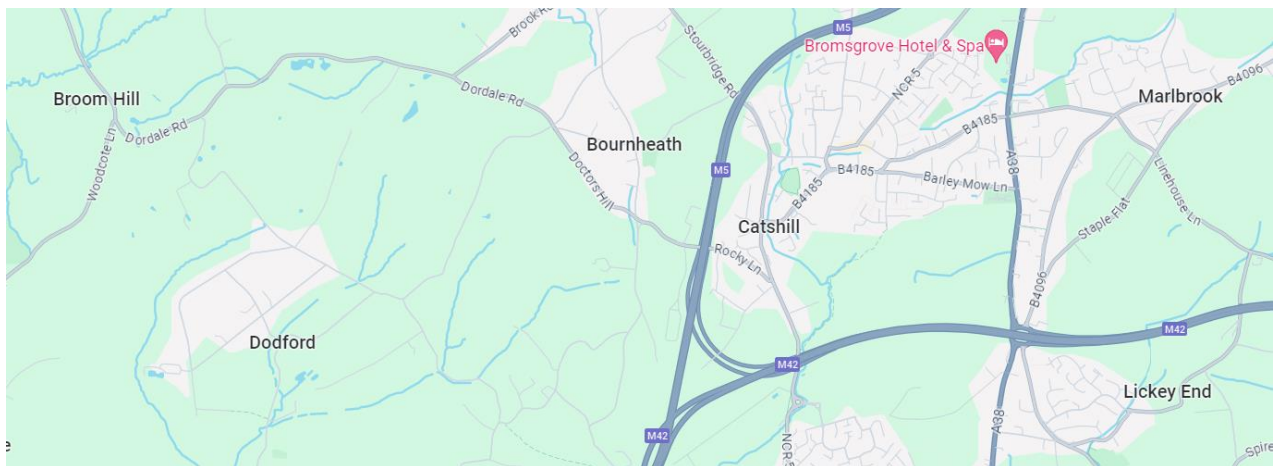




THE PARISH OF **BROMSGROVE**

**Part Time Team Vicar (0.5 post) for Christ Church Catshill
and Holy Trinity & St Mary's Church Dodford**



Thank you

For prayerfully considering whether God is calling you to serve as a part time Team Vicar at the churches of Catshill and Dodford. We hope that the profile will help you in your discernment.

Welcome to Catshill and Dodford

Catshill and Dodford are villages to the north and west of Bromsgrove that have their own separate identities. Dodford's origins are in the Chartist movement of the nineteenth century - the original houses being laid out with sufficient land to enable food to be grown for the household. In that time and into the early twentieth century, Catshill was home to nail makers, with many small workshops established around the village.

Both villages now largely provide commuter accommodation.

Both also benefit from a good selection of pubs and restaurants and Catshill has a useful range of small shops in its village centre.

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 16 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.

This area of Worcestershire has excellent schools and a college campus. 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 provides a wide range of health services, though not complete Accident and Emergency cover, and there are numerous local surgeries.

Our Shared Parish 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 Vicar who is

1. A team player with good collaborative skills.
2. Able to minister in a rural and urban context.
3. Well organised and a good communicator
4. Forward thinking
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 vicar who will enjoy nurturing the different gifts and talents within our churches.
9. A priest who has a good life balance and is able to manage their time as a part time priest.

What we can offer you

Dodford and Catshill are positive, supportive and loving places to minister. We are aware that this is a part time post and would assure candidates that they will have the support of churchwardens, DCC and members of the churches. The welfare of our vicar is important to us.

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

The Diocese is currently seeking accommodation to the appropriate standard for the incumbent. They are looking particularly in the area in or near to both Catshill and Dodford.

The ministry team

The successful applicant will be a member of the parish team and will be part of a supportive and fun team. This team comprises of two full time stipendiary clergy (one post is currently vacant). Two NSM associate priests. 4 retired clergy, 4 LLMs and a team of *Authorised Lay Ministers* and officers.

There is a PCC treasurer and you have the support of 2 part time paid administrators, one based in Finstall Church and the other, based at St Johns who does the administration for all funerals in the parish. There are also 2 paid parish book keepers.

Finance

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.

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

Our Churches and people

Christ Church Catshill with St. Luke's Marlbrook

Christ Church is at the heart of the growing and lively community of Catshill and has historic links to the poet A.E. Housman. The grade II listed Victorian building provides an excellent atmospheric setting for worship. The stonework is now in need of considerable renovation, and a project to do this has been commenced with a great deal of funding already in place.

The Sunday pattern of worship includes Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month. The second Sunday is a lay-led service. On the fourth Sunday, the congregation join with Dodford. Christ Church has a regular congregation of between twenty and thirty. Communion is taken to the housebound on request.

Catshill also has good relationships with the Baptist and Methodist churches in the area.

A key area for development is involvement in our local schools together with participation in some village events.

Meditation Group

There has been a very well attended 'fresh expression' in the form of a meditation group, which was held monthly and it is hoped this will re commence again. This serves both congregation members and several others who do not come to church.

Craft Group

There is also a very established group of crafters which includes church and non-church people. The Crafters meet monthly and their fund raising has funded numerous small projects within the church.

Catshill Connect

Following the pandemic, *Catshill Connect* runs on a fortnightly basis with occasional speakers. While this relatively new venture is regularly supported by church attending individuals, it also reaches out to a growing number of those who are non- church attenders.

Bible study group

Led by our *Authorised Lay Minister*, a weekly study group is held during Advent and Lent.

Catshill Community Links

Linking in with the other faith groups in the village and the local Parish Council, Christ Church was a stopping point on a trail for children around the village. This was hugely popular and extremely well attended by young and old with about 150 people attending our beautiful church. This has been followed up by providing activities in the village Easter trail where a similar number of children were encouraged to visit the village churches.

TEXAS prayer link

Some members of the congregation participate in a weekly internet based meeting with a church group in Texas, USA.

Junior church

At Christ Church, we have recently restarted focused activities for children during the service. Although our numbers are small, this is a key area for us to grow.

St Luke's Marlbrook is about a mile from Christ Church, was built in the 1950's and is owned by Christ Church. Some car parking is available at the front of the building. We regard St Luke's as a real opportunity for development.

Although built for both worship and community use, services are currently no longer regularly held there. However, there is a keen interest to commence a Café style church and our thinking and exploring is ongoing.

St Luke's is now used by a pre-school, who are there each week day. Additionally, a small number of private functions are held there. St Luke's is a valuable source of income and there is the potential for further development of this which would be aided by further improvement of the internal facilities. St. Luke's is also used as a local polling station.

Recently, a nearby hotel was used to house asylum seekers and St Luke's was used to assist with the distribution of clothing, toys and toiletries when the pandemic created difficulties in finding a safe space for them.



Holy Trinity & St. Mary Dodford

Holy Trinity & St. Mary's Church, Dodford is set in a rural community of roughly 700 residents who regularly come together for various events offered within the parish. Dodford was established in 1849 by the Chartist movement and many of the chartist cottages remain including *Rosedene* which is owned and maintained by the National Trust. There is a thriving community aspect in Dodford, mainly thanks to the significant offerings of various clubs such as: film club, gardening club, table tennis and the Fairbourne Dodders Drama Group, who regularly use the church for meetings and rehearsals, to name but a few. The church itself is a Grade II* listed building, providing a perfect atmosphere for worship to our regular attendees for services.

Whilst the number of worshippers had dwindled in previous years, our efforts towards growth in this area has seen fantastic results, with the number of regular worshippers beginning to rise once more. This is an ongoing aim of Dodford Church as we continue to push towards further growth and maintaining our status as an asset to the local community.

At Dodford Church we are very fortunate to have one of the youngest DCC committees of the local area, enabling our push towards the common goals set out by the Diocese of Worcester. Our members are also responsible for annual events such as our fantastic village fete on the first Sunday of July, our harvest supper and other services which engage the local community within the church. Our workshops for Good Friday and Advent allow an opportunity for the children within the Parish to engage in fun activities led by our DCC members, which are always a success.

A strong connection with the local school enables Dodford Primary School to join us in church for our harvest and Christmas services, alongside school visits throughout the year. This is further evidenced with our beautiful drawings provided by the school which remains on show within the church.

Our Parish magazine has been a great success in recent years, with over 210 households receiving our monthly magazine. This is a much-appreciated factor within our Parish, informing the local community of upcoming events, the success of past events and allowing small business a reasonably priced opportunity for advertisement.

Dodford Church is blessed with substantial financial reserves and as a District church council we have started a carefully thought-out investment program, utilising some of the monies from our fabric fund in the pursuit of making our building a fully accessible church and a warm and welcoming space in which to worship and partake in other activities. We are eager to be able to utilise the enhanced building and ample parking to accommodate more people and events and reach out further.

Alongside this, our application to renovate the organ has recently passed through faculty to enable us to invite not just the community but those within the diocese to the church and grow a new church through the power of music, thanks to our fantastic acoustics. Furthermore, the church is focusing on becoming more eco-friendly, having recently introduced a plastic free churchyard, amongst other upcoming measures, to reduce our carbon contributions.

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 and support is given by one of the Parish Administrators in the parish office.

Dodford Church has so much to offer and we long to grow spiritually, be able to open the church up and welcome people to an exciting future.

We would like a person open minded and ready to join us on this interesting and exciting adventure.



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.

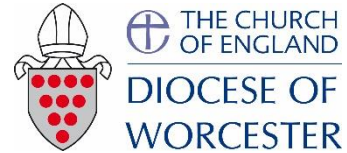
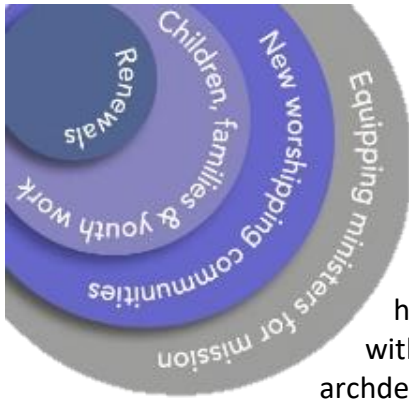
Deanery Synod meetings seek to fulfil the technical requirements but also to be a place where relationships are formed and where we can seek to communicate Diocesan Vision and share in developing strategy locally and feeding back ideas and information.

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.

