two part-time paid administrators. In addition, we have a nearly full complement of wardens and a parish treasurer. There is one PCC and 6 DCCs, who contribute to a central fund to resource central services. Expenses are fully met.

We have an excellent team of parish safeguarding officers, who regularly report to the PCC and support districts and clergy with matters around safeguarding.

The ministry team

Stipendiary clergy

- Team Rector (*Vacant*) With responsibility for St Godwald's, All Saints' and Wychebrook Group.
- *Rev Ray Khan* Team Vicar for St John's and St Andrew's and civic lead.
- *0.5 Team Vicar (vacant)* With responsibility for Christ Church, Catshill, Holy Trinity, and St Mary's, Dodford.

NSM

- *Associate Priest SSM*, focused on St John's and St Andrew's.
- *Associate Priest SSM* focussing at St Godwald's in their worshipping and pastoral life. (to be licensed this year 2024)

Retired Priests 3 Retired priests serving the Parish in its liturgical and pastoral life

Readers LLM 4 Lay readers

Authorised Lay Ministers ALM

There are a number of lay ministers with a ministry in Worship and Pastoral Care spread across each of the districts. Most are able to lead worship.

Parish Administration

2 paid part-time administrators. We also employ a Book Keeper for the parish

Finances

Strengths

Each district is responsible for its own finances, assets and Ministry Share. The PCC holds the consolidated accounts for the districts and there is a parish fund that pays for administration, insurances and other centralised costs. The PCC allocates Ministry Share to each district and employs 2 Book Keepers, who assists districts.

Challenges

Finances are currently very tight and meeting Ministry Share is very challenging. However, we did manage to pay 100% of our Share last year. Some districts are currently calling upon their reserves to meet running costs, despite stewardship schemes and campaigns.

All Saints Church	2022	2023
Designated	39,294	28,651
Restricted	NIL	NIL
General Fund	19,509	7,410
Movement		-22,742
Total	58,803	36,061

St Godwald	2022	2023
Designated	26,587	28,095
Restricted	8,450	8,701
General Fund	11,283	2,427
Movement		-7,097
Total	46,320	39,223

Wychebrook Group	2022	2023
Designated	42,564	66,901
Restricted	56,150	48,189
General Fund	26,997	15,190
Movement		4,569
Total	125,711	130,280

St John w St Andrew	2022	2023
Designated	26,942	36,033
Restricted	23,016	16,586
General Fund	51,008	41,247
Movement		-7,100
Total	100,966	93,866

Christ Church	2022	2023
Designated	156,233	158,384
Restricted	152,137	157,588
General Fund	-6,539	-11,443
Movement		2,698
Total	301,831	304,529

Dodford Church	2022	2023
Designated	96,613	80,756
Restricted	13,035	568
General Fund	294,632	336,905
Movement		13,949
Total	404,280	418,229

Central Parish Fund	2022	2023
Designated*	26,048	13,747
Restricted	NIL	NIL
General Fund	22	0
Movement		12,323
Total	26,070	13,747

*funds from trusts/ Lottery for youth work

Accommodation



The Vicarage, 15 Fininstall Road, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove B60 2EA.
Next to St Godwald's Church.

It is located in a very popular residential location with excellent schools for all ages
Bromsgrove Rail station is 5 a minutes' walk, on a bus route, good connections to M42 or M5
The vicarage is a modern detached house with generous lounge, dining room and study, well
equipped kitchen with breakfast area, four double bedrooms; master bedroom has en-suite.
Solar panels provide day-time electricity. Underfloor heating downstairs, radiators upstairs. Fully
functioning fireplace. Recently serviced boiler. Generous loft insulation. New uPVC double glazed
windows and doors. Double garage, large driveway for parking.

Our Churches and people

The Team Rector will have special responsibility for the following 3 districts:

St Godwald's, Fininstall – Team Rector with Associate Priest

The District of St Godwald's comprises two very different parts: Aston Fields –unofficially called The Village – has a vibrant centre including several excellent eateries and shops, all quite close to the Vicarage. Bromsgrove Station is nearby. Moving away from the old heavy industries, there are now high tech operations in the nearby business park.

The other part of the District is Fininstall, a well-established and distinct village with its own Parish Council. There is a strong association between the residents, centred on activities based at the village hall which include a Play Group, Cubs and Scouts, and W. I.

The well-maintained church of St Godwald's, built in 1883, is sited almost on the border between Aston Fields and Fininstall. Attached to the church there is a substantial hall, the Parish Office (for one of the Parish Administrator), a separate, comfortable, smaller room and a well-equipped kitchen. The rooms are hired by local community groups. All the buildings are accessible. In addition, there is a very useful, secure grassed area at the rear of the church for fetes, fairs and other outdoor activities.

Worship at St Godwald's covers a wide range from traditional 1662 and Common Worship to Pizza Church, occasional weddings and funerals and regular baptisms. We also enjoy joint services with All Saints' each month. All these services are followed by refreshments and fellowship. There is a relatively informal mid-week service – communion or lay-led - and uniquely, *Totwalds* for pre-school children each Monday morning.

There are three schools within the district: a First School for pupils up to age nine, a Middle School aged 9 to 13 and a Special School with the age range up to 19. These schools hold Christmas, Easter and Harvest Services in the church or arrange educational visits during school time.

We have a committed, friendly and enthusiastic congregation including several members who are actively engaged not only within the conventional framework of church life, but who also support other local initiatives such as the recycling operation, foodbanks, the local hospice and St Basil's housing charity for young people. Community Outreach includes Community Café and walking groups.

Financially, we continue to meet our commitment to Ministry Share and raise money for Christian charities. Also, *The Friends of St Godwald's* provide funds for a variety of needs by organising different events through the year, whilst keeping in touch with worshippers who have moved away from Bromsgrove.

As a congregation, we aim to build on the past successes, to continue in spiritual growth, and to strive to grow our church on the three platforms of Mission, Outreach and Fellowship. We would want a Team Rector who is able to work with our newly appointed SSM Associate Priest, who will lead us in our liturgical and pastoral life.



All Saints' Bromsgrove - Team Rector

All Saints' is an attractive Grade 2 listed Victorian Gothic Church. It lies to the north of the town and was built originally for the nail makers of the area to have somewhere to worship. This year we are celebrating our 150th anniversary and would like to be here for another 150 years.

The inside of the church is a very flexible space, which has been used for many types of events from musical concerts to Murder Mystery evenings. There are attractive grounds that have never been used for burials.

We are known for being a welcoming and friendly church, to our congregation, visitors and the wider community. We are very active in our pastoral care. Over the last two years we have shared services with St Godwald's, forming close ties and being supportive to one another.

We also have a church share with St Joseph's Syrian Orthodox Church. Their congregation originally came from Kerala in southern India. This has worked well for our mutual benefit and respect for several years. We hold discussion meetings approximately every quarter.

We have an active and supportive DCC with all officers in post. Our finances are supplemented by income from our well-used church hall. The hall supports keep fit classes, children's groups, a flower guild and a group called *The Chatterbox*, where everyone is welcome to have a cup of tea and a chat. We have an active Mothers' Union.

We have some very supportive retired clergy in the parish. As a result, we have grown different worshipping communities through their support. There is a well-established 8.00am Holy Communion on two Sundays a month. Also, on the first Saturday of each month there is a Soul and Senses service: very thoughtful and meditative, allowing people to explore their needs and thoughts in a safe space.

There are strong links with two local schools; they take part in festivals at different times of the year and are also contributing to our 150th anniversary celebrations.

We have a very talented, young Director of Music. Music has always played an important part in worship at All Saints', and this is continuing under his enthusiastic leadership.

As a church community we want to keep moving forward, expanding and including people in our area by outreach and friendship. For this to continue we want a Team Rector with our ideals and hopes for the future: someone who is supportive spiritually but is aware of finances, planning and resources in today's world; someone who will continue to help forge links and friendships.

The Rural Churches of Stoke Prior, Upton Warren and Wychbold, “Wychebrook Group” - Team Rector

Our delightful more rural parishes of St Michael’s, Stoke Prior, St Mary de Wych, Wychbold, and St Michael’s, Upton Warren became part of the wider Bromsgrove Parish, 10 minutes’ drive from the town centre.

We have our own DCC of 11 members, including a treasurer and secretary. We have a lay chair, as our incumbent recently retired in May. Whilst having our own unique qualities, we share 2 church wardens and combine together for some monthly services (currently held at Stoke Prior) on the first, second, and third Sundays. We have inclusive and welcoming congregations.

Our buildings are in good order, with a maintenance team who give freely of their time and expertise to maintain all 3 churches. Stoke Prior Church recently raised £500,000 for a major restoration project, supported by a Heritage Lottery grant. Various repairs including to the organ and roof have been made at Upton Warren.

We have very active groups (Heritage friends and Community group) who support our communities, organising social activities such as monthly coffee mornings, quiz nights, Heritage displays, Christmas bazaars and Christmas tree festivals to name but a few! Our community mission with these events bring the local community into our churches. They actively and enthusiastically support many fund raising events.

We also have links with local nursing homes, schools and Parish Councils and seek to develop these further. The local villagers are proud of their church buildings and churchyards, which are visited regularly. We have a strong tradition and sense of ownership by the villagers, with the most weddings and baptisms in the wider parish. There are regular History talks/walks around Stoke Prior village, with a soup lunch in church afterwards.

Our vision is to build on this heritage and sense of community by continuing services for parents and children such as our New Worshipping Community of ‘20 is Plenty’, whilst keeping the tradition of a monthly communion, currently led by a retired vicar and informal service lead by our ALM. The ‘20 is Plenty’ service, started by our previous incumbent and commended by the diocese, is currently supported by Ray Khan, Team Vicar of St John’s. He is also supporting some members of this congregation to lead services. This is an aspect we would like to see our new Team Rector develop further, giving us an opportunity to grow. Other parishioners at Upton Warren and Wychbold are also exploring the opportunity to lead additional services to those at Stoke Prior; again the Team Rector’s support would be important.

We would really welcome a Team Rector who could guide and support us within the wider Bromsgrove parish, offering support to our DCC.

OTHER DISTRICTS

St John the Baptist Church, Bromsgrove – Team Vicar

St John's is the Civic Church of the town and hosts a wide variety of civic events, including concerts and gatherings for the community. The Team Vicar Rev Ray Khan supports the Civic life in many ways, including being a chaplain to a variety of groups. There is a Middle School associated with the church.

The committed and enthusiastic congregation are involved in a wide range of activities including many events and organisations in the local area. There is a hall within which there is an office and administrator who administers the funerals of the whole parish in addition to the day-to-day administration for St John's and St Andrew's.

The church is currently engaged in raising funds for repairs to our church spire and thus far has raised £310,000 of the £350,000 needed.

Our regular Sunday services are mixed and varied, with informal services and services supported by the Church Choir. We have seen a growth in those who attend our more informal services

The District is committed to the Parish and several members of the congregation actively support the Parish. We are looking forward to a Team Rector who will continue to develop the unity within the Parish and work collaboratively with our Team Vicar and DCC.

St Andrew's, Charford

St Andrew's is the other church in the District with St John's. The multi-purpose building is located in one of the more deprived areas of Bromsgrove. The building is used to serve the needs of the community and hosts several support groups and activities. . There is a café style service serving breakfast on the first Sunday of the month and a Communion Service on the third Sunday of the month.

Christ Church, Catshill with St Luke's, Marlbrook –

Christ Church is at the heart of the growing and lively community of Catshill. The Victorian building is Grade 2 listed, and provides an excellent atmospheric setting for worship.

We pride ourselves on always offering a very warm welcome to all. We strive to ensure that services are held with regularity so that villagers will be able to access us. When no priest is available, we have a number of lay-led services to assist with this continuity, and many in the congregation contribute to their success. We have a number of groups connected to the church and we also link up with the other churches of the village and the Parish Council.

St Luke's is about a mile from Christ Church, was built in the 1950s and is owned by Christ Church. The building is regularly used by a pre-school group and a Yoga class. St Luke's is a very versatile building which we feel could offer great potential for a New Worshipping Community.

Holy Trinity & St Mary's, Dodford

Holy Trinity & St Mary's Church, Dodford is set in a rural community with about 700 people living in and around the village. There is a thriving community focused around the village hall, the school and the church. It is a truly stunning church, a fine example of the Arts & Crafts movement.

Whilst the number of worshippers has dwindled, its present congregation is determined to ensure it remains an asset to the local community. We are fortunate to have several younger and enthusiastic members on the DCC. We have several popular community events and festival services, and we also welcome the local primary school into church at harvest and Christmas plus occasional school visits.

Dodford Church is blessed with substantial financial reserves and we are utilising some of the monies from our fabric fund in the pursuit of making our building a fully accessible, warm and welcoming space in which to worship and also partake in other activities. We are about to renovate the organ, and grow a New Worshipping Community through the power of music.

Dodford Church works closely with Christ Church, Catshill, joining together twice monthly for services. One service a month is lay-led and we are blessed with local retired clergy, who step in to hold a Eucharist service; administration support is given by the parish office..

REDDITCH AND BROMSGROVE DEANERY

Redditch and Bromsgrove are significant urban centres in the Diocese. The Deanery, as a whole serving over 140,000 people with 23 parish churches in areas of varying affluence and social dynamic in urban, suburban and rural contexts.



We seek to discern what we can do better together than individually and long for all the centres of worship across our area to be healthy sustainable fellowships living out their unique call to be Kingdom People.

The Deanery Chapter, includes around 19 licensed ministers, plus some active ministers with permission to officiate. Chapter is a relaxed and supportive space where we share in



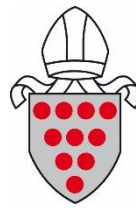
fellowship and prayer and seek to support each other. Deanery Synod meetings seek to fulfil the technical requirements but also to be a place where relationships are formed and where we can seek to communicate Diocesan Vision and share in developing strategy locally and feeding back ideas and information.

There is much work to do to determine how, guided by the Holy Spirit, we navigate the years to come. We pray that the Deanery can be a source of support and resourcing for clergy and laity alike.

THE REDDITCH MISSION AREA

Redditch is one of the areas being focussed on as part of the renewals priority in the Diocesan Strategy 2023-2030. As part of this we are working to develop a Redditch-wide Mission Area to release our churches into what God has for them in the communities they serve and there is a significant Church Renewal Based at St Stephen's in the heart of Redditch.





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.

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.